

Stars at Night

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Being raised up in Bugbrooke during the Second World War, during the period when there were no street lights due to the blackout that was enforced, on such nights when there was no Moon, the Milky Way shone out like a long beam of light across the night sky, every star could be seen so clear one could see to walk about during these dark nights with the light from the sky alone, my brother Sid and sister Gwenn would tell me all the names of all the stars, the Plough being one of them along with the Pole Star, especially when walking around the village at night time during the winter months in this period in time.

It was not until 1945 when the hostilities stopped and the war was over when all the street lights were put back into working order, the night sky began to disappear as we used to know it, for it was not only street lights, but lights from every house window in the evenings, especially when all the blackout blinds etc were removed.

The other light source was to come from all the beams of lights coming from vehicles travelling along the roads, the buses especially, for light came not only from its headlights but from its windows with light pouring out from them, and being able to see who rode on the bus.

The trains that ran past Bugbrooke during the night time periods during the blackout, one would only know where the train was, apart from the noise it made, other than that, catching a glimpse of the fire reflecting off the smoke and steam coming from its funnel when opening and shutting the fire door to the fire box while being stoked up.

Once the blackout regulations were lifted, one could see the whole length of the train with the lights from its windows reflecting on the embankments and trees etc as it thundered through and past the village.

For me as a young boy to be taken out at night on father's Norton motorcycle along the open roads at speed with the light restrictor removed, with the road glowing way up out in front, with all the many moths and flies etc the light attracted as we sped along, was to be quite a memorable occasion in my lifetime.

As the years rolled on, even brighter lights came into being, all towns give off so much light at night, as well as lights from Motorways etc, the light pollution takes away the chance of seeing what we took for granted when we were in our early youth, the only time we see such a sight is when being in a place with very little to no light pollution, such as parts of Devon, Cornwall, and parts of Cumbria, and such places.

Stanley Joseph Clark