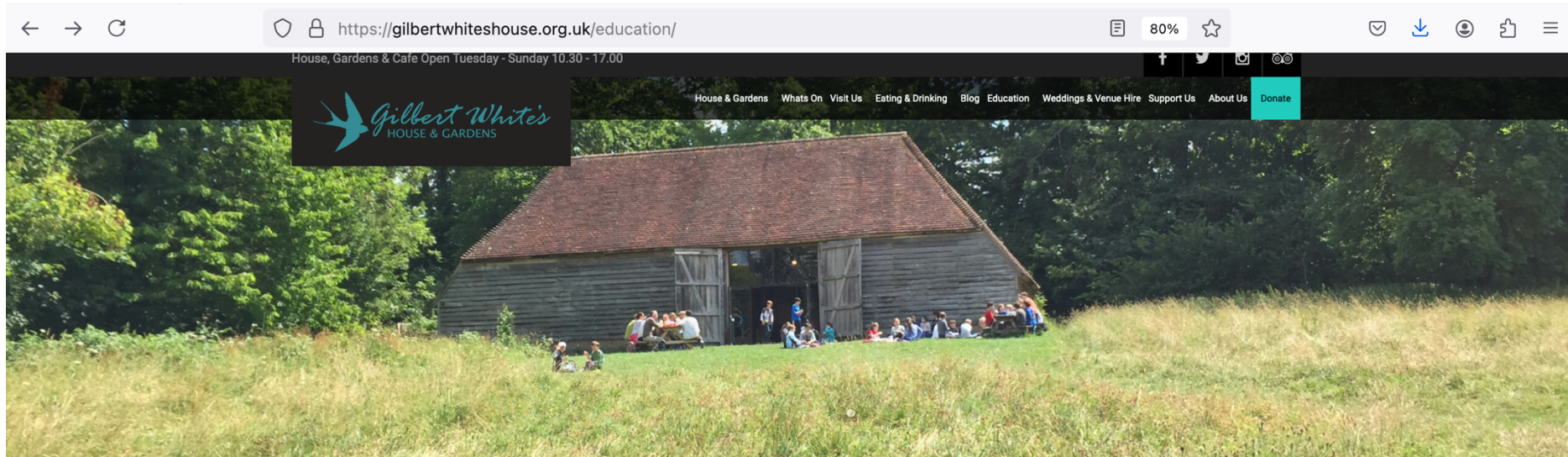


## EXISTING FIELD STUDIES CENTRE

<https://gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk/education/>



### Education

Welcome to The Gilbert White Field Studies Centre, The Education Department of Gilbert White's House and Gardens.

Gilbert White, Frank Oates and Lawrence Oates were all explorers of the natural world, from Selborne to Central America, Africa to Antarctica. We aim to inspire the next generation to develop their own curiosity about the natural world; to explore it, understand it, enjoy it and look after it.

Screenshot



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## Charlie is their very own darling

THE Prince of Wales delighted the crowds on Wednesday afternoon when he paid a visit to Selborne.

Schoolchildren, adults and pensioners gathered in the village to try to catch a glimpse of the Prince who had been invited to the village to officially open the Field Studies Centre at Gilbert White's House.

The royal visit began with a

tour of the nearby Mouth and Foot Painting Gallery where he met civic leaders and mouth and foot artists Tom Yendell, Trevor Wells, Keith Jansz and Robert Trent, as well as their families.

His Royal Highness was given a tour of the gallery - featuring paintings by disabled artists who use their feet, mouths and chins to paint - before being presented with the

painting White Cottage by Mr Wells.

Prince Charles then spent time meeting and greeting the local residents who had gathered under the sun at The Plester, before heading off to Gilbert White's House and the Oates Museum for a private tour.

After absorbing its delights he then took a walk to the

grounds of the house to the Field Studies Centre which has just been completed thanks to fundraising efforts and a number of donations from local organisations - including the Prince of Wales' Charitable Trust.

He then mingled with guests outside the centre before leaving the village by helicopter for another engagement.

Onlookers and invited guests

praised the royal visitor who, they told The Herald, took a real interest in the village.

Administrator at Gilbert White's House, Anna Jackson said: "I showed him Gilbert White's original manuscript which he seemed really interested in, and he asked lots of questions. It was wonderful."

AD28-302-02

More pictures next week.

After being presented with the painting Winter Cottage by Trevor Wells, Southampton-based mouth artist Robert Trent demonstrated to the Prince how the art is created.

Gallery curator Tom Yendell said: "He was asking a lot of questions about the artwork and how it was all done."

"He was very interested in how long it took us to paint in these ways, the different types of painting and the artists who did them."

"This is our first royal visitor. The gallery was opened ten years ago by Lord Selborne and it is just so nice that the Prince of Wales took the time to come and visit us."

Prince Charles's second engagement was at Gilbert White's House and the Oates Museum where he was given a

museum's garden before taking a walk up to the Field Studies Centre which his barn which has just been converted into an educational centre where thousands of students will be able to study the local environment following in the footsteps of the famous naturalist.

Around 100 guests including MP James Arbuthnot, council and district councillors and other organisations which donated money to the project also took in a tour of the centre.

They watched as Prince Charles pulled back the plaque, officially opening the centre.

Major Gen Cordingley told guests that the day had been a great success and that Gilbert White "would have been embarrassed, but equally proud" that the Prince of Wales was interested in his work.



Local schoolchildren waiting to catch a glimpse of the royal visitor. AD29-05-02

## Royal visitor does the honours at the Gilbert White Field Studies Centre

AROUND 3,500 youngsters and 1,000 adults did it last year and now the Prince of Wales has done it as well - visited Gilbert White Field Studies Centre.

The Selborne centre, which was officially opened by Prince Charles last week, has been a special feature of the village since January this year but the type of education it offers to visitors has been in the village far longer.

For the new centre, which is based behind the Selborne Arms public house, as replaced the former education centre, which was a stable block beside Gilbert White's House and the Oates Museum in the High Street.

Education has been offered by the museum since 1974 and Jenny Streeter has been working in the department on day one.

Miss Streeter, manager of the new field studies centre, told The Herald that the stable block had simply not been big enough to accommodate the needs of the students visiting the centre and it therefore needed to expand.

"We talked about building another one. And I guess we started the planning side of the new building about five years ago," she said.

The main building is a converted and extended 16th century barn.

The barn, which dates back to 1541, was donated to the museum trust by Sir Thomas and Lady Stockdale of Weston Patrick near Basingstoke.

And the barn, which is a grade two listed building, was converted and extended to form offices, a toilet block and a cloakroom with funding from a number of councils, trusts and organisations.

Jenny Streeter, who lives in Selborne, could not be happier with the new centre.

"It is modern but we have gone about it in a way that has not detracted from the character of the building," she said.

"It was great that we could build a new field studies centre around this barn."

"And it was wonderful when we found out that Prince Charles would be coming. We did think when we started to build this new centre that it would be lovely if he could open it because of his interest in this sort of work."

The barn now provides a modern education centre enabling around 5,000 students to study in Selborne and its environs every year.

And with power assisted doors and wheelchair access the centre is accessible to everyone.

"We teach youngsters from primary schools right through to secondary school age and we are also hoping to get some foreign students in the future. I guess we get about 3,500 youngsters every year accompanied by 1,000 or so adults," said Miss Streeter.

Most of the youngsters visiting the centre come from Hampshire schools, as both Hampshire County Council and Portsmouth City Council support Gilbert White's House, but a number of students come from further afield.

Visitors in the past few weeks have included Amery Hill School, Alton College and Butts Primary School in Alton.

A typical day for primary school youngsters at the centre starts with an introduction to the centre and a talk on safety while at work in the surroundings.

The children are then able to "explore the outdoors" with microscopes and discover how woodland invertebrates live before taking a trip to the stream to discover how river invertebrates live. The youngsters can then make

comparisons between the two types of creatures that they have found, which Jenny Streeter said was essential to their learning.

"We try to keep as close to the curriculum as we can because obviously in this day and age any time that children spend out of the classroom has to be fully justified," she said.

"So what we do is make sure that what we cover helps them in the work they are doing in school."

"So of course the work we teach to primary school pupils would be different to secondary school pupils as the curriculum is different."

"With Butts Primary School we were working with woodlands and streams and when Alton College visited we were working with biology."

But Miss Streeter said that the work the youngsters are able to do "out and about" in the village would not be possible without the support of Lord Selborne, the National Trust and a number of local farmers who allow the use of their land for field work.

And she hopes that the new centre will encourage more visitors to the village to experience the facilities it has to offer.



Visitor around. AD29-27-02



Prince Charles officially opens the Gilbert White Field Study Centre. AD29-30-02