

# Here is a silly story which I wrote a while back and thought of our newsletter

**By Mike Reed**

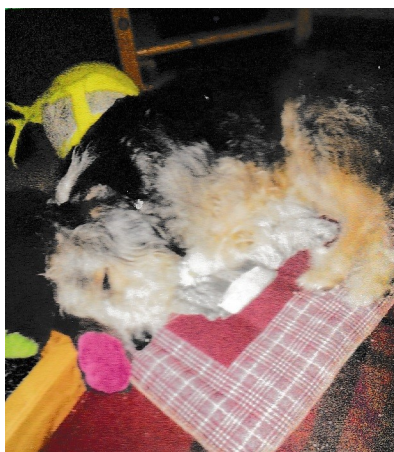
I am sure that many over the years have pondered over the different collie strains – well this is the way I heard it!

In the year of our Lord, nine hundred and ninety nine a great depression formed over our land but, being British, everybody carried on as usual, including working dogs. The Beardies were up in the hills labouring away as usual, when a great storm developed – the like of which had never been felt or heard of before in our sacred isle. The sensible Beardies (yes, there are a few) fled to the safety of the valley floor but the more naughty ones remained, frolicking on the hillside. Suddenly, out of nowhere, a wind of tumultuous force commenced – it was wind so strong that it blew the beard and most of the coat clean off the poor dogs! Alarmed, they rushed down the hillside to be greeted with looks of disbelief from the sensible ones. One of the Beardies piped up ‘look at the state of you lot – they way you look is bordering on ridiculous!’ – whereupon the Beardies burst into laughter.

Hence this explains why some Collies are referred to as Border (as in bordering on the ridiculous) and some as Beardies. It also explains why, when you look into a Beardies face, they always seem to be smiling.

I know that a lot of you may doubt this explanation but I assure you it is true – it was laid down to me by my Grandfather, the great and celebrated pig farmer from Hanley Swan – he won numerous awards for his porky pies!

This is a bit of fun – I am also very fond of Borders and indeed all dogs – BUT BEARDIES ARE VERY, VERY SPECIAL!



Jethro and his new bed