Almost 50,000 At Chester Pavement

Tired, soaked to the skin, and covered with mud, marsh stewards closed the entrance gate at the Woodchester Roman Pavement last Sunday, after a rewarding month's opening which created a record attendance of 53,048.

Instead of the hoped-for sun being shining, Visitors complained that there was nothing but rain and mud on Sunday and the only consolation was that the weather was not so bad earlier in the period, serious snow would have had to be overcome.

Not only has this opening been a massive success in financial terms, but it has done much to re-vitalise the social life of the area. 'I expect you have got people who are firm friends now who were not speaking a few months ago' one visitor said.

As the gates were closed on Sunday, three members of the organising committee, churchwarden Mr. A. Hygate, praised Mr. F. B. Blake, chairman of the council volunteers from the village and surrounding districts who have worked so hard.

"WONDERFUL EFFORT" One of these young workers was the last paying visitor of the season and the entrance was determined to be the last person in.

Andrew Fletcher (15) of Southbank, who had spent the complete month of September, said the entrance was determined to be the last person in.

And the approach road was clear, he went forward and paid his sixpence which made him the 49,299th visitor.

The opening had been open on Saturdays and Sundays, and the attendance compared very favourably with the 1935 season.

Throughout the period a team of amateur guides has been on the spot, and a proud boast that not one visitor left without either hearing a talk or being offered some explanation.

The ladies of the village also made a very useful contribution and staffed a well-equipped refreshment tent for the whole period.

And if he noticed any essential difference in the last two openings, a member of the committee said it would be to this year to be a much deeper public interest with many more equivalent to the first day.

And now the village have several weeks of equally hard work to do. The work for repair cannot be carried out this year—the expert is holidaying with the weather is essential. Towards the year the pavement will be covered in a layer of waxed paper which will be replaced by many tons of soil topped by a layer of building paper.

When following a careful inspection of the good sections of the mosaics this week, the exact position and exposed next year for repair.

Soon this wonderful remains of the Roman occupation will be hidden from human gaze for at least another 10 years.

STILL ARRIVE

There was still a steady stream of visitors as the gates were closed, and the stewards hope that the 1936 season will be an even greater success.
STILL ARRIVING

People have continued to visit the Woodchester Roman Pavement at the rate of 100 a day during this week despite the fact that Sunday saw the end of the recent month’s viewing period. Today (Friday) a mosaic expert will conduct a careful survey of the pavement to decide the extent of the repair work to be done next year. Although the organisers are not going out of their way to attract visitors now that the pavement is closed, while there are volunteers available no one anxious to see the pavement will be turned away.