

## **The Torquay Pageant Part One**

A passion for the past took the counties over  
With historical pageants from Sherborne to Dover  
In a seaside town in nineteen twenty four  
There was a pageant it had not had one before

Off to Rock End gardens  
In the June sunshine  
To enjoy the pageant  
To have a jolly time

Now Mister Arthur Aplin a hero from the war  
He was the pageant master his novels I adore  
A playwright and an actor he knew a thing or two  
He said to the town now it's up to you

Off to Rock End gardens  
In the June sunshine  
To enjoy the pageant  
To have a jolly time

Vice Admiral McCully happened to be in Torbay  
He opened the pageant during his short stay

Off to Rock End gardens  
In the June sunshine  
To enjoy the pageant  
To have a jolly time

Now the pageant is forgotten and few will ever know  
Of the many thousands who enjoyed the show  
Yes the pageant is forgotten and few will ever know  
Of the many thousands who enjoyed the show

## **Torre Abbey**

An abbot from Welbeck Abbey  
Arrived on the shores of Torbay  
William Briwere had gifted some land  
Thanks for the safe return of his son

For the monks Torre Abbey was made  
And throughout the day they prayed  
Many gifts and bequests were received  
And their faith in God they truly believed

On the west side a cruciform church  
The buildings around a courtyard  
Built on a Benedictine plan  
Beer limestone for the arcades

For the monks Torre Abbey was made  
And throughout the day they prayed  
Many gifts and bequests were received  
And their faith in God they truly believed

The monks made sure that the poor were fed  
Looked after the folk in Torbay  
A genuine holy cast of mind  
Destroyed by a tyrant King

Because of King Henry the abbey dissolved  
To take all their wealth he was resolved  
King Henry the Eighth the great evil King  
Great misery he would surely bring

### **William of Orange**

With many ships and many men  
William sailed for Torbay  
This made James think again  
When his fleet was evaded  
And his realm was invaded

For to take the crown  
Yes the English crown  
William had been persuaded

James took a second wife  
Mary of Modena  
To help his Catholic life  
Sound judgement was evaded  
And his realm was invaded

For to take the crown  
Yes the English crown  
William had been persuaded

In fog and mist along the English coast  
William came to Brixham  
James feared him the most  
And bloodshed was evaded  
When England was invaded

For to take the crown  
Yes the English crown  
William had been persuaded

A Foolish King James the Second  
To be Catholic he had reckoned  
Would convert England back to Rome  
But due to this he lost his throne

Go to Brixham and you will see  
A statue of white marble  
William of Orange on the quay  
The smells can't be evaded  
And the tourists have invaded

But don't frown  
At the seagull for his crown  
Where history was created  
Oh no don't frown  
At the seagull for his crown  
Where history was created

### **The Billy Ruffian**

Aboard the Billy Ruffian  
From France to Torbay  
With the prisoner Napoleon  
Such fame had come their way  
Aboard the Billy Ruffian  
From France to Torbay

Her hull was made of English oak  
More than three thousand felled  
Named the Bellerophon  
And her keel was made of of elm

Aboard the Billy Ruffian  
Arriving in Torbay  
With Napoleon Bonaparte  
And in England he hoped to stay  
Aboard the Billy Ruffian  
Arriving in Torbay

Of battles she had several  
The bravest of the brave  
Part of the Royal Navy  
And England they would save

Sightseers came from Exeter  
To gather in the bay  
They'd come to see Napoleon  
Get a glimpse of him that day

Aboard the Northumberland  
Departing from Torbay  
With the prisoner Napoleon  
To exile he was on his way  
Aboard the Northumberland  
Departing from Torbay

Goodbye to the Bellerophon  
And her claim to fame  
The crew stripped her of everything  
And a prison she became  
Goodbye to the Bellerophon  
And her claim to fame

### **Torquay Riots**

The harvest was so poor  
The price of bread it would soar  
The potato crop and failed  
Hope for the poor had not prevailed

There were riots in Torquay  
In Union street like an angry sea  
It was Eighteen Forty Seven  
Great discontent for the poor in Devon

The price of bread so high  
Could this the baker justify  
A mob in Union street  
The Constables had to defeat

There were riots in Torquay  
In Union street like an angry sea  
It was Eighteen Sixty Seven  
Great discontent for the poor in Devon

A sharp rise in the price of bread  
Led to a riot the newspaper said  
It was bonfire night when the shops were trashed  
Broken into, ransacked, trashed and smashed

There were riots in Torquay  
In Union street like an angry sea  
It was Eighteen Sixty Seven  
Great discontent for the poor in Devon

### **Torre Station**

The Opening of Torre Station  
Just below Chapel hill  
An event of celebration  
The train arrives such a thrill

Applauded with due circumstance  
Access to Torquay it would enhance  
Though difficulties were not foreseen  
We celebrate the age of steam

The Opening of Torre Station

Just below Chapel hill  
An event of celebration  
The train arrives such a thrill

The Temperance society band  
Led a procession I understand  
Sergeant Boyd's buglers brought up the rear  
The sound of the music a joy to hear

Sir John Yarde Buller gave an address  
The whole event was a great success  
Banners proclaimed Brunel's broad gauge  
Locomotives in the Victorian age

The Opening of Torre Station  
Just below Chapel hill  
An event of celebration  
The train arrives such a thrill

### **The Wonderful Paignton Pudding**

In August Eighteen Fifty Nine  
They extended the Torbay railway line  
And a very old custom was revived  
In a special broadsheet it was described

One hundred and ninety one pounds of bread  
Just think of all those mouths to be fed  
Five hundred and seventy pounds of flour  
The weight of it all increasing each hour

In August Eighteen Fifty Nine  
They extended the Torbay railway line  
And a Paignton pudding was displayed  
In the form of a pyramid it was made

Sugar, nutmegs, suet and lemons  
Just look at the size of it good heavens  
Five hundred and seventy pounds of flour  
The crowds to see it increasing each hour

Such an occasion please don't be late  
For this event we cannot wait  
On the first of August you must attend  
And a fine procession we will send

In August Eighteen Fifty Nine  
They extended the Torbay railway line  
And a very old custom was revived  
In a special broadsheet it was described

One hundred and ninety one pounds of bread

Just think of all those mouths to be fed  
Five hundred and seventy pounds of flour  
The weight of it all increasing each hour  
The weight of it all increasing each hour

### **Patent 8294**

He's got a complicated life  
So he had to leave another wife  
Took a ship to go to France  
It's one hell of a merry old dance

His Patent 8294  
A sewing machine we all adore  
In Paignton he lives in style  
And his massive fortune makes him smile

He was born in New York state  
Ran away from a home he'd grown to hate  
With a travelling carnival he had some fun  
Got married and divorced when he was young

His Patent 8294  
A sewing machine we all adore  
In Paignton he lives in style  
And his massive fortune makes him smile

He asked George Bridgeman for a plan  
For a mansion a big wigwam  
Oldway mansion his grand design  
Using bricks from Dorset to look so fine

In Paris he married Isabella  
She couldn't resist such a tall fella  
Isaac Merritt Singer is his name  
An inventor and an actor he will claim

Of children he's got at least twenty  
And in his will they'll get plenty  
Of the money from patent 8294  
And they'll live in style of that I'm sure

### **The Torquay Regatta**

It's the regatta in Torquay  
The thought of it brings such glee  
With yacht racing in the bay  
Money for the fair saved since May

On the switchback you'll lose your bearings  
Come and buy some dainty fairings  
Try your luck on the coconut shy

Bid for nougat please come and try

It's the regatta in Torquay  
The thought of it brings such glee  
The horses on the roundabout  
The strangest shows without a doubt

Penny monkeys in every hue  
Pin your coat with one or two  
Can you pitch a ping pong ball  
A goldfish prize for one and all

Out in the bay the yachts race by  
From Haldon pier you can watch them fly  
Brittania is sighted up goes the cry  
Beneath the blue August sky

It's the regatta in Torquay  
The thought of it brings such glee  
With yacht racing in the bay  
Money for the fair saved since May

### **Buffalo Bill in Torquay**

Buffalo Bill in Torquay  
His wild west show we will see  
William Cody his real name  
A living legend of great acclaim

In the year 1904  
He's not been here before  
To the Newton Road we must go  
For great excitement at his show

Buffalo Bill in Torquay  
His wild west show we will see  
William Cody his real name  
A living legend of great acclaim

Riders from many a nation  
Bringing great acclamation  
Colonel Custer's last stand  
With Buffalo Bill in command

A thrilling and daring bicycle feat  
Wild west stars that you can meet  
Sideshow and staged races  
At this pageant excited faces

Buffalo Bill in Torquay  
His wild west show we will see  
William Cody his real name

A living legend of great acclaim

In the year 1904  
He's not been here before  
Of great excitement I have been told  
Tickets for his show to be sold

Buffalo Bill informed the press  
His liking of Torquay he would express  
He loved the view from Daddyhole Plain  
His delight for it he could not contain

### **Arnold's White Feather**

The suffragettes are busy in the town of Torquay  
Handing out white feathers to the men that they see  
Yes handing out white feathers to the men that they see

Mr Hindenburg had to change his name  
Anti German sentiment and spies are to blame  
A local Austrian arrested on his wedding day  
Such paranoia was rife all around Torbay

The suffragettes are busy in the town of Torquay  
Handing out white feathers to the men that they see  
Yes handing out white feathers to the men that they see

Arnold Ridley was a teacher at a Torquay school  
Received a white feather which was rather cruel  
Seen by a suffragette who wore a fox fur  
His silver war badge he didn't show to her

Wounded three times in the First World War  
Arnold fought at the Somme with great valour

The suffragettes so busy in the town of Torquay  
Handing out white feathers to the men that they see  
Yes handing out white feathers to the men that they see

### **The Lady Cable**

At Dunkirk there was danger  
From the sky port and starboard  
Skippered by Frank Gooding  
She'd sailed from Torquay's harbour

Peace for our time Chamberlain had said  
But from Dunkirk good Lord how we had fled

At Dunkirk there was danger  
From the sky, stern and starboard  
Called the Lady Cable

She'd sailed from Torquay's harbour

Hitler's missed the bus Chamberlain had said  
But at Dunkirk you know we left so many dead

In peacetime she would sail around Torbay  
Ferrying passengers for many a happy day  
At Dunkirk she'd crept close to the shore  
Rescued six hundred men and some thirty more

At Dunkirk there was danger  
From above port and starboard  
Called the Lady Cable  
She'd sailed from Torquay's harbour

Peace for our time Chamberlain had said  
But from Dunkirk good Lord how we had fled  
Hitler's missed the bus Chamberlain had said  
But at Dunkirk you know we left so many dead

### **The Funk Hole Myth**

There was a pretend battle in 1942  
The Torquay home guard knew what they had to do  
To defend their town from a mock invasion  
For the regular army it was a strange occasion

A weekend long defence of the town of Torquay  
Colin Ross remembers the event quite clearly  
The residents of Torquay carried on regardless  
The antics of the army were considered harmless

The funk hole myth you had better not believe  
The national newspapers were out to deceive

The pupils of St Olaves sided with the home guard  
For the regular army they had little regard  
Being quite annoying as they mingled with the troops  
The schoolmates spying on the men in many groups

Amongst all the tragedy there was farce  
Like a scene from Dad's Army good sense was rather sparse

Colin thought the army cheated quite a bit  
He remembers how one teacher complained about it  
A referee disallowed a home guard victory  
It was a successful ambush in the town of Torquay

The funk hole myth you had better not believe  
The national newspapers were out to deceive

## **The Theatre of Pain**

Come along to the theatre of pain  
Another season goes down the drain  
We have such fun at the theatre of pain  
Come and watch the Gulls lose once again

No success in the FA cup  
It seems we're always out of luck  
It's enough to make a grown man cry  
But you live in hope I don't know why

Come along to the theatre of pain  
Another season goes down the drain  
We have such fun at the theatre of pain  
Come and watch the Gulls lose once again

Through thick and thin you support your team  
A mid table season just a distant dream  
It's enough to make a grown man cry  
But you live in hope I don't know why

Oh dear it's all gone Pete Tong  
Why must it always go so wrong

Come along to the theatre of pain  
Another season goes down the drain  
We have such fun at the theatre of pain  
Come and watch the Gulls lose once again

The ideas for the songs came from various sources

The Torquay Pageant Part One - lecture by David Hinchcliffe  
Torre Abbey - book written by Anne Born  
William of Orange - book written by Anne Born  
The Billy Ruffian - book written by David Cordingly  
Riots in Torquay - an article in the Beach Hut magazine written by Jack Critchlow  
Torre Station - book written by Anne Born  
The Wonderful Paignton Pudding - book written by Anne Born  
Patent 8294 - book written by Anne Born  
The Torquay Regatta - Agatha Christie's autobiography  
Buffalo Bill in Torquay - Information at Torre Abbey  
Arnold's White Feather - book written by David Scott  
Agatha Heads off East - information on the internet about Agatha Christie  
The Lady Cable - book written by David Scott  
The Funk Hole Myth - book written by David Scott  
The Theatre of Pain - being a Torquay United supporter since 1987