

# Summer



# 2017

Charity No 211042  
SC045491



## IN TOUCH

FRIENDSHIP SERVICE FAIRMINDEDNESS WITNESS

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

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## Summer 2017



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### EDITORIAL

#### **Reflection not anger – a response to atrocities**

The terrible events on London Bridge on June 3<sup>rd</sup> were a reminder that there are those in our society that are alienated from the wider community for various reasons including the effects of radicalization by Islamic extremists. The fact that it followed on the atrocities on Westminster Bridge and in Manchester added to the critical responses of many people.

In this context, it is all too easy to fall into a trap that wants vengeance on the many for the acts of the few.

A negative and angry response is to be expected, it is important that we are careful and do not fall into the trap.

It is perhaps ironic that the attacks occurred on the eve of the Christian Feast of Pentecost when the Church celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit in tongues of flame. In the Acts of the Apostles we read of the disciples speaking in many languages:

*"And how is that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs - in our own language we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power"*

London like Birmingham, Manchester and other cities in the twenty first century is a city of many languages, we need only to listen to the voices of many people in different cities to realise this is the truth.

In contrast following any atrocity there are many words spoken which are often not of hope or joy but of hate and are in some ways a mirror image of those spoken by those who seek to bring terror. The philosopher Wittgenstein is often attributed with the following:

*'Whereof one cannot speak, one must remain silent'*

The many words that are spoken after terror incidents can both be helpful and affirming or on occasion be the opposite. Anger can lead to words that reflect an instinct to hit back at those who might seem to represent the assumed culture of the perpetrators. The calls for capital punishment for instance may be well meant and reflect a gut instinct to terror, they can also incite the worst in even the best people. *It is in these cases where silence becomes the better option.*

At a vigil held at London's City Hall on the Monday after the attack the gathering was an example of people from across the community coming together for a mix of speeches and silence. The image and reports of the gathering of Iman's and Rabbi's on the following Wednesday held at the cordon on London Bridge was a sign of solidarity and hope in which silence combined with a few words constituted a sign of shared commitment that is rooted in a belief of the humanity we share. *These were men and women of faith though could have been joined by people of no faith other than of a belief in the sister/brotherhood of humanity.*

The words of Wittgenstein are a reminder that there will be occasions where silence is an answer to the many words that can be spoken which might best be left unsaid.

The image of a dove is often seen to represent peace, following atrocities it is to the image of a dove of peace that we should look with hope, all terror attacks need to be followed by a mix of language that speaks of hope and community. It is also a time for the image of the dove of peace.

The message of Toc H is encapsulated in the Four Points of the Compass and in good times and bad they offer an insight and a challenge that should be shared across all communities. Whilst both words and images are important it is also at these times of difficulty and immense stress that we also seek a silence that leads to a reflection because there are no words to fully sum up the mixed feelings that we feel in the light of the horror of terror.

***Terry Drummond.***

## Barton Toc H and Boultham Park

Boultham Park is a beautiful 50 acre park in the centre of Lincoln. It has a large lake, a wood and a small river running through it but is in need of a bit of TLC!

A 5yr project has begun to revitalise the park, restoring features and developing new facilities, encouraging community involvement and ownership, as well as creating lasting memories for local people and park users.

The project has been grant aided by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund Parks for People initiative in a joint venture between Linkage Community Trust and Lincoln City Council. Linkage are building a new college in the park for students with learning difficulties and disabilities.



There will be a cafe, a horticultural glasshouse and a small animal centre. All these will be open to the general public and will be staffed by the students.



Work has already started and the cafe should be open in the autumn. Another item which is under reconstruction is the bandstand which is now sporting a new wooden roof and is looking very smart.

Now, how did Barton Toc H get involved in a project in Lincoln? Well, most of our members actually live in Lincoln and it was through a chance meeting with our Chairman, Martin Bavin, and a volunteer organiser, Neville Coupland. Martin and his family were involved in an activity in the park and he got talking to Neville and told him of Toc H and the conservation work we do

at the Far Ings Nature Reserve in Barton and he “kindly” offered our services for the day. The day, being Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The job was to paint 2 large containers in the park which were used for storage. They were painted in a bright red and yellow and the idea was to paint them green so that they better fitted into the landscape of the park.

Thankfully the day was dry and we managed to get a grey undercoat on both containers by mid afternoon so Neville gave us a tour of the park. Our working days are real family affairs and Martin and Dani`s eldest daughter, Charlotte(3) did a really good job though I think there was more paint on her than on the container!

Neville was pleased with our work and we enjoyed it too so we agreed to finish off the job on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. This time with the green paint. Again we were lucky with the weather. This time Stephen brought along his eldest daughter, Amber(2.5). The two young girls soon got stuck in and then Stephen wailed, “ No Amber. Hold the other end of the brush”!

It wasn` t long before Stephen wailed again, “Mummy`s going to kill me”! We were finished by lunchtime and happily Stephen is still alive though Lisa was not happy to see her little “green” girl!

As we finished early we gave the church



railings a top coat of green paint. St. Mary`s is the oldest church in Lincoln and is situated in the park. Strangely, I managed to get more paint on me in the afternoon than in the morning and so did young Edward. His face was covered in green spots and when he tried to clean it he made it worse. Now Edward is a big tall lad and people in the park were giving us a wide berth thinking we had the Incredible Hulk with us!

Again we enjoyed the day and will certainly do more work in the park – though perhaps not painting!

***Paul Dimoline***

**Cover Picture:** *The group about to get going*

# Our War Memorial

This November Saltburn Branch will have the honour, alongside others, of representing Toc H at the London Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday.

This honour means a great deal to me personally because two of my Great Uncles (John Hall K.I.A. 1/7/16) and (Arthur Arnold K.I.A. 10/10/17) gave their all in the First World War. I was brought up never to forget the ultimate sacrifice that they made, which I, and subsequently my children, never will.

As Toc H itself was created in memory of Gilbert Walter Lyttelton Talbot, so the birth of Saltburn Branch (6/7/38) has connections to another casualty of World War I – Wilfred Evelyn Littleboy, whose name is memorialised on our Branch lamp. The Littleboy family had also made a considerable financial donation, in 1920, towards Saltburn having a War Memorial.

In 2013 when the news came out that Saltburn War Memorial had been added to the England Historic Buildings At Risk register, it was a call of duty to do whatever we could to help save this piece of history.

Saltburn Toc H joined with other local groups and business people to form The Friends of Saltburn War Memorial group, whose aim was to raise funding in whatever way we could. Alongside the town's Pocket Watch group, Toc H organised a World War I Community Day; we were well supported at this event by the Trustees of Toc H and also



by other branches, some of whom had raised funds to make a generous donation on the day. (Thank you so much).

After a series of further fund-raising events, in partnership with local charities, businesses, the local Council and English Heritage, our target was reached and work could begin on the War Memorial.

Work was completed by mid 2016 and a re-dedication service was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October that year, with Toc H providing refreshments on the day.



All in all it has taken three years to achieve our goal; during that time Toc H has also been researching information on all the names inscribed on the War Memorial as well as collecting information for a Time Capsule which is to be buried at the foot of the War Memorial at the end of 2018.

It has been a remarkable time and a real community venture. There is no limit to what can be achieved if we all work together.

***Maria Beevers – Saltburn***

P.S. If anyone would like to have information included in the Time Capsule (mentioned above), commemorating World War I, please feel free to forward the following details to us:

NAME/ADDRESS/D.O.B./PLACE OF BIRTH/OCCUPATION  
Along with a short dedication.

***Photographs by Mark Young  
also of Saltburn Branch***

## Toc H Scotland Spreads Its Wings

Hilary, Doug and I visited Toc H Denny, Stirlingshire, back in May to meet with Agnes and Graham Peattie, their daughter, Shona Barrie and helper John Stewart. The branch's aim is to improve the lives of adults with special needs, and they really know how to do that! In doing so, they manage to improve the lives of everyone involved. Graham, co-organizer with his wife Agnes, suffered a heart attack last year but told me the club makes him so happy it has helped his recovery.

Every Thursday Toc H Denny run a club for physically disabled adults who travel from as far afield as Glasgow, arriving in mini buses, cars and wheelchairs with mobility aids of every description and some without. They arrive with a longing to meet with their friends in a safe and enjoyable environment. There are arts and craft, sports, make-up sessions, conversation, tea and birthday celebrations.

Every six weeks or so the club will have a fun disco with karaoke and a buffet meal, (usually for an occasion such as Valentine's Day or Christmas), or they'll go bowling.

At Toc H Denny the enthusiasm and joy is palpable and fiercely untamed. We were met with such open delight, hugs, messages of hope and wonder, smiles so wide you had to grin back, whispered secrets and immediate friendships. A young woman, Marie, sat me down with some colouring books and felt tips. I was soon joined by a lovely crowd of people who made me feel honoured by their presence, by their selfless hearts. What a powerful sense of healing and spirituality.

Marie has Down's syndrome and works in a café in Grangemouth where she has learned about our founder, The Reverend Philip Thomas Byard Clayton. Marie is now the proud owner of a book on the subject of Toc H and Tubby Clayton.

I enjoyed a long chat with John who had experience of caring for a relative with dementia. Over a cuppa, we discussed many aspects of giving information, promoting awareness and the importance of being positive. He was a great inspiration.

The club was heaving with good natured banter and bustle, giggles and joyful reunion, activity and achievement. It was difficult to tear myself away from such comfortable companionship.

I had no idea there was even more to Denny than this successful club. Agnes told me;

"We have other projects ongoing - a Monday Sports Club followed by a fellowship lunch in our other local church. We can have as many as 20 attending most weeks. Shona & John run this and they share out the duties with our disabled members to give them empowerment of their club. Once a month Shona takes them on an outing with the minibus to local parks, museums, and an animal shelter to walk the strays etc..... all very enjoyable and laid back fellowship with our members."

"We also run a Wednesday minibus pickup for the elderly and bring them to church for refreshments and a short 30 minute service suited to their needs.

Again, once a month, Shona, Janice and I take the ladies out to lunch and to a garden centre or lovely drive in the countryside to a tea room. We also run some errands for them where needed and assist them with hospital & clinic appointments in the absence of available family or carers."

Denny branch supports Home-Start in their area with Toc H volunteers giving their time to families who have children under the age of five and face difficulties for whatever reason. "Home-Start works alongside parents, in their own homes, to help them cope with the stresses and strains of life and make sure they have the skills, confidence and strength they need to nurture their children."

As if all this were not enough, the Denny crew organize, raise funds and take a number of their disabled members on an annual holiday to Scarborough. This isn't an easy commitment and takes a great deal of hard work throughout the year. The leaders put their heart and soul into doing their very best for their community in the true ethos of Toc H. I wonder if any branch would consider helping with fundraising for this good cause? If so, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch with Shona Barrie: [shonajrbarrie@gmail.com](mailto:shonajrbarrie@gmail.com) / 176 Stirling Street, Denny. FK6 6JH

It's good to know that Toc H is alive and well in Scotland's only branch and that its members are shining their light for others to follow.

***Ronnie Allen.***

## How Much?

I am occasionally asked by people how much financially do Toc H members put into supporting the movement. To answer this question I need to give a bit of history.

When Toc H was first formed it realised there was not a one size fits all solution to membership fees/family purse donations. It was suggested that self-assessment was the way to provide money to support the wider work of the Toc H movement. Each would give as he could afford but a guideline was suggested that it should be equivalent to a week's income to the member.

When in 2008 the movement made all its paid staff redundant and Hilary and I took on being membership secretaries, one of our first tasks was to identify the membership, we were fairly sure that some of the members on the lists had in fact died. The current membership fee was not introduced to fully finance the movement, which it comes nowhere near to doing, but to separate the living membership from the departed membership. So we would not bother people who were not interested or did not wish to remain as members.

A membership fee of £5 was initially set to ensure that we were only using precious resources on folk who wished to keep their membership alive. Remembering that at that time we were faced with the enormous task of recovering Toc H from some £5,000,000 of debts and guarantees, those tasked with that will forever remain grateful to those who stood by their beliefs and supported Toc H by paying their £5 sub. Obviously we did not expect the subs to cover the costs and debts but it was a strong statement that the survival of Toc H was worth fighting for.

Can I make it clear that both I personally and the Toc H movement do not wish to exclude anyone because they cannot afford the membership fee, so we have a fairly large group of members who are financially sponsored by the wider movement. We are aware that many members are on a fixed income which is being outstripped by inflation and are in a situation where they have to make hard choices, Toc H does not want to be one of those and are happy to sponsor members who find themselves in this position.

So back to the original question 'How much financially do Toc H

members put into supporting the movement?' If you take all the membership and divide that number into the financial income from members (including the Gift Aid) the figure is just short of £32.00 per member per year. The rest of the money being used to support the movement centrally is coming from legacies, without these legacies Toc H may well have to take a long hard look at its future.

At an AGM a few years back someone asked what would members have to contribute to cover Toc H expenditure, the answer is for the last financial year it would have been £320.00 each. So branches that give generously to Family Purse (the Central Funds that cover such things as management costs, national assets, accountants, lawyers, grants to further the work of Toc H etc etc , are extremely helpful in helping balance the books.

Above all it is a truism that we ask all to remember that money is not what Toc H is about, Toc H is clearly about promoting and acting out the four points of the compass. Yes we hope never to return to a state where the movement is in debt and therefore money is important but it is much more important that there are members who live and work by the four points Friendship, Service, Fairmindedness and Reconciliation which are needed as much today as they ever were if not more!

***Doug Geater Childs, Toc H General Secretary***

## News from India

The Old Students of Union Christian College, Alwaye, confers honours on their former Professor, Dr P J Joseph, on the occasion of the College celebrating its centenary. Dr Joseph, the President of Educational Institutions, was adorned by a shawl and presented with a memento..



## Congratulations Alice!!

Late last year Toc H awarded a grant to help purchase a pedal harp for my daughter Alice, now aged 11 yrs.

I would like to share with you and the Trustees a You Tube clip from this years Eisteddfod in Bridgend. Together with three of her friends they entered as an ensemble and were playing the Men of Wrexham's Hornpipe. There were 18 entries into the ensemble category (and the standard of performance was really high), three of which were chosen to go through to the main Pavilion to play live on TV, and Alice's ensemble made it through!

If you have the means to access YouTube then enter the below, Alice is on the far left (tapping her foot and smiling) of the ensemble playing the harp which the Toc H helped to purchase.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXgA6eELcu4&feature=youtu>

Although the harp ensemble came third in the end, it was an amazing experience lifting their confidence as a group playing together and as individuals. I would be grateful if you could show the clip to the Trustees, as their decision to help fund the pedal harp made this possible - so another BIG thank you; your support has been really appreciated.

***Ben Dodd***



Alice on the left hand side - they are practicing before going on stage.



Alice on the left, on stage with the Eisteddfod logo behind



Performing on stage underneath the lights with the Welsh TV Logo

# The Realisation of a Future

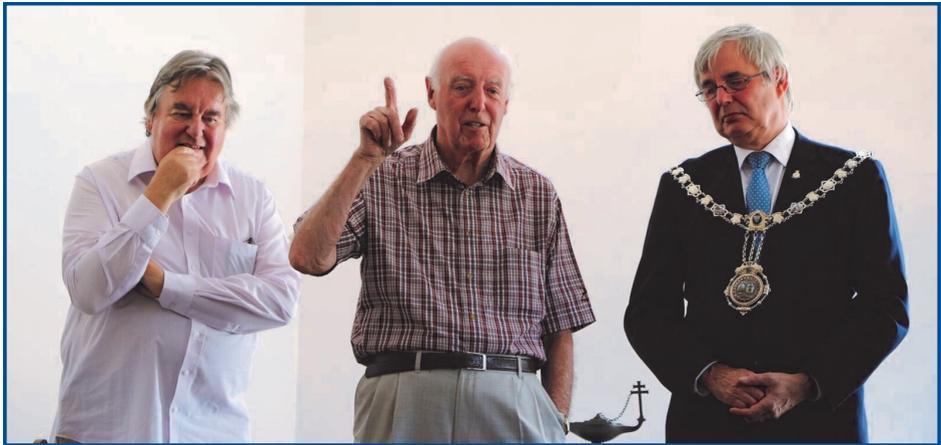


Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July was a very auspicious day with the re-opening and dedication of Looe TOC H Community Hall, Millpool (opposite Looe Chandlery). Prominently located between the main carpark and the town, the hall is easily accessible, the footfall is considerable and the surrounding views of this little fishing town and the River Looe are picturesque.

The official opening and cutting of the ribbon was performed by the Mayor, Councillor Armand Toms, who gave a brief outline of his connections with the building and its impact on the area. This was followed by a short dedication of the new Looe branch by Terry Drummond (Toc H Chair) who then presented the members of Looe branch with a copy of the Royal Charter and Bye Laws, branch regulations and (ever hopeful) some membership forms. He then took Light. The event was attended by Toc H members old and new, Hilary (Toc H Vice Chair) and Doug Geater Childs (General Secretary) local residents as well as general members of the public.



The hall has been tastefully refurbished and redecorated in a light and airy fashion by a wonderful builder, Andy Spindley (ex Brummie), who has since become a Toc H member along with his wife, Jane. Brian Salt is



the Chair of Toc H Looe and is ably supported by his wife, Sue, who has become the Branch Secretary. Kerry Hamer is the Branch Treasurer and avid photographer (see pictures included). Between these five amazing people Looe Branch is off to a flying start. In true Toc H style, a lovely spread was laid on by Sue, Jane and others.



Several groups are currently using the hall including an AA group and a local dance group who have invested in a special mat to protect the floor when learning Tap and a barre (handrail) for ballet.

**Marcia Wynter**

## Welcome to the NEW Looe Branch

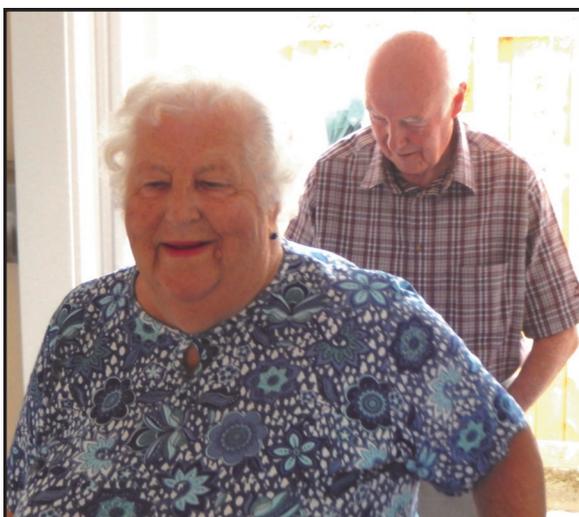
Something really delightful has happened in Looe, even more pleasing than the rejuvenation of the hall and it already being much in demand in the community, the forming of a new branch!!!



On the left is the team that catered for the opening, from left to right there is Jayne, Sue (Branch Secretary) and Julie (Jayne's friend) who helped her with the sandwich making and the cooking. Both Sue and Jayne became involved through their husbands and they are now members, the opening was Julie's first contact with Toc H and she is not a member .....yet. (No pressure!!)

Below are Jim and his wife Sheila. Jim came to one of the public meetings and was

invited to the opening. He was a member of the original Looe Branch and indeed was Chairman when there was a call on the branch to supply a replacement leader for the Scout Troop. (There was a very close relationship at that time between Toc H and Scouting). Jim took up the challenge and had little time spare from his new Toc H job! Sheila



had been involved as so many wives were in Men's branches! Both became members again at the opening, thrilled at the opportunity and with a wealth of Toc H knowledge and experience to share!



To the left are Andy followed by Brian. Brian and Kerry (below right) Treasurer of the Branch were the first to volunteer at the very first public meeting, to help project manage the rejuvenation of the hall . Without them we would have been in severe difficulties as Looe and Birmingham are quite a way apart!



Andy is the builder who has worked so hard to get the hall

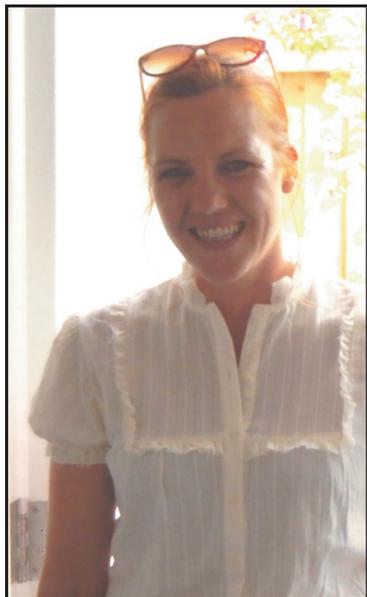
into it's new pristine condition. He has really taken on board

the principles of Toc H and is so keen to be involved he is going up to Weirside to rebuild the barbecue and oversee the re-surfacing of the carpark.

The newest member of the branch is Alex who is a new user of the hall teaching dance. She decided to join at the opening and did so before the day.

A big welcome to all of them and sincere thanks for their willingness and commitment.

***Hilary Geater Childs***

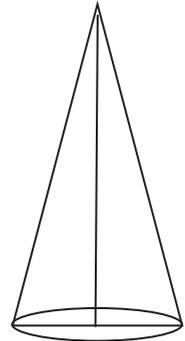


## Can you help us be ready for Christmas?

I know that it seems an odd thing to be asking before most people have had their summer holidays, but the next edition of In Touch may well be too late!!

You may remember that last year Hall Green Action Group which grew from a Toc H inspired idea, held a Tree Festival at the local Baptist Church and Toc H took part with a real tree with decorations made during the vigil for World Chain of Light at Weirside. Several different Faith Groups took part thus sharing the commonality of people of Faith rather than the divides. It was a great success and is to be repeated again this year (we had 22 'trees' last year, although Toc H's was the only traditional fresh tree.) This year it promises to be bigger and better, open for longer, hosted by a mixture of people from all the contributors, open to schools to demonstrate that people from different ethnic and faith groups can come together and work as one. Maybe a small way to combat prejudice and distrust but a joyful one.

Toc H will be putting in a tree again and it would be really great if we could demonstrate it came from the whole movement by members contributing a decoration or an idea of a design for a tree. Last year a local Boys Brigade created a superb tree by making large green paper chains and hanging them from a Broomstick. Unfortunately I didn't get a picture but a bit like this!



Last year we made some paper lanterns and 'Toc H's as shown here but if you could design a decoration we would be able to demonstrate our mixture of people and our spread as well as our ideals, it can be made of whatever you like, knitted even - but should say where it was made and if it stands for something. Let your imaginations run riot, it will need to hang on whatever we come up with as a tree, so not too heavy! Please accept this challenge!!!



***Hilary Geater Childs***

# Heart of England Garden Party

A good time was had by all who attended despite the weather!! The recorder ensemble entertained us by performing two 20 minute sessions, the first of a classical nature and the second of a more familiar one. The garden was viewed and even sat in by one or two brave souls and the afternoon tea was demolished!!



## In Touch magazine

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

Next Trip to Poperinge  
With

## **Tubby's Tours**

Is likely to be  
First Week of  
**October 2017**

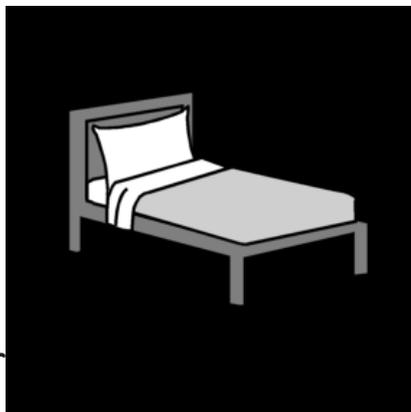


This time the trip  
will gather and start  
from  
**Birmingham**



The trip needs at least to  
break even and your travel  
by mini-bus, the ferry and  
your accommodation will be  
divided amongst the number  
going. Prices alter but it is

expected that if 10 + driver go it should be around  
£325 at the most. Meals other than breakfast and  
all other costs are your responsibility.



**Interested ????**  
**Please make contact.**

## Afro Boys & Oakwell Terriers visit to Holland



A carefully planned trip took place on June 11<sup>th</sup> 2017. We arrived at Manchester Airport with 15 eager players including the Afro boys, who had been very kindly sponsored by Toc H. This funding had enabled the three players, who were originally from Eritrea to travel with our Oakwell Terriers to Holland for the first time ever.

For Figo, this was the first time he had ever been on an aeroplane, what an amazing experience. The team travelled from Manchester to a small town called Heilo, where

they spent their first night in what was to be luxury compared to the next 5 days.

The players visited the local town and met with the organisers of the tournament and were shown their ex-military accommodation. The ethos of the trip encouraged team building, relationships, and a sense of belonging. The football was played with Great Spirit and the tournament was an exciting experience, and great fun was had by all.

There were 20 teams from across Europe and our Oakwell Terriers & Afro boys came 11<sup>th</sup>. These tournaments are designed to reduce the stigma which is associated with mental ill health, increase a person's physical activity and social interaction amongst players, and the feedback from players says just that.

We are lucky enough to be the Hosts next year and can confirm in June 2018, The EASI CUP will be taking place here in Barnsley, South Yorkshire. A big thank you to all at Toc H who made this trip just that little bit easier for the Afroboys. A once in a life time opportunity.



***Hannah Burton***

# Normandy 2017

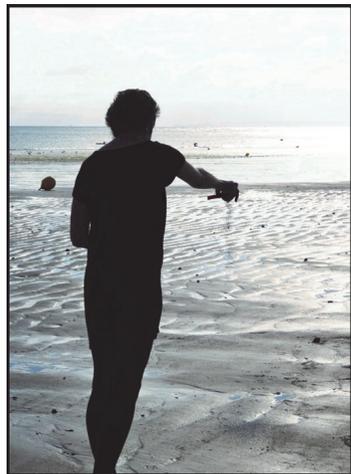
## **The PWO Regiment of Yorkshire**

The lads from the Prince of Wales Own Rgt association have been regular users of the minibus ever since we have had it. They have an annual dinner and a ceremony at York on Minster day. That's where a service to the old regiment and the blessing of their colours takes place.

I was chuffed when they asked to hire the minibus to go to Normandy and even more chuffed when I was asked to drive. The group was led by Dr Tracy Craggs and consisted of 8 veterans and 4 humble companions. We made a great team and a very fruitful week was had by all.

A special Service was held and the ashes of an old veteran was scattered on Sword Beach. They were the ashes of a chap who Tracy had interviewed and had grown very close to. Terry Smith was amazing as Chaplain. The laying of several wreaths took place at several war grave cemeteries across Normandy. It was in more ways than one a memorable trip.

### **Moments to remember**



## **Chateau de la Londe.**

The Lady owner took time to show us around the grounds of her house. Hard to believe that it was a German stronghold and many allied forces perished in trying to regain it. The place felt so peaceful.

What made it more special was the fact that it was 73 years to the day that it was liberated.

We remembered all men especially those from the East Yorks regiment.

Other places visited - The Mulberries, Gold, Omaha, Juno and Sword Beaches as well as Pegasus Bridge and a score of museums. A great trip and hopefully not the last.



### **At the American Cemetery**



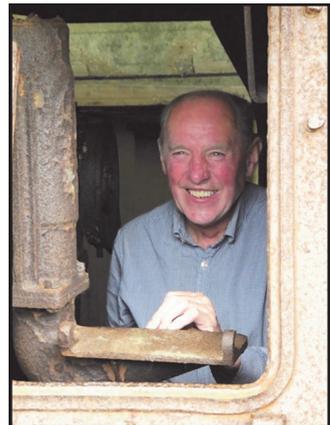
I would personally like to thank all who made this pilgrimage such a memorable visit.

Most of all Tracy, for being a mine of information and organising the whole lot,

Frank for keeping everybody's spirits high

And to Toc H for the Minibus, without which this would never have happened.

***Andy Hodgkinson.***



*We will remember them !*

Mr G R Speed

Irene Gilbert

Bill Cowie

Roy M Salisbury

Eleanor McKechnie

Lord Roger Grenfell Toulson

*Age shall not weary them*

A Lovely Thank You

Hi Douglas,

Nice to speak to you today and thank Toc H for something that happened a long time ago.

I'm 63 at the moment, but a long time ago around 1962 I was ten years old. I lived in Guildford Street in Lozells, Birmingham. My parents had very little and holidays were never mentioned let alone talked about. One day my Mother came to me and told me I was going on holiday to Westcliff-on-Sea but it was not with my parents, it was with a group of other Children with adults looking after us. We met at the Hall of Memory on Broad Street, boarded a coach and went on our way to Westcliff. We arrived at what seemed like a Dad's army style parish hall. Basic camp beds a few inches off the floor, a large kitchen and what must have been teenage or twenty something volunteers to keep us happy through the week. After living in Lozells for nine years (the other year was when I was born in Belfast, just off the Falls road) I began to realize there was something else out there I wanted to be a part of.

I would like to thank Toc H for making a little boy very happy, and being one of the events that helped shape my life.

Regards,  
John McCabe.

## In Memory of Bill Cowie

Bill was born in Buckie (Scotland) on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1936. He was a rebel at school but excelled in sport. During school holidays, he went to sea in his father's trawler serving as cook and navigator but a fisherman's life was not for him. He returned to school as a mature student and eventually obtained advanced qualifications in electrical and mechanical engineering. In due course, he went to work for IBM as an engineer and retired as procurement manager for IBM Personal Computers UK at age 55 due to a heart condition.

He settled in Skelmorlie (North Lanarkshire) with his wife, Morag, who passed away after 43 years of happy years together. Bill designed and built the family home and both he and Morag became very involved in village life for over 40 years. He taught the cubs and scouts both swimming and table tennis, was very involved in the Burns Club and the Highland Association and drove the church minibus. In retirement, he enjoyed hill walking and was drummer/vocalist in Skelmorlie Scottish Ceilidh Band.

He was, of course, also involved with Toc H, as Skelmorlie Branch chairman for many years, together with being a Regional and a Central Councillor.

Bill met Pippa (nee Borchard) at a Toc H Scottish Conference and married in 2010. They had 6½ years together, enjoying a late life love before Bill died on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

***Pippa Cowie***

## In Memory of Irene Gilbert 1926 –2017

It is with sadness that the Royal Branch has to report the death of one of its members.

Irene (or Rene as she preferred to be known) was a valued member of the Branch. At the age of ninety she was still driving her little car and taking holidays to Canada to visit family. Rene would have been 91 years old in September and was very much looking forward to visiting Canada again this year. Sadly this was not to be as she was taken ill a few days before the start of her holiday.

She lived life to the full and will always be in our thoughts at Branch meetings.

**REST IN PEACE**

## URGENT!

### 12<sup>th</sup> November at the Cenotaph

It is that time of year when we need to think about filling places for 'March Past the Cenotaph'. Last year Toc H was well represented at the Cenotaph Parade with members from Barnsley, Heart of England, Wessex and Hampshire. Although we were oversubscribed for 2016 and were able to fill all 20 places, this year many of our regular participants are unable to attend.

The parade will involve an early start and a lot of standing around, there is also the weather to consider! The actual walk is about a mile.

We are hoping to get 12 places for the March Past on Remembrance Sunday, 12 November 2017. There may be a possibility of obtaining more at a later date, if deemed necessary. Should you wish to be considered for a place in this parade then please contact the central office via email, telephone or post by September 8<sup>th</sup> 2017.

In previous years it was possible to swap people in almost up to the day but that is no longer the case. Therefore you will need to supply your personal details i.e. title, full name, date and place of birth and address.

If you are picked, due to high levels of security, you will have to provide personal details e.g. proof of address, passport/ driving licence details, place of birth and photographic proof of identification. Further details will be given once the places have been confirmed.

So please contact the office ASAP



***Marcia Wynter***

## Forthcoming Activities

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**

**London Walk** - Come and help with refreshments, or get sponsorship for your charity/Friends of Khasdobir. Chelsea Area.

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**

**Board Meeting** in Birmingham

**Friday September 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Applications** to represent Toc H at the Cenotaph must be in

**W/B 11<sup>th</sup> September**

**Second AGM mailing out** containing voting slips and accounts

**First Week of October**

**Next Tubby's Tour starting from Birmingham**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October**

**Rushton Royal Diamond anniversary**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October**

**Closing date for return of voting slips**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October**

**Toc H AGM** – in Birmingham. - Venue as last year. Lunch at 1pm (for London District Branch lifts from Redbridge Station at 10am.)

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November**

**Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December,**

**Toc H Carol Service** 2pm All Hallows. Possibly a "Bring & Share Lunch

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

**World Chain of Light**

# NATIONAL PRAYER CYCLE

Prepared by William Bestelink

## ***Friendship – To love widely***

Give thanks for our membership of Toc H  
Think of all Branches, their fellowship and activities.  
Pray for Toc H overseas and for people & work there

## ***Service – To build bravely***

Give thanks for new opportunities of volunteering  
Think of all people that we are serving  
Pray for new hope for students and for widows at Khasdobir

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

Give thanks for the information from 'In Touch'  
Think of the welcome to visitors at Talbot House  
Pray for all suffering from war today, including all refugees

## ***Witness – To witness humbly***

Give thanks all those ordained to serve in the Church in any way  
Think of the Board of Trustees and those running Toc H.  
Pray for members who are housebound, ill or isolated.



June 2017

# 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 |