

My Somerset Life

A diary by Brian Snellgrove

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Why do I bother listening to the 'News'? plus Ladybird Books Exhibition

Why do I bother to watch the news particularly in the morning? I'm getting sick of the repetition, the hypocrisy, the partial truths or the plain and simple lies and the sheer exhaustion of listening to people interrupting each other trying to score points. I have had enough. Instead, I have decided to start my day as from now with **Trans World Radio** which is a Christian broadcasting station based in America but with a satellite office here in the UK. There is an unfailing return to basics which I find more refreshing than swimming around in a sea of sewage.

The theme this morning was how to deal with a situation where doors are closed. They were saying that God will decide where is the best place for you. It's simple wanted to move East and spread the gospel about the Holy Spirit said to him no and he eventually went in a westerly direction where he enjoyed great success. It may be that what we think is good for us with higher eyes is not actually good or it could be premature so waiting on God is not a passive thing but a state of mind of trust. Sometimes we get an impulse to do something but we don't know why.

However, again talking about the news, I am sick and tired of the moribund nature of the House of Commons here in the United Kingdom. They are complaining that they feel threatened by the pro Palestinian protesters. What they are really saying is that their consciences have become deadened by vested interests and fear of going against the pack. Anyone who approves of this mass murder by the Israelis has compromised themselves I would almost say beyond recall. Just to remind people of what that term means.

Mass = a lot of people including men, women and children

Murder = causing the death of the above such as doctors,
children, pregnant women, old people

Put the two words together and add the country and you get
Israel mass murderers. Let that sink in.

Parliamentarians are too afraid to consider what the protesters are actually demanding which is that they take note of this calumny and do something about it. I see silence as constituting acceptance. As Neil Oliver said recently in a very fiery broadcast in the name of God go.

I attended yoga this morning, my fourth exposure to this after many years of hovering in the background while Françoise carried on going every week. I have to accept the fact that at my age, the body does not automatically take care of itself and I have to look after it and tend to it. In addition to this, if as we are promised by the good guys there are going to be energetic changes on the planet then we need to change within to respond to it and keep up with the flow.

I have had great stomach problems, as I have mentioned, I continue to believe it is not systemic but the result of eating the wrong food and yesterday I talked in my diary about bread. I'm even wondering if I should have any coffee at all. I'm going to have apple vinegar with mother every morning and try and avoid large meals. Yesterday evening my evening meal consisted of a piece of pork with mashed potatoes. There was zero effect on the stomach. YES!!! In contrast, once I ingest the wrong thing, I get bloating, acidity, and I have to take all sorts of nonsense medication in order to counteract it. This is not the sort of life I want to lead.



To Bath hospital for my regular 6 weekly eye injection. Each time I go I treat myself to two things, the very nice and inexpensive lunch, The one shown is Beef and Kidney pie, potatoes, apple and pear crumble was £7.50. It was home cooked and of very good quality.

The other treat is the continually changing art gallery works for which I think the hospital is very progressive in its attitudes. I don't know another hospital that does it on such a grand scale.

I turned up for my appointment one hour early but they don't seem to mind so I was seen for eye checking within 10 minutes, and 10 minutes after I went in for my intervention. I know the questions they are going to ask me so I reel them off in advance.

I'm going home by bus.

I have not had any extra medication.

My date of birth.

You are going to operate on my left eye.

I am sensitive to cheap perfume.

This saves time to there amusement and mind. Today I had my 57th eyelea injection. Privately each injection for this wet

macular condition would cost £1,515. Had I done so privately it would have cost me £86,355. I can truly say that I have got my money back for my NHS class 2 contributions over the years. People ask me if I can feel anything when people are injecting right into my eye. The answer is that they put in anaesthetic drops so I feel a slight prick in my eye and before I know about it it's over and they put a few more aesthetic drops in just for good measure and remove the plastic cover.

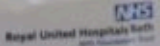
Off to look around the images. They change the exhibition material regularly. All works are for sale. If anyone has cause to visit the hospital (RUH Bath) then do a walk around.







ART AT THE HEART OF THE BATH



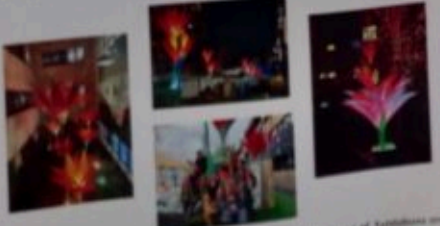
Jigantics: Giant Illuminated Flowers

A new instalment of giant illuminated flowers and vibrant artworks are now on display in the central courtyard, creating a garden and park-like courtyard during December and January. These have been generously donated and made by Ag and Liberty Coaches of Frome based artist Jigantics, working alongside Art at the Heart.

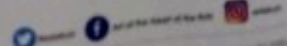
The Jigantics team is pleased to be able to share the flowers with everyone of the Bath. The artist, flowers have always been symbols of thought, love, sympathy, celebration and communication, a shared universal language. Through the giant illuminated flowers they aim to create interventions in hospital spaces that change the viewers perspective and experience of their spaces, whilst giving feelings of awe, joy, warmth and unity to those from ultimately creating windows of shared and memorable happiness.

Agartics are grateful to all those working in the Bath and wishing of the patient well and a Happy Christmas.

For more information about Jigantics go to www.jigantics.com



All of the Heart provides a well established award winning programme of Exhibitions and Participatory Projects of the Bath. All works are for sale with a 10% profit to the Bath, helping to improve the healing environment for everyone who uses the hospital.



For all enquiries contact art@bathart.org or 01225 322000
For further information about all of the Heart at the Bath contact 01225 322000 or www.ruhbath.org





Special Ladybird Book Exhibition

To the Victoria art gallery in Bath running until the 16th of April 2024 and well worth a visit. The title of the exhibition is 'the wonderful world of the ladybird book artists'. Wonderful it is, nostalgic it is. Website is here.

Ladybird - How it all began

The story of Ladybird began with a printing business called Wills & Hepworth in Loughborough. In the early 1900s they were also offering bookbinding and selling everything from artists' materials to fancy goods and ladies' handbags.

During World War One, Wills & Hepworth lost much of its core trade. Needing to diversify, they began to publish affordable children's books.

These were very different from the Ladybird books we now know - they were large books, crudely printed on cheap paper and with no logo. There was also no long-term plan - the books just kept the print works running at a difficult time, when other work was unavailable.

Then, in 1940, Wills & Hepworth advertised a new sort of children's book - the first classic *Ladybird: Bunnikin's Picnic Party*, illustrated (and originally written) by Anguline Macgregor.

War time shortages led to the ingenious creation of a complete mini book using just one sheet of carefully laid out paper and it was to provide the format for Ladybird books for the next 40 years. The books were an immediate success. However, throughout the 40s and 50s the company continued to see their core business as printing - mainly for the growing Midlands motor trade.



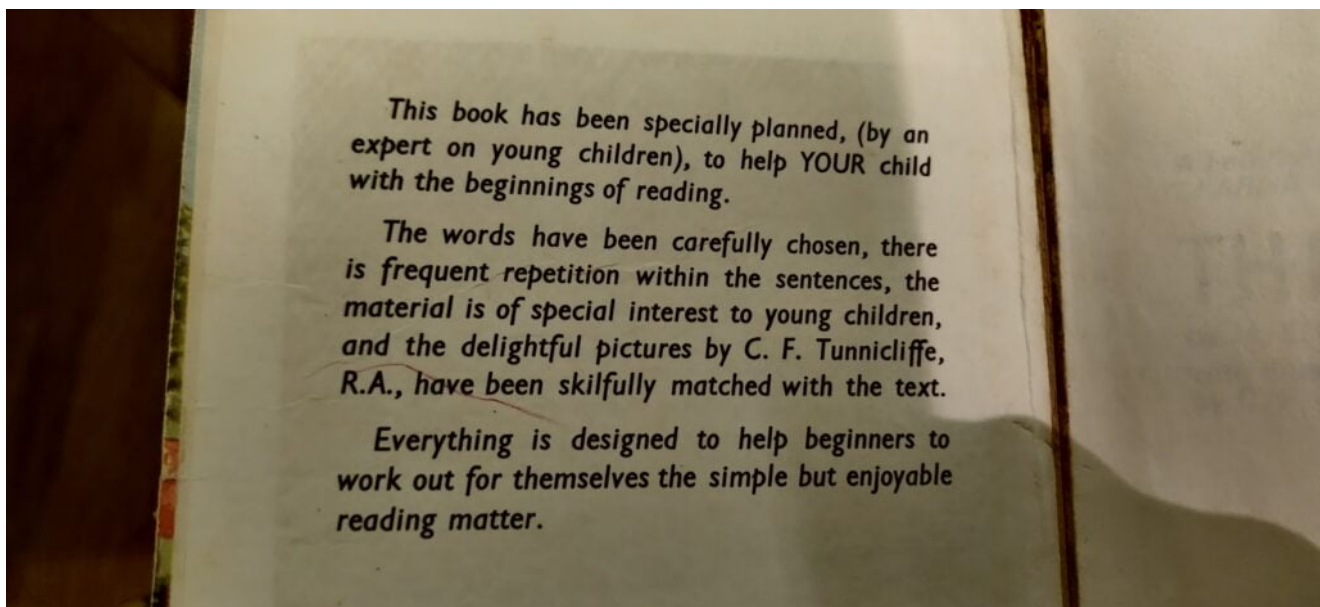
An early picture of the entrance to Angel Yard, the first home of Ladybird.



The first advertisement for the first 'classic' Ladybird book



There are hundreds of books in this series. The mission statement appears below.

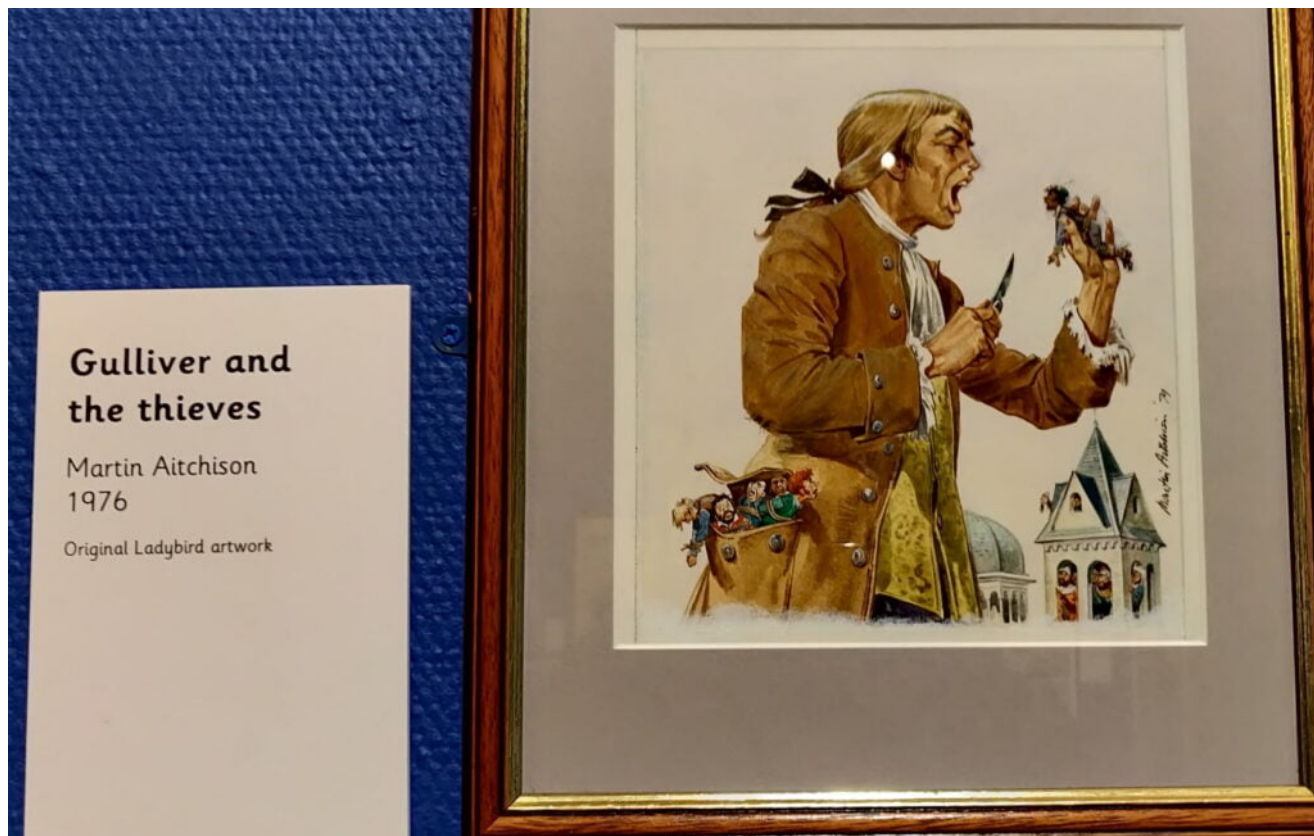




Francoise reading a selection of the books in an old fashioned caravan



A period image of the 1950's



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With over 1 million words and 7,130 images.

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