

Autumn



2016

Charity No 211042  
SC045491



# IN TOUCH

FRIENDSHIP SERVICE FAIRMINDEDNESS WITNESS

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

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## Summer 2016



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### EDITORIAL

Another year moves inexorably to its end, the seasons seem to come around with increasing rapidity, whilst the news from across the world continues to suggest that humanity is incapable of learning how to create a harmony that will lead to nations working together for the good of all people wherever they live.

In the UK, the vote to leave the European Union for good or ill is an example of the inability to recognise that in a globalised world co-operation between people and nations serves the higher good.

The problems of refugees and migrants and the war in Syria amongst other forgotten or at the least not reported conflicts is a reminder that it is important that we continue to work together for a better and humane future.

The Four Points of the Compass are for Toc H the guiding principles of what we believe and stand for, in many ways they are a simple statement of truths that should be self-evident to any thinking person.

It seems that the truth is that they can be seen to be a counter cultural challenge to societies where truth is seen to be what appears on social media which may represent the good will of many people or equally be used to create increased division if not to use too harsh a word, hatred.

On December 11<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate the World Chain of Light, the focus for the twenty-four hours will be the Toc H residential centre in Langdale which is in the English Lake District, this is a place of natural beauty in which it is easy to

set aside the problems of the world. It is tranquil and a space where quite reflection is easy. It may also be a place to escape the world's troubles.

If we see the twenty-four hours in this way, we lose sight of the importance of lighting the lamp as a focus for our thoughts, reflections and prayers. The light is an important sign to the world at large that in the darkness a little light can be a sign of hope.

In this year's transcript for the World Chain of Light the focus is on the Psalms and biblical texts relating to the Four Points of the Compass with stories that reflect the present day. The Psalms are drawn on because they offer insights many thousands of years old that speak to our contemporary world.

In writing this I realise that there are members of Toc H who would not claim to have a religious faith, to them I say the Psalms whilst rooted in Judaism are the word of human beings looking outside of themselves for hope.

In Toc H we are all called to offer signs of hope not by shouting at the darkness but by lighting a lamp that offers a sign of hope that may be small in reality but large in intention.

As we move towards a new year, let us keep the Toc H lamp lit wherever we are in the world, to be a sign of hope in a world which more than ever needs to believe that we can together create a better world.

Terry Drummond

## Did You Know.....

...of the close association between the Scouting movement and Toc H?

Indeed there was a time that when scouts reached scout leaving age they were referred on to join the local Toc H branch. In addition Toc H was allowed to set up Scout troops.

In their earliest conceptions, neither Baden Powell nor Tubby fully visualised the launching of world-wide movements and there was a long and close friendship between them. It is a fact that all three Chief Scouts were, in turn, Presidents of Toc H.

## Heart of England doesn't meet often.....

Heart of England is a small, disparate group of individuals from different walks of life who occasionally meet up in Birmingham, England's second city, as a Toc H branch. Although we are few in number, there are four of us who are heavily committed nationally! Not bad for a group that doesn't meet often yet during the past year: 2016 was welcomed with a New Year Party cum afternoon get-together. A time for new beginnings, new friendships and new challenges; what would this year hold for Heart of England branch?

In March, Heart of England Toc H hosted a talk about Edith Cavell, a British nurse during the First World War. She helped to save the lives of British and German soldiers and assisted over 200 Allied soldiers escape from German-occupied Belgium. Thanks to Paul and his wife, Sue, for a fascinating insight into the role of women in World War I. In April, Hilary and Doug hosted a Beetle Drive for the Toc H group in their lovely home. This dice based party game created an informal yet communal atmosphere interspersed with raucous outbursts of 'Beetle' from seemingly quiet, mild-mannered folk! Thankfully, a plentiful supply of pancakes and refreshments helped to restore calm and tranquil spirits that are the norm.

Our annual outing this year was to Hanbury Hall and Gardens at Hanbury, Worcestershire. Home to the Vernon family, we were given a brief yet fascinating history of some key family members. After a hearty lunch we



wandered through the grounds and the beautiful re-created early 18th-century gardens. Luckily for us, the local village fete was also being held on the grounds and the weather was agreeable. What a lovely way to spend time with friends.

The Heart of England Garden Party was another successful event as eloquently described in 'In Touch' Summer 2016. The garden was in full bloom. Guests came from far and wide and refreshments were plentiful. We are looking forward to the next one.

In September, the Heart of England branch attended a Dementia workshop at Hall Green Baptist Church. Gaynor Hammond, the guest speaker, spoke of how to make church a dementia friendly place, things to consider when preparing for worship with people with dementia and how to provide pastoral care for people with dementia and their carers. The workshop was quite thought provoking.

In association with Hall Green Action Group, Heart of England branch sponsored refreshments for the Hall Green Trail at Sarehole Mill. People were astonished by the generosity.

Refreshments for free! Why? What is the catch? There was no catch just a good

opportunity to leave a few Toc H flyers advertising our great charity. One response came from a past resident of the Community House who wishes to renew her involvement with Toc H. What a result!

As we prepare for World Chain of Light 2016, it will be different for Heart of England this year as we will not be all together to celebrate it. Some of us will be at Weirside, in the Lake District, for the vigil; some will travel to be with friends whilst others will remain at home to celebrate it. Even when we are separate we are united in our cause. At Heart of England branch we may not meet often but when we do things happen!

Marcia Wynter



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

## Shot at Dawn

Did you turn and run away?  
When all your pals to fight did stay.  
Was the noise too loud to bear?  
Or was it gas that gave the scare?  
Did the screams of pain at night?  
From no man's land add to your fright.  
In that place of living hell;  
The blood the guts the awful smell.  
Your brother Jim and Wilfred too;  
Were brave enough to see it through.  
Limbs and bodies scattered around;  
Flesh and blood turned into ground.  
In a daze you turned and fled;  
Leaving all behind for dead.  
The cowardice you showed that day;  
The day you turned and ran away.  
Watching now are all their ghost's;  
As you, are tied up to this post.  
Your plight right now is very dire;  
The word you wait to hear is FIRE!  
Now looking back, we could be wrong;  
And maybe, you were very strong.  
Maybe you were like a rock;  
And then you suffered from shell shock.  
We didn't know you see back then;  
How these things affected men.  
And from the day that you were born;  
Until that fateful day at dawn.  
You might have been the best of men;



We're very sorry once again.  
We hope your soul will spread like fire  
To join your comrades up on higher  
And with your maker you will dwell  
Not here with us in the fires of hell.  
© Andy Jud Hodgkinson

Dedicated to all men who were wrongly sentenced to death by firing squad during WW1

They are the 346 young men - four of them just 17 - who were shot for cowardice during the First World War.

For most, their only crime was to break down amid the unspeakable horrors they had endured in the trenches. Today their condition would be diagnosed and treated as the trauma of war.



# Message from Ghana

We have received an update from Pastor Mohamadu Imoro from Ghana which was alluded to at the AGM and we include parts of it here to keep you all up to date.

I convey greetings from our Church members to you all. The churches I am running or ministering are two; these churches are situated in the Upper East Region of Ghana. One of them is in the Bolgatanga East District in a village called Dubila and the other is situated in Bongo District.



Church Choir

There is adverse poverty in the place due to adulteration of the land and one is sad to see some of the children going to the forest to plug unripe sheanuts and drink water to survive the day. The orphans suffer hunger and most at times are without food until evening due to lack of any economic business.

During vacation some of the youths end up at Galamsay, others travel to some of the big towns at a tender age, to fend for themselves, to acquire school fees, or be able to buy school materials. The greatest worry is that some end up much worse and other teenagers end up being pregnant adding more problems. In this regard, it had dawned on me to see if I could plan to get some

skills training for the widows in order to support them, at school so that they do not grow worse, since I have been sent there by God to change lives.



We have been able to acquire lands for both churches and in one of the villages, vast lands have been allocated to me so I could build structures and establish schools or other projects to support the natives of the villages. We are of course in need of help to support this work and I am sending you photos of some of the church members and of some of the orphans for you to see. The family group is now without a father as he passed away and the others are of the young people we are trying to support.

I thank your organisation for all the help you gave to our Churches but now I am using my Ministry to work more directly with family groups and with the orphans – we sit under shady trees for fellowship – this is our church



*Pastor Mohamadu Imoro*

## Athersley Care

The Athersley estate in Barnsley is at first sight a community of housing that looks to be settled and at peace with itself. The truth is, of course, much more complex when we learn about the residents who make the estate their home.

In many cases the families represent a cross section of society with several single parents, a greater percentage of them unemployed than in other communities and with these social needs also comes problems of poor health and inequality.

To assist some of the residents to make a better life the group Athersley Care, offer After School art and craft sessions to help build self-esteem and offer advice on healthy eating and wellbeing.

The Board of Toc H was approached for financial support for the project. We felt that this was a worthwhile project that deserved to be encouraged. A figure of £3,000 was agreed subject to a formal application. The outcome from the funding more than exceeded expectations.

During the summer a series of sessions were organised for children and their parents to come together to share in activities and games that would build a sense of sharing and draw out inherent skills that to date have been hidden.

The parents included a low income single dad who for several sessions had difficulty in communicating with the other participants. He gradually gained confidence and began to take part in activities with his daughter. Another case involved a young mum who brought crisps and sweets failing to take seriously the emphasis on fresh fruit and home cooking.

The weekly sessions in the summer led to a small group of the children and parents travelling for a weekend at Weirside for a period of intensive sharing. The Toc H minibus with the ever-redoubtable Andy Hodgkinson driving was used for the journey, which included the cry of every child in a car or bus, 'Are we nearly there?' 'I need the toilet' in both cases quite soon after leaving the estate.

The weekend was an opportunity for greater sharing and introduced the families to the Lake District which for many of the group could have been in a different country. The weekend proved to be a great success, an example of what this means was the dad who had found it hard to take part, on one morning prepared all the packed lunches without being asked.

The opportunity to escape their surroundings led to parents co-operating in the various activities and through mutual support encouraged the one mum, who found it difficult to contribute, make steps towards changing her approach. The problem of snack food remains for the one mum whilst there is a greater emphasis on fresh fruit from the other parents.

The small grant that we made available contributed to a group on low incomes gaining new social skills that need to be built on, it allowed a group to enjoy and explore new surroundings and most important for Toc H the principles of assisting in creating community was put in place. The grant did not transform the Athersley group, it did though open new avenues for a small number of families to discover that healthy eating and improved wellbeing are possible for everyone.

*Terry Drummond*

## Good to be valued -Toc H in action.

Toc H Member Mike Bretton usually organises the Poppy Appeal on behalf of the British Legion, but this year he suddenly needed a serious operation and had to drop out. Luckily his branch stepped in and this is what he wrote:

“Barnsley Toc H have helped magnificently distributing poppies and collecting boxes to numerous shops, pubs and other organisations. Most excellent teamwork in the true Toc H spirit and including manning the Poppy stall in Morrisons, Cortonwood. Community spirit is definitely alive and well in our locality.”

Thank you for that Mike but as Andy says ‘Never again!!’ you better be fit and well next year!!

WE WISH YOU A GOOD RECOVERY!

# Toc H Wessex

**On September 16<sup>th</sup>** Toc H Wessex hosted a “Question Time” evening. The panellists were our local M.P Ed Vaizey, Simon Spiers, educationalist, Jenny Hannaby, local councillor and Gordon Risius , retired Judge. The questions considered by the panel included the topics of Grammar schools, housing and Brexit! About 70 people attended, which means the purpose of the evening, Consciousness raising of our Toc H branch, was successful. The evening fulfilled several points of the compass, Friendship, Reconciliation and Fairmindedness. Everyone seemed to enjoy the event.



**On October 22<sup>nd</sup>**, the branch held its first CAMEO meeting. The topic was “building a future for our children.” A small group of men and women enjoyed cakes and coffee whilst discussing such topics as the effect of social media, food additives, education and pollution.



**Nov 30<sup>th</sup>** is the deadline for an essay competition we are running for the sixth form of our local school. The topic is an essay on any one of the Four Points of the compass and entries are being encouraged by a cash prize!

## Building Bridges

I met Hannah Burton of the SW Yorks NHS Foundation Trust when she booked the Toc H minibus to take a group of Asylum seekers to play in a football competition. Hannah works with recovering mental health patients and asylum seekers on an inclusion programme here in Barnsley.



Figo dribbling the ball

After a few minutes, it was apparent that the Afro Boys as they like to be called were a bit short on kit. As they dived into a big bag of boots (one size fits all) I realised that they were going to struggle. How wrong was I? They were great, full of energy and enthusiasm and I enjoyed being with them.

Hannah told me that she had been asked to organise a weeklong event in 2018 including teams from all over Europe, things certainly sounded exciting. Meanwhile, in Bristol, Mathew had been working hard to get permission to go into borstals to play with a team of volunteers. Permission had been given but alas the lads on the inside couldn't behave long enough to gain privileges.

Meanwhile a grant for a strip and kit was put to Toc H for the Afro Boys and an offer to host a mini competition at Barnsley FC was accepted. The lads from Bristol were invited and the stage was set. It was a cracking day with the lads from Bristol raising the cup. Friends were made and it was a pleasure to see the Afro lads running out in their kit. The smiles were worth a million dollars.

Toc H Barnsley member David Lomas served Tea and Hot Dogs and a great day was had by all.

Latest news is that several of the lads now have jobs and are settling in at Barnsley nicely. I would like to think that Toc H has played a small part in making them welcome.

*Andy Hodgkinson*



The Venue



The Action



Team Bristol



.....and some more



The Afro Boys



.....and yet more

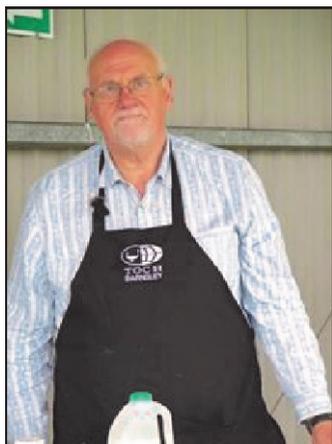


The Players

The chef

The ref

The inspiration



Andy - the prize giver



# Bristol Boys Head North

At 7 o'clock on an August Sunday morning a motley crew gathered at Charfield Village Hall – a novel concept to many of them, an experience not within recent memory for most. 'Be there with boots and shinpads, we're going to Barnsley FC' my son Joe had told them. Why were we going to Barnsley FC? I was asked that a few times as we boarded the bus....and at this time on a Sunday morning??

It had come about when I returned home late one Saturday night in June from a Trustee's meeting. Andy had been enthusing about the football sessions being run at Barnsley Academy, involving groups of NHS patients, and Andy's "Afroboys" – North African asylum seekers. I walked in at home to find Joe and friends. 'Fancy a game of football against some North African refugees?' 'Great idea boys!' And thus a team was formed and at 7am on that Sunday we were climbing on to the bus, with hot packed breakfasts, heading way up North, further than Gloucester, further even than Tewkesbury, way off patch.

"Team Bristol" as we were named, arrived at Barnsley FC at midday, The tournament was soon underway. The Afroboys, sporting their new Toc H kit, The Oakwell Lads, The Community Group, and Team Bristol all playing each other in the very best of spirits. A hard fought and competitive group stage was followed by a final, and a trophy presentation. Then a tour of the Barnsley FC dressing room and pitch side followed by refreshments supplied by Toc H Barnsley and then a trip to Jump WMC before the long journey south.

So what did we give and what did we gain from this "random" Sunday expedition? I'd like to think we gave a lot in participating in such a positive day. I know we gained a lot – hugely and positively. The enthusiasm and the feedback on the way home said it all. What began as a throw away idea late one Saturday night, turned into a truly rewarding experience – a great exercise in teamwork, planning, motivation, and above all inclusion. So many Toc H boxes ticked. The seed is sown.

Thank you to Toc H Barnsley for their hospitality, to Nigel Cloke who refereed for a full 4 hours as well as sitting on the bus for a further 8, to Hannah for the whole concept, to Toc H for supporting it, to Joe and friends for making "Team Bristol" happen.

*Matthew Fuller*

# Cosby News

I am pleased to report that Doug Fairgrieve is back amongst us, as those who were at the AGM saw, and he is keeping well. As I write he is on a week's holiday. Long may he continue to improve.

On July 14th we held a Pimms evening for Friends of Khasdobir and it was a lovely evening of friendship.

We held our Annual Cream Tea on 6th August and had a lovely day for it and a good numbers of the villagers came to join us.



Our next event was a coach trip to Worcester on 20th August, which was enjoyed by all. An added bonus was the lovely wedding service in the Cathedral that we were able to enjoy.

September 8th saw us holding a coffee morning for Parkinson's and though few in numbers we raised just over £300 for them.

Six of our members went to Birmingham for the AGM and were pleased to meet up with old friends.

The following week, 22nd Oct Cosby Branch celebrated its 75th Birthday with guest speaker John Burgess. Although not many members or friends turned up, those who did enjoyed John's talk and fellowship over a lovely spread of food.

*Anne Frew*



# News from India

## 'LEAD KINDLY LIGHT'

The Students of Toc H Public School on a PEACE MARCH, with candles



Professor {Dr} P J Joseph, president, Toc H Educational Institutions, distributes gift packets of Study Materials donated by the Students of Toc H Public School, Cochin, to the children of 'Saraswathy Vilasam' Primary School, Trippunithura, as a mark of goodwill.



The Faculty and the Students of the Kalania University, Sri Lanka, on visit to Toc H Institute of Science & Technology, are being received by Professor P J Joseph, the President and the other members of the Faculty of the Institute.



Koreans in Kochi greeting Professor Joseph in Cochin on the festival day of Onam, a local festival.



The Korean students in Cochin express their warmth and cordiality towards Professor Joseph, as they feel very much at home at Toc H Cochin, far, far away from their home.



## Recent trip to Flanders

The recent trip to Flanders comprised of Toc H members from Barnsley and Birmingham so after travelling to the Midlands the Barnsley bunch had a nice evening meal joined by Doug and Hilary we were early to bed for an early start.

After a fairly uneventful journey we arrived at Ypres just after dark and after a quick scrub up we attended the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. Very moving as usual.

Most of the day on Tuesday was spent at Talbot House where we were welcomed in the usual friendly fashion by the wardens who were in their second week. It was the first time some of the group had visited and I'm sure they enjoyed it. We took time to go into the square in Pop and after visiting the Execution Patz we had lunch in a small cafe.

On returning to the Old House we found it full as a Choir from the Welsh valleys were visiting. We were treated to several very beautiful Welsh Hymns and it was really nice to feel the house full to the rafters. One could only imagine what it must have been like in the day.

On Tuesday night, we met up with members from Toc H Belgium and shared dinner. It was pleasure to meet them and we had a great evening chatting and making friends. We shared some good ideas and hopefully made some good friends for the future. Thank You to Tilde, Katrien, Anja and Wilfred for making it such an enjoyable meeting. I know we all enjoyed it.

Wednesday was spent in France where we visited the Cambrai Memorial for the missing which is where Pamela's Uncle, LCE Corporal L.J Whyman is remembered.



From there we visited Montay Neuilly Rd Cemetery where my Gt Uncle G.E Longley has a grave. It was a beautiful cemetery. Peaceful, and tranquil. In a funny way, it reminded me of home. Looking across rolling hills towards Abdey from Newhill. I'm sure he would have liked to see the view again.

We stopped off several times in small French villages and had coffee and chatted getting to know each other and as we were travelling we stopped off randomly and left small remembrance crosses at random graves of the York and Lancs, Liverpool and Scottish and West Kent Regiment graves we found.

Thursday we visited the preserved trenches and museum at Hill 62 where we spent a couple of hours exploring the trenches and had coffee in the café before heading off to find the Liverpool and Scottish Memorial stone at Railway Wood. Again we were remembering Jean McCulloch's uncle who fell



there in tragic circumstances and she explained what she knew. It was a moving half hour and well worth the visit. We were surprised to find that a young private from the York & Lancs Rgt had gone missing along with 35 more men. Vanished without a trace no bodies were ever found. Info about him was nailed to a nearby tree where we laid a Y& L wreath.

The memorial is a lovely dedication made from Stone brought from the Barracks on Merseyside. I will certainly include it on future visits.

In the afternoon, we had free time and whilst some went shopping for souvenirs others visited the Flanders fields Museum in the Magnificent Cloth Hall and rode on the giant wheel in the square.

It was a very fulfilling and enjoyable week and the Barnsley bunch bonded with the Birmingham group in typical Toc H fashion. I certainly made some new friends both from the UK and from Belgium. I hope everyone else feels the same.

*Andy Hodgkinson*

# Revisiting Toc H

I belonged to Toc H as a young man in the late 1950s. It was the branch in East Dereham, Norfolk, and it was a very lively group. We were extremely active and well organised, with a high profile in the local community. It was a great outfit to be in, and our Toc H lamp was certainly not dim!

At the time, I was serving as a regular in the RAF as an Airframe Fitter. I had completed a three year apprenticeship at RAF Halton, and had been posted to Watton, just ten miles from my parents home in Dereham. When I got married in 1959, I managed to wangle a hiring (a private house hired by the RAF) also in Dereham, so it was the best of all possible worlds. Toc H was very much a part of the weekly programme for me, and the members became real friends, some of whom I knew from the Methodist church which I attended. A memorable occasion was going to the big event in the Albert Hall, and I still have the various bits and pieces of paperwork – Orders of Service etc – from that event. Looking at them now, the most curious one is the sheet for 'Community Singing'. Not something that would engage with one's heart very much these days, I have to say!

In 1961 I was posted to Kenya, and although that became a watershed in my life, sadly I lost touch with Toc H. When I returned at the end of 1963, other things were happening, and in 1964 I entered training for the Methodist ministry at Richmond College in Surrey. In 1967, I was appointed to serve in Kenya (not really very surprising), returning 12 years later to work back in Britain.

By 1979, it seemed that Toc H was in decline, and it really did cease to be part of my life.

But now, like many others, perhaps, with all the nostalgia and interest surrounding the centenary of World War One, I feel a tug in the direction of Toc H. When I first made enquiries about it in 2014, it seemed like the grin of the Cheshire cat in Alice in Wonderland'. It was sort of still around, but in a very attenuated form. A few branches seemed to have been able to hang on, and were still active. Two years on, it seems to be reawakening, and perhaps is looking at a reinvention of itself.

This year saw the centenary of the Battle of the Somme. We in our family have a particular interest in that terrible and terrifying event, for my wife's uncle, Robert Small, a private in the Royal Scots, went 'over the top' on that first morning, was promptly shot,, dying of his wounds two days later. We gathered as a family – Robert's niece (my wife), great nieces, great nephew and partners, and great-great nephew and great-great niece on a campsite near Albert in Picardy. We stood at his grave, exactly one hundred years to the day, in a small village cemetery south of Albert, and we remembered him.

This came at the end of our annual caravanning holiday in France. Previously we had been in the north-east, and our first stop had been near Armentieres. That was intentional, as it was just half-an-hour's drive from Poperinge, somewhere I had always wanted to visit, for obvious reasons.

So to Poperinge we went, and managed to find a parking space near to Talbot House. I had a hazy idea of what to expect, having read so much about it, and seen many pictures of it and the redoubtable 'Tubby'. For my wife, it was a completely new experience, and I have to say that she was mightily impressed by it, especially by the sign which said 'Come into the garden and forget the war'.

We had arrived in the middle of a school party from somewhere in England. I wondered what they made of it all, but I admired the teacher who had thought to bring them. I doubt whether the average secondary-school student knows anything about Toc H, or Poperinge, or Talbot House, or Tubby Clayton, and probably cares less, but at least that particular group would have imbibed something of what went on in that hallowed place. Who knows? There might be future Toc H members there!

It was a memorable occasion too for me, as well as my wife. While there is something of a disconnect now between Toc H and the House as a museum, the story is still very much alive, and is being told to a generation for whom World War One, World War Two, Korea, Viet Nam and so on, are simply matters of history For those of us who might have a direct connection to the first World War, even, perhaps through grandparents or great-uncles, it is much more a present reality.

Visiting Talbot House is a real and moving experience. It isn't difficult to imagine tired and weary, even frightened and shocked soldiers finding it a place of refuge and peace. In a town which itself was a retreat from the front line, it was truly a haven of peace. It was an alternative to the drinking, gambling and whoring unleashed locally as stressed soldiers came off duty to carouse in the place behind the lines known as "Little Paris".

Even if it was only a brief respite from the horror of the trenches and the war of attrition in which they were engaged, it is clear that it made a deep and lasting impression on so many men. Toc H became the success it was simply because of Tubby Clayton and his vision, together with, of course, the not inconsiderable help of senior chaplain Neville Talbot, after whom the house is named.

My only regret is that it has taken me almost 60 years to make my pilgrimage to Talbot House. For anyone who has even the slightest interest in Toc H, I would go so far as to say that a visit to Poperinge and the House is a 'must'. Even though it is now a free-standing museum, it has managed to retain the atmosphere it must have had a hundred years ago. It doesn't take a huge stretch of the imagination to see it as it must have been back in the day.

So – perhaps it is time for me to revisit Toc H, and try to think creatively as to how it can 'serve the present age', to use a Methodist term. The four points of the Toc H compass, as I learned them back in the 50s, are a sound basis on which to build a fellowship of people who are keen to make a contribution to the society in which we in Britain, at least, find ourselves. Friendship ("To love widely"), Service ("To build bravely"), Fairmindedness ("To think fairly"), and to proclaim the Kingdom of God ("To witness humbly") are goals which, if interpreted in a contemporary could be the means of making a difference.

Tubby Clayton succeeded because he was obviously a man who could 'think outside the box'. In what was then a much more class-ridden society than it is now, the notion of a squaddie and a high ranking officer sharing a billet in Talbot House is evidence of that. 'Abandon rank all ye who enter here'. And it worked, because Tubby made it work. It was a radical idea whose moment had come. Tubby obviously believed in the notion of 'Carpe Diem' – seize the day. If Toc H can latch onto that now, its future could be very bright indeed.

## In Memory of Joan

We promised to recognise the life of Joan Encill in the last edition, there is so much to say but we think that the poem written for her funeral really sums her up so we are putting this in this edition

They are closed now,  
Those eyes that watched  
The progress of a family;  
Closely at first, and then  
From further off as each one  
Grew in strength to stand alone.

They are still now  
Those able hands that  
Made a house into home;  
An ever welcome place  
For family and friends  
And those in need of help.

It is silent now,  
The voice that spoke  
With eloquence  
Or rang with laughter  
When some happy time  
Was shared.

Celebrate this selfless life,  
That gave so much  
And touched so many lives,  
With no thought of reward.

Temper grief and loss  
With these abiding words:  
To live in hearts we leave behind  
Is not to die.

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*We will remember them !*

Dorothy Arnold	Margaret Crossland	Gualter de Mello
Jean Bains	Gordon Henty	John Tamplin
Stanley Clifford	Gladys Jones	Joan Toyn
Barbara Crocker	Diane Kelly	Mary Brice

*Age shall not weary them*

## Dementia Friendly?

Dementia is in many ways a major tragedy of today's society and of the success of modern medicine that has helped people to live longer with greater expectations. It not only affects the sufferers but also their partners and their families. It creates a big need in society.

Heart of England Branch were privileged to be invited to attend a workshop given by Rev. Gaynor Hammond which was eye opening, caring, supportive and inspiring. It looked at the needs of all concerned, not only their physical needs but also their spiritual and social needs in simple, practical and do-able ways.

She is Chair of Faith in Elderly People which is an ecumenical project, run by volunteers, concerned with the spiritual and personal needs of older people and especially those living with dementia and their carers. Founded in 1992 it seeks to improve the quality of life of older people including the nurture of their spiritual lives, and to raise awareness of the value of older people and the gifts they have to share.

The website is [www.fiep.org.uk](http://www.fiep.org.uk) which lists helpful publications, many written or co-written by Gaynor. These include her books *Training Manual for Care Homes* - something we could all do with reading as it is holistic and practical.

*Help! We have Dementia* - real life stories shared in the hope that they help, encourage and strengthen others.

*The Memory Box* - a practical and personal way of helping which perhaps all of us should prepare.

*The Friendship Club* - again a practical way of caring for people with dementia and their carers which could perhaps be something that Toc H branches could look at being involved with.

Another idea is twiddle muffs which comfort and interest many people. If you knit or crochet please think about using some of your left over wools to do this. There are loads of ideas and patterns for them on the internet if you google them, or ask me and I'll download you some. If you don't know anyone who could use one then Gaynor would love them, she never has enough!!!

Gaynor has given me permission to publish her e-mail:

[anngaynorhammond@gmail.com](mailto:anngaynorhammond@gmail.com)

*Hilary Geater Childs*

# Advent Carol Service



**Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
2.00 pm**

**At the Guild Church of  
Toc H  
All Hallows by the Tower  
Followed by refreshments  
Everyone is welcome!!!**

*The early date is due to other  
commitments*

*Please contact Hilary if you would be willing to do one of the readings*

Further copies of World Chain of Light are available from Central Office. Please join in at some point from 9.00 p.m 11th Dec and 9.00 p.m. on 12th Dec.



World Chain of Light 2016

## Reflections of Weirside

Ambleside

The English Lake District



Rev. William Bestelink who writes our Prayer Cycle with his wife Genny last December.



# NATIONAL PRAYER CYCLE

(This can be used weekly or monthly)

## ***Friendship – To love widely***

Give thanks for all Members in Britain and Overseas;  
Think of members who are housebound, ill or isolated.  
Pray for new members in Toc H



## ***Service – To build bravely***

Give thanks for new opportunities of Serving others  
Think of the Branches, their fellowship and activities.  
Pray for the people helped by the work of KYAG at Khasdobir

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

Give thanks for Talbot House and its welcome  
Think of those who died in The Battle of the Somme  
Pray for those suffering through war today, including refugees

## ***Witness – To witness humbly***

Give thanks for the Board of Trustees and everyone running Toc H.  
Think of AGM and plans being made at it.  
Pray that the Toc H Lamp will continue to inspire us, especially  
through the World Chain of Light

Prepared by William Bestelink

## 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