

DWARF NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Dwarf Owners Society of Great Britain

No Dwarfs were harmed in the making of this publication

EDITORIAL

Welcome to September's 'Dwarf News', keeping you up to date with events in the Dwarf world throughout August.

There is astonishing news from Thailand, while closer to home filming has finished on the re-make of 'Confessions Of A Window Cleaner'. Former Editor Piers Bentley has been in court over the sale of the forged Von Smith Diaries, and has been found guilty. We report on his sentence in Court Diary, and also cover the latest news on the sporting front, in our Sports Report. Finally, there have been new developments regarding the Elizabethan portrait of Earl Bodkin, purchased by the present Earl, Cuthbert, and offered to the National Gallery.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back our secretary, Sophie, who has been off sick for the last four months.

POLICE IN THAILAND ARREST MISSING ARBUTHNOTS.

Couple Accused Of Keeping A Brothel Without A Licence

Mrs. Gladys Arbuthnot, wanted by police in Yorkshire after she fled the country shortly after receiving a cheque for seven million pounds from Norwich Union, has been arrested in Phuket following a police sweep of unlicensed brothels in the town last month. Arrested with her was her husband Richard, who was thought to have died in an explosion at the Middle Whallop Steam Preservation Society, earlier this year. The cheque was paid out to cover the loss of the society's valuable collection of early railway and industrial steam engines. Also destroyed was the old steam powered 'Dwarf News' printing press, on loan to the museum from its owner, Assistant Editor of 'Dwarf News', Jane Von Smith BA. Mrs. Von Smith, widow of controversial author Eric, was owed over three million pounds to cover the loss of the exhibit. She has since been declared bankrupt, and is sleeping on the settee at the home of her former husband number two, Harry Collins.

A senior officer from the Yorkshire police returned from Thailand last week, where he had been sent by the force to interview the couple. He told reporters after his plane landed at Heathrow two days late that he had "Had a great time". A spokesman for the police told 'Dwarf News', "We are now having serious doubts that the explosion which destroyed Middle Whallop Junction Railway Station was, in fact, an accident. We suspect that it may have been caused deliberately, in an attempt to defraud the insurance company. Our officer in Thailand has made a positive identification of Mr. Richard

Arbuthnot, who was thought to have been killed in the explosion. Mr. Arbuthnot's body is supposed to be buried in the local cemetery at Middle Whallop.

We are also still trying to discover the whereabouts of another worker at the museum, Mr. Fred Clegg, who was definitely in the building at the time of the explosion. Despite now having cleared all the remains of the old engine sheds which housed the collection, we have been unable to locate his body.”

Yorkshire police have applied for the couple's extradition, and have issued warrants for their arrest on charges of attempting to defraud Norwich Union Insurance Company. Mrs. Arbuthnot, who acted as treasurer to the steam society ran by her husband, emptied the account two days after the cheque from Norwich Union cleared, and left the country from Heathrow, on one of the rare occasions when it was functioning normally, and not shut down due to strikes by baggage handlers, catering staff or air traffic controllers, or all three.



One of a chain of Phuket ‘Massage Parlours’, allegedly owned by the Arbuthnots. Police in Thailand estimate their total holdings to be worth over six point five million pounds.

GOWER PORTRAIT REMOVED FROM DISPLAY BY NATIONAL GALLERY AFTER LETTER SENT TO ‘DWARF NEWS’

A painting of famous Elizabethan Dwarf Phillip of Staines, the first Earl Bodkin, has been removed from exhibition, two weeks after it was presented to the National Gallery by Cuthbert, the fourteenth Earl. The portrait, featuring Phillip, his wife Lady Jane Krumpett, and some of their eleven children, is attributed to George Gower, who painted portraits of the Queen and other top society figures of the day. Serious doubts have now

been raised over the provenance of the picture, which was sold privately to the present Earl for an undisclosed sum after it was withdrawn from auction at the last minute by former 'Dwarf News' Editor Piers Bentley. He sold the painting in order to pay for his defence in a fraud trial, reported in this month's Court Diary. Mr. Bentley claims that the picture has been in his family for the last two hundred years.

The portrait shows the couple seated outside an Oxford coaching inn, 'The Dwarfs Head', which was named in the Earl's honour, after his execution for treason in 1598.

Doubts about the painting were first expressed by Professor Claire Worthing, Principle Reader at the Recently Established Department of Political Infighting at Merkin College, Cambridge. Professor Worthing gained an arts degree at Durham University, before studying left wing politics for several years at Greenham Common. A further expert, Professor Winston Seagrove, Fellow of the Royal Academy, also questioned the authenticity of the work, pointing out to 'Dwarf News' that inn signs of the day usually only carried a picture, rather than bearing the name of the establishment, as over ninety percent of the customers were unable to read. **(I know of pubs in Milton Keynes where that still applies today. – Ed).**

The painting was withdrawn from display after 'Dwarf News' forwarded a letter to the National Galley, sent to the paper by a young reader who questioned the identity of the portrait's principle subject, the Earl himself.

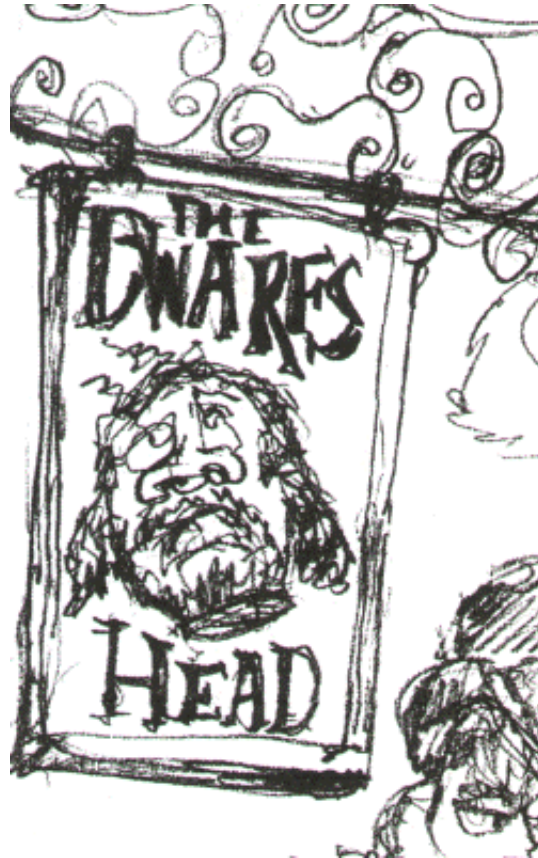
Dear Dwarf News,

I like your paper very much, specially cos my daddy lets me colour in the picture every month, after he has read it. When I grow up, I want to be a Dwarf, like my mummy. Daddy said that Dwarfs don't grow up, they just grow out and get fat, like mummy. I think that is why mummy is making him sleep in the spare room again, like she did when we came home from grannys and caught him watching a video, about a pretty lady who owned an Alsation. Granny has a Jack Russel, but it doesn't do that. May be its legs arent long enough for it to reach.

I liked the picture of the little man sitting on the ladies lap outside the pub, with all the children, that was in last month. Daddy said that it was someone called Mr Bodkin, but I don't think it can be, because I can read alright, if somebody helps me with the long words, and in the month before, it said that the pub was called the Dwarfs Head after Mr Bodkin had his head chopped off, before that it was called the Dwarf and Ladder. I don't think they can have stuck it back on afterwards with chewing gum, cos I broke the head off one of mummys ornaments, and tried to stick it on with chewing gum, but it went manky and fell off again after three weeks. The chewing gum tasted horrible afterwards, too. Besides, it would not stick very well with a real head, cos of all the blud.

**Love,
Jessica Bentley,
Aged eight and a half.**

PS Can I have a free tea shirt?



Detail from the Gower Painting, showing the inn sign, which has caused doubts to be expressed regarding the painting's authenticity.

Editor's Note. Well, done, Jessica, what a clever girl you are. People who know all about old paintings thought that the picture was real, and only you noticed that, unless they stuck the Earl's head back on after it had been chopped off, he could not have posed for a painting outside 'The Dwarfs Head', because it was called something else while he was alive.

After thinking about it here at the office, however, we have decided not to send you a free T- shirt, because as Uncle Roger the 'Dwarf News' photographer says, nobody likes a smart-arse.

DWARF KEEPER ROYAL DENIES HE IS SUFFERING FROM STRAIN OF OFFICE

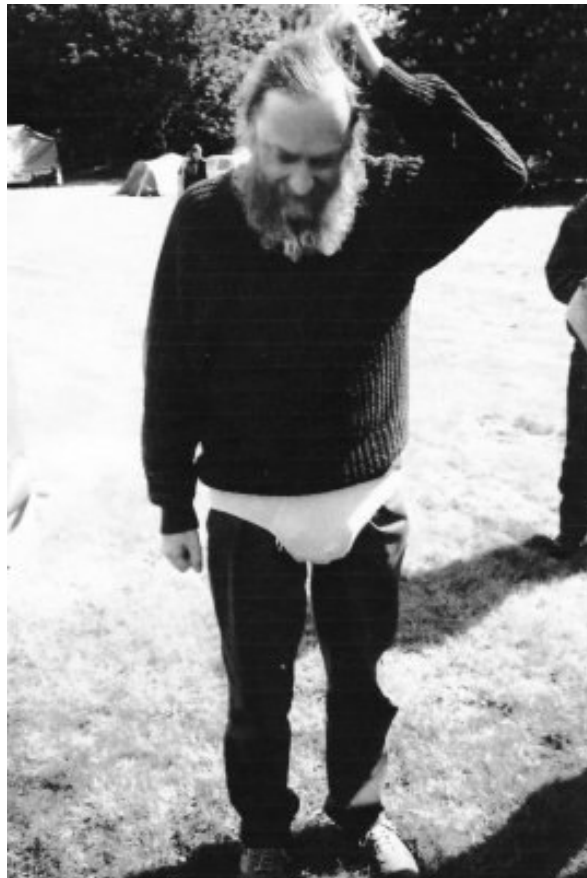
The Dwarf Keeper Royal, who was advised by the recently re-instated Chair of the Dwarf Owners Society Of Great Britain's Awards Committee, Zena, that he should consider standing down in favour of a younger member, has denied that the strain of office is affecting his health.

"I can assure members that I am perfectly capable of running the Society: I have no intention of giving up my position, now or in the future", he told 'Dwarf News'.

Since the suggestion was made last month, however, further evidence has emerged that he may well be suffering from overwork. One member told the Editor in a letter that he had witnessed the Dwarf Keeper Royal “wandering around in a confused state”, at a motorcycle rally two years ago, and had been concerned at the time that the Society’s number one was in need of a long rest. “I felt that he should have someone with him, to make sure he didn’t hurt himself”, the anonymous writer claimed.

While many of the Society’s members who regularly attend rallies themselves will appreciate that most of the people at these events spend the time wandering around in a confused state, due to cold, lack of sleep, poor diet and excessive alcohol and drug consumption, the writer included a photograph taken at the time, which tends to prove that, even for a rally, the Dwarf Keeper Royal did seem to be more confused than other people.

Zena, who was shown the photograph by the Editor, commented that it was not a picture of a man who was in full control of his mental faculties. “Unless he thinks he’s Superman, in which case he’s a lot further down the road to total breakdown than even I suspected”, she stated.



A man in full control of his own brain? The Dwarf Keeper Royal, whose mental health is causing concern among some members.

The photograph was also shown to Doctor William Bodkin, GF, SRCCP, who heads The Little Known Department Of Dwarf Psychiatry at Merkin College, Cambridge. “It is always difficult to give an accurate diagnosis without spending time with the patient, but my first impression is that the subject needs more than just a kick up the arse, and being told to sort his fucking life out”, The doctor told our Editor. “If a colleague came to me this photograph and asked me if I would be prepared to sign the necessary papers to have this man sectioned under the Mental Health Act, my only question would be, ‘can I borrow your pen?’”

FILMING COMPLETED ON ‘CONFESSIONS’ RE-MAKE

By Our Show Business Correspondent

American film impresario Harvey Steinway has finished filming his new version of the classic British comedy, ‘Confessions Of A Window Cleaner’, starring Harry Collins, the former ‘Dwarf News’ Office Boy.

Collins, (5ft 1in) was selected for the role due to his association with window cleaning equipment, after it emerged last May that he had been involved in a three-year clandestine affair with Assistant Editor Jane Von Smith, conducted during lunch hours in the office stationary cupboard while in the standing position, with the aid of a bucket. At the time of the affair, Jane was still married to her first husband, Senior Print Shop Engineer Charles Longfellow. Collins went on to become the face of an advertising campaign by retail giant B&Q, for their extensive range of own label buckets.

Due to the English/American language barrier, our reporter spent several hours on set trying to locate the director, after asking how things were going, and where Mr. Steinway was. He then assumed that the expression ‘in the can’, referred to the director, rather than the film, and spent the morning searching every toilet on set, before being told that Mr. Steinway was in his office.

The film is now being edited, and it is rumoured that much of the footage is destined for the cutting room floor. “Some of the sex scenes are pretty hot, if they’re left in the final cut they’re bound to upset the censors, and get complaints from the public that the film is gratuitously obscene”, Steinway told our showbiz reporter. “Some of the other scenes are a lot milder, probably only classing as soft porn, so we’re cutting those out”.

Harry Collins was not personally involved in some of the film’s more raunchy moments, after his wife, former radical feminist Dwarf Minnie Small-Collins, told him that she was not prepared to stay at home looking after the couple’s baby daughter, Victoria, while he was being paid to romp around with a succession of pneumatic young naked actresses. American stunt Dwarf Wee Willie Wilson, former World’s Strongest Dwarf and a body double for Arnold Swartzenneggar, was called in to replace Harry for the sex scenes. Although Harry Collins looks more like Danny De Vito than Arnie, the director explained that no-one would notice the substitutions, as they would be far too busy looking at the naked actress on screen at the same time, and claimed that Hollywood has been getting away with the same trick for years. “When Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman were filming ‘Eyes Wide Shut’, the last film they made together before their divorce, the marriage was so rocky that most of the time Stanley Kubrick couldn’t get the two stars together in the same country, let alone the same bed”, Harvey revealed. “In one sex

scene, Cruise's stand-in was a sixty-five year old African-American Dwarf with a wooden leg, but as Nicole was running around naked at the time, no-one noticed".

Our reporter asked Harvey if he had experienced any problems with the British film industry, after his decision to cast American actresses in all the female roles.

"What industry?" the director enquired. Steinway decided not to use British actresses due to the film being released in America as well as Britain, and claimed at the time that American audiences would only go to see the film if there was someone familiar in the cast. He also angered British actresses by claiming that many were too small chested for the roles, suggesting that most of them "still think that silicone is something you put round the bath, to stop it leaking". **(Obviously, Mr. Steinway has never owned a Triumph. – Ed).**

The film is now in the final stages of production, and is due for release in time for the Christmas Holiday season. "My colleagues in the states are recording the soundtrack, a decent song gets lots of airplay, and persuades people to see the movie. We were hoping to get Eminem to record a rap version of an old British song 'The Windows Of Your Mind'; but I understand the guy's taking time off to sort out his drug problems, so instead we're going to use George Formby's 'When I'm Cleaning Windows'. Personally I thought the song was crap when I heard it, but the new version by Michael Jackson is pretty good. You'd be amazed at how desperate pop stars get if they haven't had a record in the charts for a couple of months. Besides, I understand he really needs the money".

'Dwarf News' has been invited to the premiere, and the Editor has told Sophie the Secretary/Reporter that she can have the ticket. She is due to spend the next three months worrying about what to wear.

NEW DWARF EXCHANGE SCHEME GETS UNDER WAY

The Society's new Dwarf Exchange Scheme has been used for the first time, with two Dwarfs registered with the Society being exchanged by their owners. Awards Committee Chair Zena is now the registered keeper of Ghandi, formerly the property of Dwarf Keeper Alex Titterington. Alex, meanwhile, has become the proud owner of Grim the Cyber Dwarf. This is believed to be an attempt by Zena to stop the Dwarf Keeper Royal referring to her in private as 'Two Dwarfs Daniels'.

Grim, when interviewed by the Editor at the recent Barrel Bikers Custom Show in Milton Keynes, said, "At least my new owner can cook, and has enough bottle to ride on the back of the BMW outfit".

'Dwarf News' wishes both owners and Dwarfs a long and happy relationship.

COURT DIARY

Mr. Piers Bentley, a former Editor of 'Dwarf News', has been fined two thousand pounds, plus costs, and been put on probation for two years, after he decided to change his plea to guilty regarding the forgery of the Von Smith Diaries.

Bentley's solicitor, Mr. Patel, of the firm Patel, Cohen and Crunge, explained to the court that his client did not stand to gain financially from the sale of the forged documents.

“Mr. Bentley felt that he needed the money in order to cover shortfalls in the paper’s accounts, incurred while he was in charge. Most of these were due to his authorizing a foreign trip by a member of staff, using her ‘Dwarf News’ credit card. The member of staff concerned was somewhat extravagant, and indeed used her expense account to charter a private jet to fly across America from west to east, in order to make a connection at New York”.

In passing sentence, the judge told the court that Bentley was very fortunate not to receive a prison sentence. “I have taken into account the fact that you have never been in trouble with the police before, despite coming from a difficult background, with a mother who largely brought up both you and your younger brother on her own, while your father served several terms of imprisonment, due to his unfortunate habit of signing his paintings with the names of other artists. I accept that you are genuinely sorry for the problems you have caused, and that you realize that you have been extremely foolish. The court also accepts your promise to repay your former employers the money that you took from various funds to try to cover up a large hole in the expense accounts, as soon as you can find employment”, Bentley was informed. “Rest assured that, if you are ever brought before me again to face similar charges, I will have no hesitation in sending you to prison for a considerable time”.

After he had been sentenced, Bentley thanked the judge for his understanding, and promised that he had learned his lesson. “I give you my word that I shall not find myself in here again, even for a parking ticket”, he assured the court.

‘Dwarf News’ had hoped to interview the former Editor after the trial, however this was not possible, as on leaving the court, Bentley was arrested by officers from London’s Art and Antiquities squad, who wished to interview him over the sale of an Elizabethan painting, which experts now believe may be a forgery.

SPORTS REPORT

Lancashire Dwarfs first eleven cricket team suffered a blow to their hopes of winning the Dwarf’s Inter Counties Cricket Cup for the third season running, when captain Wallace Grimthorpe was given out head before wicket during the first over of their match against Kent. He suffered concussion, but recovered in time to return to the field later in the day, and give a fine exhibition of spin bowling. Unfortunately for Lancashire, it wasn’t enough to prevent the southern side going on to win the match by three wickets.

In Floodlit Dwarf Racing, there was a surprise win in the sprint by ‘Slowcoach’ Sidney Brown, at a meeting in Cheltenham. Although he initially finished last, the other five competitors were all excluded, after a steward’s enquiry. On course bookmakers, who were facing heavy payouts on the original winner, firm favourite ‘Turbo’ Tommy Davis, praised the stewards for their decision.

‘Lightening’ Larry Rogers, known in racing circles as ‘The Inflammable Dwarf’ due to his tendency to catch fire after talking to the press, is recovering at home, after he dropped a two-gallon fire extinguisher on his foot at a meeting in Doncaster last month. He hopes to be fully recovered in time for next month’s Dwarf’s Derby at Catford. Bookies are already making him the firm favourite to win the main race of the evening,

the Martin Unwin Friendship Foundation Cup. The foundation works with young people from the Catford area, and encourages them to learn about teamwork and self-discipline, by taking them scuba diving at locations around the Essex coast. The trophy is awarded annually by the foundation, in memory of Catford businessman and philanthropist Martin Unwin, who lost his life in a deep-water swimming accident while on holiday in the Bahamas nine years ago, when someone accidentally re-charged the bottles of his aqualung with propane instead of oxygen. The trophy is referred to in Floodlit Dwarf Racing circles as the M.U.F.F. Diver's Cup. A full report on the meeting will be included in next month's 'Dwarf News'.

WINNER OF LAST MONTH'S T-SHIRT COMPETITION ANNOUNCED

Last month readers were challenged to come up with an entry for the A to Z of Dwarf Health, the second part of which forms this month's supplement.

Dwarf Keeper Alex Titterington told us that he would keep his new Dwarf happy and healthy by buying him a new BMW and a Triumph. He admits that to do this, he needs to get his hands on Grim's credit card, and forge his signature. I am sure that two new bikes would make for a very happy Cyber Dwarf, at least until the next bank statement arrived on the doorstep.

The T-shirt this month, however, goes to Dwarf Friend Chris Straw, for the following suggestions.

COMMON DWARFISH AILMENTS INCLUDE:

Sprained Ankles Frequently sustained by the winner on jumping over the net at table tennis matches.

Pool Head A persistent swelling of the forehead accompanied by unconsciousness, caused by forgetting to remove high-heeled Dwarf boots before running under the pool table to make the next shot. Not to be confused with so-called "Hurdle Crust", which has similar symptoms but a different cause and is endemic among racing Dwarfs.

Dead Dwarf Syndrome or DDS A variety of causes, often accompanied by bricks. N.B; this is the one the Coroner writes down where it says "Cause of Death" when Upsy-Daisy candidates get it really messily wrong because it's too complicated to explain.

Sticky End A sub-variant of DDS.

Rat Tongue Suffered by careless Dwarfs, the sandwich filling wasn't quite dead.

Strangles A complication of Rat Tongue, the bitten organ swells up and causes all sorts of problems.

Hoicks or Hacks Often found in greedy Dwarfs. Caused by swallowing a rat tail first rather than the usual head first, the fur jamming barb-like in the throat. So-called because of the sometimes distressing noises made by the Dwarf while trying to clear the throat. The Dwarf Keepers Society recommends skinning all rats before feeding them to your Dwarf. If he or she really does need the extra roughage, do remember to coat the rat with Vaseline first. It will also help prevent fur balls.

Editor's Note. Despite claims to the contrary in the above entry, The Dwarf Owners Society Of Great Britain does not recommend rats as part of a balanced diet for your Dwarf. These creatures are vermin, and carry many unpleasant diseases. Most Dwarfs are happy and healthy when fed on their natural diet, consisting of scraps and leftovers. If you must feed your Dwarf on rats, make sure that you only use fresh or frozen rats from reliable sources, such as pet shops which specialize in large reptiles.

PROBLEM PAGE

'Dwarf News' relationship counselor Auntie Linda is on holiday this month. Readers with emotional problems are therefore advised to contact their doctor for a repeat Valium prescription. Meanwhile, the editorial staff have been reading Auntie Linda's post bag, and can offer these readers the following advice:

Richard: What you are intending is dangerous to your health. Not only this, but it is also illegal, the equipment is not available in this country, and if you wish to import a set from abroad you will need a licence from the Ministry Of Agriculture.

Claire: Why not just keep some photographs of your Dwarf instead? Taxidermy is not something you can learn from a book, and we doubt if the library will have one. Alternatively, our Secretary/Reporter Sophie suggests you try Ray's Taxidermy, motto; you snuff 'em, we stuff 'em.

Sarah: You should not try to carry out this operation on your Dwarf, even if you do have your mum to help you. Surgery is not a suitable hobby for the enthusiastic Do It Yourself fan. If the local hospital refuses to help, try contacting the nearest Rabbi.

Kevin: You can, but you will need full protective clothing. The usual sentence for a second offence is five years, so make sure the curtains are drawn before you start.

SUPPLEMENT

With this year's DwarfFest fast approaching, members cannot expect to win awards in the show ring unless their Dwarf is in tip-top condition. To help you get your Dwarf in the best possible shape, this month's supplement contains the second part of Principle Show Judge Ivor Smallpiece's guide to Dwarf health.

COMMON DWARF AILMENTS, OR, AILMENTS OF THE COMMON DWARF (PART TWO)

By Ivor Smallpiece

Nosebleeds. A very common condition, as just about everything designed for normal people, like fridge doors, door handles, tall people's knees etc. are at nose height for the majority of Dwarfs. Try hanging your Dwarf up by their feet until it stops, or make them stand on several sheets of newspaper. Some members use an ice pack to stop the flow; others prefer a common clothes peg.

Obesity. By the time they reach their thirties, most male Dwarfs are, according to the standard height/weight chart, around a foot too short for their body weight. Various solutions have been tried; none of them work.

Premature Baldness. Another complaint that affects most male Dwarfs, it is not harmful to their health, but some owners feel that it detracts from their appearance in the show ring. Baldness is particularly noticeable in Dwarfs, due to everyone looking down on the top of their heads. Buy him a hat, or alternatively a hairpiece. **(Dwarf toupees are referred to in Dwarf slang as merkins, as they are the same distance from the ground as a merkin, or pubic wig. –Ed).**

Q Fever. Caused by the bacteria *Coxiella Burnetii*, can lead to pneumonia and hepatitis, so early treatment is essential. Usually found in sheep, goats and other mammals. If you are the owner of a male Dwarf and live in the countryside, check his trousers; if there is wool caught in the teeth of the zip, then this gives a good indication of how he caught it. In this case, neutering immediately should help to prevent re-infection.

Rabbit Fever. Also known as Tularemia, this is an infection common in wild rodents, and is caused by the organism *Franciscella Tularensis*. Transmitted to Dwarfs by contact with animal tissue or ticks. If you are the owner of a male Dwarf and live in the countryside, check his trousers; if there is rabbit fur caught in the teeth of the zip, then this gives a good indication of how he caught it. After neutering, consider training him up for Floodlit Dwarf Racing, as any Dwarf who can run fast enough to catch a wild rabbit, and still have enough energy left afterwards to attempt to breed with it, must be considered a potential champion.

Sleep Apnea. This is a condition where the Dwarf, due to the throat muscles relaxing in deep sleep, stops breathing for a short period. The condition causes the Dwarf to snore very loudly. The best way to treat the condition is to make the Dwarf sleep in another room, with the door closed.

Toilet Seat Injury. More properly known as Scrotal Trauma, the amount of damage can range from minimal to severe. Often caused by the toilet seat falling onto the Dwarf's genitals while he is relieving himself. Prevention is better than cure; so female owners are advised not to put furry seat covers on toilet seat lids, as these invariably change the angle at which the lid rests against the cistern. If male Dwarfs drink whisky, then they often develop the unsanitary habit of urinating from the upstairs bedroom window. This tendency should be trained out of the Dwarf as soon as possible, particularly if you live in an older style house, with sliding sash windows.

Urinary Tract Infection. Often the result of catching a sexually transmitted disease. Female Dwarf owners are advised to treat this problem in their Dwarfs by the 'three warnings' method. Treat the first time with antibiotics, and repeat if the infection re-occurs. On the third occasion, treat again. If your Dwarf contracts a fourth infection, prevent the problem in future by amputation of the body part concerned.

Vaccinations. All Dwarfs should be vaccinated against the usual taller persons diseases. Although some parents these days decide not to have their children vaccinated, if there are any Dwarfs in either of the parent's families, then a vaccination against Smallpox is essential.

Withdrawal Symptoms. Most commonly from nicotine withdrawal, when the Dwarf's owner tries to force them into giving up smoking, in the mistaken belief that this will be good for their health. The latest research by highly qualified and over paid doctors employed by the tobacco companies suggests that smoking may actually be good for you, as it helps to prevent many lung diseases. Most breathing problems are caused by germs in the lungs. If nicotine can kill something the size of a human being over the course of thirty to forty years, then germs, which are absolutely tiny, must be killed off almost instantaneously. Cigarettes also coat the lungs with a healthy lining of tar, which is an antiseptic, to help prevent re-infection.

Symptoms include extreme irritability, increased winging, and a tendency to suck biros. The best advise if you want your Dwarf to give up smoking is to break their legs. This will result in them spending six to eight weeks in hospital with both legs in traction. As hospitals now universally ban smoking on the premises, in order to give the MRSA Super Bug an unopposed go at the patients, your Dwarf will suffer withdrawal while the nurses have to put up with the constant tempers, whining and complaining that accompanies the process, while you sit at home in a smoke-free atmosphere, watching the television. Hopefully, by the time the Dwarf gets home from hospital, he or she should have got over the worst of the symptoms.

Xerophthalmia. Commonly known as Dry Eye Syndrome. It occurs in older Dwarfs, due to the eyes producing fewer tears. Easily treated by wetting drops, or lubricating ointments. (Though **NOT KY Jelly.** – Ed). A short-term fix may be to make the Dwarf cry, so if you own a male Dwarf who is getting on in years, try fitting a furry cover to the lid of the toilet seat.

Yeast Infections. For skin infections, take the Dwarf swimming, and throw them into the foot bath. For foreskin infections, suggest bathing more frequently. If you live in the countryside, try throwing them in the sheep dip. For female Dwarfs, treat with yogurt and cranberry juice in the infected area. For the owners of female Dwarfs who do not have a yeast infection, you can still try coating the area with yogurt and cranberry juice, if you are that way inclined.

Zenophobia. Zenophobia is a sense of enlightened fear, for instance the fear of an event that has a genuine possibility of happening; like an aircraft failing to land at the assigned airport, and landing into the side of a mountain instead. Not to be confused with Zenophobia, a complaint regularly suffered by Grim the Cyber Dwarf, before he changed owners.

LATE NEWS

Police in Yorkshire who are still investigating the explosion at Middle Whallop Junction Railway Station, the home of the Middle Whallop Steam Preservation Society's collection of early railway locomotives and stationary engines, have applied for an exhumation order, to dig up the grave of Mr. Richard Arbuthnot, the society's owner.

A spokesman for the police told 'Dwarf News', "As Arbuthnot has recently been arrested in Thailand, it is unlikely that his body is buried at Middle Whallop cemetery". He also admitted that they are no nearer to finding the body of Mr. Fred Clegg, who was also believed to be in the old engine sheds at the time of the explosion.

Piers Bentley, a former Editor of 'Dwarf News', has been released without charge by officers from London's Art and Antiquities squad. "We have insufficient grounds to charge Mr. Bentley at this time, although investigations into the authenticity of an Elizabethan painting he sold recently are continuing. We may wish to interview him again in the future", an officer from the squad told our reporter.

Further developments on these stories and other items of interest to the Society's members will be covered in next month's 'Dwarf News'.

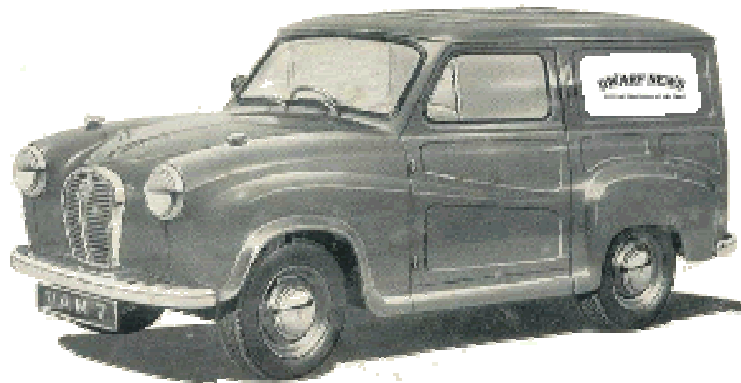
SOPHIES' COLUMN

By Sophie, Secretary/Reporter WITH Portfolio.

Well, it feels really good to be at work again. On my first day back, I met the temporary secretary, Tracy, who has been doing my job while I have been ill. To be honest, I didn't like her very much, but as it was her last day at the office, I tried to be nice to her. I wasn't happy, because she has been using my mug for tea breaks, the one with my name on it. I told her she could use my black Sofia one, as I don't need it anymore. I even made her a coffee in it at lunchtime. She went home early, as she kept being sick in the afternoon.

All the staff clubbed together to get me a welcome back present. I couldn't believe it when I opened it; they have bought me my own portfolio! It's a pink one, and they even paid extra to have my name put on it. I have decided to keep it on the corner of my desk, so everyone can see it.

I also got the key for the works van, so I don't have to use my moped any more. It's very old, but it does forty-five miles an hour, so I can now get around in only two thirds of the time it used to take me. I have to dress as Matt before I go anywhere, as my driving licence says I am a boy. Unfortunately, a policeman stopped me on my way home the first time I drove it, and said it was smoking a lot. He did keep looking at me with a strange expression; it wasn't until I got home that I realized I had forgotten to take my make up off when I got changed. The left indicator stopped working when I was driving to work the next morning, but one of the Dwarfs from the printing shop had a look at it for me in his dinner break. He says that the thingy that makes the little arm pop out has broken, but he drilled a hole in the back of it, and put a piece of string through the hole, and tied it to the stalk. Now, if I want to turn left, all I have to do is pull the string, and the arm pops out. After I go round the corner, I let go of the string, and it falls back down again. I washed and polished the van last weekend, and took a photo, so you can see how nice it is.



While I was off sick, the Society had a meeting, and decided that I do class as a Dwarf, even though I am five feet ten. They said that, if my mum hadn't forced me to drink all those highballs when I was little, I would only be around four feet eight, which definitely means I qualify. When I got back to work, there was a letter for me from The Ancient

Sisterhood Of The Dwarfs Of Albion, inviting me to become a member. I went to my first meeting last weekend. I didn't really understand what went on, but they made me feel very welcome, and one of my new sisters gave me some knitting patterns. I am going to ask my landlady if she can knit me a cardigan, once we have worked out how to make it half as big again, then I will tell my new sisters that I knitted it myself. I know it's not very honest, but I don't want to upset them, they all seem to think that if you can't knit and do flower arranging, then you class as disabled. I am going to try and learn how to knit as soon as possible; my landlady has said she can teach me.

After the meeting, I had a terrible headache for three days. I didn't let Sophia out to get drunk, as I thought the other sisters might be a bit upset. I got the headache when I banged my forehead on the doorframe of the meeting room, because I forgot to duck when we were going home. As I don't need my crash helmet any more for the moped, because I have the firm's van, I am going to keep my helmet in the back, so I can wear it for next month's meeting.

I have also been invited to a film premiere. The Editor was given a ticket for the first showing of the new 'Confessions Of A Window Cleaner', and he has said that I can go and do a report for 'Dwarf News'. I am looking forward to it, as I've never been to a premiere before. The only problem is that it's in three month's time, which doesn't give me hardly any time to decide what to wear.

Editor's Note. What do you think Sophie should wear to this glittering occasion? The best suggestion, with illustrations or photographs if possible, will win one reader an exclusive 'Dwarf News' T shirt. Entries to be received at the office by the 25th September.