

Keeping in Touch..... Number 70

Welcome to this week's KIT. Thank you so much if you sent something in this week. Please keep the articles coming. The deadline for next week's KIT is noon on Wednesday. Please send anything to 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..

Irene calling.....

WHAT COST?

Oh Lord what have we done?
I don't know where to start,
My tears are of no help at all,
Won't mend my broken heart.

Afghanistan, we went to aid,
We thought we'd help you train
Your Army to defend your land,
Much knowledge to your gain.

Our soldiers taught you many skills
While danger lurked around,
Many died and lots were hurt,
But friendships still were bound.

Terror threatened, but life went on
Education for girls was allowed,
Bravely their independence grew
No-one saw the looming cloud.

Twenty years, enough's enough
We've done our best, we're out!
Within a week all hope is lost
Independence gone no doubt.

Their President escaped and fled
His people left to fate,
The killing has begun they say
As usual we're too late.

Our TVs showed the awful sight,
The anguish fear and dread,
As people clinging on to planes
Fell off, crash landed dead.

Dear God, we thought we knew it all
We gave a glimpse of freedom's door,
West knows best, but do we Lord?
I really don't know anymore?

ccc. IRENE CARTER



Our dear Friend Sally Banks writes in response to Philip's quiz from two weeks ago.....

I am not surprised that Sally Banks was not known. There is no one from the Free Church with that name. Her name is Sarah Banks - back in 1946 Sarah was considered too posh a name for a foreigner to have. Only close friends and family called me Sally. When Jeremy and I were married in 1963. Our dear Rev. Ballard said he would have to start the service - the official part using Sarah. If too many people looked puzzled he would change to Sally and then continue the service. I am sure that Mr. P. Simpson would like to send his pennies to S.C.F. Love to all close friends. From S. Banks x

**So Philip, are you feeling generous to your old classmate?
Save The Children Fund would be a great charity to support!
And thank you Sally! You will always be Sally to us!!**

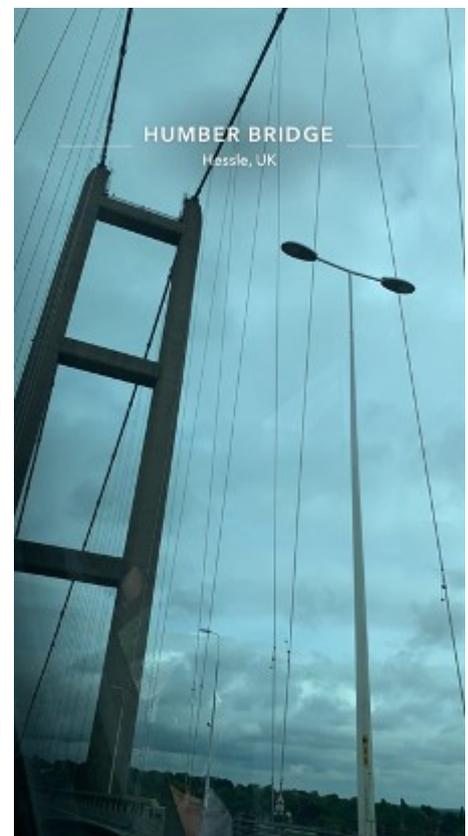
The Runham's East Coast Odessey..



At Whitby, relaxing after climbing the 199 steps to the Abbey.



Pedal boats at Scarborough North Bay.



Crossing the Humber Bridge.....

If life were a train journey ...

If life were a train journey
I want a seat in the observation car
I want to see far
And wide
And I want to stay on for the whole lifelong ride .

I won't travel in the carriage called regret
It always gets to disconnect
And end up in a siding

I won't travel in the carriage called blame
Blame and shame - a waste of time game!
Have fun! Much more exciting !!

I won't travel in the carriage called
Fault
It'll uncouple at the sign Halt !
Frustratingly delaying my treasure finding !

I outrightly refuse to sit in the carriage called neg-
ativity
It'll crash into the buffers irrevocably
Glass half full to brimming - that's me !!

I want to travel in the observation car
With a bar
Drinking gin with a Czar
Eating tasty treats from the diner
Playing guitar - Or even a sitar !
Having lunch with a lemur
Munching midget gems with a miner
Submerging ALL my fingers in one massive sparkle
jar
Leading a life bizarre
With family and friends my feldspar
Taking tea with a tiger
Singing with a nightjar
Swimming with the Arctic char
Painting like Renoir
And Bigger Bognor- Take me to Zanzibar!

Until that final pole star
Leads me lurching round my final corner
My last hurrah
Shouting joyously
"Au Revoir" !!!

A poem sent to Char from her friend Maggie



Another photo from Sally and Nev

The "Wonders of the Sea" by Sutton-on-sea Knitters and Natters



Introducing the Reverend Absalom Curtis – Alans’ great-great grandfather.

In 1937 Absalom’s son Amadee Absalom, who by then was 72, decided to record something of his upbringing. He had only known his father, Absalom, as an old man – Absalom was over 60 when Amadee was born. This is the first extract of the 1937 document we want to share.

Amadee writes:

Early home life – How shall I describe it? We were six in family, father, mother and four children, two girls and two boys. Father, an old man, crippled with rheumatism, intelligent beyond the ordinary, capable of conducting an argument upon important religious, social or political questions upon which he kept himself well posted by an assiduous study of the papers. I can see him now during the dark winter evenings, sitting by the hour with the papers in one hand and a candle or a small benzoline lamp in the other, following the arguments of the House of Commons. Spending his days mostly trying to wrest a livelihood from a few score of poor, dearly rented, land, doing the work of cultivating mostly by hand, in which, despite the heartbreaking disappointing work, we boys had to lend a hand as soon as we were capable of holding any sort of tool. Earlier in life he had been an acceptable preacher and had accepted the pastorate of a small Congregational Chapel at Lytchett Minster (Dorset), and being ordained, ministered to that church and congregation for 20 years at the pitiful salary of eleven shillings per week. At the end of that time his choice of a second wife (after the death of the first) being displeasing to the Church Officials, they stopped his pay, and so ended his ministerial career. So it came about that we children of an ordained Christian Minister never had the privilege of hearing him from the pulpit, and never knew him take any part in any religious service. But as children in the home we were surrounded by a Christian atmosphere which has been a benediction to us through life.



Absalom Curtis—we think!

Four generations of the Curtis Family.

Alan’s older brother baby John, his parents Mervyn and Peg, Grandparents George and Janet, great grandparents Amadee Absalom (our writer) and Thirza Elizabeth.



christian aid

Christian Aid has launched an emergency appeal to support those in need in Haiti following the earthquake and tropical storm—please support them!

August Nature Notes from Oakington..... From Char



Bottom left then clockwise.....

MORNING GLORY

CHICKENS RESCUED FROM THE CHICKEN INDUSTRY

BROWN LONG EARED BAT

POLLEN FOLLED DAHLIA

STRAW FLOWER