

Roll: **19760930-6433**  
Camera: **Zorki 4: ZO4**  
Film: **Boots Panchromatic**

**Subject:**

Aberdeen - North Sea - Framwellgate Moor - Stoke Newington

**Notes:**

We stayed with my Uncle John and Auntie Pat in Newton Hill, near Stonehaven. It was a modern bungalow at 5 Greystone Place and my cousins Jonathan and Lesley must have been there too although I don't recall their presence. John had done an improvised loft conversion using the insulation boards from the inside of Birds Eye (frozen food) vans as Jonathan revealed at his Dad's funeral. Aberdeen and it's environs were a hotbed of industry at the time as it was the time of the height of the North Sea oil boom. Pat and John were doing bed and breakfast for workers from the rigs and the on shore terminals. I don't remember spending much time in Aberdeen it's self but the pictures demonstrate otherwise. According to Maggie's diary we arrived on Friday 27th and left on Sunday 29th so I think it's a safe assumption the street images were taken on the Saturday.

In the first of the roll we are in Castle Street looking toward Union Street. On the right is the Tolbooth one of Aberdeen;s oldest buildings and the turreted Aberdeen Sheriff Court,

The Tolbooth was built as a prison between 1616 and 1629 and is attached to the Sheriff Court. The building was taken over by the City Council 1995 and it is now run as a museum. Among it's exhibits is Aberdeen's first guillotine. (The last person to be guillotined in France was Hamida Djandoubi in 1977.)

Frame 001 is a little further East on Castle Street at the junction with King Street. The La Lambarda at 2-8 King Street is apparently the UK's oldest Italian Restaurant. La Lambarda was opened by Joe & Nan Birnie from Lombardy in 1922. Astonishingly, now owned by George & Theresa Wyatt, it is still functioning, If Just Eats is to be believed even the mad response to Covid has not yet seen it off. There is room for doubt as the website is now defunct and there have been no entries on their face book page since January 25th.

The porticoed building on the left in frame 002 is an Archibald Simpson townhouse. A Government Building in 1976 it became grade A listed in 1977. The latest contemporary use I can find is by Nestrans the Transport Partnership for Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire and their website shows their address as Archibald Simpson House, 27-29 King Street. On the other hand there seem to be a number of City Council notices advertising the property as available for rent.

Now I do remember taking to the North Sea on this trip and finding it, as promised, extraordinarily cold but where exactly this would be I cannot say. Nope, not true, just got another flash back, Its a beach at Newtonhill, Newtonhill Bay, I remember because when we turned to look back at the cliffs, we could see the cascade of rubbish where the local council tipped the refuse.

The draught playing in Union Terrace Gardens has to be then on the Sunday, as I don't think we would be going backwards and forwards from Newtonhill. Sunday morning seems instinctively right for this kind of thing, don't you think.

Then we set off for Durham to see Kris and Carl. "Left Aberdeen. Arrived Esh Winning. Kris & Carl moved - no address. off to Framwellgate Moor in vain search - saw Carl at bus Stop! Drinks & Chinese meal. Photoshots later." (Excert from Maggie's Diary).

"Left Durham at 1.00pm approx. Stopped in Nottingham. Watched "How the West was Won". Good film. Left Ntham 7.30. Blinding rain & mist on M1. Broke down. Emergency call cost £14.45:" (£103 in 2020, according to the Bank of England.) "No actual repairs done. only call out charge. Chicken curry in Dipa Restaurant Church Street.

Back from holiday".

The new term started for Maggie on September 6th, she was poorly for a couple of days and going to bed early. I was out at a Union meeting until late on the 8th. We were at Greg's on the 10th and Jim Farrell had a party on the 11th.

I remember that party or at least the end of it. I had driven over to Bow but in those days drinking and driving was a question of avoiding attracting attention and not being stopped.

We had also had a line of coke, something I only ever tried at most 3 times in my life. I think we were giving Brian a lift back too. It was the early hours and I was driving along Essex Road in Islington when I

heard a bell ringing. I thought it must be a shop alarm but could see nothing amiss. I asked Maggie and Brian but they were as puzzled as me. The bell seemed to be following us. I looked in the mirror and there was a black car following us a few yards behind. Slowly it dawned on me that it was the car that was ringing and that it must be an old police car like those you see on old black and white films. I pulled over and the car passed me and stopped in front. I got out to talk to the policemen. It was then approved behaviour. Showing you were willing to talk to the officers and getting to the same level. He told me that he had stopped me because I had a defective brake light. I apologised profusely and assured him it must only just have happened (we didn't have fault lights in the vehicle then) and that I would attend to it first thing Monday morning. He asked me where I had been and I told him I had been at a friend's house in Bow. He asked me if I'd been drinking. I told him I had had a drink perhaps a pint or two over the course of the evening. He asked where I was going I said that I was not going far, that I lived just up the road in Stoke Newington. He said "Well you better be getting off home then." His mate had meanwhile written a ticket asking me to present my documents within seven days and that was it. "You can't trust a special like an old time copper". What a different age we lived in then. The police I don't think are allowed any discretion now and if you get out the car when stopped its treated like an attack.

Sunday we went to Maggie's parents for lunch. Tuesday 14th, "Martin for dinner", on the 16th he was back to stay.

Maggie got "real drunk" on Tuesday with Angus, Charlie and Angela Murphy, probably at Holland's, a wonderful East End pub the like of which we will never see again. It opened in 1843 as the Exmouth Arms, at 9 Exmouth Street and was known as Holland's, after the owners, until 1974 when the name was officially changed. I remember Angela Murphy who in addition to teaching, acted as housekeeper to the local priest. She could get astonishingly drunk and still drive at high speed with remarkable skill, I think she told me she also had an advanced drivers license. We went back to the presbytery one night, after also drinking for a while in the Irish Club attached to the Church. The priest plied me with whisky and pressed me to join the priesthood. He told me he was a Marxist, a Darwinist and an atheist. Non of these things he said were a bar to the priesthood for an intelligent young man like myself. He certainly lived in some luxury and had the services of a live in housekeeper and I suspect other staff. I also remember Angus who was tall, lanky and laconic. He grumbled about general knowledge tests. "The trouble with general knowledge questions" he said, "is that they are so bloody specific." Charlie I don't remember, which may mean that he had the hots for Maggie and that I didn't like him (was he a bloody P.E. teacher?). Hollands was just 84 yards from Bishop Challoner's School on Commercial Road, where Maggie was teaching. "- noisy laughing atmosphere. Cliff came down."

"Original interior with boarded ceiling, pine panelling and settles. Engraved and painted glasswork. Elaborate fireplaces and overmantles" it was given a Grade II listing in 1986. Unfortunately in 1991 it was sold out of the Holland family to Young's brewery who in turn, after just 6 years of running it down, put it up for sale again in 1997 after which it became a target for vandalism and arson. After a period of dereliction it was restored as a private residence.

Martin came to stay again on Thursday 23rd and we went to the Rochester Castle to see "The Derelicts - good girl lead singer & good girl bass player". The Derelicts were an "activist R&B band active from 1974-1976" so we were lucky to see them in their last year. It looks like it was quite a big band. Wikipedia lists 7 members with 3 bass players. The reference to Alan Lofting playing while facing the back of the stage, rings a bell. The only recordings of the Derelicts I can find are of a much later, particularly repulsive punk band of the same name.

"Susan Gogan, lead vox/artwork; Richard Williams, drums; Barbara Gogan, guitar/backing vox; Marion Fudger, bass; and John Studholme, guitar; Debby Moss, violin; John Harris, bass; Alan Lofting, who was shy and would play facing the back of the stage, guitar; Sue Allegra, vox/backing vox; Dan Kelleher, ex 101-ers, bass." (Wikipedia).

The following night we were in the Rochester again where there was an "Excellent band playing Lee Cosmin. Young naive - beautiful music. with Martin, Nick Brenda."

Strangely there is nothing on Wikipedia about the band but there is one recording on youtube which is rather good "<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJ50MsSZrm0>"

Saturday "Taxi Driver 4.45. Chinese meal. Rochester Castle - The Strutters." Again I can find nothing on-line regarding the Strutters.

(All quotations from Maggie Hughes' diary unless otherwise attributed.)

**People:**

Maggie Hughes, Krissie Josephs, Carl Josephs, Clifford W. Fulford.

**Dates:**

Dates confirmed by Maggie's Diary.

19760930-6433 (1)



**Frames:**

ZO4-AA000 19760828 11:20:00 Castle Street Aberdeen Sheriff Court.  
ZO4-AA001 19760828 11:20:00 King Street - La Lambarda.  
ZO4-AA002 19760828 11:25:00 King Street - La Lambarda.  
ZO4-AA003 19760828 16:00:00 The North Sea.  
ZO4-AA004 19760828 16:05:00 The North Sea.  
ZO4-AA005 19760828 16:06:00 The North Sea.  
ZO4-AA006 19760829 11:00:00 Draughts in Union Terrace Gardens.  
ZO4-AA008 19760829 11:00:00 Draughts in Union Terrace Gardens.  
ZO4-AA009 19760829 11:01:00 Draughts in Union Terrace Gardens.  
ZO4-AA010 19760829 11:02:00 Draughts in Union Terrace Gardens.  
ZO4-AA011 19760829 11:03:00 Draughts in Union Terrace Gardens.  
ZO4-AA013 19760829 23:30:00 Kris, Carl, Clifford, Maggie.  
ZO4-AA014 19760923 22:00:00 The Derelicts - Rochester Castle.  
ZO4-AA015 19760923 22:01:00 The Derelicts - Rochester Castle.  
ZO4-AA016 19760923 22:02:00 The Derelicts - Rochester Castle.  
ZO4-AA020 19760923 22:04:00 The Derelicts - Rochester Castle.  
ZO4-AA021 19760923 22:06:00 The Derelicts - Rochester Castle.  
ZO4-AA022 19760923 22:08:00 The Derelicts - Rochester Castle.