

## ***THE LEGEND OF THE BELVEDERE YETI.***

One of Belvedere's former owners Colonel Charles Kenneth Howard-Bury is credited with the discovery of the Yeti Legend. In 1921 Howard-Bury led The Everest Reconnaissance mission the first time Westerners had been allowed in to survey the mountain. Also on that trip was Mallory who later in a separate trip went missing near the summit. At the 20'000 foot camp during their expedition, Howard-Bury's attention was drawn to large Human type footprints in the Snow. The local sherpas told him this was "Metohkangmi" the wild man of the snows. Howard-Bury sent this information back to The Daily Telegraph Newspaper who were sponsoring the expedition and in his telegram included 15 exclamation marks as he didn't really believe it. The Newspaper published his discovery as fact however and the legend of the abominable Snow man or Yeti was born.

Howard-Bury brought a bear cub back from earlier travels in the Tian Shan mountains. Called Agu he lived on the estate for years until he bit a gardener and was relocated to Dublin Zoo. What is less well known is that the Colonel who always said he didn't believe in the Yeti Story or the footprints he had seen, not only seen the actual creature but managed to trap a young Yeti and smuggled him back to Belvedere. The Colonel had the Yeti Cub housed in one of the caverns in the Moat around the basement of the house and staffs were sworn to secrecy. He couldn't afford to acknowledge the existence of this missing link as it was an affront to his religious beliefs and would help prove Darwin's theory of evolution. Any accidental sightings or animal kills in the woods were blamed on Agu the bear. The Colonel died in 1963 and the new owner had the Yeti removed to the Ice House where it was kept in captivity. Mystery surrounds the fate of the Belvedere Yeti, some say it died or was shot and the body buried in a secret location, others that it escaped and still lives. Each year around the end of October there are sightings of a strange creature in the Belvedere Woods, some say it is the Yeti returned to it's old hunting grounds in preparation for its Winter hibernation.

***HAVE YOU SEEN IT? NOT YETI!***