

# Foxhunting: past, present, future

This is the first newsletter of the *Foxhunting: past, present, future* project, led by Melton Carnegie Museum.

The purpose of this quarterly newsletter is to keep you abreast of the project's progress and to seek your support in helping us to collect vital information associated with the impact of the Hunting Act 2004. For details of the project, please see below.

We are also inviting short articles and letters from you to be included in the Newsletter.



## Background to the project

Leicestershire County Council's Heritage Services, in partnership with the Museum of Hunting Trust, was awarded a major grant of £50,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) earlier this year.

The award is funding a unique, one year project entitled *Foxhunting: past, present, future* which will record the impact of the Hunting Act from all points of view, as well as establish what artefacts are currently held in public and private collections across the region and targeted sources.

The information generated from the study into the past, present and future of foxhunting will be used to create a virtual exhibition and record peoples' memories, photographs and artefacts. The exhibition will offer an impartial account of how the hunting ban affects the region and illustrate an important time during the history of the East Midlands.

It is hoped that the project will engage young people from across the region. Youngsters will be invited to interview people who hold a variety of views on foxhunting to help them develop an understanding about the range of activities associated with this tradition. These interviews will then be used as educational material in local schools.

The Hunting Act 2004 represents a time to reflect on the history and future of foxhunting and opposition to the practice in the region. It is equally important to record the impact on associated trades and the links to a range of other rural, social and landscape issues.

## Meetings with stakeholders

Over the coming months we will be meeting with organisations and individuals who hold a range of views on the subject. In November, the project team had a successful meeting with Brian Fanshawe, Council for Hunting Associations, and Michael Clayton to discuss the parameters of the project and their involvement.

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

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

We urgently need volunteers to help us accurately record the social, economic, environmental, political and historic issues associated with foxhunting in the East Midlands. This could be your opportunity to help us document a variety of perspectives from the present for future generations – free training will be provided. You could get involved in the following ways by:

- Conducting oral history interviews with people in your vicinity or group
- Telling us about people that you think should be interviewed
- Taking photographs of hunt practice, opposition activities, associated trades
- Telling us about objects, photographs or documents that could help tell the story of foxhunting and associated activities

All this, and more, will form part of an important archive documenting the impact of the Hunting Act 2004 and complement existing displays and collections held by the County Museums Service.

### Contact us today!

Time is of the essence so we would love to hear from you as soon as possible. To get involved or find out more please contact Carolyn Abel (see below).

## Latest edition to the Museum's Hunting Collection

The Museum has just received a generous gift of books from Mr Small in Northumberland. This collection, which belonged to Mr Small's father, contains copies of Bailys Hunting Directories and Harrier and Beagle Kennel Stud books.

The books will make a fascinating addition to the Museum's growing library and Hunting collection. If you have any books, objects or photographs that you think will be of interest, please contact Jenny Dancey, Keeper, Melton Carnegie Museum (see details below). This is your opportunity to ensure there is balance in the historical record and the museum's collections.

## Contact details

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