

Up, up and Away in Edinburgh Dublin and Paris

Down and Out in Paris and London is the first full-length work by the English author Eric Blair *aka* George Orwell published in 1933. It is a memoir in two parts on the theme of poverty in the two cities. The first part is an account of living in near-destitution in Paris and the experience of casual labour in restaurant kitchens. The second part is a travelogue of life on the road in and around London from the tramp's perspective, with descriptions of the types of hostel accommodation available and some of the characters to be found living on the margins.

My experience was different. I missed out on London; at least on this journey. My good friend Neville Turner provided an historic and poignant photographic record of two eminently memorable veterinary student trips from Edinburgh to Dublin and Paris. After 50+ years I have a somewhat hazy recollection of both; with good reason!



Charities Day with Jim Buchanan, Hugh Reid, Pete Campbell, Pete Malone, Gordon Panitz et al

Jim was always an exhibitionist with Hugh quite close behind. I have no recall whatever our 'uniform' was designed to portray. Jim is holding a can of McEwan's Draft Export which was the celebrated poison-of-choice in those days. Pete Ferrens recalls: *'Jim was the only person I ever knew who joined the Pelican Club at College. Entry was by drinking 21 pints within pub open hours. After drinking the 21st pint he went on to whisky'*! Neville Turner attended the same school in Tow Law County Durham as Jim: *'How well I (sort of) remember my first night in The Junction. For a northern Methodist teetotal boy it was a baptism of fire. Amusing to hear that you remembered it too'*



It's the Dick Vet entry in the Charities Week charade of c. 1963; or thereabouts? Neville 'Chiz' Turner is at the back looking *tres soigne* in regulation attire?

The 'ferals' are: Pete Malone (pirate hat), John Gilmour (sitting), Hugh Reid (in front), Pete Campbell (tall sombrero), Les Clerihew? (big hat), Me (painted), Coral Tatnell, Lynda Barclay (guitar), Maureen Valentine.



Les Clerihew memorably consumed 24 pints of pristine draught Guinness at the St James' Gate Brewery. He played front row in the rugby team. You didn't want to be in the 2nd row!



Football at Dublin AVS Conference with Jim Hepburn, Bill Howey, Les Clerihew, Andrew Burnie, Gordon Murray, Archie Hunter and John Warnock

It was a great joke to change all the breakfast orders in Jury's Hotel to boiled fish and prunes! The in house telephone that morning was red hot when 'traditional Irish breakfasts' didn't eventuate! We should never have been allowed anywhere near such an hotel let alone be accommodated.



I am about 15 feet off the ground and under the influence of 'incohol'! Roddy McDowall is on the ladder in support; sort of?

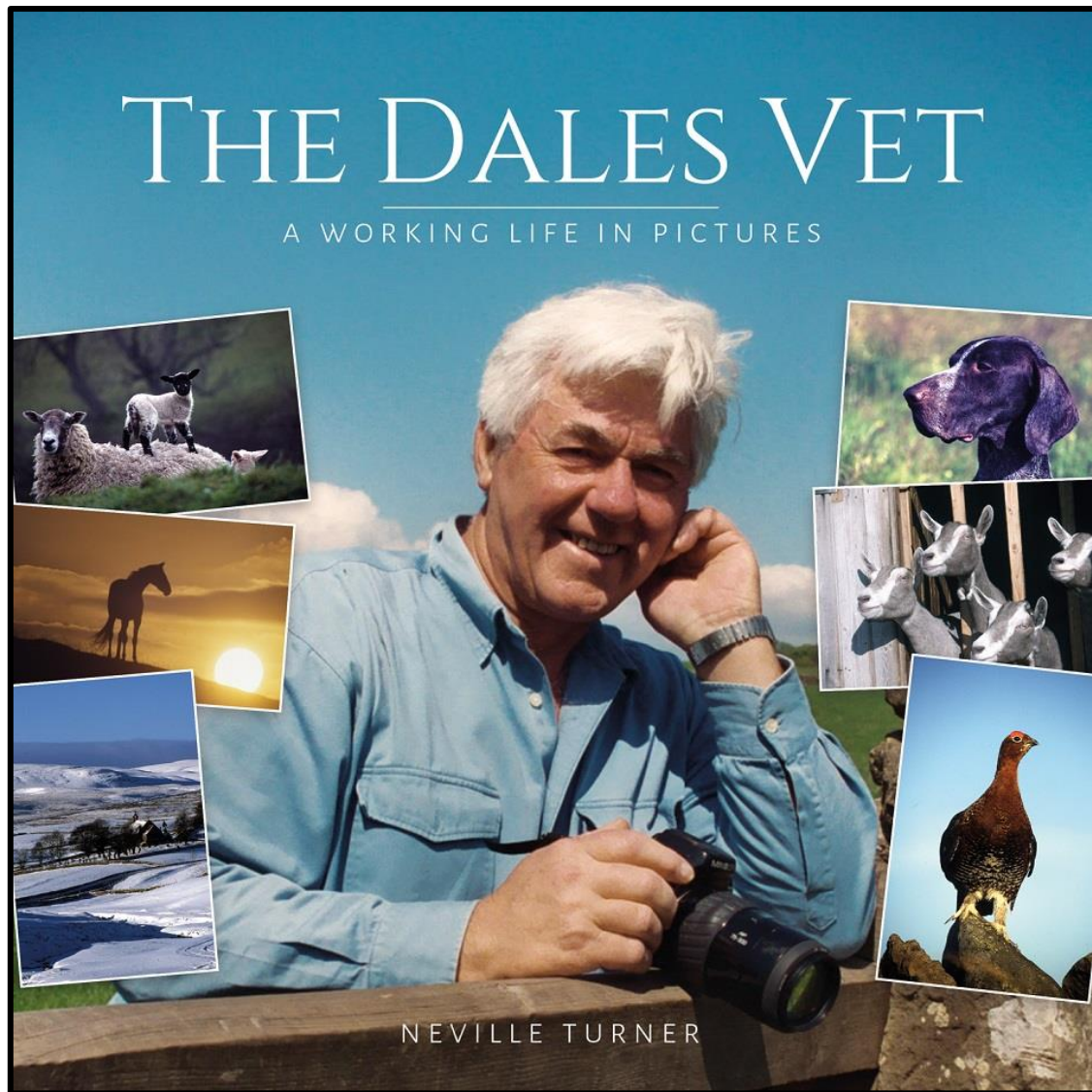
I have no recollection whatever of this incident. The whole trip to Alfort, Paris is shrouded in mystery beginning with the train journey from Edinburgh to London. Derek McLennan was the grand instigator. I'm not sure if the visit added to Entente Cordiale or not? Some outstanding albeit hazy memories still prevail; the Rugby match (Dick Vet won 6 – 3), Nick Putt vomiting in an offside position (penalty awarded), John Cross's winning penalty goal, Dai Davies' non-hooking ability matched only by his pipe-smoking opposite number, French Cooking, French Wine, (nothing exceeds like excess), the Louvre (missed the Mona Lisa), Gendarmes @ 4:00am, Dai Davies again in (very) dirty duffle coat, Buff McComb, return flight etc.



Pete Gamble's Jazz Band with Neville Turner, Unknown, John Fowler, Pete Gamble, Hamish Somerville and Geoff Paradise



John Fowler Pete Gamble Hamish Somerville Neville Turner



The cover of my latest book

Sadly Gordon Murray died a couple of years ago, but you might like to know that his son is a doctor, and is married to J K Rowling.

Quite by chance I met John Warnock on a cruise where I was lecturing. He hasn't changed at all!

Best wishes,

Neville

27/07/2017