



# HOLIDAYS



## A fun time!

It is that time of year again, as the days get longer we start longing to be ... somewhere else ... out of the daily grind ... a chance to be relaxed and refreshed ... to have fun!

I've had all sorts of holidays myself – from Brigade House parties; plane, train and car holidays with various family members and on my own, student weekends, going away with friends and the family holiday when I'm the Mom...

## Take your time



It is important to allow yourself time to go slowly – to not cook and clean, to sleep until you wake up... Also to worship and pray – whether it is a chance to read those church library books you keep putting off or just to marvel at the way the waves just keep rolling up the beach or to watch the sheep eating grass... Or to learn about the way the people of that place have lived and loved and worked there. It is often worth the trouble of finding out where the churches are and what time the service is when you are on holiday. You can often hear God speaking to you more clearly when you are out of your familiar comfort zone...

But the Twinspire Committee thought we'd **all** like to know what you think, so I've gone around (some) of the Congregation with my notebook, again.....

## Family Fun

(this was hard as the Milnes all talked at once!)



- Gordon 'I love holidays – I don't have to go to work!'
- Jacquiline 'I love not having to do the housework and put meals together for us all!'
- Gordon '... and going sightseeing... '
- Jacquiline 'getting out of the routine and away from the humdrum'

- Greggor 'Holidays are fun – I don't have to go to school. We play football, go swimming...'
- Jacquiline 'We enjoy a chance to try different foods that we wouldn't eat at home...'
- Greggor 'Mom lets us have burgers for lunch every day.'
- Shannon 'Mom lets us have biscuits for lunch and we eat ice cream all the time – and with all the swimming I don't put on weight!'

The Milnes have an excellent family holiday philosophy - each person gets a chance to choose the activities for a day. I can see how this would make for a fascinatingly varied trip in their household. It is also a great way to teach organising skills and include all decisions makers!

## Spiritual Renewal



'I come back bursting' says Margaret Connor about her trips to the Christian Conference at Keswick. 'It is such a beautiful place to go and we don't waste a minute - we head for the lovely countryside or the wonderful shops every chance we get. Travelling together and staying together we have such fun and fellowship together between the meetings.'

While Margaret enjoys the chance to talk, chat, worship and pray together with old friends and new, she finds the group teaching sessions great value. However, the group worship – singing and praising together - is 'out of this world'.

For those who can still get a booking the Keswick Convention is held over a 3 week period from 12th July - 1st August this year. The key speaker is Liam Goligher, the Senior Pastor of Duke Street Church, Richmond, England and a Trustee of Keswick Ministries.

The theme is 'Abraham - Covenant, Creation & Chaos' for the week 19th - 25th July.

**NOT TO BE MISSED!!**

## Round the world (nearly) and still going



Alex and Eileen Brown are off to London by train to stay with their daughter and see the Chelsea Flower Show! This is a great novelty for the Browns as they are usually globe trotting and Alex listed some of the destinations they have been to – South Africa, New Zealand, Sydney Australia, Tasmania, Canada, the US, Iceland, Norway, Madeira, Paris, Barcelona.

Alex loves a long trip – preferably pre-booked, but with some organising to keep him busy on the way. He enjoys going to a new place just as much as going back to somewhere he has enjoyed before. Alex has plans to go to Santiago in Chile.

### Alan's Trip to Lourdes

Someone who had a very special holiday this Easter was Alan Farquhar. He went to Lourdes with the Pilgrimage Trust – and from the photos of the trip it would appear that Alan had an absolutely fantastic time - he is just beaming in every single one!

Alan had two Carers, Stephen and Kevin, who looked after him as he travelled with eight other young disabled people (plus carers) to Lourdes. Stephen and Kevin put together a scrapbook of Alan's trip with pictures and a short history of Lourdes, and a journal highlighting the special (and everyday things) that happened while they were away.

The group participated in a number of services culminating in the HCPT Trust Mass with five thousand people. Reading Alan's scrapbook will remind you that we are part of God's enormous family with members all over the world. Some don't believe exactly the same things we do, but we all serve the same wonderful Lord. Noisy, colourful worship is fun, but praying and learning quietly is also important.

We need to remember that we are all on a pilgrimage, although we might not be going to a geographical place; we need to stay together as a group, helping each other, sharing with each other, and praying and worshipping together.

THE TWINSPIRE COMMITTEE WISHES THOSE  
OF YOU WHO ARE TRAVELLING THIS SUMMER,  
A SAFE JOURNEY  
AND  
A REFRESHING TIME AWAY!

*Tracey O'Brien*

## **Through an Ayrshire Eye**

Ian Kirkbride  
6<sup>th</sup> August 1971

### **It's on for the day!**

There's no day longer than a long, wet day in the holidays. And that's just what it is as I write these words.

It was wet at dawn, and wetter gotter as the day advanced. If you look out of the window here, over the garden and south to the mist-covered hills, you couldn't guess what time of day it was. It could be nine in the morning, twelve at noon, six p.m., or half-past eight.

That's the kind of day it is, with no noticeable beginning and no appreciable end. Pale, anaemic and lifeless, without hint of wind, sun or shadow, it eventually gives itself up to the night. It was dead from dawn, but wouldn't lie down.

Yet yesterday I had two rounds of golf on a little hillside golf course. There must be quite a number of these obscure little courses scattered over Scotland where one can play holiday golf, and not become too serious.

On this one, the fairways are narrow strips cut between the bracken and the heather. The greens are bare little patches of coarse grass. You're in the bracken if you pitch to the right, and in the heather if you wander to the left. And if you overshoot the green, you're in thick hay. There are no bunkers, for bunkers are unnecessary in a course with so many natural hazards.

Yet so quiet is the course that you can sit down at any point, and look round on the encircling hills. As I sat at the seventh, high up over the surrounding country, a nearby quarry blasted at noon, and the reverberations rumbled round the Highland hills with a curious, hollow, menacing tone.

Then silence. The occasional oyster-catcher went gliding past, and the laborious peewee in its silent summer flight. The air was perfumed with the fragrance of clover, and the fairway adroned by clumps of lady's bedstraw and bird's-foot trefoil.

There was no one else at all on the course, except an old man and a little boy at the far-corner of a field which took in four fairways. Golf is a game where I don't like being crowded, where I want time and space to think of other things than golf. When I begin to chide myself for muffled drives, pulled irons and missed putts, then I know it's time I went back to the big course.

I love those little country courses, their setting and their loneliness, and the austere wind that flutters their flags; and the little country stations, decaying with the passing of the railroad, and mourned by the foxgloves and willow herb that grow where the tracks used to be.

And the little country churches, and the little rural schools with the domine's house and the grass playground; and little country fairs with their swing-boats and round-about and solitary hoop-la stall . . .

But I have little love for the long, long wet day when the fields are sodden and the roads awash; and when all I can do is to write these words!

*Contributed by Ian Gray*