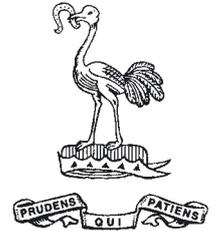


HOLKHAM NEWSLETTER



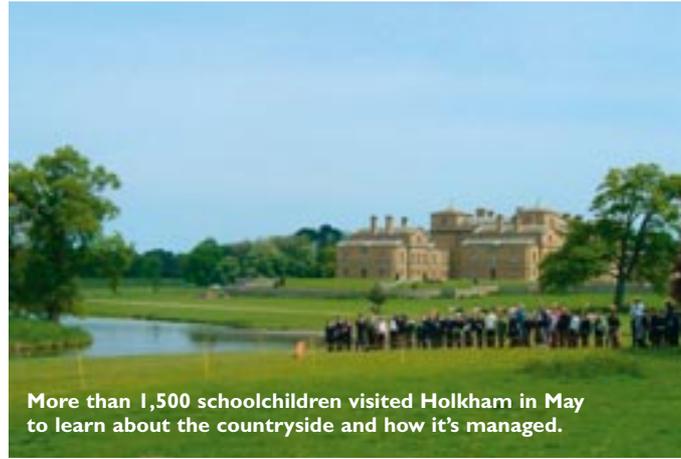
AS I contemplated the sixth and most recent Festing portrait, reported on in this issue, and now hanging in the Old Kitchen, I turned to view the very first staff portrait — that of the Heads of Department, painted in 1993.

All eight of those men had been with me since 1973 — or soon after — which was when I assumed the responsibility of looking after Holkham. Three of them retired in 1993, and whatever had been achieved on the Estate in those first 20 years was due to them, their colleagues and their departmental teams. So, before the departure of three of the original team, it seemed fitting that I should commission a group portrait as a tribute to all that they had accomplished.

What had been accomplished in those years? Looking back to the early seventies, it is almost impossible to believe that what I remember was actually fact. The vast majority of the housing stock had no bathroom, and going to the lavatory meant a walk outside to the privy at the bottom of the garden. Only part of Holkham Village and a select few houses in the other Estate villages had indoor sanitation.

I decided our priority was to modernise all our houses, by providing bathrooms for the first time, together with modern kitchens (by the standards of the time). We even installed powerful enough back burners to the solid fuel open fires to heat — at some time in the future — a few radiators. We didn't provide the radiators at the time: it was too expensive and we had to modernise nearly 300 houses.

I remember we completed a house, or perhaps two sometimes, every month for, I think, nearly 20 years. All this was financed on borrowed money with interest rates far higher than they are today, and on one memorable occasion touching 17%. However, I decided against a general policy of selling houses to reduce the overdraft. Thank heavens, because now they constitute a vital income stream. But I do remember all



our professional advisers telling me to sell houses when they became vacant, because in the days of rent control when rents were as low as £1 a week and the house cost £2 a week to maintain, it made sense. Perhaps I was just too idle to get around to it.

In the early 1970s every farm in the country was profitable, except Park Farm. Everything on the farm was subordinate to the shooting,

so no weed control or ploughing were allowed from harvest until February, with consequent dire results to the farm's balance sheet. But even in those days we realised that a successful shoot and profitable farming are perfectly compatible and within a very short time Park Farm had been turned around. Now, in far more difficult times, the farms are rated in the top 10% of the most profitable farms in the country.

“On Michealmas Day this year, I hand over Holkham to my son Tom . . . All my good wishes go to Tom, Polly and Richard Gledson, and all the Holkham team as they continue to drive this great Estate forward.”

In the early 1970s the house was open on two days a week: Mondays and Thursdays. The great leap forward came when we opened on Sunday — everyone's day of rest — and therefore that innovation was introduced amidst much wailing and gnashing of teeth. Now we open five days a week. Even in those early days of mass tourism, our visitors were no longer happy to have their tea served to them from what is now our laundry window in kitchen wing on to the terrace outside (where the flagpole now stands). The only cover they had was an old army tent that leaked whenever it rained. Hence, the move to the Stables Tearoom which has been enlarged twice since first moving there.

In 1973 the Hall was freezing all winter. When I first met my predecessor, the fifth Earl, he was sitting in his study in front of a blazing fire, but wearing his old army greatcoat! It took five years to install central heating throughout the house. At the same time, we installed a sophisticated intruder detection and fire alarm system and so we now sleep rather more soundly at night than we did.

Space precludes me from sharing more memories,

Continued on the next page

but my dominant impression over those 20 years, and indeed the last 10 or so, is how the house and the Estate have constantly been improved and enhanced. We were never just maintaining the status quo — just standing still — we were always moving forward; so for me there has always been huge job satisfaction.

So, to the present day. A glance through previous Newsletters provides evidence of continuing innovation and improvement. We continue to learn fascinating details of the Estate's history through Christine Hiskey's researches in the archives. We continue in the forefront of agriculture through Michael Turner's realisation that the new agricultural regime changes offer opportunities not threats. In Barry Turner's department our linseed paint programme has inspired others to follow our lead. One has only to inspect the renovation work on the Old School House to note the skill of our work force. Liam Rowe, with us for only a year, is the star pupil of his college course, while Hector's Robin Owen has received similar accolades. Our insurers, on an inspection of the Hall, tell us it is better looked after, better organised and better recorded than any other big house they insure.

Our tourism enterprises: the house, museum, shops and tearooms, won the accolade of the best small visitor attraction in the country. The Victoria Hotel and Pinewoods go from strength-to-strength. Our Schools' Education Policy is proving a resounding success, with every department at the recent Countryside Alliance Schools' Day here in the Park demonstrating the importance of their work.

I cannot write my last editorial without mentioning

Archives

SORTING documents in the Holkham archives continues to produce small but interesting discoveries.

For example, a bundle of accounts on the death of Thomas William Coke in 1842 included a bill from the Holkham schoolmaster. As he meticulously listed all the children for whom 'copy books' had been bought, we now know the names of many of the 16 boys and 22 girls at the school.

Through parish registers and census returns, their fathers can be identified as bricklayers, plasterer, wheelwright and labourers, many of them earning enough for their children to remain at school at 12 years of age. These children attended the school built in 1821 at the top of Chapel Yard. The other 'old school', now being converted into a wine and kitchen shop, was built in 1837-38 as the Infants' School. It was enlarged in the 1880s to take the older children, and part of their original school then became the Methodist Chapel.

This discovery coincided with compiling an archives display board about the school. I have borrowed several photos for copying, but should be glad to have more that anyone may have taken or collected before the school closed

Marilyn Franklin. She has been my secretary for 28 years, and though on occasions we have been a little short with each other, she has always had my best interests at heart, and I thank her for all those years of loyal service.

So, on Michaelmas Day (11th October) this year, I hand over — very happily — to my son Tom (though we will continue to live in the Hall for the rest of the year, until alterations at Model Farm are complete). I know there will be occasions when I will not approve of what happens on the Estate; if I am sufficiently irritated I will tell Tom so, but I will not have, and would not wish to have the power to change those decisions. It is in the nature of things that this should be so. I know now that I upset my predecessor on more than one occasion by decisions I took. No doubt in years to come, Ned will upset his father!

I have had the most happy and fulfilled life in the big house, to a very large extent due to the huge and loving support of my wife, who in her turn has made a massive contribution to so much that has happened at Holkham over the years. Her direction of the shops and the concerts in the house are just part of her achievements for Holkham.

So, all my good wishes go to Tom, Polly and Richard Gledson — his supremely capable and energetic right hand man — and all the Holkham team as they continue to drive this great Estate forward.

Leicester
The Earl of Leicester

RIGHT: The requirements for a new head teacher at Holkham school in 1903. The applicant was 'rather fat and 44; Lord Coke thinks 44 too old. He and Lady Leicester would like a cricketer'.

in 1965.

Having diverted to the Triumphal Arch in the last Newsletter, the series of alphabetical dips into the archives returns with:

O for Oranges

Some years before work started on building the hall, Thomas Coke had a fenced 'orange ground'. Orange trees were bought from Cheavley in 1731 and from Lord Walpole in

1733. More came from foreign suppliers: Mr Costa was paid for 20 large orange trees of different sorts, with other Mediterranean trees such as 'nutmeg oranges', olives, 'caper plants' and figs; and 24 oranges were bought from Mr Lucera, who also supplied limes and sweet lemons.

Tubs were bought or made for them. Oranges usually need to be grown indoors, in order to fruit, but an orangery is not mentioned in the account books until 1743. Its location is still a puzzle. In the accounts, it came under the heading of the Kitchen Gardens, which then lay just to the west of the lake.

It was listed in an inventory, however, with the Pleasure Ground, which at that date lay south-east of the hall, further south than the present arboretum. The walk to it would have passed the building works for the hall but would not have been too unpleasant, for Thomas Coke had pushed ahead with gravelled walks and landscaping. This Mediterranean oasis was evidently a popular destination, for there were nearly 50 chairs in the pleasure ground and orangery, and a stone seat in the orangery itself. By 1748, the plants and trees included 4 citrons in tubs, 46 orange trees in tubs, 9 lemon trees in pots, and 70 seedling oranges in pots.

The orangery probably survived until the end of the 18th century, when new pleasure grounds were laid out. The vinery in the new kitchen gardens (the present Nursery Gardens) is sometimes misleadingly known as an orangery.

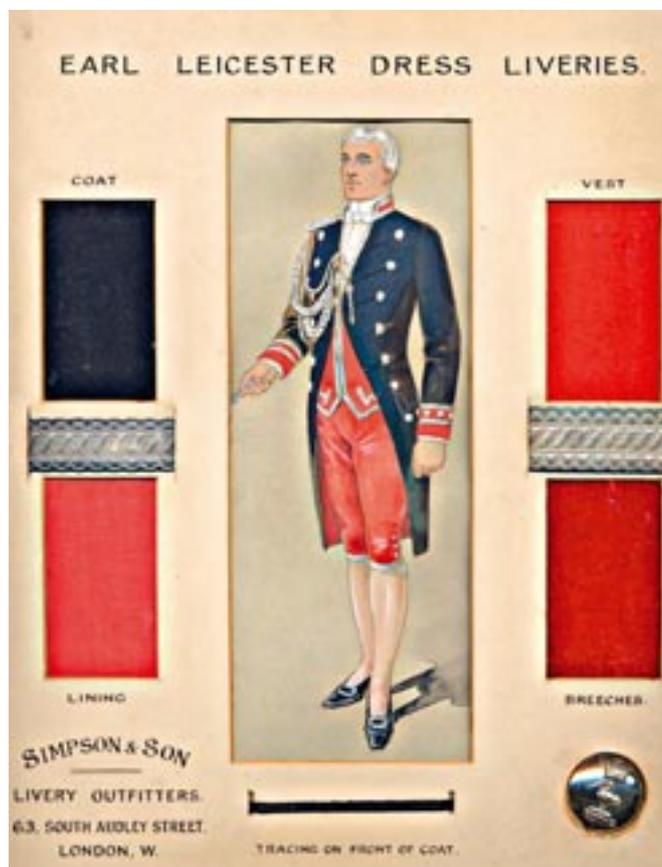
P for Perks

The Estate Office Letter Books show that in 1816, possibly initiated by Thomas William Coke's new agent, Francis Blaikie, a concerted effort was made to abolish the traditional perquisites enjoyed by many of the servants.

In return for an increase in wages, the brewer relinquished his right to take the malt residue from the Hall brew-house, and Richard Mann, the blacksmith, gave up the old cast metal and iron; the gamekeepers and dog feeder gave up their right to seven candles a week during the winter. The farm bailiff also lost some perks, although he was still allowed 'the keep of two cows and to feed two pigs a year for his family'. The menservants continued to be provided with livery, usually two livery suits and a working suit each year. Gloves were provided even for the maids: they were ordered from a shop in Wells, with extra right-hand gloves.

In 1864, the second Earl told the doctor at Wells that he had 'determined not to pay for medical attendance upon any of his servants in future'. This had been a valuable perquisite: some years earlier, 'attendance & medicine' and funeral expenses for a gamekeeper, John Guest, had equalled nearly half his £50 annual wage.

It was still possible for some to supplement the basic wage. The house steward or cook traditionally had the right to sell the kitchen fat and mutton tallow, and even a highly-paid French cook, Pelletier, received it in the 1870s. The gamekeepers were paid £d for each wood-pigeon head produced by them at the office, and £1 extra was awarded for



ABOVE: Holkham Footman's dress livery, 1910.

the greatest number. The reaction of the office staff to this scheme is not recorded.

Q for Quirky Quilt

In its prime, the quilted bedspread in the Green State Bedroom, the principal bedroom in the Hall, would have glowed and twinkled magnificently, for what now appears to be dull green embroidery is composed entirely of gilded silver thread, some crimped, some flat, to reflect the light differently. Recent conservation work on the quilt by 'the NADFAS ladies' prompted attempts to find out more about it.

An expert from the Victoria and Albert Museum dated it to the 1730s; its quality suggests it was made professionally, incorporating elements of old-fashioned and more contemporary designs. The central embroidery she described as 'quirky': it represents a rockery, partly padded to bring it into relief, incorporating shells, feathers and, peeping out for those who know where to look, a rabbit.

The rabbit appears again on the smallest of the three matching cushions. Unfortunately there is no record in the Archives of the quilt's purchase, but the first Lady Leicester's inventories show that in 1765 and 1774 it was stored in a chest, obviously treated with care and brought out on special occasions. We can only surmise whether she had a say in its magnificent but charmingly idiosyncratic design.

*Christine Hiskey
Archivist*

Adnams opens store at Holkham



ADNAM'S Wines is delighted to be opening a new store in the former Old School behind the Ancient House selling a mixture of wines, kitchenware, Adnams beers and branded gifts and clothing.

Adnams Wines has been an important part of the Adnams business for the past 30 years. Founded by Adnams'

Chairman Simon Loftus, Adnams Wines has gone from strength to strength winning numerous awards including three times winners of both Wine Merchant of the Year and Regional Wine Merchant of the Year at the International Wine Challenge.

Adnams Wines has focused on sourcing wines of striking individuality. We work with winemakers who have a passion for their land and who seek to make the very best wines they can from their vineyards. Most of our wines are exclusive to us and are identified during numerous buying trips to far flung wine regions of the world.

We are enthusiastic about coming to Holkham. Our beer brand is already strong in the area but we believe that we will



ABOVE: Adnams have opened a Wine, Cellar & Kitchen Store in the Old School House in Holkham Village.

soon gain a following for our wines, many of which can already be enjoyed at The Victoria. Our List includes a broad range of wines for everyday drinking as well as wines that are available in limited quantities from the great domains and châteaux of France.

We are pleased to offer all Holkham staff a 10% discount on all wines and kitchenware in the store and hope that readers of this newsletter will be able to join us to celebrate the shop opening on Friday 17th June 2005 at 6pm with a free glass of Fizz or ale.

*David Sleight
Store Manager*

GARDENS DEPARTMENT

AT last, our search for another gardener is over. We have taken on James Turner for the summer, and perhaps for longer, if he likes the work.

We did have a student earlier in the year, but he only lasted three-and-a-half hours after being asked to hoe the gravel on the terraces. He had an easy start filling in forms, and then he helped on the terraces, complained his back was aching, went for his dinner — and never came back! He said he didn't know gardening involved working hard.

With the earlier scarifying and fertilizing of the lawns on the terraces, the grass is now growing well and needing more regular cutting than usual.

Alongside our regular jobs, our list of gardens to look after has increased since I first started working at Holkham. This does tend to throw up some late finishes and some days when we don't know which way to turn. But, at the same time, it is very enjoyable and good to get out and about. The gardens we attend to now include: the Hall, Model Farm, Meale's House, Ancient House, Librarian's Cottage, Cook's house, The Victoria, Triumphal

Arch, Cuckoo Lodge, Palmer's Lodge — plus odd jobs for Pinewoods and Hector's Housing.

Work at Model Farm continues and we have replanted the herbaceous borders to extend the flowering season. Grass cutting is also being carried out regularly in both arboretums, which should re-invigorate the grass and create more attractive lawns. In the main arboretum, we hope to cut a shorter path out and mark out borders to do more planting during the autumn. We have also been tidying up Christoph Brooke's old garden, around the annexe to Model Farm, which is going to be turned into a more utilitarian area.

While writing this and watching the Chelsea Flower Show on the television, we are reminded of just how big an area we look after and yet look how many people it takes just to set up a small show garden over many weeks! And at the same time, I am envious of all the plants and the machinery they have at their disposal and the £40,000-plus they lavish on each plot. Oh well, maybe next year . . .

*Peter Godwin
Head Gardener*

The Hall

THE highlight at Holkham this spring was the wedding of Lord and Lady Glenconner's daughter, the Hon May Tennant, who married Anton Creasey at St Withburga's on Saturday 16th April.

Their wedding day was almost 50 years to the day that Lady Anne herself married the Hon Colin Tennant at Holkham — so it was a particularly nostalgic weekend for Lady Anne, as many of her close friends had also attended her wedding here.

Lady Anne planned every detail meticulously, and we all enjoyed working with her so much. There was a feeling of déjà vu for me, having recently organised my daughter Sabina's wedding last September. All the house staff worked incredibly hard, and our butler, David Palmer with his military training and Sgt Major voice was a highly efficient leader and organiser. Marilyn Franklin in the Estate Office typed many guest lists for the wedding, and Brian Ayton from Bygones drove the bride to and from the church in the old 1952 Bentley, which had belonged to her grandfather, the fifth Earl of Leicester.

May was the most stunning bride. Her beautifully cut wedding dress was very simple ivory silk satin and her long veil edged with satin ribbon was very similar to that worn by Princess Margaret. The dress was wonderfully set off by her mother's stunning diamond tiara. The flowers in the house and church were magnificent — there were simply flowers everywhere! And in addition, dried lavender was scattered all around on, which smelt beautiful. Lord Lichfield took many of the photographs, and *Anglia Television* filmed the wedding, just like Lady Anne's wedding 50 years ago. I was most impressed with May's calmness whilst her hair was being done, and even when she was getting dressed, especially as there was TV camera whirring all the time!

Following the reception, 250 guests sat down for dinner in several of the staterooms and libraries in the Hall. Georgie Gurney and her catering team, despite the distances the waitresses had to walk (from downstairs kitchens to upstairs staterooms), produced the food hot. Apart from Michael Winner (the film director and star of the Esure insurance adverts on TV), who threw a tantrum about his table placement, there were no hitches, and everyone loved every minute of the day. After dinner we danced to a band, alternating with a disco in the South Dining Room. Holkham is very much a 'living house' all the time as so much goes on here throughout the year, but it certainly comes alive when there is a party and I do feel the portraits looking down on us are nodding approval!

On a sad note, I have to report the news that Heinz Liebrecht died on the 1st January, aged 96. For the past 17 years I have enjoyed a marvellous, musical partnership with Heinz, who has been responsible for most of the concerts at Holkham. He had an incredible knack of finding young, new and brilliant talent to perform here. Indeed, Ian Bostridge, the



ABOVE: The Hon May Tennant and Anton Creasey's wedding was the spring highlight at the Hall.

well-known tenor, was just one of several future 'names' spotted by Heinz. Each concert he put on was superb and a very high standard — he would never have any musicians who he had not heard before. "I have my audience to think of, and they trust me to give them the best," he used to say to me. We will all miss him greatly.

We have decided to continue Heinz's good works with more music at Holkham this year. Julius Drake the well-known accompanist has offered to take over the sourcing of musicians for concerts, and Marilyn Franklin and I will be dealing with ticket sales. This year's concerts will be known as Holkham Celebrity Concerts. The first of these was on 24th April, featuring the Polish Szymanowski Quartet with Julius Drake on piano. The Szymanowski Quartet has gained a reputation as one of the most charismatic quartets of their generation, with playing of the highest calibre. The audience was delighted.

Concerts planned for this autumn include: Charles Owen piano; Mark Padmore, tenor; Nicholas Daniel, oboe; Julius Drake, piano, and Emma Kirkby, soprano; Michael Chance counter tenor and Lars Ulrich Mortenson, harpsichord. Unfortunately, Heinz's son, Uri Liebrecht, is unable to pass on his concert mailing list, due to the Data Protection Act. We are therefore compiling our own list, and if you know anyone who would like to be on our concert list, please tell them to write to the Estate Office.

Finally, Phillippa Fawcett, who has been gilding some of the staterooms, has finished gilding the bedrooms in Stranger's Wing. She spent three weeks in the winter/spring working very long hours, and we are thrilled with the results.

The Countess of Leicester

Behind the scenes at the Hall

WITH two busy Bank holidays behind us and the summer season almost upon us, I sometimes wonder where the time goes.

This season, we have several new members of the Room Stewards' team to introduce to you: Alan Gibbs who joins his wife Gillian, a veteran, no strike that, an experienced Steward; Barbara Snow and Janet Eaton both of whom join us fresh from their success as part of the NADFAS team who did such great work on repairing the upholstery in the staterooms; Anne Roberts who is very familiar with Holkham having brought her A' level and degree students here for many years; David Cranmer who came looking for a job that would enable him to meet pleasant people and last, but not least, John Plummer who is a former Royal Navy Commander and joins us to run the electric launch this year. John, I know the thing is a tad smaller than you're used to, but you can have your own pennant if you wish. May I wish you all a very warm welcome to Holkham.

Our long-serving boatman, Phil Bishop, is lurking at home waiting for the NHS to perform miracles on his person. Much to his disgust, they have postponed his op several times.



ABOVE: Janet Wood finally gets the better of Mike Daley at the Room Stewards' Training Day.

All of us here wish you the very best Phil and hope for your speedy recovery.

The big news of course is our success in the Enjoy England Excellence Awards where we won a gold award for being the 'Best Small Visitor Attraction' in England. Thanks to everyone for their outstanding contribution to this achievement.

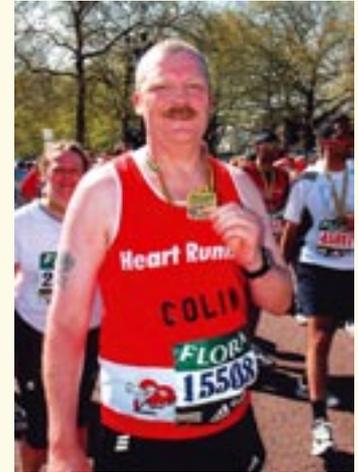


ABOVE: Whilst doing some research deep in the bowels of the Statue Gallery void I came upon this inscription. Is it a signature or a declaration of a profession? Answers in a plain brown envelope please.

MARATHON MAN

I would like to say thank you to all the people and their friends from Holkham Estate who sponsored me to run the London Marathon.

I managed to complete the run in just less than five hours. Thanks to my sweat and your generosity some £650 has been raised for the British Heart Foundation (BHF).



Special thanks to Lord and Lady Leicester for getting the ball rolling at the Christmas party, Mike Daley for changing our work routine so that I could stick to my training schedule, and finally thanks to Jane Haynes in the Estate Office for collecting the sponsorship money.

Your generosity certainly made a difference to me during the run by providing that extra spur I needed whenever I started to flag. The amount raised will certainly help the BHF and helped to make, what was for me a special day, even more memorable. Thank you all.

**Colin Shearer
Deputy Hall Administrator**

Ian Barrett, Gary Raven, Mark Taylor (Hooker) and Lou Bailey continue to work industriously behind the scenes. The high-level lighting in the Saloon is complete and shows off the gilding to great effect. Not all the work is so clean and fresh however. The last I saw of Gary was a pair of boots disappearing into the No 1 boiler. It's ok though Sue, we'd switched it off a day or so earlier. At least I know one of his hidey-holes now. By the time this newsletter is circulated, Gary should have finished his plumbing course. I know he'll do well so I don't think it's premature to wish him a "very well done and congratulations".

Speaking of congratulations – who saw Colin Shearer on the TV during the London Marathon? He was the one hiding behind the bloke dressed as a Rhino. Although to be fair, Colin claims that he sprinted past him and an 80-year-old veteran in the closing stages of the race. Seriously though, it is a fantastic achievement. If I tried to run it you'd see me being overtaken by the guy in a diving suit!

I thought I would include this photo of one of our stewards training sessions (left). Here you seem me demonstrating just one of the many management ploys I have to use to get anybody — and particularly Janet Wood, to do what I want.

**Michael Daley
Hall Administrator**

MARKETING DEPARTMENT

ON 19th April, privileged to be representing Holkham, Paula Minchin, Holkham's PR Adviser and I, attended a glittering awards ceremony at The British Museum, as one of the finalists in the national 'Enjoy England Excellence Awards 2005'.

Assured of winning at least bronze in the awards, known throughout the industry as the 'Oscars' of tourism, I sat nervously as the ceremony, hosted by comedienne Sandi Toksvig, progressed.

Some nationally recognised attractions clinched the prestigious gold, silver and bronze awards, and then up came our category 'Small Visitor Attraction of the Year' (under 100,000 visitors a year). With images and details of the three finalists; Holkham Hall, Painshill Park, Surrey and The Workhouse, Nottingham displayed across the massive screen in the auditorium, I waited with baited breath. From this point on things became somewhat of a blur. I recall the presenter saying "Gold Award" and "Holkham" followed by loud applause and flash photography as Paula and I stood on stage accepting the award — the rest, well you could say I was on cloud nine really!

This prestigious accolade is a wonderful achievement for everybody at Holkham.

Nick Cust, Awards Judge and Board member of the England Marketing Advisory Board, said of the award, "Holkham Hall is a gem that should become a large visitor attraction based on the quality of this day out."

Extensive press coverage, both national and regional, followed the awards, most notably a television interview with Lord Leicester for *Yorkshire Television* and radio interview with Mike Daley for



ABOVE: Paula Minchin and Laurane Herrieven accept Holkham's gold tourism award from comedienne, Sandi Toksvig, and Director General of the Caravan Club, Trevor Watson.

BBC Radio Norfolk, which can only be extremely beneficial in promoting the Estate and in helping to raise the profile of Holkham, as the wonderful tourist attraction that it is.

On a slightly less exciting note, the department has been very busy since the last newsletter with winter marketing and advertising and has attended three tourism exhibitions; RAF Lakenheath, Essex Tourism and Leisure Show and the two-day event 'A Day Out in North Norfolk', all important venues for promoting Holkham, but far less glamorous than the London Awards!

Laurane Herrieven
Promotions Manager

Holkham Cricket

ON Wednesday, 11th May Holkham Estate raised a cricket team to take on the Holkham Cricket Club. As we have never won this annual fixture, I came up with the idea of playing three shorter, 20 over games, which might increase our chances of winning at least one game.

In order to ensure that everyone has a part to play, each person other than the wicket keeper has to bowl two overs, and when batting, if you reach 30 not out, you have to retire, only coming in to complete your innings if everyone else in the team is out.

We won the toss and started very brightly with Martin Joyce (Game Department) scoring 35 not out (on 29 he scored a massive six), Kevin Bray (Farms) 30 not out and Richard Bailey (Game Department) 27 not out, before Paul Brown (Victoria), following an uncertain start, played a cameo tail ender's innings. We reached 122 for 4 at a very respectable 6 runs an over.

We kept the club pegged back to about four an over with most of our bowlers taking a wicket before they upped the pace and eventually won in the penultimate over, with a score of 126-7.

It was an extremely enjoyable and tightly contested match on a lovely spring evening. Afterwards both teams repaired to The Victoria for some well-deserved refreshment. The two remaining matches are at 6pm on Tuesday, 7th June and Tuesday, 5th July. One or two people can't play in the next matches so if you would like to, please contact me at Longlands, tel: (01328) 711896. Supporters are also welcome.



ABOVE: The Holkham cricket shield awarded by the Earl of Leicester in 1911 and last contested in 1913.

Viscount Coke

Holkham Pottery

LAST year, when planning for 2005 opening at the gift shops, we took the decision to open Holkham Centre immediately after Boxing Day for two weeks to provide a service for those people taking early New Year breaks.

This proved successful, and customers were delighted that there was somewhere to come and have a cup of hot coffee and to browse around the gallery and gift shop, so we will certainly do this again next year.

The end of January saw the start of the major refurbishment plan to improve disabled access to the toilets at the Holkham Centre at the Ancient House. This work is ongoing and we are all looking forward to its completion. In the meantime, Portaloos have been provided in our car park for customers.

Phase two of the car park at the Holkham Centre has been completed, with more defined spaces available for our customers and very smart it looks too.

Easter was very early this season, and so it seemed no sooner had we closed the shops, than it was time to spring clean for re-opening, and the orders started arriving from

Springfair Birmingham. Getting boxes unpacked, and displays set out is always rather a nail-biting experience, as we are all convinced that the shops are not big enough to hold everything we've bought in!

To commemorate the bicentennial of the Battle of Trafalgar, Holkham Pottery has designed and produced a new mug, which is already proving to be a best seller. It is available in two sizes and retails at £7.50 and £6.50.

We are all looking forward to the opening of Adnams' new Wine, Cellar & Kitchen Store in the Old School House, and hope that having another reason to visit Holkham will attract more customers to the Holkham Centre at the Ancient House.

Sylvia Daley
Retail Manager



ABOVE: The Nelson mugs specially designed to commemorate the Battle of Trafalgar are selling well.

Latest Festing staff portrait unveiled



HOLKHAM Estate Office, Finance and Holkham Pottery staff are the latest departments to be immortalised by the portrait painter, Andrew Festing.

In May, everyone featured in the painting went on a day trip to London to go to see the portrait on display in the Mall Galleries.

“It was most enjoyable, and quite funny to see the reaction of other people viewing the portrait whilst we were there, as they realised that all the people they were looking at in the painting were standing in front of them,” said Sylvia Daley.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Andrew Festing's portrait of Estate, Finance and Holkham Pottery staff; those who went to see the portrait while it was on show in London; Karen Griffiths from the Finance team having her portrait painted in the Statue Gallery.

HOLKHAM ART GALLERY

FORTUNATELY, a rather later than expected opening at the Holkham Centre at Easter did not affect the good start to the season however the closure of the tearooms for some weeks, and a period of unsettled weather saw a lower than expected number of visitors being tempted by the wide range of work on display.

This year there are several new names to the gallery, with the strong bold images by Kit Wade (see picture right), and Michael Taylor, whose watercolours show incredible detail and technical skill, the sensitive etchings of the local landscape by Laurie Rudling, Alan Schmidt's interesting rendering of subjects including Holkham Nursery Gardens, and the striking interpretation of beach scenes by Caroline Richmond.



LEFT: Artist Kit Wade's strong, bold depiction of starfish on Weybourne Beach is just one of a number of paintings by new artists for sale in the Holkham Gallery this year. **BELOW:** Kay Herbert's unusual silver jewellery.

The eye-catching photographs by John Hansell continue to attract great attention and the silver jewellery crafted by Kay Herbert is also popular.

The gallery continues to receive very complimentary comments with an increasing number of customers returning to purchase further pieces of work and it is hoped that the forthcoming season will be as successful as 2004.



Suzanne Pannell
Gallery Manager

Holkham Farming Company Ltd

THE spring weather has not been kind so far, but one bonus is my shorts have stayed well and truly in the drawer.

Despite the drawn out spring, sugar beet drilling went well this season thanks to the purchase of a new Kverneland Accord drill. With its electric drive to the cell wheels, we were able to set any seed spacing we liked and looking at the emerged crop, it does exactly what it says on the tin. With a redesign of the tractor wheel mark eradicators, hopefully the harvesting contractor should have a smoother ride also.

Our latest tractor purchase (our largest yet at 250 horsepower) has performed well but suffered from slow hydraulic lift and John Deere has been out several times to sort it out. The latest attempt involved a new lift valve, which reportedly cost £1,400 for a piece of metal that would fit easily in your hand. I am not sure where they get their prices from, but it is fortunate that the cost is covered under warranty.

The new farming policy that we have introduced at Waterden and Peterstone as a result of the Mid Term Review is looking promising. Under the new system, we only farm the productive areas of fields, with a rotation of sugar beet, fallow and wheat. We are certainly saving time during field operations (up to a third on some fields), but it remains to be seen whether our average yields will increase. I am sure they will and we should see more environmental benefits.

This summer, we will hopefully use all the water in the reservoir, which is full to the brim. This is due to the wet summer last year when we only used about half the capacity. We have more potatoes and carrots growing in the park than last year so roll on those long hot sunny days. These will also be useful for harvest, which cannot be as poor as last year. I hope that was the worst weather I will see, but just in case, we have replaced the combine with the latest all singing and dancing Claas Lexion 580. Our previous Lexion 480 was capable of some huge tonnages in a day, but always lacked power. The new machine is virtually identical except it is 140 horsepower bigger.

With the Single Farm Payment forms completed and despatched, the next few months could be interesting for the whole industry. People are beginning to get their heads round the concept of not having to grow crops and the livestock industry will no doubt change radically as subsidy has been removed from animal numbers.

We will watch the situation closely but we have been proactive in our thinking with the work at Waterden and Peterstone, so that should put us in a good position to take advantage of the new opportunities that will be out there both as arable and livestock farmers.

Michael Turner
Farm Manager

Hector's Housing Ltd

HAVING completed and sold three out of the four houses at our Upper Mill project at Hindringham, and with a lot of interest in our remaining Mill Tower plot, I am happy to report a good start to 2005.

With work on the new Orangery at The Victoria (see right) and the Ancient House toilet facility occupying almost all our resources over the winter and into spring, our new house projects have taken rather a back seat. So, with renewed impetus and extra staff, our remaining plot at Hindringham and the new house at Buddells Lane, Wighton, will soon be ready for buyers.

As we progress toward summer, Hector's has two new projects in hand: a large new house at Burnham Overy Town and a prestigious development of 13 new dwellings at Manor Farm, Wells, which we look forward to with great excitement.

In line with other Holkham-based businesses, we have been preparing our management budgets for the forthcoming year, for which Cherry Case has managed to gather all the relevant



Hector's built the Orangery at The Victoria.

facts and figures and present, in a clear, concise way, as only accountants can.

On the training front, Tom Hulme hopes to start NVQ plumbing and heating in September this year; Ben Jeffrey continues steadily with his NVQ carpentry, and Robin Owen has just informed me that he has passed the Advanced NVQ Level 3, with credit, and was the only member of his peer group at college to do so, although having monitored Robin's progress and commitment over the last three years, this was no surprise.

Robin also recently took part in the Skill-Build South Eastern Region Competition at Great Yarmouth on Friday 13th May. There were 15 entries and Robin was nominated to take part by the College of West Anglia where he served his apprenticeship. After a lot of deliberation by the judges, Robin was placed second.

Cliff Jeffrey
Project Manager

HOLKHAM LINSEED PAINTS

THE inventors and manufacturers of Holkham Linseed Paint, Hans and Sonia Allbäck visited us in February to take another two-day course explaining the benefits of their paint.

Whilst they were here we successfully secured the rights to supply their paint in this country for another seven years as well as to retail the products in Eire following an increased level of interest there. We hope to find some Irish retailers soon.

The Globe at Wells is also benefiting from the 'linseed system' on its windows and doors and, once again, we have mixed up a new colour especially for it. I am also very pleased to report that The National Trust is now undertaking the full restoration of a vinery using our products; coincidentally they are using the same terracotta colour as the interior of The Victoria's new Orangery (see photo), which is painted with our linseed paint both inside and out.

It is gratifying to report that since we started importing linseed paint from Sweden, four other hot linseed oil dipping tanks have been installed in England, following our example. They are at Fishers in Fakenham, the Bolitho estate in Cornwall, Haddon



ABOVE: Both the interior and exterior of the new Orangery at The Victoria are painted with Holkham Linseed Paints.

Estate in Derbyshire and Hatley Estate in Bedfordshire.

Having just completed the end of our third year we are pleased to report that we have once again increased our sales. With the summer season fast approaching and more and more people becoming aware of our products, following articles in both *House and Garden* and *Period Living* magazines, we have decided to take on another member of staff and would like to welcome David Ingram to our team here at Longlands.

David will be taking on some of Natalie's duties as she progresses and will also be packing the shipments for us after we 'lost' our very helpful packer Terry Howlett back

to Holkham Foods. Thank you Terry for all your help — we do miss you!

This should also free up more time to run our 'Rediscovering Ancient Wisdom' courses and give us the opportunity to visit both potential and existing retailers to see how we can help them to maximise sales and publicise our products by holding open days and offering them 'in-store' staff training.

Amanda Taylor
Sales and Technical Manager

HOLKHAM BUILDING MAINTENANCE

THE past six months seem to have flown by as the department has been especially busy with several major projects on the go at once. We have been working on the refurbishment of The Globe pub in Wells and the Old School House, which has been converted to form a new shop for Adnams, as well as our regular maintenance and emergency jobs.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A rotten window at The Globe; now fully restored; the Windowcraft team and rejuvenated windows at the Old School House.

Simon Hepher and his Windowcraft Team have been working on 20 windows, seven doors and the new restaurant area at The Globe. As you can see from the before and after photographs, the frames were extremely rotten and it has taken a lot of time and skill to rejuvenate all the woodwork.

Another area that has taken time, patience and careful attention is the metal work. The picture (right) shows one of many ornamental brackets that have been retored to their former glory. These pieces had been painted numerous times and Andy Spiers has managed to strip them back to their former splendour to ensure that as many original features as possible can be enjoyed by all who visit.



ABOVE: The Building Maintenance team responsible for the transformation of the Old School House for Adnams. LEFT: Refurbished metal work at The Globe in Wells.

The renovation of the The Old School House to form a new retail area for Adnams of Southwold which opened at the beginning of June, was a huge project with all of our maintenance team working industriously to ensure that we met our deadline.

The building had to be completely cleared out and, unfortunately, a section of floor had to be dug up as it had decayed beyond repair. A new disabled toilet and drainage were installed, new openings and doorways were cut through, the building was totally rewired, a new wooden floor laid and it has been fully redecorated.

The Windowcraft Team also been worked on the windows at the Old School House, the picture (right) shows just what skilled workmanship was involved in restoring these intricate windows.

Maurice Bray and Adam Lovick are continuing their on-going project of renovating the windows at the Hall. They have now completed the whole of the south side of the Hall and the majority of Stranger's Wing, which is a huge achievement. Once Stranger's Wing is complete, they will be starting work on the Family Wing. This really is a massive task which requires an enormous amount of skill, patience and a good head for heights!

The joinery shop has also been as busy as ever, obviously everyone has heard of the high standard of joinery that is produced there by Ron Teague and Liam Rowe. Not only have they produced new windows and doors but they have also designed and built a mount for the Game Department's night vision telescopic sight! Liam has been with us for a year now and has been named as the star pupil of his college course due to the high quality of his work, well done Liam.

Over the past six months, we have had a number of cottages to refurbish. Some of these such as 16 Pink Cottages, Cuckoo Lodge and Tower House have needed extensive updating/renovating, calling on the many skills of our maintenance workforce.

Work has already started on the external joinery repairs and decoration to the remaining seven houses in Warham that we were unable to complete last year due to the dreadful weather conditions. We are hoping and praying for good weather this year so that we can carry out work on all the Burnham properties before the winter sets in.

Our insulation programme is still on-going with Wighton village nearing completion and work due to start shortly in the Burnhams. The next village to have surveys carried out will be Holkham. Hopefully winter 2005/2006 will be a cosy one!

Barry Turner
Building Maintenance Manager

Game Department



IMPROVING the habitats in which the animals we look after live, is a very important part of our jobs as gamekeepers here at Holkham, because if the wildlife is happy, it will stay where it is and thrive.

This year for many reasons, including the change in the Common Agricultural Policy, the on-going Defra driven agri-environment schemes and more importantly, the Estate's wish to recognise conservation as one of its key objectives, we are putting more energy and resources into improving wildlife habitat than ever before. We are now managing 60 hectares of land, where we are planting specific crops that will benefit all

ABOVE: The wildflower meadow in front of the Nursery Gardens. **RIGHT:** NGO Silver Partridge clay shoot winner, beatkeeper Stephen Herrievan. **BELOW:** Deer Park Manager, Julian Stoyel.

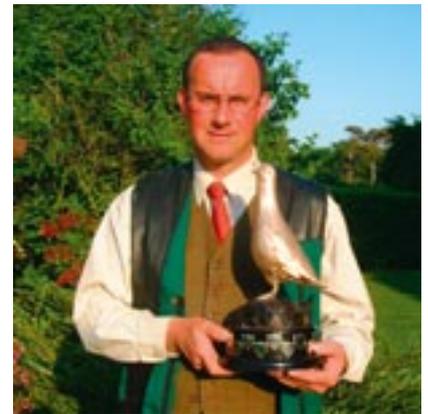
sorts of birds and animals.

The new farming system which is being trialled at Waterden and Peterstone, whereby the farm is only planting the most profitable bits of fields, means that we have been able to create beetle banks alongside brood rearing crops and leave lots of fallow land, which should encourage an insect-rich environment, providing an abundance of food for songbirds and game birds.

Recently, while I was sitting out on these fields waiting for a fox using our night vision equipment, I was amazed to see so many bats feeding on the insects and two barn owls were hunting too, so there must have been a lot of small mammals about too.

As gamekeepers, we derive a lot of pleasure from watching and learning about nature. We have planted a wildflower meadow in front of the Nursery Gardens in the Park (see picture above), which is now in its first flowering season. The hard tracks have been planted on each side with 3m margins of a Pollen and Nectar mix, which contains vetches, trefoils, knapweed and many more insect-attracting plants.

We are also planning a nature trail within the Park so that we can show school children and adults the rich and diverse flora and fauna that we are so lucky to have here.



WOODS DEPARTMENT

FREDDY Futter, 70ft in the air, taking the tops off the trees at the Ancient House, had great fun doing his job while helping to clear the new road linking the Holkham Centre to the Adnam's store in the Old School House. Several pictures were taken, but somehow got lost — we should have used a box brownie! Though one picture of Freddy and the crane driver (right) taking down a huge Eucalyptus tree at Church Lodge has somehow survived.



We recently removed six rows of trees in Jubilee Wood at Warham to let more light in. Working there reminded me of when we planted the wood in 1978, and watched helicopters dropping nets of rocks into the gaps in the Wells beach road sea wall, caused by the tidal flood.

The crane returned to Holkham in May and we spent a day cutting dead branches out of the Sweet Chestnut and Oak trees in the car parking area near the Hall.

Ian McNab
Head Woodsman

HOLKHAM COUNTRY FAIR

THE 13th Holkham Country Fair will be held over the weekend of the 16th and 17th July, and the events will be very similar to previous years.

The Grand Ring programme includes the Imps Motorcycle Display Team and the Essex Dog Display Team, both of whom are new to Holkham. The Imps are a highly drilled group of East End kids who train with the Royal Signals, and with their scarlet tunics make an impressive arena display. The Essex Dog Display have been widely seen in the country but rarely in Norfolk, and demonstrate a high degree of canine agility and obedience.

Other Grand Ring favourites include the Tigers Freefall Team, Vintage Cars, Graham Watkins and his Gamegoer gundog display, Terrier racing and a duo Aerobatic display. Charlotte Hill will be making her debut as our demonstrator falconer this year, and our band is The Band and Bugles of The Light Division, who will close the daily programme with a Beating of Retreat.

Around the showground, there will be all the usual displays and attractions, from clay pigeon shooting and fly-casting, to the old-time children's fairground and firing a muzzleloader from Lord



ABOVE: Graham Watkins and his Gamegoer gundog display will be in action at the Holkham Country Fair.

Leicester's armoury. Too numerous to mention, full details can be found on our website: www.countryfairoffice.co.uk

There will be more than 200 varied trade stands and crafts, with many newcomers to Holkham. New again this year is a Festival of Foods marquee, which we hope to build on if successful.

Ticket prices are £10 on the gate for all except the under 15s who enter for free, and two days tickets are available from the Country Fair Office for £18. Gates open at 8.30am both days, and the Grand Ring Programme ends shortly after 6pm. (All Holkham Estate employees, spouses and children up to the age of 18, will be given free tickets by Marilyn Franklin in the Estate Office).

Once again we are expecting a large and happy crowd, and, if successful, substantial donations will again be made to charities and other organisations. All we need now is brilliant, sunny weather!

Christopher Lloyd-Owen
Country Fair Organiser

At the same time however, conservation costs the Estate a lot of money, so we are always looking for ways in which we can increase revenue. One area where we can improve is the marketing of our venison and game. To that end, we have taken on Julian Stoyel, who has joined the Game Department to manage the Deer Park and market venison and game.

The beatkeepers are busy on their beats and we are all hoping that the weather picks up and we have a good breeding season as we have a busy shooting season ahead of us, especially as we are hosting the Spaniel Championship over three days in January.

Finally, we must congratulate Stephen Herrievan, beatkeeper on the Wighton beat, for winning the National Gamekeepers' Organisation Silver Partridge trophy (see picture above left). Steve won the clay shoot, which is exclusively for Norfolk gamekeepers, after a tense shoot off with one of our neighbouring keepers, Ted Streeter, at Barsham Estate. It is the first time that the prestigious trophy has been won by a Holkham keeper and we are all proud of Steve for bringing it home.

Simon Lester
Headkeeper

New cycle route opens at Holkham



VISCOUNT and Viscountess Coke and their children Minna, Juno and Ned, got on their bikes in March to launch a new cycle route through the Park. This picture was taken to inaugurate the 10-mile circular route starting at the South Lodge. The signed route meanders through the Park, past the Hall and then out on to the Nature Reserve, along the stretch of coast from Holkham to Wells. The route adds six more miles to the National Cycle Network Route 1 and has been opened thanks to a partnership between Sustrans, the UK's sustainable transport charity, Norfolk County Council, English Nature and Holkham Estate.

Countryside Alliance Schools' Day



THE prospect of 1,500 school children descending on the Estate over two days caused a certain amount of trepidation, especially as our largest school visit prior to that was 180 children from the Alderman Peel High School in Wells, who were here just for the morning.

The Estate's Education and Access policy states we are keen to give as many people access to the Estate, and we are forging links with local schools which are encouraged to treat the Estate as a resource.

The Countryside Alliance organise the schools' day, each year asking a different Estate or farm to host the two-day event. This year, on 17th and 18th May, it was our turn.

The children started arriving at about 10am on each day, with some travelling from as far-a-field as Great Yarmouth. On arrival, each group was allocated two guides who took them around the 12 stands, featuring various different aspects of the countryside and its management.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:The scene as hundreds of children descended on the Park in May; Lord Coke and children from the Mulbarton Middle School in Norwich in front of the new combine harvester; the woods department in action; meeting the ferrets; learning how the Estate businesses help to fund the upkeep of the Hall.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Finding out about the farm; gamekeeping and conservation; learning how to fish on the lake.



On the Estate stand, Promotions Manager, Laurane Herrievan and Shirley Walsh from the Estate Office, explained to the children and teachers how Holkham endeavours make money from its various businesses and attractions, in order to support the upkeep of the Hall.

Farm Manager, Michael Turner, and Kent Cooper, talked about arable farming, while Stephen Attridge and Jimmy Frary manned the cattle display telling the children where their beef comes from.

Head gamekeeper, Simon Lester, and Deer Park Manager, Julian Stoyel, told the children about conservation and deer management in the National Gamekeepers' Organisation tent.

While Head Woodsman, Ian McNab's forestry display was action-packed with chainsaw displays, log splitting, and a crane lifting logs on and off the trailer, which certainly entertained the children. Other displays included falconry, ferrets, fishing, sheep, bugs and insects and gundogs.

The children loved it and we have already received some terrific thank you letters from the schools (see right). As with any successful event, planning was all-important. A lot of people on the Estate (as well as Terry Lawton from the Countryside Alliance and his team) worked very hard to make sure the day went well — which it did. Credit must also go to the Countryside Alliance, which makes a contribution towards the cost of transporting children to these events and provide the guides. Not forgetting the schools which came, giving the children the chance to see what happens in the countryside.

*Richard Gledson
Land Agent*

CHILDRENS' COMMENTS

“I learnt so much I don't know where to start, I'll give it a try. I learnt mostly two things, the first thing was about the traps they used to catch animals. I think it was cruel but then they explained it, I understood. The second thing I learnt was about pheasants and thier (sic) eggs I think it is a bit cruel. Oh well, at least you're looking after them.” **Tom Slaney**

“The fishing was interesting because I have never been before and it looks an enjoyable sport, but I think I am a bit active for fishing and not very patient.” **James Dyson**

“I thought the falconry was good and the dogs were brilliant, the bad thing about it there was [deer] poo everywhere.” **Ben Engledow**

“I had no idea angling had anything to do with fishing! I am now taking an interest in fishing and it's all thanks to Holkham Hall.” **Lauren Suwali**

“I learnt new kinds of ducks and what you feed them. The gamekeepers dress very smart. I also thought the selection of falconry (sic) you own is fantastic.” **Alice Fricker**

“I like the Norfolk sheep, the ram looked really moody and sad.” **Erin Taylor**

“It was just all brill!” **Sam Wyer**

“I liked the bit about Holkham Hall and how much was spent on keeping the Hall and the grounds in good shape. It was amazing.” **Alison Bradley**

“I had a smashing time at Holkham.” **Adam Wilson**

St Withburga's Church



ABOVE: Despite dwindling congregations, St Withburga's continues to thrive.

DESPITE the fact that few people actually attend church services these days (which is a great pity because our approachable and down-to-earth Rector would love to encourage a larger congregation, especially families with children, to attend), St Withburga's is thriving.

This is in part due to the fact that St Withburga's is situated in a beautiful Park, and that the present Earl of Leicester and his predecessors have lovingly and carefully maintained it. However, over the past 10 years, Richard Worsley, our retiring Churchwarden has also devoted an enormous amount of time and care to St Withburga's.

Richard has been the lynch pin in all the fund raising events, and has worked tirelessly to make the popular barbecues, the mini-fetes and the concerts such a success. So much so, that Holkham Church has always managed in the past to pay the Parish Share, which is no small task given the size of the congregation.

As you can see in the article on the opposite page, there is fantastic news in that St Withburga's now has its wonderful set of bells back in full use, and this is entirely due to the huge amount of work undertaken by Richard; the paperwork, phone calls and e-mails with church architects, builders, bell foundries, and the Diocesan Board, and keeping the PCC fully informed, have been enormously time consuming, and Richard has done all of this single-handedly.

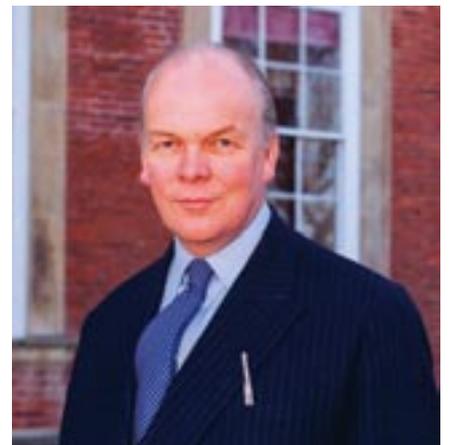
He has attended church every Sunday, taken the Service when the Rector has been unavailable, has dealt with all the day-to-day problems arising, and has done all of this in his

extremely competent, uncomplaining and eternally good-humoured manner.

At the recent PCC AGM, Richard was presented with a small engraved silver armada dish, to commemorate

his time as Churchwarden, and on presenting it, Lord Leicester commented that, justly, it should have been a cheque for £25,000, but the dish was accepted — with no accompanying cheque — with his usual charm and sincere thanks. Lord Leicester, the members of the PCC and I, must thank him most warmly for always being the person whom everyone could rely on. Thanks must also go to Stephanie, his wife, for her great help and support throughout the years.

Naturally, Richard did not leave us without ensuring that we had someone worthy to take over from him, and the PCC welcomes Anthony Atkinson as its new Churchwarden. Having previously been the Treasurer, Anthony is well aware of the importance of raising funds, and to this end we have organised a mini fete to take place on Sunday 24th July on the north side of the Hall from 12noon until 4pm (all



ABOVE: Retiring Churchwarden, Richard Worsley.

LET THE BELLS RING OUT

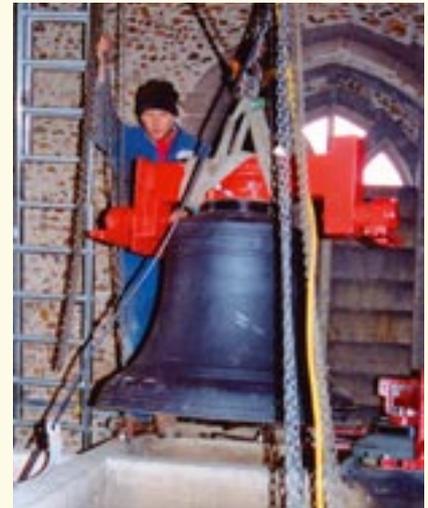
THE bells at St Withburga's are set to ring out in a joyful peal this summer, after being silent for more than a decade.

The six bells, which give out a beautiful, musical sound, have been re-hung in the tower, after being taken down in January and transported to Taylor's foundry in Loughborough to be refurbished.

Meanwhile, the 1860s' wooden framework in the 60-foot tower was strengthened with the insertion of a steel beam. The £40,000 cost of the project has been met by various grants and donations, most notably from some of the proceeds of the bi-annual Holkham Country Fair.

The biggest and oldest of the bells, dating back to 1869, weighs 19 hundredweight and is about four feet tall. It carries an inscription stating that the bell was re-cast in 1908 and again in 1921 by Thomas William Coke, the third Earl of Leicester.

*Richard Parr
Eastern Daily Press*



Pictures by: Ian Williams and Mark Taylor.

ABOVE: Taking the bells down in January was a tricky operation.

ABOVE: The bells awaiting collection.
BELOW: The biggest bell is approximately 4ft tall and was originally cast in the 1860s.

ABOVE: The newly refurbished bells returned in May and were soon back in place at the top of the 60ft tower.

welcome, and if you have any produce/cakes/books/bric-a-brac please feel free to dump it on me)! Another barbecue is planned, and further events are being discussed.

A very successful concert by Gresham's School Choir was held in May and in April, St Withburga's was the setting for the wedding of The Hon May Tennant, daughter of Lord and Lady Glenconner, almost 49 years to the day that they married here. May looked absolutely radiant, and we wish her and Anton a long and happy life together.

Finally, if anyone fancies trying his or her skill as a bell ringer, please contact me. It is a lot of fun, and good exercise

(and on this occasion, I do know what I am talking about!) You will be made very welcome, and given appropriate coaching and tuition.

An Evensong is planned to take place in July (probably the 10th), to follow a celebration of the return of the bells with a full Peal, and those attending will be able to see a display of photographs showing the stages of the restoration work, while enjoying a glass of wine.

*Marilyn Franklin
Hon Secretary*

Pinewoods Holiday Park



Above: Sales Manager, Jacki Ramm, is pictured on the verandah of one of our lodges, overlooking Abraham's Bosom, after Pinewoods won the David Bellamy gold award for conservation for the fifth year in a row.

WINTERS on holiday parks continue to shorten; more than 40 of our caravan holiday homeowners enjoyed an extended season until the 2nd January. In addition, we continued to let out our double glazed and centrally heated hire fleet, both caravans and lodges.

All this activity and health and safety legislation results in even greater challenges when it comes to our winter development and repairs programme. This year we wanted to make major improvements to the road from the entrance to the park to the bridge. Good drainage was as important as the surface. Unfortunately, the contractor could not guarantee finishing the job before Easter, so we could only do half the job. The second half is planned for next winter.

Drainage continued to be the main objective for the maintenance team, with extensive land drains being installed in two of the wettest areas of the park. We do not want the tropical rains of last summer, but if we do, we all look forward to seeing how successful these drains are. Next winter will see a continuation of this work.

Once again Pinewoods had no intention of sitting on its laurels regarding landscaping and more than 2,000 trees and shrubs, along with hundreds of daffodils have been planted at the entrance of the park and in numerous beds around the park.

A second butterfly bar has been planted in front of one of the shower blocks; if this proves popular we will plant more around other toilet blocks. A major part of our "Tern" touring field has been redesigned and Escallonia hedging planted to provide each pitch with privacy in years to come.

Fencing has been put up to provide protection for the young plants and will be removed when the hedge is established. Once again we look forward to our David Bellamy inspection and are optimistic at the prospect of receiving the gold award for the sixth year running. If we need an ace up our sleeve we can always use the Abraham's Bosom Nature Walk installed by English Nature this winter.

All our permanent team members are still with us, which makes for a stable environment for both our caravan holiday homeowners and holidaymakers, as many of them get to know us all well. One welcome new addition to the team is Damian Lloyd, who has joined us as retail manager, looking after the shop, café, and beach kiosk and ice cream van.

The start to the 2005 season proved to be the major challenge we all expected, with Easter being so early, our upgraded electrical supply proved a major success with no power problems experienced other than those associated with normal over loading.

April has been the most unusual of months and in many ways has drifted by; normally we would have the excitement of Easter to provide the focus.

But, now we are approaching summer, expectations are high and if the weather we experienced over the May Day weekend is anything to go by we should have a great season, one we are all looking forward to.

Richard Seabrooke
General Manager

The Victoria Hotel

IN the last newsletter, I mentioned that we had just completed refurbishment work on the Triumphal Arch, a new folly which offers our guests more unusual and exclusive accommodation to complement Palmer's Lodge, which also became a romantic, holiday destination last year.

The Arch immediately proved a great success with guests and helped focus our minds on completing our next folly, Cuckoo Lodge, a very pretty brick cottage with scalloped eaves, set in secluded woodland just outside Holkham Park.

The interior design has been co-ordinated by Monica Vinader and her team so that the lodge has a distinctly Bohemian feel, with all the character of a traditional Norfolk cottage. Cuckoo Lodge was built in the 1860s and has over the years, been occupied by gamekeepers working for Holkham Estate.

The Lodge is ideal for families as it has a double bedroom and a twin-bedded room. It also has a handmade wooden kitchen with an Aga, an open-plan sitting room, a dining room and an extensive garden. Whilst the Aga heats the water, the wood burning stoves upstairs and downstairs will keep guests warm and cosy, especially as we make sure that the stoves are lit before guests arrive. More modern, 21st century technology in the form of Photo-Voltaic solar panels has also been employed to complement the deisel generator used to provide electricity.

Everyone at The Victoria has been extremely excited by the purchase of the Globe Inn in Wells early in the New Year. The newly-refurbished pub situated in the heart of Wells, which opens on 1st July, aims to serve excellent home-cooked local food in a friendly, family atmosphere. We wish our sister business every success.

After a few teething problems, the new Orangery extension has really come into its own. Although the extra space only gives us an extra 30 covers, it does make running the restaurant a lot easier, giving us more tables and particularly more tables of two for our residents.

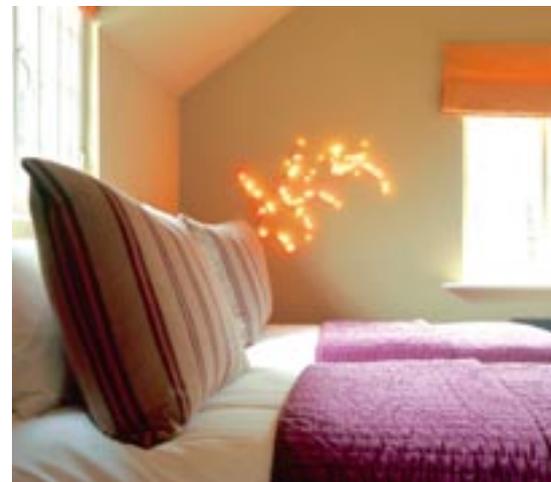
HOLKHAM HELPS ASIAN TSUNAMI

THE Estate has made a donation to the Asian Tsunami Appeal Fund in a bid to help those still affected by the terrible events on Boxing Day last year.

The sum of £10,000 was donated from the Pinewoods Charity Account, while staff at The Victoria donated their tips from New Year's Eve and New Year's Day to the appeal.



ABOVE AND RIGHT: Cuckoo Lodge has been refurbished to evoke a cosy, Bohemian feel. It has two bedrooms and is ideal for families seeking a longer break.



Plus it does, of course, command stunning views over the marshes.

The kitchen has been updated, which meant that it had to be closed for two days in May. The cooking range was extended with some smart new Angelo Po burners and a huge extraction unit. This now means that working conditions for the chefs are a bit more comfortable (less hot). They are now very happy bunnies (although perhaps I am tempting fate as I am writing this at the beginning of the Whitsun weekend). They have also planted their own herb garden in the location of the old fishing boat, above the terrace.

A special mention goes to Katie Garrity, our Restaurant Manager and Mick Davis, our junior Sous chef, both of whom will be leaving soon to go to Australia. Everyone at the Vic wishes them well and I, in particular, would like to thank them for their hard work and commitment over the past couple of years and hope to see them back at Holkham in the future.

Paul Brown
General Manager

Holkham National Nature Reserve

THE year opened with record numbers of Pink footed geese in the county. I heard a figure of around 154,000 birds but this has yet to be confirmed.

The marshes either side of Lady Anne's Drive were packed with geese over the New Year period and provided a noisy and spectacular experience for the many visitors to the reserve at this time. I estimated there were 40-50,000 Pink feet in the Holkham area in December/January. Other interesting birds present from January-May included Bittern at Meales House, Shorelarks and Snow Buntings on the beach and Peregrine Falcon.

Muntjac deer are a common sight in the pinewoods these days, but other deer are scarce, so the sight of 12 Red deer north of the Holkham Decoy and sightings of Roe and Fallow elsewhere were a special treat.

In a previous newsletter, I mentioned I was working on interpretation projects with the Holkham Estate. One of these, the Pinewoods Holiday Park Abraham's Bosom Project has been completed and was launched on 2 June.

The project is a partnership between English Nature, Holkham Estate and the Heritage Lottery Fund. A purpose-built boardwalk has been designed and constructed to help visitors see some of the very special wildlife in the vicinity of Abraham's Bosom Lake.

Visitors are now able to stroll along the 180-metre boardwalk to see wildflowers, birds and insects and it is



Pictures by: Mick Green.

The Stilt Sandpiper (above) and the Woodchat Shrike (right) which attracted more than 2,500 birdwatchers when they were spotted at Burnham Norton in May.



hoped this will strengthen support for nature conservation. A series of interpretation panels also provide information about the wildlife, the habitats and how they are managed.

Our manpower resource was boosted from an unexpected quarter recently following an approach by the Norfolk Probation Service to discuss the feasibility of using the Community Punishment Scheme (CPS) on the Holkham National Nature Reserve.

Despite some initial concerns and having satisfied both English Nature and Norfolk Probation concerns over Risk Assessments and Health and Safety, the scheme was up and running in January. I have to say I am pleasantly surprised by the effort and commitment shown by most of the people involved and so far, the scheme has proved a success.

There are usually six to eight people who work on Sunday and Monday each week accompanied by a CPS supervisor. Their input has enabled us to crack on with a wide variety of management work ranging from scrub/pine clearance in the dune grassland, fence repairs, pond cleaning, considerable rubbish clearance following high tides and filling sand bags for the Burnham Overy Harbour Trust marsh dam project.

We welcomed Will Stewart, Estate Worker to the English Nature Norfolk Team in January. He will be based at Dersingham Bog National Nature Reserve and work at Holkham for two weeks each month. Will has a good background in nature conservation in terms of practical skills

THE NEXT GENERATION



PICTURED are Viscount and Viscountess Coke's three children, Juno and Ned, and Hermione (Minna), along with their friend, Charlotte Heaton.

and his knowledge of habitats and species. Until recently, he was working with the Norfolk and Suffolk Wildlife Trusts

Stop press 16th May: rare bird alert Stilt Sandpiper and Woodchat Shrike at Burnham Norton over the weekend. Both birds were way off course, the sandpiper, should have been heading to its Canadian Arctic breeding grounds after wintering in central/south America, whilst the Shrike should have been sunning itself in warmer climes such as Spain.

Their arrival stirred the ranks of birdwatchers and approximately 2,500 people invaded the village over two days. Thanks go to Alister Borthwick and the Holkham Estate for laying on an overflow car park in a field to the west of the village and to Stafford Snell for his cooperation in assisting to avert serious traffic congestion in Burnham Norton village.

*Ron Harold
Site Manager*

Iron wills in NZ



THE Hon Johnny and Carolyn Coke's daughter, Ros and her husband Justin Gibbs, took part in the New Zealand Iron Man Triathlon on 3rd March. They had to complete a 2.36 mile swim, a 111 mile bike ride and a 26 mile run within 17 hours. Justin finished in 12hrs 37mins and Ros in 14hrs 50mins.

THE ROAD TO ROME

OLDER readers may remember Dr William Hassall who first came to work in the library at Holkham for the third Earl before the Second World War.

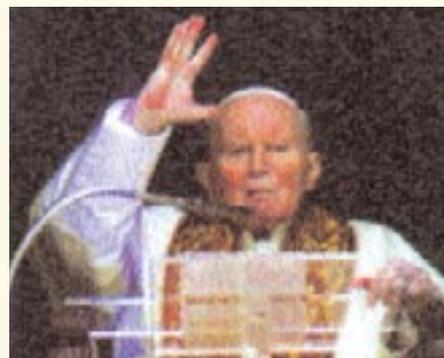
My father, Bill Hassall's family came from Cheshire and in 1402, Thomas de Hassall, the priest of the Cheshire parish of Sandbach, set out on a pilgrimage to Rome "ad visitandum limina Sanctorum Petri et Pauli" — that is to visit the shrines of St Peter and St Paul. He probably sailed from Chester to Bordeaux and then went by land. Six hundred years later, I decided to follow in my ancestor's footsteps, and Lady Valeria Coke rashly agreed to accompany me.

So, on the 600th anniversary, at Easter 2002, we walked from Sandbach to Chester and then travelled to western France where the real part of our journey began!

Because it wasn't possible to spare two-and-a-half months to complete the journey in one go, we divided the walk into a number of stages, picking up each new stage at the point where we had broken off previously. Seven stages, or more than 900 hundred miles later, after walking for about 70 days along the canals of southern France, Roman roads (the



ABOVE: Lady Valeria Coke on the outskirts of Rome. BELOW: The intrepid duo arrived in time to see Pope John Paul II give his last Easter blessing.



Aurelia and the Cassia), and the Via Francigena (the traditional pilgrim route from north of the Alps to Italy), we arrived on the outskirts of Rome.

We had encountered flash floods at St Gilles and narrowly missed forest fires on the way down to the Riviera coast. On one stretch I managed to develop some horrendous blisters and the day we walked the 20 miles from Salon to Aix en Provence, we endured temperatures of 42 degrees; but of course there were high points too, seeing great medieval cities like Carcassonne, Lucca and Siena, or eating medieval dishes such as lampreys and cassoulet. We also received many acts of kindness from the people we met.

On Good Friday this year, we entered Rome, as medieval pilgrims would have done, along the Via Trionfale with views from Monte Mario of the Eternal City dominated by the great basilica of St Peter's, spread out below. We were in St Peter's Square on Easter Sunday to see the frail figure of Pope John Paul II appear at the window of his Papal Apartment and to receive his last Easter Blessing. A few days' later this great world figure was dead, which was a sad, but memorable climax to a great adventure.

Mark Hassall

REMEMBERING JOHN TEMPLE

George Nell celebrates the life of Holkham tenant farmer, John Temple, who died in April

WHAT can one possibly say about John Temple, who, by any standards was a giant amongst men? He achieved more in a lifetime than most of us can even dream of.

I was privileged to know him for 38 years. He was a farmer, who, like one of the people he held in high esteem, Coke of Norfolk, made the desert bloom. When he started farming on his own account, in his teens, he took up a torch that had been lit by his grandfather in 1911 when he had started farming. John's parents had nurtured this flame through the great depression.

During the 1940s he combined farming with being a member of the Home Guard and was able to extend the acreage he was farming in Wighton. Then, in 1947 he married Audrey, who was to be his lifelong love and support.

In 1951 and still only 29, John was granted the tenancy of New Farm, Wells. So, he moved his wife and young son, Stephen, the three miles from Wighton to Wells. In 1953 the sea had a good go at washing him out of at least part of the farm. New Farm took a tremendous amount of work to bring it back from its derelict state and to remove the salt from the land that had been flooded. However, by 1954 John was ready for another challenge, the purchase of Copys Green Farm, Wighton, where again much clearing and improving was required.

The rest of the '50s and early '60s John spent developing and growing his business, which by now included dairy, cereals and sugar beet, but also beef, sheep and the vegetables, which were to become such a major part of the business. John must be

remembered not only for his skills in animal and crop husbandry, but also for his business and entrepreneurial skills.

In 1967 he took on large areas of marshland at Holkham, which again needed large investments of time and money to bring it into full production.

Through the '70s, '80s and '90s he was continuing to take on more land through purchases at Field Dalling and Wighton and also leasing of pasture and land for growing carrots.

John was a man for his time and lived through what will almost certainly be looked back on as a golden age for farming. He grasped the opportunities with both hands; he embraced new technologies and innovations. While others were considering what to do, he had done it. He was one of the first to have a milking machine, a tractor, a sprayer and so on. Where he led, others followed and it was all done with humility, honesty, integrity and straight forwardness seldom seen in one who has achieved so much. He kept his feet on the ground, on the soil he loved so much. He truly lived as if each day was his last, but farmed as if he was going to live forever.



ABOVE: John Temple.

Finance Department

OVER the past few months, the Finance Department has undertaken a task list of projects that have required considerable input at the planning stage. This has made heavy demands on many members of the team, but now many of our key projects have finished and the returns are coming through. For example, we have recently switched bankers to Handelsbanken, a Swedish bank with a new branch in Norwich, and the effort has proved worthwhile with considerable savings accruing to the Estate as well as a refreshing approach to customer service and responsiveness.

Neil Morrell and Jane Haynes have pushed forward the Estateman rent accounting system, which should make everyone's life a lot easier and enable the Estate to provide a more professional service to our tenants. Karen Griffiths has set up the first medium-term cash flow projections for the Estate, giving a picture of our estimated cash position 18 months hence. This has not been performed on the Estate before. Jayne Cooper has automated our supplier payments

system, enabling electronic payments to be made to more than 85% of our suppliers, reducing our costs and giving our suppliers a more reliable method of payment. Cherry Case has developed on-line filing with the Inland Revenue, getting us into the 21st century.

All of these tasks were carried out with much up-front work, preparation and effort but the results have been well worth it. And the same applies to academic studies. We are tremendously proud of the achievements of Jane Bloomfield for becoming a Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians. This is a three-part qualification, each part consisting of a number of subjects and exams, equal to a degree in Accountancy. Congratulations also to Teresa Fowle for gaining a recognised Payroll qualification.

Mike Wyard
Finance Director

The Globe Inn

YOU will recall that in the last issue of the Holkham Newsletter we had a Stop Press item stating that we had just had our offer on The Globe in Wells accepted by Greene King.

On the 11th January we completed the purchase and three days' later the builders moved in. We were lucky that Creative Construction Ltd, the building company that undertook the refurbishment work on The Victoria Hotel back in 2001, were just finishing off another project and were available. I chose them because of the quality of the work they produce, but perhaps more importantly because they had The Victoria finished for us on time and it was essential that The Globe opened on the 1st July, in time for the busy summer season.

Many of the same team are still there, principally the two directors, Dave Garramone and Pete Oldfield. The scope of the works was huge; chimneys were taken down and rebuilt, a gable end wall had to be rebuilt and many repairs had to be undertaken. In fact the cost, like that of The Victoria, is a little over £500,000. Dave has had up to 40 people working on the pub on occasions and a core team has often worked on it seven days and nights a week.

The Globe (called The Vine back in the 19th century) is a beautiful building in a wonderful location on the Buttlands. That, together with our view that the timing was right to

Forthcoming Events

Friday 1st July	Opera, Eugene Onegin by Tchaikovsky at the Hall.
Friday 1st July	The Globe Inn at Wells re-opens after complete refurbishment.
Saturday 2nd July	Opera, Tosca by Verdi at the Hall.
Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th July	Holkham Country Fair (Hall and Bygones Museum will be closed for the duration of the Fair).
Sunday 24th July	Mini-fete in aid of St Withburga's Church, outside the Hall.
Saturday 8th October	Celebrity Concert at the Hall.
Saturday 5th November	Celebrity Concert at the Hall.
Sunday 4th December	Celebrity Concert at the Hall.

move into Wells were the main motivations behind buying it. We feel confident that having run The Victoria for four years we have built up enough expertise to run a successful operation.

It is, of course, an example of Holkham's continued diversification and particularly exciting because this is one of the first times we have bought an asset outside the Estate as opposed to developing an existing Estate property.

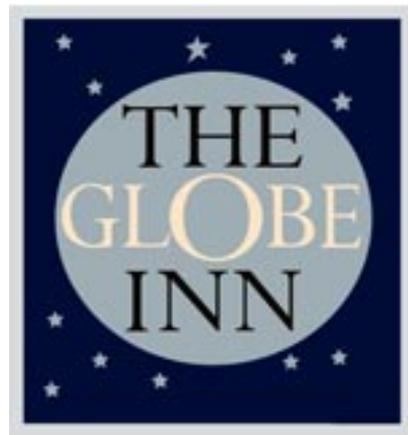
Once we have opened, we will then consider the next step, which will be to convert the stables at the rear into more bedrooms.

The Globe will not be a carbon copy of The Victoria. It will definitely remain a pub serving Norfolk and Suffolk ales as well as continental lagers. The food will be good pub food and plenty of it with the emphasis on local and seasonal ingredients. We will initially have seven simple, yet comfortable rooms, priced between £70 and £90 per night. Our aim is to get into the *Good Pub Guide* as a main entry as soon as possible.

We have appointed Matthew Rees as General Manager. Matthew was in charge of the Red Lion in Stiffkey for 10 years until 2003. Before that he had been manager of the White Horse in Blakeney for three years and before that the Red Lion in Upper Sheringham. He even did a short stint at The Globe last summer as Lessee before Greene King decided to sell it.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at The Globe during the course of the year.

Viscount Coke



ABOVE: The new sign for The Globe in Wells, which will open on 1st July.



BELOW: Pete Oldfield and Dave Garramone of Creative Construction, the company that has transformed The Globe.

Holkham People

Welcome to:

HECTOR'S HOUSING: STUART PLATTEN returns to Hector's Housing as a site operative, while DARREN GOUGE has joined us as a bricklayer and AVELINO PEREIRA, as a carpenter.

GAME DEPARTMENT: JULIAN STOYEL who is our new Deer Park and Game Sales Manager and joins us from Woburn Estate in Bedfordshire.

ESTATE OFFICE: SHIRLEY WALSH who joins as an Administrative Assistant. Shirley lives in Walsingham and used to work as a care assistant at the Norfolk Childrens' Alliance in Wells-next-the-Sea.

BYGONES MUSUEM: ROGER MUNCEY who has joined the museum as a volunteer.

PINEWOODS HOLIDAY PARK: DAMIAN LLOYD is the new Retail Manager, looking after the shop, café, beach kiosk and ice cream van, a warm welcome also to our new seasonal staff, aswell as many from last year who have returned to work the summer season.

HOLKHAM LINSEED PAINTS: DAVID INGRAM who will be packing paint orders.

HOLKHAM HALL: New Room Stewards; ALAN GIBBS, BARBARA SNOW, JANET EATON, ANNE ROBERTS and DAVID CRANMER, plus new boatman former Royal Navy Commander, JOHN PLUMMER from Burnham Market.

GARDENS DEPARTMENT: JAMES TURNER, Barry and Rosemary Turner's son, who has just started work in the gardens.

THE GLOBE: MATTHEW REES, General Manager. Matthew used to run The Red Lion at Stiffkey.

THE VICTORIA: ANDREW CAMERON from Scotland and MELVYN BOBBINS, from Burnham Thorpe, both new chefs. Plus seasonal staff from Poland, Germany, France, Australia, South Africa, Slovakia, Wells-next-the-Sea and Hunstanton!

Farewell to:

KATIE GARRITY, Restaurant Manager at The Victoria and MICK DAVIS, Junior Sous Chef at the hotel, who are leaving to live and work in Australia, having been at the hotel for two years. DOMINIC HARPER who is leaving the kitchen at the hotel after three years' service.

Births:

Gamekeeper RICHARD FUTTER and his partner, CATHERINE BURT, who gave birth to twins, CHLOÉ and OWEN on 10th December 2004.

Tenant farmer, JAMES HARRISON and his wife EMMA, who gave birth to ALFRED JAMES ISAAC on Sunday, 24th April.

JONATHAN and LADY LAURA PAUL (Lord Leicester's daughter), a son, FERGUS ARTHUR, on 6th January.

Deaths:

Holkham tenant farmer JOHN TEMPLE, who died in April and had farmed on the Estate since the 1940s (see page 22 for a full obituary).