

# OUR PLACE MK

## Stowe House

...the earliest tourist attraction in the country? Sports and leisure through the ages



When Lord Cobham surveyed his estate at Stowe, just outside Buckingham, in 1713, he wanted it to be seen as a work of art as befitting his Whig principles. By the 1720s, Stowe Gardens were open to the public, for a shilling, and by the 1760s, you could also go round Stowe Palace (but only if you were of the right type of character!). Over 150 years, writers, politicians, royalty, philosophers and artists came from around the country (and indeed, from overseas) to marvel at the creative follies and temples, the stunning vistas and the Arcadian landscapes. Guide books told people what they were looking at and the hidden meaning behind the follies.

A hundred years later, the 2nd Duke of Buckingham and Chandos celebrated his eldest son's coming of age by having a week long party in front of the House, inviting all his tenants and townspeople. Games were played, entertainment laid on and food endlessly supplied. His unboundless generosity and keenness for entertainment of every type led to the visit of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in 1845, sending the Duke closer towards bankruptcy.

**LIST OF THE SPORTS & PASTIMES,**  
WITH THE  
**Prizes to be awarded to the Successful Competitors,**  
On **TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY, the 10th and 11th of SEPTEMBER, 1844,**  
To Celebrate the Birthday of the Marquis of Chandos.

**Climbing a Scaup Pole.**  
For Poles.—The Day's Hunt, and Two Shillings.  
For Poles.—One Shilling and Sixpence.  
For Poles.—A Set of Sixteen.  
For Poles.—A Set.

**Travelling Race.**  
Boys riding on an animal's back.  
For Poles.—One Shilling and Sixpence.  
For Poles.—One Shilling.  
For Poles.—A Set.

**Juggling Match.—by Men.**  
Two Minutes.—For Juggling each Week. Juggler, 5s.  
For Poles.—One Shilling and Sixpence.  
For Poles.—One Shilling.  
For Poles.—A Set.

**Diving for Silver in Flour.**  
Half a Minute.—For Silver to be taken out with  
the Spoon.—One Shilling and Sixpence.  
For Poles.—One Shilling and Sixpence.  
For Poles.—One Shilling.  
For Poles.—A Set.

**Juggling Match.—by Boys.**  
Two Minutes.—For Juggling each Week. Juggler, 5s.  
For Poles.—One Shilling and Sixpence.  
For Poles.—One Shilling.  
For Poles.—A Set.

**Hot Hoop-Pudding.**  
Boys eating a Hoop-Pudding in a certain time with a Spoon.  
For Poles.—One Shilling and Sixpence.  
For Poles.—One Shilling.  
For Poles.—A Set.

**Foot Racing.—by Men.**  
For Poles.—One Shilling and Sixpence.  
For Poles.—One Shilling.  
For Poles.—A Set.

**Hobbling for Apples in Water.**  
Boys getting out four or six Apples one with the Spoon.  
For Poles.—One Shilling and Sixpence.  
For Poles.—One Shilling.  
For Poles.—A Set.

**Foot Race.—by Boys.**  
For Poles.—One Shilling and Sixpence.  
For Poles.—One Shilling.  
For Poles.—A Set.

**Boys Eating Cakes.**  
For Poles.—One Shilling and Sixpence.  
For Poles.—One Shilling.  
For Poles.—A Set.

**On WEDNESDAY, the 11th of September, in a Field on the London Road, to commence at TWELVE o'Clock.**

**Foot Hardly Race (Two Races).**  
For Poles.—One Shilling and Sixpence.  
For Poles.—One Shilling.  
For Poles.—A Set.

**Wharfbarrow Races, Blindfolded.**  
For Poles.—One Shilling and Sixpence.  
For Poles.—One Shilling.  
For Poles.—A Set.

**Donkey Racing (Two Races).**  
For Poles.—One Shilling and Sixpence.  
For Poles.—One Shilling.  
For Poles.—A Set.

**Football Playing.**  
For Poles.—One Shilling and Sixpence.  
For Poles.—One Shilling.  
For Poles.—A Set.

**Smoking by Men.**  
For Poles.—One Shilling and Sixpence.  
For Poles.—One Shilling.  
For Poles.—A Set.

**Foot Stoop Chase, by Men.**  
For Poles.—One Shilling and Sixpence.  
For Poles.—One Shilling.  
For Poles.—A Set.

**Foot Stoop Chase, by Boys.**  
For Poles.—One Shilling and Sixpence.  
For Poles.—One Shilling.  
For Poles.—A Set.

**Four Men Blindfolded to skip a Ball out of a Hole with Cart Wheels.**  
For Poles.—One Shilling and Sixpence.  
For Poles.—One Shilling.  
For Poles.—A Set.

The Celebrated **SQUIRE BORNSEBY**, and other Professors of Fun and Frolic, are engaged to perform the above Sports and Pastimes.

It is expected that all Business will be suspended on Tuesday, after Twelve o'Clock.