

The Whitstone

Issue 18 - September 2009

Whistler

The community magazine of Whitstone

Free to each household



The Whitstone Whistler

The community magazine for Whitstone

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Welcome!

Welcome to the latest issue of the Whistler

We are delighted to bring you a comprehensive report on this years Carnival, once again a very enjoyable and well supported week was had by all.

Also in this issue we see two anniversaries in the village, St Anne's Hall is 100 years old and the Whitstone Cancer Research Committee is celebrating its 40th Year with a Fete at Whitstone Head.

As with the Carnival it is these events which offer us a chance to "get together" and support a worthy cause.

Keep your news and events coming and I hope you enjoy this issue.

Dan Cock
Editor

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Thank you to
Laura Roberts for the
cover this month.

Whitstone Cancer Research UK Committee celebrates 40 years of fund raising.

October 1st 1969 saw the formation of the Whitstone Cancer Research Committee, sadly many of the founder members are no longer with us but the vision of this committee was the same then as it is now and that is to raise money to be spent into the research for the treatments of cancer and ultimately for a cure.

The original committee were, Mr G Orchard, (Chairman) Mr J Rees (Secretary) Mr A Dowdle, (treasurer) Mr W Barriball, Mr W Orchard, Mrs S Orchard, Mrs J Walton, Mrs J Rodda, Mr J Neil, Miss P Walter and Mr G Mariner.

Mr J Rees, Mrs S Orchard and Miss Phyllis Walter still live in the village and we hope they will be able to join us for the 40 years celebrations at Whitstone Head on August 29th for a Garden Party.

Their first fund raising occasion in 1969 was a Bonfire with fireworks which raised £26-8-7, followed later that month by a Darts Tournament which raised £36-9-9. Thus the first £50 was sent to Cancer Research.

Since then there have been many committee members organizing different fund raising events too numerous to mention! For many

years an annual coffee morning was held at the Memorial Hall in Holsworthy and a Raffle run at the Catering Exhibition in Bude both raising lots of money.

The Christmas Catalogue has raised money for many, many years with over £1,000 being raised some years.

There have been Village Quizzes, Whist Drives, Village Collections, Folk evenings, Dances, Skittles Tournaments, Barbeque, Car Boot Sale, Auctions, Silent Auction, 3 Course meal at Tetcott Hall, Strawberry Fayres, Cream Teas, Antique Road Show, Pink Party, Wine and Wisdom, the always popular Big Breakfast, Soup and Sweet lunches, Talent Show, concerts generously performed by The Minstrel Choir and The Mini Minstrels. Our latest fund raising venture was collecting tins at Morrisons in Bude. Throughout the years our committee has raised a staggering

This amount included individual parish members who had held functions to raise money for cancer research, donations in lieu of presents at Wedding Anniversaries, instead of flowers for funerals,

40 Years of fund raising

sponsored walks, carol singing and a Gala Dinner Dance.

To celebrate our 40th year we are holding a Garden Fete by kind permission of Whitstone Head School in their grounds on Saturday 29th August at 2.30pm. Each organization in the village has agreed to run a fund raising stall. There will be a flower demonstration, family dog show, buskers corner, children's sports and cream teas served throughout the afternoon. The event will be opened by our very own local celebrity 'The boy from Bude' Mr Raymond Shaddick. Raymond kindly came and opened our 25 year celebration at the same

venue 15 years ago when £729.97 was raised, At that event Mr Sanders (County Representative) presented the committee with a certificate for raising £10,000. Everyone is welcome to come and join our celebration and continue the raising of money that is vital so that research and new treatments can be found for cancer patients.

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CANCER RESEARCH UK



GARDEN FETE

**Saturday
29th August
at 2.30pm**

by kind permission of
Whitstone Head School
in their grounds
on Saturday 29th August
at 2.30pm.

Each organization in the village has agreed to run a fund raising stall. There will be a flower demonstration, family dog show, buskers corner, children's sports and cream teas served throughout the afternoon.

Mrs Trewhitless

Notes from the Whitsead Kitchen

Even butternuttier!

While those wonderful butternut squashes are still available in the shop, I'm still stuffing and baking them to make a change from my beloved butternut soups.

As you might expect from a disorganised kitchen such as mine, I've stumbled across my successful fillings for butternuts by accident rather than design.

Always bad at judging the amount I should cook when it's just two of us at home, I first had an awkward amount of curry left over in the fridge, which was just enough to fill two halves of a squash after the seeds were scooped out. With a smearing of olive or sunflower oil over the squash halves still in their skin and popped into the oven for half an hour or so at around 190 degrees C, they made a super supper.

Spurred on by the curry filling, I've tried another of mixed peppers cooked with onions and garlic (if you like it), and added tinned tomatoes. This can make more than enough to stuff even two halved squashes, but the remaining mixture provides a good sauce for the accompanying greens. Our vegetarian friends, who often visit us, were recently presented with

their familiar nut roast disguised as a butternut stuffing and I've found that various combinations of pulses work really well too. Try a green salad as a fitting accompaniment for the summery weather.

Meanwhile, where, oh where are your favourite discoveries for cooking with butternuts? I've received the odd promise round and about, but it would be great if you'd share your recipe with the rest of us. Just e-mail it to Mrs Trewhitless via the Whistler.

Get stuffing!

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Dates for your Diary

Cancer Research Fete:

Saturday 29th August at 2.30pm
Whitstone Head School

Back To School

Whitstone CP Thursday 3rd Sept

Whitstone Chapel

have a joint concert with the Memory Cafe at Launceston (Alzheimer's) and have organized a concert at Launceston Methodist Chapel on Sept 16th at 7.30pm. Tickets are £8 which includes a buffet supper. The concert is being given by Sarah Deere-Johns, Harpist who has played on the cruise liners and her ensemble, Phil Williams plays small pipes and good MC. Also Conbrio Choir from Liskeard area. Should be a good evening. We have been to Sarah's concerts at Trehaus and the music is lovely, lots of folk, traditional pieces, very easy listening. Let me know if you would be interested in tickets. Many thanks Maggie 341332

Centenary of St Anne's Hall

St Anne's Hall is 100 years old in 2009. We will be celebrating this anniversary with a high tea in the Hall on Sunday 13th September from 4 p.m. onwards.

If anyone has any photographs of the inside or outside of the Hall taken in the last 100 years, any

documents pertaining to the hall, or memorabilia of any kind which you would be willing to display during this event please contact Mervyn Collins on 341598.

We hope to have entertainment and a competition for children on the day. There will be more details in the next edition of the "Whistler".
Helen Eccott, Hall secretary.

Sunday 30th August 2009

There is a 6-a-Side Football Tournament at The Countryman Inn in aid of The RJLF
Trophies & Medals for Winners and Runners-up
BBQ and Refreshments

Sunday 6th September 2009

Mousehole Male Voice Choir celebrates their Centenary by helping to raise funds for the RJLF at Bude Central Methodist Church.
More details to follow

Newshounds needed !

Do you have any spare time to gather articles and news for the Whistler? If so please contact any member of the committee.

Give us your dates

if you are planning an event locally then let the editor know and we will pop the dates into our magazine for you.

Whitstone Methodist Chapel

At our last Church Council meeting it was decided to hold an open air service and this took place at the beginning of August. Everyone sat in the car park and Mrs Sue Griffin led the worship.

Hester Hallett played the keyboard thanks to an extension lead from Ivy Cann's house. Sue had a very fitting theme for the service which was to listen and wait for God's timing and direction rather than be tied up with the 'clutter' of what can be seen as tradition within the church.

Christine Nancekivell and Godfrey Cole shared their thoughts on the visit to Dartmoor Prison that Pam Colwill had kindly organized and all those who went agreed that 'there but for the Grace of God go I' Some of the prisoners that we Whitstone Chapel

Sunday Services at 11.00am in the Chapel unless stated as otherwise.

Aug 23rd. Mrs Aicheler

Aug 30th Worship Leaders Evening (Time to be confirmed) A Healing

Service led by Rev John Henry

Sept 6th Rev John Henry to include Sacrament

Sept 13th Circuit Rally at

Holsworthy 11.00 Memorial Hall

7.00pm Bodmin Street

Sept 20th Mrs S Griffin

Sept 27th Mr J Hawkins

chatted with experienced very tough unsupported childhoods and adolescence which led them into crime.

We were invited to join their Sunday morning worship and the prisoners attending these services were trying to get their life back on track with the help of adult education and rehabilitation programmes, very worthwhile but demanding work.

Sue concluded the morning worship with a Hans Christian Anderson story with the moral of leaving everything in God's hands and his timing. A moving and thought provoking service

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The Whitstone Whippersnappers

Leavers' Assembly

Leavers' assemblies are always bitter-sweet occasions. They are reminders - if we needed such things - that time passes relentlessly.

Leavers' assemblies, like many rites of passage, are particularly poignant occasions and are charged with emotion. There is an understandable ambivalence in the minds of those who are the focus of attention: they are ready to move on to the next stage of their lives and the new set of challenges it holds, while at the same time taking a wistful look back to the many happy times they have enjoyed at primary school.

First, the pupils recounted their

favourite memories, equally sharing out the embarrassment between themselves and their teachers.

Next, the leavers presented a photostory they had put together of their time at Whitstone, from their apprehensive entry into Reception to their recent unforgettable visit to the outdoor adventure centre at Delaware. This provoked tears both of laughter and sweet sadness.

To end their assembly, the girls performed a dance they had choreographed entitled 'Changes', which left everyone with a smile on their faces and, we hope, a longer-lasting one in their hearts.

The Whitstone Whippersnappers

Day Out at Cookworthy

While their classmates were at Delaware, the pupils in Class 2 visited the Forest Centre at Cookworthy. The activities on offer at the Centre were based on the theme of bush craft. The pupils were welcomed to the Centre by Glyn Bradbury, who led the day's activities.

Their first stop was at the reconstruction of a Celtic roundhouse.

Here, Glyn showed the children how to light a fire by literally rubbing two sticks together. After a lunch eaten in the shade of a grove of beech trees, they walked to a meadow that lay between two stands of conifers. The meadow was awash with buttercups. It was here that the children glimpsed a deer as it dashed into the cover provided by some young spruce trees. From the flower meadow, they moved on to the area of the forest where they were going to build their shelters.

In groups, they started to build shelters using only materials they could find around them in the woods. After an hour or so of feverish shelter-building, which resulted in some creditable shelters, they returned to the roundhouse for a long-anticipated treat: toasting marshmallows over the embers of

the fire that had been lit earlier in the day (the children soon became experts in this vital survival skill). This example of delayed gratification was an indication of a growing maturity on the part of the children, although, to be honest, it should be noted that until this point there had been no suitable fire over which to toast the marshmallows and Mrs Stanbury had been keeping a close eye on the bag that contained the confection. But this treat wasn't the end of day's fun.

Next, they made mallets. Using saws and billhooks, they helped Glyn fashion mallets from cylinders of wood. A mallet is a useful item to have in one's bush-craft toolbox, or, more alarmingly, in one's armoury. The children thoroughly enjoyed their day in the woods and learnt many useful new skills.

Whitstone Carnival 2009

RESULTS

Whitstone's Carnival week began on Friday 17th July with the crowning of the Carnival Queen followed by an evening of entertainment. This year's Queen is Danielle Christie and her attendants Courtney Roberts and Alaina Matthews and pageboys Kolby and Casey Lyma. Danielle wore a lovely burgundy full length dress with beaded detail, Courtney and Alaina wore white dresses with burgundy embroidery and bead detail. All three girls carried bouquets and baskets of burgundy and cream flowers. Kolby and Casey wore black suits with white shirts and burgundy bow ties.

The hall was beautifully decorated for the occasion with burgundy and cream balloons and ribbons.

Beth Hughes, who was Queen for 2008, thanked everyone who helped her and wished Danielle good luck for the forthcoming year.

Cheques from the Carnival Funds raised last year were donated to local organisations. Money was given to Whitstone School, St. Anne's Hall, St Anne's Church, Whitstone Methodist Chapel, Smile Club, Whitstone Ladies Skittles and the Acorns Playgroup a total of £1800 was donated by the Carnival.

The entertainment for the evening was introduced and compared by Trevor Tucker, the evening took the form of a variety show with various performances including a comedy sketch written & performed by Richard Horn and Daniel Cock. They provided the audience with the "news headlines" with a local theme! A solo signing performance from Angela Edgecombe, dance, tap and ballet performances to name but a few. The evening was enjoyed by many and demonstrated the wonderful hidden skills and talents the village has to offer. The evening finished with an audience & performers sing along and was kindly organised by Margaret Stanbury.

Skittles were played on Saturday 18th July and four children's teams supported the evening. Later that evening ten adult teams played and the final cup winners were the "Committed Team" Margaret and John Stanbury, Justin Uglow, Lindsey Hobbs, Geoffrey and Chris Hopper.

On Sunday 20th July a united service was held at St. Anne's Hall kindly organised by the help of John Mill and led by Reverend John Henry.

Whitstone Carnival 2009

RESULTS

The whist drive on Monday 21st July was well attended with many tables and kindly organised by Tom Collins.

The flower and produce show held on Tuesday 21st July, had a high level and number of entries for 40 classes.

The Overall Flower and Produce

Show Cup Winners for 2009 were:

Ladies cup - Laura Moorman

Mens Cup - Nick Furse

WI Rosebowl for flowers - Sandra Ayling

Thanks go to the judges and helpers, and also many thanks to Angela Orchard for organising this year's show.

Results of first class prize winners:

An arrangement entitled "Flowerless Beauty" - Carolyn Medland

A flower exhibit in primary colours - Sandra Ayling

A posy from your garden - Pearl Hopper

A flowering plant- Fran Slade

A foliage plant - Valerie Morris

A single rose - Sandra Ayling

Dahlias - Martin Wickham

Sweet peas - Brian Wiles

Pansies - Laura Moorman

Violas - Jane Wiles

Hydrangeas - Jo Fowler

A hanging basket - Valerie Morris

A Boiled Fruit Cake - Val Braund

3 Chocolate Éclairs - Elizabeth Eccott

A Quiche Lorraine - Kyla Cock

A jam filled swiss roll - Ruth Mill

A Cornish Pasty - Ruth Mill

An individual trifle - Ruth Mill

A pot of homemade jam - Jo Fowler

A pot of homemade marmalade - Linda Cole

A pot of homemade chutney/pickle/ relish - Pearl Hopper

Tapestry / cross stitch / embroidery - Pat Nasmyth

A sewn article - Jane Wiles

A hand knitted article - Pat Nasmyth

Photo entitled "All things bright and beautiful" - Debbie Dawe

A set of four photographs "Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue" - Keith Slade

Hens eggs - Nick Furse

Potatoes - Brian Wiles

Carrots - Ann Uglow

Onions - Linda Cole

Lettuce - Laura Moorman

Peas - Laura Moorman

Beetroot - Nick Furse

Raspberries - John Stanbury

Blackcurrants - Angela Orchard

Whitstone Carnival 2009

RESULTS

Rhubarb - Jo Fowler

A selection of herbs - Angela Orchard

Men Only Classes

A newspaper cutting with your own caption - Nick Furse

A photo entitled "Mud glorious Mud" - Keith Slade

Senior Citizens

Oldest newspaper article - Maurice Braund

Children's Classes

4 years and under - A collage - Mark Horn

Reception, Years 1 and 2 - A self portrait or portrait of a friend - Kian Cock

Years 3 and 4 - A drawing of a wild animal - Keith Cowling

Years 5 and 6 - A weather poem - Daniel Woodward

All ages - A decorated welly - Kayleigh Dawe

Whitstone Carnival children's sports took place on Wednesday 22nd July at Whitstone Head School, games were kindly organised by Brian Martyn with the help of Rebecca & Margaret Stanbury along with many parents on the side lines. Whilst the weather thankfully stayed kind with some blue sky and sunshine, the evening saw children take place in running races, egg and spoon, sack races, two legged races, the slow bicycle race, apple bobbing and then evening was finished with the Tug 'o' War which saw children and adults both competing to beat the opposition. The evening was well supported by the local children and parents and many thanks go to Whitstone Head School for the use of the sports pitch.

treasure hunt was organised and written by Daniel Cock with only a few missing directions along the way, every car returned home to enjoy a well earned pasty. Twenty two cars took part in the event and the overall winners were 'Tom's Team'

Grand Carnival, there was a great deal of community spirit and the event was very well supported with many children entering the fancy dress to a high standard and families from within the village putting together tableaux. The sun poked through the clouds as the Carnival procession was led by Bude Town Band, who gave a wonderful performance to lead the Carnival. The Carnival procession was led by the band into the field by kind permission of the Medland family

On Friday 24th July an excellent car

Whitstone Carnival 2009

RESULTS

where spectators were able to view the tableaux and indulge in the BBQ that was on offer. The prizes and cup were presented by Whitstone Carnival Queen Danielle Christie.

Results from the children's fancy dress were:

Class 1 age 4 and under

1st Carina Dawe - Peppa Pig

Class 2 age 5-9 years

1st Hollie Dawe - A Butterfly

Class 3 age 10-15 years

1st Shannon Clements, Daisy Harrison, Laura Roberts, Sammy Roberts, Carol Ann Roberts - Class of 2000 & Neon

Local pairs

1st Sponge Bob Square Pants & Patrick

Open Class

1st Theresa Curzons & Jane Jagavies - The Muppet Twirlers

Local children, pram, trolley, cycle and horse

1st The Johns Family - Four Pavor

1st Chloe Martyn - My Ford

Tractor

2nd Kayleigh Dawe - Herbie

2nd Alfie Crane - Tank & Soldier

Group of Children 4 & under

1st Whitstone Toddlers - The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Tableaux

Humorous tableaux

1st Whitstone Treasure Hunt

2nd New Members for Whitstone WI

Children's artistic tableaux

1st Whitstone Lunar Landing

2nd Whitstone Space Cadets

Children's humorous tableaux

1st Deal or No Deal Carnival Special

Most original tableaux and Best in Carnival Cup went to Deal or No Deal Carnival Special

The winners of the Queen of Queen's competition were:

Best Queen cup was won by Sophie Sleeman, Holsworthy Fairy Queen. Sophie wore a white dress with pearl and sequin detail down the front accompanied with a full length deep red cape.

Best Queen and Group was won also won by Holsworthy's Fairy Queen Sophie Sleeman with Tilly Daniels and Ellie Abbot as her attendants who both wore deep red dresses with silver embroidered flower detail and deep red capes.

The Queens were served tea at St. Anne's Residential Home by kind permission of Mr and Mrs J Medland.

Many thanks also go to John Mill and the judges for the Carnival.

The evening continued with a BBQ and a bar was kindly run by Carnival Committee at the St. Anne's hall.

Money raised during the week will be distributed to local organisations.

The Carnival Chairman, Justin Uglov expressed his sincere thanks to everyone involved for all their help during a busy and successful week.

The Whitstone Whippersnappers

‘Children of Eden’ at the Sterts Theatre

Over the years, we have been delighted to welcome many performers to the school; there have been many memorable experiences created by dancers, musicians, artists and story-tellers.

We also seek to broaden the experience of the pupils at Whitstone by taking them to ‘live’ theatrical performances. Not long ago, we saw a wonderful performance of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at the Theatre Royal in Plymouth.

(We are very grateful to the PTFA and others who make these trips possible.)

This term, we went to the Sterts Theatre at Upton Cross to see a performance of ‘Children of Eden’.

Based freely on the Genesis stories of Adam and Eve, Noah, their children and the Ark, this musical was written by Stephen Schwartz (the composer and lyricist of ‘Godspell’, ‘Wicked’ and ‘The Baker’s Wife’) and John Caird (the co-director of ‘Les Miserables’) and is, in essence, a poignant look at the pleasures and pains of parenthood.

It was a production with a talented cast, some ingenious stage effects and some tuneful songs – all this and an ice cream in the interval.

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The Whitstone Whippersnappers

Outdoor Adventures at Delaware

The pupils in Years 5 and 6 had a great time on their three-day-long residential visit to the outdoor education centre at Delaware. The Centre, near Gunnislake in the Tamar valley, occupies the old primary school buildings at Delaware. The activities that

the children chose were archery, mountain biking, canoeing and climbing.

The first activity was archery. At the end of the session, there was a universal feeling of relief when all the children and staff had managed to avoid making any additional perforations in either themselves or each other.

On the morning of the second day of their stay, they were on their bikes, negotiating an obstacle course that they had constructed to a design of their own devising. After lunch, and a short period of recuperation, they made the short journey to Kit Hill by minibus, where they launched themselves in canoes into the dark waters of the disused quarry's lake. As it might be expected in such circumstances, the children got very wet – and had a great deal of fun.

On the Friday morning the children awoke

and were suddenly aware that a cloud of sadness had descended on them - it was their last day at the centre. However, this melancholic mood did not last for long, as many members of the party realized that their greatest challenges of the expedition lay ahead of them – climbing and abseiling.

For some of the pupils it was their first time, and they were, not unnaturally, a little apprehensive. However, even the most reluctant climbers overcame their nervousness, had a go and reached the top of the climb. More than one of the pupils rose to the challenge that confronted them at the foot of the cliff and accomplished a feat that they had thought was beyond them.

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Genealogy or Family History

Part one By Irene Sutton

Do you know the names of your great-grandparents, or the kind of lives they had? It is surprising how little we know of our family history and how little has been passed down the generations. It is uncommon for us to have known our own great-grandparents these days or to hear about their lives from our families, and often nothing at all is known about the generations beyond that.

To delve into our own family's past is a fascinating hobby and sometimes an emotional journey, as you may have seen on the BBC programme 'Who Do You Think You Are?' (a new series has started, BBC1, Wednesdays at 9pm). Those of you who enjoy detective stories

or puzzles can get great pleasure and a sense of achievement from piecing together the snippets of information, like Hercule Poirot, into a verifiable family history. Many riddles can be solved and family stories proved or disproved. One such story in my own family prevailed for many years and was vehemently upheld as true by my maternal grandfather. The story goes like this.....

My grandfather's parents had both died by the time he was 10 years old and the money from their estate put into a trust fund which was held by a firm of solicitors. Money was released on request by his guardian to buy shoes, clothes etc. He has always maintained that the solicitors

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Genealogy or Family History

Part one By Irene Sutton

‘ran off with the money’.

I have been able to show by careful research that his mother re-married aged 39 yrs to a young soldier aged 22 yrs (this skeleton was well hidden in the cupboard) and within 6 months had died. So.....maybe the solicitors were innocent and the young soldier inherited it, who knows? It is a great pity that I did not start my research earlier when my grandfather was alive, we may have got to the bottom of the mystery. I am sure that many other families have similar apocryphal stories of the ‘missing fortune’.

If you think you would like to trace your own family history, begin your research by gathering together family documents, photographs and stories. Talk to relatives to find out what they know of family relationships, locations, occupations and those all-important dates of births, marriages and deaths. The family bible is a very useful source of information if you have one. It was common practice for the head of the family to record significant events such as these in the family bible. All the information gathered can be recorded on family pedigree sheets, or more commonly these days, on computer. All the information will need to be verified by documentary evidence. The importance of this cannot be over emphasised, many budding genealogist have found themselves ‘barking up the wrong family tree’ because of an assumed connection. I have learned the

hard way that everything must be verified in as many ways as possible in order to avoid this. Copies of many documents can be obtained from various places. For example birth, marriage and death certificate copies can be ordered from The General Register Office, Southport (www.gro.gov.uk/gro) at a cost of £12.00.

There are many sources of information on the internet now, some of which are free and some you pay for. A good starting point is the Church of Jesus

Continued on page 23



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Bête Noir

By Jack 'Pa'son' Russell (*researched by Ean Lawrence*)

The 50th annual Canine Congress was recently convened in the Isle of Dogs. The Congress opened with the Presidential Address delivered by Gordon Setter. Gordon Setter is probably best known for his scandalous book entitled 'The Rights of Native Breeds'. His notoriety for this publication is only surpassed by the ridicule he regularly garners for consistently barking up the wrong tree. The President, greeted with general tail-wagging and yelping, welcomed representatives to the Congress. He announced that papers on 'Cats: How to Counter the International Feline Conspiracy', 'How to Resist

the Temptation of Cyclists' Heels' and 'A Place on the Sofa: An Opportunity to Make Friends and Influence Humans' would be presented at the sessions of the Congress.

In the course of his address, Gordon Setter observed that a statement had appeared recently in the public Press to the effect that there were eight million dogs in the United Kingdom. He had no reason to doubt the veracity of this statement as he had also seen it reported in that respected journal of record 'The Bulldog's Breakfast'. If there really were eight million of his race, it could hardly be denied that the



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Bête Noir

By Jack 'Pa'son' Russell (*researched by Ean Lawrence*)

United Kingdom deserved the title of "the true Dogs' Home of the Free." Notwithstanding this blessing, he felt that they had a number of legitimate - howling - grievances.

In the first place there were too many mongrels about. In their case multiplication was a vexation. Obviously, the President went on to argue, there was only a certain quantity of bones in the country. The fewer mongrel breeds the more bones there would be for the indigenous population. He appealed to the common sense of the meeting. "British bones for British dogs!" a Bulldog was heard to growl. (Barks

of assent echoed around the hall.) The President said he was delighted to learn that in parts of the country dogs of pure breeding "were, at long last, coming to their senses." (More barks of approbation.) Another point the President was eager to make was the tendency for their faithful companions to fob them off with inferior imported bones. He believed in the bones from the good roast beef of Old England. (More sycophantic barking and whining.) He also regretted that many companions, as well as offering inferior foreign bones, were using these times of economic constraint as an excuse to offer their loyal friends a sub-standard kind of dog biscuit. "What may acceptable on the Continent is not acceptable here." It was while the President was listing a programme of attractive excursions to places of interest that the Committee had arranged - the Dogs' Home at Battersea, the Arboretum at Kew and, of course, Barking - that a commotion arose in the main body of the audience. During the confusion, a Pembroeshire Corgi was seen to be escorted from the building, leaving discreetly by a rear entrance, and driven away in a Rover. Later investigation showed that the disorder was initiated by members of the British branch of the

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Bête Noir

By Jack 'Pa'son' Russell (*researched by Ean Lawrence*)

International Brigade of spaniels. This enlightened group comprises the Clumbers, the Cockers, the Springers (English and Welsh affiliates), the Sussexes, the King Charleses and the K. C. Cavaliers. The International Brigade of Spaniels has the reputation for promoting a moderate, liberal approach to canine politics and a long-standing advocacy of the universal brotherhood of animals. On this occasion, their main objection was the presence at the meeting of Dobermann Pinscher.

Herr Pinscher, who was invited by the President to be the guest speaker at the Congress, espouses views that the Spaniels consider to be incompatible with the constitution of the Union of Canine Congresses and the unwritten canine covenant that promotes internationalism in the world of dogs and other animal species. It was at this point that members of the Anti-Canine League seized their opportunity and revealed themselves and started to chant anti-canine slogans and hurl Scotch eggs in the direction of the podium. These were wolfed down by the pale-coated Labradors that had been standing in a row behind the President. The loyal supporters of the President directed angry looks at the Boxers, which had been door attendants

and entrusted with the task of vetting those who were entering the meeting. The Boxers slunk off with their tails between their legs - or they would have if they had had tails to put between their legs.

The barking rose in a crescendo reaching a climax of claim and counter-claim, accusation and counter-accusation, which none of the factions could have comprehended in the uproar, even if they had wanted to. At this point, the dispute spilled out of the hall into the surrounding streets and alleys. Fortunately, the violent confrontation between the

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Bête Noir

By Jack 'Pa'son' Russell (*researched by Ean Lawrence*)

parties, when it was clear that it might become a hazard to good public order, was brought under control by the quick response of the Dog Wardens, who identified ringleaders and took them to secure dog pounds across the capital. As a result of this 'decapitation' of leadership, the packs dispersed, each claiming the moral victory. No one from either the Union of Canine Congresses or the International Brigade of Spaniels was prepared to comment on the incident. A spokesman for the Anti-Canine League, however,

was eager to make a statement. "The Anti-Canine League is an informal union of like-minded cats who oppose the foul views promulgated by the Union of Canine Congresses.

"The Anti-Canine League reserves the right to use any means it sees fit - including the use of Scotch eggs - to stop the spread of the pernicious falsehoods peddled by the Union of Canine Congresses and not allow either its public or private utterances to go unchallenged. We will not allow the tail to wag the dog."

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Genealogy or Family History

Part one By Irene Sutton

Christ of Latter-day Saints (also known as the Mormon Church) which has been engaged in large-scale microfilming of genealogical records, not just those of its members. Their International Genealogical Index (IGI) contains millions of records of individuals who lived between 1500 and 1900 primarily in the United States, Canada and Europe. This information is available free on their website (www.familysearch.org) which also includes several other large databases of information. So if you can get information on your own family going back beyond 1900 this is a good place to try to get even further back.

I should, at this point, give thanks and pay tribute to all those people who make this information available to all. These people, often unpaid volunteers, spend many tedious hours transcribing and collating documents into an accessible form. I have also been involved in doing some of this by transcribing hand written parish registers into computer files, some of them written in beautiful copper plate handwriting but many of which are as cryptic as my doctor's prescriptions! I have necessarily become quite good at deciphering these (with the aid of a magnifying glass).

Of course researching the documents can be interesting enough, but one of the greatest pleasures is to visit some of the places where your family have lived and get a real sense of the lives they had. In

this way I have visited many interesting places I would not otherwise have visited, many of them little changed since the times my ancestors lived there. If you are lucky you can find out much more about your relatives on these visits by looking at gravestones, war memorials and the like, even the local pubs frequently have old photographs and documents on the walls.

On one occasion we were visiting a small village where a relative had lived, and popped into the local pub for lunch. When we got talking to the landlord about our visit he brought out a copy of a newspaper cutting from 1895 about an inquest into the death of this particular relative who it turns out had committed suicide by hanging himself and also revealed more new detail. Apparently it was common practice in those days to hold inquests at the local pub and this landlord had kept the cutting as part of his research into the history of his pub.

I have found the process of exploring my family history, although time consuming, to be fascinating and rewarding, why not have a go? The family tree of Confucius has been maintained for over 2,500 years and is listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the largest existing family tree, so there's your target!

Get in touch with me if you like; I will always help if I can.

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