



Molesworth

Molesworth Newsletter

It is Christmas

This is a short newsletter to wish all Molesworths around the world a happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year. Christmas is a time for family and in many cases possibly the only time they get together. Try not to overindulge in the good food and wine. I will, "try that is" I usually fail and suffer the next day for my indiscretion. I have picked two Molesworths to feature in this newsletter. The first is Lady Molesworth who received a letter from Charles Dickens on Christmas Day 1868 and the second is on Thomas Canada Molesworth of the U.S.A. the man and his art. I hope you all have a happy festive season and a prosperous new year.

Phillip Molesworth (ED)

Lady Molesworth

This Lady Molesworth was born Andalusia Grant Carstairs in about 1809 and died 16th May 1888. She trained as a classical singer and toured earning a living entertaining. It was while singing in Italy that she met and married Temple West a man very senior to herself and on his death inherited a substantial sum of money. She then met and married Sir William Molesworth 8th Baronet on the 9th July 1844. Lady Molesworth was rumoured to be the strong influence that drove Sir William to become a noted politician in his time. Unfortunately Sir William died young at only 45 years of age and left Lady Andalusia

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Thomas Canada Molesworth

Thomas Canada Molesworth. The man and his art.

I was searching my mind for an appropriate way to introduce Thomas Canada Molesworth but could not improve on his granddaughter's version so it is presented here in full as it is on her web site. I think this aptly introduces the man and his craft and is followed by Lee Molesworths outline of the life of Thomas and Lee's personal reflections of life with Thomas Canada Molesworth his father

Thank you Lee for your efforts in putting this item together

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LADY MOLESWORTH

Molesworth well off. While at first, she was not accepted by the society set of the day due to her working as an entertainer. Her drive eventually placed her at the very top of the list when it came to hosting dinners and she entertained the who's who of society at her small gatherings. In this newsletter, on page four, there is a copy of a letter to Lady Molesworth from Charles Dickens apologizing for not being able to make it for dinner on the 29th December and promising to arrange another date. As a matter of fact he told her to select the date and he would cancel whatever was on his agenda for that day in order to attend. Guests would include the Prince and Princess of Wales, Lords and Ladies, Ambassadors, politicians, composers, authors etc. In fact anyone that was anyone would be grateful for an invitation to dinner or to stay with her for a while. Sir Arthur Sullivan of Gilbert and Sullivan, who was a friend of the Lady Molesworth, visited regularly and composed the music for Iolanthe in 1882 at the piano that is in the Music Room of Pencarrow. Gilbert and his wife also visited Lady Molesworth.

Lady Molesworth dined with Royalty and entertained the great people of her day. Her home Pencarrow is open to the public, so you can visit if you are in the area and see the piano and dining rooms that she entertained in. See the article on Pencarrow in this newsletter.



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REPORTERS WANTED
PLEASE HELP

Come on all of you budding reporters I would like to be able to include items from the Molesworths or their descendants from around the world in future editions. To achieve this I need reporters. Do you have a nose for news? If so, why not collect some gossip and send it

to me for inclusion. Please be sure the information is correct and the person it is about agrees with it being published. I don't want to start any wars. The news may be in the form of a story and could be even accompanied by a photo. (I am able to scan photos, slides or negatives) You may have attended a gathering of family members in your area. Why not

get a group photo and send it with a report on the reason for the gathering etc. Family groups on an outing, a birthday or wedding for example. Or how about writing a story about an individuals life. Your grandfathers, grandmothers, aunts, etc.

Please contact me if you can help.

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BIRTHDAYS

In past issues I have listed the birthdays of individuals who's birthday fell in each month, not disclosing the actual age of each. I have received a number of comments, mostly complaining about the mention of their names. I have decided to stop the list and will only report on birthdays of those that have contacted me to be placed on the birthday list for mention in the future. If you wish to be listed please send me a short note to the effect. I will still not list the age unless it is a special report on a milestone sent to me for inclusion. I would love to hear from anyone that is celebrating a special milestone, such as twenty one, or each of the decades after that. E.G.: thirty, forty, fifty etc it would be great to be able to report on any centenarian in the family.

THOMAS CANADA MOLESWORTH
THE MAN AND HIS ART

If you visit the web site of Leslie *Molesworth-Callahan* at <http://www.molesworthtoo.com/granddad.html> you will find the following text

The natural beauty and the vast open spaces of the West have always attracted the most adventurous souls. The American cowboy and the Native

American Indians exemplify the West; both project simple, yet strong and powerful images. In the early to mid-1900s, cowboy furniture was nothing more than furniture made by cowboys for ranches. The furniture was sturdy and strong, yet relatively primitive and simple.

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1st Viscount Molesworth Conference

No news yet still waiting
Look out for this one in the future. No details yet, but I have it on good authority that there is an academic in Ireland who is considering a possible conference on the 1st Viscount Molesworth. It will be academic in nature & should bring together specialist historians from several fields.

Things are still in the early phase, no dates or venues yet fixed, but it would probably include some of Robert Molesworth's dealings in or connections with: architecture, Swift, Whig politics, Denmark, political publishing & philoso-

DID YOU KNOW

That the names of Robert & Henrietta Molesworth are on the water wall in the Immigration Museum in Flinders Street, Melbourne. If you cannot find the names on the wall ask at reception. Yes, don't forget that even though the Molesworth family have been in Australia since 1852 we are still immigrants. Some 49% of Australians can trace their roots back to Ireland and our family is but one of them.

From Russell Molesworth
Australia

Merrin Molesworth new Chesham mayor.



Councillor Mo Fayyaz handed over the mayoral chain to Councillor Merrin Molesworth on Monday, May 14 2007.

Mrs Molesworth has taken over as Chesham's mayor during one of its most historic periods. This year has the 750th anniversary of Chesham's charter and the 450th anniversary of the martyrdom of Thomas Harding. Merrin Molesworth has always loved the history of Chesham so to be mayor during this period is special."

Mrs Molesworth moved to Chesham from Australia in 1985 for her husband Tony's job along with their two children Stephen, 32, and Amy, 27 the for three years. They liked the area so much they remained becoming involved in the community. This is her second term as a councillor after she was spotted by Councillor Chris Spruytenburg campaigning through the letters pages of the Buckinghamshire Examiner. Mrs Molesworth, 62, said: "The aim was to try to make a difference but sometimes you cannot do as much as you like as quickly as you like

Voyage of the Collingwood

In this small book Bob Molesworth has used his Grandfather's diary of his voyage as an apprentice on the *Collingwood*, an iron clipper built in 1872 in Aberdeen. The diary tells of a voyage from London to Wellington, and includes much of interest and historical importance. Bob Molesworth has found a complementary account written by one of the Emigrants on the voyage. Part of this is in 'doggerel verse', and part in narrative. Of particular interest is the account of an outbreak of plague on the ship and the resulting quarantine on Somes Island in Wellington Harbour. The two accounts have been carefully edited by Bob Molesworth and are presented here in a single small and attractive volume. Pictures in colour and b/w are included. The book would make an excellent gift.

The book sells for NZL\$19.50 plus postage.

If you are interested contact the editor to arrange the purchase and I will pass on your request.

NB This is the Bob Molesworth in New Zealand that died earlier this year. There is only a few of the books left and there is no intention at this time to reprint.

The Voyage of the Collingwood

1875

Told by a Ship's Apprentice and an Emigrant

by Bob Molesworth



Christmas letter from Charles Dickens to Lady Molesworth

To LADY MOLESWORTH, 25 DECEMBER 1868

GAD'S HILL PLACE,
HIGHAM BY ROCHESTER, KENT,
Christmas Day, 1868

My Dear Lady Molesworth

We all join in wishing you all the good wishes of the season. I am sorry to add that our poor Chorley is not here. He writes from Paris, where he lies in bed. He does not think he is in any danger, but his expression is that he is "completely prostrated". He was to have come here yesterday, and then we had a note written from Paris by his servant, at his dictation, and signed by himself. To day I have another note, which is wholly written by himself. He seems cheerful, but must be really disabled for the time, or he would indubitably be here, as he always is at Christmas.

I am just home from Scotland, and go next to Ireland. My "Farewell Readings" will keep me hard at work and always on the wing until the *end* of *May*. Every alternate Tuesday I am to read in London, but am merely brought up to town for that purpose, and instantly carried off again. As I have to keep "All The Year Round" going, wherever I am, you may suppose that my hands are pretty full. My house is full too, for this week and next, or I should have been delighted to dine with you on the 29th. Very likely I shall not be here again for four months.

The other night I went into the new theatre in Long Acre, and saw the prettiest piece of acting I have seen for a long time. It is Burlesque acting (I am sorry to add) but quite original, and singularly graceful and pleasant. Miss Hodson as Mrs. Haller, in a burlesque on the Stranger. She is most charmingly dressed as a

Quakeress, dances with a modest piquancy that has a peculiar refinement in it, and, in captivating the Count, allows a coquettishness to sparkle out of her quaint quiet dress that is quite captivating.

Ever affectionately Yours
(And ever faithfully your co-old-stager)

CD From the Letters of Charles Dickens. The Pilgram edition
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Oxford University Press



Lady Molesworth Continued from page 2

**The following news article appeared in the New York Times October 27, 1872
—LADY MOLESWORTH AND HER DINNERS.—**

The great dinner-giver in London today is Lady Molesworth, widow of the late Sir William, formerly Secretary for the Colonies. This lady's career is curious. Of humble origin, she was educated at the London Academy of Music for the musical profession, and sang at private parties at Rome. There she married a rich elderly man of good property and family, Mr. Temple West. He died., and left her a good income, and she then married Sir W. Molesworth. He was a man of distinguished ability, but shy and retiring, and, it is generally thought, would never, but for his stirring, ambitious wife, have become a Cabinet Minister. At his death he left her a life-interest in the whole of his property. Worth \$40,000 a year. By sheer force of character she has pushed her way to the highest pinnacle of fashionable life, and people who fifteen years ago would have turned up their noses at her are thankful to be asked to her parties. In common with every other career, the pursuit of fashion has its disagreements, and Lady Molesworth has no doubt endured all sorts of snubs and sneers, which to the sensitive would be unendurable. Some time since she did a very wise thing. Knowing what folly it would be to attempt to conceal what every one knew—that she had been a professional singer—she boldly took the bull by the horns and sent a splendid donation to the Academy of Music, "in grateful recognition of the great benefits received from it." Seated at her splendid table, with the heir to the throne on one hand and some great potentate on the other, it must be curious for this lady to run back for an instant to the days *when*, with a mean wardrobe and scanty purse, she was eagerly working in the hope of earning her bread by her own *efforts*



DID YOU KNOW

From Russell Molesworth
Australia

Do you believe in fairy stories?

Say, Jonathan Swift's "Gulliver's Travels." Well some of us do. William (England) and Russell (Australia) have seen the proof. Maybe if we ask the Editor nicely he might run a feature on Gulliver in Balnibarbi and his conversation with a great lord.



Do you have an item of interest you want to share? If so please send it to me. (Ed)



DID YOU KNOW

From Russell Molesworth Australia

Throughout the city and suburbs of Melbourne, Victoria, you will find some twelve Molesworth Streets named after Judge Sir Robert Molesworth. This recognition of the judge's work also extends into the Victorian countryside with even the small town of Glenlyon, part of the old gold-fields, having a gravel road also with this name.

This recognition also occurs in my new hometown of Bendigo. Not only is there a Molesworth Street but also in what is called the High Court in the Law Courts building, there is a window with the Molesworth name on it. This is in recognition of not only his general work as a judge but also for his work in the Court of Mines.

Opposite the Courts in Bull Street a group of Barrister, in about 1900, moved into their new offices at number 51. "What will we call our new Office?" was the question. "Why not call it after the late Judge Molesworth." Molesworth Chambers operated for some 90 years.

See photo below



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THOMAS CANADA MOLESWORTH THE MAN AND HIS ART

In the 1930s one man had a vision to bring out the best of what was at the time a very crude craft. Inspired by the Arts & Crafts Movement, Thomas Canada Molesworth (1890-1977) began making furniture, experimenting with indigenous burls, leathers, antlers, Indian weavings and different cowboy and Indian artifacts. From his attention to detail and creative craftsmanship, a new style and quality of furniture emerged that captured the romantic myth of the West. Easterners, fresh from their dude ranch experiences, were looking to bring part of the spirit of the West home with them. They eagerly purchased these strong, elegant and sometimes whimsical Western furnishings, fashionable in the most sophisticated of homes.

My granddad, Thomas Canada Molesworth owned Shoshone Furniture Company, along with my grandmother, LaVerne Johnston Molesworth, from 1931 to 1961 in Cody, Wyoming. My grandmother was an intricate part of this company. Some of her contributions included the designing and making of all the drapes, curtains and bedspreads; and keeping all the books for the company. Together my grandparents created the furnishings that brought the outdoors into the home; the bold and colorful style that is unmistakably Molesworth.

Today, Thomas Molesworth's furniture is highly sought after by Western art enthusiasts, having gained in popularity after the exhibition "Interior West: The Craft and Style of Thomas Molesworth", in June of 1989 at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming and March of 1990 at the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum in Los Angeles, California. Both of these fine museums have purchased Molesworth furniture, which remain in their permanent collections. One of his largest commissions, furnishings from "The Old Lodge" in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, circa 1935, proved to be a very successful auction at Christie's in New York in June of 1995; thus allowing many people to add to their Molesworth collections, and providing many new collectors with their first Molesworth original.

Thomas C. Molesworth became the legendary designer and craftsman who defined a new style with his world-class Western furnishings. There was only one Thomas C. Molesworth. I am proud to say he was my granddad.

Leslie Molesworth-Callahan

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THOMAS CANADA MOLESWORTH THE MAN AND HIS ART



THOMAS CANADA MOLESWORTH

By Lee Molesworth

Thomas Molesworth was born September 28, 1890 in Topeka, Kansas and died: July 19, 1977 at Scottsdale, Arizona

Tom was a U. S. Marine serving in France in World War 1. He married LaVerne Miller Johnston in Billings, Montana in 1917. Tom had attended the Chicago Art Institute, but he said he was encouraged to come home and go to work when his father decided he wouldn't be a second Charlie Russell. (*1) Tom was a member of the following organizations, serving as an officer of most: Billings Rod & Gun Club, Lions Club (Billings and Cody) where he was active in the concept and completion of the youth camp near Red Lodge, MT, the American Legion, the Cody Club, The Elks Club and the Cody Stampede Board.

Tom moved his family from Billings, Montana to

Cody, Wyoming in January 1931 to establish his business as Shoshone Furniture Company. Shortly after moving he started making "hand made" furniture for which he became well known. The furniture, known for its quality, utilized native wood, particularly fir, top grain leathers and Chimayo, an Indian woven fabric. In his major projects he would, as an interior decorator, supply everything from the light fixtures and wall hangings to the floor coverings. His first large Commission was the "Moe" Annenberg Ranch out side of Beulah, Wyoming in early 1933. The success of this project provided the encouragement he needed to concentrate on making and placing his own furniture versus operating a retail furniture store. During the ensuing 30 years he would work for many of the country's prominent people and companies and before he retired he had placed furniture in every state minus only two. He was particularly proud of one of his last commissions which was the den at President Eisenhower's Gettysburg Farm.

The most visible of his work was in hotels and Wyoming Dude Ranches. The hotels included The Plains, Cheyenne, Wyoming, The Grand and Northern, Billings Montana, The Stockman, Elko, Nevada, The Pendleton, Pendleton, Oregon and the Wort, Jackson, Wyoming. Cody area Dude Ranchers who utilized Tom's furnishings in their lodges and cabins included Larry Larom, Valley Ranch, Simon Snyder, Sunlight, Bob Rumsey, UXU, and Max Wilde. Although all of these ranches have changed hands, much of Tom's furniture is still in use.

Many artists' works were commissioned and many more were utilized in decorating the rooms Tom did. He was a trader and would frequently swap furniture for an artist's admired work. Later he would agree to the sale of that piece to a client. His wife, LaVerne used to say she would just begin to "get comfortable" with a painting and it would be gone. Cody's Ed Grigware's (*2) work figured prominently in Tom's jobs along with other well known artists including F. Tenny Johnson, (*2) J. H. Sharp, Winold Reiss, (*2) W. R. Leigh, (*2) Olaf Wieghorst (*2) and Olaf Seltzer. (*2) His trading and expertise, extended to Navajo rugs and sand paintings, Crow beadwork, Zuni pottery and other Plains and Southwest Indian

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THOMAS CANADA MOLESWORTH THE MAN AND HIS ART

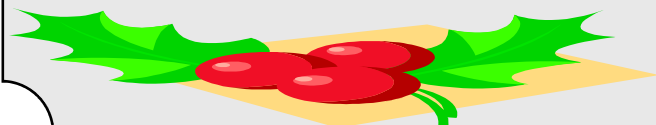
artifacts.

A retrospective of his work was done by the Buffalo Bill Historical Center of Cody, Wyoming June 19 through September 10, 1989. The exhibit then went to the Autry Museum in Los Angeles, California. Both museums now have several pieces of Molesworth's work in their permanent collections.

Several publications have documented Tom Molesworth's work. "Interior West, the Craft and Style of Thomas Molesworth" by Buffalo Bill Historical Center. This publication is a catalogue of the retrospective of his work displayed by the BBHC in 1989. "Cowboy High Style" by Elizabeth Clair Flood published Gibbs Smith in 1992, "Cowboy Chic" by Chase Reynolds Ewald, published by Gibbs Smith in 2000, and "Molesworth, the Pioneer of Western Design" by Terry Winchell, also published by Gibbs Smith, 2006. This last book probably has the most extensive photographic display of Tom's work.

In June of 1995 a highly successful auction was held by "Christies" of New York City. This included the entire contents of "Old Lodge", George Summers retreat near Glenwood Springs, Colorado (at the time owned by Dr. and Mrs. George S. Bayoud of Dallas, Texas). The "entire contents" comprised all furnishings and fixtures including of even the light fixtures and doors. The auction house transfer and displayed the items in their New York show rooms where they achieved a total of over two million in bids.

The show done by the BBHC in 1989 definitely sparked the revival of interest in Molesworth's work. As a result an active industry devoted to hand crafted furniture and western design has developed. The BBHC has helped sponsor the "Western Design Conference" – now "Cody High Style" which displays the work of active craftsmen from throughout the west including artisans producing unique and beautiful work in Cody, Wyoming. Tom would be proud of this legacy.



Personal Reflections on Thomas Molesworth by Lee Molesworth

Dad was a private person not given to idle conversation. He had many male friends and he enjoyed their companionship participating in his three major recreational activities; cards, hunting and horseback riding. He was active in the "Director's Club", a private club where the members (by invitation only) gathered to play bridge, gin rummy and poker. Thursday night was their major evening where they would start gathering in late afternoon, have dinner brought in and play cards sometimes late into the night. They owned their meeting house and that club is still flourishing today (in Cody, WY).

We had horses (of course I was responsible for feeding, grooming and cleaning up). We frequently rode in the evening and on weekends.

Although dad did go big game hunting, I believe it was the companionship and the "getting away" into the mountains around Cody that attracted him most. His major hunting was upland game birds, particularly pheasants. Dad and I harvested a great many during the season. My mother would can the pheasants and that was a major menu all during the year. Of course "I" cleaned the birds as well as the guns. We had a fine German shorthaired pointer who was our loyal hunting partner and was admired and enjoyed by all who hunted with us.

I was fortunate to enjoy the hunting companionship of my father and his friends who accepted my pres-

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**Yesterday is "History"
Tomorrow is a "Mystery"
Today is a "Gift"
That is why they call it
"The Present"**

Continued from page 8 Thomas C Molesworth

ence among them. I had a good friend I hunted with who was also included in the adult company. John and I frequently hunted together when the adults were unable to go.

The greatest tragedy in Dad's career happened with the burning down of his shop and showrooms. Construction of the building had just been completed and he was prepared to move in the next day. The whole building went up in flames that night. The town rallied to his aid and merchants, bankers, workers, attorneys showed up. Some too old to work hired trucks and other equipment. Cafes and women prepared lunch and refreshments. In one day the entire mess was cleaned up and construction could begin again. Sam Parks, the head of the Shoshone National Bank, advanced the credit. The rebuilding took place on good faith, credit and the good will of the town of Cody. Dad survived that great tragedy and went on to do his best work.

You can't help but notice that Thomas Canada Molesworth was not only successful with his art and business but before he got started he was well respected by the community who came running to his aid in a time of trouble (Ed)

(*1) **Charles Marion Russell** (Born 1864, Oak Hill, Missouri – Died 1926, Great Falls, Montana), also known as C. M. Russell, was one of the great artists of the American West.

(*2) All painters of the American West. These artists painted cowboys, Indians and western landscapes. All contributing to the pictorial history of the American West.

The black & white photos in this article were supplied by Lee Molesworth. The colour photos were kindly supplied by Christie's from their 1995 catalogue. Not to be copied. Christie's Auction Copyright of Christie's Image Ltd., 1995



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OBITUARY



Jean Molesworth Lambert

It is sad to report in this newsletter featuring Thomas Canada Molesworth that his daughter Jean died while the article was being prepared. Our prayers and good wishes go out to Jeans family and Lee.

Jean Molesworth Lambert, 84, died Oct. 27, 2007, in Dallas, Texas.

She was born in Billings on Sept. 2, 1923, the daughter of LaVerne and Thomas Molesworth, and grew up in Cody.

Jean served in the Navy during World War II and was proud of her work at the hospital in Ferragut, Idaho. She and her husband Dr. Joseph Lambert moved to Dallas after their marriage in 1946.

Jean was an active member of Lakewood Methodist Church for more than 50 years and served in a variety of offices in United Methodist Women. She loved working with children's Sunday School and Vacation Bible School where her leadership, creativity and dedication were felt by many children

through the years.

She is survived by daughters Jean Stie, Cathy Carver, Patricia Seymore and Charlotte Mooney, son Thomas Lambert, brother Lee Molesworth, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband.

Services were at Lakewood United Methodist Church in Dallas with military honors at DFW National Cemetery.

Pencarrow



Events for Spring 2008

Sunday 3rd February

Snowdrop Sunday, 11am – 4pm, admission by donation. Galanthus Galore! Woodland and garden walks through carpets of these “fair maids of February”, dogs welcome, café open, plus discount voucher for a return visit later in the year. Organised by the Friends of Pencarrow for funds to continue improving walks and trails through the grounds.

Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd March

St Piran's Spring Festival – a weekend of ‘green’ crafts, spring woodland and garden walks, talks and demonstrations to herald the re-opening of Pencarrow's Grade II* listed gardens after our winter work. More details to follow

Friday 7th March

Auction of Promises, 6pm for 7pm – a fundraising evening in Pencarrow House organised by the Friends of Pencarrow, please contact Sandy Melmoth (01208) 76649 for details and offers of help.

Sunday 9th March

Wedding Fayre, Bridal Fashions and Floral Marquee 10.00am to 4.30pm – a beautiful day out in the fairytale setting of Pencarrow, the historic home of the Molesworth St Aubyns and licensed for civil ceremonies. Fabulous and funky ideas for weddings, receptions, celebrations and anniversaries. Admission £2 by programme,

Sunday 23rd March, Easter Sunday

Pencarrow re-opens for tours of the house, every Sunday to Thursday from now until October 19th, from 11.15am with last tour of house at 3pm. Café, craft gallery and plant shop open until 5pm. Normally £8 adults, £4 children. Visit www.pencarrow.co.uk for your discount vouchers.

Wednesday April 9th

Gardens open on behalf of the National Gardens Scheme raising funds for nursing, caring and gardening charities. Admission £4 for adults, £1 children direct to NGS. Tours of house from 11.15am, café, craft gallery, plant shop open as usual.

Sunday 4th May

Bluebell Sunday – Stroll through acres of woodland with a rich underlay of wild native bluebells (*not* the cultivated variety!) competing for your attention against gigantic rhododendrons, dazzling azaleas, picture-perfect camellias and magnolias larger than teacups! Dogs welcome, house, café and craft gallery open as usual – last tour of house 3pm. Normal garden admission.

Sunday 25th May

Smallholders' Fayre & Farmers' Market – Organised by the Cornwall Guild of Smallholders. Stalls, displays, demonstrations and activities for all the family. For more details please contact Joy Cheeseman on 01840 250586.



So Its Christmas

**It's almost Christmas and the year is but done
Whatever the past you soon start a new one**

**So look back and find the jewels of the past
Just search your memory from first to last**

**Discard the chaff and keep the grain
Now is the time to measure the gain**

**Measure the blessings for they are more than you think
Bring them through the fog and out to the brink**

**Now look to your family with a smile on your face
Celebrate the season in this time of grace**

**Visit or call them for all agree
Christmas is a time for your family to see**

**Friends may come and friends may go
Family is for ever that you must know**

**Brace yourself for the year draws to a close
Look deep in your thoughts for you're the one that knows**

**Farewell the old year and as a new one starts
Determine on more of the grain and less of the chaff**

PJM



Countess of Wessex gives birth to baby boy

The Countess of Wessex has given birth to a baby boy after a caesarean section at the NHS hospital. The new addition to the Royal Family, who weighed 6lb 2oz, was delivered safely at 4.20pm in a private suite at Frimley Park Hospital in Surrey. The Earl of Wessex was with his wife.

The baby is the Queen's and the Duke of Edinburgh's eighth grandchild. He will be in eighth in line to the throne. He is the first male grandchild for the Queen and Prince Philip since Prince Harry was born 23 years ago, and the great grandchild of Margaret Patricia Newall Molesworth

He will be eighth in line to the throne moving ahead of his sister Lady Louise, aged four, who moves down to ninth place in the order of succession. The Princess Royal moves down to tenth.

On not immediately naming the baby, he said: "We didn't know what we were going to get. You've got to get to know the small person who's just come into the world before you pick a name."

In keeping with the couple's announcement, when they married in 1999, their new son will not have the title "His Royal Highness" as part of the policy of slimming down the Royal Family. He will take the title Viscount Severn.



**Merry
Christmas
to all and a
Happy New Year**