



NEWSLETTER

Number 154 January 2011

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

27 th January 2011	AGM	
Feb	Paul Oldfield	Birds of Nepal up to base camp Everest
March	Tony Glover	TBA
April	Brian Nobbs	Birds of the Mediterranean

At the time of preparing this newsletter I am still suffering from Christmas excess, so as I sit at the desk thinking what items I can report in this newsletter, my eye fell on a Christmas prezzie I had received, a book called “Dead Weird”. Here are a few of the contents which I hope will amuse you...

MOURNING. The more remote the Scottish location, it seems the more primitive and intense was the mourning. The 17th century traveller Martin Martin, on a visit to St. Kilda, reported that on the death of the laird, the people had left their homes for two days to mourn him in the fields. According to Ann Gordon, they did so “In a manner that was positively Biblical”.

MOCK FUNERAL. In the 1980s, an 87 year old Italian man, “dying to see what his funeral would be like”, organised a mock event in the town of Poggio Nativo. The event included a procession from his church to the cemetery, complete with the town band playing solemn music. Alexandro Polverari, a retired local government official, wore a three-piece black suit and a hat and he walked at the head of a procession which was comprised of a band, family members and a column of about 200 cars.

MEDIUM RARE. In 1570 Gilbert, Earl of Cassilis, the self-styled King of Carrick in Ayrshire, partially roasted a man called William Stewart over a spit in an attempt to extort cash.

HOW SOME FOREIGN MAGNATES SNUFFED IT.

King John of England- overdid the peaches in cider at a Norfolk beano.

Attila the Hun- Burst a blood vessel cavorting with one of his 12 wives.

Haakon V11 of Norway- slipped in the bath and struck his head on the taps.

Claudius, Emperor of Rome- Choked on a feather being used by a physician to promote vomiting

FUNERAL ANTHEMS (QUIRKY)

Stairway to heaven....Living in a box....Wake me up before you go....Fire starter

Another one bites the dust....Smoke gets in your eyes....Going underground

FOREIGN FAREWELLS

You are more likely to be killed by a champagne cork than a poisonous spider.

The public morgue in the Bronx district of New York is sometimes so busy that relatives are given numbered tickets and asked to queue to identify their deceased family member.

EPITAPHS

Here snug in grave my wife doth lie, Now she`s as rest – and so am I

Here lies John Yeast – Forgive him for not rising.

Erected to the memory of John Macfarlane Drowned in the water of Leith, by a few affectionate friends.

The Blackbirds home

The blackbirds nest is lodged in scrubby trees, ivy thickets or garden hanging baskets. Sometimes, they are even built in leafy exhibits during Chelsea Flower Show. Mostly made by the female, its sturdy, shaggy coracle of carefully woven dried grasses, twigs and moss, smoothed and cushioned inside with mud and more grass. She may cluck softly when to-ing and fro-ing with suitable building materials; once it`s made, she lays three to five blue-green speckled eggs. A second brood may be raised later, even a third if conditions allow. As their plumage matures, the ravenous juveniles are demanding charges, squeaking *chop chop* from the branches, and being fed by both parents.

KBH

Just a little brain teaser this month.

1)

Which fictional character says “I will thcream and thcream `til I make myself thick”?

2)

How many people take part in a quadrille dance?

3)

What was Fanny Cradock`s real first name?

4)

What colour are North Devon cattle?

5)

What is another name for a ship`s waterline?

Answers on next page.

Club annual dinner

4th or 5th March has been suggested for the annual club dinner possibly at the Thatchers Arms the venue we used last year.

But if you have an alternative venue in mind, please let any committee member know at the next meeting.

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There will be three vacant positions on the committee for 2011, Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. If you would like to come onto the committee and help plan the way ahead for the club, please submit your name to any council member.

There will be a bird sale in Norwich on 6th February and the club has managed to obtain a table at no charge, to promote the club. People from this area do attend this show and we may be able to get them to join us. Paul has very kindly agreed to give up his time to man the table for us, which will have leaflets and a copies of our programme to entice new members.

Congratulations are in order for Elaine and Colin as they have become the proud grandparents to Monty. The wonderful thing about being a grandparent is.....you have them, enjoy them, then hand them back.

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Answers. 1) Violet Elizabeth Bott in the "Just William" series
2) Eight 3) Phyllis 4) Red 5) The Plimsoll line or load line