

THE GREY OWL SOCIETY

Bulletin No.27



Edited by Betty Taylor

Hastings. November 2008

Page		
1 -2	VICTORIA WILLIAMS – ‘Long Time’ Curator of Hastings Museum	
3 -5	Travels in North-West Ontario on the Trail of Grey Owl	Brian and Jan Lewis
6 -11	Donations to the Society (see also p.12)	
12	Tom Watrous of Winnipeg and his Travelling Beaver Tank!	Betty Taylor
13– 14	Grey Owl Society’s Annual Donations (2)	
15 – 16	Grey Owl Society’s Annual Donations 1984 - 2008	
17-18	‘Highwoods’ – the Destination of the Planned Summer Visit	Jenny Logan
19	Pett Level Preservation Trust	Betty Taylor
20 – 22	The Mississagi River – canoe trip	Brad Ryder
23	‘Sunday Observer’ : Letters Page ‘Letter of the Week’ 2 December, 2007	
24	Members’ and Friends’ Correspondence	
25 – 27	ADDENDUM to the Bibliography on Books about, or including a reference to, Grey Owl in the Society’s 21 st Special Anniversary publication	Betty Taylor
28 – 31	STOP PRESS (including obituary on Nick Mills)	
32 -33	Membership List	

VICTORIA WILLIAMS – ‘Long Time’ Curator of HASTINGS MUSEUM

As many local members will know, Victoria Williams has left Hastings Museum to take on a new challenge at Great Dixter in Northiam (a 15th century half-timbered manor house, a few miles from Hastings).

Victoria had been at Hastings Museum for thirty years – first as Assistant Curator to David Devenish¹ and then as Curator. During this time she continuously supported The Grey Owl Society and after many years brought to fruition the new extension including the Native American / Grey Owl Galleries.² Victoria (and her husband, Nick), joined the Society within twelve months of its ‘inauguration’ (which was the 30th April, 1982) and both served on the Committee until early 1986 when pressures of Museum work increased. Over the years, Victoria arranged many exhibitions and events based on Grey Owl and hosted a number of them for the Society.³ She also contributed a number of articles for the Bulletins (including one in the ‘Special Anniversary’ publication (2002) and a Chapter in Barry Johnson’s ‘Memoir’ on Colin Taylor)⁴. The Committee has been extremely grateful for all the support given by Victoria and her staff and both Nick and Victoria remain, of course, members of the Society. We wish her every success in her new venture! (Please see p. 28)

¹ David Devenish was also an enthusiastic member of the Grey Owl Society, joining in 1989. When David returned to England (after curating abroad), he became the Curator of the Wisbech & Fenland Museum in Norfolk and with the Society’s support, held a ‘Grey Owl Exhibition’ (with lecture) in the autumn of 1994. One item in the exhibition was a ‘stuffed beaver’, loaned by Brighton Museum, which was ‘gallantly carried from there to Wisbech on public transport’ by David! (See Bull.13:3).

² For a description of the ‘Official Opening of the Refurbished Hastings Museum’ on 28 July 2007, (See Bull. 26:5-7).

³ See the following Bulletins : **Bull.3:2.** A description of the ‘Opening Evening’ of the Grey Owl Exhibition, including ‘Images of Grey Owl’s Wilderness’. **Bull 7:4.** Exhibition to coincide with the Grey Owl Centenary Year events – 1988. **Bull. 8:3 & 25!** Proposal to establish a Grey Owl Centre at Hastings Museum (with illus.). **Bull. 9:22.** The publication of Museum ‘Fact Sheets’ including ‘American Indians: The Woodlands, South West, West Coast and Arctic’ including mention of Grey Owl. **Bull.14:1-9.** Descriptions / Review and outline of the ‘new’ Grey Owl and Native American Galleries, opened by Lord Attenborough (with illustrations). **Bull.22:25.** Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex – visit to Grey Owl haunts in Hastings including the Museum. **Bull.23:13-15.** ‘Hastings Week’ Grey Owl Society Exhibition – Hastings Museum, 10-11 October 2004. **Bull.23:23.** ‘Grey Owl Collection grows with 120 new Native American artefacts’ at Hastings Museum (with illus.). **Bull.26:5-9.** ‘Official Opening of the Refurbished Hastings Museum plus the Grey Owl Society Reception and Donation by Margaret Charko of the Karsh Photo (with illus.).

⁴ See the following : **Bull.2:25.** outline of the planned exhibition for 1984 ‘Images of Grey Owl’s Wilderness : An Exhibition of paintings by Bob Richardson (Grey Owl’s and Anahareo’s son-in-law) at Hastings Museum. **Bull.3:3-4.** ‘Two Exhibitions About Grey Owl at Hastings Museum’. An outline of the Exhibition described above (May 26th to June 17th, 1984) and the first visit to Hastings of Grey Owl’s and Anahareo’s daughter, Dawn, with husband Bob. **Bull.13:1.** ‘New Grey Owl Display at Hastings Museum’.

Cont.....

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Bull.19:12. 'The Making of Richard Attenborough's GREY OWL : An Exhibition at Hastings Museum. October - December 2000'. **Bull.25:21-22.** 'Update on the Hastings Museum / Refurbishment / Extension : New North American Indian & Grey Owl Galleries'. **The Grey Owl Society 21st Anniversary Special 2002 Edition:** 43-46. 'Grey Owl's Family Background. Exhibits belonging to Ada and Carrie Belaney and Ivy Holmes at the Hastings Museum'.

Colin Taylor : Ethnologist of the Plains Indians. A memoir 1937 – 2004.

Edited by member Barry C. Johnson : A chapter (pp.82 – 86) 'Colin Taylor and the Hastings Museum'.



Victoria Williams (right) with Dr Hugh Dempsey and his wife, Pauline. Hugh Dempsey (a friend for very many years of Colin Taylor and Ian West), was Director of History at the Glenbow-Alberta Institute of Calgary and is Chief Curator Emeritus of The Glenbow Museum. Hugh, at Colin's request, kindly tracked down several of the replica items now in the Grey Owl Cabin at Hastings Museum (see Victoria's article, 'New Grey Owl Display at Hastings Museum' in Bulletin 13:1). Photo by Colin Taylor, June 1998.

**Travels in North-West Ontario on the Trail of Grey Owl
Brian and Jan Lewis**

In the summer of 2006, we made an extended visit to Ontario to visit with friends. Our host, a retired Mountie who patrolled widely in North-West Ontario in the 1950s and 1960s, took us on a journey away from the regular tourist areas into the remote land of lakes and forests where the Grey Owl saga began.

We visited Mattawa and Temagami, both familiar names to Grey Owl aficionados and virtually unchanged since the days of Grey Owl, plus the Marten River Provincial Park, which lies midway between the two towns, but we were disappointed to find no publicity or information whatever relating to Grey Owl, apart from a typed advert for a 'Grey Owl Festival' pinned to the wall of a ranger's hut! The ranger was quite knowledgeable about Grey Owl, but everywhere else people just shook their heads whenever we asked, and there seemed to be no knowledge of the remarkable man who had lived and worked in the area, let alone any celebration of him.

For us, the pleasure was in seeing places mentioned in the Grey Owl books, and relating them to passages in the books, but we felt that the inhabitants of the area didn't seem to care, and that they were missing a golden opportunity to learn about and publicise one of the area's most colourful historic characters. There is more information on the man in the museums and libraries of Ottawa, four hundred miles away, than there is locally, which is a great shame.

The enclosed photos are not of anything special, but we hope they give a feeling for the beautiful country where Grey Owl's adventure began.

N.B It is always good to receive an item for the Bulletin from new members and we thank Brian and Jan for sending in 'their' story. Note that their visit was in 2006, but as they travelled in 'summer', they missed the events 'celebrating Anahareo's life' held at the Mattawa Historical Society and Museum on the 17th June. (See the caption to the Mattawa photo on the next page. The 'refurbishment' was probably dismantling(?) the Anahareo/Grey Owl exhibition). See also Bulls. 23:20; 24:31 and particularly 25:8-10.

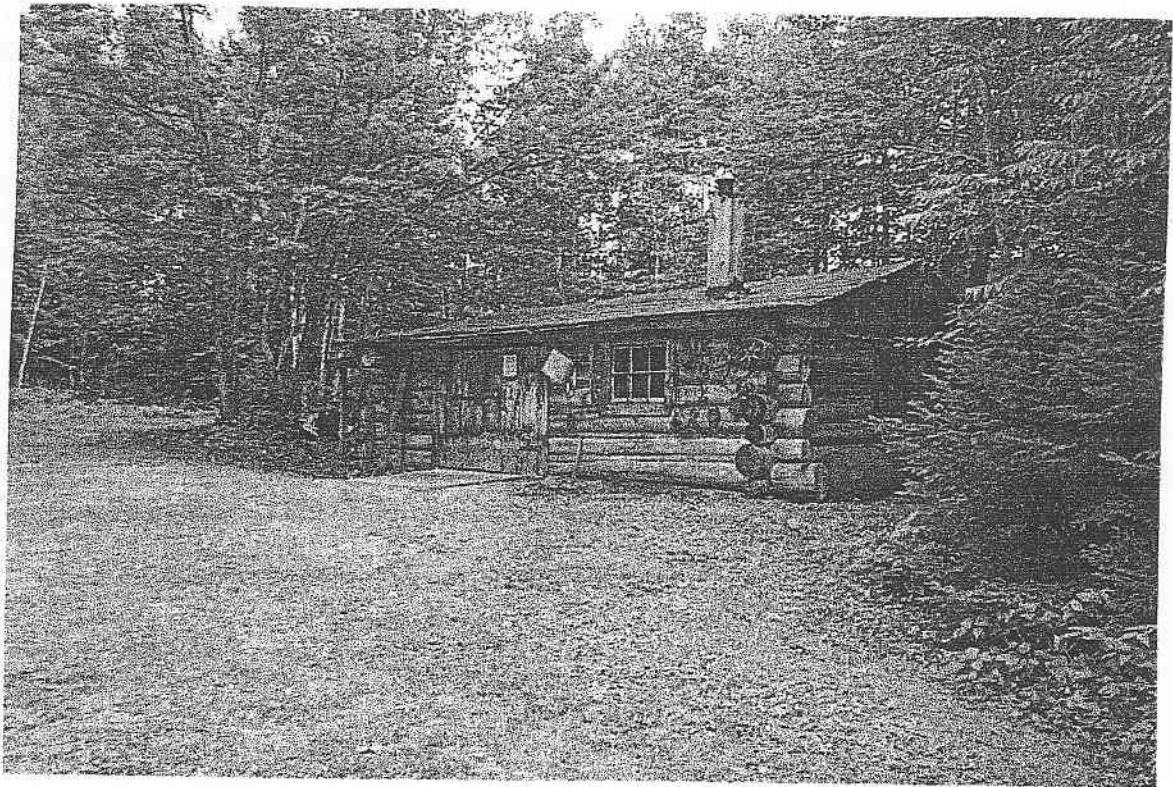
See also the caption to the Marten River p.4. It would be interesting if one of our Canadian members from the region could find out if the cairn and plaque still exist. Perhaps they could be reinstated?!



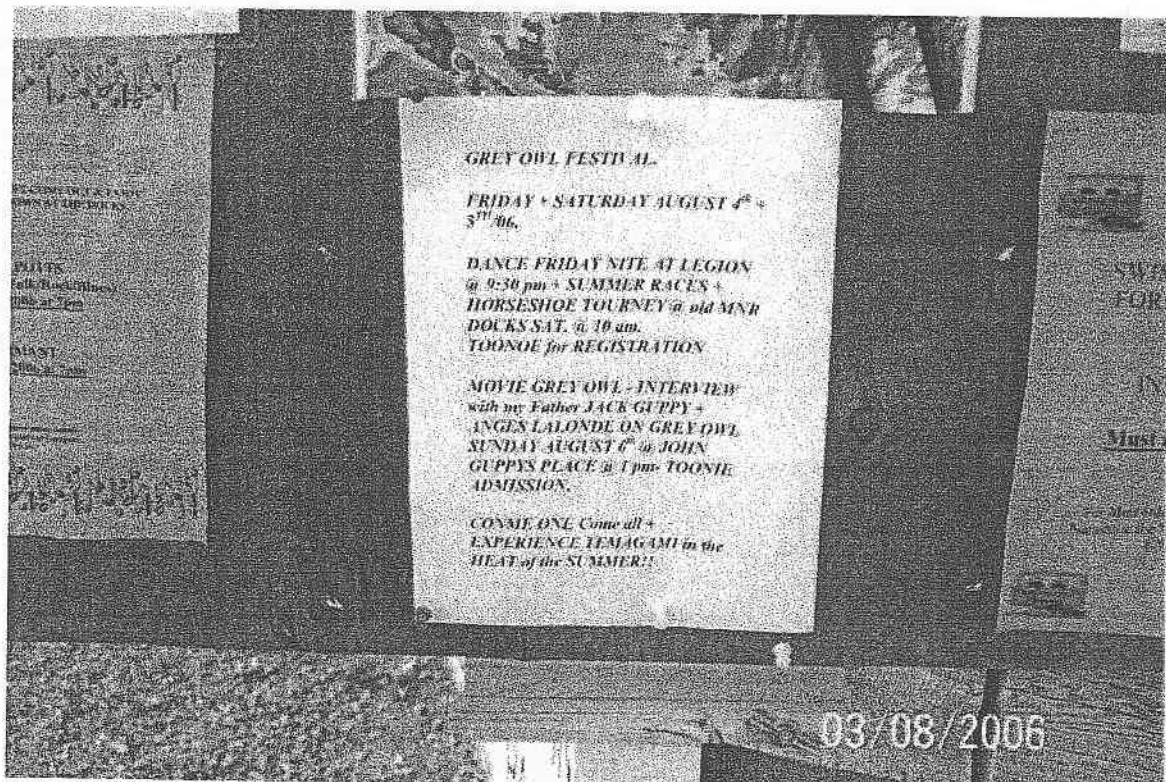
The village of Mattawa, North-Western Ontario, on the banks of the Ottawa River, where Anahareo lived and Grey Owl visited to court her. Even today it's a mainly Native American village. There was a small museum and information centre that held some Grey Owl information, but it was closed for refurbishment when we were there.



Marten River, between Mattawa and Temagami. Grey Owl trapped beaver around here in his early days. In the 1960s there was a cairn and plaque to commemorate him next to the bridge from which this picture was taken, but it was removed when the bridge was rebuilt and nobody knows what happened to it.



This is a loggers' cabin in the Marten River Provincial Park, which it is said Grey Owl stayed in when trapping in the Marten River nearby. It is preserved for park visitors to see but there is no mention of Grey Owl inside.



The only mention of Grey Owl in the whole area! This notice was on a board outside the Marten River park ranger's office. A 'Toonie' is a 2-Dollar coin!

DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY

We are, as usual, very grateful to those members who make donations – small or large – towards the Society's costs and projects, including Alison and Duncan Hawkins, Margaret Wolley, Cathy Carpenter, Brad Ryder, Chris James and especially Jenny Phiri and Margaret Charko. We are also appreciative of the little extra added by many members to their sub. cheques!

Robert Mucci has donated a very interesting article written by Grey Owl entitled 'To All Boys and Girls the World Over. A Message from Grey Owl'. This is included in Vol.X, 1934-1936 of COUNTRY-SIDE edited by Richard Morse and published by Knapp, Drewett & Sons Ltd., of Kingston-on-Thames (1936). This hardback book is a compendium of the magazines issued for those years. The magazines were 'The Official Organ of the British Empire Naturalists' Association' (B.E.N.A). The article is on pp.408-409 with three illustrations. The 'Message' was apparently first published in TEACHERS' WORLD. The Editor's note adds that 'the B.E.N.A will always be grateful to Grey Owl for his great work in defending and protecting the beavers and other creatures which he loves...'. **This is probably quite rare** as I cannot see this article listed in Don Smith's comprehensive Bibliography (From the Land of Shadows. Western Producer Prairie Books, Saskatchen. 1990). A good addition to the archives!

Robert has also donated a copy of **Guardians of the Wild** by M.B. Williams, published in 1936 by Thomas Nelson and Sons Ltd. This is an interesting book describing Canada's National Parks. There is mention of Grey Owl on p.133: 'Prince Albert Park was a natural home for beaver, and when a few years ago the Government discovered Grey Owl endeavouring under almost insuperable difficulties to conserve these intelligent animals in a region in eastern Canada where hunters continually threatened to defeat his efforts, it offered him the protection of Prince Albert National Park. Here he was given the lordship of a small but beautiful lake, and here he has been carrying on his happy experiments in the domestication of beaver, the story of which has interested the world'. This is a truly good addition to the archives as we had not heard of this book before and it is one of the earliest in our collection. (It is not to be confused with **Wardens of the Wild** by T.C. Bridges, published in 1937). This has been added to the Addendum of books mentioning Grey Owl. (See p. 25).
(Also note p.26 – year 2000).

Dagmara Ginter has sent in a copy of 'Group Travel Organiser' (Issue 186, October 2007) which is 'The UK's leading magazine for GTO'S'. In this issue (pp.33-35) there is an article 'Make a Reservation: Visiting North America can be more than just big city experiences and dramatic landscapes. There's a whole historic culture to discover amongst the Native American Indians' written by Dagmara. She covers various events including the Crow Fair and Rodeo in August; the Lodgepole Gallery and Tipi Village near Browning, Montana; The Museum of the Cherokee Indian in North Carolina amongst a number of others. There is also an 'inset' entitled 'Closer to Home' with a photo of the display at **Hastings Museum**: 'For those staying in the UK, July saw the re-opening of Hastings Museum and Art Gallery... after a long period of refurbishment and the Museum now boasts three Native American galleries: Grey Owl and the Indians of Grey Owl's Canada, the Great Plains Indians and the Subartic'. There is also mention of the burial site of Pocahontas at Gravesend and the Native American collection in the British Museum. Good for Hastings and the Museum to have more publicity!

Ian West has donated another two original HIAWATHA souvenir programmes.

(a) for the performance held at the Royal Albert Hall in June 1930 and

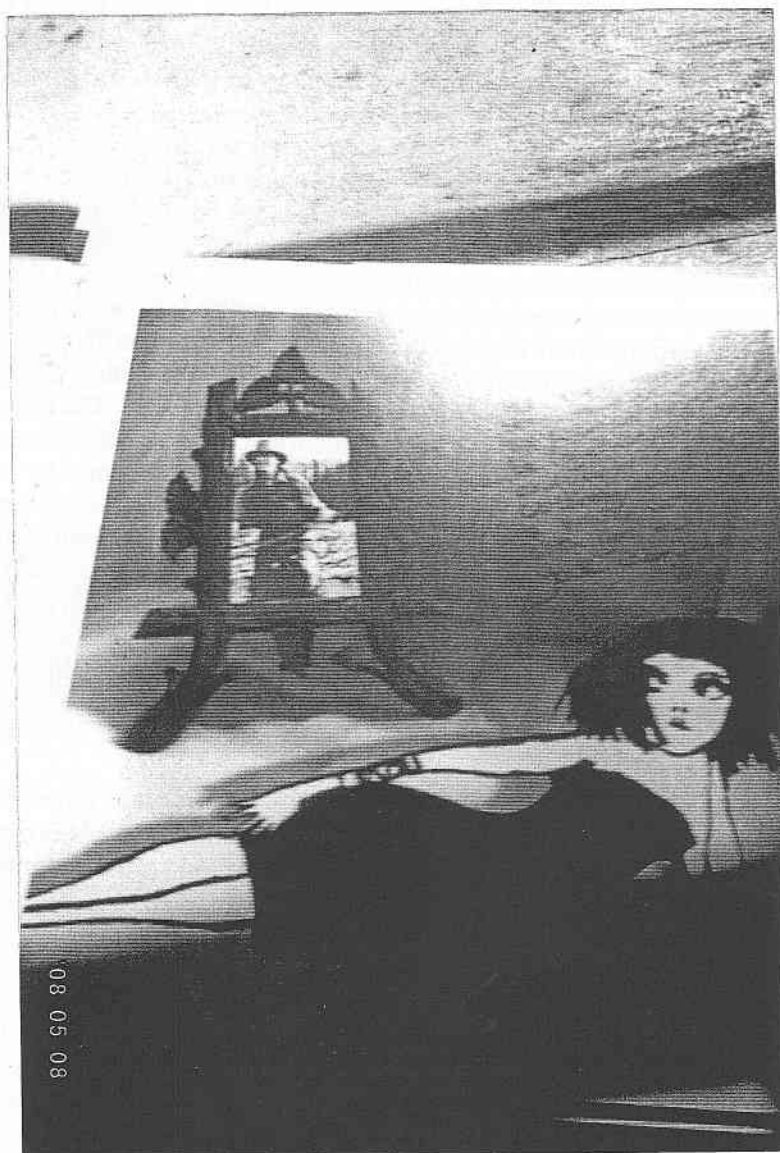
(b) for the performance held at the Central Hall, Southampton, in 1934.

There is a photo of Chief Os-ke-non-ton (who played the Medicine Man) in both issues. On the cover of the Southampton programme is a photo of an 'oil painting of a Sioux Indian – Paul 'Stranger Horse' whose photograph appeared on the 14 cent U.S stamp 1923'. 'Oske', together with the first President of the Grey Owl Society, 'Ted' Blackmore, made the eagle feather warbonnet that Grey Owl wore at his lectures. (For further details, see Bulls. 1:7-8 : 25:15 : 26:11). The 1930 programme is **the earliest copy we have in the archives**.

Ian has also given a beaver's tooth! We thought that member, Henrietta Smyth might be able to make use of this, when giving her talks to the Beaver Scout Groups! The size of the tooth is impressive.

DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY cont...

Josephine Halbert has sent the Society, a copy of her book **Time Travel Boyfriends** which accompanied a montage for an exhibition she was involved with last year (see Bull.26:13). The book can be described as evoking 'the vivid fantasy and hopeless longing' of teenage girls! Miss Halbert has invented her own 'Time Travel Dating Agency' choosing a list of 'inspiring but very dead men'! There's a great range from film stars (Marlon Brando and Robert Donat for example) to the engineer Brunel, the poet Robert Browning and the conservationist, **Grey Owl**! The eleven men included have a small biography with their photo in an appropriate frame with short hand-written wishes, i.e. 'Dear Grey Owl. We could have been whoever we wanted to be together... and I'd have certainly spent a winter or two with you in your cabin...'. She did consider including Crazy Horse but added 'would I really want to live in a tepee in the American mid-west in those winters?'. Of G.O. she writes 'I can imagine sharing his cabin with a few well loved classics to read by the log fire and staring up at the stars together beyond the giant trees from his canoe'. The book is dedicated to the 'Unknown Man' and includes a 'Thank You' to various libraries and individuals including 'Betty Taylor of the Grey Owl Society'. It's a fun volume and beautifully produced. Josephine Halbert donated £50 to the Society funds, as mentioned in last year's Bulletin. (Published by Zed Said, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear.2007).



DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY cont ...

John Gregg of York, Maine, has sent an excellent book for the archives. **The Keewaydin Way: The Story of the World's Oldest Canoe-trip Camp.** Written/compiled by Brian Back as A Roy Waters Scholarship Fund Project and published in 2004. The Keewaydin Way is divided into over 70 sections, runs to over 400 pages (pp.249-250 are headed Grey Owl, though there are references to him on many other pages). Brian Back discovered that Archie had been hired as a guide at Keewaydin in the summers of 1910 and 1911 and Back sent his findings to Don Smith as 'historians had not known what Grey Owl had been doing those two summers'! Apparently, Belaney excelled at canoe trips but was described 'as a near disaster as a trapper'.

For anyone interested in canoeing, this book is a must! We thank John for drawing our attention to it and especially for sending this copy for the archives.

(This book was reviewed in CHE-MUN: The Journal of Canadian Wilderness Canoeing, Summer 2007 and described as 'an impressive piece of work' with reference to Back's research on Grey Owl).

Don Smith has sent in three newspaper items of interest. (1) An article entitled 'Journeys 5,000 Miles to Visit Grey Owl in His Own Environment'. This was published in the **Saskatoon Star-Phoenix** on 24 September 1936. The article describes 'Mrs. Leslie Sommervell's (sic) visit to Beaver Lodge. Don probably looked out this article for us because in last year's Bulletin (pp.22-23), we included a copy of Betty Sommervell's **Letter Home**, describing her fascination and enjoyment of this 'First Visit to Beaver Lodge'. She told the reporter that 'even a single day at Beaver Lodge on Lake Ajawaan... would have justified the long journey'. When Grey Owl lectured near Kendal, Lancashire (the home of the Sommervell family), they made arrangements for him and his party to stay at their house where G.O. 'enjoyed a much needed rest free from intrusion by autograph-seekers and the press'. On that first U.K lecture tour, Betty S. said that G.O. received 'thousands of fan letters in several different languages'. She thought this reception 'quite unbelievable'. The reporter described her as a 'charming English lady' who thought that 'Grey Owl, his books and his lecture tour did more to make Britain Canada - conscious than any other single individual...'. (2) a page from the **Calgary Herald** for December 8, 2007: 'Regina author wins award for children's book on Grey Owl'. This book was Lori Punshon's **He Who Flies By Night: The Story of Grey Owl** which was described in last year's Bulletin (p.14). It won the 'bronze in the multicultural non-fiction category at the first annual Moonbeam Children's Book Awards'. The award was presented by the Jenkins Group and Independent Publisher Online and 'intended to honour and bring increased recognition to children's books and their creators'. There were, apparently, 862 entries submitted throughout North America and internationally. The ceremony was held in November at the Harold Washington Public Library in Chicago as part of the 2007 Children's Humanities Festival. (Members who attended the Dinner/A.G.M. in December 2007, may remember seeing a copy of this book on the 'archive table')! (3) a small article from the Chicago Daily Tribune of 19 February, 1938: 'Apache Who Riled British Pays Visit to Talk'. G.O 'conservation officer for the Canadian government stopped off briefly in Chicago on 18 February on his way from Detroit to Kenosha on his North American lecture tour.

Don Smith has sent us two more **First Day Covers**. These stamps were issued in 1988 (the centenary of Grey Owl's birth).they came out on the 1st June 'to coincide with Canada's Environment Week... in recognition of Grey Owl's work' (see Bull. 7:33). Thanks to Don for these extras.

DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY cont ...

John Gregg has sent in more interesting and useful material for the archives.

(i) The book/catalogue **The Angele Egwuna Project: Grey Owl and his Descendants** which accompanied the exhibition of the same name, referred to in Bulletins 25:6-7 and 26:12. There are photos of several paintings on a Grey Owl theme by Arlie Hoffman: a letter from G.O's grandson, Albert Lalonde, who tragically died last September (2007): and two 'family trees' – 'The Known Descendants of Archibald Stansfeld 'Grey Owl' Belaney' and 'The Known Descendants of Angele Egwuna'. (ii) An obituary on Albert Lalonde (mentioned above) from the North Bay Nugget for December 1, 2007. The author, Maurice Switzer writes 'I never met anyone who was any prouder of his native heritage than Albert...'. (iii) Xerox copy of 'Greeting Grey Owl', a photo taken in 1932 when Ronald Schmidt, a musician, a Mountie and a crew from the National Film Board, made a surprise visit to Ajawaan Lake (reproduced in **The Beaver**, December 2007 – January 2008, p.62). (iv) **Just Passing Through: The People and Places north of Matachewan** by Frank Holley (The Highway Book Shop, Cobalt, Ontario.1988). A xerox extract from this book from chapter 8 'Mineral Occurrences'. P.39 refers to the Ashley gold rush of late 1930 and early 1931 when Anahareo 'Pony' was one of the prospectors. 'Pony 'Grey Owl's beautiful Indian wife... brought a ray of sunshine to this area for a few months in 1931'. This was at the time when the Canadian Government 'was in the process of moving them from the Touladi area of Quebec to Riding Mountain National Park...'. (v) **The North Bay Nugget** (Ontario) dated Wednesday, April 13, 1938. This is a copy of the original edition (published by **The Nugget** on April 26, 2008!). According to John, **The Nugget** periodically publishes 'an historical front page on a section otherwise filled with advertising'. There is a photo of Grey Owl and the heading 'Grey Owl Death May Bring Suit'. Angele is described as 'a comely Ojibway maiden'. It is good to have this copy – even though it is only the front page – as we do not have a copy of the original edition in the archives.

Both Cathy Carpenter of Little Clacton and **Margaret Wolley** of Bexhill have sent us the article entitled 'Viva The Beaver!', from the Daily Mail for June 21st. Two beavers – originally from Bavaria – have been released into a two-acre site on the Escot Estate at Ottery St. Mary, Devon. They are in fine fettle and very busy, having just built a dam 'immaculately constructed', 3 feet high and 6 feet across in just over a fortnight!! Many thanks to both Cathy and Margaret and these articles will go in our 'Beaver File' which gets thicker every year!

DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY cont ...

Audrey Sanderson, Administrator for Friends of the Park PANP has generously sent an interesting package for the archives. This includes the book **Trail Guide: Prince Albert National Park** by Shanna D. Frith, published by the Friends in 1997. Details are given of 18 Trails including, of course, the **Grey Owl Trail** (an Overnight Hike), on pp.51-55. G.O. is described as the 'renowned conservationist' and this booklet is a 'must' for anyone thinking of tackling the hike – very detailed instructions, historic notes and descriptions of fauna and flora and strict advice on how to act if you meet a black bear! In the package also, was a gift of their 'Grey Owl' T-shirt (100% Heavyweight Cotton); the colour is beige with the 'Prince Albert National Park' logo on the front and Grey Owl with his words 'Remember you belong to Nature, not it to you' on the reverse (see p.18). (See also the next listing, item (iii). We are very grateful to the Friends for these additions.

Betty Taylor has donated: (i) a small **fresco** of Grey Owl by the Turkish artist, Turel Sut, a 'Fresco specialist'. Turel held an exhibition at St. Mary in the Castle, Hastings, during Old Town week in August and all the exhibits had a Hastings theme 'depicting events or people who have had a significant impact on the town such as... John Logie Baird... and Grey Owl...'. Turel studied fine art at Dokuz Eylul University in Turkey and studied under Professor Zeki Karcioylus. There was one other small fresco of Grey Owl in the exhibition, which had already been sold to one of the town's Councillors, Kevin Boorman. On the small information panel alongside these frescos, Turel wrote that although he knew that Grey Owl was not an Indian – as he had portrayed – he still very much admired his conservation work. Turel now lives and has a workshop in Hastings. The exhibition was entitled **Hastings Delight** and was listed in the Old Town Carnival Week programme (August 2-10) and the Hastings and St.Leonards Observer for August 1st. (See photo next page).

(ii) A copy of **Entirely Up to You, Darling** (Hutchinson, London. 2008). This is Richard Attenborough's autobiography written jointly with Diana Hawkins, a friend and colleague 'for nearly fifty years'. Diana Hawkins describes how the Grey Owl film got underway saying it was her 'most testing project' (p.251) and Richard Attenborough tells of his visit to Grey Owl's lecture in Leicester in the 1930s, with his brother, David, who 'of course, was only interested in the animals – the lecture was all about baby beaver' (p.252). The making of the film **Grey Owl**, described as a 'tough shoot' is discussed on pp.251-254 and 267-270 and there is a small photo of Pierce Brosnan as G.O. in Indian regalia in the photo section.

(iii) Three T-Shirts from PANP (see 'Audrey Sanderson' above) including their new Anahareo shirt (this is 100% cotton but in a moss green instead of the beige). There were some spare Canadian dollars brought back from Colin's last trip so it seemed a good idea to buy the T-Shirts. (Any member interested can contact Audrey Sanderson at PANP to confirm size/price etc.).

Brad Ryder has sent an interesting book for the archives, entitled **Beaver Tales** by Audrey Tournay, published by Boston Mills Press, Ontario in 2003. The book is divided into six 'chapters' and on the first page of Chapter I is the line 'Beavers are basic to a healthy wilderness'. Audrey Tournay has spent over thirty years rescuing and raising beaver kits and successfully reintroducing them into the wild. The author operates the Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary near the Muskoka Lakes and her stories are delightful from 'Swampy' the first beaver at the Sanctuary to playful 'Quibble'! There are references to Grey Owl; '... recently, people have begun to realise that in many ways Grey Owl was a great man' (p.103). There are other references and stories on pp.104 and 114. We are pleased to add this to our library as we had not heard of this book before.

DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY cont...

Dr. Naila Clerici from Torino, Italy (an 'old' friend/colleague of Colin), has sent a review of the Attenborough film *GREY OWL*, published in an Italian magazine **Tepee: Comitato Di Solidarieta Con I Popoli Nativi Americani** (No.34:2008). The review originally appeared in the **Budapest Sun** (April 20-26, 2000) and was called 'Two Beavers and a Butthead' written by Lucy Mallows and translated into Italian by Sabrina Mangiaferro. In turn, the Italian was kindly translated into English by a friend of Betty Taylor and Ralfe Whistler – Micky Staemose of Battle! The introduction to the review points out some useful statistics ('It won the Genie Awards 2000 for costumes by Renee April in the Jutra Awards – the equivalent of the Oscar for Quebec, where part of it was filmed...') and explains why Richard Attenborough wanted to make the film. Naila then goes on to criticise the very poor review by Lucy Mallows, 'a journalist' who described Pierce Brosnan as 'sadly out of place... with a ridiculous headdress...'. Mallows does add that 'the entry on the scene of two small beavers introduces an element of comedy into two long hours of boredom...'. There is hardly a good word in the review. (The translations in the quotation marks may not be an exact copy of the Italian). We are always pleased to see the reviews, good or bad; it has to be said that there was a lot of criticism of the film but mainly because of the casting. Most of the reviews praised highly the photography of the Canadian scenery and the Hastings scenes. (We seem to have amassed over fifty reviews of the film from the UK, Canada, America, Spain, Poland, Hungary and Italy!

Marion Purdey has donated an interesting article for the archives: 'Grey Owl Wrote This Story: Nature Drama by the 'Red Indian' who was really an Englishman all the time'. We do not appear to have another copy in the archives. (According to member, Arthur Andrews, this is from The Daily Express for April 21st, 1938).

Tom Watrous – see next page for Tom's unusual "donation".



Fresco by Turel Sut – see previous page.

Tom Watrous of Winnipeg and his Travelling Beaver Tank!

Tom* has always had a very 'special' interest in Grey Owl – he has researched in great detail, the portable tanks that were used to transport Jelly Roll and Rawhide. In Bulletin 10:3, Tom wrote about how he commissioned two replica beaver tanks (slightly scaled down), one of which he donated for the cabin in Riding Mountain National Park in Manitoba and the other he kept to use at his lectures (it had not been possible to locate the original tanks either at Riding Mountain or Prince Albert National Parks). This year, Tom decided to donate 'his' beaver tank together with 'various props and data pertinent to G.O.'s westward train journeys in 1931' to the archives of The Grey Owl Society. It is hoped that the tank can find a home in the cabin in **Hastings Museum** (this will be discussed with the new Curator next year) and perhaps also be used at lectures over here (such as Henrietta Smyth's talks to Beaver Scouts). The tank comes with a large 'label' explaining that it was made by John Bonnet of Winnipeg and describing how it was used. In the archives, we have copies of the following:

'Journey to Ajawaan'. September 1990

'A Mid-Winter Visit to Grey Owl's Riding Mountain Cabin'. January 1992

Both by Tom and published in the Manitoba Naturalists Society Bulletins. Together with his in-depth study (6 April 1992) 'Observations, Thoughts, and Theories Following Visits to Grey Owl's Riding Mountain Cabin, 4 September, 14 October, and 10 December, 1991' which includes details and diagrams on 'Grey Owl's Funnel-Spout System': 'A Theoretical Beaver Census, Beaver Lodge Lake, RMNP – Summer of 1931': 'Grey Owl's Beaver Tank Systems – 1931. A Brief Overview': and 'Misc. Measurements and Statistics Grey Owl's Cabin, RMNP'. There are also a number of 35mm transparencies in the archives, relating to the 'travelling tank display at Riding Mountain National Park'. (For further information and photos of Tom with the tank, see Bulletins 10:3 and 11:5). We are very pleased to add the tank and all the appropriate data to The Grey Owl Society archives – especially as Tom insisted on paying for the 'exorbitant' shipping costs! Our thanks!

* Tom is a cellist with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and Cambrian String Quartet and also acts as our North American treasurer!

Society's Annual Donation

Brent Lodge Bird & Wildlife Trust
(Brent Lodge Wildlife Hospital)

At the Committee Meeting held on 31st March, it was decided to support two ventures this year, one the Brent Lodge Bird & Wildlife Trust at Sidlesham, Chichester, West Sussex (see also p.14).

The trust was founded in 1978 and its main emphasis is 'dedicated to the treatment, rehabilitation and release of sick and injured wild birds and small animals'.

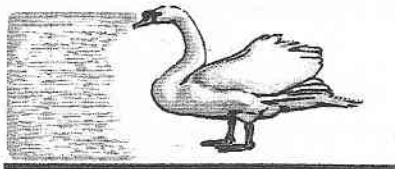
Brent Lodge is a registered charity which depends 'entirely upon voluntary help and donations' and as it is situated in the South East of England, we felt that it was a suitable cause for The Grey Owl Society.

When sending the Society's **cheque for £250** in April, we asked if it would be possible to support a 'specific' venture. Paulette Hackett, the Administrator, wrote a letter thanking the Society for its 'kind and generous donation' and added: 'We most certainly will be using your donation towards our latest projects... building a number of new pond aquaries for recuperating water birds, plus a pool for wild birds who fly into the site.. We need these things most urgently so your donation will be going towards them'.

One interesting and encouraging piece of information in a 'Newsletter' issued from one of the Trust's Vice-Presidents, the naturalist and broadcaster Chris Packham, is the fact that 'Whilst many of our classic countryside birds are suffering huge declines, the great tit population is up by 59% and the greater spotted woodpeckers by 161%!

For members who would like further information, their website is:

www.brentlodge.org



Brent Lodge Wildlife Hospital,

Cow Lane,

Sidlesham, CHICHESTER,

West Sussex.

PO20 7LN

B.T.

**Society's Second Annual Donation
Highwoods Preservation Society
Preserving Britain's Woodland Heritage**

At the Committee Meeting held on 31st March, it was decided to support two ventures this year – for outline of the first, see previous page – the second donation being made to the Highwoods Preservation Society, Cooden/Bexhill, a short distance from Hastings. The Highwoods Society was formed in 1980 so has been working for over twenty-five years to maintain and care for this beautiful and peaceful area which extends to around eighty-seven acres. Four members of the Society walked along two or three of the designated trails, in June (see pp.17-18) and Jenny Logan has described some of the flora and fauna.

The woods and ponds attract a wide variety of species including kingfishers near the ponds, bee-eaters and pale tussock moth caterpillars – apparently a highlight because this sighting in 2007 was the first record of these moths in the area (their Newsletter for Winter-Spring 2008 mentions that they were often found, years ago, in the hop fields). A number of small plaques are sited in the woods and we plan to have one with some words of Grey Owl's (probably 'You are tired with civilization, I come and offer you what? A single green leaf').* we are hoping to arrange another visit for members next spring or summer (to replace the visit that sadly had to be cancelled this year – see p.17) and it has been suggested that the plaque be 'unveiled' at that time.

Highwoods is a registered charity (No. 282289) and relies on donations to continue its dedicated preservation work. In consequence, we sent a cheque for £150 in October and their President, Alan Malpass, replied thanking us for our "very generous donation", adding that 'We are very fortunate with the support we get from the community, not only is this such an encouragement to those of us involved with the maintenance of the woods it also highlights the regard the woods are held in'.

For more information, visit their website – www.highwoodsbexhill.org.uk

*Or 'Remember, you belong to nature, not it to you'

DONATIONS MADE BY THE GREY OWL SOCIETY

1984	The Canadian Diabetic Association. (Grey Owl's and Anahareo's daughter, Dawn, was diabetic and died on her first trip to Hastings in 1984).	£25
	Mallydams Wildlife Sanctuary, Fairlight (hut for injured mammals)	£112
1985	Rye Harbour Nature Reserve (towards a new Information Board)	£100
	Hastings, Battle and Rye WATCH Group (Junior off-shoot of Sussex Trust for Nature Conservation)	£50
1987	St. Helen's Woods, Hastings (planting of a 6' oak tree together with a bronze plaque – dedicated to Grey Owl)	approx £100
1988	Centenary Year of Grey Owl's birth. Various events including the planting of maple tree with plaque at William Parker School (which replaced the old Hastings Grammar School of Archie's day)	?
1989	Hastings Urban Conservation Project (HUCP)	£100
1990	Hastings 2000 'National Environment Week' (Minnis Rock Cave- clearing site and erecting bench with plaque)	£100
	Programme for Belize (fight to save tropical rain forests – this fell outside our normal range but was a special appeal by our Treasurer)	£250
1991	Waskesiu Community Hall, Prince Albert National Park (stained glass window to Grey Owl)	£100
1992	Prince Albert National Park (replica of G.O.'s tomahawk for the proposed Grey Owl museum & visitor centre).	?
	Drusilla's Park, Alfriston (towards a replica of Grey Owl's cabin)	£100
1993	Hastings Country Park (Grey Owl Plaque)	£150
1995	Hastings Museum: New North American Indian/Grey Owl Galleries (replica of Grey Owl's tomahawk)	?
1997	32 St. James' Road, Hastings (Plaque on Grey Owl's birthplace)	£169
	Sierra Legal Defence Fund: (Fighting to protect the last old-growth Forests in Temagami, Ontario)	Canadian Dollars \$ 500
1998	IFAW: International Fund for Animal Welfare (aiming to put an end to steel jaw leghold traps)	£200
1999	C P R E (Council for the Protection of Rural England)	£200
	The Grey Owl Nature Trust (formerly, the Rivers and Lakes Foundation Of Canada)	£200
2000	Wildwood, Nr. Herne Bay, Kent (re-introduction of beaver to the UK)	£200
2001	The Woodland Trust, Kent (planting of two trees under the Society's name at the Hucking Estate)	£200
	South Saxons Wetlands, Hastings (towards a new information board)	£100
2002	Woodland Enterprise, Flimwell (to develop the woodland and timber-related educational work at Flimwell)	£500
	Unexpected Wildlife Refuge, New Jersey, USA (to support the work of The Beaver Defenders founded in 1970)	US Dollars \$100
	Grizzly People (Timothy Treadwell's work with Alaskan grizzlies: tragically Timothy was mauled to death by them in October 2003.	US Dollars \$100

Cont...

DONATIONS MADE BY THE GREY OWL SOCIETY cont...

2003 Powdermill Trust, Rotherfield, East Sussex (the Trust helps to conserve Wildlife and to safeguard natural landscapes)	£200
Pestalozzi Village Trust (to support one of their students, Ray Kavuzya From Zambia, who had won the Earthwatch Young Environmentalist Award (2002), from work he had done at South Saxons Wetlands, Hastings (see 2001) and who needed help with funding)	£60
2004 'Save the Rhino' Fund (outside the Society's normal range but the Committee felt it was given in the spirit of G.O's concern for endangered Species) Our treasurer, Bill Van Draat and his wife, Margaret, hosted a private Fund Raising event at their home, , which raised the astonishing amount of £5,000!	£100
2005 The Woodland Trust (Victory Wood Appeal, Kent)	£540
Wildwood Trust, near Herne Bay, Kent (towards a new beaver enclosure) We also made a donation in 2000	£400
2007 People's Trust for Endangered Species (their work with the water vole, 'one of the UK's most rapidly declining mammals')	£300
Pett Preservation Trust (for a bench made from 'forestry waste': this Donation delayed from 2006)	£400
2008 Brent Lodge Bird & Wildlife Trust (see p. 13)	£250
Highwoods Preservation Society, Bexhill (see p. 14)	£150

It is amazing that our fairly small Society has been able to donate almost £6,000 to these various conservation projects and it is only because of members' generosity, that this has been achieved. The reason for listing these projects, is to bring our more recent members up to date and to say 'thank you'.

'Highwoods' – the destination of the Planned Summer Visit

As the members who 'signed up' for the summer activity this year (twenty five plus) already know, the visit had to be cancelled at the last minute. As I was away at the time, I asked committee member, JENNY LOGAN, to write a few lines for the Bulletin and her description follows.

Owing to the sudden illness of our Treasurer, Bill Van Draat, the visit to Highwoods, (Cooden/Bexhill) and the Bar-B-Q back at Bill and Margaret's home, had to be cancelled at the last minute. I rang round the members who I had on my list, but in case someone had been missed out, Adrian Barak and myself went along to the appointed meeting place. We arrived to find two members, Pat Held and Norman Epton, who had slipped through the net! Fortunately, neither had travelled far, and so it seemed a good idea to do a walk anyway – just the four of us.

It turned out to be a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon – a little breezy. Just right for a walk in the woods. None of us had been to Highwoods before, so we knew little about it. The woods are interesting, natural and unspoiled and there were several other visitors and a couple of families with a picnic.

The Board in the car park outlines three or four different routes to walk and a 'horse trail' that goes around the outside edge. Each trail is marked in a different colour and the distance given. We picked the shortest – half a mile – as we didn't know how long that would take! We set off along the Humphrey Smith Trail (which is also marked as the 'Disabled Route'). In the field on the left were some beautiful horses and shortly after a pond that was being enjoyed by two dogs retrieving sticks! We followed the worn pathways, reading the information attached to a tree with its history or a notice of commemoration on a bench.¹ Then, after about 10 minutes, we were surprised to find ourselves back at the car park!

So we decided to take a different path that was longer – this time we went up slopes and across little bridges over streams. Then past another pond (which, in fact, used to be a swimming pool in the 1920s for a local school – you wouldn't want to swim in it now – definitely wildlife in there! Pond life even!). In fact, the only wildlife we actually saw was a couple of squirrels. There were, of course, plenty of birds but I am no authority on them so cannot say what they were – probably blackbirds, thrushes or greenfinches (those were the species mentioned on the notice board). It was mostly the trees and ferns and the feeling of being far away from the everyday hubbub that made it so pleasant.

We took a couple of photos but then, after half an hour or so, came to a fork – which path to take back to the car park? There was an interesting sign telling us about the 'Sessile Oak Copice Grove' – the finest example in the south of England – but no sign for the way back! Not another walker in sight! Members of The Grey Owl Society lost in the woods – emulating our hero, Archie, but none of us it seemed, inheriting his tracking skills! Eventually, of course, we worked out that all the routes were circular!

It was a very pleasant afternoon and a great shame that it could not go ahead as planned. We all agreed that we would like to go back there with someone to guide and tell us more about this lovely area.²

Jenny Logan

1. Highwoods was discussed at the last Committee Meeting (see p.31), and was chosen as one of the Society's Donations for 2008. One of Grey Owl's quotations will be chosen by the committee (probably, 'Remember you belong to nature, not it to you') and hopefully fixed to a bench in the woods. This was the reason for the planned visit. We hope to organise another visit next year.

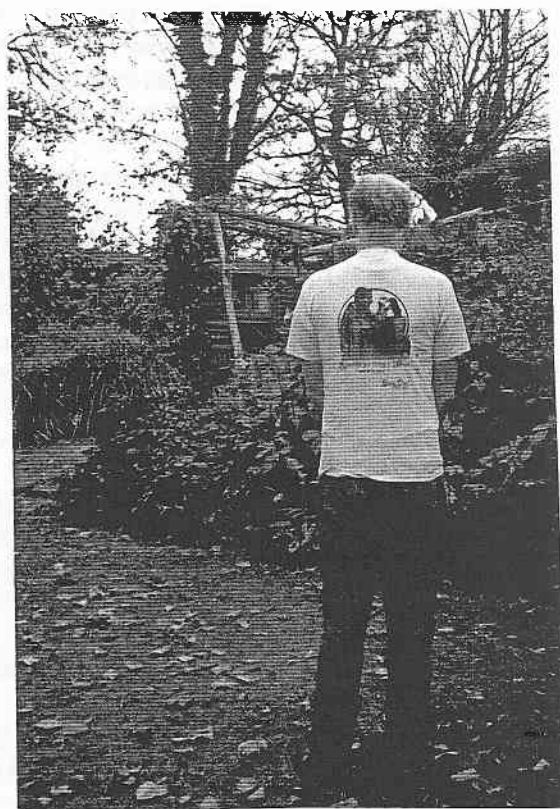
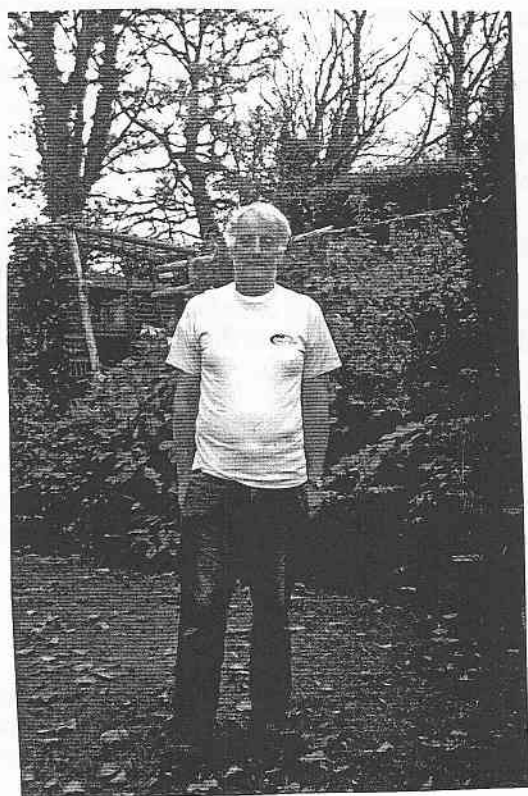
2. Hopefully, the Chairman Alan Malpas will be able to lead us next year.

Again, we are sorry that the event had to be cancelled, but the good news as I write this, is that Bill is recovering well and almost back to his old self!

B.T



Norman Epton, Adrian Barak, Pat Held and Jenny Logan at Highwoods, Cooden, Bexhill on Sunday, 29th June.



Adrian Barak wearing the new Grey Owl T-shirt from P.A.N.P (see p.10).

PETT LEVEL PRESERVATION TRUST

The extract below appeared on the front page of the above Trust's **Newsletter No.12**, for April 2008.

As many members will know, this was one of the Grey Owl Society's donations made last year (see Bulletins 25:13 and 26:19). It is good to know that the bench has been sited in such a fine position and is so much appreciated.



In 2007 the **Grey Owl Society** installed a seat on the north side of Toot Rock. For this the Trust is very grateful and our thanks go to Bill Van Draat and John Goodman who organised this and to Joc Hare who made it. The seat is made of re-cycled wood and is of an imaginative design. The views on a clear day are spectacular - from Fairlight and Pett in the west sweeping round to the Coney Banks and east to Winchelsea and the marsh. A good place to sit and contemplate, often with only the sheep for company and not a car or a human in sight.

I also supplied a short two-page article for the Trust's **Newsletter No.11** (April 2007), giving an outline on our Society with a short biography of Archie/Grey Owl. Our policy of making at least one donation each year to a conservation project was also explained and how we came to choose Pett Level for 2007.

B.T.

THE MISSISSAGI RIVER

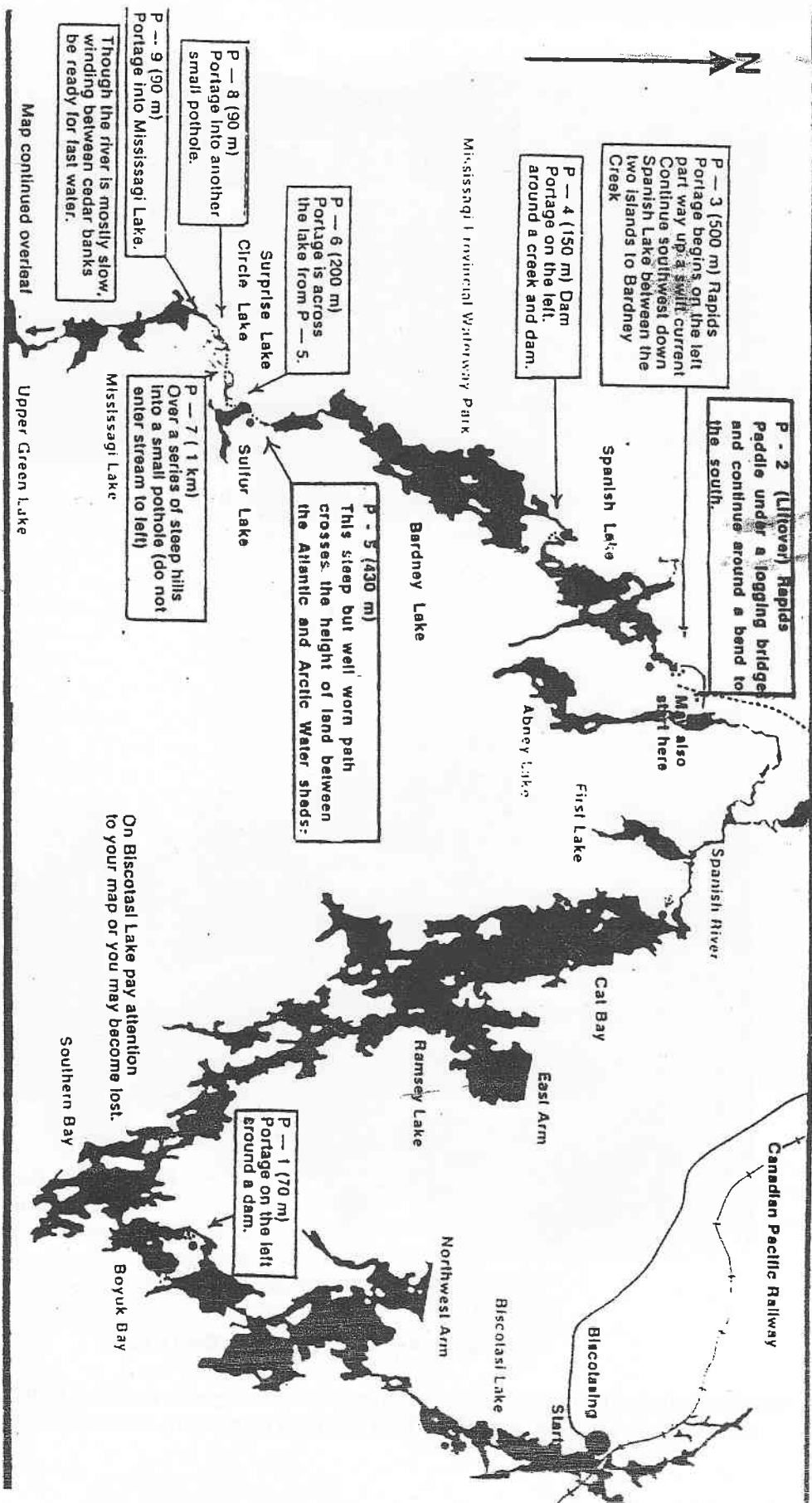
Member Brad Ryder, from Blenheim, Ontario, has sent the following account of his canoe trip from Biscotasing to Mississagi Lake which he made in 2007. Brad enclosed three route guides from the 'Provincial Government' (one reproduced p.21) and copies of the others can be sent to any member interested in this trip.

Many people have drifted down its smooth stretches, run its foam flecked rapids and revelled in its scenery. Early Indian tribes living on the shores of the Great Lakes paddled upriver to hunt and fish. Voyageurs of the North West Company plied the river between posts at its mouth and on Upper Green Lake in the 1700s. After the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway in the late 1800s, trappers brought their furs up the water highways to a new post at Biscotasing. At the turn of the century, the C.P.R. was promoting the Mississagi to tourists; many a couple made their honeymoon journey by canoe from Biscotasing to Thessalon. Fire rangers, using hand tools to combat fires, made regular patrols up and down the river until fire towers were built in the 1930s. Lumbermen drove logs down the Mississagi to mills at Blind River for over half a century, negotiating Aubrey Falls by a quarter mile long wooden log chute. Commercial logging was brought to an untimely end in 1948, when the man-caused Mississagi Forest Fire raged for five months, destroying almost a million acres of timber. Today, people paddle down the Mississagi for pleasure, not profit. The Ontario government has rescued a section of this waterway as the 'Mississagi Provincial Waterway Park'.

Access and Route Description

This canoe route begins at the village of Biscotasing, where some supplies and equipment may be obtained from local outfitters. Bisco can be reached via the Canadian Pacific Railway or by highway. A bush road extending south offers the canoeist an alternative starting point on the Spanish River just north of Spanish Lake. Fishing and wildlife viewing are excellent along this route. Northern pike and walleye can be found in most of the waters; with lake trout present in Upper Green and Bark Lakes. It is possible to finish your trip at several locations. (1) The access road below portage 25 allows one to shorten the trip by 1 day. (2) The Peshu Lake Access Road on Seven Mile Bay in Rocky Island Lake, leads to highway 129, 115km south of Chapleau or (3) The access points on the South side of Aubrey and Rocky Island Lakes connect with highway 129, 100km north of Thessalon. This route may be extended down the Mississagi River to Lake Huron.

In his accompanying letter, Brad wrote that he did not have the time to do the whole route, so 'ended up going from Biscotasing to Mississagi Lake and back to Bisco'. They enjoyed really good weather and were planning to finish the rest of the route to Aubrey Falls this summer (2008). Brad wrote that 'most of the things that Grey Owl wrote about are further down the route than where we had made it to this year'. Unfortunately, Brad had to cancel plans for this summer, but hopes to make the trip next year; this section of the journey will appear in Bulletin 28 or 29. He also added that 'some of the campsites we camped at in the back country are breath taking and it was nice to know that Archie had probably camped at the same ones years ago along his travels. It's such a vast area and I can't get over the fact that Grey Owl and Alex Espaniel had travelled from Bark Lake to Bisco in 1 day. I certainly have greater respect for Grey Owl as a canoeman and wilderness traveller now, more than ever'.



One of the route guides from the 'Provincial government' (See previous page)



Bisco – 2007 (Photo by Brad Ryder)



Mississagi Lake – 2007 (Photo by Brad Ryder)

See also Bulletin 26:26-27 on Brad's account of his meeting with the late Albert Lalonde (Archie and Angele's grandson) and where Brad mentions his plans to canoe the Mississagi River.

YOUR LETTERS



ASK
TOM
lonely planet

Tom Hall of Lonely Planet answers your questions about worldwide travel

This interesting letter was published in The Sunday Observer on 2 December, 2007 (too late for last year's Bulletin)! Robert Mitchell was a member of The Grey Owl Society in 2001 and 2002.



Pierce Brosnan, right, in the 1999 biopic Grey Owl.

Ronald Grant Archive

LETTER OF THE WEEK

For many years I have been interested in Archibald Belaney, aka Grey Owl. Born in Hastings, East Sussex, he was fascinated by the American Indians and travelled to Canada to trap beaver for fur. He married an Indian, who showed him that trapping beavers was wrong. Grey Owl preached conservation and wrote about his life at Beaver Lodge, in Prince Albert Park, Saskatchewan. My dream is to travel to Beaver Lodge. Could you advise me?
Robert Mitchell, Brighton

Belaney's lakeside cabin is in Prince Albert National Park, in the centre of the province of Saskatchewan. The park is a huge area of wilderness and access will have to be by car and then on foot. The 12-mile Grey Owl Trail from the edge of the nearest road follows Kingsmere Lake and leads to his cabin – there is a wild campsite (no amenities) a couple of miles away. You can buy maps of the trail and campsite locally.

To get to the region, fly to Regina or Saskatoon (you'll need to change in Toronto, but expect to pay around £400 for a return flight from the UK, assuming you're travelling in summer), then hire a car. Alternatively, take a bus to Prince Albert and arrange transport from there into the park. Go to www.tinyurl.com/249b92 for information about visiting the park. Early summer is the best time to visit. You may not meet anyone else, although Belaney's cabin attracts a small number of pilgrims each year. Let me know how you get on.

It is interesting that I have received correspondence and had telephone calls this year from our new member Geoffrey Webb of Daventry, Northamptonshire, who is a very keen, experienced canoeist and who has tried to make plans to 'canoe in the wake of Wa-Sha-Quon-Asin across the lakes to Grey Owl's cabin'. Geoff has had a lot of trouble trying to get information for this project. Our suggestion (and to anyone else interested) is to contact Audrey Sanderson, the Administrator for Friends of the Park PAMP, who is very helpful.

I am pretty certain the Park is closed in winter.

Members' and Friends; Correspondence

Audrey Sanderson (see p. 10), included in her package, the Friends' Spring Newsletter which mentioned that 2008 was the 25th anniversary of **Friends** and the 80th of **Prince Albert National Park**. There has been a lot of activity at Waskesiu including **The Grey Owl and Anahareo Gallery** which is in their new Bookstore (see Bull.26:25). Their latest acquisitions include 'several books and an **original** itinerary of one of Grey Owl's visits to England'. Grey Owl's speech **The Fox Hunt**, is to be added to the audio system and a 'reader's corner' is to be situated in the Gallery 'where people can sit and read about the famous couple or read one of the many annual publishings of the **Hastings, England, Grey Owl Society's bulletin**'. This latter venture is really good news and will give more publicity to The Grey Owl Society and to Hastings Museum!

Richard and Wendy Johnson of Orillia, Ontario wrote a card referring to Albert Lalonde's death: '... We met his family several years ago but really didn't know any of them well. Albert was a really great guy and G.O. would have been very proud of him'. Richard also suggested on a postcard in October 2007: 'I think Canada owes a statue to G.O. as our 1st conservationist by many years....'. An interesting point, and it's rather surprising that there isn't one! Perhaps someone should initiate this project? B.T.

Nigel Sinnot, our member from Victoria, Australia wrote in a letter in January 2007 (which got left out from last year's Bulletin – sorry): 'Grey Owl's writing was one of the childhood influences that fostered my love of English woodlands (particularly beech woods) and of the Australian bush, especially myrtle beech rainforest...'. (We did have three members in Australia but now we only have one – Nigel!)

Kristin Gleeson, our member from County Cork, Ireland, has written to tell us that she has contributed a chapter on **Anahareo** for a book **Forgotten Women** to be published probably next year by Athabasca Press. This book is 'a series of articles about Canadian Aboriginal women'. We will certainly obtain a copy for the archives!

Geoffrey Webb, new member from Daventry – see p.23.

ADDENDUM to the Bibliography on Books about, or including a reference to, Grey Owl, published in The Grey Owl Society 21st Anniversary Special 2002 Edition. As with the original Addendum, these are listed in chronological order, and compiled by Betty Taylor.

- 1936 A.G. Street **Moonraking.** London: Eyre and Spottiswoode. On pp.83- 84, Street refers to a conversation he had on 'grammar' with Grey Owl at the Sunday Times Book Exhibition. Street wrote over 30 books and he was a well known broadcaster.
- 1936 M.B. Williams **Guardians of the Wild.** London, Toronto et al: Thomas Nelson and Sons Ltd. Descriptions of Canada's National Parks with a mention of Grey Owl on p.133. Grey Owl's Story 'has interested the world'.(see also 'Donations'p.6). (Also note p.26 – year 2000).
- 1947 Edgar M. Queeny **Prairie Wings.** Philadelphia & New York: J.B. Lippincott Co. A book of migratory bird photographs with explanatory sketches. Includes a comment on Grey Owl 'chronicler of the Northland' adding that G.O. believed that the Indians' attitude toward nature was summed up in a casual remark made by an old Ojibway companion... where the wind speaks to the leaves, the Indian hears- and understands.
- 1977 Norman Moss **The Pleasures of Deception.** New York: Reader's Digest Press. pp.167-175 relate to Grey Owl... one of the most ambiguous of imposters. Moss writes positively about G.O.'s intentions/aims.
- 1987 Bruce Meyer & B. Callaghan (eds.) **Selected Poems of Frank Prewett.** Toronto: Exile Editions Ltd. Prewett was a Canadian 1st World War poet who claimed to be of Iroquois blood. His sister denied the Indian lineage. In the introduction (p.8), Meyer writes: 'Philosophically, the Indian background gave him a claim to the natural existence for which he longed.. At the very time that Archie Belaney – who had also fought in the trenches- was hood-winking the world as Grey Owl, Prewett was declaring his Iroquois lineage at Garsington'. (Garsington was the home of Lady Ottoline Morrell and Prewett's work was admired by the literati of England, including Virginia Woolf, Robert Graves, Siegfried Sassoon, Wilfred Owen and many others).
- 1988 Edward H. Blackmore **Hunkeshnee. The Memoirs of Ted Blackmore.** Brighton: The Friends of Ted Blackmore, Darkhorse Press. (Vol.1 – Limited edition of 99 copies). pp.33-34 refer to Ted's connections with Grey Owl. (Vol.2 so far unpublished).
- 1990 Penny Petrone **Native Literature in Canada: From the Oral Tradition to the Present.** Toronto: Oxford University Press. There are references to G.O. on pp.96-99 & 116. 'G.O. was sincere and authentic in his depiction of many aspects of native life and of nature...'.
- 1994 Colin F. Taylor **Wapaha: The Plains Feathered Head-dress.** (Bilingual. English/German). Wyk auf Foehr: Verlag fur Amerikanistik. Photo of G.O. taken c.1936, wearing the Plains Indian style warbonnet made by the Society's first President, E.H. Blackmore and Chief Oskentonon. 'Such individuals...helped to reinforce and perpetuate the feathered image of the North American Indian'.
- 1997 Rex Marchant **Hastings Past.** Chichester: Phillimore & Co. Ltd. There is a section on Grey Owl (pp.123-124). Some disparaging remarks on G.O., such as he was 'an opportunist adventurer' and that 'he threw his wedding ring into the sea'. No references are given for these surprising comments. However, Marchant concludes that 'He caught the imaginations of millions' and that as a Haster 'he must rank as one of the most noteworthy'.

ADDENDUM cont...

- 1998 Murray Paterson **The Golden Days of Yesteryear.** Peterborough, Ontario: F.P. Comrie Publications. 'Grey Owl Comes to Town' (pp.80-84). G.O.'s last lecture in Canada (Trinity Church Hall, Peterborough).
- 2000 Robert J. Burns with Mike Schintz **Guardians of the Wild. A History of the Warden Service of Canada's National Parks.** Calgary: University of Calgary Press. There are references to G.O. on pp.81, 312, and 339. G.O. arrived at Riding Mountain National Park 'to re-establish beaver colonies in the park and protect them from poachers and predators..'. (Also note p.23-year 1936).
- 2002 Gary & Joanie McGuffin **In the Footsteps of Grey Owl: Journey into the Ancient Forest.** Toronto: McClelland & Stewart. This beautifully illustrated hardcover book covers the McGuffin's journey by canoe, deep into the ancient forest and Grey Owl country. Almost every page cites a quote from Grey Owl's writings and as one reviewer put it 'You can flood your senses with this book'.
- 2002 Patrick Watson **The Canadians: Biographies of a Nation.** Toronto(?): McArthur & Co. Part Fourteen – GREY OWL: The Fraudulent Environmentalist. (pp.277-297). Mention of the Grey Owl Society. (Surely the title should read Fraudulent Native American rather than Fraudulent Environmentalist! That he certainly wasn't. Ed).
- 2003 David Lazell **Gypsies, Preachers and Travellers Tales: Calls to Renewal From the Countryside.** Privately published by the author – who was a member of The Grey Owl Society until his death in 2007. A short section on G.O. (pp.176-177) comparing his fascination for the life of the forest with Ernest Thompson Seton's. (E.T.S. – see also this Bull. p.29).
- 2003 Mavis Roberts **Chiaroscuro: The Life of Arthur Spencer Roberts. Wildlife Artist.** Port Lympe, Kent. This biography of the G.O.'s first Vice-President, is divided into 9 chapters. The artist's most enduring legacy must be the murals at Port Lympe (pp.101-127 refer to these). His portrait drawings of G.O. are shown on pp.130-131.
- 2003 David Robinson **Richard Attenborough.** A biography of R.A. to celebrate his 80th birthday. Chapter 17 is entitled 'Grey Owl' and opens with the words 'Attenborough could hardly have hoped for a more intriguing subject for a screen biography'. The author is complimentary of Nicholson's script, which he says 'had rich sources in Grey Owl's own books'. In Attenborough's own words, he says 'This man was a truly remarkable figure'.
- 2003 Vicky Shipton **Grey Owl.** Harlow, Essex: Pearson Education Limited. Part of the Penguin Readers series. G.O. is described as a 'man who tried to change the world'.
- 2003 Audrey Tournay **Beaver Tales.** Boston Mills Press, Ontario. Delightful stories about beavers by the founding Director of the Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, with references to Grey Owl on pp.103,104 and 114.
- 2004 Dagmara Ginter (Compiled by David Malacher) **Papers of the Rupert's Land Colloquium 2004.** Winnipeg: University of Winnipeg. Under the heading, 'Texts & Interpretations', is Ginter's essay 'Grey Owl's Ethnological Observations on the Woodland Indians'. pp.325-339.
- 2004 Irene T. Gordon **Grey Owl: The Curious Life of Archie Belaney.** Canmore, Alberta: Altitude Publishing Canada Ltd. This illustrated book is part of the 'Amazing Stories' series.
- 2004 Brian Back **The Keewaydin Way: The story of the world's oldest canoe-trip camp.** Roy Waters Scholarship Fund. One of the 65 'chapters' is entitled 'Grey Owl' with the quote 'Give me a good canoe, a pair of Ojibway snowshoes, my beaver, my family and 10,000- square miles of wilderness and I am happy'. Grey Owl'. (pp.249-251). There are also references to G.O. on pp.6 & 250.(See also this Bull. p.8)

ADDENDUM cont ...

- 2005 Ray Mears **Ray Mears Bushcraft Survival.** London: Hodder and Stoughton. In the chapter 'Canoeing Down the Missinaibi', there are references to G.O. and one illustration (pp.183-185). It is thanks to 'one of the century's most extraordinary and colourful characters' that the world became aware of the exploitation of the wilderness. The character was, of course, Grey Owl, who Mears describes as 'the first true eco-warrior'.
- 2005 Colin F. Taylor & Hugh A Dempsey (Eds.) **The People of the Buffalo: The Plains Indians of North America. The Silent Memorials: Artefacts as Cultural and Historical Documents, Essays in Honor of John C. Ewers.** Wyf auf Foehr: Tatanka Press. Published shortly after Colin Taylor's death, the book (vol.2) is prefaced by an **In Memoriam** written by David F. Halaas and Andrew E. Masich. There are mentions of Colin's long and early interest in G.O. and the founding of The Grey Owl Society and the long friendship between Colin and Don Smith (one of the Society's Vice-Presidents, who wrote **From the Land of Shadows: The Making of Grey Owl. 1990**).
- 2005 Hap Wilson **The Cabin: A Search for Personal Sanctuary.** Toronto: Natural Heritage Books. There are references to G.O. on several pages. Wilson refers to **Men of the Last Frontier** as G.O.'s 'most enduring book... capturing the essence of northern Canada's backwoods lifestyle'. (See also Bull.26:24 & 12).
- 2006 Barry C. Johnson (Ed.) **Colin Taylor: Ethnologist of the Plains Indians. A memoir: 1937-2004. Recollections by his Friends. A Bibliography of his work.** Birmingham: Bartletts Press. Colin Taylor founded the Grey Owl Society in 1982 and there are references to G.O. on numerous pages.
- 2006 Lori Punshon **He Who Flies by Night.** Saskatchewan(?): Your Nickel's Worth Publishing. YNW. This volume 'brings to life the origins of Canada's first conservationist'. The 'Foreword' is written by Tanyann Grey Owl Belaney. G.O. was her great great grandfather.
- 2007 Josephine Halbert **Time Travel Boyfriends.** Tyne and Wear: Zed Said. 'He became a 'personality' in the 1930s... recently, there's been a renewed interest in this intriguing man's life..'. Grey Owl Society postcard illustrated. (Various other 'intriguing' men are included in the book, such as Marlon Brando, Robert Browning and Orson Welles! (See also this Bull:p.7).
- 2007 Alington Hoffman et al **The Angele Egwuna Project: Grey Owl and his Descendants.** North Bay, Ontario: W.K.P. Kennedy Gallery. There are a number of 'essays' included and two interesting 'family trees', one 'The Known Descendants of Archibald Stansfield 'Grey Owl' Belaney and the other 'The Known Descendants of Angele Egwuna'. On pp.20-21 there are photos of G.O.'s grandson, Albert Lalonde, including a letter written by him to the organisers of the exhibition held at The Kennedy Gallery (2007). (See also Bulls: 25:6-7 and 26:12, 27 and 41).
- 2008 Richard Attenborough (with Diana Hawkins) **Entirely Up to You Darling.** London: Hutchinson. References to Richard and David Attenborough's visit to Grey Owl's lecture in Leicester in the 1930s. Also some anecdotes on the filming of **Grey Owl**, described as a 'tough shoot'!

Note

The Society had hoped to print a second edition of the 21st Anniversary Special Publication* but the original printers are now able to do this. This **Addendum** would have been included in the second edition together with a few corrections to sm: errors in the original publication. However, it has been pointed out that as it was a 21st Anniversary Special Edition, it should best be left at that!

In putting the Bibliography and Addendum in chronological order, it is interesting to note that no books have been traced between the years 1940 and 1946 and between 1947 and 1953. However, since 1997, there has not been one year when a book (or in some years, several books) has not been published with an inclusion on Grey Owl! To date, the list of books traced numbers 124!

*as advertised rather hastily in Bull.25:2: Sorry!

STOP PRESS

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members:

Anne Ainsley, Battle, E. Sussex
Geoffrey Webb, Daventry, Northamptonshire
Brenda Wilson, Hastings
David Brown, Hastings

Nick Mills. Just as we were 'going to press', we received the very sad news that Victoria's husband, Nick Mills, had died unexpectedly on 8th November. As mentioned on p. 1, Nick and Victoria (Curator of Hastings Museum for thirty years), joined the Society within its first year. Nick (as an experienced vet), had a special interest in beavers and helped advise Drusillas Zoo Park at Alfriston in East Sussex in 1986, when the Director there introduced two Canadian beavers to the Park (Bull.5:9-10). In addition, Nick was adviser on the beaver scenes in Richard Attenborough's film GREY OWL. At a special Preview at the Gardner Centre, University of Sussex on 10th February 2000, Lord Attenborough made special mention of Nick and others 'who had been extremely helpful' (Bull. 19:2). At the AGM/Christmas Dinner in 1998, Nick made a strong point, telling those present that 'no animals were to be killed or stressed for the film' (Bull. 17:31). In Bulletin 2:30, Nick wrote an article entitled 'The Re-Introduction of the Beaver to Europe'. At that time, 1983, the nearest place for us in England to see beaver in the wild was in Brittany, France in the Parc Naturel Regional d'Amorique and Nick went on to say that the re-introduction into Britain was 'technically possible'. Nick was well travelled and in 1983 had been in the Luangwa Valley to study the 'conservation of African animals' (Bull. 2:18).

Nick will be sadly missed for his 'larger than life' enthusiasm and vitality (he attended nearly all the AGM/Christmas Dinners) and we offer our very sincere condolences to Victoria and her family.

David Lazell of Loughborough. We were saddened to learn that member David Lazell had died in late 2007. David had been a member for eight years and was a writer with a deep interest in ecology. He wrote at least two articles on Grey Owl. (i) **Grey Owl – The Sussex Indian** appeared in **This England** in the Spring 1988 issue and (ii) **Grey Owl – Pilgrim of the Wild** appeared in the magazine **The Flower Patch**. David was also the author of **Gypsies, Preachers and Travellers Tales: Calls to Renewal From The Countryside**, published in 2003. There is a short section on Grey Owl on pages 176-177. We have sent condolences to David's family.

Yousuf Karsh (1908-2002)

There was a small but interesting exhibition of Karsh portraits held at **The National Portrait Gallery, London**, in January. The exhibition was held to commemorate the century of Karsh's birth. Karsh, of course, photographed many hundreds of famous people and only about twenty portraits were on show, including Queen Elizabeth II and Sir Winston Churchill. Unfortunately, his photo of Grey Owl was not included. Karsh has been described as 'a legend' and the Society's archives holds a copy of **Karsh Canadians** published by the University of Toronto Press (1978) – the portrait of Grey Owl, with a description, appears on p.69 and Karsh sums up '... he was not an imposter but, I like to think, a prophet'.

Ernest Thompson Seton (1860-1946)

On 2 April, 2008, **David Attenborough** narrated a programme about the early days of Ernest Thompson Seton (BBC2, 8pm). Seton was a great inspiration to young Archie and also to our first President, Edward 'Ted' Blackmore. Ian West, our present President and also member, Mike Johnson, were themselves much influenced by Seton's writings. In the 1950s, Ted sent my late husband, Colin, copies of some of E.T.S.'s books, including the classic, **Two Little Savages**, as well as **The Book of Woodcraft and Indian Lore**. Seton became one of the world's great ecologists and we know that some of his books were in Grey Owl's possession, including **Two Little Savages**, given to him by his brother Hugh. In his last book, **Tales of an Empty Cabin** (1936), Grey Owl wrote 'Ernest Thompson Seton once wrote to the effect that an animal is able to divine instantly man's intentions toward him'.²

1. See Don Smith's **From the Land of Shadows**. Western Producer Prairie Books, Saskatoon. 1990:p.18.
2. ditto. (See also pp.43, 105 and 179 for further references to E.T.S.).

Member, Dagmara Ginter, who works for **Cross-border Information** in Wellington Square, Hastings, has told us that her name is now included in their website on which there is a mention of Grey Owl and The Grey Owl Society. www.cbi-publishing.com

Guide Books/Leaflets with mentions of Grey Owl. (2008)

1. the Art Fund's **Members Guide 2008** lists hundreds of Museums and Galleries throughout the UK, giving details of their collections and 'special' artefacts. Hastings Museum is given half a page (p.188) with the comment that 'Hastings's links with the conservationist Grey Owl are commemorated in galleries devoted to plains, woodland and Arctic tribes of North America. These include Inuit carvings, fine beadwork and a magnificent eagle feather headdress worn by Iron Tail (Cinte Maza)'. Not all the entries are illustrated but the Hastings section has a coloured photo of Iron Tail's bonnet.
2. **Hastings & Rother Museums & Galleries artwatch guide**. Reference to the 'Conservationist Grey Owl and Native America' on p.13.
3. Hastings & St. Leonards Museum Association leaflet: 'Special features for children with fossils that transform into dinosaurs, a diorama of local animals, two Native American Galleries complete with tepee and buffalo and a display on the Hastings-born conservationist, Grey Owl'. Iron Tail's warbonnet illustrated on back page.
4. Hastings Observer's **Great Days Out** (4 April 2008). 'Special features for children at Hastings Museum (p.14). similar wording to No.3.
5. **Programme for Hastings Week: 10-19 October, 2008**. Under 'Places to visit during the week' (p.8). Hastings Museum & Art Gallery '... displays on Grey Owl and Native America..'

Obituary on Floyd Red Crow Westerman. This appeared in **The Times** on December 19, 2007. Floyd Red Crow was a campaigner for Native American rights and 'environmental issues'. He appeared in dozens of films and television programmes including 'Dances with Wolves'; 'The X-Files'; 'Son of the Morning Star'; and a Chief in Richard Attenborough's **GREY OWL!** He was described as 'the greatest cultural ambassador that Indian America ever had'.

Hastings/North American Indian connections!

As mentioned in previous Bulletins (for example Bull.26:6), there are a number of Hastings/N.A.I. connections. The following two have also come to mind.

(i) **The Reverend Peter Jones (Kahkewaquonaby)**. 'Sacred Feathers' as he was known was an Ojibwa (Mississauga) leader, an 'Indian Chief, from Canada who... laboured as a Missionary for twenty years among his countrymen'. He was sent to England in 1831 to raise money for the Methodist Episcopal Church of Upper Canada. Some fourteen years later he returned to England – and this is where the Hastings connection comes in – and on Monday, **1st December, 1845**, he lectured at the **Swan Assembly Room, Hastings** in aid of the 'Indian Manual Labor Schools'. Our Vice President's biography was published in 1987 (**Sacred Feathers** by Donald B. Smith. University of Toronto Press, Toronto and London). (The Swan was bombed/demolished in the 2nd World War).

(ii) **W. H. Reedman**. Mr. Reedman died in his 100th year at Hastings. In his youth he had 'Fought Red Indians' and crammed his life with adventures in the New World! Mr. R. remained a bachelor and convalescence brought him from London to Hastings where he resided at **36 St. Mary's Terrace, where he died**. This is an amazing coincidence, as members will know that Archie Belaney lived at the same address from 1895-1899. Mr. R. was a non-commissioned officer at Walla-Walla and was involved when Indians attacked a party of immigrants at Salt Lake City. Before returning to England, he went down the Missouri for 2,000 miles! (Details from a newspaper cutting undated and given to us by member, Robert Mucci).

Grey Owl Golf Tournament. Member Audrey Brooke from Leeds, sent cuttings from the Winnipeg Free Press for June 16th, confirming that the Golf Tournament is still in full swing! This takes place annually at Clear Lake, Riding Mountain National Park. There was a rather amusing comment that the Tournament has a 'senior division', the 'Greyer Owls'!

Kristin Bonney collection. As members will know, Kristin is the owner of Grey Owl's pipe bag and Anahareo's beaded jacket amongst other items. As suggested in last year's Bulletin (p.8), it is hoped to transfer the safe keeping of these unique pieces to Hastings Museum, when we hope to have an 'unveiling' for Society members. It is also hoped that Kristin will come up from Wales and participate. We hope to notify members of the date, sometime next year.

AGM/CHRISTMAS DINNER: 6 December, 2007

The informal AGM/Christmas Dinner was held as usual at The Beauport Hotel, Hastings. Thirty-two members sat down for the traditional Xmas menu (two less than expected as unfortunately, regular participants Clive and Sheila Stone, went down with flu!). Whilst coffee was being served ('no mince pies' grumbled one member), **Betty Taylor** read out The Apologies and then welcomed new members Tony and Anne Wharton and David Brown. Reference was then made to the Karsh Exhibition which was held at the National Portrait Gallery, London, in January 2008 (see p.29). She then thanked both **Bill Van Draat** and **John Goodman** for finalizing the 'Pett bench project' with especial thanks to Bill for all the work he had done during the year. Betty then read an extract from a letter received from Miss Avril Thurley, the Hon. Secretary of the Pett Level Preservation Trust in which she wrote that the 'Trustees were full of praise for the beautiful seat which your group put on the Toot... it really is a lovely piece of work. We feel sure that very many people will get a lot of pleasure from using it...' (see p.19). **Victoria Williams** then referred back to the opening of the Museum and its success and popularity and mentioned the plans for Kristin Bonney's collection (see above). **Jenny Logan** then explained committee member, **Henrietta Smyth's** absence and read partly from Henrietta's letter where she explained that she had received 'an invitation to Slimbridge with regard to their 'Back from the Brink' beaver project'. Finally, **Bill Van Draat** gave his **Treasurer's Report** and reiterated that funds were still quite healthy even after The Society's Donations (£700) during the year (see Bull.26:19).

Bill brought along the brass plaque that is to be fixed to the Pett bench and passed it around before winding up with his usual entertaining anecdotes! **Michael Plumbe** then thanked Betty Taylor for her hard work! The Bulletins were distributed as usual and the Archive Table perused which this year included a Bulgarian copy of **Sajo** (see Bull.26:11). Lapel badges and postcards were on sale and **Jenny Logan** ran the raffle to help boost our funds! It had been another very successful Society get-together, and the activities ended about 11pm. As we left the Beauport, it was very windy but mild for the time of year!

Beauport Hotel. Members may be interested to know that our first Dinner/AGM held at this hotel was in 1987 – so this year (2008) marks our 21st!

AGM/DINNER DATE FOR 2009: Thursday, 3rd December. Please make a note in your diary now!

Tom Watrous of Winnipeg. Again, our thanks go to Tom for collecting the North American subs. It's a great help! (See also p.12).

Committee Meeting. This was held at _____ on Monday, 31 March at 7pm. The subjects discussed were:

1. **The Society's Donation for 2008.** After the Pebsham Country Park project was 'dismissed' (this was thought to be a venture for Hastings Borough Council), it was decided to support (i) Highwoods and (ii) Brent Lodge Bird & Wildlife Trust (for further details, see pp.13-14).

2. **The Summer Visit.** It seemed appropriate to arrange a visit to Highwoods to decide on the position of a bench and/or plaque. (In the event this had to be cancelled – see pp.17-18).

3. **G.O.S. Junior Membership.** Henrietta Smyth confirmed that she has given a number of talks to Beaver Scouts. In addition, Henrietta explained that she was keen to produce a small booklet on Grey Owl (similar to the one by Geoff Hutchinson but with illustrations and along the lines of Pitkin Guides). We hope to have more news next year.

4. **Special Publication, 2nd Edition.** Betty Taylor explained that this project had not materialized and would have to be cancelled. The original printers are no longer involved with this type of work. Henrietta Smyth made the point that it was, in any case, a 21st anniversary 'Special Publication', and it would probably be better to leave it as such. Betty Taylor agreed to update the Bibliography with an Addendum (see p.25-27).

5. **A.G.M./Christmas Dinner.** There was much debate on the venue for the A.G.M./Dinner but it was finally decided to leave it at The Beauport Hotel for the time being. Betty Taylor was adamant that it should remain a Hastings venue as Archie B. was a Hastings boy!

P.S. When the Minutes were circulated to the committee members, Betty Taylor included a number of quotes from Grey Owl for the bench/plaque at Highwoods. It seems probable that 'You are tired with civilization; I come and offer you what? A single green leaf' will be chosen as it is one of the most famous and also would catch the imagination of those who are not familiar with G.O.'s writing's.

Dagmara Ginter – The Ethnological Content of Grey Owl's Writings.

In Bulletins 22-26 (2003-2007), Dagmara contributed five chapters from her Ph.D Thesis which specifically referred to G.O.'s writings: Part I – The Woodland Indians' Lifestyle. Part II- The Indians' Treatment of Animals. Part III- The Woodland Indians' Ceremonial Life. Part IV- The Indian Cosmology and Part V- General Indian Characteristics. Dagmara informs us that this was the final chapter relating to Grey Owl and this is the reason there is no 'article' in this Bulletin: however, we are pleased that we were able to reproduce those chapters from her Thesis.

N.B. Don Smith has reminded us that 2008 is the 120th anniversary of Archie's birth!