

THE GREY OWL SOCIETY

Bulletin No. 23



Edited by Betty Taylor

Hastings. November 2004

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Our thanks to member, Dagmara Ginter, for typing this 23rd Bulletin.

Colin Taylor: Founder of the Grey Owl Society

An Appreciation by Barry Johnson

It was during 1983 that Colin said to me, with his beguiling smile: "Isn't it time you joined the Grey Owl Society?" It was then a very small band - only twenty-one members are listed in that year's *Bulletin* - and membership was by the committee's invitation. My only qualification for membership appears to have been the same as for the writing of this appreciation: that I had known the Founder for many years!

Colin and I had long been members of the English Westerners' Society and I think we first met at the Westerners' A.G.M. in 1957. We were both living in London and he was studying physics at Birkbeck College. Well before this meeting, I had guessed that he was on his way to becoming an authority on the material culture of the Plains Indians, as he had had an article on "The Plains Indian Warbonnet" published in the Westerners' *Brand Book* for June 1955. The editor remarked that Colin was then only eighteen; and a few months earlier, in welcoming him to membership, he had said that: "Mr. Taylor... is [the] proud possessor of a complete Indian regalia... His warbonnet belonged to a warrior named Iron Tail." (Quite a few members will have seen this head-dress displayed in the long cabinet facing the study table at No. 11,)

This precocious article was followed by many lectures and technical papers on ethnological subjects, and Colin's reputation burgeoned steadily in North America and Europe. When I became an English Westerners' editor, I saw some of these papers through the press; and I was greatly struck both by the breadth and depth of his research. He had the true "enquiring mind", and this ever-active and ever-questing mind - combined as it was with the "Victorian work ethic" - was what I most admired about him, in the studious sense. His first book, *The Warriors of the Plains*, appeared in 1975; and books then came out with an amazing facility which must have outstripped the output of many full-time writers. By classifying the bibliographical cards, kept by Betty, we find that he wrote or edited twenty-three books, fifty papers (three of them with Betty), and twenty-four book reviews, on ethnological subjects alone. To this must be added the two large volumes of his doctoral thesis, "Reading Plains Indian Artefacts: Their symbolism as cultural and historical documents" (1990; but I believe so far unpublished). The project which has dominated the past two or three years is the two-volume *Festschrift* entitled *People of the Buffalo: The Plains Indians of North America*. This is a tribute to one of his many American friends, the late John C. Ewers, and was an exacting labour of love which stands now as a splendid last achievement. Jointly edited with Hugh Dempsey, the first volume was published earlier this year; and, fortunately, the final volume was ready for the printer at the time of Colin's death.

This unrelenting output was carried on within the demands of his physics lectureship at Hastings College; of extensive travel; and of entertaining and hospitality which seemed to me to be on an heroic scale. "We're stacking them up!" I remember him once saying, jokingly, of No. 11, when the house was particularly full of guests. The Grey Owl Society was founded in April 1982, in the midst of this diverse and frenetic activity, with Colin as Secretary and Editor of *The Bulletin*. I sometimes said to Betty, after she became co-Editor, that *The Bulletin* is a most unusual publication, bursting with all kinds of valuable information; and Colin deserves the credit for setting it on its path.

The Society's second meeting happened to be held on the 25th of June 1982, and *The Bulletin* records that "a toast was given to Sitting Bull!" It was the anniversary of Custer's defeat in 1876; and we can see in this toast to the famous Sioux chief a link between two of Colin's life-long interests: Grey Owl and Sitting Bull. In "The ethnological content of Grey Owl's sketches" (*Bulletin* 5: 6-8), he says that "Grey Owl influenced me and others in early day studies of the North American Indian. Indeed, in the 1950s, when I combed the

bookshops in my home town of Brighton for books on the American Indian, the only ones which could generally be found were written by Grey Owl." So we can see that his interest in Grey Owl developed simultaneously with his interest in the Plains Indians, and that the present Society - now so well established - in a sense stemmed from those "combings" of the Brighton bookshops. Another link with the past might be mentioned. In his obituary of Edward H. Blackmore, the Society's first president, Colin writes that "when, at the age of twelve or so, I first heard of Ted through the local newspaper, I wrote to him," thus beginning a friendship for life (*Bulletin* 2: 3-9). Colin once said to me - with a smile that perhaps suggested some "artistic licence" - that Ted's interest in the Indians narrowed down to the Sioux, then to the Hunkpapas, and in the end to Sitting Bull himself! While I have no idea how much of Colin's own fascination with Sitting Bull's life derived from Ted Blackmore, it was certainly a very deep and constant interest. In fact, he had agreed to write a paper on the old chief for the English Westerners' *Golden Jubilee Publication*; and when I asked him, in August, how it was coming along, he replied "It's all in my head!" - but there, alas, it remained.

Betty tells me that, although there are considerable quantities of research materials in the study, Colin left no drafts or unfinished MSS. which might be prepared for publication. A selection of his more important ethnological papers should certainly be put in hand by those of his friends who are qualified to assess his work. For myself, I remember Colin with both admiration and affection; and it will be a long time before I can accept that I shall never again hear his cheery greeting - "Hiyah!" - over the phone or in the hall of No. 11.



Colin (with beaver kit) on location in Quebec, for Richard Attenborough's film *Grey Owl*, 1998.

Grey Owl Society Post-Card

The Society has produced its own post-card! The wording on the reverse of the card (shown below), reads:

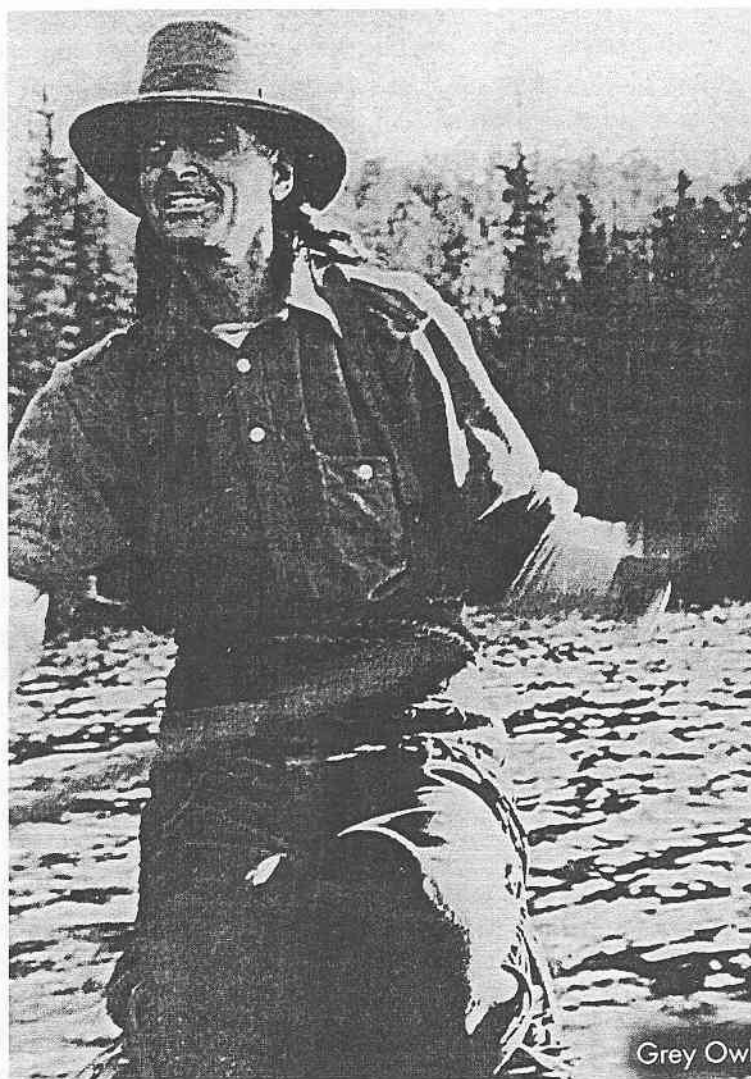
GREY OWL (1888-1938)

Ajawaan Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada 1936

"Grey Owl paddling the canoe with a very natural smile. I took the picture from the other end of the canoe". c Margaret Charko (nee Winters). Grey Owl Society Archives, Hastings.

These sepia cards have been produced by Judges of Hastings (established for over 100 years) and cost 20p each. Please send s.a.e. when ordering.

We are very grateful to Margaret Charko, for supplying us with this photograph.



The Ethnological Content of Grey Owl's Writings

Part II: The Indians' Treatment of Animals

Dagmara Ginter

Grey Owl puts a lot of emphasis in his writing on the Indians' deep respect for the animals, the most intelligent of which were looked upon as smaller kinds of people and humans' brothers. Beavers were held by the Woodland Indians in particularly high esteem and were called "Beaver People", "Little Indians", or "Talking Brothers" (Grey Owl 1934: 42-3).¹ Although they had to be trapped for their fur and meat, certain taboos were observed by the natives, which, according to the author, proved how respectful the hunters were towards these creatures. One of the most widely recognized prohibitions was not allowing a dog to eat the beaver bones, which were to be restored to their natural element, i.e. water (Grey Owl 1931: 23, 155).² Grey Owl also observes the Indian "cutting out the knee-caps from the hind legs of his beaver carcasses and burning them" (ibid.: 22). The authenticity of this information cannot be checked as various sources, when dealing with beaver taboos, limit themselves to the description of very general rules observed by Indians, like the above-mentioned one of forbidding dogs to touch any of the carcasses. But taboos could vary from one band to another and the habit of cutting beaver knee-caps could be solely observed by the Temagami Ojibways.

Another animal greatly esteemed by the Indians was the bear. Grey Owl notices: "They hang up the skull of a bear and place tobacco in it, in propitiation, and if they eat any of the meat they hang the shoulder blades on a tree, first painting two black stripes on them, running parallel to show that their thoughts were not against the bear's, but with them" (ibid.: 218). Bear was indeed treated with great veneration by various tribes. Greatest attention, as pointed out by a number of authors, was given to the bear's skull which was often placed in some prominent place, especially in the tree.³ Grey Owl also observes that after killing an animal the Indian hunter usually addresses its body before he cuts it up (ibid.: 218). There was a generally recognized custom with Indians trying to always apologize to the animals they were hunting, explaining that the only reason was to assuage their hunger (see Taylor 1991: 193).

One of the most characteristic methods of hunting applied by the Woodland people was the so-called "still-hunt", in other words moose hunt. Moose, in contrast to caribou, deer, or buffalo, do not wander in herds; therefore, a totally different way of approaching them had to be devised. Grey Owl devotes a whole chapter in *The Men of the Last Frontier* to the description of this method of hunting, on the basis of his observation of his Indian friend and hunter's backtracking and "making endless half-circles on a base line itself anything but straight." The hunter is seen as frequently stopping to test the wind, which he does with a wet finger and by allowing the dust to drift from the crumbled leaves in his hands (ibid.: 103). As he is approaching the actual spot where the moose is grazing, he "[tests] for wind more frequently now, on one occasion stopping and creeping backwards on his tracks..." Then he is depicted as "[circling] out, and back into the same spot by another direction" (ibid.: 104).

Diamond Jenness in *The Indians of Canada* also applies the term "still-hunt" to describe the Woodland Indians' method of hunting moose. He confirms Grey Owl's opinion that it really gives the hunter great opportunity to practise his individual skills, the skills in tracking and locating the animal without scaring it, which demands from him great attention to details such as some nibbled branches, broken twigs, or turned leaves. He also describes the Indian manner of testing the direction of wind which is done by simply wetting the finger in order to see which of its sides will be cooler (1977: 54).

For Grey Owl, moose hunting consists of "the intricacies of move and countermove, advance, circle, and retreat" (ibid.: 88). Such method is wholly based on the careful observation of the animal's behavioural characteristics. In "The Subarctic" of *The Native Americans* Colin Taylor sums it up: "In order to catch the scent of any following predator, the animal doubles back after feeding, resting at a spot downwind of its earlier trail. Responding to this..., the Indian hunter avoids following the trail of the moose, but instead makes semi-circular loops downwind; when the moose's trail loops back, the hunter can accurately locate it" (1991: 185).

Grey Owl also mentions a very important instrument indispensable to the moose hunters in the animal mating season in early winter. At that time those skilled in the art can, in fact, call the moose to a firing position with a special moose-horn (1931: 94). The authenticity of this information is again confirmed by Jenness who refers to the ability of the Algonquian tribes to perform the moose-call with a special horn made from birch bark (1977: 54).

Additionally, Grey Owl provides short but quite telling snapshots of buffalo hunting both in "The Still-hunt" of *The Men of the Last Frontier* and "The Tree" of *Tales of an Empty Cabin*. Hunting buffaloes was one of the main occupations of the Plains Indians, whose existence was totally dependent on those animals. There were certainly many different methods applied. In "The Tree" the author points to the Blackfeet "marching on foot [and driving] groups of buffalo into rude corrals, and [shooting] them down with bows and arrows" (1936: 106). He explains that this had been before the horse was introduced amongst the Plains tribes. This perfectly agrees with John Ewers' account of the Plains Indians' way of dispatching the large herds of buffalo in the days when the horse was not known. In *The Blackfeet Raiders on the Northwestern Plains* he describes the Indians driving buffaloes into the specially constructed corrals. Once the Indians got them in the corrals they could easily kill them from just outside the fence (1958: 13).

In *The Men of the Last Frontier* Grey Owl gives a general impression of what the later buffalo hunt looked like, when the Plains Indians had already become expert horse riders: "The strings of light-riding savages on their painted ponies, probably the best irregular light mounted infantry the world has ever seen, naked to the waist, vieing with each other in spectacular and hazardous stunts, exhibiting a skill in horsemanship never attained to by trained cavalry;... the billowing clouds of dust through which the fringe of wild, yelling horsemen were intermittently visible,... the thudding of the heavy buffalo guns...." (1931: 86). This is a reference to the method which can be called simply the chase. It consisted in an individual hunter selecting one animal from the herd, riding along side it, trying to approach it as close as possible and, after finally killing it, moving to another singled-out buffalo (see Ewers 1958: 77, 79).

Another aspect of Indian lifestyle connected with animals that Grey Owl puts some emphasis on, is the Ojibway habit of keeping wild animals in their villages as pets. He describes: "I have seen... crows carried on poles like banners, full grown beaver led on a chain, tiny bears running loose... and once a young girl with an owl laced tightly into a baby's cradle..." (ibid.: 233). He even claims that when the Indians are on the move, mothers, carrying no other loads than just their infants on their backs, have the task of herding "those of the multifarious pets that cannot be carried in bags or boxes" (ibid.). The author, thus, gives an impression that keeping wild animals as pets was a universally recognized custom amongst the Woodland Indians and running bears or beavers in their villages - a very frequent sight. This is an apparent exaggeration, as, according to Colin Taylor, although keeping some young animal in the camp until it grew up did occasionally happen, this was not a universally observed custom and the pets that an Indian village could have were certainly not "multifarious".⁴

In *Pilgrims of the Wild* Grey Owl seems to have 'committed' an even greater exaggeration. While talking about the great veneration in which the Ojibways held beavers, he concludes: "Indian mothers, bereaved of an infant, had suckled baby beavers at their breasts and thus gained some solace" (1934: 43). Jane Espaniel, an Ojibway and Grey Owl's friend, regarded this as a huge overstatement, claiming that "Archie" always loved to exaggerate (see Smith 1990: 177). Donald Smith fully agrees with her comment having checked in reliable sources that beavers have their full set of teeth at birth (ibid.).

However, there have been accounts of beaver kittens being nursed by Indian women and Grey Owl, who travelled through several Canadian provinces and possibly met more Indian people than Jane knew in her life, could have heard about such occasions. Whether or not Indian mothers could indeed get solace, remains within the bounds of pure speculation, but the fact that they did occasionally nurse beavers is indisputable. Lewis Henry Morgan in *The Indian Journals 1859-62* records having seen a three-week-old bereft beaver carried to Fort Union where "the Indian women took turns in nursing it at their breast until it began to bite occasionally when they gave it up" and then having noticed "an Indian woman milk from her breast into a saucer" (1959: 168). In *The American Beaver* Morgan reports: "When [beavers are] captured very young, the Indian women nurse them until they are old enough to feed upon bark... A Missouri trapper mentioned to me the circumstances of a young beaver captured by his partner, and nursed by the wife of the latter who was an Indian woman..." (Cameron 1991: 122).

Endnotes

- ¹ Alexander Henry noticed while staying with the Ottawa Indians on Lake Michigan in the second half of the eighteenth century, "Beavers, say the Indians, were formerly a people endowed with speech, not less than with the other noble faculties they possess; but the Great Spirit has taken this away from them lest they should grow superior in understanding to mankind"; quoted in Cameron: 1991: 135.
- ² This information is confirmed by Jenness 1977: 174 and Cameron 1991: 143.
- ³ Colin Taylor points out that the bear skull was carefully cleaned, sometimes painted with stripes or dots and usually put in the tree in propitiation of the spirit of the animal; see Taylor 1991: 192. The importance of tobacco as an offering to spirits is stressed by Jenness 1977: 172-3.
- ⁴ Interview with Colin Taylor, Hastings, July 15, 2002.

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- Papers of the Rupert's Land Colloquium 2004*: Kenora, Ontario: The Centre for Rupert's Land Studies, University of Winnipeg. 2004. "Grey Owl's Ethnological Observations on the Woodland Indians" by Dagmara Ginter appears under "Texts & Interpretations" on pp. 325-339. A copy of this 'ring bound' book is in Taylor Archives.

DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY

We are most appreciative of the financial donations made to the Society by the following members: Catherine Carpenter, Roland Dixon, Brad Ryder, Tom Watrous, Margaret Wolley and especial thanks to Margaret Charko and Jennifer Phiri.

Paula Fleming has donated another stereo photo "Exterior of Church in the Wood, Hollington" taken by Mann, to pair with the "Interior" sent to the archives, last year. (See Bulletin 22:13).

Henrietta Smyth has given a **Poster** of "Prince Albert National Park. 75th Anniversary. 1928-2003: The Ceremonial Gate at Lake Waskesiu".

Robert Mucci has sent in another copy from *The Hastings & St. Leonards Observer* (12 July 1975) of the original Plaque Unveiling to Grey Owl at the Fairlight Country Park.

Men of the Last Frontier: The Society purchased for the archives (£10) a copy of *Men...* with dust jacket. We did not have a copy complete with dust jacket so thought the purchase well justified! Thanks to Ralfe Whistler for tracking this down.

Ralfe Whistler also found the archives a hard back copy of *One Canada: Memoirs of the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker. The Crusading Years 1895-1956* (Macmillan of Canada, Toronto. 1975). There are references to Grey Owl on pp. 118-120. J.D. was Prime Minister of Canada 1957-1963. For further references/comments/anecdotes see Bulletin 4:13 : 7:30 : 16:17 and 22:23. See also Special Publication 2002:37 where it can be seen that we did not have a copy in the Archives. (We exchanged with a copy of the Special Publication).

Dagmara Ginter sent the Archives an extract from *Native Literature in Canada: From the Oral Tradition to the Present* by Penny Petrone. (Oxford University Press, Toronto. 1990). There are references to Grey Owl on pp. 96-99 and 116. Petrone adds that G.O. was "sincere and authentic in (his) depiction of many aspects of native life and of nature..." (p. 96). This extract is a 'first' for the Archives and our thanks to Dagmara who found it whilst researching in the National Library in Warsaw!

Dagmara has also sent a copy of *Tele-Echo* (the Polish equivalent, it seems, of the *Radio Times*!). On the evening of 19 March, the main programme was "*Szara Sowa*" (yes! The "Grey Owl" film); an outline of the film with a photo of Pierce Brosnan was included.

Tom Watrous sent an article from the Winnipeg Free Press (December 18, 2003) on the beaver's influence on the history of Canada. Entitled "Balancing the bite of a national icon", it naturally refers to G.O.: "Beavers, once close to extinction because of the demands in the fur trade (in one year, 200,000 were trapped in Canada), caught the attention of the famous Grey Owl in the 1930s. An Englishman who posed as a Metis, he successfully led the campaign to protect beavers and other wildlife through his writing and lectures". (See also Bulletin 12:12).

Richard and Wendy Johnston donated a very interesting **calendar for 2004**: "Temagami Memories: Experience Temagami". Early black/white photos ranging from "Camp Chimo" (with a moosehead over the fireplace in the cabin) to the old wooden building of the "Temagami Canoe Co." and from "Camp Wabi-Kon 1936-37" to the "Temagami Inn 1934-35". For the month of September, it's a photo of Grey Owl sitting with a paddle by a canoe outside a cabin. On the back of the Calendar is "Bear Island Hudson's Bay Post 1939". Very nice to keep for the archives.

DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY cont...

The Taylors have donated the following items this year:

(i) A copy of **Richard Attenborough** by David Robinson ("film critic and historian of popular performing arts"). New edition, published by the British Film Institute (2003) to "celebrate" Richard Attenborough's 80th Birthday. There are numerous chapters outlining R.A.'s life including descriptions and photos of his many films. Chapter 17 (pp. 102-105) is entitled "**Grey Owl**". The chapter starts by saying that "Attenborough could hardly have hoped for a more intriguing subject for a screen biography," adding that the Attenborough brothers were "undoubtedly influenced" by going to one of G.O.'s lectures as boys in Leicester in 1936. It explains that the film concentrated on 2 years of G.O.'s life, as he became famous (a point that many of our members found disappointing) because, perhaps, of the adverse reviews that Attenborough received on the way he had tackled his film, *Chaplin*... where, obviously, he had tried to cram in too much! Robinson is complimentary of Nicholson's script, which he says "had rich sources in Grey Owl's own books" but he goes on to make the point that "a fundamental and fatal flaw in the film" was the casting of Annie Galipeau as Pony. The episode of G.O.'s return to Hastings to visit the aunts, is highly praised, "a small gem of Alan Bennett-like understated insight" (quoted from Richard Falcon's review in *Sight and Sound*). The author goes on to say that Falcon was one of few "experienced" reviewers who genuinely appreciated the film, writing "There was little credit for some exquisite sequences... the film abounds with genuine pleasures". Attenborough himself was "philosophically regretful" with the stance taken by many of the reviewers (although, of course, the film was received quite well by much of the public) who he said did not give "credence to a really extraordinary subject. This man was a truly remarkable figure, who stood for many things... the fight against racial prejudice and the fight for the preservation of nature and living creatures of the earth. He made the most incredible impact".

(ii) A paperback copy of Gwendolyn MacEwen's ***Selected Poetry***, published by Virago Press, 1996. Selected by Margaret Atwood with an Introduction by her, where she writes "Gwendolyn MacEwen's poem "Grey Owl's Poem" appears on p. 105 and was first published in "Afterworlds" in 1987 - 7 months before Gwendolyn MacEwen died at the age of 45". (See also Bulletin 12:9 where we mention this poem which was referred to by Margaret Atwood in her Clarendon Lecture "The Grey Owl Syndrome" given at Oxford in 1991).

Colin Taylor brought the following items back from Canada this year; these are now in the archives:

(i) ***Trail Guide: Prince Albert National Park*** by Shanna D. Frith. Published by Friends of Prince Albert National Park, 1997. Section 13 under "Overnight Hikes" lists the "Grey Owl Trail" (pp. 51-55) and refers to "the renowned conservationist... [who] tried to communicate the importance of preserving wild places and the creatures that live in them". Available from PANP, Waskesiu Lake, Saskatchewan.

(ii) ***Saskatchewan's Playground*** by Bill Waiser. This is the paperback edition (there is a hardback copy already in the archives). Much appreciated gift from Rod Blair, the Superintendent of PANP to Colin Taylor "...In appreciation of your effort and enthusiasm in sharing the Grey Owl - Archie Belaney story, and helping to maintain those historical connections between Hastings, England, and Prince Albert National Park... May 21, 2004" (Signed, "Rod Blair").

(iii) Saskatchewan 2004 Vacation Guide ***Land of Living Skies***. Reference to the "celebrated naturalist Grey Owl..." on p. 24.

DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY cont...

(iv) *Prince Albert National Park of Canada. Official Visitor Guide 2004/2005*. References to Grey Owl's Cabin and the Grey Owl Hiking Trail on p. 9.

(v). Small booklet *National Parks and National Historic Sites of Canada in Saskatchewan*. "...Unravel the mystery of Archie Belaney, a.k.a. Grey Owl, internationally renowned author and orator..." (p. 19)

Ralfe Whistler has drawn our attention to another book with references to Grey Owl, that we did not know about and which is not in the archives. *The Pleasures of Deception* by Norman Moss (Reader's Digest Press, New York 1977). Ralfe has sent a copy of pp. 167-175 which relate to Grey Owl, "one of the most ambiguous of impostures". Reference is made to G.O.'s "several fascinating and moving books about life in the wilds" and how he "entranced audiences... with his stories of Indian life and lore". Norman Moss respects and understands G.O.'s intentions and aims adding that he "had a message to put across to the world, a message about the need to respect and understand the wilderness instead of conquering it, about the need for a balance between the world of man-made things and the world of nature". Moss concludes that "the world was not much poorer for the loss of Archibald Belaney, and it was richer for the presence of Grey Owl". We will try and obtain a copy of the book for the archives.

Grey Owl by Vicky Shipton. A xerox copy of this recent book in the Penguin Readers series, has been donated by **Dagmara Ginter**. Published by Pearson Education Limited, Harlow, Essex (2003), this book is part of a series "to provide a step-by-step approach to the joys of reading for pleasure". In the Introduction, Grey Owl is described as "a man who tried to change the world" because he found a purpose in life, "to fight for the beaver". Divided into 18 chapters, with a number of illustrations. We will try and buy an original copy for the archives and we are grateful to Dagmara, for drawing our attention to this recent publication.

Carol Smith from Sault Ste. Marie has sent an article entitled "**Grey Owl**" by J.C. Dillon (Jack Dillon) which had been published in *Canadian Outdoorsman* (1968:11-14). There is a photo on p. 12, captioned "Archie Belaney (Chief Grey Owl) with Anahareo, his Indian wife, at Biscotasing". As Carol pointed out in her accompanying letter, the woman with Grey Owl is not Anahareo but Yvonne Perrier. Dillon knew Grey Owl "over quite a few years" and added "It is my intention to deal in this article with a splendid man that I truly admired. I do this unhesitatingly and with full knowledge of the many indiscretions in Belaney's life". This article was a 'first' for the archives.

Peter Ingram has sent two pages from an early article (August 22, 1931) from *The Illustrated London News* (pp. 278-279). These are well illustrated and we do not appear to have any other copy in the archives. The first page (or pages) is missing and we do not know the author. We would be very pleased if any member can supply the missing page(s). This is a good addition for the archives.

Colin Taylor brought back from his trip to Canada (May 2004), a copy of F.G. Speck's *Family Hunting Territories and Social Life of Various Algonkian Bands of the Ottawa Valley* (Government Printing Bureau, Ottawa, 1915 - a Geological Survey, Memoir 70). Chapter III is titled "Family hunting territories and social life of the Timagami band of Ojibwa." Colin obtained these Speck notes on his trip to Bear Island (with Dagmara Ginter). He had long wanted to add them to the archives as they are an important research resource. He had marked some passages such as "The skulls of beaver as well as of other large animals are always placed in the branches of a tree near where they have been killed".

DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY cont...

Richard and Wendy Johnston have sent over a copy of a new booklet, *Temagami's Story* by John E. Guppy, (Highway Book Shop, Cobalt, Ontario. 2004). John Guppy's great uncle was Bill Guppy "the experienced woodsman [who] gave Archie his first lessons in trapping..." (See Don Smith's *From the Land of Shadows*, 1990: pp. 35-38). There are references to "this great man... Grey Owl..." on pages 24-25, 28 and 46 with a photo of the marker at Finlayson Point Provincial Park on p. 27. Another good addition for the archives. Richard and Wendy said that the book should arrive in the post around G.O.'s Birthday "so in honour of his 116th anniversary we dedicate this book"!

Margaret and Ron Charko gave Colin a copy of *Canada* published by Prospero Books, Vancouver/Toronto (1999). They endorsed it and Colin has written various notes inside re his visit to Ontario and his third visit to Grey Owl's cabin on Ajawaan Lake. This beautifully illustrated book has been added to the archives.

John R. Gregg from York, Maine, has donated some very interesting items, via Dagmara Ginter, for the archives. Listed below:

(i) **A Canadian Trade Dollar** in nickel silver. On one side the design shows two people in a canoe. On the reverse, a portrait of Grey Owl, with the words Grey Owl Country, Temagami, Ontario, Canada. (1985). This is listed/shown in *Canadian Trade Dollar and Related Issues Handbook* by Jack P. Sauchenko (1988) and also in *Canadian Municipal (Trade Dollars) Trade Tokens and Related Issues Handbook* by the same author (1999). This is a 'first' for the archives and we are extremely pleased to have it.

(ii) A number of interesting **newspaper and magazine articles**, most of which are first copies for the archives:

New for the archives:

1. "Grey Owl Artifacts for Sale at Auction in British Columbia". *The North Bay Nugget*, June 1, 2002. Anonymous.
2. "Karsh: The Art of the Portrait". *The McMichael Canadian Art Collection*. Brochure. Ontario Museum. Spring 1992.
3. "Grey Owl Not Alone as Native Pretender". *The North Bay Nugget*, August 20, 1994. Michael Barnes. (Compares G.O. with Long Lance).
4. "Curious Archie Passes Through Sudbury". ditto. November 24, 1995. Michael Barnes.
5. "Grey Owl's True Identity Revealed by the Nugget". *Our History Our Heritage*. A Special Millennium Feature. (North Bay newspaper?). C. Gunning.
6. "Grey Owl's Contributions Remembered at Festival". *The North Bay Nugget*. July 2, 1991. Arnie Hakala.
7. "Re-thinking a Legend". ditto. July 6, 1992. Arnie Hakala.
8. "Legacy of a Self-made Legend". Travel Section. *Toronto Globe and Mail*. May 11, 1985. Margaret Hogan.
9. "The Vision of Grey Owl". *Canadian Geographic*. March/ April 1999. Dane Lanken.
10. "Grey Owl an Old Hero for Needy World". *The North Bay Nugget*. May 8, 1998. Tony Lofaro.
11. "Grey Owl Derived From Fantasy". Section BI Weekender. *North Bay Nugget*. September 27, 2004. James H. Marsh.
12. "Grey Owl's Daughter Dies at 89". ditto. April 30, 1998. John Size.
13. "Taking a Close-up Look at Grey Owl". ditto. August 18, 2000. Marjie Smith.
14. "Indian Heart Wins Approval of Grey Owl's Grandchildren". Entertainment Section. ditto. August 30, 2001. Marjie Smith.

DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY cont...

John Gregg cont...

Also copies of the following which we already have in the archives:

1. "Set of Grey Owl Rekindles Memories". *The North Bay Nugget*. May 16, 1998. Arnie Hakala.
2. "Grey Owl: Man, Myth, Movie". *The Weekender*. ditto.B-1, June 6, 1998. Arnie Hakala.
3. "Reliving the Past. History repeats itself in movie". ditto. June 6, 1998. Arnie Hakala.
4. "Rediscovering Grey Owl". *Maclean's*. October 4, 1999. Brian D. Johnson.
5. "Grey Owl Film Set for Release". *The North Bay Nugget*. August 10, 1999. Jay Stone.
6. "The Fabulations of Grey Owl". *The Beaver*. April/May 1999. Peter Unwin.

Teresa King of Torquay has sent in the following items for the archives:

(i) *The barn cinema, Totnes, Devon*. A copy of their programme for January - February 2001 where the GREY OWL film was shown from the 5th - 7th January. The programme has a photo of Pierce Brosnan and Annie Galipeau and describes the film as "A fascinating biopic.... Shot in the stunning wilderness of Quebec, GREY OWL is a fascinating and true story of one of the world's first eco-warriors".

(ii) An entry on George (!) Stansfeld Belaney... known as Grey Owl, who was "a popular lecturer". From *Encyclopedia Americana*. 1992: p. 477.

(iii) Xeroxes of the following Devonshire newspapers:

1. *Torquay Directory. South Devon Journal*. January 22, 1936. "Grey Owl at the Pavilion: Fascinating Lecture". "Seldom has the Pavilion seen such an audience within its walls... Every available seat was taken and hundreds had to be turned away...".
2. *Torquay Times*. January 17, 1936. "Grey Owl. Red Indian Lectures at Pavilion Today". "Grey Owl is an Indian and will tell this interesting story in his own quiet and confident way...".
3. *Torquay Times And South Devon Advertiser*. January 24, 1936. Same report as No. 1 above.
4. *Herald & Express*. Torquay: January 11, 1936. Advertising lecture - "Personal Visit of Grey Owl".
5. *Herald & Express*. Torquay: January 15, 1936. "Grey Owl's Story: Red Indian To Lecture At Torquay Pavilion". (Reduced report of No. 2 above).
6. *Herald & Express*. Torquay: January 18, 1936. "Wild Life Preserved: Grey Owl's Fascinating Story At Torquay Pavilion". "The Torquay Pavilion yesterday was crowded out with an enthusiastic audience, attracted there by the enthralling lecturer, Grey Owl, whose books on wild life have created for him a great reputation as a nature-lover...".
7. *Torquay Directory. South Devon Journal*. October 27, 1937. Advertising the "Personal Appearance of Grey Owl" on November 4th.
8. *Torquay Directory. South Devon Journal*. November 3, 1937. Advertising the lecture for November 4th, adding that "Major G.C.B. Musgrave will take the chair at the Afternoon Performance".
9. *Torquay Directory. South Devon Journal*. November 10, 1937. "Life in the Wild North-West: Grey Owl at the Pavilion". "The Pavilion was packed with an enthusiastic audience... Grey Owl... for a couple of hours, held them entranced...".

10. *Torquay Times*. October 22, 1937. Advertising the lecture for November 4th "In response to the many inquiries... the Plan will be opened at the Pavilion Box Office for booking, October 18th".
11. *Torquay Times*. October 29, 1937. Advertising the lecture for November 4th.
12. *Herald & Express*, Torquay: October 30, 1937. ditto.
13. *Herald & Express*, Torquay: November 4, 1937. ditto.
14. *Herald & Express*, Torquay: November 5, 1937. "Nature Lover. Grey Owl Thrills Audience of Youth at Torquay". "Amongst the large number of people that attended the Pavilion, Torquay, yesterday afternoon and evening, were large parties of Girl Guides, Boy Scouts and school-children, who invaded the Pavilion to hear their hero of the northern wilds of Canada, Grey Owl... The youthful audience was enthralled by the eloquence and descriptive powers of the fascinating lecturer..."
15. *Torquay Times*. April 22, 1938. "Death of Grey Owl".
16. *Herald & Express*, Torquay: April 20, 1938. "Friend Defends Grey Owl. Prepared to Prove His Genuineness. 'Born in Arizona'". Lovat Dickson said "I shall be able to prove conclusively that Grey Owl's story is genuine and that this incredible story of his being a fake is an insult to a noble character..."
17. *Devon Life Magazine*. February 2001, Vol. 5, Issue No. 8. "The Legend of Grey Owl" by Mike Holgate.



The photo shown above was sent to us by Margaret Charko who writes: "In 1979, my husband and I went out to Kelowna to visit Dawn and Bob in their new home that they built. While there, Dawn took us into town to visit her Mother Anahareo. We hadn't seen her in quite a few years, and saw a change. But she still had her wit and we had a good visit. The little boy is her grandson, from her daughter Katherine." Left to right: Dawn, Anahareo with grandson, Margaret Charko.

Hastings Week GREY OWL SOCIETY EXHIBITION

Hastings Museum - 10th and 11th October, 2004

Henrietta Smyth

At the Grey Owl Society Committee Meeting held on 11th May, 2004, it was decided that we would take the opportunity to promote the Society and its conservation work by holding a small exhibition during Hastings Week. Victoria Williams at the Hastings Museum kindly lent her full support to this venture, and I volunteered to publicise and set up the exhibition, with help from other members of the Society.

Despite the traumatic event that so sadly and unexpectedly preceded the exhibition, Betty Taylor stoically declared that we should go ahead as planned and several of us, certainly felt that this was only right and that it should form part of our memorial to Colin. In fact, it seemed particularly appropriate to continue as some of Colin's North American Indian collection recently acquired by the Museum was to be displayed as part of the Society's exhibition.

This was how we advertised the event in the Hastings Week programme:

The buckskin clad figure with a haunting stage presence - but was it all just an act? Discover the facts behind the legend of "Grey Owl", who forsook Victorian Hastings to take on the challenge of the Canadian wilderness - and to become one of our earliest conservationists. Archive material, books, North American Indian artefacts, plus a special exhibit on beavers.

As it turned out, we had quite a lot of items to display. The Museum kindly provided tables and display boards which the staff set up in the small Ceramics room next to the Grey Owl Gallery, and on these Dagmara Ginter and I laid out a wide variety of material. We chose Bulletins, books, Grey Owl postcards and posters and various memorabilia from the Society's archives, together with some North American Indian artefacts and cards, and alongside these I set out my own fairly extensive display of beaver material which I use to educate my local groups of Beaver Scouts. Ralfe Whistler, resplendent in a real beaver fur hat, came along to help, laden with more Grey Owl books to sell and a beautiful beaver skin to put on display.

We also had a selection of hand-outs about various conservation projects supported by the Society: Derek Norcross had kindly been in touch with the Woodland Enterprise Centre at Flimwell and they sent a good supply of brochures and posters, Wildwood Woodland Discovery Park sent a number of leaflets about their European beaver project, and Betty had drawn up a complete list of the Society's donations to date.

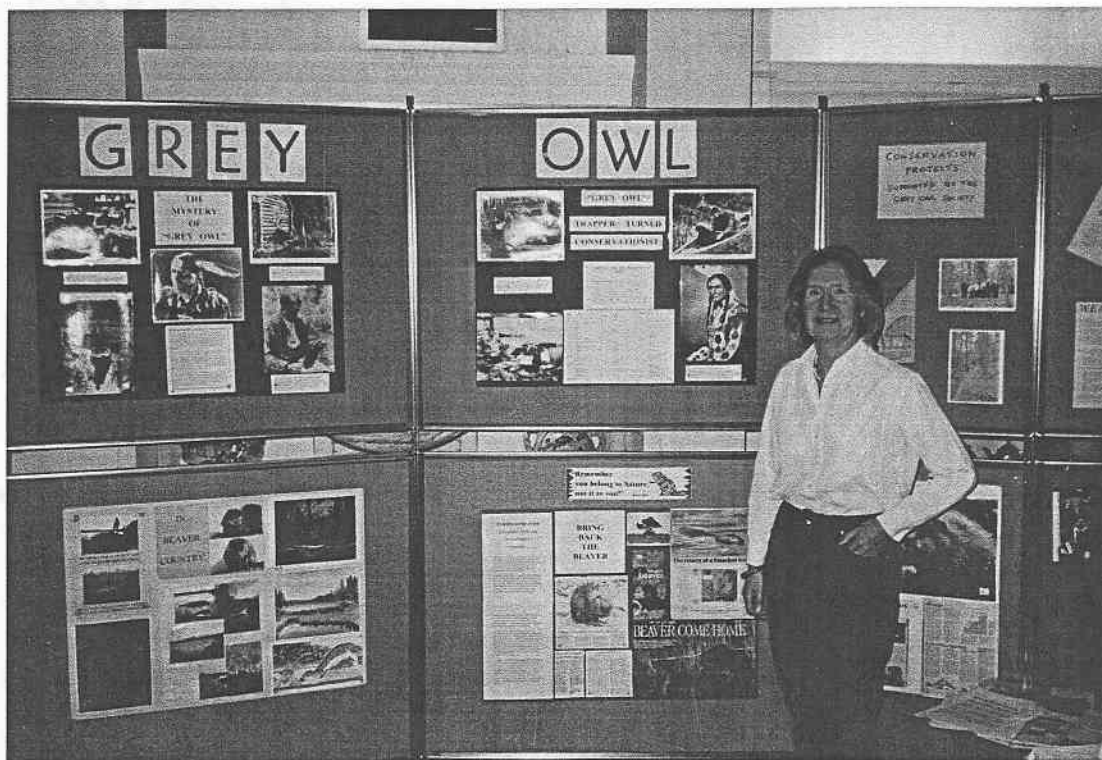
Despite the fact that the exhibition was only open for two days we had a good number of visitors on the Sunday afternoon, in particular, and on the Monday morning, when children from a school in Sedlescombe came along as part of their project on North American Indians. Several members of the public who came were local to Hastings but did not seem to have heard of the Society before, and some were interested in becoming members, so I felt we had fulfilled one of the purposes of the exhibition.

The Deputy Mayor of Hastings decided to visit the Museum at the same time as the school on the Monday morning, and surrounded by noisy and eager children she showed a lively interest as Victoria and I explained the purpose of the Society's exhibition. The beaver artefacts, including skins and hunting implements for which beaver skins were originally traded, proved very popular and the teachers were as keen as the children to know more, so I decided to give them a brief 'talk' before inviting them to examine what was on display. In fact, many of the

children asked to return to the Society's exhibition when they had gone round the rest of the Museum, which I felt was a compliment! (They have also sent me a lovely hand-drawn card of thanks, signed by all the class, and depicting Grey Owl in full feather head-dress seated in his cabin!)

All in all, the exhibition had proved a success and was clearly appreciated by all its visitors. It did entail quite a lot of hard work, of course, but several people commented that they would have liked it to run for longer and this may be something the Committee could consider next time, provided we could organize more helpers. However, I felt we had achieved what we had set out to do, namely to let a few more people know about Grey Owl and the Society, and to remind them of the conservation work the Society supports every year in memory of Grey Owl.

Finally, I would like to pass on my grateful thanks to all the Society members mentioned above who gave such enthusiastic and invaluable support, and also to Alison Hawkins and Jenny Ridd who gave up their time on Monday to help out at the stand - or simply to keep me company in the quiet times! I would also like to thank Jenny Logan, who kindly lent me the use of her lovely house over the weekend, and of course Betty herself, with whom I spent several pleasant evenings 'en famille'. It was reassuring and heartening to note that, in spite of everything, something of the old convivial atmosphere for which has long been renowned was already beginning to return, thanks to the efforts of family and friends.



Henrietta Smyth

(Mentioned in the *Hastings and St. Leonards Observer*, October 1st and 8th and in the *Hastings Week 2004 Brochure* (pp. 18-19)).

Livi Peter.m
 Lee Sophie S
 asr
 Kasey Naomi
 Esha Scott
 Jacob Alfie
 Bertie Harry Lawrence
 Hannah Keira
 Nowella Phillip
 Alex
 Ellie Smith Channele
 Danny Megan
 Hugo
 C.J.
 Helen
 Ellie. Couchman

Jurpen



Jane Proodger

Luke Martin

Sam

Lauren

Harry.B.

Robert - H

Thank you

Sedlescombe
 School
 bredde
 lane

Dear Henrietta Smyth,
 We really liked coming to see
 all the Indian things. It was really
 interesting to see what was
 inside the teepees. Also we now know
 more about Grey owl. Thank you
 for having us.

From class 3.

From the pupils at Sedlescombe School, East Sussex, who visited the Grey Owl Society Exhibition.

Grey Owl Society's Annual Donation (1)

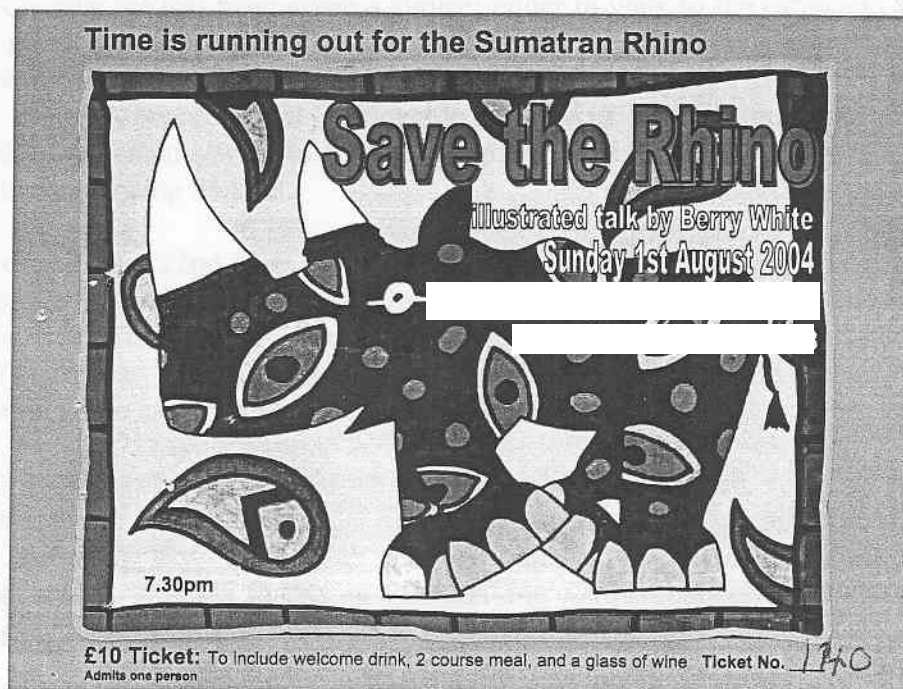
Saving the Sumatran Rhino

At the Committee Meeting held on 11 May (see p.25), members Bill and Margaret Van Draat raised the subject of the plight of the Sumatran Rhino. There are five species of Rhino in the world and the Sumatran is considered the most critically endangered. It has been pushed "to the brink of extinction" by poaching and a loss of habitat.

The Committee discussed the point that the "Save the Rhino" Fund was really out of the Society's range, being neither a local conservation project nor a Canadian one, nor on the Grey Owl theme. However, Derek Norcross was of the firm opinion that Grey Owl would most definitely have had sympathies with this cause and members were unanimous that a nominal donation be made towards the campaign to save the last 200 to 300 Sumatran Rhinos.

The Van Draats hosted a "Save the Rhino" fund-raising evening on Sunday 1st August at their home, . Colin Taylor handed over a **cheque for £100** (and Betty Taylor's donation of £50) to Berry White who was part organizer of the campaign and who had given an illustrated talk earlier in the evening, mentioning that only one had been successfully bred in captivity over the last 100 years! Colin said the donation was given "in the spirit of Grey Owl's concern for endangered species". The tickets for the event and the evening's activities and auction raised the amazing figure of £5,000. Our first Vice-President, Spencer (Arthur) Roberts* was there in spirit - one of Arthur's paintings raised £1,500!

The Society was pleased to support this worthwhile campaign.



*The beaver logo on the front cover of all the Bulletins, was drawn and donated to the Society by Spencer (Arthur) Roberts.

The Trip of My Life: Impressions of A Visit to Grey Owl's Cabin

Dagmara Ginter

The main purpose for going to Canada in May 2004 was for Colin and I to give papers at The Centre for Rupert's Land Studies Colloquium in Kenora, Ontario (Colin's paper was on the "Ethnological Content of the Journals of La Verendrye (c. 1738) and Jonathan Carver (c. 1780)." Mine - on "Grey Owl's Ethnological Observations on the Woodland Indians."). But in addition to that, Colin organized two fantastic trips to places associated with the name of Grey Owl. We agreed that he would write about our trip to Bear Island with Grey Owl's grandson, Albert Lalonde, and I would describe our visit to Grey Owl's Cabin. Unfortunately, Colin never got round to writing his part.

Below then is my impressionistic account of our Saskatchewan adventure, which I dedicate to the memory of Colin Taylor - a great teacher and a wonderful companion. It was my greatest privilege, to spend in his company, three unforgettable weeks in Canada.

"That trip couldn't have been more perfect! Being taken to Bear Island by Grey Owl's grandson... And that superb weather!...." I couldn't have agreed more with Colin while we were resting on the deck of our Temagami cabin in the evening of that eventful day, observing the last rays of the sun still lingering amidst the distant conifers... But fate certainly had more surprises in store for us.

A few days later, I was strolling along the shore of Waskesiu Lake in a dreamlike state: above was the cloudless sky and its deep blue reflection in the water, the air was warm, there were elks and deer basking in the spring sunshine... And there Colin found me with the amazing news: "We are going to the Cabin by helicopter!"

It was obvious to our guide and organizer of that exceptional trip to Grey Owl's Cabin, Brad Muir, that we couldn't go by boat since there was still ice on the water. Before we arrived in Canada, we had been given a choice: either to walk to the cabin and walk back the same day, the distance being 40 km, or to devote two days to the trip camping overnight on our way back from the Cabin. We were more inclined towards the second choice but, in the meantime, Prince Albert National Park decided to give us VIP treatment. The final, and most unexpected, arrangements were to fly to Kingsmere Lake, then walk to the Cabin and back, the whole distance being 23 km.

The next morning, 22nd May, welcomed us with the sun, promising a warm day. We had been told so many times to take warm clothes while going to the Cabin this time of year and we did. However, while we were waiting for the helicopter, after a thirty-minute drive through the Park, it became so pleasantly warm that a quick, and good, decision was made to leave our jackets behind in the car to reduce the burden we had to carry.

The helicopter came sooner than we thought and there we were, suddenly borne into the magic aura of wild, unspoilt beauty... Above us was the sky, as cloudless as the day before, and below us was the sky - the smooth intensely blue "sky" of the lake, framed by the patches of yellowish sand... And the forests, and the striking contrast between the dark green conifers and white-grey birches, still leafless...

The climax of that fifteen-minute breathtaking trip was the flight above Grey Owl's house. It was the idea of the pilot, which we welcomed most heartily, to give us a bird's-eye view of the place. The tiny cabin nestled snugly on the very shore of the Ajawaan, amidst the intensely green conifers, faithfully mirrored in water... - that is how I remember it from above.

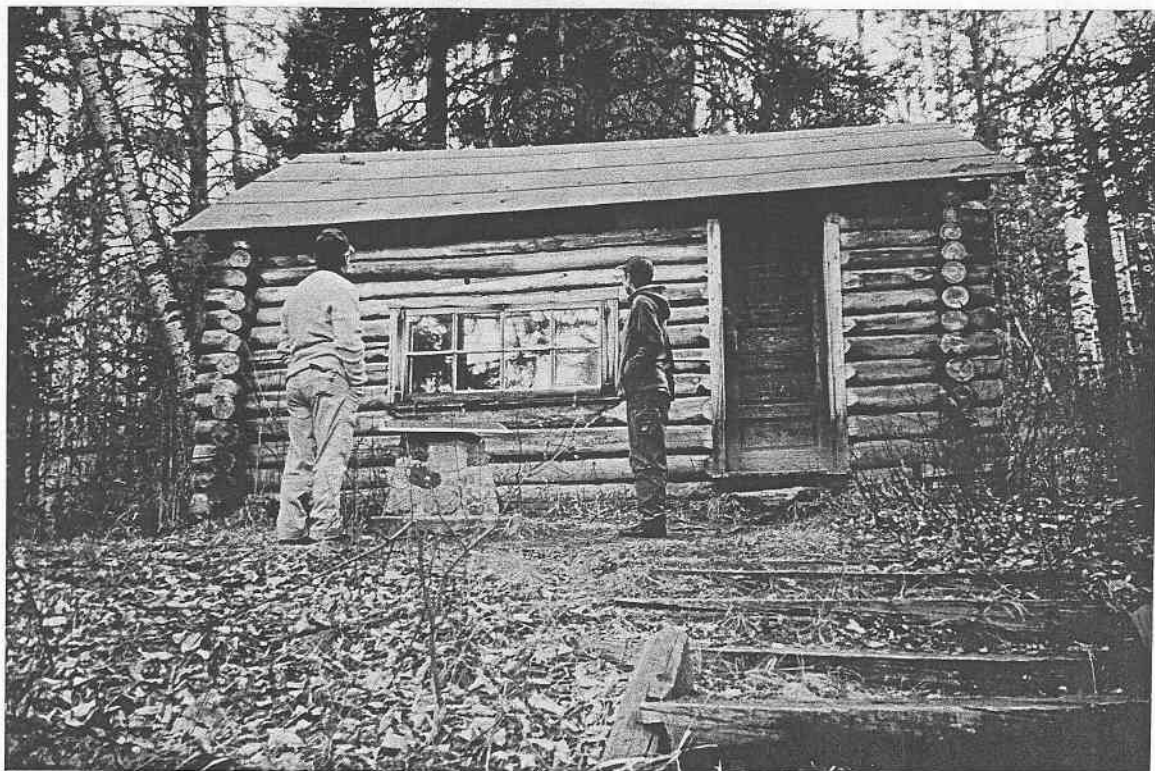
We landed on the sandy shore of Kingsmere Lake and here awaited us a picturesque three-kilometre walk to the Cabin through the dense forest. The sun was still shining when we

approached the Ajawaan and its small island looked paradisiacal, surrounded by gently rippled bluish water and enveloped in absolute silence...

And the Cabin - uninhabited, yet not empty... The blazing rays of the sun were falling through the window onto the mute sticks - the remains of the beaver lodge - and painting yellowish patterns on the walls... The place was full of light and life, the genial atmosphere, the sunny memories of the long-ago, the guest-book being the link between the past, the present, and the future... By Anahareo's cabin, up on the hillock, we noticed the trunk of a birch partly chewed, apparently by the beaver... Does the place still belong to beaverland then?!

The whole site being settled in the bluish tranquillity of the sky and the lake - we regretted having to leave... Back on the trail, the small path beautifully meandered through the black spruce, following the scenic turns and twists of Kingsmere Lake, and occasionally giving us breathtaking vistas of the watery landscape... The air pulsated with the resonant cry of the loon... There were sunny and cloudy moments but the forest remained very warm and congenial until the end of our journey....

Fairseat Cabin, Hastings
August 2004



Brad Muir and Dagmara Ginter in front of Anahareo's Cabin. 22 May, 2004.

Society's Summer Visit: Powdermill Trust for Nature Conservation. Rotherfield Reserve

Eleven members met around mid-day on **Sunday 23rd May** for a visit/guided walk around the **Rotherfield Reserve of the Powdermill Trust**. (A smaller group than usual but many members were away including Colin Taylor who was having guided tours around Grey Owl haunts in Canada!). It was perfect weather for a woodland walk - sunshine, dry underfoot and no wind. We started with a picnic under the central Pendunculate Oak which John Hicks, our guide, told us was probably about 200 years old. This is near the cabin that the Society contributed to last year as part of our "Donations" scheme (see **Bulletin 22:10**). John gave us an outline on the Trust which is affiliated to the Sussex Wildlife Trust to "help conserve wildlife and safeguard natural landscapes". The Reserve covers ten acres of mixed woodland with meadows that were brilliant with wild flowers on the day of our visit... wood anemones and bluebells were finished but carpets of germander speedwell, yellow pimpernel, bugle, greater stitchwort, delicate white pignut, yellow archangel and other species were in full flower - with just a few early purple orchids coming into bloom. As John guided us through the woods, he stopped every few minutes to point out an unusual tree (here a Whitebeam, there a Midland Hawthorn), or a badger set or a square stemmed figwort plant or the like! It was refreshing to learn that the Woodland is 'managed' in a professional way, i.e. rogue sycamores dealt with and native trees planted; Japanese Knotweed eradicated; tree planting to reduce open spaces (where old trees have fallen) which apparently helps to stop the rapid spread of brambles etc. The May foliage rather prevented us seeing many birds but we heard clearly the chiff-chaff, blackcap, wren, robin and blackbird amongst others. John pointed out to us the difference between ferns and bracken - ferns growing up straight from the soil, bracken branching off stems! It was a little early for butterflies - I just saw one daytime moth. A lovely day and we thanked John Hicks for making the visit so worthwhile.



Members in front of the cabin that the Society contributed to in 2003 (see Bull. 22:10). Photograph by member, Jenny Logan.

Members' and Friends' Correspondence

Arlington Hoffman (Guest Curator at the W.K.P Kennedy Gallery at North Bay, Ontario) wrote after meeting up with Colin Taylor earlier in the year, and gave outline details of a forthcoming **exhibition** he is planning at the Gallery, scheduled for **May 2006**: "The title is Grey Owl and his Descendants with the main focus on the Temagami/Bear Island/Biscotasing experience, the formative years of the Grey Owl personality. The opportunity to work locally with Albert [Lalonde] and his family will permit me to give due emphasis on Angele's lineage, the Egwuna family, and the Guppys. I will be painting portraits of Grey Owl, Agnes, Albert and a representative of his daughters and grandchildren. The other members and offspring from Grey Owl's other relationships will be included by photos or text. In addition to my own work, I plan to include other work by selected painters, sculptors, potters, photographers, video and perhaps a performance artist... In closing, I have had a fascination with the Grey Owl story but as a painter never took it beyond general interest....". We will give more information in next year's Bulletin on what promises to be, an unusual and interesting event.

Marjorie Pope (see Bulletin 22:22) wrote: "It is a great privilege for me to be made an Hon. Member of the Grey Owl Society.... It is always a delight to receive the Bulletin... I put it aside to read on the first peaceful day which is likely to be Christmas itself... Wishing you every success with G.O. activities in the future. There are so many happy memories".

Catherine Carpenter wrote to us at the end of last year with this amusing anecdote: "...Our local Radio Station started up a 'phone in' about which books had made a lasting impression on our lives. I phoned in and said my all time favourite had been *Pilgrims of the Wild* by Grey Owl, to which I got the answer 'who the heck is he?' and I was cut off. Well, I couldn't accept that, so I rang back and proceeded to enlighten him of the importance of Grey Owl's work and the beauty of his books. To his credit he listened, but more important, after our talk, four people rang up to say they too had read and enjoyed Grey Owl's books. One, like myself, had borrowed *Pilgrims* from their library in the 1940s. My best wishes to all members of the Society both far and near..."

Catherine wrote again this summer: "... Sometimes I cannot believe that the man whose stories I read as a youngster became so world famous... I had *Pilgrims of the Wild* on loan so many times from our local library that I think my fingers alone wore the pages out. I copied it out word for word in the few exercise books I managed to acquire. I still have those books, such tiny writing so I could get more into less space as money for luxuries such as writing pads was not available in our house."

Catherine is now 81 and says she is not as mobile as she once was. She would enjoy corresponding with any member. We have Cathy's address.

Audrey Brooke from Leeds wrote at the end of last year "As regards the Grey Owl film, I thought it was brilliant and hoping I can see it again - on Television or Video".

Morris McLachlan, one of this year's new members wrote in February: "...I operate the Waskesiu Lake Marina and I have a long history with Prince Albert National Park. My family had a business in Waskesiu from 1946 to 1975... I am [now] starting my sixth year of outfitting and operating the Marina in PANP. Last summer we had the privilege to take Margaret Charko and Henrietta Smyth to Ajawaan Lake and Grey Owl's Cabin. I consider myself an eco-tourism operator and I take great pride in helping visitors from all over the world, travel to this very special place...". One of the reasons Morris joined the Society was because he recognizes "Grey Owl's significance to this area".

Teresa King, in sending the batch of xeroxes of Torquay newspapers for 1936-1938 (see pp.11-12), added in her accompanying letter, "I'm interested in the connection [of Grey Owl]

with Crediton, Devon. I did a little research a few years back and there were a few Scott-Browns scattered about, and I always wondered if they were related to THE Scott-Browns." I wrote back to say that they almost certainly would be. The London Times for April 21, 1938 reported that Grey Owl's mother, now Mrs. Kitty Scott-Brown was living in Crediton Devon and referred to the death of her 'beloved son'. So these present-day Scott-Browns are almost certainly connected to Grey Owl's step-father. (Ed.).



Within two months of Archie's birth (18 September 1888), the family left St. James Road and moved to rented accommodation - 139 Queens Road, Hastings. Photo shows the house in 2000.

Update on Woodnet: Woodland Enterprise, Flimwell

Derek Norcross and David Saunders

In Spring 2002 we visited the Woodland Enterprise Centre in Flimwell, East Sussex, and met with David Saunders, Woodland Officer for East Sussex County Council, who explained about the work of Woodnet, an environmental charity promoting the sustainable development of our local woodland resources [See Bulletin 21:9]. In south east England we have a wealth of trees, and many important ancient woodlands, with unique historical and ecological significance. Unfortunately, fewer and fewer woods are being tended these days, and valuable skills are being lost through lack of appreciation of the historic connection between people and trees, especially in the heavily-wooded Weald.

During our visit David guided the group around the woodland at Flimwell, and introduced us to some of the local history of the site, and also explained about the construction of the Woodland Enterprise Centre, an environmental showcase, demonstrating a building literally "grown" from the local woodlands, with extensive use of chestnut coppice. The building was successful in 2003 in winning a Civic Trust Award, and now regularly hosts architects keen to learn about more sustainable methods of construction.

Woodnet was established out of this initiative, with the mission of providing education, and appropriate research and development, to secure the continued management of woodlands in the region. Since the Grey Owl Society visit, Woodnet has won funding from both SEEDA and the EU Leader+ programme and has increased its activities to include Open Days for public, and students, to learn about the process of woodland management, and also provides professional updates and seminars for professionals in the building industry to assist them in becoming more environmentally sensitive, in particular by using local wood, from managed woodlands.

One of the more recent highlights has been the installation of a wood-fuelled heating system for the property, which precludes the need to burn fuel oil, and thereby reducing the emissions of potentially damaging Carbon Dioxide, a contributor to Global warming. The heating system operates using wood chips, made from offcuts and otherwise unusable pieces of wood from woodland management, and sawmilling.

Woodnet maintain regular contact with woodland owners, contractors, and wood users through the bi-monthly magazine "WoodLots", and also works with local schools and colleges to help build local environment into the curriculum. This charity was grateful to receive a contribution from Grey Owl funds [Bulletin 21:10] and will continue to promote a respect for the environment, as enshrined in the book "The Tree".

For further information about the Woodland Enterprise Centre, or to subscribe to the free publication WoodLots, contact:

David Saunders

Website: www.woodnet.org.uk

5 July, 2004

observer.ads@jpress.co.uk

Hastings and St Leonards Observer, Friday, September 17, 2004



Grey Owl collection grows with 120 new Native American artifacts

HASTINGS Museum has forged stronger links with Native America thanks to its latest acquisition.

Dr Colin Taylor, a founder member and secretary of the Grey Owl Society and expert on Native American history, has transferred more than 120 items to the museum, adding to an already impressive collection.

Dr Taylor's exhibits include Inuit material collected by the Reverend and Mrs Callendar in Makkovik, Labrador, between 1919-1921. The family later settled in St Leonards.

As well as exquisite models of arctic figures and animals, sealskin clothing and domestic tools, there are goggles, snowshoes and dog biscuits reminiscent of Grey Owl on his winter trails.

The Canadian theme continues with Iroquois items from the region associated with Grey Owl's partner, Anahareo.

Other exhibits include Cree beaded leggings similar to those seen by Grey Owl at the Plains Indian pow

wow in 1936, bold floral embroidery and decorative items made from birchbark and porcupine quills.

There are further local links in a Blackfoot dress and belt collected by Clare Sheridan on Indian reservations in Montana in 1937.

Clare Sheridan was brought up in Brede and lived in Hastings Old Town in the 1950s. She was a well-known sculptor and writer and her bust of Winston Churchill is in the Town Hall.

The most magnificent piece in the collection is a full size, eagle feather war bonnet worn by the Sioux Indian, Iron Tail.

Iron Tail came to Hastings with Buffalo Bill's Wild West show in 1903 and was seen by the 14-year-old Archie Belaney, who later transformed himself into the legendary Grey Owl.

The Taylor collection will be displayed in a new gallery as part of the museum refurbishment project. In the meantime, a selection will go on show within the existing display.

The above article appeared in the Hastings and St. Leonards Observer on the 17 September. The tragic irony is that the 17 September was the day that Colin died. Colin did not live to enjoy being involved with the collection at the Museum but the Society looks forward to the completion of the Museum refurbishment project and to hopefully participate in future Grey Owl exhibitions and events.

The new Grey Owl displays, which will include some fine artefacts from the Taylor collection, will keep Colin's name alive in the town where he was so involved with so many projects and organizations - not least, of course, The Grey Owl Society.

STOP PRESS

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members:

Wilfred and Moira Pickard, Hastings (who have rejoined!)
Brad Ryder, Blenheim, Ontario
Morris McLachlan, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan
Janet White, Brede, Sussex
Gordon and Christine Trewinnard, Hastings and London (who have rejoined).

Order of 1066 Award 2004. On the 14th October, "Hastings Day", the **Order of 1066 Award 2004** was given to **Derek Norcross** for his "service to the community of Hastings" over very many years. Derek has been an active committee member of the Grey Owl Society since 1988 and Colin and Betty Taylor enthusiastically supported Derek's nomination for the Award. At the Reception on the evening of the 14th (which took place in the Council Chamber of Hastings' very fine Victorian Town Hall), Derek received his Award with great pleasure; in his "acceptance speech", Derek gave particular emphasis to Colin's lifelong interest in North American Indian history and to his founding and involvement with The Grey Owl Society. This was very much appreciated by Betty Taylor and Jenny Logan, who were amongst the invited guests. Congratulations again to Derek! In the report in the Hastings and St. Leonards Observer for 22nd October, the Grey Owl Society is mentioned.

Timothy Treadwell. We learned during the year, of the tragic death of **Timothy Treadwell**, who had been working hard to preserve the habitat of grizzly bears in Alaska, for the past thirteen years. Tim was fatally mauled in Katmai National Park in October 2003, the first known bear killings in that Park. Members may recall that the Society sent a donation in 2002 to help with the "Grizzly People" project. Tim was the co-author of *Among Grizzlies: Living With Wild Bears in Alaska*; as has been pointed out to us on several occasions, wild animals are unpredictable and even though Tim knew the bears so well that he gave them 'names', this tragedy had to happen. (See Bulletin 21:12).

Great Days Out, an annual Hastings Observer newspaper, highlighting local places of interest, lists the Hastings Museum in both the 2003 and 2004 editions. March 21, 2003, under the heading "Inventors and pioneers, visionaries and frauds..." refers to The Grey Owl Display and this also appears in the 2004 issue on p. 10.

ERNAS (European Review of Native American Studies), Frankfurt, edited by Christian Feest. Issue 17:2, 2003. Under the heading "Current European Bibliography of Native American Studies" (p. 65) is listed: "*The Grey Owl Society 21st Anniversary Special Publication* (2002)... includes essays by D. Smith, B. Taylor, and C. Taylor, ... and numerous others relating to Archie Belaney a.k.a. Grey Owl". The "Grey Owl Bibliography" in the Special Publication is also referred to.

In the same ERNAS volume, there is an article on "Chief Red Thunder Cloud (1919-1996)" by Edmund Carpenter (pp. 51-54). Thunder Cloud was a black man who also desperately wanted to be an Indian and there is a short mention of Grey Owl, as an Englishman, who shared the same wish! Copy in Taylor Archives.

BBC I: "South East Today": Tuesday, 10 February 2004. An amusing snippet. After an item on this local news programme referring to the strange and disturbing story of a woman from Hastings who had recently died and who had 'loved' Hitler all her life (!), the presenter of the programme, Giles Dilnot, said in essence: "What is it about Hastings? So many unusual people are connected with that town.... that fellow that went off to Canada and became a Red Indian.... Grey Owl!..." (Member, Pat Held, phoned us to say that he had also heard the amusing remark!).

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***Rough Guide to Canada* and *Lonely Planet, Canada*.** Both these books have small sections relating to Grey Owl and Ajawaan Lake.

"Grey Owl's Cabin" - craft/gift shop in Northern Manitoba. See Bulletin 20:29. Unfortunately this cabin/shop "Open Year Round" no longer exists in this form! This is just south of Riding Mountain National Park and is now a coffee/snack shop run by a former cattle rancher! So the original photo sent in by Tom Watrous is now historic! (Thanks to Tom for the up-date).

Colin Taylor gave the following 'slide talks' on Grey Owl during the last year:

1. A talk to the **Emmaus Friendship Group** at Ashford Road, Hastings, on 3 December 2003. There were about twenty-two in the group (quite a good turn out for December!) and although not knowing much about Grey Owl's life, they expressed considerable interest. Cheque for £10 given to the Society's funds!
2. A talk to the **Friends of Prince Albert National Park** at Waskesiu, Saskatchewan, on 20 May. It was attended by about forty people, including Bob Richardson (G.O.'s and Anahareo's son-in-law) and the Superintendent of the Park, Rod Blair. Illustrated with slides and a short excerpt from the Attenborough film (the poignant Hastings scene). The evening was efficiently organized by Brad Muir and was an enjoyable get-together!

Dagmara Ginter gave a paper entitled "Grey Owl's Ethnological Observations on the Woodland Indians" at the Centre for Rupert's Land Studies Colloquium 2004 at Kenora, Ontario (which ran May 26 - 30).

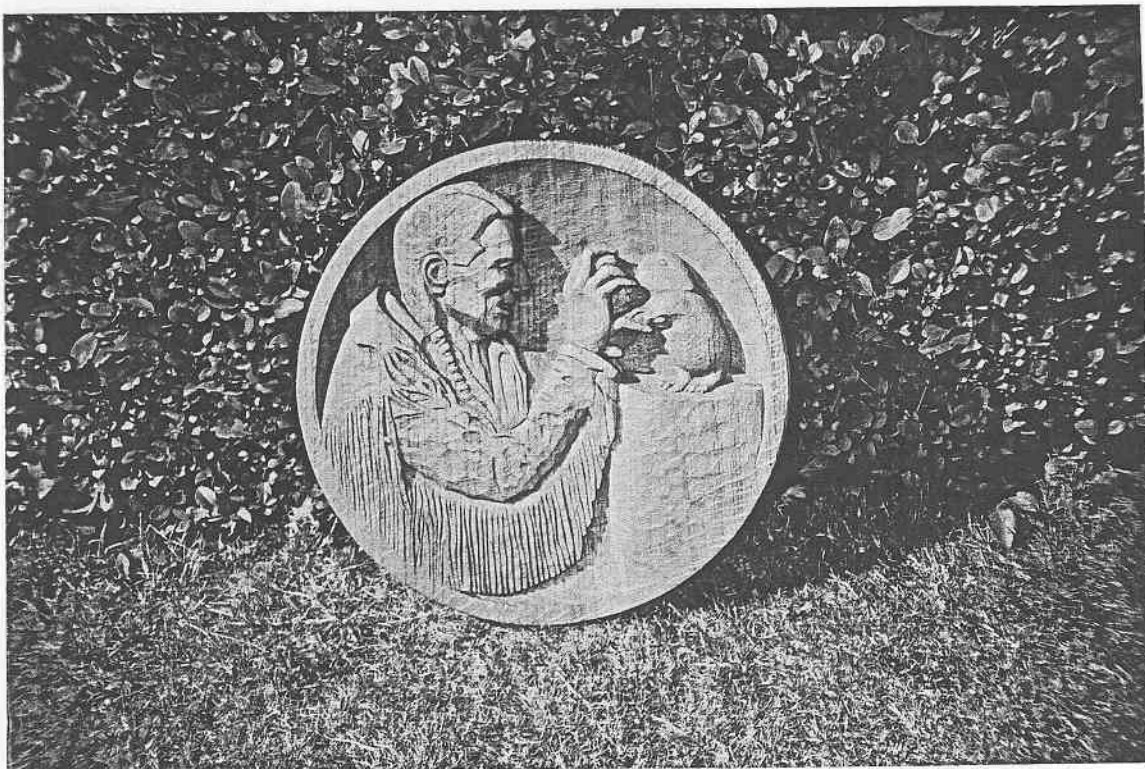
Grey Owl Golf Tournament. The tournament held at Clear Lake, Manitoba, is, apparently, still an annual event! First reported on in 1991 in Bulletin 10:5, **Tom Watrous** has again sent us a cutting from the Winnipeg Free Press for 14 June. There is a 'division' for players aged 55 and over...." The **Greyer Owls** division...". (Our thanks as usual to **Tom** for collecting the North American subs. This is a great help to our Treasurer!).

Committee Meeting. This was held at [redacted] on 11 May at 7.15 p.m. The main topic discussed was the Society's annual donation(s). There was much debate about the plight of the Sumatran Rhino and although falling outside our normal area of interest, it was thought to be a worthwhile project (see p.16). Other local projects are to be looked into. Arrangements were discussed for the local summer visit (this year to Rotherfield - see p.19). Under "Any other Business", the production of a Society post card was considered. This could be sold to members and non-members. Colin Taylor took on this idea and at the time of writing this report, the project has been completed and the Society has its own post card! (See p.3). Ralfe Whistler offered to organize the possible production of a Society lapel badge and this is an on-going project. Our new committee member, Henrietta Smyth, initiated a discussion on whether the Society should be enlarged through advertising etc. Virtually all members preferred the system we now have, in that truly interested 'fans' of G.O., eventually track the Society down; and we all agreed that it would be difficult to cope with the administration, if the Society became too big (all of us, of course, being involved in many other activities/projects etc.). However, Henrietta offered to organize a stall during Hastings Week at Hastings Museum (October 2004), which was much appreciated (see pp.13-15). Bill Van Draat will be consulted as he is on the Hastings Week Committee. Henrietta Smyth and Jenny Logan thought the idea of having an "Annual Grey Owl Lecture" would be very worthwhile. "Top quality speakers" was the emphasis and Derek Norcross and Colin Taylor were to work on this. First suggestion was Ray Mears (BBC "Survival" series) and who lives in East Sussex. Derek Norcross to make contact. Derek Norcross promised to write an up-date on the

Flimwell project that the Society supported in 2002 (Bulletin 21:10). This is included in this Bulletin (see p.22). Meeting ended around 8.45 p.m. and was followed by usual buffet supper.

AGM/Christmas Dinner, 2003. This was held as usual, on the first Friday in December, this year the 5th! Thirty-two sat down to dinner on a damp, still and fairly mild evening. There was time for conversation and news swapping, as we met at 7 p.m. for 8 p.m.! A very good "Seasonal Dinner" was served with throw-away remarks about the "excellent" Christmas pudding! The archive table was well stocked and Henrietta Smyth brought a number of interesting items and photographs of her summer visit to Canada and Grey Owl's cabin. When the coffee and mince pies arrived, Colin Taylor 'opened proceedings' by referring to some of the items in the current Bulletin. There was also reference to Timothy Treadwell's tragic death (see p.24), which instigated some debate about the unpredictability of wild animals - both Nick Mills and John Goodman giving their experiences. Betty Taylor welcomed the new members (Joanne and Richard Smith and Michael Plumbe), then gave the "Apologies". There was some general talk about the disappointment for next year's date; after 17 years, the Beauport Hotel said that they were changing plans, and the first Friday in December was no longer available for functions! After considering other venues, the decision was made to accept the date offered - the first Thursday in December! The Treasurer, Bill Van Draat, informed us that we had about £1,100 in the bank account and rounded off his Report with one of his amusing anecdotes. Jenny Logan ran the raffle which made £34 for the funds.

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY: Next year's dinner/AGM date is Thursday, 1st December.



The finely carved plaque of Grey Owl, from English oak, was made by member Bryn Oliver of Waterloooville. This was a gift to another member, Peter Ingram, who kindly sent us the photo.

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Grey Owl and his Descendants. This is the title of a forthcoming exhibition to be held in May 2006 in North Bay, Ontario (for further details, see this Bulletin: p.20).

"New GREY OWL deported again": "Smoke crosses border. Second Deportation. Authorities say he's another Grey Owl". These two headlines appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press and the Montreal Gazette (May 29) respectively. Smoke, apparently, is a "man whose case has spawned comparisons to Grey Owl" and who has a habit of crossing the border from the U.S. into Canada whilst "not being truthful about his identity"! "Immigration officials have likened him to a modern-day Grey Owl, the alias taken by an Englishman who worked as an aboriginal naturalist in Manitoba's Riding Mountain National Park". Charlie "Wolf" Smoke a.k.a. Sunkmanitu tanka Isnala Najin says he's an aboriginal man from Akwesasne Reserve in Eastern Canada. Immigration officials say he's Roger Leo Adams Jr., from Memphis, Tenn.! (Double names - there the similarity seems to end!). (Newspaper cuttings sent in by Tom Watrous and Ralfe Whistler - thanks!).

Anahareo Website. German member, Gabriel Fritzen has written to say (3.5.2004) that his Website on Anahareo www.anahareo.ca is now available "in its new makeup".

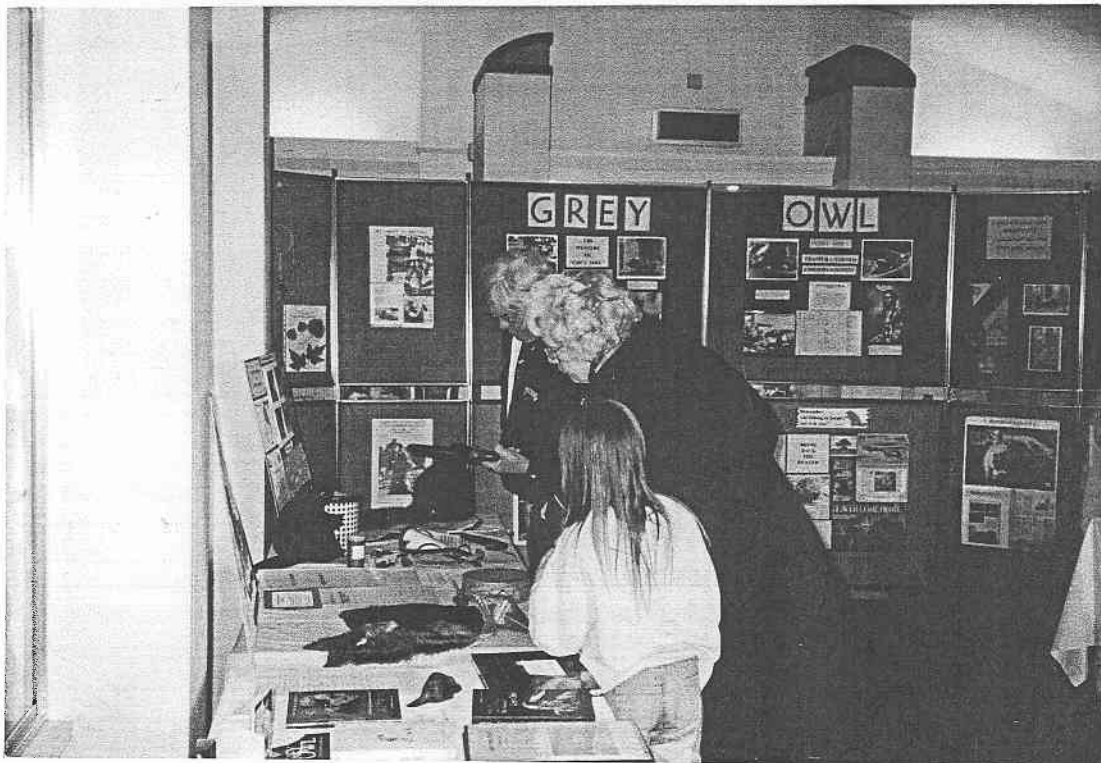
Wigwams for Grey Owl's birthday celebration

TO celebrate the anniversary of Grey Owl's birthday, members of the St James Road Neighbourhood Watch held a celebration picnic.

The picnic took place on Sunday at Alexandra Park, with

wigwams, face painting and food. Grey Owl, author and conservationist, was born Archibald Belaney on St James Road, in 1888. He moved to Canada and took on the persona of Grey Owl.

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September 24, 2004



Visitors at the Hastings Museum Exhibition. See pp. 13-15.