

## **Glastonbury – mud and music**

Transcript of podcast dated 3 July 2007

**Peter:** Two weeks ago, I talked about the Glastonbury Festival, the biggest outdoor music festival in the world. I told you that, when it rains, the fields in the festival site become very muddy. And I also said that this year the festival organisers had spent a lot of money on new drains and other things to stop the fields becoming muddy. So, what happened? I am talking to Hilary, who went to the festival. Hilary, was it really very muddy?

**Hilary:** It was extremely muddy. So, this time last week, myself, my husband, two children of mine and another child - who doesn't belong to me, but went along with us - were all there. And we arrived on a Thursday evening - beautiful weather, no mud, not a drop of rain in sight. And we pitched our tent at the top of a hill, which we thought was sensible, on the basis that if it did rain, the rain would run to the bottom of the hill and the people at the bottom of the hill would be muddier. And this proved to be very sensible, as during the night it rained and it rained and it rained. We could hear it on the top of the tent. And we got up in the morning, at about 10 o'clock in the morning. There was some mud, but not a great deal of mud, because at that time the 150,000 people who would have been at the festival weren't all there, but they were arriving thick and fast. During the course of the day it rained a bit more, and a bit more, and by the night there was a lot of mud. And so the tents at the bottom of the hill were all mud-spattered, as were the people. It just continued to rain, really, But it didn't make it an unhappy festival, I think, it just made it more fun, I think really.

**Peter:** You didn't go to Glastonbury for the mud. You went to Glastonbury for the music. Now, what sort of music do you like?

**Hilary:** I like a lot of different types of music. I particularly like classical music,

and in fact this year at Glastonbury was the first year that a full symphony orchestra had ever played there. And it was an orchestra that I used to be a member of, many years ago, and it was the National Youth Orchestra. And they played, on the Sunday morning to, I think, probably the smallest audience they had ever played to, because it [Glastonbury] is not really known as a venue for classical music, but it was very well received. So that was fun. There was also jazz - a lot of jazz there - so that was also a lot of fun. And some twentieth ..., more contemporary bands, which the children all liked - the Arctic Monkeys, the Kaiser Chiefs, the Fratellis - who are a Scottish band - and the Killers, and the Who, who are an older band.

**Peter:** And the children went with you...

**Hilary:** The children, who are aged 10 and 13.

**Peter:** And they found plenty that they enjoyed doing?

**Hilary:** There is a circus - a circus field with all sorts of circus acts - and enormous mechanical robots, which .... There was one which was rather fun, which was a dog which was the size of a car, and which was taken for a walk on an iron lead by its owner. It was rather interesting. And there were things which they [the children] could participate in, there was music that they could play and join in, and there was some theatre and a lot of dance, which was also good fun, though difficult in wellington boots.

**Peter:** So you are planning to go next year?

**Hilary:** We are planning to go next year, actually - yes. Curiously, we are hoping that it won't rain!

**Peter:** There are thousands and thousands of tents...

**Hilary:** There are. And they are all pitched within 3 inches of each other.

**Peter:** How do you find your tent at night?

**Hilary:** It is very difficult actually. You have to remember which field you are camped in, and where in the field you are camped [in], and it can be a little curious, because you think you know the tent which is next door. And suddenly they might have left, and another one has been put up instead. So that is always quite tricky. We had two tents, one for the children and one for us, and we also had some friends who were camped next to us. We had quite a lot of us nearby, which made it easier. But finding the tent is not as difficult as finding each other, which is very difficult. And the way we got round that was by having a flag, and our particular flag that we had was the flag of the Czech Republic, of which there were only two at Glastonbury. And ours had a rather superior black pole, and the other was on a bamboo stick. So we could find each other by somebody always having this flag with them. And we would all converge on our particular flag.

**Peter:** I see. Why the flag of the Czech Republic?

**Hilary:** Because there was only one other.

**Peter:** I see. That sounds a very good reason.

**Hilary:** It was a very good reason, yes, and that worked very well.

**Peter:** OK. Thank you very much indeed, Hilary. Good-bye.