

PRESS RELEASE – URGENT

GILBERT WHITE'S HOUSE & GARDENS *AND* THE OATES COLLECTION
High Street, Selborne, Alton, GU34 3JH



Gilbert White Who? Countdown to Launch

At Gilbert White's House & Garden the days are being counted down to the launch of the '*Gilbert White Who?*' project on Saturday 23rd October. Weather permitting; there will be a series of hot-air balloons taking off from the Great Mead behind Gilbert White's House between 11.00am and 1.00pm on Saturday 23rd October. This is to mark the re-launch of the two principal rooms on the ground floor of the Museum dedicated to Gilbert White. In addition, there will be a host of extra activities, aimed particularly at families and children, throughout the half-term week from Saturday 23rd October right through to Sunday 31st October.

General Manager, Miriam Tong, commented: 'At present Bell's Library is looking rather empty. All the old exhibits have been temporarily relocated upstairs as we await the arrival of the new. The only item now on display in Bell's Library is the Museum's most treasured exhibit, the original manuscript, handwritten by Gilbert White, of his most famous book *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne*. At present, Far Post Design Limited, our gallery designers are busily putting together the new exhibits that will totally transform the Museum. In just over two weeks, things will look very different! Bell's Library and the Great Parlour will be much more interesting and engaging! The exhibits and interactive displays have been designed and crafted to appeal to all ages and levels of interest, whether our visitors are already Gilbert White devotees, or arrive knowing little or nothing of his life and times. With this exciting new interpretation, we aim to make Gilbert White more widely recognised. Our aim is to inspire the next generation to enjoy and engage with the natural world around them – just as Gilbert did.'

The Gilbert White Who? Project has been in development over a very long period. It has involved Trustees, Staff and Volunteers in many hours of research, preparation, discussion and debate, working alongside our gallery designer, Mike Cashman. This HLF grant aided project has also benefitted from a number of other significant benefactors and private donors. The Museum will be open every day throughout the half-term week from 10.30am until 5.00pm.

Notes:

- 1 Contact:
Miriam Tong
01420 511275
miriamtong@gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk
- 2 Gilbert White's House & Garden is an Independent Charitable Trust and Accredited Museum.
- 3 We would be very happy to accommodate any media enquiries or to accommodate filming at the house at any time. Please make contact on the above number or email address.
- 4 The balloon launches are subject to weather conditions being favourable. Please check our website that will be updated throughout this time with latest news.
www.gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk

Ends