

Whenever cannibals are on the brink of starvation, Heaven in its infinite mercy, sends them a fat missionary.

Oscar Wilde

TOURING ON A MOTORBIKE + Coconut Haystacks

Sheila and Bill finished their lunch in the Pub on the top of Kirkstone Pass. "I thoroughly enjoyed that," Bill said. They jumped onto their motorbike and started going down the Pass.

"This is fabulous" Sheila screamed into Bill's ear. As they went whizzing down the hill Sheila hung on tightly. "I'm scared" she shouted.

Bill dropped to bottom gear, applied the brakes and they gradually slowed down.

Sheila said, "I was very frightened. I thought we were going to crash we were going so fast"

"I thought I was going to lose control" Bill replied. "We'll turn left along this narrow road and see where it leads." It took them to the shores of Ambleside.

"This is a pretty village. Let's stay and look around." Bill said.

"This is the house where William Wordsworth lived. I've read some of his poems Let's go in" Sheila replied.

They continued their travels and stopped outside a shop called The Witches of Pendle, then went to the Cemetery where the witches were buried "Do you think the story is fact or fiction," Bill said.

"I believe it's true," Sheila replied.

Next morning, after breakfast, they climbed on their motorbike and roared away.

They arrived in Skipton, had a meal, then decided to go to Mother Shiptons Cave, at nearby Knaresborough, the most famous cave in England. Sheila picked up a leaflet and read it out to Bill "She lived some 500 years ago during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. She was a famous Prophetess. Her visions became known with many of them still proving uncannily accurate to-day. The Cave, her birthplace, is near to the unique geological phenomenon - The Petrifying Well. See it's magical cascading turn items into stone ". "I can't believe it is England's oldest Visitor Attraction, first opening in 1630, over 360 years ago. It's amazing and so historical. I'm so glad we came here" Sheila said. "I've loved every second it's uncanny."

Next day they resumed their traveling and stopped at a large Pub on the main road called the Horse and Jockey. They decided to stay there. At the back was a field with a stream running the length of it, also a haystack and Barn. There were a few stone houses nearby and it looked very picturesque. Several people stopped and parked their

cars then went into the Barn. Mary, the Landlady went with them. Sheila and Bill followed.

The people were sweeping out the barn and carried bales from the haystack into it. They placed them around the sides. They then carried plastic tables and chairs from their cars into the barn.

"What's going on" Sheila asked Mary

"We've having a Dance and B.B.Q. tonight and we're getting everything ready. You can come if you want to. You just pay at the door. You'll see how we enjoy ourselves in this village"

"We would be delighted to come and we'll also stay another night if it's alright" Sheila asked.

They were excited, as they loved dancing. Mary nodded her head and smiled.

Pointing to the hay bales at the side of the Barn Mary said "There are your seats and table for the evening as you are unable to bring your own. Sit down and enjoy yourselves. I must go and organize the B.B.Q."

They stared in disbelief but found them quite comfortable when their coats were thrown on the top.

Two men entered. One played the accordion; the other played the drums and sang. Sheila and Bill danced the Valetta, The Gay Gordon's, the Bradford Barn, and several others they didn't know. They followed other couples and soon picked up the steps.

"We've had a wonderful time, quite unlike any other dance we've been to" .Bill said. "We've sat on hay bales and danced unusual dances in a smelly barn. We've visited places we had only heard about. It's a shame we have no money left so we'll have to go home tomorrow"

They travelled home and parked their beloved motorbike. Bill picked Sheila up and carried her over the threshold saying, "I hope the rest of our lives are as happy as the last few days. We've had a wonderful honeymoon" They kissed and he kicked the front door shut.

RECIPE FOR COCONUT HAYSTACKS

8 ozs Self Raising Flour

3 ozs. Sugar

1 egg and a little milk

3 ozs Coconut

3 ozs. Margarine

Mix flour, sugar and coconut in a bowl; rub in the Margarine. Mix to a STIFF DOUGH with beaten Egg and a little Milk. Place in approximately 14 rough heaps on a greased baking sheet. BAKE IN A HOT OVEN (425 - 450 F) about 15 to 20 minute When cold, brush with jam, and sprinkle all over with Coconut.

Stella Rutherford.