

The Pageant of Torbay Part One

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Inspired by a David Hinchcliffe lecture at Torquay museum about the Torquay Pageant of 1924.

Mixed and mastered by Lord Zarquon for Richard the Third Records.

Recorded in Torquay, Marldon, Kingsteignton and Madron.

All songs composed by Ian Churchward except tracks 1 & 9 composed by Elaine & Ian Churchward, and track 7 composed by Ian Churchward & Bridgit England.

Thank you to the following

Ian Churchward vocals, guitars, keyboards and mandola
Lord Zarquon keyboards, bass guitar and drums
Bridgit England vocals, keyboards and violin
Phil Swann 6 & 12 string guitars, and slide guitar
Sam Swann bass guitar
Guy Bolt drums
Elaine Churchward vocals

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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 forseen
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