

Summer



2018

Charity No 211042  
SC045491

CEYLON



TOC-H

INDIA AND BURMA



TOC-H

# IN TOUCH

FRIENDSHIP SERVICE FAIRMINDEDNESS WITNESS

**BY TOC H MEMBERS FOR TOC H MEMBERS**

ISSN 1758-2407

# IN TOUCH

## Summer



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### EDITORIAL TEAM

Hilary Geater Childs  
Rebecca Dickson  
Marcia Wynter  
Doug Geater Childs

International Railway Station where they are placed alongside the platforms for Eurostar trains that are going to the

TOC H  
PO BOX 15824  
Birmingham  
B13 3JU

Tel: 0121 443 3552  
e: info@toch.org.uk

continent. An appropriate place for remembrance in the light of the fact that the trains will travel through the countryside ravaged by trench warfare between 1914 and 1918.

### EDITORIAL

In November we will celebrate the centenary of the ending of the First World War and Toc H will be represented at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. In this centenary year it is important that as well as celebration and thanksgiving we also remember that 'the war that was fought to end wars' was also about working for a world in which all people could live a good life.

Toc H was a child of the trenches in that Talbot House was a home from home for the soldiers who had travelled to face unimaginable horrors. It is important that we continue to give thanks for those who had the vision for Toc H in memory of fallen comrades.

The Centenary is being marked in some places with silhouette images of soldiers looking forward as though they are walking into the future. I've noticed them at St. Pancras

It is also important that we, like the soldiers whose images are walking into the future, look to the future whilst building on the past. The work of Talbot House and the veterans who created our Movement is a past we should celebrate and we will do so in our own centenary that begins in November 2019.

In honouring the memory of the founder members, we must also,

like them, ask the question what our contribution is to build a better society for the future.

The intention may seem very big for a small organisation with a history of creative action that has led to projects that have grown and become independent, alongside the commitment of Toc H members to serve their local communities. The Board is currently exploring possibilities for new developments by building on existing activities.

In Denny we have employed Shona Peattie to be a development worker (initially for 12 months) to look at how the existing work which serves the local community can be better supported and expanded. It is important to note that in taking this step in a new direction that the Denny Branch are part of the discussion and Shona is looking to build on their existing capacity to ensure sustainability.

We are discussing with Newport how we can best support their work and ensure continuity; all the current projects are volunteer led and this will remain our way of working. We hope with added support that new volunteers will be brought into the Branch and new challenges will be addressed.

Denny and Newport are just two of the Branches where local communities are served, members are aware of what happens in their own Branches. It is important that it is the local perspective that opens new ideas and possibilities. As Chair of the Board I'm always open to new ideas and possibilities.

In building our capacity to serve it is important that we do not lose sight that whilst we have two staff in Birmingham and one in Denny much of our planning for new developments is undertaken on a voluntary basis.

In the coming weeks we will celebrate the end of the First World War and give thanks for the sacrifice of so many who gave their lives for justice. The first members of Toc H ensured that the memory was not lost or forgotten. The Toc H of 2018 stands on the shoulders of giants, like them we look to the future with the question what we can offer to a society that so often seems to be fragmented.

In November 2019 we begin a year of celebrations of our centenary, let's do so with a vision that builds on the Four Points of the Compass and contributes in a some way to building a just and fair society.

***Terry Drummond***

# Leonard Kaufmann's Seudah Speech Part One

**Shabbat Shalom everyone and thank you for coming.**



*Leonard Kaufmann (far left)  
with his parents and siblings*

Leonard Kaufmann gave a Seudah speech to the members of his synagogue. It was given in memory of his late brother Kurt. July 25<sup>th</sup> 2018 will mark the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death at Auschwitz. It contained excerpts from a book the only living member of the family that saved him from the Nazis was writing. An abridged version of the talk was published in the AJR (Association of Jewish Refugees) Journal.

"...After a lot of research I found out that most of my family died in 1942. My parents in Riga in Latvia, my maternal grandparents who lived with us - June and August 1942 in Theresienstadt and my sister, all that I could ascertain, lost somewhere in the East.

Nachamu – Comfort is what I received from the wonderful family who saved my life and

gave me love, stability, a purpose in life and comfort.

When thinking about what I would say at the Seudah, 2 lines from Shakespeare's Julius Caesar came to mind from Mark Anthony's speech at Caesar's funeral:

*The evil that men does lives after them,*

*The good is oft interred with their bones*

These statements may be true of some but I always sing the praises of the wonderful people who saved my life. They were Alice and Angus Ronald Argles and they had seven children of their own. The youngest being Margaret the only one of the immediate family still alive and who now lives in Australia. We are still in constant contact and she refers to me as her Jewish brother... Margaret is writing a book about her family and below are some extracts:

"Mum and Dad were very active in Toc H. Most of its work was involved with the betterment of children, and I think that was their incentive to work so hard. In 1938 Toc H opened a Jewish Refugee hostel in Manchester called Kersher House. Dad heard about Arthur Israel, later known as Isdale and asked him to run it – to which he gladly agreed.

Uncle Arthur, as he became lovingly known to all my family, was a very special person and we all loved him dearly. He had obtained a visa to come to England to sell a new fascinating product. It was a bar of soap with a picture on it, which never came off, whilst being used. He started going round Germany saying goodbye to his numerous relatives but was picked up by the Gestapo and ended up in a concentration camp. The visa saved him and he managed to get out.

First he went to Scotland thinking that with his experience with cattle he would easily get employment there as in Germany the family were cattle dealers. This however never materialised. He then came to Manchester to try and find some other gainful employment. He told mum that he had a cousin Hedy Oppenheimer in Vienna in her last year of medical school but could not finish her degree and had to get out of Austria - could they help? Hedy arrived to live with us late 1938.

Uncle Arthur visited Sharpcliffe Hall quite often and on one occasion told Mum that he had a sister in Germany, who had three children, He had managed sponsors for the two older teenagers but could not get a sponsor for the baby Leo" - that was me.

They immediately said that they would be sponsoring about 15 others but Dad tried very hard to also sponsor the two older teenagers to be with their baby brother. But this



*Sharpcliffe Hall as it is today*

could not be arranged, it was too late. Ironically the two older ones never escaped Germany.

Mum and Dad paid £50 per sponsor to the Government to guarantee that they would not be a burden on the state. £50 in 1939 must be the equivalent of about £83,000 today. I think in all my parents actually sponsored about 30 children. Dad managed to find homes for some of them and supplemented the expenses and we kept ten at Sharpcliffe. It would not have mattered if they were black, white, yellow, Christian, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim or Buddhist. They were all innocent children.

I remember well Mum and Dad going down to London in the spring of 1939. They were going to Tower Hill, the Toc H headquarters, to pick up Uncle Arthur's nephew. The following morning when we arrived down for breakfast we met not only Leo but also Trudy and Fritz Kerpen, Hannelore and Liselotto Goldshmit, Rolf and Max Koningsberg, Later on we also had Klaus Carp who was 14, and twin boys – one named Gunther who went to live with a farmer. As we could not accommodate all these children, Hannelore went to a doctor's house in Leek, Trudy went as a maid also in Leek, and she visited Fritzzy regularly. As for Leo, mum would never have allowed anyone to take him from her. Mum and Dad decided that Leo was a very German name and wanted to make life in England as easy as possible for him. I was a great fan of Mickey Mouse, so I called him Mickey; I hope he believed that – it had nothing to do with his big ears!

He was born in April 7th 1935 so was only 4 years old when he joined our family. At the time he didn't actually know his true date of birth so we always celebrated around Easter time. He was a lovely looking little boy with most beautiful big black eyes. He was noisy, boisterous and loved teasing Nippy the dog. How he never got bitten I cannot imagine except that Nippy very quickly learned to avoid the newcomer to all costs.

Mickey was a very unhappy little boy when he joined our family. He cried non-stop. Mum used to nurse him to sleep every night before putting him into bed. Each morning he woke up crying 'Ich will miene leibe mutter'. After a few weeks mum went in to get him up and he sat up in bed and said in very guttural English 'Goood morning Mummy'. From then on he was a happy little boy. I know now that he remembers none of this traumatic stage in his life. I was far too young to know what he had suffered but now I am grateful that I did not have to be parted from my family and never see them again.

When Mickey turned five Miss Rayner decided to offer him a free education in the private school that I attended. It really was a very generous offer as she and her sister made very little income from their tiny school. Being able to attend such a small school with individual attention, gave him the advantage of learning a new language and him be so special. We were treated as brother and sister!

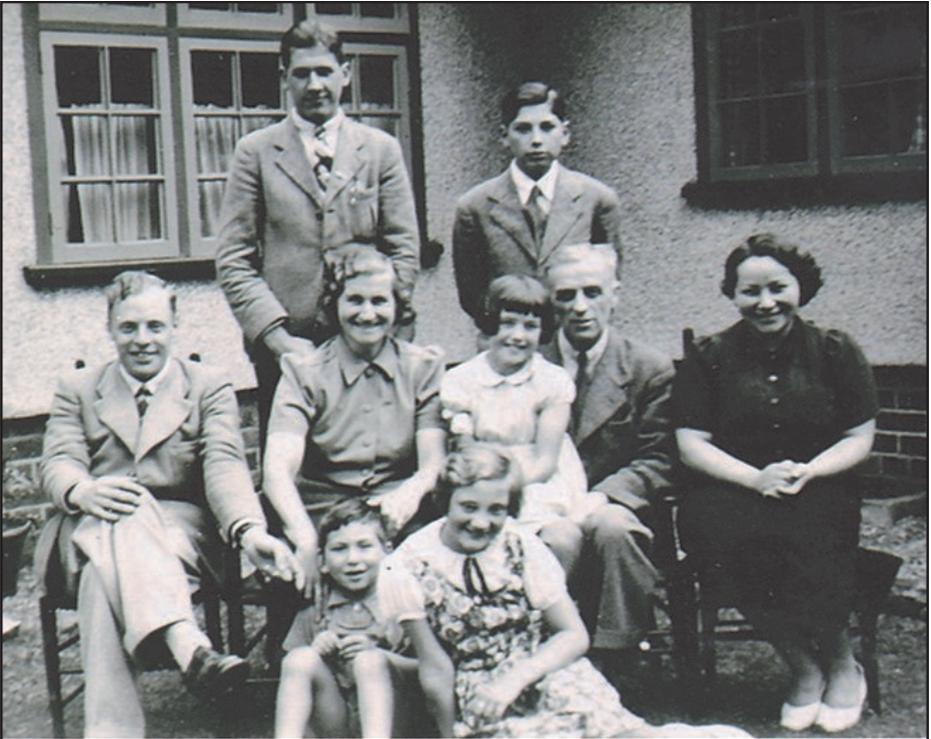
During the holidays Mickey and I often went to stay at Kersher House with Uncle Arthur. It was a beautiful large old house with rambling gardens. We had great fun there and could do no wrong. We were both very spoilt with the attention from everyone. Looking back I am surprised mum let us leave the safety of Sharpcliffe. Manchester skies were filled with barrage balloons and did eventually get quite a bombing.

I don't know exactly when Mickey was taken from us but I think it was 1944. I had already started school at Abbots Bromley and one holiday when got home all the Jewish children had moved on and we had evacuees. Uncle Arthur had heard that Mum wanted to adopt Mickey so he took him away to a Jewish Refugee

hostel in Withington, Manchester. Being his only surviving relative, apart from Hedy and us not being Jewish, he felt he had good reason to take him from us. Mum was very upset and thought he could at least have stayed until the war was over. She fretted for quite some time. Mickey kept in touch and always thought of her as Mum. She loved him as much - probably more - than any of her own children. He was very special as she was to him.

In January 1961 mum and I were invited to Mickey's wedding in London to Ruth Icgison. It was the most beautiful wedding that I have ever attended. Uncle Arthur made my mother the guest of honour and said that if it would not have been for her love, kindness and affection this wedding would not be taking place today...."

So there you have it. Nachamu, Nachamu - comfort, comfort. These are some of the many unsung heroes of this world and their good is not interred with their bones and lives after them..." Regards Leonard (Leo) Kaufmann



*Family photo with Margaret Soutor (their daughter who now lives in Australia), myself, another Jewish girl called Liesel, and at the far right a cousin of my late mother Hedi Oppenheimer, who had been studying medicine before she was thrown out of university.*

# The Tale of The Brandon Bench

## *Peter Callaghan*

In the 1970s Brandon in Suffolk had a thriving Toc H branch. They raised money from various activities, including their own band, known as The Ignobles. They provided several benches placed throughout the town but sadly, most were removed over the years, leaving just one bench in Brandon cemetery. Inevitably, it had worn considerably over the years.



The one remaining Toc H Bench in Brandon, - age had most certainly wearied it!!

Last year one of the ground staff, Paul, decided that he would take on the renovation of the bench. The old wood was removed and the concrete supports were repaired. Paul managed to source the original hardwood, orico, from a local timber merchant and the result is an impressive renovation.



What an amazing alteration - the years had definitely not condemned this, now welcoming, seat!



On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April a small ceremony was held to rededicate the bench. The last remaining members of the original branch attended. Charlie Wharf gave a short speech and the members recited the prayer which was always used at the close of branch meetings. Charlie then officially inaugurated the bench.



Shame about the weather but the spirit of Toc H was certainly fine and buoyant!!

Charlie, along with Shirley Bishop and Ann Harrison, both original members, took their seats!

From left to right:  
Shirley Bishop  
Ann Harrison  
Bill Bishop  
Charlie Wharf  
Peter Ridgwell



The renovation was carried out by Brandon Town Council and Charlie donated the brass plaque. Many thanks to all involved and to Peter Callaghan and Alison Barnes for the article and photographs.

## **Toc H in Moseley, Birmingham**

### ***Josie Wall (continued from Spring 2018)***



*Josie works as an Operation and Volunteer assistant for the Coffin Works in Birmingham whilst studying for her PhD.*

*This article is based on information from the Toc H archives held at the Cadbury Research Library and an interview with Doug and Hilary Geater Childs who were Toc H Moseley volunteers in the late 70s.*

A group Toc H worked closely with in the early 70's was the travelling community, lobbying the council to provide permanent sites for them. Toc H knew that the lack of legal sites caused many problems for families, one of which was that it was nearly impossible to send children to school. With the constant threat of eviction, a child might return home from school to find the vans gone; if the family waited it would lose their home by staying behind to wait for the children.

Toc H would use their 3 week playschemes as a chance to teach the children the basics of reading, on the understanding that if those staying on the site were evicted during the day they would manage to reunite the family. This was difficult in a pre-mobile phone era but they did have a contact to call who could help find out which direction the vans had been taken in. Toc H also manned traveller sites with independent observers and campaigned for the change in legislation that led to the creation of the 12 van site at Castle Bromwich under the motorway.

Sadly, the community faced a lot of prejudice around healthcare as well as education. One of the girls at the Druids Heath site, called Maggie, was injured by falling into a campfire on the Friday and by Monday when Hilary came to collect her the burn was going septic. One of the older women asked Hilary to take her to the hospital, to avoid the whole clan going with her and 'causing a riot'. The older woman stayed at the camp to 'deal with the parents' so Hilary took another girl called Winnie along to keep Maggie company. The hospital wait could have been a disaster with the girls getting bored and upset, reacting to the hostility and prejudice. Sadly, it wasn't until Hilary mentioned that her brother was a doctor that

anyone would agree to see them.

Both Hilary and Doug agreed that working with Toc H often puts you on 'the other side of the tracks' and that this perspective can be valuable. A change of perspective was also what Toc H tried to offer through the Birmingham Outward Group which was founded by Jerry Norman, a resident at Mark VI who was a probation officer. The idea was to take children from underprivileged backgrounds (some of whom were in trouble, but not all) and give them experience of the countryside and the great outdoors. Lots of weekends were spent doing outdoor activities and the group ran until the 90s. When Hilary was involved, her staff vehicle was a minibus she described as 'lethal', which often had to be stoked with oil as it was driven to prevent breakdowns and was once observed rolling from lane to lane on the motorway *en route* to a Toc H sports day in London!

It was the era of Toc H Projects that involved a huge number of young volunteers. On one occasion a group of volunteers returned from a trip to Long Mynd near Church Stretton with something they found on the walk which rolled around the minibus and made a clonking noise. They were staying in a Community Centre and the next day when the object which been used as a pillow in the night, was spotted it turned out to be an unexploded shell! Unsure of what to do, the shell was taken to the local police station – much to the horror of the desk sergeant, who turned white when it was placed on the counter! Luckily the shell was disposed of without incident and Toc H were later able to make up for event by providing blankets for evacuees from the community centre in an unrelated bomb scare!

Toc H is also an organisation with a light-hearted attitude at times, which once made the group a familiar part of Moseley life. Some of you may remember a game known as 'Chinese Fire Drills'. The game usually involved a car, which had stopped at a red light. Upon stopping, the passengers would jump out of the car, and runs around it shouting 'Fire, Fire, Fire!' and try to get back in before the light turned green. The team from Mark VI had their own version, played on the way back from Moseley Road Baths. Instead they would run around a lamppost! Once while playing, they were stopped by a policeman who asked "What's going on?" to which they responded "We're from Toc H", and the policeman replied "Ah! Say no more," and allowed them to continue on their way. Clearly the reputation of Toc H had preceded them!

## The Queen's Garden Party



Toc H was privileged to be invited to send two representatives with a guest each to Buckingham Palace again in May.

This year we choose two of the Board observers, Maria Beevers who was accompanied by her mother and Andy Spindley accompanied by his wife, Jayne. Andy sent us a wealth of photos



## Letters of Thanks

***It is so nice to hear that folk appreciated the last edition of In Touch , so we thought we should share a couple of the letters with you. In turn, we thank all of you who got in touch to say you appreciated it, either by letter, e-mail or phone!!***

"I really enjoyed the Toc H in Moseley, Birmingham article. I was a tenant at Mark VI, 6 Wake Green Road on different time periods in 1973, once occupying the top, dormer room. I remember the activities there well. I did move out and in with Wayne at 26 Wake Green Road, but Mark VI was the centre of our activities.

I sent a copy to Wayne who says he will be re-joining Toc H. I hope he does.

Those early 70's were such an adventurous time in our lives. It is no wonder we ended up getting arrested on a number of occasions. Crazy Americans I suppose, of course a Mr. John Mitchell had a thing or two to do with our circumstances. Looking back on those times I can say I had no idea what I was getting into.

Hillary, I remember your activity in Balsall Heath, the crypt at St. Chad's Cathedral, soup runs, adventure playgrounds, Dor Knap and so much more. I still communicate with David and Clive.

It is heart warming to see how programs transformed with some continuing today.

Hilary, to me you are a kindred spirit. Your soul is evidenced by a long legacy with Toc H which I continue to enjoy to this day, almost fifty years later.

All my best, *Dan Irving*

I received my magazine today and I would like to congratulate you on an excellent booklet, it has some of the most interesting articles I have every read about Toc H.

Keep up the good work, *Derek Ridgway*

## Introducing the new Member of Toc H Staff based in Scotland



Hi everyone, my name is Shona Peattie and I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. I have been a part of Toc H on a voluntary basis for the past 32 years so I feel that Toc H is part of my extended family.

I have three grown up children, Rebekah, Joshua and Hannah and a lovely border collie, Tara, who are at times all involved with our branch activities.

My parents, Graham and Agnes Peattie have been my inspiration to follow in their footsteps in the paths of Toc H as a way of life, through friendship, fair-mindedness, service and witness. We are all Elders of our local Church of Scotland, Denny Westpark . These are the same halls where we meet every Thursday with our Denny Toc H Disabled Club. This club was started nearly 50 years ago and has a current weekly attendance of between 70-90 friends (ranging from 16 - 80+ years old!)

Some of the other groups I help with in our villages are sports and leisure for the disabled, elderly and teen groups; help with young families and people with addictions, loneliness and financial restraints.

All this was previously done on a voluntary basis whilst working a full-time post which I can now work with through my new role and with the volunteers I can enrol.

Recently I was a Support Practitioner (Carer) and previous to that I worked as a travel agent for 30 years. I had gathered many useful skills and qualities to help assist me in this new and exciting role to further the good work and name of Toc H, such as excellent communication skills, problem solving, inter-personal skills, patience, compassion, team building, to name but a few.

Working with the volunteers we have and with others joining us all the time, my plans are to start new Toc H branches throughout Scotland and to help rebuild our great movement Toc H. To spread the word of the excellent work we do for others less fortunate than ourselves.

One of my visions is to see much more true inclusion for all, especially for people with disabilities, elderly, young, those fighting addictions and to look out for and include others no matter their social standing. To re-build their confidence and ability within their own limits to feel valued and part of our communities.

On that note, I have also been working closely with two young people in our community with disabilities who are looking to gain employment. They both needed help to rebuild their confidence after some bad experiences in the working world. Both are now enrolled in college courses to gain more skills and confidence and they both love their volunteering hours with our groups and have benefitted greatly from the fellowships they have been welcomed into.

Having many great contacts in my own area and many friends gathered over the years in places visited and worked in, I am confident that I can make a difference in our vision to promote and continue the great work started by our forefathers in the name of Toc H.

I look forward to updating you of my progress in our next In Touch and thank you in advance for your support and prayers for these exciting new times ahead for our movement of Toc H.

God bless everyone,

Shona

## Enemy war veterans who are now friends reunite

By [Tom Oakley](#) | [Staffordshire](#) | [News](#) | Published: Jun 4, 2018

Former war enemies, now friends, (left) Graham Stevenson, aged 93, of Walsall, and Karl Fredrich Koenig, aged 94, of Germany, at Cannock Chase German Military Cemetery



As they are today

### **Graham Stevenson**

They fought against each other in the African desert in 1943.

The pair met at Cannock Chase War Cemetery and will be heading off together to Normandy for the D-Day landings anniversary. They didn't even know that they had come into contact in Tunisia during the Second World War, when the British and opposition tanks came up against one another – with Mr Stevenson's tank on the right flank and Mr Koenig's on the left.

"Who knows if we came up against each other? We couldn't have been too far away," said Mr Stevenson.

"The first time we met in Nottingham at the regimental annual reunion and dinner. Karl was looking at an artist's impression of the battle and I pointed at the tank nearest and said 'that was my tank – number 24'. He said 'well I was on the left flank'.

"I said well it's a bloody good job we missed then!"

Mr Stevenson was just 16 when he signed up and was a machine gunner for the Sherwood Ranger Yeomanry Tank Regiment and went on to fight in Normandy—before being hit by gun fire, which saw the end of his service.

Mr Koenig was part of the German 21st Panzer Division and his war came to an end in May 1943. He was captured by the Americans and

became a prisoner of war until 1947 in the US, Belgium and England. He said: "I became a PoW in Africa after the campaign ended.

"When I came back from captivity, we German soldiers were in some places considered the scum of the earth, because they thought that we were aware of what had happened in the concentration camps. This is not the truth.

"On the contrary, of course they had to keep it hush-hush otherwise we would not have fought. I remember that we were all convinced that we had to fight for our country. My whole class volunteered except for a Danish fellow and two Jewish fellows. I was 18 at the time and I tried to get accepted when I was 17. It was a question of pride and honour."

In 1991, Mr Koenig was invited to become an honorary member of the Sherwood Rangers Old Comrades' Association. He had sought out Ken Ewing – a crew mate and friend of Mr Stevenson – who was head of the southern branch of the group.

More than 15 years later, Mr Koenig always wears a Sherwood Rangers beret and now they are the only two left of the group. After meeting on yearly basis over the past decade or so, this could be the last time they both meet.



American Heather Steele, of the World War Two History Project, has been crowdfunding to produce a film detailing their story. Mr Stevenson said: "The only positive thing that can come out of war is when the enemy can become friends. It seems funny that we were such a small company that me and Ken Ewing were in the same tank."

Mr Koenig says: "I consider being a Sherwood Ranger as an honour." He added "Ken Ewing was first person I ever contacted and became like a brother.

"What I want is that people should get to know each other, understand each other and respect each other. And if possible, become friends. "That is what I have on my mind all the time. I have been considering this as my mission. The German people were demoralised and by re-education – some of them – became so full of animosity against us veterans.

"I had the wish and dream that through my work at least some of the young German people would see the light and have the intention to learn the truth about history.

"But apparently it was wishful thinking and doesn't work. So I lost my country – and my countrymen. My life seems to be useless."

To mark the 75th anniversary of their fight in the desert, the World War Two History Project has launched the crowdfunding campaign.

To find out more and to donate head online

to [www.indiegogo.com/projects/former-enemies-best-friends-friendship-peace](http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/former-enemies-best-friends-friendship-peace)

## **In Touch magazine**

This edition had a great number of submissions and we have extended its size to include most of them. However we were still unable to fit them all in and are holding some for the next edition.

This is produced three times a year,  
the last date for submission of articles  
is the end of

**February, June and October**

***Please keep the articles flooding in!!***

## Congratulations to The Afro Boys

NHS South West Yorkshire Partnership hosted the 2018 European Association for Sport and Social Integration (EASI) 'World Cup' on 11- 15 June in Barnsley. It was a 7-a-side inclusive football tournament.

By using sports and leisure activities as the underlying method, EASI hopes to form an association of European rehabilitation projects for people with experience of mental health problems. Hannah Burton of SW Yorks NHS Foundation Trust and her team hosted a football competition which was won by the 'Afro Boys' (see In Touch Autumn 2016) who looked resplendent in the Toc H sponsored strip. Toc H also sponsored the hire of the Mencap minibus for the duration of the tournament.

Thanks to NHS South West Yorkshire Partnership, Hannah and the 'Afro Boys' for all their efforts, enthusiasm and success.



The Afro Boys in their Toc H Kit (2016)

## A Really Special Experience

*The latest Tubby's Tour had a great impact on its youngest participant.....*

I want to say a thank you for the opportunity to go to Belgium with Toc H. It meant a lot to me and it was a fantastic opportunity to understand the sacrifices the soldiers in the 1st and 2nd World Wars made for future generations.

One of the best bits for me about the holiday was being able to go see my Great-great Grandad's grave, Pt. Gordon Graham. This was a very emotional and the most extraordinary moment in my life so far.

I also want to thank Andy and all the people on the bus when we went to see him because it was not planned and I had not expected to be able to go there and every single person helped me in some way that day. Thank you.

I am very grateful for the fact we went as I was the first member of his family to have found his grave and managed to pay my respects to him there. We found out that he had been a prisoner of war as the cemetery where he rests was under German occupation.

In conclusion, I want to thank Toc H for allowing me to go on this trip as I thoroughly enjoyed and made some new lifelong friends.

Sincerely,

Daniel Marshall, Denny Toc H youngest member, aged only 20 (brought up in the family of Toc H)



### ***Further Editorial Comment:-***

As we have put this magazine together we found that the combined articles really do reflect Terry's Editorial. From Leo Kaufman's article which acknowledges the horror of war and the need to see what good can still be forthcoming to the hope expressed in Ronnie Allen's news about Lugton, and the possibility of a new branch there!

# Cenotaph Veteran's Parade 2018

## URGENT!!!!

*Danny and Shona have already expressed their interest in taking part and we would really like for them to be part of a full contingent of 20 on this very special year!!*

It is an early start with a fair amount of standing but everyone who takes part says it is a truly memorable experience and this year promises to be very special indeed. Let's fill those places but once names have gone in it is a true commitment to take part!

Toc H has applied for and received 20 tickets to Cenotaph Veteran's Parade in Whitehall on Sunday 11 November 2018. This year marks the centenary of the signing of the Armistice in 1918 so the demand for tickets is expected to be higher than normal and the deadlines for submission of participants names has been brought forward. If you wish to be considered as a participant please contact the Central Office by 13<sup>th</sup> August.

Due to security requirements imposed by Metropolitan Police individual security checks will be conducted on all participants. Therefore basic personal information (such as title, full name, home address, date and place of birth) will need to be provided in advance.

Tickets will be sent in October by post along with joining instructions for the day. Ticket holders will then need to bring both photographic ID and a document showing proof of address with them to access Horse Guards Parade via manned Police entry points on the day.



*We will remember them !*

Doris Chettle  
John Pendleton  
John Anderson  
Joy Bretton  
Samuel John Rudd

*Age shall not weary them*

In memory of James Patrick of Denny

***We will remember him.....***

We held a service of thanksgiving for life of **James Patrick** on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018. **James** was a friend of Denny Toc H Disabled Club who was a joy and a treasure to us all. Born 29<sup>th</sup> January 1945 and passed away peacefully after a short illness on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

**James** loved to travel in the front seat of our minibus beside the driver and co-pilot, and he would lock up the minibus for us. He also took very serious his duties of looking after tea trolley every Thursday night. He always had a story to tell you and got all excited if he met you in the town.

When at church on Sundays he loved The Lord's Prayer and with help from his volunteers, he learned to recite it. He took great delight in telling everyone of this, especially our new minister, Kipchumba, when he arrived with us. This was known to bring tears to your eyes as he would stop you in the street, clasp his hands and bow his head to recite it, perfectly.

He will be sadly missed by all his friends at Denny Toc H.

God bless you **James** and thanks for the memories.

"All in Toc H" by Graham Peattie, Chairman, Denny Branch

## News from Cosby Branch

I am pleased to report that Doug Fairgrieve is keeping relatively well and with us every week.

Our other stalwart, Jim Cooper, had a fall down stairs a couple of months but I'm pleased to report he is managing to get to meetings again.

We had our "now annual" St. George's Day lunch at Leicester College on 26<sup>th</sup> April when 30 members and friends attended.

June 2<sup>nd</sup> saw us holding our coffee morning for Mablethorpe Children's Holiday home.

Our annual BBQ was on 15<sup>th</sup> June and was well attended.

We are holding a Table Top Sale on 7<sup>th</sup> July and we trust it will be a success. At least 16 groups have purchased tables so we hope the weather stays fine for it!

On the 12<sup>th</sup> July we will hold our Pimms Evening for Friends of Khasdobir.

After much deliberating, we have purchased a banner to advertise ourselves and I'm sure it will help when we hold events.

Anne Frew



# Refugee

She's one more in a throng of lost humanity  
Fleeing from war's man-made calamity  
Her house made rubble by random shell  
Witness to horrors she cannot tell  
Bearing her wounded child too weak to walk  
Silent among others too numb to talk  
Her legs grow weaker and she falls  
amidst the debris of broken walls  
The child she carries faintly cries  
One last gasp and her baby dies

Close by the woman hears a young girl scream  
As in a nightmare but it is no dream  
Don't please don't her mother pleads  
But she can't stop them from their deeds  
And is silenced with a single shot

In London or New York  
Or Paris or Beijing  
As in a universe far away  
In a world where their power holds sway  
Are men in suits from Saville Row or such  
Men seemingly with Midas touch  
Men of different sentiment  
Whose profit is from armament  
Fermenting wars where there are no winners  
Except...

"To us"

the men in suits raise their glasses in a toast  
as if to celebrate another ghost -  
or a hundred or a thousand more  
They toast their earnings now off shore  
and plan to profit from yet another war

The woman sits too numb to stir  
All feeling has now deserted her  
Two drug fuelled soldiers  
one still just a boy



whooping with licentious joy  
Come to claim her and it's now too late  
She can't escape her awful  
but inevitable fate

The men in suits go separate ways  
As they do on other days  
Do they not realize what they've done  
By profiting from shell and gun?  
They smile and bid each one adieu  
Do they not realise?  
but then,  
Do you?



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## Leonard Kaufman - Part 2

.....So there you have it. Nachamu, Nachamu - comfort, comfort. Mr Argles was asked why he did what he did. His answer was because 'God gave him the means to do so'.

Before I finish I just want to read to you what our youngest granddaughter wrote after the class was told to write a small piece about something or somebody that had made a difference to their life. Headed Mrs Alice Argles: "The person who's surely made a difference in my life must be a lady who saved my Grandpa from the Nazis in Germany. If he had not been saved I would not be writing this today. Her name was Alice Argles and she was a member of an association called Toc H, which helped to children from the Nazis in Germany. She vowed to look after my Grandpa, who at the time was only four years old and paid £50 as a guarantee. After the Night of Broken Glass when all the synagogues were burned to the ground, Jewish shops smashed and Jewish books destroyed, the Parliament in London had a debate and allowed children up to the age of 17 to come to England. A lot of children came by train and boat and this became known as The Kindertransport. Some children went to Jewish hostels, which were set up, and some went to families. I know my Grandpa stayed with this family until he was eleven years old. He is still in contact with one of the daughters named Margaret who now lives in Australia. So surely Mrs Argles must be the person who made a difference in my life."

## The Latest Tubby's Tour

Tubby's Tours had the most fulfilling trip to Belgium, this June.

Members from Scotland, Barnsley, Gloucestershire and Birmingham all met up to visit the battle fields of Belgium.

For some of us the sight of the white cliffs of Dover was awe-inspiring and the journey to Ypres was filled with the reminiscences of those who had been before which the first timers found inspiring. Andy warned us there would be some WOW moments!

Our hotel was family run and had a marble staircase and windowsills. We then had our first glimpse of the Menin Gate – what a moving experience to see it so widely attended by all age groups. We enjoyed a lovely meal all together sharing what had inspired us to join the trip– each person had their own story to tell.

Tuesday saw us head off to Poperinge to visit the Old House – Talbot House. We all got something different out of this visit. For the two Dans and me it was our first visit and it did not fail to impress. The garden was so peaceful and The Upper Room was even more special than I had imagined it to be. God was with us there, my two favourite biblical readings were bookmarked in the two Bibles on display – this was a WOW moment for me!

We visited Execution Platz to pay our respects to those who had suffered shell shock and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Thankfully this is a recognised illness now but those poor souls were shot at dawn for desertion instead of given help and support.

After time in the Talbot House garden we visited the grave of Cpt. Noel Chavasse VC, Bar MC. The most highly decorated British Officer in the 1st World War. It was an honour to see his two military crosses at Brandhoek New Military Cemetery. His gravestone has John 15:13 inscribed. *Greater love hath no one than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

Some of the group then went on to see the Toc H Pool of Peace with its beautiful lilies and such comforting quietness.



Back in Ieper for The Menin Gate ceremony which was both moving and emotional and something that will live with us for the rest of our lives, a fitting tribute to those who fell but whose final resting place is unknown.

On Wednesday Pamela and Jean chose to stay in Ypres and visit the Cloth Museum whilst the rest of the group went to visit Vimy Ridge, the Canadian National Memorial. The first sight of the simplicity and beauty of this massive memorial was another WOW moment! Whilst it looked nearly new it was completed in 1936 after 11 years of construction!

The museum on the site of the underground trenches and tunnels was interesting and moving containing letters from families of men who were never to return. We also experienced the sensory exhibition with all the beautiful glass sculptures. Each sculpture had a fragrant war flower to sample each linked to a memory - mother's love, healing, devotion, eternal sleep, resolve to win and familial war.

As we were in the Douai Hills, we took this opportunity to try to locate the grave of Danny's Great-great Grandad and we found it in a community cemetery. It was a very moving experience for Danny and he will remember that day for the rest of his life. The feeling of camaraderie amongst the group to make this special for Danny was very much the spirit of all that is Toc H.

That evening at the Menin Gate, we needed to say our thanks. The Welsh Choir sang a beautiful version of 'We Will Remember Them'. WOW moment again!

Next day we visited Railway Wood then on our last full day we explored the artefacts and preserved trenches at Hill 62 before visiting Langemark German Cemetery which gave us an insight to the stark differences in how they pay tribute to their dead. The Peace Memorial was visited here, made from the metal retrieved from the battlefields and constructed by 26 master blacksmiths from around the world . We also visited the Brooding Soldier statue, The French National Memorial and Montay Neuville Rd Cemetery and Cambrai for all those missing.

Our group all came from different backgrounds and decades and from all four corners of the UK. We did this in the true spirit of Toc H – a spirit of friendship to all. I would highly recommend this trip to all, you won't regret it.

Shona Peattie, on behalf of the group  
4th-8th June 2018



# Take a place — Make a Community!!!

*That is what two Toc H folk dreamt of—find folk with similar principles and as Shona would say.... "WOW"! Ronnie Allen writes:-*

Here in Lugton a new project has started which is bringing the village community together. Only 80 people live here and we have a pub, 'The Canny Man' but no school, no shops, no village hall and no church.

One other thing we do have is a defunct red telephone kiosk and therein lies our story.

A few residents of Lugton put their heads together to come up with a plan to save the kiosk, make good use of it and to get people to meet and work together toward a common goal.

The telephone kiosk is going to house a defibrillator and first responders are going to teach us how to use it. Not only that but that tiny space will also become a library with shelves full of books to borrow. So the plan is to raise money for the defibrillator, for the teaching, for brackets for hanging baskets around Lugton, for shelving and for generally making our village somewhere to be really proud of.



Lots of local businesses have come forward to help. The Canny Man is loaning a back room for the training, a local garden centre has provided 8 hanging baskets with plants and more plants to fill new council planters too. They are also donating a bench to sit beside the kiosk.

Someone else is providing yellow and green paint and changing the wording from "telephone" to "defibrillator".

A man from East Ayrshire Council arrived today and took a good look around. He will get someone to take the glass out so we can paint the kiosk and will then replace with new glass. He said they will tile the floor, erect a "Welcome



to Lugton" sign, put a litter bin nearby and clean and repaint the children's playpark!

Still more businesses have donated money to the tune of one thousand pounds. We are now halfway to our target. This is so exciting.

Jim and I are lending a hand with rubbing down the paintwork and Jim is looking to see if he can build the shelves that are needed. We were so enthused with this project that we made Toc H generally known with its ethos of bringing communities together and immediately received 4 enthusiastic messages from would-be new members. Here is a branch in the making!

Some residents are interested in a big party on the green so everyone can get to know one another better. Sounds a great idea. There is also a car treasure hunt being organised to help raise more funds. It is incredible how such a small idea can escalate, growing arms and legs to include and utilise the skills and ideas and energy of our small community. People are going round hugging each other. They are so joyful.

In the next issue of In Touch I will be giving you an update on progress made with the branch and the project and any other news we may have. Enjoy your beautiful Summer.

Love to all,

Jim and Ronnie.



**Lugton Update:** Since Ronnie wrote the article they have been busy sharing the watering of the hanging baskets, preparing and painting the phonebox, trying to find a missing cat, planning a community garden, organising a community party. There is a Facebook group of 48 to ease communication. One of the large panes of glass is to be engraved with the Toc H name and logo, so Toc H has definitely arrived in Lugton!!

## Cover Picture ~ Appeal for help!!



The two banners featured on the cover are very special in that, not only are they large, they are made of silk and are truly beautiful. They would have represented their countries at The Royal Albert Hall rallies where every branch paraded with their banner and they filled that huge arena.

All Toc H banners that are no longer in use are being held by the National Needlework Archive where they can be stored correctly and thus preserved. Decay through time can be slowed down, but many need some restoration. The most urgent are these two and it is a very specialist job.



During our Centenary year in which we will celebrate the first explorative meeting of Toc H as a civilian organisation in 1919, we have commissioned a play that will be put on around the country and we hope that an exhibition of some of the banners will accompany the play. Our hope is to include these two banners but if this is to happen we need to invest in their restoration and invite donations towards the costs which are extensive (estimated cost in excess of £1,000 each). So if you can please be generous!

There are many banners that need restoration and it is hoped to hold a workshop week for seamstresses under the tutorage of the Archivists. ***Is anyone interested???*** Responses to Central Office.

## Apology

Many thanks to all of you who responded to the Privacy Notice and corrected your Date of Birth. The mistake was in relying on technology which switched correctly entered DOBs in the American format which places the month before the date—oops SORRY!!

# Awakening

© Barry Broadmeadow

Walking the lanes wrapped in thought,  
I am awakened by crows calling,  
Echoing over the silent fields.  
I wonder what guides them  
As they drift and wheel in the timeless sky.  
They fly together on missions of their own.  
I remember their sound when I was young,  
They continue to cry amongst high trees  
Which are their roosts.  
They inhabit the land in a careless fashion,  
Yet they are the true keepers.  
Theirs is immortality of a kind not shaken  
By conquest or managed criteria  
But dwell without thought of tomorrow.  
Their instincts are well based  
And they survive with abundant proof.  
Their black coats serve them well,  
Although some men view them with foreboding.  
Sometimes they get shot at which makes them wary  
But mostly they ignore the trappings of comfort.  
They would rather go on raids together,  
And enjoy a good flight in their terrain.  
I enjoy the never ending calls out of reach  
Of the grasp of human divisions and possessions.

## London District – Events for 2018

**London Walk – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September** - Come and help or get sponsorship for your charity/Friends of Khasdobir.

**Toc H AGM – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October** – in Birmingham. - Venue as last year. Lunch at 1pm. Lift from Redbridge Station. At 10am

**London “Quiet Day” – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October** – at All Hallows Church - 10:30am. ‘Bring & Share Lunch’. £5 donation for All Hallows.

**Toc H Carol Service – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2pm** – All Hallows. Possibly a “Bring & Share Lunch”

**World Chain of Light – Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December – 12 noon**

# NATIONAL PRAYER CYCLE

Prepared by William Bestelink

## ***Friendship – To love widely***

Think of all members in Britain and overseas,  
Trustees and others running Toc H,  
and all who are ill, isolated or housebound.

## ***Service – To build bravely***

Think of the work that Branches conduct  
and for Toc H centres,  
Khasdobir and the changes to their work.

## ***Fair-mindedness – To think fairly***

Think of all working for peace in the world, as the  
centenary of the end of The Great War approaches,  
and for refugees and others suffering from war today.

## ***Witness – To witness humbly***

Think of Talbot House and all visiting it this year,  
We remember the heritage of Toc H's service to others and  
for ways of encouraging others by our service.



July 2018

## 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:

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