

NEGOTIATIONS



The Tea Pots lining up for work

Friday the 27th of May 2022

Dear Reader,

The 25 Paintings have been in negotiations with me.

They are being difficult...

Almost threatening to take strike action...

I told them I had supported the miners back in '84, but they didn't know what I was talking about.

They are insisting that I do nothing else other than wait tables, wash dishes and bake scones for their Tea Room while I am in Corby...

We came to some sort of compromise...

But...

They are insisting there will be no me shining shoes, banging drums, building a bed, sweeping street, baking cakes, blowing my horn and all that sort of stuff. They tell me that is just me trying to get people to look at me, instead of looking at them. They have had enough of been described as merely signposts, markers, advertisements to what it is that I was doing. They want to be studied front and back, inside and out – all their layers contemplated. They wanted to be touched and tasted, stroked and fondled. They want to feel part of your life. Like a pussycat demanding your attention. And most importantly, I have to agree that they will never be sold. They tell me all the greatest paintings are NOT FOR SALE.

The compromise on their part is that they will allow me to do the Latvian Līgosvētki and Jāņi (midsummer) celebrations on the 23rd through to the 24th of June. Further details on that in a separate letter to you.

And...

I can lead a performance of Tenzing Scott Browns' play BEFORE DURING AFTER on Saturday the 25th of June, but only if I have been doing a good job at the waiting tables and washing dishes etc. They have also agreed that I can make soup for the forty-folk attending this performance. And again, further details on this to follow.

Also...

They didn't understand the *Block Chain of Silence* thing that I was planning on doing, they sort of said, as long as it did not get in the way of me working in their Tea Rooms, they thought it would be okay. And yes, I will do yet another separate letter to you explaining about all that.

And...

I didn't tell them about the Intercontinental Twinning Association twinning Corby with Beyond. I guess I can get away with doing that on the day after I have carted all them back to my dark lock up on the light industrial estate near Sizewell B.

But...

What I have agreed to is that I mustn't attempt to dress up as Bill Drummond with his blue Stanley shirt and his Levi Straus , 501, shrink-to-fit, red tab, button fly turned up jeans and his walking boots. And that I have to dress up in

my new made to measure black three-piece suit at all times with an apron of their choice. It's like I am to be a Nippy at Lyons Corner House.

But...

My first job of actually working in their Tea Rooms is looking after the bookings.

I doubt it actually needs looking after.

I mean it is only a tea room not a Michelin Star restaurant.

But...

These are the logistics...

There are four tables.

Each table has four chairs.

You can book a chair or chairs at a table for one hour, or two hours.

Either from 2 to 3 o'clock or from 3 to 4 o'clock.

Or all the way from 2 o'clock to 4 o'clock.

As in the Tea Room is only open from 2 'til 4pm.

Of course you can spend as much time in the gallery itself between 11am when it opens and 5pm when it closes. I mean The 25 Paintings want your appreciation. I guess like most paintings – they feel misunderstood.

The Tea Room is open on the following dates...

11th, 15th, 16, 17th, 18th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 29th & 30th.

Thus, note not the 25th when the performance of Tenzing Scott Browns' play BEFORE DURING AFTER will be happening in the afternoon.

And...

They, as in The 25 Paintings, told me to tell you that if you are more than ten minutes late for your booking your chair might go to someone else. I tried to tell them that by being this harsh on the would-be customers, things might backfire on their chances at evolving in the Tea Room world.

And of course...

I have to eavesdrop on your conversations to make sure you are debating and discussing. As in plotting revolutions, founding new movements and overthrowing tired visions and corrupt ways. Which if you ask me is a bit much but still, if it is what The 25 Paintings want, who am I to...

Anyway...

Email me at admin@penkilnburn.com with your precise numbers, and preferred times and dates and I will confirm with you that your table has been booked, or if there is nothing available at your preferred times, what alternatives there might be. I tried to tell them that they should maybe use

Eventbrite or something, but they said they were a Tea Room not a whatever. And it was my job to handle this.

I also had to agree that it will be my job, to make sure that you attempt the knitting or paint the words. And that anybody sitting at the tables not discussing what was laid out in my last letter to you, will be asked to leave the Tea Room.

Any other queries don't hesitate to ask.

Yours Sincerely,

The Elderly Gentleman

Post Script:

Almost forgot...

I'm sure that The Travelling Salesman will be hovering about somewhere, I understand he is expecting copies of the four last books written by Tenzing Scott Brown before he was killed in early January. The books are currently being printed somewhere in Eastern Europe, so sod knows how long they will take to get here with Brexit and everything.



The Mixing Bowls discussing whether the scones of Late Period Drummond will be better or worse than Belle Epoque Drummond