

Poem

*A Voice of the Dying House
(Skinburness Hotel)*

By
Mrs. P.M. Antolak

*I entered - Stopped - and was aghast
At what I saw!
I paused to listen. Was that a voice?
A whisper? From a frame,
In pain*

*The old house breathed
"Come in. Come in."
It seemed to say. "But heed my wounds."
"I die, I die."*

*And then I saw the devastation.
The mutilation to a house once fair,
And well established
With much love and care*

*The whispering voice came once again,
At first more softly, as if in pain.
"There's been a wedding and reception here.
But through the night all disappeared."*

*"They left me as I stand.
Look - Here's a glass of wine,
Untouched upon the bar,
Now gathering dust around its' stem.
The vandalism got out of hand."*

*"Go gently now ~ my wounds ~
My wounds, they hurt me so"
I saw the doors ~ Ripped from their frames.*

*The window sills gouged out
To hang in tangled heaps upon the floor.
"Climb up the stairs." The whisper came.
"But do not touch the bannister,
I'm bleeding there."*

*There were the vandals chisel marks
All up the once kept polished wood.
Of good Mahogany.
"Destroy ~ Destroy." They seemed to say,
"Such wounds can never heal."*

*And with a sigh the voice went on,
"This is my bridal suite."
I dread to think of what I saw.
Had some wild beast been living here?
The dirt and dust were everywhere.*

*The hopes and plans of couples there,
And memories that they hoped to share,
This place now shattered and defiled,
On purpose; ~ By some evil hand.*

*The voice continued, more firmly now,
"Come ~ See the kitchen quarters,
And food left there, of months ago,
From that wedding I was telling you."*

*Yes, there it was.
That wedding Cake, half cut away.
The icing ~ grey with dust,
And holes and nibbles.
Could that mean Rats or Mice?*

*"Open up the fridge." I did,
But what a sight!
All food there left to mould and rot away.
And carved cooked meats ~
Still on their dishes, now with maggots.*

*"I must get out of this," I thought.
"Away from devastation
And the putrid smell of rotting flesh."
I turned to go,
But heard again that voice, now pleading.*

*"Before you go, ~ Look up my friend."
It whispered, "And see the hammer marks,
The nails on Cove and Ceiling.
There too I bleed for you my friends."*

*So as I turned to leave
I saw irreversible damage,
Caused by nail and hammer
To the artistry of ceiling cove and carvings.*

*The gentle voice continued on,
"You came to see the furniture that was for sale?
All gone. And only rubbish left, I fear,
To fill a need to those that want."*

*"I bid you now, Farewell
I cannot say, as usually ~
Do come again, and welcome too.
It's been a pleasure having you.
For unfortunately, I Die, I Die."*

*"And in my place,
Flats will be made for those on holiday.
Goodbye, good friend ~ Goodbye."*

Letters

Dear Buzz,

After a long and happy career in hairdressing thirty three years of them in Silloth, the time sadly has come to retire. I wish to thank all my customers for their support over the years, we have shared a lot of happy hours together. A special thank you to Anne for her friendship and support which I value greatly. It is all of you that has made my job even more pleasurable. I have always loved hairdressing and will miss it and everyone of you a lot but I am departing with a lot of memories. A big thank you to everyone.

Judith Jameson

Dear Buzz,

On behalf of the RNLI Silloth Branch, I write to thank you for your considerable help in the launch of the DVD "Silloth and Skinburness in the Past". Our thanks go out also to Winters Newsagents for their very generous offer to sell this DVD at no remuneration to themselves. Ed Winter tells me that the interest in this successful DVD is quite phenomenal. Memories are being stirred, and I wonder if you could perhaps feature in your excellent newspaper any such memories which people might wish to share with us all.

Thank you again.
Alan Howe, Treasurer
Silloth Lifeboat Station

Good idea, please send your memories to the Buzz, we may be able to run a small series. Ed

Dear Buzz,

I wanted to let you know that I have enjoyed paging through the Buzz over the last few years. I have been especially interested in the recent articles regarding the fate of the hotel. As a child, I spent portions of my summer holiday with my Grandparents, James and Jesse Moore who lived at Barn Cottage. From the contact information, it appears that the cottage is now being used as a business.

Steve Moore
Mechanicsburg,
Pennsylvania, USA

Dear Buzz,

Firstly may I congratulate you on your very informative local newspaper. As a fairly regular visitor to Silloth I look forward to getting my hands on a "Buzz" which always seems full of useful, interesting, and lighthearted issues. I bet that the local people did not know that they are fortunate enough? To be able to play Bingo every day bar Thursday, if they lived in Kendal they can only play one day a week in our local Ivy Leaf club. Anyway to the real reason why I have sent this Email, please can you tell me what is a "Crunch Service"? It would appear to be a Church lunch meeting, but of course that is a pure guess. Good luck and keep up the local news.

Jack Livesey, Kendal

Wrong Jack, the refuse wagon visits and we go along and toss our larger rubbish in to be 'crunched'. Ed

Dear Buzz,

We have been pestered by deer which I understand escaped from Solway Village and left hoof marks in the grass in my garden.

My son was concerned for their safety and reported to Solway Village the fact that the deer were swimming in the Solway. Their response was to the effect that it was not a problem and "they'll come back for breakfast when they are hungry".

I do not wish this trampling to be a regular occurrence and wonder, have you heard of other instances?

Dorothy Wallis



Bizzybassy
by
Daniel
aged almost 8
staying at
Solway Holiday Village

Dear Buzz,

I am writing to you to ask how many more people have to hurt themselves on the foot paths of Silloth. One elderly gentleman tripped over uneven flags cut his face and nose, also broke his spectacles and hurt himself. Also other people have gone down and hurt themselves and nothing has been checked and done about it. So I hope this letter may stir some one to get the streets checked for some of these days its going to be too late.

Name supplied

Regalo

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