

The Braidwood Quilt Shop

GIGANTIC CLOSING DOWN <SALE>

on the
'AIRING OF THE QUILTS' WEEKEND

Friday 23 November to
Sunday 25 November

Fabrics • Notions
Books • Fittings

**EVERYTHING IN THE SHOP
SELLING AT HALF PRICE**

*All designer fabrics and
coordinates including:*

Childrens, Animals, Farm, Bikes,
Cars, Trains, Fruit, Vegetables,
Black & White, Batiks,
Australian Prints ...

After 30 years of trading in the centre of town, The Braidwood Quilt Shop is closing its doors. June Weatherstone extends a warm thank you to everyone who has supported her over this time. After a short break June will open an online store specialising in Australian fabrics and quilt kits.

**THE ENTIRE CONTENTS
OF THE SHOP MUST GO**

CLICKETTY-CLACK

his mind was confused and he had forgotten about the goods train.

So, when Signalman Eden at Otterington gave him the 'Be Ready' signal for the second part of the express and he saw that his instrument still showed 'Train on Line', he concluded that he had never cleared after the first part of the express had run through. He therefore unpegged his block instrument giving 'Line Clear' to Otterington, accepted the train and offered it forward to Avenue Junction. But having done so, Holmes had a sudden misgiving. He called Eden on the speaking telegraph and asked: 'Is this the EP (Express Passenger)?' As soon as Eden received this message he realized too late that something must be wrong at Manor House.

The express roared past his box at that moment, into a section only a mile and a half long and in a matter of seconds he heard the distant thunder of a collision.

Driver Roland Ewart of the Scotch express had no chance. He was running at a mile a minute, the night was slightly foggy, and he only sighted the red tail lights of the goods at a distance of 40 yards. On impact, the engine and tender fell on their sides across a siding on the up side with their wheels together. The first three vehicles of the train were a brake van, an East Coast Joint Stock third-class carriage, and the Pullman Sleeping car 'India'. The body of the Pullman came off its bogies and demolished the third-class coach, killing eight passengers and injuring thirty-nine. But it was a tribute to the strength of Pullman construction that no passenger in the sleeping car was even slightly injured. Forty minutes after the collision, a fire, started by live coals from the firebox, spread rapidly through the wreckage. Roland Ewart, who had been thrown clear on to the line-side, watched the blaze start from a flicker no larger than a candle flame but was too badly injured to prevent it spreading. His fireman had wandered off down the line towards Otterington. He, too, was injured and suffering from shock but his one idea was to protect the up line. He eventually made his way to a neighbouring farmhouse from which he was taken to hospital.

The unhappy James Holmes was subsequently charged with the manslaughter of George Petch, the guard of the goods train, and committed for trial at York Assizes before Mr Justice Charles. Holmes, weeping bitterly, was found guilty, but the Judge ruled that he be discharged and it is a measure of the popular feeling which the case had aroused that this decision was greeted with prolonged cheering from the body of the court. Reinforced by the recommendations made in the inspecting officer's report on Thirsk, the case of James Holmes led to a reduction in the working hours of signalmen and to a better system of relief. ■

An extract from the book "Red for Danger" 1971 by L.T.C. Holt based on information held by the British Railways Inspection Department.



THE SOUQ

Lynda Avery heads to the Middle East in search of a bargain

Dubai Creek, and the souq, (market place) are two of the jewels of Dubai. Each has their own very special atmosphere, whether you approach the souq by Arbra (water-taxi) from across the creek or on foot from the carpark, it is just what you went for. Its rather antique, Arabic structure, the colour of fabrics, the glitter of sequined shoes and bags, the aromatic spices and the stall holders trying to sell their wares. Albeit rather persistently at times.

After parking your vehicle some distance away, the walk beside The Creek, which has been the harbour for Dubai since the community was made up of pearl fishers and shipping on the Persian Gulf, is pleasant if there is a breeze, but can be unpleasantly hot as there is no shade. The Creek is still a harbour for the dhows that carry rock from the quarry up the coast of Oman for construction work in Dubai. They are still used as freighters. There are many of these, once sailing boats, now diesel-motor powered, parked along the walkway. Some offer scenic rides along the Creek, others are floating restaurants repainted and beautifully presented.

The arrival at the souq is a welcome relief, as the high roof and breezy open-air plan give respite to the sometimes-stifling heat. Its bustling shoppers and keen to sell stall holders who are, at first, overwhelming, eventually become familiar and the market atmosphere exciting.

If you approach the souq from the opposite side of the the Creek by Arbra, you leave from the Gold souq along with several other boats vying for a spot at the wharf, then on reaching the

other side much jostling and positioning goes on before you can hop off. All part of the day's fun for about three dirhams or one Australian dollar.

The souq is a shopper's paradise with everything from leather goods, silk fabrics, cashmere pashminas, local pottery, jewellery, to gold and copper goods, spices and delicious fresh dates and plenty of stuff for the blokes. Of course, you can bargain till you are sure you have agreed on the best price

then find, a couple of stalls further on, your purchase could be a couple of dirhams cheaper. Oh! but the thrill of the chase, it gets me every time.

The obligatory cup of coffee keeps the men hanging around while the girls shop and then the promise of lunch helps keep everyone satisfied and playing the game.

If it's labels and fashion you are keen to buy, the Malls, with layer upon layer of floors and kilometres of hallways, are the other shopping option but not quite the cultural experience the souq offers.

This is a great experience and one I look forward to each time I'm in Dubai.

