

Elizabeth & Jameson

NORTHERN SHORES & STORIES

Endeavour

Inspired by a visit to the Captain Cook Memorial Museum, and in particular a collection of handwritten letters held there from Captain James Cook's wife Elizabeth Batts to Lord Sandwich, discussing the need for financial support when she was left a widow after her husband's fateful final voyage in 1779.

How Long Has It Been?

Inspired by an article we read in *The Whitby Gazette* about how the art of letter writing is gradually dying out. As we sat in a crowded cafe near Whitby harbour, drinking Yorkshire tea and reading the paper, our thoughts were drawn to the many other simple pleasures we may begin to lose or forget.

Picture

Pioneering Victorian photographer Francis Meadow Sutcliffe moved to Whitby in 1870 and became renowned for his ability to capture very real and lasting impressions of the everyday working life and people of the town, reputedly preferring these subjects to the more lucrative option of taking studio portraits of wealthy tourists. Whilst visiting the Sutcliffe Gallery in Whitby we read an excerpt from an article Sutcliffe wrote for the magazine *Photography* in 1894, sharing his thoughts about the difficulties of learning how to take a photograph:

"The student in search of the picturesque will soon find that the beauty of a subject depends more on the condition under which it is seen than the material of which it is composed, and often the less material there is, the better the chance of success."

Someone's Missing Someone

During a few of our visits to Whitby we saw posters displayed in many windows asking for information about a missing person from the area. We were moved by the overwhelming presence of the posters, which evoked a real sense of community and neighbourly support, and our thoughts turned to the missing person; where they might have gone and why.

Bet & Terry

An original tune named after Elizabeth and Terence Goodwin, the grandparents of a friend of ours who began their lifelong courtship as schoolchildren, during a visit to Robin Hood's Bay near Whitby. Betty recalls the sparks that flew between her and Terry from the moment they first met, and how they became inseparable thereafter until Terry's passing in 2014.

Live By The Sea

This song tells of our regular daydreams and conversations about living by the sea; of leaving everything familiar and taking a chance on a new way of life.

I Will Wait

Whitby was an inspiration to Bram Stoker in the creation of his famous Gothic horror novel, 'Dracula'. This song contemplates the passage of time, life and death, and everlasting love, and was inspired by a poem spoken in the 2014 film 'Dracula Untold', which borrows words from 13th-century Persian poet Rumi's 'Life & Death' and American author and educator Henry Van Dyke's poem, 'Time Is':

*"Why think separately of this life and the next,
When one is born from the last.
Time is always too short for those who need it;
But for those who love, it lasts forever."*

Dance In The Shadows

We visited the grave of Francis and Mary Huntrodds, which has a special place in the cemetery of St Mary's Church in Whitby, at the top of the 199 steps. The story goes that the Huntrodds were both born on the same date, September 19th 1600, were later married on their joint birthday and after a long life together, both died on their joint 80th birthday just hours apart. A poetic epitaph can be found on their tombstone, thought to be penned by the Whitby poet Samuel Jones, and printed in 1714 in a volume of *Poetical Miscellanies on Several Occasions*:

*"Husband and wife that did twelve children bear,
Dy'd the same day; alike both aged were
Bout eighty years they liv'd, five hours did part
(Ev'n on the marriage day) each tender heart
So fit a match, surely could never be;
Both in their lives, and in their deaths agree."*

Bottomless Beer

During one visit to the Whitby area we encountered a local pub serving the most delicious locally brewed ale, and after a slight misunderstanding we genuinely believed that we might be entitled to free refills of said beer. Sadly, this was not the case! We wrote this song about a similarly wishful-thinking beer enthusiast.

Black Amber

A song about Whitby Jet, celebrating the gemstone's natural formation and renowned characteristics; from its qualities as a popular gemstone for jewellery through the ages, to its reputed protective magical qualities.