



Test your knowledge

Quiz of the week

1. What is an ailurophile?
2. Where did the *Mary Rose* sink?
3. What stopped the Martians in the novel *The War of the Worlds*?
4. What does a goniometer measure?
5. Which train station does the *Hogwarts Express* leave from?

Unmissable events

Exhibitions

May 28–September 4 'An Artist looks at Old Masters', Christ Church Picture Gallery, Oxford. Jeff Clarke selects drawings from the Christ Church collection (01865 276172; www.chch.ox.ac.uk/gallery)

May 28–June 5 Open Studios Cornwall, various venues, Cornwall. Artists and craftspeople open the doors to their studios (01209 218879; www.creativeskills.org.uk/cornwall-open-studios-2011)

June 7–August 20 'Carlos Nadal: Paintings in Yorkshire Collections', The Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery, Leeds, West Yorkshire. (0113–343 2778; www.leeds.ac.uk/gallery)

June 1–30 Sporting and Wildlife Exhibition, Rountree Fine Art, London SW3 (020–7370 3939; www.rountreefineart.com)

Plant fair

June 11 Garden event and plant fair, East Ruston Old Vicarage, Norfolk. (01692 650432; www.e-ruston-oldvicaragegardens.co.uk)

Book now

Show
June 21–22 Cheshire County Show, Tabley, Cheshire (01565 650200; www.cheshire-countyshow.org.uk)

Course

June 10 GWCT Game Management Day, Pitlour, Strathmiglo, Fife £50 (01738 551511)

Talk

June 13 'Gertrude Jekyll and the Country House Garden', The Garden Museum, London SE1. Author Judith Tankard discusses her new book, which celebrates Jekyll's gardens and legendary collaborations with architects. £15 (020–7401 8865; www.gardenmuseum.org.uk)



Good to know

The Newbury Coat

On the evening of June 25, 1811, more than 5,000 people came to Greenham Mill to watch the outcome of an unusual bet. The owner of the mill, John Coxeter, had mentioned to a neighbour, Sir John Throckmorton, that the new machinery he had installed would allow him to make a coat from shorn wool within the course of a single day. Enthused by the thought of such a feat, Sir John bet 1,000 guineas that it was possible. Two sheep were delivered to the mill at 5am and shorn. The cloth was delivered to the tailors at about 4pm and put on by him soon after 6pm, after a total of 13 hours and 10 minutes. Sir John then sat down in the coat to eat dinner.

Coxeter was a remarkable showman. In 1815, he publicly distributed a vast plum pudding more than 20ft wide to celebrate the Battle of Waterloo. **JG**

100 years ago in COUNTRY LIFE

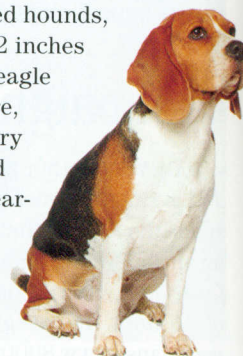


May 27, 1911

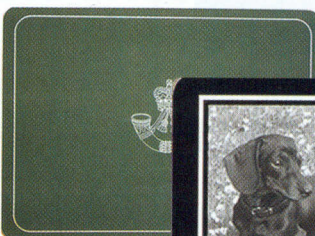
Diminutive hounds

Packs of weasel-hounds are so rare that their existence is but little known,

and mention of them causes general surprise. The one of which I now write, called the Bellmount Beagles, was formed in 1897, when fox hunting was stopped in the Muskerry country in County Cork, the nucleus, three-and-a-half couple of hounds, being drawn from a then existing pack belonging to Captain Sarsfield at Cork. This year, one couple has been bought from a pack of English weasel-hounds in Northamptonshire. The Bellmount Beagles is a private family pack, the Master, Captain Herrick, taking no subscription, and the kennels being close to his house at Crookstown, County Cork. It consists of 12-and-a-half couple of mixed hounds, 11 inches to 12 inches high, and of beagle breed. They are, indeed, of a very diminutive and engaging appearance, and to make pets of them must be practically irresistible.



We love... Meltons' bespoke tablemats



Meltons' custom-made tablemats will brighten up every meal



INTERIOR-DESIGN company Meltons has recently launched a homeware range. With 25 years in the interiors business under her belt, founder Cecilia Neal (*below*) has put together a collection that includes these bespoke tablemats (*left*), which are available with matching coasters. Made from eucalyptus board with a melamine surface and a gloss or matte finish, they can feature a personal photograph, or a design such as a company logo or family crest. Prices start from £52 for a set of four mats. Meltons is based on Moreton Street, London SW1, but the entire homeware range, including lamps, art and bed linen, is available online through www.meltons.co.uk. For more information, telephone 020–7233 9712.



1. A cat lover, 2. The Solent, 3. Bacteria, 4. Angles, 5. King's Cross