

# Foxhunting: past, present, future

Since the last Newsletter, the project has taken off and work is progressing well. In summary, the project has:

- undertaken a survey of 217 public institutions (see more in our feature below)
- distributed a survey to private collections
- developed a biological survey
- organised oral history training for volunteers
- conducted 6 oral history interviews
- started devising and commissioning the new website
- begun the process of commissioning the production of curriculum resources for schools

More details about some of these elements can be found in the following pages. We welcome comments, suggestions or short articles for inclusion in the Newsletter. Deadline for the next edition is 31 May 2006.

**We still need volunteers to help with the project** – for details, contact Carolyn Abel.

## Collections Survey

The project undertook a survey to identify foxhunting collections held by museums, libraries and archives in the East Midlands and targeted sources outside the region.

The result is that a number of institutions have some material directly associated with foxhunting. These collections relate to specific Hunts such as the Pytchely, Quorn and Welsh Hunts, as well as associated trades such as farriery.

The Peoples History Museum in Manchester is one of the few

*By Permission of People's History Museum*



organisations that has material relating to opposition activities as well as the pro-hunt campaign, represented by the badges above.

## Project scope – a reminder

To remind all our readers, the principal aim of *Foxhunting: past, present, future* is to impartially record the impact of the Act through written, photographic and oral media on the changes to the way of life for those who support and oppose hunting, and the effect on trades and industries associated with hunting and the surrounding countryside.

The outcome of the project will be a 'virtual' collection of foxhunting material and educational resources for use by schools which will be accessible via a new website in October 2006. The information gathered by the project will also help to inform the future development of Melton Carneie Museum.

## Meetings with stakeholders

Since the last Newsletter we have arranged meetings with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the League Against Cruel Sports to discuss their involvement and contributions to the project.

To ensure your views are recorded, whatever they maybe, please get in touch with Carolyn Abel, Project Coordinator (please see contact details below).



## Oral History Interviews

In January this year, the project's first interview took place with Bill Bird of Bill Bird Shoes. In his time, Bill has made boot trees and hunting boots for Royalty around the world.

While Bill now makes bespoke shoes, he allowed us to photograph the techniques used to create a boot tree. You can see two of these images opposite.

Over the coming weeks, we are conducting interviews with the following:

- Representatives from IFAW and the League
- Hunt monitors/ observers
- Representatives from the Leicestershire Hunts
- Other associated trades and industries eg tailors

### Contact us today!

If you would like to be interviewed, or to make any suggestions, please contact Carolyn Abel.

## Hunting Scrap books

The project has photographed four hunting scrap books, belonging to Jean Lapworth. One scrap book relates to the Warwickshire Hunt (1900 -1904) and contains photographs, newspaper cuttings, handwritten notes and sketches (see image opposite).

The others were created by the Hunting parson, Reverend Walter de Verney, and includes details about his personal life as well as his active involvement in hunting.



Contact the Museum if you have any anti or pro-hunt books, objects or photographs that may be of interest.

## Contact details

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