



HOLKHAM NEWSLETTER

My family have been in the Hall now for just over a year. It still takes some getting used to, particularly for Polly and the children, but it very much feels like home. There is so much to do, so many people to see and once that is all done we still have to ensure the children have a happy and grounded family life.

It was therefore very sad this spring when my wife's wonderful father David Whately died aged 84. He was a great man who had fought in the Second World War and won the Military Cross in Italy a month after his twentieth birthday. Thanks to men like him we live in a free country.

All of us enjoyed Locals' Day on 17 May as we bumped into or served friends from Wells, Wighton, the Burnhams and beyond, all of whom enjoyed free entry into the Hall.

Many of us were saddened to see three of our managers leave in the spring. Michael Turner, Simon Lester, and Peter Godwin have been central figures at Holkham for seven years and became great friends. However, we can't expect people to stay for ever, change is with us all the time and reminds us that we are not indispensable.

Their departure gives others an opportunity. I am very pleased with the calibre of their replacements: Mark Bowyer (HFC), Nick Parker (Game) and Timothy Marshall (Gardens). Already they are impressing with fresh ideas. We are delighted to welcome them to Holkham and wish them success with their careers here.

I am not proud of the fact that Building Maintenance, in its pursuit of efficiency, had to make 13 men redundant at the beginning of the year. It was a painful process for all concerned but I am genuinely pleased that all of those men have found alternative employment.

Everything we do at Holkham must be for the benefit of the Hall and its amazing collection. It is the centre-piece of the estate and has an enviable reputation. We must always remember that and base our decisions around it. Therefore it is a shame that this year we are unable to capitalise on the success of our outdoor concerts in 2007. We experienced difficulty attracting the right bands and were not prepared to compromise on quality. It is so important to set a standard and maintain it. We decided it would be better not to risk damage to Holkham's reputation with a substandard evening. We hope for something big next summer.

In my capacity as President of the Caravan Club, I was delighted to welcome 3,000 caravans to Holkham for the Club's National Rally. Over 8,000 very well behaved guests, including my family, had an excellent weekend of good clean fun caravanning in the park. All of them went away with an abiding impression of the estate, which serves to further enhance its reputation.

Tom Coke

Viscount Coke

Erratum: in the last newsletter I stated that the "South Devon cattle were Coke of Norfolk's preferred breed". Keith McDougall, erstwhile farm partner of Lord Leicester's at Chalk Hill Farm, Warham has pointed out that in fact Coke of Norfolk introduced the "North" or "Ruby Red Devon" to Norfolk.

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The Caravan Club National Rally
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The Hall

And so we start all over again! I noticed that in the winter newsletter I was complaining about the rain in Easter 2007 – Oh my, why didn't I just keep quiet?

Easter in March and naturally we were blessed with howling winds and snow throughout the Bank Holiday. This is getting to be a habit.

Thanks must go, not only to the stewards who braved the dreadful weather, but also to the many intrepid visitors who came to see us and keep us company.

The changes to the house opening routine that I mentioned last time have been tested over the Easter break and on into mid April, when everything stopped so that we could become; yes, you've guessed it, a film location again.

So what were the changes? We extended the open season so that visitors were offered the opportunity to take an audio tour at 1 or 3 o'clock each day. Normally we would shut after the Bank Holiday. To manage this process Rory Gould and Laura Smith were recruited to man the front desk. Tours were sold from the Ticket Office by Christine Hawkes and after a slow start proved quite popular.

In addition to Laura and Rory, it is good to welcome Jean Bourne, Tony Peach and Martin Webb as room stewards.

You'll want to know what the film was. The working title was *The Barbarian Princess* filmed in Honolulu and here at Holkham. Once again the house was transformed by several tonnes of props. Light switches were covered up, bulbs removed and replaced with candles. Miles of cables snaked all over the house and grounds, scaffold towers, huge lights and more trucks than you could shake a stick at were moved in. Happily, a number of the crew turned out to be old friends from *The Duchess* and *My talks with Dean Spanley* so it wasn't necessary to provide quite as much house training as is normally the case.

The circus descended on us on 16 April and finally finished shooting on 30 April. Most of the shoot was done in the western end of the house which allowed some of our normal



The Venetian Bedroom all dressed up routines to continue. However, the picture we took of the Venetian Bedroom gives you some idea of the amount of time and energy expended to transform each location.

For this scene all of our furniture and fittings were removed – what you see in the picture above are some of the props used to dress the set. Out of the photo, on the east wall were two very large wardrobes!

Interestingly the North Dining Room was kitted out to represent a room in the White House.

The picture of the Marble Hall shows that our “show” must go on despite the filming. Here the Hall has been dressed by the crew and our team have put out the chairs for a Private Guided Tour. The tour took place during the film crew's lunch break and required some pretty tight timing from all of us. The group really seemed to enjoy this unusual aspect of Holkham.

I'm pretty sure that this crew used more of the house and grounds than *The Duchess* crew and they seemed to



The North Dining Room masquerading as a room in the White House



Taking advantage of a film crew lunch break to set up for a private guided tour

be all over us like a rash! It is very quiet without them.

The disruption in the house was considerable and it was thanks to the whole team here that we were able to open for the May Bank Holiday with everything in good order.

As I write the sun is blazing down and has been for a couple of days now – long may it continue. We really would like to see some long term

sunshine.

Phil Bishop (Cap'n Ahab to his friends) was more anxious than most. He worked long and hard to bring our electric launch back to a presentable state after its winter sleep under tarpaulin. We launched the vessel on 14 May. If you have never tried it, you have missed a treat.

Mike Daley • Hall Administrator



As a result of his recent pay rise the Administrator was – almost – able to afford the wheels of his dreams. Next year he hopes to buy the horse!



The DeLorean Owners' Club visited Holkham in June on their EuroTec Weekend

Room Stewards' Coffee Morning

Holkham Hall room stewards have been meeting for coffee on the third Thursday of each month during the winter.

Wells WI Hall is the venue where we enjoy a log fire made by Janet Eaton ahead of our 10.30 start so that the Hall is warm and welcoming for everyone. The attendance is between 16 and 18 people each meeting.

At Christmas we gave ourselves a festive lunch. Janet Bishop made a beef casserole by popular request and we all contributed a starter or a pudding, rounded off by coffee and mints, enjoyed by 22 of us.

We agreed that a winter get together had been a very good idea and we plan to do the same next year.

Janet Eaton • Room Steward

Victoria's Men

Last October Blakeway Productions filmed at Holkham using some of the state rooms and park. The programme, a docu-drama entitled *Queen Victoria's Men*, looked at the relationship between Queen Victoria and Prince Albert and viewers learnt about the four other men who played important roles in her life. The programme was broadcast on Channel 4 on Monday 2 June at 9pm.



Verity Hewlett as a young Queen Victoria in the Channel 4 docu-drama

From The Archives

Recently, I was contacted by a man who had found, among his deceased mother's papers, a ground plan of the Ancient House, in Holkham village, in 1885. He had no idea why she had it, but he lived near Lowestoft and I remembered that the builder who modernised the Ancient House and built many of the present houses in the village in the 1880s had come

during the Civil War, and the amounts they had to pay in order to raise a rate of £52 'for the finding and providing of armies for the defence of the country'. It is signed by George Phillips, the churchwarden.

Such lists have survived because John Coke of Holkham (the first Coke to live here) was a member of the county committee appointed to



Ground plan of The Ancient House, 1885

from there.

We compared names and found that the builder, James Rounce, was his great grandfather! He had not known that his ancestor was a builder, but he now knows what contribution he made to the appearance of the village, and I am delighted to say that in return he gave the plan to the Archives.

Fortunately he was not deterred by another coincidence: on calling at the Estate Office, he recognised Laurane Herrievan, the Marketing Manager, as a childhood friend who once locked him in a chicken house!

My alphabetical outings round the estate this issue all relate to properties that Sir Edward Coke bought in the 1590s (some years before his first purchase at Holkham), which then remained part of the estate for over 340 years, until sold in the 1940s.

Dunton

An estate at Dunton cum Doughton, adjoining South Creake, was bought in 1595. The records that came with it date back to 1312 and are still in the archives. The item illustrated to the right is a list of the inhabitants in 1643,



Dunton rate list, 1643



Elmham Park in 1708

supervise these levies for the Parliamentarians.

Elmham

The park and manor of North Elmham were bought in 1598, but a large part was lost in the 17th century, to pay off part of the enormous debts run up by one of Sir Edward's grandsons.

The family managed, however, to retain the deer park. When Thomas Coke, the future builder of Holkham Hall, succeeded to the estates in 1707, his guardians ordered a report on the management of Elmham Park and considered 'disparking' it and making a park at Holkham.

Illustrated here is the map drawn by the estate steward, Humphrey Smith, at that time. These proposals were dropped, however, and Elmham continued to provide venison for the family until the deer were moved to Holkham in 1845. The old park was finally sold in 1944.

Fulmodestone

Fulmodestone had a particularly close link with Holkham, because on Sir Edward's death in 1634, he left it to his fourth son, John, who was by then well established at Holkham.

We know from a few surviving accounts that it provided him with an additional rental income, timber from its woods, winter grazing land for part of the Holkham sheep flock, wool, and hops for the brew house.

The 2nd Earl in the 19th century bought another 400 acres at Fulmodestone because of its proximity to the old estate, but all the Fulmodestone land was sold between 1945 and 1952.

Christine Hiskey • Archivist

Marketing Department

Our previous newsletter editor Paula is now happily ensconced in Bonnie Scotland and we wish her and new husband Simon well. Thank you Paula for your superb editorial skills and dedication in making the Holkham Newsletter a much favoured and read publication.

On Sunday 24 February, three days before they moved, Simon and Paula tied the knot at Chelsea Old Town Hall. Paula looked a picture in a vivid red vintage 1950s dress she purchased from a website in California, USA. Congratulations Mr and Mrs Lester!

We made sure Paula didn't leave without saying a proper farewell and arranged a hen-night for her at The Globe. This was Ian Brereton's first week in his new post, so it must have seemed like a baptism of fire, when fourteen females descended, for what turned out to be "a very interesting evening!"

Once again Holkham took part in the eBay auction called TopLots. Last year I reported we were supporting the inaugural auction to help raise funds for UK galleries and heritage



Simon and Paula tie the knot at Chelsea Old Town Hall

attractions – a rather unusual, but successful, way of raising funds for the ongoing heritage work carried out at

the Hall. This year the package we offered was a lifetime pass to Holkham Hall for two people and we went live for bidders on 1 June until 10 June inclusive. The successful bidder was a local lady who presented her son and daughter-in-law with the exclusive package.

Easter Bank Holiday weekend marked the start of the 2008 Visitors' Season for the Hall and Bygones Museum. The fact that Easter fell so early, combined with the dreadful weather, meant that our visitor figures were down 50% on last year. Despite this poor start, group bookings are looking promising and we will hopefully boost visitor numbers as the season progresses.

● **STOP PRESS** We have just learned that Holkham Beach has been voted the East Anglian regional winner in the Warburtons Best Picnic Spot 2008 competition. We will now go forward to the national final to find the country's favourite picnic spot.

*Laurane Herrievan •
Marketing Manager*

Locals' Day

Following the overwhelming success of the Heritage Open Day in September 2006, when almost 2,000 visitors visited the attractions free of charge, Lord Coke decided to launch a similar initiative.

Aptly named 'Locals' Day', the Hall and Museum opened up free of charge on Saturday 17 May inviting residents from postcodes NR21, NR22, NR23, NR24 NR25, PE31, PE35 and PE36 to visit. All that was required to gain free entry was a utility bill, as proof of residency.

Thankfully the weather remained dry for the opening, despite heavy downpours elsewhere within a 20 mile radius. The doors opened at noon and over a period of 4½ hours we welcomed a grand total of 766 people.

The state rooms in the Hall and Bygones Museum had a steady flow of visitors, with many commenting that they had never visited the

house or museum before, despite it being on their doorstep. They also said how much they had appreciated



Some of the 766 local visitors in the Marble Hall

and had enjoyed the event.

While entry to the attractions was free, we invited visitors to make a donation to the East Anglian Children's Hospices (EACH), which has a hospice at Quidenham in Norfolk. Lady Coke is a Patron of the charity, which provides expert care for children suffering from a range of acute conditions, which are likely to lead to death before the children reach adulthood.

A full range of care is provided at the three hospices run by the charity in East Anglia and an outreach team also provides care in a family's home. Our thanks to the charity's two volunteers, Margaret and Rodney Hull, who set up a display promoting the charity's valuable work and proudly collected a total of £614 in donations.

*Laurane Herrievan •
Marketing Manager*

Holkham Theatre Forthcoming Attractions

Well it's that time of year again, when we're starting to venture out into the wilderness we call our garden and wonder at the marvels of nature and the holes dug by family pets!!

We may have started to tentatively think of summer and booking holidays so with this in mind please put the fol-

lowing dates in your diary and join us in the Pottery Yard this theatre season.

Come along early to take advantage of some retail therapy in the Pottery Shop and partake of a Holkham ice cream before the show starts.

Obviously we're hoping for sunshine, as all shows will go ahead in all

but the foulest of weather. So bring your picnics and chairs, Pimms or pop, friends and family and enjoy the evening's entertainment brought to you by five very experienced and highly innovative theatre companies.

Hope to share your company.

Kerry Cave • Events Co-ordinator



Peter Pan

Tuesday 29th July at 6.00pm

Watch as Peter Pan brings the dastardly villain, Captain Hook to justice and let your imagination run riot with the Lost Boys.

Adults £10; Concessions £7; Family £30

Mad & Merry Monarchs

Friday 1st August at 7.00pm

Join us as we are led through 1,000 years of British monarchy and see battles, decapitations, dastardly plotting and passionate infidelities

unfold before you.

Adults £10; Concession £7; Family £30

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

Saturday 16th August at 5.00pm

Complete with the Cheshire Cat, the Queen of Hearts and a tea party with the most bewildering bunch of guests!

Adults £11; Children & Students £7; Family £32

Charley's Aunt

Friday 22nd August at 7.00pm

A frantic series of mistaken identities,

ill-fitting disguises and unexpected romances await you in this world-renowned comedy.

Adults £10; Concessions £7; Family £30

Sleeping Beauty

Wednesday 27th August at 6.00pm

A princess is cursed at birth by a wicked fairy and sleeps for a hundred years until a handsome prince awakes her with a single kiss. Come in your favourite fairytale fancy dress and join in the parade.

Adults £9; Children £6; Family £28

The Ticket Office

I have spent a very quiet winter in the Bygones Museum, updating the signage for Brian Ayton to ensure a uniform look to all the display information.

The time passed very quickly (due to the winter being so short, I'm told), but I managed to get it all finished, and fit in a few days holiday as well, in time to be back in the ticket office for Easter opening.

As last year, we are selling tickets for the theatre productions as well as the admission tickets for the House and Museum. In peak season this year, the office will be open 7 days a week, acting as an information point and

hopefully selling theatre tickets on the days that the Hall and Museum are closed.

Back with me is Kerry Cave, working on Sundays and co-ordinating the theatre productions. We are joined by Louise Lance who works from Wednesday to Saturday in peak season.

We hope that the weather is better than last year and that we all have a busy summer.

Christine Hawkes • Ticket Office

Holkham Retail

In January, the year started off well in the shops with customers taking advantage of our sale at Ancient House to obtain gifts at very competitive prices. Some customers told us that they were already buying presents for Christmas 2008 (provided they could remember where they had stored them after that length of time!).

As usual Spring Fair, the largest Trade Fair in UK, heralds the start of February and lines which we sourced there were delivered earlier than they normally would be, to get them on the shelves for a very early Easter.

We were kept busy in both shops during the early May Bank Holiday, while the sun shone, and at The Pottery Shop with Locals' Day on 17 May. It was nice to see so many local people in the shop and everyone we spoke to was enjoying it and seemed to be relaxed and in good spirits.

The late May Bank Holiday was a successful weekend for us, despite the



The oldest Holkham Pottery kiln in the process of being dismantled

cooler weather, both in The Pottery Shop and at Ancient House Gift Shop and Gallery. The shop in the park benefited of course from the Caravan Club Rally and had many customers.

Martin Billing, the Gallery Administrator, organised a very successful Wildlife Exhibition of work

by the talented artist David Cook which ran throughout June.

Finally, you will have read in the last Newsletter that Holkham Pottery closed down last year, and work is now under way to clear the factory. Even for those of us who have been here only a few years, it is nevertheless rather sad to witness the clearance.

The very oldest large kiln has already been removed along with all the cupboards throughout the factory. The men carrying out the removal certainly had no easy task!

Pottery manufactured here at Holkham over the years is very collectable, and we still have stocks which were manufactured prior to the closure. So do come along to the shops and see some of the pieces that Douglas Codman and Jane Bray made for us, and perhaps take away a little reminder of Holkham Pottery.

Sylvia Daley • Retail Manager

● **STOP PRESS** We have taken the decision to rent out the Ancient House to Mark Elliot Furniture. Over its history the building has had many uses – from bakery to private house to being an annex for the Victoria Hotel in the 1960s and for the last thirty-five years a shop selling Holkham pottery, gifts and paintings. It was a decision not taken lightly, but reflects our strategy to concentrate on core estate businesses. I am confident that Mark Elliot Furniture, a company with a strong East Anglian brand, will add to the strength of Holkham village as a 'destination'. *Viscount Coke*

Holkham Foods

The Stables Café is up and running for the new season. We have welcomed back returning staff and a couple of new faces have joined the team this year.

The Stables started with a washout of an Easter but things got better with the first May Bank Holiday and better still by the second May Bank Holiday. We had the open day for local people in May as well and we had a busy day serving lots of tea, coffee and cake.

Of course the big event so far this year was the Caravan Club National Rally which was held over the late May Bank Holiday. They seemed to be here for a long time setting things up, and then the caravans arrived in all their glory.

The Saturday was quite quiet and there was an air of doom about the Café, but on Sunday and Monday we had people everywhere and Monday turned into the second busiest day we've had since I have worked here – a constant stream of people queuing out of the door. At one point we didn't know where our queue ended and the Ticket Office one started!

Ice cream production is going great

guns – Aaron Ward is one of the new faces to join us this year as my new ice cream maker. He has taken to the job like a duck to water and we are delighted he is part of the team.

We have been trying new flavours this year. I have been testing one or two sorbets and we have just made Cardamom ice cream for The Globe as a special request for their Indian Nights – it has been a great success.

The trailer is now down at the beach for five days a week selling all the things that people forget when they put a picnic together. They also sell Holkham ice cream there through the summer.

Do come and see us at The Stables or the trailer. The Stables is open from Easter to the end of October, seven days a week in June, July and August, and the trailer is open five to seven days a week depending on the time of year and the weather conditions. As an added incentive staff discounts are available at both outlets.



Satisfied customers eating at The Stables

Wendy Mason • Holkham Foods

Holkham Village Post Office 1733 – 2008

Very soon Holkham Village Post Office will close. Situated at the rear of Ancient House, with its lovely view of the walled garden, it is a real sun trap during its morning opening hours. History will also be made as the Earl of Leicester will cease to be a Postmaster; an appointment held by the Earls of Leicester since the 1730s. There have been three Post Offices; two in cottages in New Holkham and Holkham Village and one in the Hall. With the death of the 5th Earl in 1976, the hereditary appointment ceased. The then Lord Coke successfully applied and was able to provide suitable premises in the Ancient House, so the tradition continued.

Althea Butters, Angela Smith and Mary Tuck all did stints behind the counter in the office's first five years of opening. It was over 25 years ago on a Saturday morning, (yes, it opened 5½ days a week originally), with Mary Tuck away on holiday and Sybil Stimpson her holiday relief going into hospital, that I was asked to "hold the fort". For a time Mary and I shared the opening hours but since it became a Community Office with restricted hours of business on 19 July 1989, and with Mary's retirement, I have 'flown solo'.

Sadly, Post Office business has declined with all the changes that have taken place, particularly in the last four years or so. Very enjoyable pension morning gatherings were the norm when I originally stood behind the counter. Messrs. Barnes, Dunn, Loose and Hewitt etc. would verbally



put the hall and estate in order and the ladies, on their days off, would tell me all about the 'downstairs' workings. All had spent their working days at Holkham and were full of stories.

As each new batch retired, their pension books would appear and their weekly visit was added to the list. As everyone was so regular, it made it quite an easy task to assess the cash requirements for the week. With the change to banking, it is an impossible task to estimate exact requirements, as so many options are open to customers and the occupancy of the estate houses has changed greatly.

Villagers and visitors alike loved to speculate on the purchase of £2 and £5 Premium Savings Bonds, getting the Holkham date stamp on them. Children learned to manage their finances, proudly using their Savings Bank books.

Minimum purchases of £100 Premium Savings Bonds issued centrally, and £20 minimum deposits, saw these transactions almost disappear. Later the loss of TV licence savings stamps, the

licences themselves, Anglian Water Authority savings stamps and their bill paying facility, along with other things, were all to bring about the final outcome. Offering foreign currency didn't replace useful everyday items on the shopping list.

Early February 2000 saw me back at a desk learning the mysteries of the Post Office computerised system, passing the examination and gaining the required certificate to have the equipment installed here on Valentine's Day. Already in my 60s, I wasn't exactly over the moon about operating this. To this day, although I can appreciate its advantages, I would still prefer my pen, pencil and paper and when the electricity blips I feel justified in being a bit regretful at their passing.

Countless visitors remark on the pleasant surroundings, telling me how lucky I am. We then chat about the north wall being the original sea defence, the ancient light and which cottages date from the 1700s. I then recall, but don't voice, how menacing that same lovely wall used to seem when we locked up completely alone at 5.30pm on dark winter days. The shop only opened in the summer then. How much I appreciated the late John Massingham appearing to see if all was well if my car was late leaving.

It will be sad to lock the door on the Post Office's final day but all the criteria needed to argue for its continuation were not applicable. Along with its closure and Lord Leicester's retirement as Sub Postmaster, comes my retirement as 'Officer in Charge'.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the quarter-century of my involvement with Holkham and its people, not forgetting those regulars from nearby villages and the visitors. I expect to miss it greatly. After serving myself for over 40 years it will seem unfamiliar to experience the other side of the screen. I shall miss being able to respond to all the customers who complain about the cost of postage, that when I started, stamps and ice creams were priced alike – that's changed too!

*Bridget (Biddy) Bunkle •
Holkham Post Office*



The very attractive Holkham Post Office



The Caravan Club National Rally

On the Bank Holiday weekend of 23 to 27 May, over 3,000 caravans, motor caravans and RVs wended their way along the roads of Norfolk to arrive at Holkham, the venue for

the 2008 Caravan Club National Rally. The Club last held its National Rally here in 1996, and twelve years later the Club was delighted to make a return trip for what was its 81st National get-together.

The Club returned to Holkham because, despite not being a central location, it is such a beautiful one. It was also nice to be here in only Lord Coke's second year as the Club's President. He and his family camped out every night in their 1965 Airstream and thoroughly enjoyed their first rally.

All the infrastructure required before the caravanners arrived was ably handled by Caravan Club officers and volunteers, who moved onto the site about a month before the Rally and strung many hundreds of yards of water pipes and electrical cables around so that it was a simple matter for everyone to hook up as they arrived at their pitches.

The needs of 8,000 people were catered for by a selection of food



Testing the connections – water and electricity were provided to all pitches

vending stands, selling burgers, fish and chips and the like. There was also a small supermarket run by Londis, which supplied all the vital items that, even with the best preparation, always seem to get forgotten when you leave home to go on your holidays!

The Club had put together a busy and varied programme of events and entertainment, which ensured that everyone there always had something to do, something to see and somewhere to go. It even had its own 'Rally Radio' station.

For the many children on the site the Club had set up the Mayday Club offering – among other things – arts and crafts, a bouncy castle, outdoor games and evening entertainment.



Here they come – some of over 3,000 caravans who spent the weekend at Holkham



Moving the huge generators onto the site in preparation

© Mike Daley, Holkham

© Ian Clowes – www.goldysolutions.co.uk

© Ian Clowes – www.goldysolutions.co.uk



© Mike Daley, Holkham



Lord Coke's beautiful Airstream caravan joins the party

intention of the organisers was that there should be something to do throughout the weekend so that the ralliers were offered a complete package. To this end there were sporting events such as netball and football competitions where county Caravan Club groups competed against each other for prizes. There was a fun run for the very enthusiastic,

Two huge marquees were erected to keep everyone sheltered during the evening entertainments laid on over the four evenings of the Rally. There was a 70s night, complete with comedians, a Celine Dion tribute with Tracey Shield – a past winner of *Stars in Their Eyes*, a Dance Night and a Variety Night. The undoubted highlight of the weekend was a 60s night starring Herman's Hermits, The Searchers and Marty Wilde and the Wildcats – it was a fabulous sell-out show, much enjoyed by 1,800 people who rocked the night away!

However, there wasn't only evening entertainment on offer – the



Netball was just one of the sports on offer over the weekend



Early arrivers get the shopping in while more caravans stream through the gates

an *It's a Knockout*-style event, a dog show to keep the large number of dogs (and their owners) entertained, a *One Man and His Dog* show with a twist, in that the dogs were in fact geese and so on and so on.

The opening ceremony, attended by Lord and Lady Coke and members of the Caravan Club's executive committee, featured the stirring music and precision marching of the Minden Band of the Queen's Division, resplendent in their uniforms on a fine but windy weekend. There was no way that the weather was going to get in the way of what turned out to be a fantastic four days for all concerned.



Lord and Lady Coke enjoying the opening ceremony

Panorama picture above © Ian Clowes – www.goldysolutions.co.uk • Net ball picture © Alan Bond Photography Limited • Picture left © Mike Daley, Holkham

© Alan Bond Photography Limited

Pinewoods Holiday Park

I live about twenty miles from Wells-next-the-Sea and the only morning I had problems driving to work turned out to be Easter Sunday with the snow. Two events stick in my mind – one lad with a stock pile of snowballs which he threw at any youngster walking past and the children using the slope at the edge of the touring field to slide down on sledges. Thankfully Easter goes back to a later date for the foreseeable future so normal seaside kit will be required.

Park opening is always a challenge, particularly when Good Friday is the first Friday of the season. My thanks go to all the team at Pinewoods who meticulously completed all the required tasks. This resulted in us opening with no problems to trouble us, other than the one and a half inches of rain which fell the first night and the snows of Easter. General Managers of holiday businesses in the Mediterranean must get bored without the peculiarities of our British weather.

During the winter we had a specialist company in to clean out the dykes, with the expectation that in the long-term this would improve the park drainage. For a brief period this company made things worse because the digger ended up in the dyke and it took some time to remove!

This operation has helped the park enormously and we can now see the change in levels as the tides come in and out and the water is noticeably lower by the train station, something I have not seen since I have been at Pinewoods. The maintenance team has filled the holes in the wettest areas

and seeded in an attempt to put the tent fields back to how they used to be before the 2007 rains.

During the winter we invested in a new reception and a recycling centre, both of which have been much appreciated by our customers.

Reception opened on time with very few teething problems. The extra space and comfort enables us to offer one of the best holiday park receptions in the area. Our team finds the environment much more comfortable with improved heating, lighting and the extra room.

The recycling was held up due to the contractor not being able to lay the concrete because of frost at night. Now all we need is for the landscaping to grow to shield the units. This is not helped by the Muntjac eating the tips of the new plants. Currently we have containers for paper/card and glass; we have also purchased wheelie bins for both the sales office and reception/accounts so everything which does not need shredding is recycled. All cardboard from the shop is collected on a daily basis by the site team. We have built the area large enough to expand the recycling operation; this would be speeded up if local authorities in our catchment area offered the same recycling opportunities.

We are hopeful that 2008 will be a much better season than last year, but we do need the weather so please stop rain dancing for the next few months.

Richard Seabrooke • General Manager



The smart new reception area at Pinewoods

Bringing The Outside In

After a month away with my camera in America earlier this year, it was great to return to Holkham to find out that Bringing The Outside In had been awarded Best Coastal Shop Runner Up in the Coast Awards, featured in Coast Magazine.

After two years of hard work it was great to get national recognition. Coast readers also voted Holkham Beach runner up for best beach, keeping North Norfolk on the map.

With new branding launching soon and a list of new suppliers, the summer is looking good.

The annual exhibition of my local coastal photography will launch on Saturday 2 August, and will continue to run throughout the summer.

Bringing The Outside In is open daily from 10.30 – 4 except Tuesday.

Martin Billing • Gallery Owner



Bringing The Outside In offers a lovely, eclectic mix of pictures, crafts, books and other moreish stuff!

Holkham Farming Company Ltd

I started at Holkham at the beginning of March, replacing Michael Turner who has moved on to bigger and different things. We wish him well for the future.

I arrived into bright sunshine following a warm, dry bright February. Spring Barley was all drilled and everything was looking well. Week two and all change – just as the sugarbeet drill left the shed the heavens opened, delaying the start of drilling by a week. A stop-start drilling season with 81mm of rain in March saw all the sugarbeet drilled by the middle of April. Most of it felt like it had been drilled at the weekend!

Then the new swamp in the park was addressed. An almost dry week resulted in the fields being ploughed and the majority of the area drilled to linseed; returning to the Holkham cropping after a break of a number of years. I hope it will yield well and can be marketed into the currently very buoyant oilseed market.

The newly acquired Castle Acre farms look well, although there is still a very high weed burden – a legacy of its organic farming days. It might take more than one season to tidy up but it has a lot of potential for the future.

The new Knight sprayer is well christened, clocking 250 hours in the first six weeks with only minor problems. New combine harvesters are expected to arrive at Longlands in the next few weeks, although the old one can still be found working occasionally.

Mark Bowyer • Farms Manager



Harrowing spring barley at Waterden in February 2008 in a Massey Ferguson 135 driven by Stephen Hall. This was the first tractor Lord Leicester bought on Park Farm in 1973

Forestry Department

We carried out a survey in 'The Oaks' on the condition of the trees there and found that three needed to be removed, a horse chestnut and an Ilex with fungus at the base and a lime tree with die back in the crown. These were felled and removed. An oak tree has been planted where the lime tree stood in memory of a member of the armed forces. We also took out a lot of low boughs in this area.

We removed two Ilex trees at Octagon Cottage in Holkham. They were rather large and stretched the Nifty Lift machine to its limit.

We supplied hazel branches for the Stiffkey River restoration project at Warham for the first time.

We have cleared up a lot of gale damage after the Easter gales. Several loads of Ilex branches have gone to London Zoo for the giraffes.

Ian McNab • Head Woodsman

Game Department



I arrived at Holkham on 24 April to take on the role of Head Keeper. I have been a keeper for over 24 years now but have spent the last six years working for the Van Cutsem family on their wild bird shoot in North Yorkshire.

Having spent some time with the other keepers on the estate and getting to know the large number of staff here I am now looking forward to the busy months ahead.

April through to June are some of the most important months in the shooting calendar as pheasants and partridges begin to nest and hatch young. Over these months the keepers will be busy retrieving the surplus eggs from the wild to set under broody hens. The rearing field was set up and the chicks started hatching from the middle of May. To help with this busy period the estate has recently purchased five new Honda quad bikes.

Nick Parker • Head Keeper



The magnificent five! New quad bikes for the Game Department

Building Maintenance

As reported in the last newsletter I promised to give you an update on the major changes at Holkham Building Maintenance. Very sadly we have had to make a number of redundancies, 14 in number, and so our workforce is now down to 12 people.

We have now been able to purchase a new computer programme and we should have gone live by the time you read this newsletter; this will enable us to monitor the jobs better and give the tenants dates as to when the work can be done, this will also allow us to carry out the works on a schedule of rates, which I believe has not been done on the estate before.

Using the National schedule of Rates is an average cost for all types of building repairs in the country, which will show that the trustee's are getting value for money, which I'm sure you will agree is what we all want from the people we employ.

The schedule of rates is going out to tender to local contractors to price and we hope to have a contractor in place at the beginning of July to take on the day-to-day maintenance of properties on the estate.

At the moment we are employing contractors to carry out our plumbing works and larger projects are being tendered for by local contractors. Fisher and Son (Fakenham) Ltd have been carrying out our plumbing jobs and their team of Barry Rob, Daniel Rob and Alistair Finn along with Jim Mitchell, Mike Brunton and Stuart Lingwood who co-ordinate our requests from the office are at present providing us with a good service.

This winter seems to have lasted forever and the high winds caused a number of problems for us with the main offender being roof tiles coming off. Lets hope that we have a fantastic summer so that our external repairs and redecoration programme can be completed. It is the turn of Quarles and Castle Acre this year with work starting in the summer, weather permitting.

Our Joinery and Windowcraft teams have been involved in a private job for a 'Giants' Seat'. We provided the Swedish timber for Mr Thomas Sedgwick to build the three part bench and then it was returned to us



The stunning 'Giant's Seat' – oiled and painted in Holkham linseed products

to oil and paint in linseed products. Our teams worked really hard on the project and I think you will agree that the finished product was quite amazing – as pictured.

Work on the drainage system is nearing the end now. It has been a mammoth project but the whole process is working really well. Our contractors Garner Groundworks have worked tirelessly to get Holkham Village linked into the system and we are hopeful that the one remaining property (Hill House Farm, Holkham) will be completed by the summer.

Training is on going here at Holkham Building Maintenance. It is important that we are all aware of our working environment and the hazards that can be found here. We also use a huge amount of machinery which we need to understand and respect in order for us to be safe at all times. As you can see from the picture even the office staff (Dawn) are getting some training in!

We have had two 65th birthdays since our last newsletter. One of our carpenters Avelino de Brito Pereira turned 65 in March and has decided to stay with us for a little while longer. Avelino started work with Hectors Housing before moving to Holkham Building Maintenance in 2005.

Maurice Bray turned 65 in May and as many of you will know Maurice has spent all of his working life at Holkham. Maurice has decided to

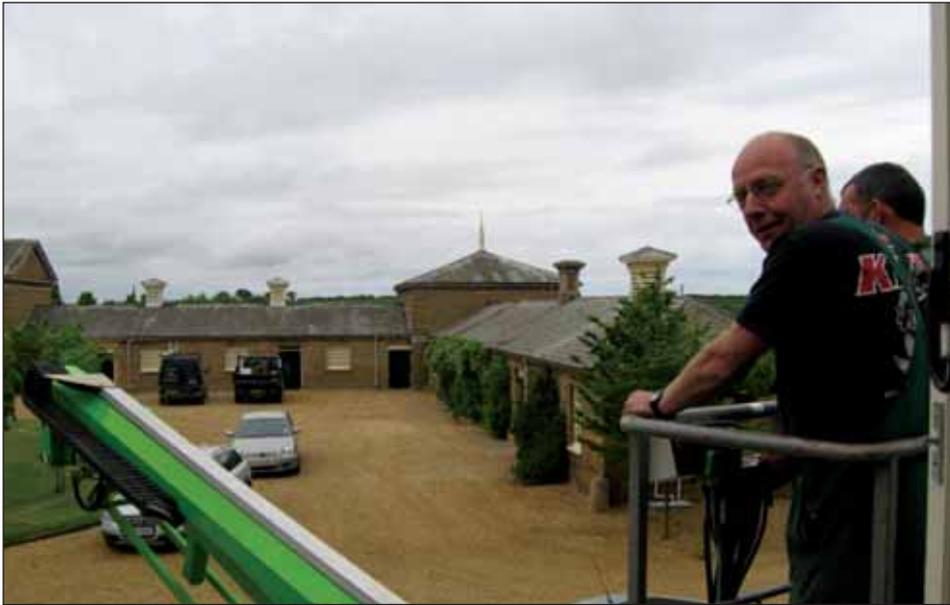
reduce his hours to two days a week so that he can enjoy semi-retirement with his wife Jane. We would like to wish both Maurice and Avelino good health and happiness for the future.

We would also like to congratulate Robert Savory on passing his second year carpentry exams as well as his driving test.

Barry Turner • Building Maintenance Manager



Getting the staff in training!



Peter May and William Owen coming down on the cherry picker, having put chicken wire on the chimneys to stop the Jackdaws nesting at Model Farm, the residence of Lord and Lady Leicester

Windowcraft Department



Adam Lovick of the Windowcraft Department embarks on the restoration of an old door

Holkham Linseed Paints

We have had a very good start to the year so far, sales have been picking up very well indeed since the beginning of April, and all just in time for our end of the financial year.

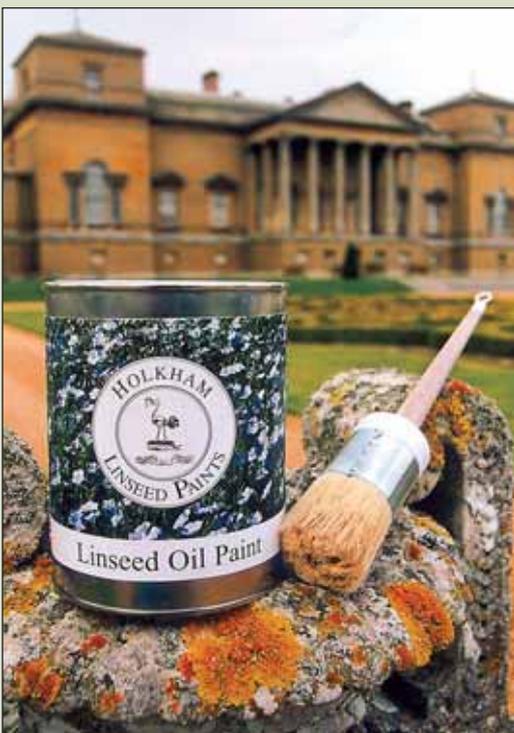
We have sent out a large quantity of paint to the Isle of Man government and are looking forward to hearing how they are getting on with the paints.

It appears the word is spreading about Holkham Linseed Paints as we have recently been receiving a lot of enquiries about the paint from painters and architects in Scotland who have been asked to specify our paints, so we are keeping our fingers crossed that the large orders continue to come in.

Rebecca Amphlett and I stood in for Amanda Taylor at the EcoBuild Exhibition at Earl's Court in London at the end of February. It was the first time that either of us had been there, and only the second time that we have had a stand at the event. It was a good experience for both of us as well as offering potential customers a chance to get a better understanding of the paint before they buy.

In January we had an enquiry from a lady in Cromer called Jean Gardner who was opening an interior design shop and was very interested in becoming a retailer of Holkham Linseed Paints as she was already familiar with the product from when she worked at Eastern Interiors. We are now pleased to say that The Norfolk House Company was as impressed with our products as we are and is now part of our group of retailers for customers to buy our products from.

Davey Ingram • Holkham Linseed Paints



And how the door will look when it's finished. Quite a difference!



Accel-o-Fac plant all sewered up

The new wastewater treatment plant for Holkham village is now all connected and in full operation. John Gillett, Managing Director of LAS International, the company responsible for building the plant, explains all.

The month of May 2008 saw the final connections being made to the Holkham village wastewater treatment plant.

This is the first Accel-o-Fac™ plant to be constructed in England and it was commissioned just over two years ago by the Estate.

The Holkham plant has attracted considerable attention from water companies in both the UK and Europe. Visitors from as far afield as Greece and Romania have appraised the plant and feedback has been universally positive.

Anglian Water seems to have been particularly impressed, so much so that it has commissioned a similar plant, currently under construction at Sutton St James in Lincolnshire, with several more planned over the next few years.

The Accel-o-Fac™ process, designed by LAS International Ltd., marks a more sustainable approach to wastewater treatment for small rural communities.

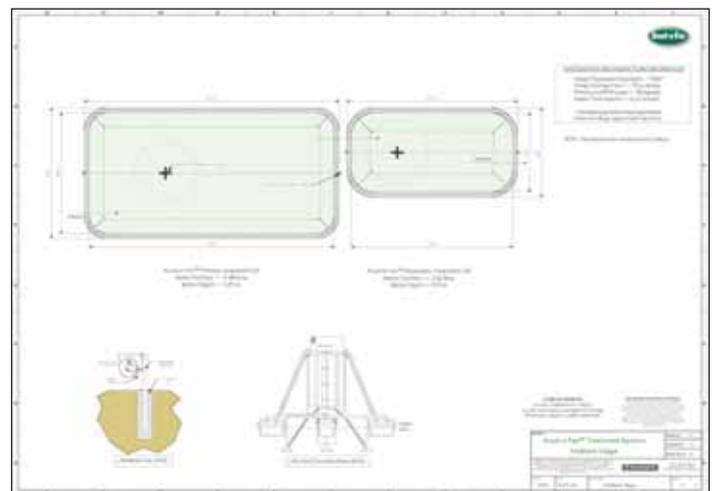
This treatment system incorporates a number of highly unique features, not the least of which is a self-

digesting sludge process that requires no pre-screening, sedimentation tanks or clarifiers, no sludge removal, dewatering or conditioning, and best of all, no routine sludge disposal and the associated lorry traffic in and out of the works. All sludge is continuously self digested within the initial treatment stage.

Another feature of the treatment system is the very low energy requirement. LAS is unique in its use of a fully biological process. Instead of relying on electricity, the Accel-o-Fac™ system uses wind energy to optimise the biological conditions in the treatment cells whilst natural surface absorption provides the oxygen needed for the treatment process and positive odour control.

The Accel-o-Fac™ system was developed 30 years ago in the United States by LAS International where it has been used extensively in a variety of wastewater treatment applications.

Praised by the North Norfolk planning authority for its soft engineering and sustainable approach to sewage treatment, the Holkham plant is proving to be an elegant, odour-free solution to the village's wastewater treatment needs.



Plans on paper – how it all started out

Finance Department



Mike Wyard the Finance Director showing that estate performance is on the up!

A notable feature of the last few months has been the series of finance presentations I hosted for employees. I began before Christmas with a talk for Department Heads in two separate sessions at Longlands. There was keen interest and the managers encouraged me to undertake a similar exercise with their teams over winter.

In the New Year I requisitioned the Pinewoods coffee lounge for a dozen employee presentations, in groups of eight to twelve. I think the fact that the groups were fairly small and relaxed (Mr Seabrooke has invested in very comfy furniture at Pinewoods!)

provided an atmosphere that allowed for a useful dialogue on different aspects of Estate finances.

I addressed the perplexing question of what the Finance Department is for and what it does (I think many attendees were genuinely surprised at the extent of the Estate and its transactional complexity), as well as a summary of Estate performance over recent years. Attendees also gained an understanding of how each section or company fitted into the 'whole'.

The presentation went on to consider a few financial 'myths' and finished up with my personal view of

the financial outlook and how it might impact on individuals and companies (regrettably many of the prospects I outlined have materialised in the wider economy).

I genuinely found it to be a very rewarding exercise. It was good to be able to see so many of our team at Holkham but it was also a real pleasure to be able to see how, after a couple of minutes, wariness of financial matters evaporated: arms unfolded, people sat forward and before long sensible, challenging and engaging questions were being asked. I think that there is a case for an annual update of this exercise.

The Finance Department is similarly engaging with the wider Estate. As I write all of my team are currently interviewing Heads and owners trying to establish the most important features of the services that we offer. Essentially it is all about trying to make sure that our customers, internal and external, are getting the services they need and the value that they should get from those services. Some interesting responses have arisen and the exercise has reinforced my perception of how vital it is for all parts of the Holkham Estate to understand their customer base.

Mike Wyard • Finance Director

Holkham National Nature Reserve



The beginning of 2008 saw major staff changes here on the National Nature Reserve. Vicky Francis and I started our new jobs in December and have spent six months settling in and getting to grips with the tasks involved in managing such a large and complex site. There have been lots of new people with whom to establish working relationships.

The second half of the winter was very wet and one of our major

challenges was trying to prevent the grazing marshes from flooding too much – a little flooding is a good thing for all the wintering ducks and geese but too much can have a bad effect on the quality of the grazing for the following summer. I think we got the balance just about right!

Holkham usually attracts a few rare birds during the spring. The most notable this year were a Whiskered Tern that graced the pools west of Lady Anne's Drive for an afternoon and a Hoopoe that spent several days on Overy Dunes. These are Mediterranean species that overshoot their destination when returning from their winter quarters, ending up in Norfolk.

Some of our common summer migrants were very late in arriving. The

pair of Swallows that nest in the barn at our office in the village didn't turn up until the beginning of June this year.

As I write this, the bird breeding season is well underway and numbers of all the wildfowl and wading birds look good. Many of these now have young – the Little Egrets and Cormorants have large and noisy offspring in their nests.

On the quieter and more remote beaches Common Terns and Little Terns have settled into their breeding colonies and are incubating eggs. The terns are always at risk from high tide flooding and from predators but we hope that all our breeding species will have a successful season.

Michael Rooney • Senior Reserve Manager

The Victoria Hotel

We have experienced a number of setbacks at the Victoria since being voted the Norfolk Dining Pub of the year in 2007 by the readers of *The Good Pub Guide*. The death of head chef Andy Bruce in November 2007, reported in the last issue, still weighs heavy on us. The credit crunch has affected our figures, as it has those of other establishments along the coast.

More recently we have endured two unforeseen incidents. The first one involved an elderly couple taking an unconventional route via the garden, in their attempt to exit the car park. The second one has led to the closure of the hotel bedrooms for about three weeks. We had a series of hot water pipes leak, to such an extent that the dining room resembled a tropical rainstorm. Thanks to our team's



Not the best way to leave the car park!

resourcefulness we had the bar and BBQ up and running within three days. We also used the opportunity to give the hotel a spring clean.

Many thanks also to Barry Turner and Holkham Building Maintenance, Fishers plumbers and our insurers, the NFU, for such a prompt response in coming forward with a rescue package.

In January three windows were "Windowcrafted". Whilst we wait for the rooms to come back on line, two more bedrooms and our lounge windows will be properly repaired and painted with Holkham Linseed Paint. We will also repair the chimney to allow us to use the fire in winter.

It gives me the greatest pleasure to announce the return of Ian and Lisa Clark from Spain. They return, older and wiser, to take up their old job as managers of the hotel. We are very excited by this. They were both very popular with staff and customers alike. They will set high standards... and maintain them. I am confident they are the right people to guide the good Queen Vic toward calmer seas.

Viscount Coke

The Globe

The Globe Inn at Wells has enjoyed a busy Spring period and despite some horrible Easter weather in March the pub was packed with families, bored children and very soggy dogs! By May Bank Holiday weekend the weather had become almost summery and again the pub was very busy over this period.

Several private bookings to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries have added to the high level of business. Groups have included an entertaining party of Harley-Davidson bikers (following a good write up on *The Globe* in their magazine), Lord Coke's old boys reunion, for which we served school

food – bangers and mash, spotted dick and lumpy custard, plus a group of not so young Essex girls looking



for a good time in Wells! So, we have been highly flexible in our style and approach.

Joining the Globe as General Manager in February after nearly five years running the Lord Nelson at Burnham Thorpe, I have introduced several new themes including curry evenings and Jazz nights.

With summer here the Globe will be offering barbeques in the pleasant courtyard with jazz twice a week through July and August. Chris Woodget has been appointed head chef and we have a keen lively team both in the kitchen and out front.

Ian Breton • General Manager

Obituaries

● David Whately MC, who died on 24 April 2008 aged 84, was awarded the MC in Italy in April 1945 when he was serving with the 9th Lancers. Whilst attacking a German position his tank was hit, perforating his eardrum. Though in considerable pain he continued to attack and capture three 150mm guns and two 88mm anti-aircraft guns and countless enemy. His citation proclaimed "The resolution and determination of this officer in pressing home his attack undoubtedly caused the enemy to become disorganised, and resulted in the squadron gaining its objective and capturing the bridge intact although it was prepared for demolition".

He was educated at Eton and at Sandhurst won the Sword of Honour. After the war he went to Oxford University. His

varied career started in photography, then advertising, then he became a stockbroker specialising in an esoteric branch of research based on charts. He was unconventional in thought and at work. He married the dress designer Belinda Bellville in 1952, and is survived by her and three daughters, Lady Coke being the youngest.

● Len Dunn, who died on 14 March 2008 aged 88, was born in Holkham village and spent most of his working life on the estate, starting in the sawmill at Longlands.

He saw active service in Europe in World War II, returning to the estate in 1946 to work in the kitchen gardens. He moved to the Terraces where he was promoted to head gardener, and he retired aged 62.



New butler interviewed

On 29 February I was interviewed by *Norwich Evening News* in the Main Library at Holkham.

This came about when my father went into ECN in Norwich to ask if they would like to run a story about a local man aged 30 who works as a butler. The *Evening News* runs a regular feature about local people and the jobs that they do and thought it would make an intriguing story.

Rebecca Gough at the paper phoned and asked if I would agree to be interviewed and after consultation with Lord Coke and Mary Rudd, our PR Advisor, I was given the green

light, and gave my very first interview all about myself!

Photographs to accompany the article were taken in the Library and outside on the South Terrace. Afterwards the interview was conducted in the Library with Rebecca Gough in the presence of Laurane Herrievan, Holkham's Marketing Manager.

I thoroughly enjoyed myself and have since been approached by *Country Life* to do a similar interview with them. At this rate I might have to get my own 'agent'.

Daniel Green • Butler

A new arrival

Justin and Ros Gibbs' second son Charles Duncan was born in Taupo New Zealand on 7 February 2008. Charlie weighed 3.89kg, and arrived a week early – his maternal grandparents Johnny and Carolyn Coke, were in Hong Kong on their way to New Zealand when they heard the news.



The proud parents (and brother) with the new arrival

Raffle result

In May we held a raffle in the Estate Office for a portable DVD player, won by Sylvia Daley, our Retail Manager. We raised £50 which we donated to the East Anglian Air Ambulance. Thank you to all those who helped raise money for a very worthy cause.

Estate Office

Holkham Cricket – Estate v Club

It has been pleasantly surprising to play our first two 20-over matches between the Holkham Cricket Club and Holkham Estate without being affected by the weather.

The first game in May was a draw. Both teams scored exactly 105 runs. Stars for the estate were Kevin Bray (Farms) – 22 runs and two wickets for 17, and Martin Joyce (Game Department), 27 not out.

It was encouraging to see new blood making an impression with Chris Mills (Victoria) keeping wicket very professionally and scoring 19 quick fire runs. Robert Savory (HBM) bowled well, as did Stephen 'Shrek' Hall (Farms), they both picked up a wicket, though the latter's may have had more to do with the financial remuneration he offered the umpire than accuracy.

The June game turned in the Estate's favour, thanks to Piers Richings whose link with us is getting more tenuous – he 'used' to live in a house that 'used' to be a Holkham house. He has now moved to Hindringham.

Piers scored 25 not out, Martin Joyce scored 23 not out and Paul Matthews (Woods Department) 15 not out. Successful bowlers were Roger Combe (Lord Coke's cousin and grandson to the 5th Earl's sister) who got two for five and Martin Joyce on two for eight.

The Estate overhauled the club's total of 92 with an over to go to win the match despite dropping six catches and losing six wickets on the way... but at least that meant nearly everyone had a bat, and sore hands.

The final game is on Wednesday



An interested audience!

2 July at the cricket pitch at the front of the house. Do come and watch this nail-biting decider – there are few better things to do than watch the sun set over the lake, listen to the sound of leather on willow and have a bit of a mardle.

Viscount Coke

Holkham People

WELCOME

HOLKHAM ENTERPRISES (Hall): Lady Coke's new housekeeper, Tracey Davies, whose new role at Holkham includes looking after children, flower arranging and keeping the house in tip top order. New stewards: Jean Bourne, Rory Gould, Laura Smith, Martin Webb, Tony Peach, Catherine Cockrill and Jean Loose

HOLKHAM FOODS: Jody Page, Samantha Price, Emma Weller, Emma Reynolds, Karen Beck, Aaron Ward, Sylvia Dabrowska and Ian Mallet

HOLKHAM GARDEN DEPARTMENT: new Head Gardener, Tim Marshall

HOLKHAM FARMING COMPANY: new Farm Manager,

Mark Bowyer

HOLKHAM GAME DEPARTMENT: new Head Keeper, Nick Parker

PINEWOODS HOLIDAY PARK: Kelvin Armiger, Philippa Cooke, Andrew Fuller, Christine Mahon and Nicole Parker

THE VICTORIA HOTEL: new managers Ian and Lisa Clark, Aneta Jedrzejczyk, Kasia Czulak, Tania Guerreiro, Maciek Weber, Shannon Howard, Leonard Swinin, Charlotte Greedy (Reception)

THE GLOBE INN: Ian Brereton, Robert Williamson, Satu Purtilo, Chris Black and Stella Goodey (who combines the role of waitress with that of resident jazz singer!)

WELCOME BACK

HOLKHAM ENTERPRISES (Bygones): Laura Comer

HOLKHAM FOODS: Tarquin Bix, Dot Cooper, Vanessa Dack, Andrew Featherstone, Becky Fowle, Emily Gould, Taylor Hammond, Jamie Hepher, Eileen Heyhoe, Bethany Mahon, Leanne Page, Victoria Smith and Simon Weller

PINEWOODS HOLIDAY PARK: Julie English, Ricky Jordan, Louise Palmer, Andrew Reid, Tom Sands and Claire Walker

THE VICTORIA HOTEL: Alex Thoury and Manuel Palma

THE GLOBE INN: Phil Wakeman, back from his trip to China

FAREWELL

HOLKHAM BUILDING MAINTENANCE: Sharon Yates, who left in April to start a new position as medical secretary at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn

HOLKHAM FARMING COMPANY: Farm Manager Michael Turner

GAME DEPARTMENT: Head Keeper Simon Lester

HOLKHAM ENTERPRISES (Gardens): Head Gardener Peter Goodwin

THE VICTORIA HOTEL: Phil Lance, Alan Clarke, Matej Danovsky, Robert Dodman, Mary Edwards, Rhayne Heynike, Lukasc Norek, Malwina Piatyszek, Filipe Rodrigues, Kim Sheppard, Jamie St John and Luke Wheeler

CONGRATULATIONS

HOLKHAM ENTERPRISES (Gift Shops): Julie Gould, who became a grandma in January when her daughter Sally and husband James had a daughter, Bethany

HOLKHAM FOODS: Taylor Hammond, voted on to the National Youth Parliament for the next two years by her school

GAME DEPARTMENT: Nick Parker and his fiancée Kate who were married on 21 June. James Beckerleg on his promotion from student to Under-keeper

THE GLOBE INN: Peter Miozja, Tansy Moore and Chris Woodget, all of whom have been promoted

GET WELL SOON

Mary Edwards (Room Steward) currently recuperating following a bad fall

Philip Freezer (Holkham Building Maintenance) currently recovering from an operation

BIRTHS

James and Emma Harrison of Hall Farm, Wighton had a daughter, Isabella Rose, on 20 April 2008, a sister for Oscar and Alfred

Johnny and Carolyn Coke's daughter Ros and her husband Justin Gibbs' second son Charles Duncan was born in New Zealand on 7 February 2008

To Pinewoods Park Manager Jacki Ramm and fiancé Ross

Fulford, son Harvey, weighing in at 8lbs 6oz on 18 January 2008
Congratulations to Sharon Thorn (Victoria) and Gary Douglas (The Globe) on the birth of their son, Daniel

Zak Maufe (son of Holkham tenant Teddy at Branthill) and his wife Nadia have had a son, Kai, born in San Francisco on 5 March 2008

DEATHS

David Whately MC, who died on 24 April 2008, aged 84. Father to Viscountess Coke

Len Dunn, who died on 14 March 2008 aged 88

David Ruffles, who died on 8 May 2008 aged 60

Ena Dodman, wife of Eric Dodman (long-serving gamekeeper on the Warham beat), who died on 6 June

**All contributions for the next Newsletter should be submitted to the Editor, Sara Phillips, by 15 October 2008.
E-mail s.phillips@holkham.co.uk**