

TRAVELOGUE NO 47

October
2009



Issue 4
Volume 1

Slop Bins For Every Home

This nationwide scheme will mean that households will be forced to have a separate slop bucket - or kitchen caddy as Whitehall prefers to call them - for everything from chicken bones to mouldy lettuce and left-over baked beans. Those who fail to recycle food waste and try to put it out with their general refuse are likely to face bin fines - which typically run at £110 but which can now in some cases reach £500.

The ban on landfilling of food waste - and also aluminium, glass and wood - is being prepared by Environment Secretary Hilary Benn. Mr Benn indicated his intention to ratchet up the Government's push for more recycling earlier this summer, saying: 'It's time for a new war on waste'. He intends to put out a consultation paper by the end of the year which could lead to compulsory slop bucket rules by the end of 2011.

However, more than a third of the homes in the country do not use the wheelie bins necessary for a slop bucket system and half do not have the compulsory recycling needed to end landfilling of food, or glass and aluminium bottles and tins, or paper containers. They would have to switch to recycling systems with fortnightly collection of most rubbish and weekly visits

from binmen to pick up the kitchen slop bucket. And councils required to end landfilling of food waste and other materials would have to build up an enforcement system to ensure householders kept to the rules. Under the new Whitehall-approved system, recycling boxes will still be collected once a fortnight but potentially unhealthy kitchen slops will be picked up once a week.

Tory local government spokesman Caroline Spelman said: 'Law-abiding citizens face heavy-handed fines for minor infringements like putting out rubbish in the wrong bin, with surveillance technology out to catch them.'

The Government is anxious to prevent food waste going to landfill because of its impact on climate change. The threat of EU sanctions is, however, more substantial. Brussels is to start collecting heavy fines from British councils after 2013 if landfill reduction targets are not met.



NATURE CORNER

Red Grouse and Black Game in their natural environment, with their chief predator, the Hen Harrier, in flight.



'elf & Safety Wind Up Church Clock Winder



For more than 200 years the church clock of St Michael's has kept the good people of Helston in Cornwall up with the times. And for all that time, a volunteer warden has trudged up the tower on his own to wind the mechanism that keeps it ticking.

Now a tradition that dates back to 1793 is coming to an end - because of the health and safety brigade. Warden Roger Nott has been told the job is too dangerous because he has to climb a ladder and reach out to wind up the clock. The church will now have to find £5,000 from its funds for a machine to do the job.

Mr Nott, 63, said: 'To wind the clock is a simple operation carried out up a ladder and involves reaching out from the top in order to reach the winding mechanism. 'This is now considered to be a health and safety risk. We must conserve the clock mechanism and fit an automatic winding system which complies with the guidelines.'

Mr Nott has been 'captain of the tower' for three years, and has never had an accident.

He said: 'I turn the keys on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday and there's never been a problem. 'Because the clock is built like an old grandfather clock it would just stop working if I didn't wind it up. I take six or seven steps up the ladder, around 8ft. I'm not bothered about the height, I've been doing it for years.

'My predecessor retired when he was 82 and he still managed it fine. He'd been doing it for around 40 years. I'm 63 and I like to think I've got another ten to 15 years left in me. 'It's remarkable to think it's been going so long. I'm happy to do whatever as long as it keeps going. 'But the diocese say we have to have two people in the bell tower at all times, but that's not possible. 'So the only option is for it to wind automatically so we have to conform to that.'

A spokesman for the Truro Diocesan Guild of Ringers said Mr Nott was given the health and safety advice from its maintenance manager. He said: 'Unfortunately many people who wind clocks up aren't getting any younger and their safety is important.'



Dutchy Spotted In The Nullabor



Dutchy Verhagen from Gimpie, Victoria, Aus said he was inspired to create the "Bicycle Skanker" while preparing for a trip to the famous Burning Wallet festival in the Nullabor Desert. In keeping with the theme, Dutchy built the Bicycle Skanker out of materials he already had – including fluted plastic, a recycled poker table and an old mattress. Weighing about 45kg, the tiny caravan was designed to be environmentally friendly as well as withstand a harsh

environment. "This unit has to endure winds of 96km/h and heat of over 100C," he said. It has a solar shower, wind generator, solar food dehydrator screens and even a urinal funnel, the contents of which are stored in a "pee jug" inside the caravan. "It has all the comforts of home, except for a number two toilet." It also features a bubble door, gas stove, bed, fan, ice box, clothes burner, dobber box and tinny store. In a nice twist, a clear bubble has been built into the side of the caravan, allowing him to gaze at the crumphet while drifting off to sleep. In the absence of Lance Armstrong, the lazy git has to pedal his own home around two clicks per day.

Calendar of Events During September

Moving from a disastrous August into a very special visitor. James the old codgers were faring. With the at the other end of the Kingdom, I nice little car which served the pur-time was short so we decided to fit in summoned to Khon Kaen police sta-hire car for a 1500 Km round trip game of golf at Emerald. A beautiful pharmacy for sunburn lotion the following day. On Friday we all went for lunch to the Police restaurant near La Royale. Excellent prawns with other specialty dishes was enjoyed with a liberal supply of Sangsom.



rainy September, Lakeside wel-Bell arrived for a week to see how Fortuna residing in a police station hired a Honda City for ten days. A pose well. There was much to do and as much as possible. Eat had been tion on the Thursday, so took the whilst William and James went for a day for golf resulted in a visit to the



Saturday was bowling day, so James attempted to dent the girl's success but without any luck, despite two strikes and a spare in his first three rolls. They were just a bit too accurate, eventually getting 200+ towards the end. In the evening, James treated us to an excellent meal at our favourite eatery, Mata Hari. Absolutely first class and we all had a wonderful time. On Sunday, we took James to the Chill bar



for our regular lamb roast lunch and to meet up with Richard Hill. Surprise visitor, Tony Thai turned up with his entire family. Two Old Malvernians not seen each other for five years. time for the return flight back to more things to do, we gave JB the return visit very soon. Yes, a marvel-all a fresh impetus.



then engaged in catching up having Monday came far too soon and it was Blighty. All too quick and with loads Lakeside send-off with requests for a lous trip and one which has given us

Further good news happened when the considerable number of winks !!) for being suitably rewarded smoothed the passage and Eat duly returned to its resting place over the last month and drove back to Lakeside. I suppose patience is a virtue, even if one is dealing with public servants whose sole intention is to profit from other's losses.

police 'oop north gave the nod (with the Fortuna to be released. Naturally,

So we now enjoy the rainy season which has started with a vengeance and look forward to October.



Now taking bookings for Christmas and New Year !!!!

G B *Close To Extinction*



Gordon Brown



Great Bustard

American Nostalgia





Killjoy canteen chiefs ban Spotted Dick... and rebrand it Spotted Richard!

Like Victorian prudes draping a cloth over a well-turned table leg, killjoy canteen chiefs at Flintshire council have banned Spotted Dick.

These Welsh puritans have ordered the name of the popular pudding changed to Spotted Richard. If they knew anything about cockney rhyming slang, they'd have given that a miss, too.

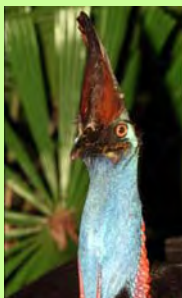
Spotted Richard sounds even less appetising than Spotted Dick. (Richard the Third, madam. Something you wouldn't want to step on.) Where does this leave cock-a-leekie, let alone coq au vin? And woe betide anyone who asks for a knob of butter or meat and two veg.



Big bird scares cops



They handle thugs, louts and hardened criminals – but an angry cassowary was enough to send police packing yesterday. Two officers at Mission Beach, south of Cairns, were standing on the side of a road trying to clock speeding drivers when a grumpy bird emerged from the rainforest. “He was taller than me ... and he wasn’t happy,” Sgt Dan Gallagher said. “He looked at us, watched us and then came right up next to us. “He was so close to me it wasn’t funny. You could see he didn’t want us around ... we packed up and got out of there.” The grumpy cassowary is believed to be the same adult bird that chased a car recently after standing his ground in the middle of South Mission Beach Rd. A driver reported the bird for refusing to budge and going up to the stationary vehicle’s window and eyeballing her. The bird then chased the car as it drove slowly away.



Citizen’s Arrester Arrested !!!



When police failed to help after Roland Digby's house was repeatedly pelted with apples by a gang of youths, the father-of-three tried to perform a citizen's arrest. But instead of the jobs, it is he who has been left facing court. He was arrested and charged with common assault after allegedly placing his hand on a 16-year-old's shoulder to restrain him.

Roland Digby says he and his wife were pelted with apples as they sat in their garden. The youth swore at him and a scuffle broke out, so Mr Digby put him in a 'full-nelson' behind-the-back arm-lock 'to make sure



he didn't get away'. About 15 other teenagers then joined the fray, which ended after several minutes when Mr Digby escaped with a 'clipped lip'.

But despite four 999 calls no officers turned up to his house. When they did arrive five days later, it was Mr Digby that was arrested. After a third night of harassment, when more than 20 teenagers pelted him and his wife Janette with apples as they sat in their garden, Mr Digby called the police at 8.30pm and went to confront the group. Mr Digby complained to two passing policeman on the way home after he broke free from the scuffle. They told him to go back to the house and wait, but at 11pm he received a call saying no officers would be able to attend that evening. When he was arrested Mr Digby refused to accept a caution and was charged. He will appear in Stevenage Magistrates' Court, but is unrepentant and plans to plead not guilty.

A spokesman for Hertfordshire Police said: 'This is a matter reviewed by the CPS who felt there was enough evidence to bring charges against Mr Digby. 'However, we have not lost sight of the circumstances surrounding this incident which are still under investigation and we are committed to resolving the complexities of this case with all parties involved.'

Binman Claims Same As Losing Foot

A refuse collector who was forced to take a lower-paid job after tripping on an uneven pavement has been awarded £57,000 compensation from a local authority. The amount is more than a soldier would receive if he lost a foot in an explosion in Afghanistan. Alan Shambrook, 55, fell badly on his left knee while on his round collecting rubbish and recycling waste for Stevenage Borough Council.

The grandfather-of-one blamed Hertfordshire County Council for the accident, arguing they failed to maintain the pavement properly. He also damaged his shoulder and elbow in the fall and has now been awarded compensation equivalent to a level eight injury - as classified by the British Army's Armed forces compensation scheme.

British soldiers are paid between £48,875 and £63,825 for the loss of a foot or developing a mental disorder.

He has needed two operations on his shoulder and been forced to take 15 months off work and cannot lift heavy weights or even swim or play golf. Alan, who lives with his wife in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, had to take a lesser-paid job driving a road sweeper because he cannot raise his arms above his head. He was awarded the compensation at Luton Crown Court in June after Hertfordshire County Council admitted liability for the uneven paving slab. A spokesman for Hertfordshire County Council said they tried to keep on top of pavement repairs and they had an emergency response team to repair hazardous pavements.

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Crocodile Attacks Urinating Tourist In Mexico

A crocodile attacked a young US tourist as he tried to urinate in a lagoon near the Mexican tourist resort of Cancun, police said. Andrew Dales, 20, confessed he had been on a mission to relieve himself when the crocodile suddenly snapped at him, said police spokesman Alejandro Solórzano. Dales suffered "multiple bite wounds" to his leg and neck and was also left with a head injury after the reptile knocked him to the ground, Solórzano said. Lagoons in the area are dotted with crocodile warning signs. His manhood was unaffected due to its insignificance, and it is hoped that he will soon return to the swamp as a tourist attraction, in the best taste !!

Sitting on an elephant *adj.* To be highly burbulent, to have brewed a massive one up. "Would you kindly evacuate to the drawing room, my dear, and take the girls with you." Mr Bennett whispered. "I indulged myself in partaking rather a surfeit of chef's magnificent sprouts this lunchtime, and I fear I am now sitting on an elephant." (from 'Pride and Prejudice' by Jane Austen).



Plucky Kingbird hitches Ride On Super Predator ... and Lives !!!!!

This is the moment a tiny kingbird decided it was time to see off a potential



predator circling his home. In a bold move, the aggressive little bird launched itself at the fearsome red-tailed hawk and sank its talons into the larger bird's back. The feisty kingbird attacked the hawk as it ventured too near its nest, dive-bombing it relentlessly, before jumping on for a piggyback, clinging to it as it soared through the air. It enjoyed the ride for a few seconds before resuming the attack, pecking the hawk's head in fury. The hawk, which is typically up to 50 times bigger than the kingbird, was powerless to shake its rider off and shrieked until it finally flew away to look for easier pickings elsewhere. A member of the flycatcher family, the kingbird is known for defending its nest area very aggressively, pluckily driving off unwanted intruders, including hawks, and even vultures.

The incredible moment was captured by amateur photographer Pat Gaines, 41, at Bonny Lake park in Colorado, United States.