

# Stately Homes

## Stately Homes

Monthly Magazine

June issue

DEAR READERS,

IT HAS BEEN an exciting year for us here at *Stately Homes* and I'm delighted to announce that our magazine is flourishing. This month, we report on some exciting new developments at Bagnum Hall as the restoration of the Great Hall and Library get underway. A team of experts are using their considerable talents to recreate the beauty of a bygone age. The costs of the restoration, which are likely to be five million pounds, are to be defrayed by the Bagnum Hall Trust, supported by generous donations from private individuals.

In this issue we celebrate Spirits Month. This is an opportunity for all those interested in ghosts to find out more about the spirits which haunt many ancient homes. It will also give our staff the chance to gather information for a new book, *Stately Phantoms*, to be published next year. If you have had an encounter with a phantom, please get in touch with Griselda Hall, who will be delighted to hear about

your experience. Her email address can be found at the back of the magazine.

One topic we report on this month is badgers. The keeper at Griddlecote Manor has reported a rise in the number of badger setts to be found around the Manor. This has led to much damage to the garden, and the main lawn has been turfled for the fourth time this year. In a controversial article, Mary Baxter proposes new ways for keeping the badger population under control. If you have any views on this subject do please let us know.

For those readers with children, don't forget to look at our new activities page at the rear of the magazine. A comprehensive guide gives you all the latest on fun-packed activities for children of all ages.

We look forward to a happy, colourful month.

Denise Walters  
Editor

### Activities Around the Country

#### THEXTON HALL

HOME of the Lidwyddle Family.

#### Saturday 7th July

*Medieval Jousting Day*  
Children are invited to come and design shields and swords in the arts and crafts tent.

Mr Clive Heston will be bringing his collection of goshawks, sparrowhawks, falcons, kestrels and owls to the Hall. Clive will give a talk on the history of falconry and show his birds in a display. Children over the age of five will be given the opportunity to handle the birds.

## **COSGROVE MANOR**

**Saturday 14th July**

*Tree planting ceremony*

An old vegetable garden has been dug over and is to become an orchard.

Come and assist the gardeners in planting 100 new apple and pear trees.

## **ACTWORTHY HALL**

**Saturday 14th July**

*Recreation of the Battle of River Cresswell*

Visitors are invited to join this mock battle which commemorates the time when Lord Reginald Actworthy led his servants and peasants against his neighbour, Bernard de Courtney, who he accused of stealing his sheep. The battle took place mostly in the River Cresswell. Please bring a change of clothes. Non-swimmers are advised to stay away.

## **ACTBRIDGE MANOR**

**Friday 27th July**

*Garden Party*



Tickets cost £8 for non-members and £6 for members

Concessions for children are available.

Tickets to the greenhouse are on a first-come-first-served basis and cost £6

The garden party is an annual event and gives visitors the opportunity to explore the beautiful gardens which are only open a few times during the year.

## **BODDLEWORTHY CASTLE**

**Friday 27th July**

*Archery Show*

While the adults shoot their arrows, would-be Robin Hoods are invited to join the fancy-dress parade. There will be prizes for the best costumes. During the afternoon there will be a barbecue. Please contact Mary Richards at Boddleworthy Castle for tickets.



## Questions

Answer the following questions with a full sentence:

1. How many times a year does the *Stately Homes* magazine come out?
2. What is a 'stately home'?
3. Who or what is paying for the restoration work on Bagnum Hall?
4. Name two of the topics which are dealt with in this month's issue.
5. Why do you think that Mary Baxter's article on badgers is likely to be controversial?
6. Who was Lord Reginald Actworthy and what action is he remembered for?
7. Why do you think tickets for the greenhouse are on a 'first come, first served' basis?
8. Comment on the style of language used for the magazine.

## Word work

1. Give the meaning of the following words:  
*bygone*  
*haunt*  
*encounter*  
*comprehensive*  
*falconry*
2. Bagnum Hall is being 'restored'. What does this mean?
3. What will people expect to see at the joust?
4. How do 'concessions' benefit people?

## Extension work

1. If you could choose one of the events to go to, which one would you choose and why?
2. What kind of person do you think *Stately Homes* might appeal to?
3. Write an email to Griselda Hall in which you describe a ghostly experience you have had. Say where and when it happened and provide as many details as you can.
4. You are one of the phantoms at Bagnum Hall. What changes have you experienced over the years and how do you feel about these?
5. Write a letter to the editor of *Stately Homes* in which you object to children being allowed into stately homes. Give reasons to support your argument.
6. As editor, respond to the above.