

# Totnes Newsflash

Issue 3

## Totnes Christmas Market

Looking back on my three months in Totnes, I could say that Totnes Christmas Market was one of the most outstanding events of my experience here. After Halloween, everybody started to talk about it, you could hear comments everywhere, so expectation was great and then, it paid off. Actually the first Christmas Market arrived last Tuesday and it was amazing! Around 6.00 p.m. everything was ready. The High Street was full of stands and all shops were open. This photo was taken through the window of my kitchen. I could hear the crowd's racket while I was having dinner. Awesome! My classmates and I had been looking forward to seeing it for weeks. Finally, it's worth waiting for. I think it was one of the evenings that I'll never forget.



It was a charming atmosphere. Everyone transmitted an incredible Christmas spirit, and even though it was quite crowded, you could walk calmly and make the most of the party. From the bottom to the top of High Street you could find a huge variety of items, such as candles, handbags, clothes, Christmas decoration... and if that wasn't enough, you could buy different sorts of food which was being cooked on the street at this moment. Moreover, if you needed to keep your body warm, you could choose different kinds of hot beverage, such as coffee, hot chocolate or the most famous one: Mullet Wine, delicious!! Have you ever tried it?

I'd like to make a mention of all the musicians who made our evening more enjoyable. They were playing in different points in the High Street and also in the Market Square. Congratulations to all of them because, despite the chilly weather, they did magnificent performances. In my opinion, Bert Miller and the Animal Folk were the best of the night. Simply gorgeous! It was really amazing to see them singing!



If you didn't have the chance to come here before, no worries but hurry up!!! The last Tuesday is coming **Belen Ahuir Hurtado**

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## Book Review

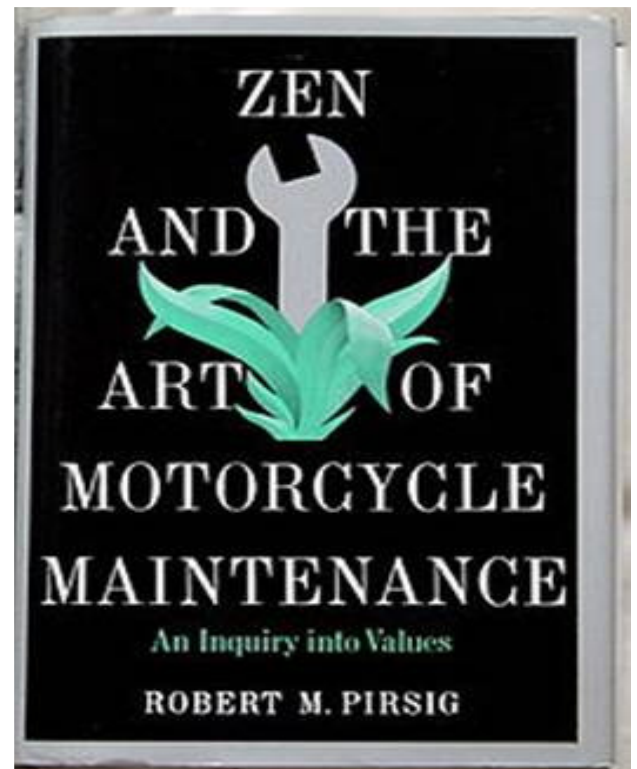
“Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance: An Inquiry into Values” is a philosophical novel published in the U.S.A. in 1974. The author, Robert Maynard Pirsig was born in Minneapolis in 1928 of German and Swedish descent. Between 1961 and 1963 Pirsig spent time in and out of psychiatric hospitals because he was diagnosed a paranoid schizophrenia and with clinical depression. He was treated with shock therapy on numerous occasions. This experience marks his books in a deep way .

Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance is his first and most famous piece writing; it was rejected 121 times before being accepted but soon received a Guggenheim Fellowship. Up to now the book has sold 5 million copies in the world.

In this book Pirsig tries to find an interpretation of "Quality" and "the Good". It describes, in the first person, a 17 day motorcycle journey from Minnesota to California by a man and his son Chris. They shared the first nine days with close friends John and Sylvia. The trip is punctuated by numerous philosophical discussions. Many of these discussions are tied into the story of the author's past and he refers to this person as Phaedrus.

Pirsig describes John's approach to life, choosing not to learn how to maintain his expensive new motorcycle in contrast with the that of the main character who has an older motorcycle which he is used to repairing himself through the use of rational problem solving skills. The book takes the readers on a comparison of the two different ways of thought and brings in really important considerations. The reader must be ready to start a journey along the American roads and inside their own thoughts.

**Ilaria Testa**



## Christmas in Denmark

The Christmas feeling has been building up since the beginning of December, when the elves have put small gifts in a sock on the end of the childrens' beds every night. we have put ris-porridge, a lovely warm porridge with cinnamon-sugar and a knob of butter on the top - which we eat a lot of in the Christmas time -in the loft for the elves. On the 24th of December some people go to church at 12pm, others use the day to go for a walk or play games with the family. In the evening we have Christmas dinner, typically with pork or duck, caramelised potatoes, sauce, crisps and cabbage. Then all the family dance hand in hand around the Christmas tree and around the house, while they sing Christmas songs, and then the gifts are shared - and if we are lucky is it Santa himself who are sends the presents. When everyone has got their gifts, we have Ris a la Mande with cherry sauce (ris pudding with chopped almonds) with only one whole almond in it. The person who get the whole almond wins a gift. This takes a lot of time and everyone is full up so the evening comes to an end and we go to bed."

Katherina Gewecke





## **The Time Machine (our past, our present, our future)**

### **A jump into Kents cavern!**

26 October 2011: an international expedition composed of Italian, Swiss and Saudi Arabian students from the Language In Totnes School jumped into the past, led by Mr. Steve Vincent, for an amazing walk through Kents cavern. Now, they have come back from the past to tell you about this incredible experience!

Kents cavern is a natural cave located in the south west of England and it's one of the most important archeological sites in the whole of Europe. It is part of the UNESCO's English Riviera Global Geopark which reveals the last 400 million years of history and culture in the area. The cavern has been under the custodianship of the Powe Family since 1903. During these years a lot of tourist facilities and scientific studies have been set up, and in 2000, Nick Powe took over the management of the business.

Records show that the cave was used as a dwelling by several kinds of animals and humans for hundreds of thousands of years, fascinating the explorers since 1571. These explorations found a huge amount of records like fossils of bears, "cave lions", mammoths and a human jaw bone 38-40 thousand years old, up to this moment the oldest Homo Sapien fossil ever found in Europe!

You know?! A lot of famous tourists such as Agatha Christie, have been fascinated by the cave. In one of her early novels "The Man in the Brown Suit" published in 1924, she wrote about the cavern changing the name to Hampsly Cavern and accurately describing the animal fossils found there over the years.

Oops! We haven't revealed to you where Kents cavern is ... try to find it yourself!

**Paolo Parise (Italy)**

# Federico Faggin: Father of the Microprocessor.

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## *Vicenza 1945-1960*

Federico's adventures in little Vicenza

Born in 1941, Federico grew up in a modest family in the centre of Vicenza, a city of around 115.000 inhabitants situated in the north east of Italy. From his first steps around the house he showed an incredible and implacable curiosity towards everything around him. Small insects, strange artefacts and junk kept his attention and he spent hours watching and studying them.

A little bit older, he became interested in modelling planes, spending a lot of time in constructing and testing his dear creatures: the challenge of flying had a fatal appeal

## *Padua 1960-1968*

When he was 19, after his graduation from technical high school A. Rossi, he left Vicenza and went to Padua to study Physics, during which time he also worked at Olivetti, a historical typewriter company near Turin. He enjoyed his studies and in 1965 he graduated with a degree in physics.

## *New opportunities in Palo Alto 1968-nowadays*

After working for a couple of years in Italy, Federico saw stimulating new opportunities in Palo Alto (California). He acquired a lot of new knowledge at the Fairchild Semiconductors where he worked on physical aspects applied to chip technologies. Such knowledge was very useful for the old new adventures at Intel. Here, a brilliant team lead by Federico, projected and produced the first microprocessor: 4004. A new era for computers and society had begun.. The big rooms full of thermionic valves were replaced by new technology, allowing the construction of faster, smaller, less energy consuming, more reliable and cheaper computers.

During these years Francesco also turned out to be a brilliant business man, dealing with Zilog, the first company entirely dedicated to the microprocessor, Cygnet Technologies, a company involved in the field of telecommunications technologies, the Synaptics, involved in the field of human-computer interaction technologies (do you know what a touchpad is?) and the Foveon, a company making image sensors. Plus other later contributions which are changing the world.

Italy, as usual, spent resources on education and preparation of a brilliant guy who became a big man in others countries. Anyway, we hope that Francesco's contributions could still be shared and used for a better and fairer world.

Thanks Federico



## Christmas in France.

In the East of France, near Germany, Christmas time begins on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December with St Nicolas.

But all the others French children wait for “Papa Noel” (Father Christmas)!

On the 24<sup>th</sup>, all the family have a big dinner called “le Reveillon”. After, some of them go to the church, to the midnight Mass. During the night, Father Christmas puts presents in slippers under the Christmas tree. When the family wakes up, everybody can open their own presents!

In a lot of houses, in some cities and in all the churches, it's time to put the figure of the little Jesus in the Nativity scene.

For two weeks, the three figure of the Magi are moved a little bit every day in the direction of the Nativity scene. According to the tradition, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January, they are reach across Jesus to give him the presents. In each French family, it's the king cake day! A little figure is hidden inside the cake; a child has to go under the table and to choose without seeing the recipient of each piece of cake. One of the family will find the figure; he will be the king of the day and choose his queen!

### Matthieu Berton



“HO HO HO! MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERONE”!!!

## Solution to last issue’s puzzle

- 1 to take down
- 2 to come up with
- 3 to come down with
- 4 to open up
- 5 to miss out on
- 6 to give up
- 7 to takeaway
- 8 to kick off
- 9 to ring off
- 10 to pay off
- 11 to set out
- 12 to sleep in

