

## ***Keeping in Touch..... Number 65***

***Welcome to this week's KIT. Thank you so much if you sent something in this week. Please keep the articles coming if you want KIT to continue. The deadline for next week's KIT is noon on Wednesday. Please send anything to [c.a.curtis@ntlworld.com](mailto:c.a.curtis@ntlworld.com) Or ring Alan or Chris on 01480 350787. If you get away for a few days please send a "virtual postcard" of a few photos. And what about your favourite school assembly or Sunday School hymns/songs you'd like to share? Also more memories of Iona please!***

### ***Iona memories.....***

In response to Liz's article last week, Heather Johnson writes..... "I recognised my mother, Kitty, as soon as I opened this week's KIT. She and my dad, Tom, had a lovely time on Iona. It was lovely to see a picture of her working away with Liz."

### ***And from Freda.....***

I made the visit I think in 86/87 can't remember exactly (long time ago!!) along with friends like the wonderful Revd John Ballard, Rosemary and Alan Scarrow and their son Ben, Joan Simpson and of course Joey Dyke with whom I shared a room in Glasgow on our overnight stop before getting the train to Oban then the boat to Mull, across Mull and the smaller ferry to Iona, where we slept in bunk beds that looked and felt like they had come out of the ark. The community spirit of 'all mucking in together' was great, I too remember being on toilet duty, would much rather have prepared the veggies.

The picture of the statue is taken in the cloisters. I believe this is meant to represent Christ in the womb and is quite something to behold..



Cont'd over.....

Stewart writes "Into my inbox this week popped an email and a photograph with an Iona connection. The email came from two Norfolk friends whilst on a week's retreat at the abbey on Iona with a group from their church, St Peter Mancroft, in central Norwich. On pilgrimage they found themselves resting on this bench with the simple inscription seen in the photo below....."



Looking over from the seat to Mull—2009



## **More Iona Memories from Freda....**

Inside the Abbey Church of course is the altar. We had our evening service in here, and if memory serves me also in the morning at times. I cannot remember where the stained glass window of St. Columba is - does anyone know?

Does anyone recognise the person sitting at the head of the meal table, looks like the end of a meal!



We, of course, had a trip to Fingal's Cave, we saw dolphins on the way. Although I got off the boat I did not make the climb to go into the cave.

Finally, there is a picture of a rock which I retrieved from a rock pool one morning, as Joan Simpson and I escaped the morning talks, for our own quiet contemplation and went rock pooling. We decided to sit and chat dabbling our feet in the water, when I spotted a very interesting shape of rock with lovely colours. It made my suitcase very heavy on the way home, but it was worth it as I have always used it as a bookend.



I have always had fond memories of the island, it is a busy place but peaceful at the same time. So when a few years later Peter and I toured Scotland, we stayed on Iona for a couple of nights, but not in the Abbey but in a B & B which was at the harbour just as you get off the boat from Mull.

**Ah memories !!**

*Alan and I have visited Iona three times, our first visit being for Easter weekend in 1991. More of the other occasions in future weeks. We drove up to Loch Etive on the Wednesday. and crossed to Mull and then Iona on the Thursday where our first meal was followed by the dramatic "stripping of the Abbey". We carried out the traditional pilgrimage on the Friday and then there came the silence and restraint of Holy Saturday as we waited for Midnight when we could sing, receive communion and talk with our fellow pilgrims as we carried our guttering candles round the cloisters. As we returned to the mainland on the Monday it was still dark as we crossed (in the old small ferry) to the mainland with waves crashing onto the deck, soaking us all to the skin. The drive to the ferry across Mull was "steamy" literally and as soon as we boarded the ferry we fell on the CalMac Bacon butties with utter delight!*

*Below I reproduce Kate's Poem .....*

*Iona Easter*

*Speedwell studded*

*Rain- washed grass*

*A froth of blue*

*In a sea of green.*

*Black islands*

*Floating on a silver mirror.*

*Twin lambs vulnerable;*

*Protective mother.*

*Air, crisp, cool,*

*Lark caressing;*

*A butterfly lands on an abbey buttress.*

*Gull and dove voices*

*Mingle with the tang of the mower.*

*Easter Iona*

*when daffodils dance*

*And tourists are few.*

*Irene calling..... a heartfelt offering*  
**FREEDOM DAY!!!**

I'm worried, really worried,  
As the Delta numbers rise,  
And I hear the rule-book's thrown  
away,  
A terrible surprise!

We'll follow science, data  
I'm sure that's what they said,  
100,000 cases they're expecting  
And the dead?

How many lives along the way  
Will suffer or will die?  
They've turned the tables on us,  
It is up to you and I.

The government has washed their  
hands  
Economy takes the lead,  
Important yes! Of course it is,  
But health is what we need!

Vaccinations going well  
They've pinned their hopes, and  
smile,  
2nd citizen vulnerables fear future  
all the while.

How can we lead a normal life  
If self-distancing will go?  
And masks will be a distant past,  
Though doctors beg them NO!

We've come too far to throw away  
Keep rules, because you see,  
Freedom Day for you  
Means imprisonment for me!

**Have your say on the future of the town's Monday  
and Friday Markets..... from Stewart**

This sketch drawn by John Hutchinson in 1988 shows our Market Square as many of us remember it - bustling with market traders and townsfolk on Mondays and Fridays. That all changed with the onset of the COVID pandemic more than a year ago when the whole market was transplanted to the Cattle Market car park where it has remained ever since. Many are concerned that the market will never return to its rightful place in the Market Square.

However, the market's future is just one topic being reviewed by a group called 'The St Ives Neighbourhood Plan Team' who will be holding their first consultation during July. There will be exhibitions at **Burleigh Hill Community Centre** on Friday 16 July from 2 to 5pm - and also at the **Farmers Market** on Saturday 17 July. If you cannot attend these events, the display material and questionnaire will be available on-line via the Town Council's website:

[www.stivestowncouncil.gov.uk/  
Public\\_Consultation\\_29968.aspx](http://www.stivestowncouncil.gov.uk/Public_Consultation_29968.aspx)

This is an opportunity to make your views known. Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Team, Nick Dibben says 'We would like to know what the public think and their responses will help shape the final plan.' **SD**



## Eco Saturday by Sally Runham

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July offers a day of local eco activities.

First stop is our lovely Farmers' Market from 9am. I usually buy vegetables, cheese, apple juice and meat. This week I aim to queue early at the celebrated cake stall.

Onto Prayer in the Park starting at 10am for about 15-20 mins. Led by Catherine this time, this short prayer session for our planet aims to engage as many people as possible to share their deep concern.

Then a short bus ride into Huntingdon to visit the Eco Fair.



***“Huntingdon Town Council are holding their first Eco Fair! The event taking place on the Market Square will feature a range of information based and retail stalls to showcase the selection of eco-friendly businesses and resources available in the local area.” From 10am.***

For those unable to or unhappy about taking a holiday away from this area, it is ‘more eco’ to stay at home, and this day of activities is one way of socialising safely and outdoors.

## ***Char remembers their first family holiday.....***

Our family's first holiday. Lowestoft 1959 with sisters Louie and Lillon.....

Swim hats ,deck chairs and comics. ....

We loved every minute - Daddy delivered and picked us up. He stayed at home to run the basket making business.

Mother was car sick on the journey there so Grandmother was called to come and look after us as poor Mother didn't recover until the last day. Dreadful! We stayed at a small hotel where punctuality and table manners were vital.

8 photos were taken as there were only 8 exposures on the film. 4 failed for some reason but we were so excited when the 4 successes were collected from Barton's in Bridge Street, now the Oxfam shop.

***Charxxx***

***Ed. What a fabulous old shop Barton's was!!***



## ***Further adventures from Babs and John's Scottish trip.....***

After a slightly nerve-racking stay near Campbletown on the Mull of Kintyre with a poorly caravan that needed a part from Crowland, they moved south to stay in Langholm, Chris's home town in the Borders.

Bottom right—esteemed editor's birth place (and her mum's).



## ***Where to see life in all its rich tapestry.....***

*Jean Pepper had to take a trip to A & E on Monday night with an infected toe. She was there for over 6 hours and desperate for a cuppa! She feels she saw the whole length and breadth of human life in that time!!*

*Hope you are soon back on your feet Jean!*

***Char asked last week what had given us most joy in the garden this year..... For me it has to be our roses which have been magnificent!***



