



THE BUTLER SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

October 2007 – No. 27



THE BUTLER JOURNAL

The editor of the Journal, David Butler hopes to have the Journal Volume 4 Number 4 out by the end of the year.

Any of the members who joined in 2005 and 2006 and who did not receive Journal Volume 4 Number 3 (it has a blue cover) can send their name and address to the Secretary (melosina@hotmail.com) who will send copies to those concerned.

ANNUAL DINNER IN SPAIN

There were about 35 present at the 2007 dinner and of those about 11 were from outside Spain. As far as atmosphere and fun goes, it was a good mix. There's always a problem getting the people at tables with the right languages and I have to lobby extensively to find out people's conversational abilities — linguistically speaking — during the cocktail hour. This year's day excursion on the day after the dinner was most enjoyable. We had a day out in Arévalo (where Isabel the Catholic was brought up). The town is now rather out of the way for the tourist round, and all the better for that. Mercedes Butler, whom you'll remember from the 2006 Rally, arranged the lunch at a restaurant and before that provided wine and local things to eat at the home she and her husband have there - a most interesting house. Then we looked at the streets, churches and the beautiful buildings of Arévalo. Among those who came to the dinner were María Fernanda Marchessi, José Antonio Antonio Ristori-Butler, María Lourdes, Carmen and Conchita Marchessi, Anne Butler and travelling from outside Spain faithful regulars; Valerie Wellseley, Mark Pitman, Maureen Snook and her husband David, John Butler and his wife Linda. Then there were present for the first time (travelling from England) Sarah Potter and her daughter Cat (Catherine), Elizabeth Snook and from within Spain, Mercedes Butler and her husband

Next year, I think the dinner will take place about the same time of year that is around mid-May. Other dates have not been so satisfactory so I will try and stick to a similar formula to provide a weekend of events. Despite the small size of my apartment here, it seems people enjoy an invitation to have a buffet on one of the evenings; I have been trying to make this part of the tradition for visitors from outside Spain, although the available room makes it impractical to extend that to include everyone.

The Society is very grateful to David Butler O.B.E, who puts in so much work to make this annual event such an enjoyable occasion.

FORTY YEARS AGO

The first Butler Rally was held forty years ago in 1967. The Society had been formed two years before by Hubert Butler, Lord Dunboyne and George Butler.

Jimmy Delaney, who comes from Kilkenny and was a friend of Hubert's and at that time working for the Irish Tourist Board in London, was asked to meet up with Paddy Dunboyne to discuss publicity for the Rally - Jimmy says he thought the whole idea of a rally was crazy, but through the tourist board, he did circulate all the Butlers in England.

Jimmy was justly rewarded for his efforts because, at the second rally in 1970, he met and married Katarina von Butler.

This is an account of the 1967 rally by the Boutlers who presently live near Paris: *'Jacques Boutler flew from Paris with his sister Monique, an English teacher who had visited Kilkenny the year before and heard about the rally. Touring through Ireland they had met Hanns v. Buttlar who came from London where he was military attaché at the Austrian embassy.*

Susanne Treusch v. Buttlar, a student from Göttingen (Germany) drove through England with her brother Herting and the late Horst v. Buttlar.

Five hundreds Butlers from all over the world attended the castle as Lord Ormonde handed over the key to the Mayor of Kilkenny. After the ceremony the castle was open for tea and a first visit through rooms and galleries. Hanns v. Buttlar introduced German and French cousins ... We never met in a few days so many people wearing the same name, with some others like Guinness or (Mike) Jagger!

It was so exciting to be part of an international family and our Irish hosts did a wonderful job. We appreciated to discover Irish history, beautiful landscapes and houses. We always remember our romantic visit to Maidenhall, home of Hubert Butler, and the medieval dinner in Knappogue Castle with Paddy Dunboyne. Jacques and Susanne started among the early members of the Butler Society and attended the next Butler Rally, three years later, on their honeymoon!

THE FIRST BUTLER RALLY BY PETER SMITHWICK

Was it really so long ago? The first thing I remember about it was the appearance of effortless about its organisation. Hubert must have put an enormous amount of work into it but he showed no signs of it. He remained his usual donnish imperturbable self.

We had a houseful of guests for the Rally. I recall the elderly General and Vicomtesse de Butler, General Hans v. Buttlar and Irene from Austria. Lars Butler and his family from Sweden .

The formal handing over of the Castle by Arthur, the sixth Marquess of Ormonde took place during the Rally and for that event the late Mariga Guinness brought a busload of friends to have an impromptu party at Kilcreene. My parents were startled (and not very pleased) to welcome these uninvited guests who included Mick Jagger, Marianne Faithful, Sir Ian Moncreiffe, Lady Lovat and a clatter of her relations – young men with very long hair – (at the Kildare Street Club they had been directed to the ladies lavatory by the hall porter who had never seen a gentleman with long hair).

To this interesting mix was added Lady Frieda Valentine and Piers Weld Forester and many more who then moved on to the Castle. It was an educational experience for Mick Jagger. Anthony Tupper, a *neighbour in Kilkenny*, in my hearing said to him: ‘I daresay you would consider me (here Anthony descended sententiously into an unfamiliar vernacular) what I think you would call SQUARE’.

Likewise at a distance I saw Bettina Grattan-Bellew, *a member from nearby Mount Loftus*, deep in conversation with him (Mick, I mean not Anthony). “What were you talking about?” “Oh I told him I quite understood how he felt as I too, in my youth was very bohemian”.

The banquet was an enormous success despite the difficulties of staging it in the very unrestored picture gallery. But an army of young Butlers including Paddy Dunboyne’s family and many others, laboured unceasingly with I think Peggy in command.

We have had many rallies since though none as large as the first two rallies. Nor have we covered so much ground - one evening they crossed Ireland in a bus to dine at Knappogue Castle in County Clare – they returned to Kilkenny at three in the morning. One of the aspects of Ireland that was much commented on was the absence of traffic – so different from now!

WEBSITE

The Society’s website, www.butler-soc.org continues to attract new members and to provide the membership with a valuable forum for their genealogical research. Our webmaster is Lord Dunboyne, (johndunboyne@aol.com). To enter the Members Only section of the website, USER NAME = aboo, PASSWORD = hudibras. Secretary: melosina@hotmail.com

Membership subscriptions for January 1st - December 31st 2007 are due from those who have not already paid.

€15 / Stg£10 / AUS\$25 / NZ\$25 / CAN\$25 / US\$20 to:

The Butler Society, Lavistown, Kilkenny, IRELAND.

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