

Travelogue No 109



Scotland: Independence - Yes Or No



David Cameron says a vote backing independence for Scotland would "break his heart", a view he gave as he confirmed £500m in special funding for Glasgow for investment in road and rail infrastructure and job creation schemes.

The prime minister, during a short party rally in Perth, made a direct plea to Scots Tory activists, asking them to fight harder to "save the UK" and urging them to see the anti-independence case as an emotional, patriotic, cause.



"We've had all the arguments and it's an issue of the heart," he told the Conservative Friends of the Union rally. "It would break my heart to see our United Kingdom broken apart."

He added: "Separation isn't for a trial period, it would be permanent."

Cameron cited the death of his Scots Canadian great, great uncle, Captain John Geddes, in the battle of Ypres in the first world war, telling the audience that in June he had shown other EU leaders his ancestor's name inscribed on the Menin Gate memorial, in Belgium – as evidence of Scotland's stake in the union.

To applause and shouts of "hear, hear", Cameron said unionists and the "silent majority" who supported a no vote should reject the Scottish nationalist argument that "you can't be patriotic and a proud Scot if you want to stay in the United Kingdom". He added: "I think it's nonsense."

To underline a carefully choreographed sequence of events designed to bolster his government's case against independence, Cameron reminded activists that he would be at Rosyth dockyard on Friday to join the Queen as she officially named the Royal Navy's new £3bn aircraft carrier, Queen Elizabeth II.

The carrier project, which has been dogged by spending cuts and delays, was evidence of the extra economic and military security which Scotland gained from the UK, he said. "In a dangerous world, doesn't it make sense for us to stay together?" he added.

Take De Gaulle's view. No to Independence, No to Europe, No to Social Democracy.

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CANTERBURY TALES
CAFE

CAFE





News from Koh Chang suggests that our wayward property mogul/ speculator Tricky Dickie Hill is soon to return to UK for a while. How long that 'while' is, is anybody's guess but rumour has it that an ideal opportunity now opens for local entrepreneur Khun Aum to level the playing field by ensuring a re-entry is suddenly unavailable. Interesting game here !! Farang Devious vs Local Devious ---- no guesses as to which side my money is on ! Watch this space !!!

A local radio operator on Fabulous 103 FM recently had his wings clipped when the Army took over the Kingdom. Not to worry, experienced old hack Tommy Dee went about his business by just playing hours of taped music from the pre-War era and reading news stories from the same time. Sadly no Thai-German to assist his morning show, our favourite DJ battled thru' and is now goin' live !



Following the untimely departure of Nev Owen, our friend Les Powell and colleagues in Wrexham held a memorial service for Nev and raised money to go to his funeral expenses. Incurred by The Brass Monkey on Nernplubwan, I have been entrusted with the privilege of passing these funds to the BM. An honour to be involved, and I know I speak for all in thanking Les and Nev's friends for this kind gesture. Thanks all.



Sandstone has increased menu prices by a whopping 25%. Poor economy to blame under the last government, Kh Firse says that customers will be getting slightly bigger portions but the cost will be more. Fish and chips from 149 to 189 Bt, Steak and egg 189 to 239 Baht. Still good value for money and highly recommended.



Returning to Blighty on a business trip, David Marriott hopes to sort out his property near Oxford. An ideal scenario would be a direct sale and reinvestment of funds to aid his pension scheme. So far, it is just a matter of getting a new tenant and renegotiating management with his Agents. Nothing is ever simple !!



Lunch at The Players Lounge continues to be a pleasant experience. After a few hiccups, it seems that the kitchen is again operating smoothly and the lamb roast is a sure winner. The best pork pies can be obtained from NaNa Deli, just round the corner. Hand made by Nick's Dad, these are delicious and can be complimented with Coleman's English mustard powder. Very nice.



Frasers opened recently on Thappraya just above News Café. Doyen of popular drinking hostleries, Stewart Fraser, ex Shenanigans, proclaimed this to be an ideal watering hole for all his long term customers. It certainly looks the business and Stu deserves much credit for bringing his style of boozier to town. Onwards and upwards mate, best of luck with the new venture.



Neil 'The Niblick' Harvey continues to bring home the bacon with awesome scores at Green Valley, Bangpra and Greenwood. With caddy and ball searcher, Neil managed to secure second place to Martin Hayes at Bangpra, and tied with Jeff Wylie at Greenwood losing on count back. No doubt our Saints supporter is careful with shot selection, or his ball finder is on a decent bonus !! It has been suggested that the excellent nose-bag at The Camel's Toe has much to do with his failure to capture the Green Valley Cup !!



Thailand, also known as The Land of Smiles, is currently undergoing considerable change. The Army has taken control of the Kingdom after the various politicians have demonstrated a total disregard for the democratic process. Since taking control on May 22nd, General Prayuth has become governing Prime Minister with his forces overseeing Law and Order. All the current signs are good for Thailand. Yet the International Press Corps, especially from America and Europe, have denigrated the coup and threatened puerile retribution against the military occupancy.

How can that be ?? USA are the world's leading war mongers and the EU are seen as a toothless social democracy with no right to determine Asia's ruling principles. Basically USA and EU - stay out of other people's right to govern.

The reduction of aid to Thailand is minute and can be totally ignored. The behaviour of the American Kelley - Ambassador in Bangkok, and John Kerry, USA Secretary of State, is utterly deplorable. Leave Thailand alone !! As for the Press corps, check out Jonathan 'Dick' Head of the BBC. What contrived bulls^*t does he spout, no doubt from the quiet, tax paid back waters of Soi Cowboy. These are dangerous people and should be exported immediately. So much for 'entente cordial'.

I was amused to see that the fabrications of the Daily Mail Online haven't cut the mustard and that the Army have scuppered their online tabloid. So much for Western Press, it is you sensationalists, fabricators and liars who have done much to prevent the world's public from knowing the actual truth. The money trail is being followed and all bets are off when it comes to knowing the source. Be careful Shinawatra family, the daggers are out and its time to change direction.

Driving in Thailand is possibly one of the most dangerous places to take to the roads. Unskilled, uneducated, rash, uncompromising - the Thai drivers have a seriously low value of life expectancy on roads across the Kingdom. Sadly this involves the very young as well as the old. The reported death toll only includes dead on the scene and not those unfortunates who succumb several days later. Makes the figures look better I suppose.

Despite the government announcing new driving test rules, most ignore the regulations and just drive with no licence, no insurance and vehicles that would be condemned to the scrap yard. They drive with an abandonment that would astonish Western drivers sometimes driving along the pedestrian pavement, driving the wrong way down busy thoroughfares and crossing the road without any concern for what's behind them.

Many have no idea what an indicator is, no idea of which lane to be in, and totally ignorant of traffic lights.

Kids the age of 12 are encouraged to go to school so parents get them a bike as they are working at drop-off and pick-up times. These kids die in their hundreds yearly as they never wear helmets, have no insurance and consider the motorbike as a peer thing to impress their mates. Every day there are reports of death and destruction across the region, and yet nothing is ever enforced. Innocent, law abiding citizens consequently suffer when they are involved in a fatal RTA. If you are farang, then beware - it is inevitably your fault regardless of dumbass victim stupidity.

Despite having driven all my life, all over the world, I refuse to drive now as I do not wish to be involved in even a minor collision. It is a sad fact that Thailand needs to do much more to protect its youth and train drivers the Rules of the Highway. Sadly, in Pattaya, even the farangs are driving like locals with many ignoring basic standards. Death continues to strike and will do so until the law is robustly enforced.

Nanny Knows Best

DANGEROUS



Please remember it is dangerous to cut an onion and try to use it to cook the next day, it becomes highly poisonous for even a single night and creates toxic bacteria which may cause adverse stomach infections because of excess bile secretions and even food poisoning.

The above "advice" about onions has been infesting the internet for sometime, and has popped up yet again on my Facebook page.

I have stored cut onions in my fridge for days on end, then eaten them without any problems whatsoever.

I surmise that the "advice" is utter bollocks!

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The BBC reports that Facebook is facing criticism after it emerged it had conducted a psychology experiment on nearly 700,000 users without their knowledge. The test saw Facebook "manipulate" news feeds to control which emotional expressions the users were exposed to.



The research was done in collaboration with Cornell University and the University of California at San Francisco to gauge if "exposure to emotions led people to change their own posting behaviours".

Facebook said there was "no unnecessary collection of people's data".

"None of the data used was associated with a specific person's Facebook account."

Call me old fashioned, but I thought it was the norm for people to be first asked to volunteer for experiments? This kind of arrogant behaviour by a corporation that has access to the personal data/activities (both published and private) needs to be nipped in the bud ASAP!

The 700,000 users who were experimented upon should mount a class action against Facebook.

Brighton beach was awash with luminous yellow yesterday, as a gazillion school kids descended onto the beach all wearing hi vis jackets (aside from being completely unnecessary, it must have been very uncomfortable to wear them in the baking sunshine).



Whatever happened to school uniforms? Anyhow, kudos to the one child who had the guts and strength of character to remove her hi vis jacket.

She is evidently marked out for great things in life when she grows up!

Stories Collected From Around The Globe



I must give hearty congratulations to Hugo Hadcock for achieving an MA in Medieval History and French at St Andrews. A wonderful effort and now surrounded by proud parents Nick and Jola and brother Leo, along with grandparents Rosemary and Michael Hadcock. Thoroughly delightful people who deserve such honours, and I am sorry not to be there to enjoy the ceremony. Having had many enjoyable encounters with the Hadcock family, I am delighted for the new generation !!

Latest visitor to return to Blighty is Tricky Dicky Hill. An amazing state of affairs considering his Koh Chang empire was accelerating at the speed of a snail in glue. Condos, Bars, Eateries, Ferry Services - you name it, this boy had his hand in most things on the island. It seems Immigration requirements, under the Army's zero tolerance, has finally convinced the aging Lothario that it is better to be legit than a wandering illegal !! Despite claiming poverty, especially to those to whom he owes money (and there are plenty), our Walter Mitty has scarpered to the pleasures of Fulham where his (ex) wife lives. From one honey pot to another, this boy has more jam than Hartleys !!! Will he return ?? Who knows, who cares - we don't really give a shit !!!



New gun kills flies with high-powered blast of SALT



The Bug-A-Salt is an air-powered rifle that blasts a pinch of normal table salt at such high velocity that it is lethal to all manner of creepy-crawlies, including house flies, bluebottles, moths and even spiders. Unlike conventional fly swatters, which often leave smears of dead fly after they have been squashed, the makers claim that the only clean-up this remarkable device needs is a quick brush.

The pump-action fly-killer has already been snapped up by almost 100,000 people in America, and the device is now available online in the UK, priced around £35.

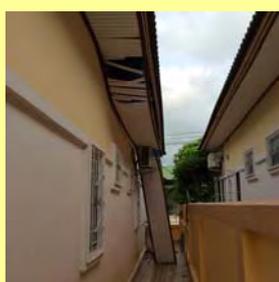
The plastic shotgun uses compressed air to propel a pinch of table salt at the intended target, and holds enough salt for 50 shots before reloading. A spokesperson for the company said: "This is a completely safe way to take out an annoying bug. Because it uses ordinary granulated table salt, it would never break the skin on even the smallest child - although we do not recommend firing it at people. If you've got half-decent aim, you can take out a fly from more than three feet away. It's an extremely effective method of killing pesky mosquitoes and moths as well."

June Diary From Thailand

Well its that time of year when we say 'Hasn't the year gone fast'. The time when the Summer solstice comes and goes, the mud caked revellers at Glastonbury return to their homes, and the white robed weirdoes ponce around the cromlechs of Salisbury Plain. Nothing quite so exciting here in the East, but still there are many curious festivals coming our way. It remains to be seen if the Army allows all activities go ahead in time honoured tradition.

Here in Pattaya, the temperature has peaked at 41 degrees and remains in the high 30s every day. I suppose we get used to it, but the need for air conditioning, showers and water remain essential. The rainy season is just around the corner which will provide welcome relief to people and reservoirs. Now that the curfew has been lifted, normality has returned to Sin City, despite the Army cleaning up numerous illegal gambling joints, hostelrys with under-age, gaggles of ladies-of-the-night including all three genders in an attempt to improve the anti corruption image. The Chief of Banglamung Police has been replaced and now Col. Supatree is running a very tight ship with zero tolerance, hell-bent on removing previous corruption.

Despite the good work carried out by Kh Gin and team around the garden decking, a freak squall brought the eaves crashing to the ground. Shoddy building work by Ponthep and his builders was no match for a sharp gust preceding heavy rain. Kh Gin was back again to carry out repair work, this time using modern materials properly fixed. Pictures below show before and after:-



Fortunately Eat had the car in town when this happened, so a calamity was avoided. The insurance people are a complete joke. Graciously offering to pay one third, this is their only attempt at resolving an incident that should have received 100% cover. Absolute shits - and I would suggest that insurance cover for the house is a complete waste of money. You may rest assured that the forty or more farang owners in the village have been to see the damage and are fully aware of crap building and crap insurance !! Once finished, we will concentrate on the herb garden at the back and hopefully show some pictures as it develops. Excellent for noodle shop (one year old at the end of July), and my own sedate cooking style. In the meantime, great to hear from Hamish More and Derek Wing - stay well everybody, 'til next time - Slainte Vha. [Johnny B and Eat](#)



Whale Oil Beef Oct !!!!



They say size doesn't matter but for this man, it most certainly does.

Billy-Tom O'Conner already had a 10 inch penis, but on yesterday's episode of This Morning he told presenters Holly Willoughby and Phillip Schofield that just wasn't good enough - he wanted 'a monster'.



Billy-Tom had penoplasty to get his already sizeable manhood enlarged. There are two types of penoplasty available - one to increase length and one to increase width (which involves fat that has been liposuctioned from another part of your body being pumped into the penis).

Billy-Tom opted for extra width because, you know, his penis was already a good few inches longer than the average. In a what was certainly a TV shocker, ITV showed before and after shots of Billy-Tom's flaccid penis before and after surgery at the early time of 11.30am, way before the 9pm watershed.

Noam Perel, Head Of Jewish Youth Movement Bnei Akiva, Calls For Israeli Army To Take 300 Palestinian Foreskins.

The leader of one of the world's biggest Jewish youth movements has come under intense criticism for Facebook post which appears to call for Israelis to take the foreskins of 300



Palestinians as retribution for the killing of three Israeli teenagers. The post comes as violence flared again in east Jerusalem after the killing of a 16-year-old Palestinian, which police have hinted may have been a revenge attack by extremists for the brutal kidnapping and murder of three Jewish teenagers hitchhiking home in the West Bank. According to screengrabs of his Facebook wall, Noam Perel, the secretary general of Bnei Akiva, called for the biblical retribution, the same violence King David meted out to the Philistines in the Old Testament as a way to win his bride Michal from her father Saul. He had originally refused to apologise for the post, but later released a statement saying he regretted his words.

Bnei Akiva is the largest Jewish youth movement in the UK, running summer and winter camps and gap years in Israel. "A whole nation and thousands of years of history demands vengeance," he had posted, according to Haaretz. He then called for the Israeli army to become an "army of vengeance".

The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) are continuing the manhunt for the chief suspects in the killings of Eyal Yifrah, 19, Gilad Shaar, 16, and Naftali Fraenkel, 16.

Around The Kingdom



An informed source said yesterday that inspections had found that most of the rice at a warehouse in Nakhon Si Thammarat's Thung Song district was gone - after three reported fires at the facility.

A panel headed by Office of the Prime Minister inspector-general Orawan Khumsap has been checking rice stocks at warehouses in this southern province. The same source said the inspections had revealed many warehouses had

suspiciously failed to arrange rice sacks in line with requirements. Some warehouses, the source said, had used the wrong thread colour for different types of rice.

The National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) has already scrapped the rice-pledging scheme, which allegedly incurred massive losses and made a big dent in state coffers. Alleged corruption in the scheme has also provided ground for the National Anti-Corruption Commission to take action against many political-office holders.

Inspections at a Buri Ram warehouse yesterday showed that more than 3,000 checked rice sacks at a warehouse had failed to meet export standards.

An informed source said it was now estimated that more than 10,000 among 41,349 rice sacks at the warehouse might have degradation problems.



The Brass Monkey sports bar on Nernplubwan was home to our old mate Neville Owen, so when he died suddenly, it was this establishment that handled his funeral arrangements.

Owner Jack, from Amsterdam, and next door neighbour John Maguire went to considerable lengths to obtain the correct paperwork and organise the funeral. Much appreciated. Back in his hometown Wrexham, North Wales, other friends held a memorial service and raised a sum of money to passed over to the organisers of Nev's funeral. I was honoured to play a small role by transferring the funds to Jack and his

colleagues. I, too had known Nev some years ago from the Commercial pub and various clubs in Wrexham. His great friend Les 'Toffee' Powell organised the memorial service and wake at the Commercial. I enclose some pictures in memory of a really nice guy who will be missed by many folks in UK and Thailand. RIP Nev Owen.





Readers Contributions



A burglar broke into a house one night. He shined his flashlight around, looking for valuables when a voice in the dark said, 'Jesus knows you're here.' He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his flashlight off, and froze.

When he heard nothing more, after a bit, he shook his head and continued. Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard a voice....say, 'Jesus is watching you.'

Freaked out, he shined his light around frantically, looking for the source of the voice. Finally, in the corner of the room, his flashlight beam came to rest on a parrot. 'Did you say that?' he hissed at the parrot. 'Yep', the parrot confessed, then squawked, 'I'm just trying to warn you that he is watching you.'

The burglar relaxed. 'Warn me, huh? Who in the world are you?'
'I'm Moses.' replied the bird. 'Moses?' the burglar laughed. 'What kind of people would name a bird Moses?'
'The same kind of people that would name their Rottweiler Jesus.'

A farmer drove to a neighbor's farmhouse and knocked at the door. A boy, about 9, opened the door. "Is your dad or mom home?" said the farmer.

"No, they went to town."

"How about your brother, Howard? Is he here?"

"No, he went with Mom and Dad."

The farmer stood there for a few minutes, shifting from one foot to the other, mumbling to himself, when the young boy says, "I know where all the tools are, if you want to borrow one, or I can give Dad a message."

"Well," said the farmer uncomfortably. "No, I really want to talk to your Dad, about your brother Howard getting my daughter Suzy pregnant".

The boy thought for a moment...then says, "You'll have to talk to my Dad about that.

I know he charges \$500 for the bulls and \$150 for the pigs, but I have no idea how much he charges for Howard."



The
PLAYERS
Sports Bar
Lounge
Pattaya, Thailand

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That's It For Another Month !!