

Following my February essay, I heard from a few people with comments that I feel I can share. This has rather turned this into a slightly longer message than normal

I heard from Chris Thomas who'd found a couple of photos whilst clearing the attic.

Apparently Chris, Tim, Horace and Trevor Byrne enjoying the "Tim Cottle School of Golf".



John Brand's photos prompted a few memories.

Writing from Perth, Australia, John Discombe recalls "I remember Jimmy Brock well, he was great friends with Lachlan Crawford. His progress through life is interesting. I remember his as a terrific hooker who went on to play County rugby (for Dorset I think).

Talking rugby the photo of the Luke's side show Mike Siemens and Neil Bennett and brings back memories of some good England performances. Mike was, in fact pretty swift and played on the wing 32 times and also went on the 1980s Lions tour. Neil was the Number 10 and played 7 times for England.

John's photos also nudged Dai Griffiths to write. He recalled that Karen, his wife, was a great fan of Barry John – "I was fortunate to play against him for

Pembrokeshire County before he retired. I used to see him in The Old Arcade pub in Cardiff.

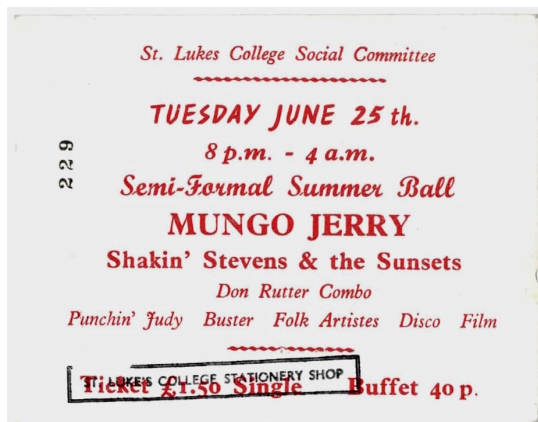
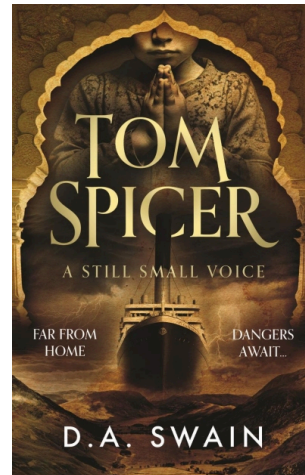
On one occasion in the 90s I bumped into Barry with my wife Karen and sons and Barry said to Karen 'You do well to put up with him love' and gave her a kiss on the cheek.

As I was writing for the Milford Mercury at the time I did a little article under the heading "Unwashed for a week" - much to Karen's embarrassment."

Dai also remembers that a certain Mervin Davies played for Killerton – and drove a sports car.

Vijay was grateful for the attention drawn to his forthcoming book. He points out that it is already being advertised on various websites, eg Waterstones, Amazon, etc. He will bring a few copies along in June and will sign and dedicate those and any already bought.

"A Still Small Voice" by Vijay - under the pen name D.A.Swain."



Martin Hannant replied to one of John Brand's queries and confirmed that Mungo Jerry was at the Luke's Summer Ball in 1974. Martin comments "He was suitably awful. On the other hand, a young and upcoming star, Shakin Stevens was so much better. I wonder what happened to him?"

Many apologies for failing to include the link to the article about Sir Richard, I was struggling with an update to the mailing system at the time that involved all sorts of security authentications and in a fit of pique pressed Send without a final check on the content.

I had already included the link on the website, but just in case you've not found it and are interested in the content, [I include it here.](#)

With cricket in mind, Derek Barnard has let me know that he has finally hung up his cricket bat and pads and now spends his time writing cricket books (the last one sold out inside six weeks). He assures us that he will be at the cricket match in June and available to score and/or umpire.

On that note, the regular reminder that annual cricket match will be held on **Sunday 30th June** at the **Killerton Cricket ground**. First ball - **2:00pm**

If you are available to play, please let John Davies and/or John Morgan know asap. If you don't have their contact details, let me know and I can pass the message on.

Finally, a few personal lines that are probably of little interest to some, but I felt I'd tell of a mission that Chris and I started last year.

It is a well-known fact that by the end of the 19th century, Portsmouth had a population of around 180,000 (having increased from 32,000 in 1801!) and the city then covered less than half the area of Portsea Island, the other half being mainly farmland and marshland. Never the less there were over 700 drinking places including hotels, pubs, bars and beer houses.

By the end of the 1960s, with whole swathes of the island still recovering from the war with a huge number bomb damaged properties, the city had expanded to cover the whole of Portsea Island and even encroached onto the mainland, now with a population of around 190,000 in an area of 15.5 square miles.

Over the years, there was a general reduction of in the number of pubs in the city, mainly the smaller ones and the front room beer houses. However, when Chris and I were of drinking age, there were still around 350 pubs within the city boundary. Currently the population is around 230,000 within the city boundary but the number of pubs has declined to less than 140.

Early last year Chris and I decided that we ought to attempt to visit every pub on Portsea Island before too many more closed and have a pint in each. Since starting the process, two pubs have shut, one we had visited, the other we had not.

With the list on a spreadsheet and Google maps I divided the list up into groups of 3-5 pubs within reasonable walking distance of each other and hopefully starting and finishing near bus stops (well we do have our bus passes!).

So far, we have visited ninety pubs. 5 more next weekend. We go out at around 1:00pm so usually finish around 7:00. It's more pleasant walking at this time of day in the winter evenings, and the pubs themselves are quieter – there are some that are definitely to be avoided in the evenings.

We hope to complete the tour by the summer so we will probably look to go further afield, after all, one needs a hobby! Cheers!



killerton-memories.co.uk

steve@killerton-memories.co.uk