

Spring



2017

**Charity No 211042
SC045491**



IN TOUCH

FRIENDSHIP SERVICE FAIRMINDEDNESS WITNESS

BY TOC H MEMBERS FOR TOC H MEMBERS

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EDITORIAL

I'm writing this Editorial on the eve of the Christian season of Lent, and whilst this may mean little to those who do not have a Christian faith it is possible I think for anyone to relate to the key elements of the season. It represents the forty days that Jesus prepared for his ministry of teaching and healing, days spent in the wilderness.

The forty days are normally associated with a commitment to self-discipline, giving up a luxury, sweets, alcohol or whatever each of us would miss most in our daily lives. Whilst this may be important and

certainly works for some people it is not the only action that can be a focus for the forty days and beyond.

As I've said the season is associated with the wilderness a place that most of us would not want to go into, not the least because for Jesus it was a time of temptation by the devil. Herein lies the link to self-discipline and giving up luxuries.

The image of the wilderness in my view is an element of the story that contains the potential for all of us to consider in the way that we live today. None of us are likely to live in a wilderness if we think of this to be a place of desolation, hot and rocky where life is hard to sustain.

If we approach the idea of a wilderness from a different angle we can see that on occasion, we all find ourselves in a wilderness which may be of our own making. Equally, it might be an aspect of life that we find ourselves in for any number of different reasons.

In this context, the wilderness can be found in a busy city or even in a quiet suburban street. It is a feeling of loss and alienation from the world around us. We may be surrounded by life and activity but somehow this belongs to everyone else.

The feeling might be due to feelings of loss or fear of something that is hidden in our deepest being. It might also be a feeling of darkness which seems to be impenetrable by any light. In a spiritual sense, this is sometimes called a dark night of the soul, a period when darkness takes over and a sense of depression and loss is felt by the individual who is suffering.

In facing the challenge of these times, it is important that we find time for ourselves to sit quietly and focus on our inner thoughts. For those with a sense of spirituality it means exploring what this means. For those who lack any faith it is important to hold on to the truth that we are capable of seeing the light if only we give time to seeking it out.

In many ways, the story of Toc H over the last few years has been one of darkness and seeking to see the light on the far away horizon. We are now in a place where the light is shining and we can look forward with hope. We do not usually associate organisations with such a darkness but any organisation is only the sum of all its members, which of course means that it is possible for the organisation to reflect the members state of mind.

I started with the fact that Lent is an important season for Christians, in the Churches year it leads to Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Day when we celebrate the Resurrection.

Dark nights for individuals or groups are an important element of the way we live. We should not try to avoid them, we should in fact enter into them in the knowledge that when the darkness lifts there will be the joy of recovering the light.

Terry Drummond

In Touch magazine

is produced three times a year, the last date for submission of articles is the end of **February, June and October.**

The Cenotaph

For the first time in many years we sent a full and varied contingent of folk (20) to the represent Toc H at the Cenotaph for the service and march of remembrance on November 13th 2016. The following is a letter received after the event which speaks for itself:

"A very belated thank you for firstly getting the tickets for myself, my future son-in-law, Jesse Wells and my youngest son, Dominic to join the Toc H contingent in marching past the Cenotaph at last Sunday's Remembrance Service. It has always been an ambition to take part and I found the whole event most moving. I know that both Jesse and Dominic felt the same way. It was one of those events that will always remain in our memories.

Dominic (aged 11) has done a write up of his day for his school homework and I wondered if the editorial team might like to read his comments and I quote below:-

"On the 13th of November, I woke up at 4.30am to get ready for London. Leaving the house at 5am, we had to travel from my home in Milford-on-Sea to Salisbury Railway Station to catch the earliest train to get into Waterloo station before 9am. We then walked to Whitehall and waited with everyone in the Toc H group. On the big television screen, alongside us, we watched the Queen and all the important people lay their wreaths. We had to wait in all 3 hours before it was our time to march, my feet feeling dead by then. When we got next to the Cenotaph I gave in my wreath to the official and carried on marching with Ben Goodwin, an RAF officer, who had joined our group and with all the public clapping us we finally ended in Horse Guards where Prince Charles saluted us. What a day!!!!"

I think that he summed up the day for us. I know that someone took a photo of our new staff member, Marcia, and him with their wreaths. Is



Dominic with Marcia and the wreath!

there any chance of a copy for him to keep as a souvenir of a very special day?

With many thanks once again and with all good wishes,
Chris"

Security was, as expected heightened and on the actual day our group was joined by a serving officer in RAF uniform, who was a delight and just attached himself to the group, particularly spending time with young Dominic.

How Time Flies!

I cannot believe that it has been almost one year since I joined Hilary and Doug in the Central Office and what a ride it has been! My role is multi-faceted and wide-ranging. It involves administrative duties, responding to general enquiries about Toc H and shifting half a ton of 'In Touch' single-handedly! All of which have helped me to gain an in-depth understanding of the movement has a whole and to fully appreciate the Four Points of the Compass.

Friendship: Not only have I been welcomed by the Board of Trustees but by the membership too. It has been lovely chatting to members, old and new; being regaled with tales of Toc H of old and people's aspirations for Toc H in the future.

Service: Having contact with the Branches has allowed me to witness some of the work, fellowship and activities they perform to serve their wider communities. It is the membership, both here and abroad, that has made Toc H, the endearing charity that we know it is.

Fair-mindedness: It is very clear to me, that Toc H is committed to building a fairer society for all and this is just as important now as it ever was. We should all think fairly of others regardless of our differences if we are to succeed in achieving this goal.

Witness: I was humbled by my holiday, last October, to Talbot House and Ypres. I am truly thankful to have visited such an inspirational place and have gained some valuable insight into the work of Tubby Clayton. Similarly, I found laying wreath at The Cenotaph for our fallen comrades, an equally humbling experience.

Hopefully, this is just the beginning of a long and fruitful journey with Toc H.

Marcia Wynter

Poppy Appeal 2017 ~ Barnsley

Toc H members Mike and Joy Bretton have been loyal servants to the Royal British Legion for years organising for the poppy appeal and keeping the branch going; as well as all their other volunteering and community work.

Last summer, Mike was very ill and as a consequence had to have one of his legs amputated. Toc H Barnsley was asked to help out and before we knew it, we were taking the leading role. Tony, another stalwart, suffered a stroke and we were left to sail the ship.

First of all, we put out a message on social media asking for volunteers. Arranged a date and time and all met at Jump Club where all the poppy collection stuff was being kept.

To our amazement 15 people turned up and as you know many hands made lighter work.

The minibus and members' cars were used to deliver the collecting tins to all retail outlets and pubs etc then painstakingly collected in and counted.

It was hard work to say the least but everyone involved enjoyed it thoroughly. We laughed and joked and got on with the job in hand, swearing we would do it differently next time. I think we all learned much from the experience.

Our efforts were rewarded when we were invited to attend a Royal British Legion 'Thank You' event and to our amazement were awarded two certificates. The first to Jump Club and Toc H and the second, rather embarrassingly, to myself and Toc H. This is Toc H on both counts to my mind!



Look what it got us...



Looks like its got us a new job!

Andy Hodgkinson

Cover Picture

The Hall at Looe in the process now of being refurbished for use by the community and displaying a banner proclaiming so. The work is scheduled to be completed by the end of May so will be featured in the Autumn In Touch. We are also delighted to announce that there are two new members of Toc H now in Looe and the foundations of a new branch!!

Carol Service at All Hallows

The annual Carol Service at our Guild Church of All Hallows took place earlier than usual on December 3rd due to it being the United Kingdom's turn to host World Chain of Light the following weekend at Weirside.

The church looked splendid having already been decorated ready for Christmas and we were warmly welcomed by Rev. Bertrand Olivier. The beautiful traditional service took place, aided by beautiful organ music, volunteer readers, with Terry Drummond giving the address.

This was all followed by refreshments in the side aisle. Once again our thanks to Connie Pring for organising these and serving!

Although some familiar faces were missing, perhaps some due to the earlier date, there were also some lovely surprises. Scott Congdon of Amor Ministries happened to be in London on his way to Australia where they are currently looking to set up a Youth Project together with Urban Saints. Both Amor and Urban Saints are sort of partners with us and this unexpected meeting has led to our giving them introductions to Toc H contacts in Australia. Scott is a Toc H member and this meeting also meant that we have heard from Dan Irving also a UK/American member who wrote:-

I was somewhat astounded to hear from Scott of his meeting with Toc H at All Hallows by the Tower. I knew Toc H had an event scheduled but I had no idea Scott was travelling to London. I was so pleased to hear he decided to go to All Hallows and surprisingly was able to meet up with you and Ken along with other Toc H'ers. I don't believe this was mere coincidence but surely our Lord meant for it to happen. Scott sent me a great picture of you and he together. I will be seeing Wayne later this week and have already told him about this great reunion.

Dan Irving

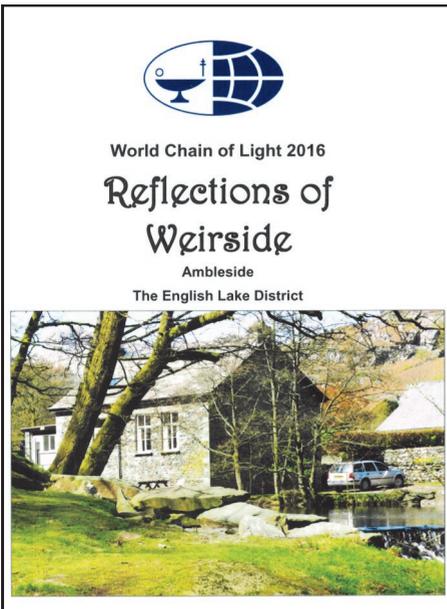


In addition, shortly before the Carol Service, the office had been contacted by someone called Neil who was looking for information concerning his grandparents and their Toc H involvement. We had invited him to the Carol Service and were delighted that he came. He is a teacher undertaking further studies and is really keen to be involved. He thinks he could well use Weirside through his work which is with pupils experiencing some difficulties. He became a member within a fortnight and has since met with Matthew Plumridge ... could this be the start of a new South East Branch???

This year the Carol Service is already booked for December 9th at the usual time of 2.00 p.m. So please come if you can.

Congratulations

On the weekend after the Carol Service our Chairman Terry Drummond was ordained as a Distinctive Deacon at Southwark Cathedral. The next day he caught the train from London to Windermere and arrived in good time to join the with others for the meal at Weirside prior to the opening service of World Chain of Light. I believe that deserves congratulations on more than one account!



Terry sporting his newly acquired status of a dog collar on his arrival at Weirside.

Messages received at World Chain of Light

From Australia:

Our very Best Wishes and Greetings for the World Chain of Light for 2016 and thanks for the excellent Order of Service and Message.

We are so pleased to hear that Toc H in the UK is making steady but good progress.

In Australia the World Chain of Light will be held in Maryborough where Tubby was born, in the Upper Room at St John's Church in Canberra, in Christ Church in New Castle and in Brisbane and Adelaide.

Have a Blessed, Joyful and Peaceful Christmas,
Ray Geise, Director of Toc H Northern Region

Greetings from Zimbabwe:

It is good to have this opportunity to send our warmest greetings to Toc H Members in the United Kingdom as they launch the 2016 World Chain of Light from the historic 'Weirside' at Ambleside in one of the most beautiful areas of England – the Lake District.

As we think of you getting together in true Toc H fellowship, we consider all that you have achieved in acquiring, renovating and making habitable the building you now occupy as a unique venue for Toc H activities and special events such as this year's World Chain of Light. Well done!

Our two young men's hostels continue to operate to capacity in Harare and as the festive season approaches we are preparing Christmas gifts for the elderly in our communities. However, there is a certain fear at this time as, at the beginning of this month, the Government introduced what they call Bond notes which are printed on cheap paper and which one has to imagine is worth the equivalent of US dollars – which has been our 'adopted' currency since 2009. Zimbabweans are watching closely, hoping the country will not take the same slippery slope as in 2008! We ask for your prayers to see us through this situation.

And it is our pleasure to send our heartiest congratulations on all that Toc H worldwide has achieved and wish you God's richest blessings in your future endeavours.

John H Bowman, President

From New Zealand:

Dear Friends

I was very thrilled to receive an envelope from the UK containing the "In Touch" magazine as well as AGM minutes and WCOL information. It is good to know what is happening with Toc H in the UK. Sorry to say I have not found any other Toc H members in New Zealand so I am definitely a Lone member now. I will go through the WCOL service on the 12th in place of my daily devotions.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas.

Love Jean (Fenner)

From Paris, France:

Thank you for the huge mail which I read with much interest. I thought the Weirside document was particularly good.

I am also pleased to see the acknowledgement that we can be members of Toc H without being Christians and love the idea that you have given a grant to a group for their Iftaar.

Please also pass on to Terry my appreciation of his editorial where he discusses refugees and Brexit.

Also many thanks to Andy Hodgkinson for his beautiful poem "Shot at Dawn". It is very moving and oh so true.

I also found many points in common with Andrew MacKenzie and his article. My father was in Burma from 1941 to 1945 and never spoke about his war but I do remember him telling me about Toc H. (He was born and grew up in Seaham, Co. Durham - his father was a mine engineer.) Many of my family members have been military. My son of 41 served with the French navy in the 90's and my son-in-law has unfortunately fought in the two Balkan wars so I am even today, concerned about all these things.

Thank you for all your hard work.

Best wishes

Shirley Milojevic, Secretary

The Vigil

Ten people gathered at Weirside for the 24 hr vigil and they were joined by George, Chapel Stile's vicar for the first reading of the service. We then split the next 22 hours up between the group, coming together again for the last hour and re-holding the service. Of course the lamp was maintained alight for the whole time.

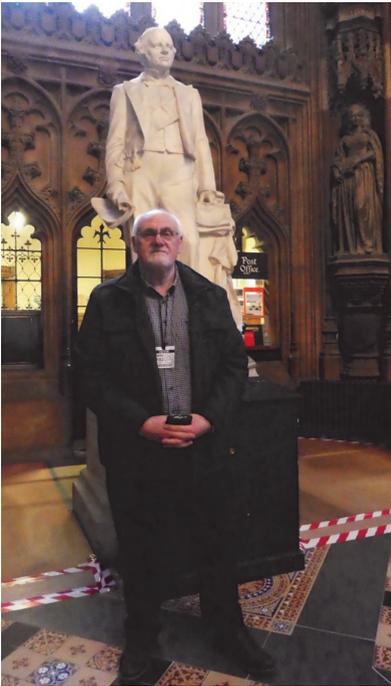
During the day several of us, indeed most of us, spent some time making decorations for the Toc H tree that was being put in a tree festival in Birmingham (*more about that on Page 18*).

Most of the time was spent in making some 40—50 Chinese lanterns based around battery powered tea-lights. Legends written on these includes the Four points and Branch Names. We also cut out and decorated the word **Toc** and the letter **H**.



Volunteering in the community

My Mate Dave



Dave Lomas and his wife Sue have been members of Toc H for a couple of years now. So is their daughter Sally who is expecting a baby. Sally has also also used her skill as a photographer for the benefit of IN TOUCH in the past.

Dave and Sue run the Toc H kitchen on Auction nights at Jump and have contributed much to the growth of the branch since we broke loose.

A cracking day out in Westminster and a full agenda with us two really setting the world to rights.

Dave, of course, had to draw the line somewhere.

I'm sure we all agree the cause was right!

Andy Hodgkinson



Football Focus

As a follow up to last year's project with the inclusion group in Barnsley, Toc H were approached and asked if we would like to support the team in hosting the 2018 European Mental Health Recovery Games.

Terry Drummond and I met Hannah Burton, leader of the Barnsley Health recovery through sport, last year and a discussion took place on what role, if any, Toc H could play.

On Tuesday 7th March, a meeting was held in Barnsley and the official launch of the MHFA (Mental Health Football Association) was held in the Palace of Westminster; Toc H reps were present at both. It was a very good meeting and they have worked very hard to put things into place.

David Lomas and I went to Westminster and had a very interesting day. The meeting was very well attended. Andy Burnham MP chaired the meeting. Also present was Colin Dolan, ex footballer recovering with mental health issues (Chair of MHFA), representatives from charities including MIND and several ongoing projects from QPR, Chesterfield and Everton Football clubs. There were some very moving accounts from service users. It was quite apparent that sport and football in particular can work wonders in dealing with the recovery process in mental health.

Hannah from the recovery programme at Barnsley was also there and Andy Burnham promised support for the planned games in Barnsley. As you will see from Jeff's report there is plenty to think about for the future. Toc H Barnsley along with Hannah and her team aim to make the games a success in 2018.

There will be opportunity for involvement for those who are interested and individuals could, if they wish, get the ball rolling with their particular local clubs. These do not need to be top tier professional teams. All teams have facilities that can be tapped into with limited funding.

Volunteers will, of course, be needed and anyone interested can contact Andy for details.

I would be interested to know what Matt F. thinks about the prospects of the Bristol Boys getting involved in volunteering for the tournament in Barnsley and planning a return visit in the summer for the Afro Boys.

Just a bit of a roundup from the meeting I attended yesterday regarding the European Mental Health Games to be hosted in Barnsley, 11th – 15th June 2018. I wore 2 hats at the meeting representing both Toc H and Barnsley YMCA as there are clear and obvious links.

The initiative is led by SWYPFT, (South West Yorkshire Partnership Foundation Trust) other stakeholders include MIND, Creative Minds (Part of SWYPFT), Barnsley Football Club, Yorkshire Sport and various others. Yesterday's meeting was an attempt to identify areas of expertise within the wider group and which agency would be best placed to lead on each element. Points discussed were: What will an opening/closing ceremony look like? Logistics - for example transport, accommodation for visiting teams. Which sports will feature? Venues for sports and social events etc.

Oakwell (BFC) appears to be taking up a lot of the football and social events. Shaw Lane - cricket, Barnsley College will be providing space. There is a lot of football on the agenda. It is something that's evolved over the years at these games and is a tried and tested model. Other sports suggested are Netball, Badminton and Table Tennis; obviously I threw the YMCA's hat into the ring re: Table Tennis as it has been the main hub for table tennis for many years around these parts.



There are a total of 32 teams of 15 people (including support staff) expected at the event, hopefully to be accommodated at Northern College, Kingswood (Old Scout Dyke) and some choose to camp apparently!

I asked about volunteering opportunities for young people and was encouraged by the feedback.

Hannah chaired the meeting and she told me she had had some communication with Terry Drummond. She asked what support from Toc H would look like. She didn't expect an answer from me straight away but going forward she is looking to match certain areas of planning and development of the event to those agencies best placed, I guess.

Jeff Platts

In Loving Memory of
WILLIAM "BILL" HARRY PEPPER
1st December 1938 – 11th January 201

I feel that it is a great privilege to write this article. Yet I write it with great sadness; for this is a tribute to Bill Pepper who managed Alison House in Cromford for over eighteen years. I am one who went to Alison House from its very early days with Toc H when the Women's Association bought it. Bill was the fourth manager. He first appeared amongst us when Alan and Irene Robson left us, to help out temporarily but he was then appointed to the permanent post.



His wife, Dorothy and son, Steven supported him throughout those years. Steven was the chef who fed us delicious meals and always gave us special ones, almost banquets at the end of many events.

In the eighteen years Bill was involved with refurbishing the rooms and with the help of a group of us transformed the beautiful gardens. Those in that group will agree that it was a time of hard work but oh such fun with Bill in charge!

Whatever was held in the House, he gave 100% support to – projects with unmarried or single mothers, 'Friends and Neighbours' giving holidays to lonely old people, 'Quiet Weekends', Easter activities, Summer Schools, Central Councillor weekends, art and poetry groups. His welcome was for all.

But Bill gave not only practical support. He was a committed Christian and as such he led many early morning reflections and prayers which were very moving and challenging occasions.

For me, Alison House became a second home. Bill always had his eye open for those on their own and had second sight for those who needed to talk. He made the lonely ones feel that they belonged and were valued. However busy he was, he would drop all tools and spend time with anyone who needed a shoulder to cry on or a problem to share.

For me, he became a very special friend and guided me in my spiritual journey. He lived out our Four Points of the Compass more than anyone else I know. I shall miss him greatly and I am sure that I speak for many others.

Our hearts go out to Dorothy and all the family. She tells me that she joined ToC H at eighteen. She had much ill-health but together they made Alison House a home. I, for one, will never forget - those days at Cromford stand out in all my years in the Movement.

A motto displayed in the House was "Life is fragile. Handle with Prayer!" that was the essence of Bill's life – he so lived and worked amongst us!

Betty Blower

Bill's son Steve wrote a poem about his father's life, here are some extracts:-

My dad was quite a poet, he could easily speak in rhyme,
So my reflection is in poet form, 78 years of passing time.

He wasn't academic. He would rather be outside,
Be it on the farm or in the wood, with adventures to coincide.
His family were patriotic, and fought for king and country too,
So at 15 he became a soldier, 'Your country still needs you!'
He liked the army life, he won best recruit on parade,
But a painful knee condition, to his military life put paid.
Then followed a difficult time, he found life rather tough,
Only a boy himself, he just had had enough.
So upstairs he went, and fell upon his knees,
And cried out 'if there is a God, will you help me please?
In a flash he saw the light, and found the Lord that very night,
His life changed, a new path he'd take, and now he'd live for Jesus' sake.
He worked in a mill, a foundry and on the lorries, an honest crust to provide,
But he seemed to like Alison House the best, with my mum by his side.
Dad would tackle anything, Jack-of-all trades but master of none,
With him living round the corner, there was no job that couldn't be done.
He'd make meat pies, wash the pots, deliver bread, plaster walls and paper too,
He'd cut the hedge, mend the roof, and he'd even fix the loo.
Dad wasn't mean in any way, he was generous beyond compare,
Money, time, possessions too, whatever, he had, with you he'd share.
A hugging, loving man was he, he'd greet you with a kiss,
And wasn't afraid to say 'I love you' that's something we'll all miss.
Let's take from his example, and help those in need we've seen,
You cannot walk in his shoes, but you can walk where he has been.
There's only one desire, my dad would have for all,
That all he knew would find the Lord, and answer his great call.
I know we won't forget him, in fact he hasn't gone,
For when I look around today, in you he still lives on.

Christmas Tree Festival



Hall Green Action Group have invited its member organisations and their user groups to join together by placing a decorated tree in Hall Green Baptist Church over the Christmas period. We are delighted to invite those who would like to see the trees to come to the church on Saturday 17th December from 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. During the last hour there will be carol singing and readings – some humorous, some about Christmas traditions. Refreshments will also be served

I was quite shocked to hear on the television news that Hall Green had been named as one of the top two hotspots for terrorism in the UK! You may have read in previous In Touch of Toc H's involvement in Hall Green Action Group. Thus a tree festival was held as described in the poster above.

It turned out to be a resounding success with some 20 trees being put in by different faith and community groups. There were trees from churches, mosques and temples, playgroups, Boys Brigades, Brownies one or two individuals and the local health centre. The ingenuity was fantastic — suffice it to say that the Toc H tree was the only traditional fresh cut tree.

A repeat is planned for next year but this time it will be open more and hosted by people from all faiths. It is by working and sharing together that a safe community can be built

Hilary



The Dentist Tree, St Michael's Church children's tree, Al Hira Mosque tree, Highfield Hall Community Centre tree, Kids Zone tree, Brownies tree, Playgroup tree and the Baptist Church tree of peace... with a manger in front.



Highfield Hall's Christmas Lunch

Highfield Hall, a community centre being run by Maz and Robina Iqbal following an asset swap from the City has a wide range of groups benefitting from its facilities. One of these is called The Welcome Group which grew out of what was known as the Stroke Club and they usually go out for a Christmas lunch, but this year it was held at Highfield Hall and part funded by Toc H. The food was magnificent, there was entertainment from a musical



theatre group, guests and all the trimmings. We were sat facing Andy accompanied by his wife Debbie—a truly delightful couple and thoroughly enjoyed their company

Hilary & Doug

Can you help?

We recently received the following e-mail . If you can help with news of John Gee please get in touch with the office :-

John Gee and I studied Chemical Engineering at the University of Leeds from 1960 to 1964. I have been trying to contact John in order to reminisce and catch up on the last 50+ years. I recollect that John stayed at Toc H in Leeds and I wonder if he maintained contact with Toc H. I would be very grateful if you would confirm that there was/ is a Toc H in Leeds and whether you have any records that might help locate John. If you have perhaps you would let me know and forward my email address and telephone number to John. I appreciate that the chance of success is not high.

Many thanks

Jeff Henton

A Gift from the Queen.

Toc H is celebrating after receiving a £2,500 gift from The Patron's Fund, the charitable fund set up to acknowledge the work of the charitable organisations for which Her Majesty, The Queen acts as a Patron, on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

Around £750,000 is available to distribute between nearly 300 charities and other organisations in the UK and the Commonwealth. The Fund received generous donations from a range of supporters; including individual donors, businesses, schools, community groups and the proceeds from The Patron's Lunch, the event on the Mall last June.

The gift from The Queen will be used in the refurbishment of the Looe Hall. This project is intended to be an asset to the whole community and is already seeing the rebirth of Toc H in that area. In this way it will ensure that what Toc H stands for and lives by: - friendship, service, fairmindedness and reconciliation, the Four Points of the Compass, - are witnessed in Looe.

Sir Stuart Etherington, Chair of The Board of Trustees for The Patron's Fund, said: 'The Patron's Fund is very pleased to be able to support Toc H with its valuable work. Toc H is among hundreds of organisations for which The Queen acts as a Patron, which between them make a difference to causes and communities in the UK and throughout the Commonwealth.'

For further information on The Patron's Fund (Registered Charity No. 1164171), email info@thepatronsfund.org.uk or visit www.thepatronsfund.org.uk

What is a Toc H Branch?

Recently we were approached by someone who wanted to start a Toc H branch in their area. So we wrote a paper about how to approach the issue and the questions that need to be considered and determined. We enclose a copy with each edition of this In Touch for your interest and for comment/ debate.

Re-connecting with the YMCA

Jeff Platts, a relatively new member of Barnsley Branch, but who was involved in the Athersley Cares project and went to Weirside with them. He is very much involved with the YMCA and wearing that cap had use of the mini-bus for a day. He writes:



These are photos of the young people we at the YMCA took on a day of adventure, risk taking, team building and confidence building. Some of these young people are volunteers and peer educators for the YMCA, others we are hoping will follow in their footsteps and become young volunteers themselves, who knows perhaps even a Toc H youth section?

Without the kind use of the Toc H minibus, days like these would be unaffordable and out of their reach.

Many, many thanks.

Jeff Platts



We will remember them !

Cyril Brent	Edith Curtis	Susanna Corbett
Dorothy Brent	Robert Court	Joan Toyne
Zephaniah Chipato	Bill Pepper	Mildred Gillard
Addie Dunn	Leo Coleman	Charles G Hillier
Clara Walters	Eileen Carter (I)	
Iris Hale	Kenneth Wray	
George Lee	Marjorie Broughton	
Gladys Howe	Megan E Kirkman	

Age shall not weary them

Heart of England Garden Party

*You are cordially invited to join the Heart of England
Branch for their Garden Party
on July 22nd from 2.00 p.m. to about 5.00 p.m.*

Afternoon tea with fruit punch.

*This year the West Park
Recorder Consort have offered
to entertain us—as you will see
It is far from the descant
recorders of our school days!!!*



*At the home of Doug
& Hilary, you are
asked to let them
know if you are likely
to attend for Catering
and seating purposes.*



Mavis Sharpe 1926 – 2017

Mavis had been a member of Toc H for over 60 years. The overspill of the Oakley Ladies together with an amalgamation of the Court Estate Ladies formed the basis of the new branch aptly named the Royal Branch. She was a founder member of this branch and worked tirelessly with others in the early years to make it succeed. She also took on the roles of Regional representative and the local District Team representative and travelled around the country to attend the meetings. On her return she would always visit all the local branches to make sure that they were fully informed as to what was happening. Her husband Eric was a member of the Rushden Men's Branch and together with the help of their respective branches raised thousands of pounds for Toc H and Diabetic Research.

Mavis was the backbone of the branch for many years until Eric passed away. She decided to move to Stamford to be nearer to her daughter and even then she still entertained Toc H members who went to see her. She would always provide delicious refreshments and of course her wonderful trifle for which she was famous.

She did her best to attend the church service every Sunday but soon after her 90th birthday in November her health began to deteriorate.

Sadly Mavis passed away on 11th March. It will be the 60th anniversary of the Rushden Royal Branch in October this year and Mavis would have been so proud to think that she had been involved in it from the beginning. She will always be remembered fondly especially at this year's celebrations.

Rest in peace.

A Plea for Archives!!

John Burgess asks if there are any friends and families who have any paperwork, photos, articles etc etc for the archives, please. Recently he was looking through an old Point Three and found lots of things of interest and in particular something about the Warden Manor Scheme. It would be great to have more stories and examples of how that worked and of the jobs the branches did.

Activities in India

We continue to enjoy the many photographs that Professor Joseph sends for In Touch from Toc H India. We hope you enjoy them as much as we do!!



Korean students of Toc H Public School, put up an artistic performance at the International Poetry Fest. and Ms Park receives a memento from Prof. Joseph

The Toc H School choir posing for a photo with Prof. Joseph, President, Toc H Institutions, Bishop Elias Athnesius, Dr K Varghese, Manager, Toc Institutions and Mr M N George, the Principal, Toc H Public School.





Further photographs of the School Choirs

Below: Just three of several delightful photographs of Kiddies Day



NATIONAL PRAYER CYCLE

Prepared by William Bestelink

Friendship – To love widely

Give thanks for all Branches, their fellowship and activities.
Think of all members in Britain and across the world;
Pray for members who are housebound, ill or isolated.

Service – To build bravely

Give thanks for new opportunities of serving others
Think of all events being planned for 2017
Pray for those suffering through war today, including all refugees

Fair-mindedness – To think fairly

Give thanks for Talbot House and its welcome to visitors
Think of the support for all students and widows at Khasdobir
Pray for Toc H overseas and people & work there

Witness – To witness humbly

Give thanks for the ethos of Toc H which inspires us.
Think of the Board of Trustees and everyone running Toc H.
Pray that the Easter period will give us new encouragement.



MISSION STATEMENT

Toc H is committed to building a fairer society by working with communities to promote friendship and service, confront prejudice and practice reconciliation.

The aims of Toc H are defined by the four points of the compass, first defined in 1920:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Friendship: | To love widely |
| Service: | To build bravely |
| Fairmindedness: | To think fairly |
| Witness: | To witness humbly |