

# PIONEERS OF AUSTRALIA

The Whitmore Hall connection with South Australia began soon after its foundation in 1836 when the pioneering family, the Cudmores, arrived there from Ireland in 1837. They took up vast areas of land and made a fortune in sheep farming. Soon after, in 1840, a member of the Mainwaring family also arrived in South Australia and settled in Adelaide. The current owner of Whitmore Hall, Guy Cavenagh-Mainwaring, is a direct descendant of both these families and indeed of the original Norman owners of the Hall. For 170 years the Mainwarings have been travelling between Whitmore Hall and South Australia and have recently returned after an 8 month stay in Adelaide. They can truly call themselves an Anglo-Australian Family.

In 1837, Admiral Mainwaring RN was living in Bath when he inherited Whitmore Hall. He had 3 wives and sired 13 children, the last when he was well into his 70<sup>th</sup> year. His eldest son Rowland died as a 16-year old midshipman just off Sydney and is buried there.

In 1840 the Admiral sent the family 'black sheep', his third son Gordon, off to Adelaide in drunken disgrace as a Remittance Man. Gordon married, had a large family and 22 years later inherited Whitmore Hall.



His eldest daughter Ellen Jane succeeded to the English estates in 1892 having married Wentworth Cavenagh, a member of the South Australian Parliament and a Government Minister.

The youngest son George, evidently another drunk, was dispatched in 1847 on the "Hindoo" to Australia to join his brother. He wrote to his cleric brother Charles in 1848 describing the town "as being in rapid state of improvement". The following year, at the age of 25, George died, perhaps still in an alcoholic haze.

Much of the family history is contained within the Admiral's carefully and beautifully written diaries spanning 50 years. The diaries remain in the house to this day.

More of the colourful and fascinating history of this pioneering family will be told by our hostess Christine Cavenagh-Mainwaring and Branch President Sir Roger Carrick during our visit to Whitmore Hall in June.

# PROGRAMME

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2010

- 12:00 noon -       **Reception** at WHITMORE HALL –  
Welcome by Guy Cavenagh-Mainwaring
- 1:00pm -           Welcome & Buffet Lunch with Australian Wine  
2:30pm -       **Presentation** – The Admiral, the Diaries and the Black Sheep -  
                  **“Midshipman and Remittance Man”**  
Christine Cavenagh-Mainwaring & Sir Roger Carrick
- 3:15pm -           Walk in the grounds
- THE UPPER HOUSE HOTEL
- 7:30pm -           **Reception** in the Conservatory
- 8:00pm -           Light Dinner with Australian Wine  
Guests – Christine & Guy Cavenagh-Mainwaring  
**British Settlers in Australia** – Prof Carl Bridge
- 10:30pm -         retire or to the bar

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Breakfast at Leisure  
**Visit to THE WEDGEWOOD MUSEUM**  
Group concessionary rate £3.50 per person

- Cost . –**           **Whitmore Hall –**  
Reception & summer buffet lunch - £24.00 inc wine
- The Upper House Hotel**  
Light Dinner, Hotel B&B - £75.00 inc wine with dinner.  
Single occupancy £20 supplement

## ALL INCLUSIVE COST

£99.00 per person sharing a double room

£119.00 single room