

TOC^H

BUILDING THE COMMON GOOD

NEWSLETTER

www.toch-uk.org.uk

020 8057 4200

NORTH ORMESBY TEAM



SEPTEMBER 2026

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EVESWELL COMMUNITY CENTRE COMPLETION

The refurbishment of Eveswell Community Centre in Newport is now complete, marking an exciting new chapter for Toc H in the city. The only outstanding feature is the new green roof. The recent weather has made planting unwise, as the grass and sedum would be unlikely to survive, so this will be completed when conditions improve.

Many Toc H members will remember that Newport is one of our longest-established branches. For many years, its members met at Eveswell Community Centre and became closely involved in the life of the building and the community it serves. Toc H has now taken ownership of the centre through a community asset transfer, securing its future as a welcoming local hub.

The refurbished centre will provide much-improved facilities for community activities, local groups and Toc H's own work. We are planning an official opening in the autumn, when we look forward to welcoming members, partners and neighbours to celebrate this important milestone together. The refurbishment was funded by a number of funders including the Community Ownership Fund and the Community Facilities programme of the Welsh Government.



SUMMER CAMP AT WEIRSIDE

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This year's Weirside Summer Camp for Ukrainian refugees was a great success, bringing together 21 people young and old, for several days of friendship, adventure and mutual support.



The group spent a day canoeing and boating on Lake Windermere, tackled a high-ropes course through the trees—finishing with an exhilarating zip wire—and also enjoyed an afternoon of quad biking. For some, these were entirely new experiences, approached with a wonderful mixture of courage, enthusiasm and humour.



Just as importantly, the camp brought together Ukrainian individuals and families who had not previously met. Participants spoke warmly about the welcome they had received since arriving in the UK. They also valued the opportunity to spend time with others who shared similar experiences, creating new friendships and offering one another encouragement, understanding and practical support.

TOC H North Ormesby is working to strengthen community life in one of Middlesbrough's most disadvantaged neighbourhoods, creating welcoming spaces where local people can connect, take part in arts and wellbeing activities, and build confidence and resilience. North Ormesby faces some of the highest levels of deprivation in England, with over 60% of residents living in the most deprived 10% nationally, alongside significantly higher-than-average crime rates and poor health outcomes. With a population of just over 6,100 people, higher than national average unemployment rates, many living in tightly packed Victorian terraces, the area has a strong identity but limited local resources.

The recent alleyway transformation project showed just how powerful community creativity can be. Residents of all ages came together to turn a neglected alley into a vibrant shared artwork that has boosted pride, reduced antisocial behaviour, and inspired further collaboration. Building on this success, TOC H North Ormesby will continue to deliver public art projects that brighten the environment, celebrate local heritage, and instil lasting positivity.

"We aim not to offer a quick plaster, but to address the root causes of disconnection by creating sustainable pride, belonging, and neighbourliness. Our intergenerational work brings together the area's long-standing indigenous population, newly arrived, and creates connections and experiences for children and families and the youth of North Ormesby, helping them share stories, understand each other's cultures, and build bridges across well-known divides. TOC H North Ormesby is committed to working alongside existing community partners - including The Community Hub Team, Family Focus, and JPC Charity at the TAD Centre, residential homes, nurseries and schools - and as a branch we have a group of talented and professional people eager to share their skills. We aim to ensure that creativity, connection, and shared purpose help the whole community feel safer, more supported, and proud of its future."





The Lamps are among the most recognisable symbols of Toc H. Each one connects a branch or community with the original Lamp at Talbot House in Poperinge and with Toc H's long tradition of friendship, service and reconciliation. They are therefore more than historic objects: they carry memories, relationships and a continuing sense of belonging.

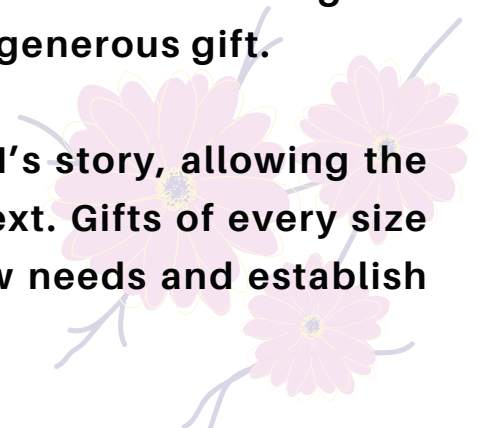
We have been working together to improve our records, identify where Lamps are held and develop clearer arrangements for their care. Where a branch has closed, we want to ensure that its Lamp is kept safely and, where appropriate, made available to a new or continuing Toc H community.

Our aim is to develop a simple stewardship agreement so that responsibility for each Lamp is understood without weakening its connection to the wider Toc H movement. We are grateful to the Talbot House Association for working with us to preserve this important part of our shared heritage while keeping the Lamps present in the living work of Toc H.

THANK YOU

We are deeply grateful to the late Joan Nicholas for remembering Toc H in her will, and to her family for supporting her generous gift.

Legacies have played an important part in Toc H's story, allowing the commitment of one generation to support the next. Gifts of every size help us sustain existing projects, respond to new needs and establish branches in communities across the country.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

By Paul Hackwood - Toc H Chief Executive

Friendship has always been one of Toc H's central values, but it has particular importance in our late-modern world. We are more connected than any previous generation, yet many people experience profound loneliness and isolation. Families often live far apart, neighbours may barely know one another, and much of our contact takes place through screens. We can communicate instantly with hundreds of people while lacking someone with whom we can speak honestly.

Modern life also encourages us to see relationships in terms of usefulness. We build networks, make contacts and ask what other people can offer us. Friendship is different. A friend values us not because of our status, success or usefulness, but simply because we are ourselves. True friendship makes room for vulnerability, disagreement and forgiveness. It cannot be measured by targets or reduced to a transaction.

For Toc H, friendship is not merely a private bond between people who happen to like one another. It is a way of creating community across the boundaries that society places between us. At its best, Toc H brings together people of different ages, backgrounds, nationalities and beliefs. Friendship allows us to recognise one another as equals and to discover that we have responsibilities towards people whose lives may be very different from our own.

This can be seen in our branches and hubs today: among refugees and people seeking asylum in North Ormesby; among families supporting one another at Weirside; and in neighbourhood projects where people find companionship as well as practical help.

Friendship does not solve every problem, but it changes how we face them. It makes people feel seen, gives them somewhere to belong and creates the trust from which service and action can grow. In a fragmented and anxious society, Toc H's commitment to friendship is not old-fashioned. It is a quiet but necessary form of hope.

Paul Hackwood



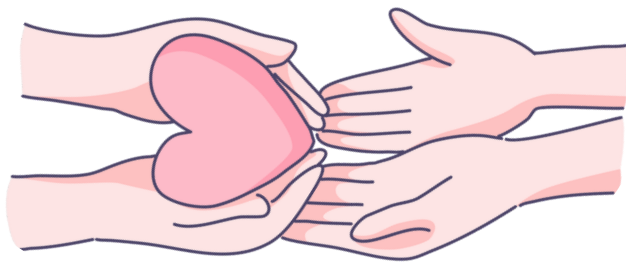
HOW TO SUPPORT TOC H IN 2026

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REGULAR GIVING

One of the easiest ways to support our work is to offer us a regular gift by direct debit. If you are a UK taxpayer, we can also claim Gift Aid on your donation, meaning that the government will add extra to the value of your donation.

A monthly gift of £10 will mean that Toc H will receive £12.50 with Gift Aid- an extra £30 a year!



CONNECT WITH US ONLINE

Please do visit our website and share with friends and family. Directing people to our website is a great way for people to find out about us and what we do.

You can also Like us on our Facebook Toc H International page. Our local Hubs also have dedicated Facebook pages too. See below for more details.

RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER OR VOLUNTEER A BIT MORE OF YOUR TIME

Each year, Toc H relies on the goodwill of many members and volunteers who gift their time to help others. Without these fantastic people, we would not be able to do the things we do and want to achieve.

So, please consider whether you could recruit a new member or offer us a little of your time.

Email us and tell us what you think!

WWW.TOCH-UK.ORG.UK

Toc H Barton upon Humber

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/1916579835027080

Toc H National

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TOCH.INTERNATIONAL

Toc H Newport

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TOCH.NEWPORT

Toc H High Brooms

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TOCH.HIGHBROOMS



EASYFUNDRAISING

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TURN YOUR ONLINE SHOPPING INTO EVERYDAY MAGIC FOR TOC H



Did you know that you can support Toc H with every online purchase you make?

Over 7,000 brands will donate to Toc H **at no extra cost to you** - so you can raise donations when you buy clothes, gifts, holidays, your grocery shop or anything else!

At Toc H we are excited to continue our

supporting communities and expanding work in 2026 and beyond- but we can only do this with your support.

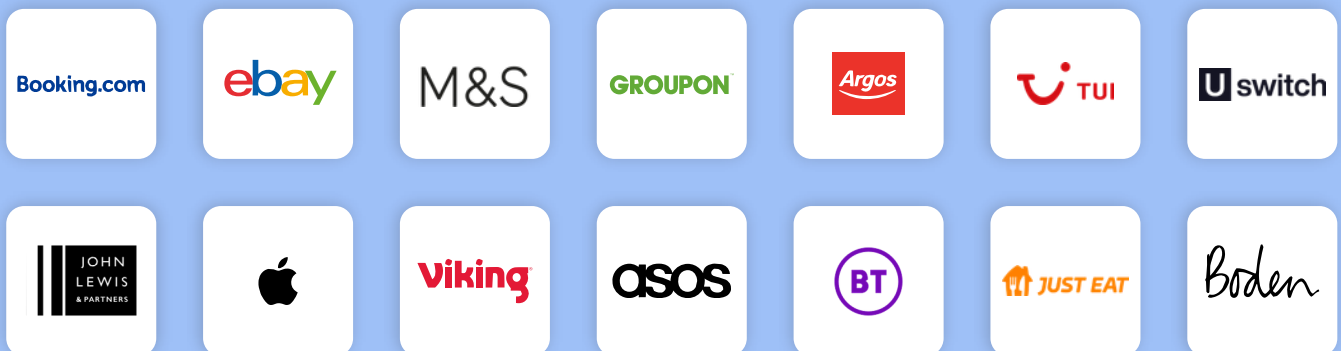
With Easyfundraising, brands will donate a percentage of your sale to Toc H - so, **for free**, you can make your shopping bargains go even further!

HOW TO SIGN UP - IN THREE EASY STEPS!

- 1 www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause
- 2 Search for Toc H
- 3 Say "yes" to donate to Toc H



Or scan this QR code to sign up



+ OVER 7,000 MORE BRANDS....

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Excellent 
3,945 reviews on  Trustpilot

CONTACT TOC H



Visit our website at: www.toch-uk.org.uk



Email us at: info@toch.org.uk



Call us on: 0208 057 4200



Connect with us: www.facebook.com/TocH.International

DATE FOR THE DIARY

Date for your diary:

Sunday, 8th November- Cenotaph 2026

The Royal British Legion's march past the Cenotaph

Please contact us for more information on this event

HOW YOU CAN DONATE

Donating to Toc H has never been easier:

- To set up a regular gift, or offer a one-off donation, please visit our website: <https://www.toch-uk.org.uk/get-involved>
- Raise FREE donations for Toc H when you shop online using Easyfundraising. Find us at: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/toc-h/
- If you wish to remember Toc H in your will - Please contact us at info@toch.org.uk or call 0208 057 4200

TOC H MEMBERSHIP



Our members commit themselves to an associational life, encouraging participation, friendship and engagement in local communities.

Membership is **FREE** and supports us all to make our neighbourhoods better places to live and flourish.

We offer various simple ways to become a member:

- Sign up online on www.toch-uk.org.uk,
- Contact us on 020 8057 4200 for a membership form
- Scan the QR code on the left and complete our short membership form