

## GRAPEVINE CUTTINGS (January 1998)

By Rob Upson

### “OBJECTION, YOUR HONOUR”

*I have to raise my objection to the use of 'Vol' as an abbreviation for Volunteer.*

*'Vol' happens to be the abbreviation of the word 'Volume' which can have several meanings.*

- *It can refer to printed and bound works, ie books - are we people of learning? of course; we are capable of learning anything.*
- *'Volume' can mean the space occupied by a mass - I guess we are all guilty of that.*
- *'Volume' also means the quantity or power of sound - when provoked we can be as noisy as a hatful of monkeys.*

*However, in spite of appearing to meet the above definitions - we are not 'volumes' but 'volunteers'.*

*Worse still, we could be mistaken for an abbreviation for 'vol-au-vent' - an open pie of puff pastry. Light and airy we are not!!*

*or someone hard of hearing might mistake us for 'vole' - a mouse-like herbivorous rodent. Small and hairy we are not!!*

*So I may speak of volumes and my consternation  
for vol-au-vents and vole like mice,  
So drop this unnecessary abbreviation,  
Just 'volunteer' will pleasantly suffice.*

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