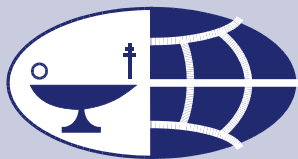


In Touch



Dec 2019

Charity No 211042
SC045491

Centenary Edition 1 of 10

Toc H—how, where, why did it begin



*The Grave of Man
painted by
Eric H Kennington
At Talbot House,
Poperinghe*

This is the grave of man. No
monument
Of patriot mourned by King
and Parliament.
But it and the obscure and
horrifying hand
Have thrust it up has long
since left the land.
For the trim parke of heroes
neatly planted
Through which the admiring
tourist moves enchanted.

W J Turner.

*As at the bottom of
the
painting opposite*

FRIENDSHIP SERVICE FAIRMINDEDNESS WITNESS
BY Toc H MEMBERS FOR Toc H MEMBERS

ISSN 1758-2407

IN TOUCH

EDITORIAL TEAM

Hilary Geater Childs
Rebecca Dickson
Marcia Wynter
Doug Geater Childs

Toc H
PO BOX 15824
Birmingham
B13 3JU

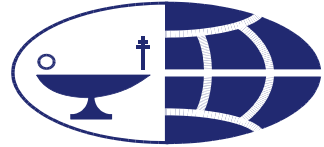
Tel: 0121 443 3552
e: info@toch.org.uk

A New Era

This is the first of a new style of In Touch that is intended to run throughout our centenary year and, apart from carrying the usual family news and articles, will cover the history of Toc H as seen at the time. So hopefully will give a 'feel' for each decade as our researcher, Jo Adams, is largely working from the journals of the time.

Jo (Josephine) brings fresh eyes to old material and like many people of today had virtually no knowledge of Toc H. She has not been aware of many of the different interpretations and sometimes myths that have come to be over the century. By working solely from the original material of each decade these relatively brief accounts should be a fresh view.

Although many feel they know Toc H inside out—I feel that part of its beauty is that every person who



Charity No 211042
SC045491

has come across it in any capacity has a totally individual

experience and therefore view of what Toc H is.

By the end of the Centenary year it is hoped that there will be a fresh history of the hundred years during which Toc H—the movement—did indeed move with the times and helped to form the society of today in positive ways!!

At the time of writing I also have to say that this is our intention, but with both our members of staff off sick, probably long term and me also needing extensive treatment, we just go forward in faith that "*a good thing thus begun*" will come to fruition in the form of a bound volume of the articles.

Hilary Geater Childs

EDITORIAL

The centenary of the foundation of Toc H has arrived and is marked with this issue of In Touch, in which we begin a series that will over the next twelve months tell the story of the Movement in the United Kingdom through the activities of members. We will include stories of developments that spread across the world whilst remembering that our foundational home are the many projects that came to life through a meeting in London in 1919.

In saying this I'm not seeking to avoid the importance of Talbot House which was the midwife to an idea that has led to a hundred years of activity.

The centenary is an opportunity to consider not the next hundred years, it is however a period in which we will be asking what is the future of Toc H?

Our membership like so many similar organisations is growing older, in this we are no different to membership bodies who have served local communities and raised funds for international projects. In reflecting on why this is the case the reasons given will be social media, the fact that younger people do not commit to established organisations and the catch all, so often used, that 'I'm/we are too busy' as though a previous generation had all the time in the world!. In addition, a problem for Toc H is that we have non-members who through social media seek to own the name and the ethos whilst failing to contribute to the wider good of the Movement.

I hope that during what left of 2019 and through 2020 we might be open to asking what the future is and how do we work together to build on the legacy created for us since the foundation in 1919.

The World Chain of Light will take place in Birmingham for the 24 hours of December 11th and 12th, sadly it will be a vigil of the faithful few. We had hoped that members would try to join us, sadly the response as been limited to say the least. I hope that all members will find time during the 24 hours to find time for reflection on the order of service that you have received and send to the office your reflections on the text and the questions.

We are entering a critical period as we consider the future, it is dependent on all of us to reflect on what the future might bring.

The critical element of our working together is encapsulated in the fact that since 2008 we have been heavily reliant on Hilary and Doug Geater Childs who for a number of these years allowed their home to be the office base. Both are now suffering different degrees of ill

health and need our support and prayers. In addition Marcia, our administrator, has been diagnosed with serious health issues.

The work load of maintaining the office has been held together by Hilary and Doug, the Board will be considering how we move forward in the light of the above, whilst we will do our best to identify answers we look to the members for support and if possible advice.

The centenary is a year for us to celebrate whilst we consider what is the future.

I will end on a positive note with the hope that over the coming months all of us will be open to contributing to answering the question what the future for Toc H is going to be in the period after December 2020.

Terry Drummond

A Specially Commissioned Play for the Centenary

Many of you will have enjoyed seeing Peter Gill's play titled 'Talbot House—A home from home' and Peter agreed to write another play which he has titled 'The Four Points of the Compass— The Story of the Toc H Movement' - It's world premiere will end the opening of our Centenary year by concluding the World Chain of Light. The lamp that will have been lit the evening before will mark the reaching of the full circle around the globe and its extinguishing the end of the Ceremony of Light and the beginning of the Centenary Year. There will be at least six performances throughout the year around the UK.

We are also delighted that Peter has joined as a member!

Wessex Toc H Bench Dedication

On 16th September, Wessex Toc H Branch gathered to dedicate the bench they had placed in Wantage Memorial Park. It is a symbol of remembrance and also an affirmation of Toc H's commitment to friendship and an end to loneliness.

Linda Parker gave a short introduction, the Revd. Roger Williams, the Branch Chaplain, dedicated the bench and the Town Mayor made a short speech followed by refreshments which were served at the bench. The Wantage Branch banner, which has not had an outing since the 1960's, was on display.

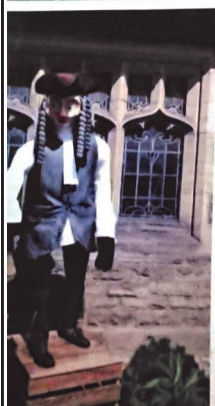
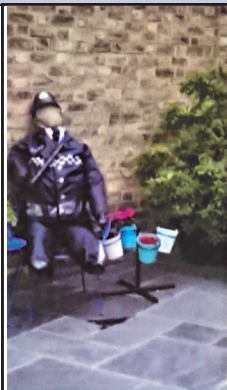
In Toc H Wessex news, it is hoped to extend the activities of the branch to Wallingford and Crowmarsh Gifford."

The Bench with
Wantage Branch
banner and group



Some of the Saltburn Scarecrows!!!

*In the positions they were in throughout Saltburn town Festival
which involved many of the Town's groups
including The Saltburn Toc H Branch!!!!*



The Movement of Toc H

The Beginnings : The Years Between

begin.....

The origins of Toc H cannot be attributed to one person's vision or pinpointed to one decisive moment, it was always more complex than that.

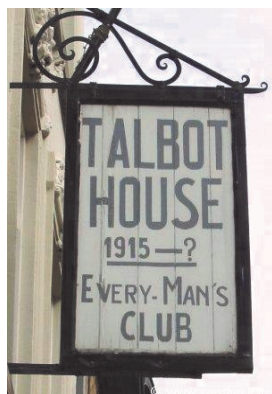
Impossible indeed, to explain the reasons for its inception in retrospect, given how much the world has changed in 100 years, the people involved are no longer with us and all that remains is a slim volume written in a time of great hope and optimism for the future following the cataclysmic years of the 1st World War.

It was of course, within those war years, 1914-1918, that the seeds of the organisation were sown and from which Toc H emerged to become such a global force for good in the world after peace had been declared.

The Establishment of Talbot House.

Perhaps a fundamental influence came before the war when a young curate, Rev. P.B.Clayton (Tubby) joined the staff of St. Mary and St. Barnabas in Portsea. While learning his trade he spent a lot of his time working at the Oxford and Bermondsey Mission, the origins of which began in 1897. Here a group of men from a variety of backgrounds joined together to start a boys club. The central ethos of fellowship and service that evolved there, many thought, in the long term, provided a formula for the future Toc H. But more than that, the fellowship and the spirit of service that evolved there provided a framework for Tubby to draw upon for the rest of his life.

The war began for Tubby at the end of 1915, when he was posted to the small town of Poperinge in Flanders with the British



Talbot House, Poperinge

As it was and still is today!



Expeditionary Force, which at that time, was uncomfortably close to the front line. The horror of trench warfare was all too apparent, as day by day fresh faced young soldiers marched through the streets, singing as they went, only to change, if they survived, into battle scared, haggard veterans of war.

About the same time the Senior Chaplain of the 6th Division, Rev. Neville Talbot, arrived in the town searching for a property to use as a church and club for his division. By chance he met M. Coevoet Camerlynck, a wealthy hop merchant, who owned 16 Rue de l'Hôpital, a tall white house with a big iron-work door. The Belgian had decided to leave the town as the area became more dangerous, but did not want to sell his property. However, in an unusual move offered to 'lend' it to the Army for the duration of the war. The offer was gratefully accepted and the story began.

It was first suggested that the house should be called Neville Talbot House after the Chaplain himself but he objected to this, suggesting instead that it should be named in memory of his brother, Gilbert, a Lieutenant in the Rifle Brigade who had been killed at Hoge on July 30th 1915. Thus Talbot House was opened in December 1915 to be managed by Tubby Clayton, H. R. Bates and Rev. Neville Talbot as an 'Everyman's Club' open to officers and men alike, with a smaller Little Talbot House run on the same model, opening in Ypres in 1917.

The house was cleaned, restored and altered with the help of volunteers from London and a succession of servicemen who were billeted close by. As Tubby planned, the willing volunteers created a Recreation Room, a Library, Writing Room and Chaplain's Room with a few bedrooms for those coming from or going on leave. In an effort to make the house a home, furniture was made, scrounged or donated with a wide variety of things arriving from home almost daily. Finally, in the traditional attic which ran the whole length of the building, a Chapel was created, using an old carpenter's bench found in an outhouse and hauled up three flights of stairs as an altar, and red wall hangings donated by the Bishop of Winchester. It is said that this 'Upper Room' chapel as it became known was where, "during the WW1, hundreds made their first Communion and thousands made their last"

The house offered the servicemen and a few servicewomen a sanctuary, a place to relax, unwind, pray, chat, play games, whatever they needed to escape the horrors of the battlefield. Tubby rose to the challenge, with his warm personality making the house a haven for all, creating the atmosphere of a country inn, without the alcohol!

He also visited men on the front line raising morale whenever he appeared, usually unannounced.

His aim was to instil into every battle weary soldier that

"Whether in the club rooms or the chapel....they were men, individuals, not just parts of a huge destructive machine. And it was only as each

man acted like a brother that universal brotherhood could be achieved”

It was this ethos of universal brotherhood that was to endure, not only during the conflict but in the years that followed, providing the basis upon which Toc H was born.

The beginnings...

It is perhaps impossible to pinpoint the precise origin of the huge organisation that Toc H was to become,..... easier perhaps to describe one man's dream to capture a spirit, a feeling of fellowship, sanctuary, safety and Christian belief that had once existed in Talbot House in a small Belgian town in the midst of unbelievable horror... and recreate it in peacetime London.

Padre P.B. Clayton ('Tubby') and a small group of friends succeeded in achieving this dream in 1920 when the first house, known as a 'Mark' was quickly followed by others, were established in London in the years immediately after the cataclysmic years of the 1st World War which had changed the world for ever.

Did they think their job was done?

Was this the only outcome they had hoped for?

Had they in their wildest dreams imagined what would follow?

No one knows.

The answers to these questions are lost in time, with only a slim volume known as '**The Years Between**' left to document the events and discussions that occurred between 1918 and 1922 that began to shape the nascent organisation. The importance of this four year development period was emphasised with the analogy that 'the first four years of a child's life were the most vital in defining its future', likewise these four years were to shape the future for Toc H.

'The Years Between'

Straight after the war, both Rev. Clayton (Tubby) and Rev. E K Talbot were involved in the Service Candidates' Ordination Test scheme which was held initially in Le Touquet and Radinghem in France before moving to Knutsford in Cheshire. Whilst this did delay plans for the re-



establishment of Talbot House in London for 6 months, in retrospect it did allow a clearer idea of peace time problems to emerge and its relaunch came at a time when other demobilisation schemes were failing.

For those who survived the war, while 723,000 did not, the end of hostilities marked a watershed for life to begin again. Service personnel returned to a changed world that would never resume its pre-war form and for them and those that had stayed at home, the peace that all had longed for brought a different set of problems.

Amongst those that had returned were many who had found sanctuary during active service in Talbot House in Poperinge, and at Little Talbot House in Ypres, and they returned with memories of respite, camaraderie and Christian fellowship that raised their spirits during the hardship and deprivation of war.

The names of all those who had visited the House had been recorded on slips of paper kept on the landing at the foot of the steep stairs that led down from the Upper Room and stored in 2 sandbags.

Unfortunately in the chaos that ensued when Talbot House was being 'demobbed' one bag was lost but the remaining bag, carefully guarded by Tubby contained the names of men who had used the house during wartime and could be 'Foundation Members' of a future organisation.

This list included a few women who had worked as nurses or ambulance drivers and had been allowed to enter the House to make their Communion. This was officially against military etiquette but nevertheless they were made welcome and could also be considered 'Foundation Members' and in 1919, they were considered the *only* women members of Toc H.

After he had finished his work at Knutsford, Tubby then embarked upon a huge publicity campaign, writing hundreds of letters, publishing articles in church magazine and giving talks all over London in an effort to galvanise support both for members and much needed funds. In September 'Tales of Talbot House' was published which reached a wider audience and recalled the wartime spirit of the service personnel from all ranks who had found solace while visiting the House.

The first official committee meeting was held on the Saturday after the first Armistice Day remembrance on November 15th 1919 with the Agenda written in the military style with which they were familiar:-

"Operation Order No. 1

Assembly Point: Central Church Fund Office Map. Ref. S.W.1.

Date: Saturday, 15th November, 1919

Zero Hour: 15.00 (3 p.m.)

- 1. Information The attack on the problem of re-opening Talbot House etc.*
- 2. Intentions*
- 3. Methods of Advance*

4. *Nature of Country*"

During the course of this meeting, a new name was discussed. The obvious Talbot House was rejected to avoid confusion with a previous house of that name in Camberwell opened by Bishop Talbot, the father of Neville and Gilbert. Instead it was decided "to adopt officially as the name of the new movement the affectionate diminutive of 'Talbot House' in the signaller's language – 'Toc H'"

Strangely, in 1930, another explanation of the name suggested that Toc H was a sign on a soldiers' rest room in the trenches at Ypres. Toc was the British 'Tommies' nickname for tea and H an abbreviation for house.

The ever optimistic Tubby wanted the first House to be in Trafalgar Square, however initially he had to be content with a room in Effingham House just off the Strand to work in and a tiny flat in High Holborn where he lived with four friends which became a sort of 'open house' reminiscent of the Padre's room at Poperinge.

The Executive committee set to work and came up with the aims for the new Toc H;

1. The perpetuation of the Active Service themes of Fellowship.
2. The extension of this tradition in the younger generation.
3. The continuation of the House tradition in service, thought and conduct.

A fund raising campaign was launched in late 1919 early 1920 which attracted the attention of some high profile men and, together with some other partnerships enough money was raised to purchase their first House. This was not, unfortunately in Trafalgar Square or Pall Mall but in Queens Gate Plaza in London's museums quarter. This was christened Toc H Mark I, copying the war-time phrase for distinguishing successive models, a custom that was to remain in the organisation to this day. This was so successful, with a constant stream of men using the facility, that this building was soon superseded by a bigger house in nearby Queens Gate Gardens.

The House had three functions:

1. To provide accommodation for a constant stream of men, (soldiers, businessmen, students and youngsters coming to London for work) who stayed for varying lengths of time, paid what they could and who pledged themselves to some form of service.
2. A club for men, both members and strangers to meet and socialise. Guest speakers would come to encourage education and discussion.
3. Business office of Toc H

Gradually knowledge of the new movement spread outside the capital. Tubby toured the country and ex-servicemen, who

remembered Talbot House, wanted to be involved in the new organisation. However, there was a growing realisation that to survive, it would have to appeal to the next generation, thus the idea that it was primarily for ex-servicemen had to change to involve younger people who had not experienced war.

Alongside this was the concern that Toc H's sole aim was to 'have a good time'. Whilst the encouragement of socialising and fellowship was still an important part of the remit, it was vital to encourage a commitment to service. During the four years of combat the idea of service was to win the war but now, within this new organisation this was to be replaced by the ideal of service to society as a whole.

It was nearly two years since the war had ended and the shining optimism that had greeted victory was fading fast as the promised 'homes for heroes' had not been built, unemployment and prices were rising and strikes forecast. In this difficult environment Toc H began to provide 'service' helping demobilised men to find jobs and in so doing the foundations of the new Toc H movement began to strengthen.

Meanwhile three members of the Executive Committee (Tubby, Dick Sheppard and Alec Paterson) met for breakfast one Sunday after Church to discuss the main philosophical principles of Toc H with the aim to produce a 'Rule' for the organisation.

Their initial suggestions were:

1. To promote an active and intelligent sense of brotherhood among men of all classes.
2. To stand for the fullest development of the individual for every man as may assure him security and opportunity within the growing framework of Society.
3. To rest content with no less a standard of education than will enable Everyman both to think and act with

SOS FROM TOC.H.
 LATE 'TALBOT HOUSE' EVERYMAN'S CLUB, PAPER INCH & YPRES 1915-18.
£50,000 IS URGENTLY NEEDED TO CONTINUE ITS WORK IN LONDON.

TOC.H
 IS THE
ARMY'S
 AFFECTIONATE
 DIM. FOR
TALBOT
HOUSE
 THE SOLDIER'S HOME FROM HOME IN THE
 YPRES SALIENT.

H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, who knew and assisted the old house in Poperinghe, conveys "his sincere and cordial wish that such an excellent undertaking will meet with every success."

DONATIONS OR
THE LOAN OF LARGE SUMS FOR REPAYMENT WITHOUT INTEREST ARE THE BEST WAY OF HELPING TOC.H TO FOUND A CENTRAL CLUB HOUSE IN LONDON WITH HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION

Cheques should be made payable to "Toc.H." or Bearer, addressed to Barclay's Bank, Ltd., 1 Pall Mall East, S.W. 1
 Padre and Hon. Secretary: Rev. P. B. CLAYTON, M.C., "Toc.H." Offices, Effingham House, Arundel St., Strand, W.C.1

judgment and unselfishness, not only as a neighbour but as a citizen.

4. To recognise the dominating claims of the spiritual factor in human life and to found on them a principle of reconciliation between man and man in the joy of service for the common good

The influences for these points can be traced back to each man's previous theological and philosophical experiences and express the wish in the first two points that opportunity should be available to all men, while the second two 'suggest deeper and more pervading quest'. As time went on, these tenets evolved into the four points of the compass that Toc H members should live their lives by. It is interesting to note the similarity at this stage, of these ideals to those of the Society of Friends.

Tubby then added the means in which these aims could be achieved

1. The opening of a series of self-supporting Club-Hostels, where both residents and visiting members stand four-square in the unity of common life.
2. The establishment of Central Club premises, which in addition to the ordinary recreation facilities shall serve as a depot for the diffusion of a wider outlook and for the recruitment and training of social workers.
3. To bring the expert to the Group, thus educating both ourselves and what public opinion we can influence.
4. To spread the Gospel without preaching it

In effect, the first two points would use the original Talbot House in

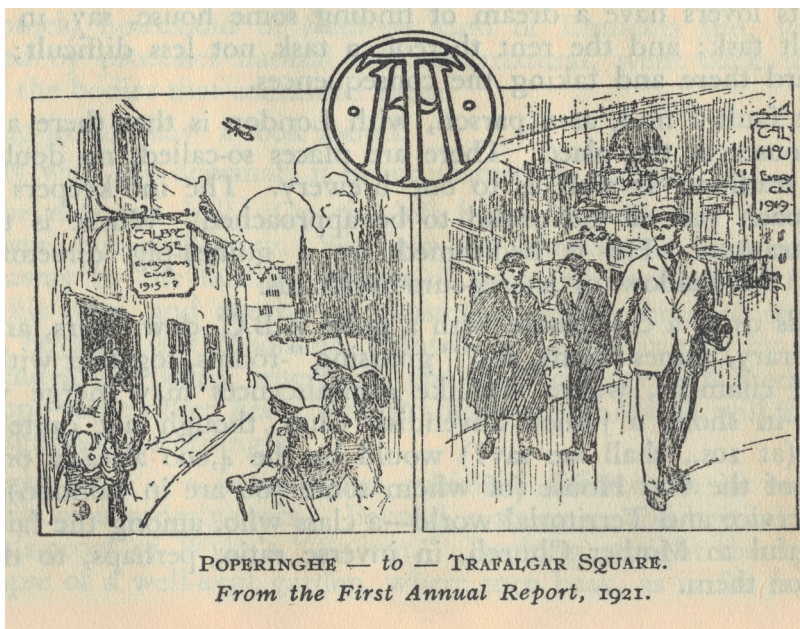
Poperinge as the central model and point of reference to follow in order to provide a framework for the organisation's growth. To demonstrate the early success of this plan, the first Mark in London had provided a welcome for 16,000 men and accommodation for about 400 others during the first year of operation. A second Mark was opened in London in September 1920, made possible by the generosity of the Duke of Westminster who had donated a large house in Pimlico.

Whilst these two Marks could provide a very obvious form of service to whoever needed it whether it was Ex-servicemen, the unemployed, homeless, disabled, lonely etc. it was felt that there must be some sort of longer term guidance for other enthusiastic members who wanted to be seen to be contributing. A memo was issued providing a framework for what in the future was to become 'Jobmastery' and it also suggested that Toc H should in fact become a sort of 'Bureau' to help to supply

Social
work
those
need.

**A
new**

to
in



partnership.

In June 1921, Toc H joined forces with the Cavendish Association with a view to save the latter and benefit and strengthen the former organisation.

The Cavendish Club, as it was first known, was founded in 1911 and was based in expensive premises in Piccadilly overlooking Green Park. It was similar to other clubs in London at that time, although the members may have been younger and predominantly from Public School, and

were also engaged in some sort of 'social service', which may have singled it out as somewhat different to the other clubs. It was probable that members would often do some sort of social work at a mission, settlement or similar, then meet for lunch or afterwards in the smoking room for pleasant conversation or discussion, so enjoying themselves whilst doing something worthwhile. However, when war broke out this changed irrevocably as the majority felt military service was vital and took precedence over work at the Cavendish. After the war everything had changed and many members had been killed or wounded. The remaining Public School men had less money and time and had realised during their time in the services that attitudes had also changed. Life in the trenches had blurred the lines between those who attended public school and those who had not and the elite atmosphere of the West End Club was no longer appropriate.

However, ahead of the demise of the fashionable Club some original members had, in 1913, formed the Cavendish Association which was to encourage similar aspects of service to the community but without the fellowship of the original Club. This was to be a nationwide scheme that was launched on November 5th with a series of public meetings all across the country. (Some of the speakers at those meetings were to become significant members of Toc H in the future). War broke out nine months after the launch and the Association suffered as a result but struggled on with little success for the next four years. In an effort to save their organisation they aimed to target boys in Public Schools as new recruits, but they had little success in those turbulent times. The Association was about to be wound up when someone suggested a link with the emerging Toc H. Both organisations had similar aims but with some key differences notably the view that Cavendish demanded that all members were from Public Schools while Toc H took the opposite view that all men were equal regardless of where they were educated. More than that, the central ethos of the community of Talbot House was to eradicate class distinctions in society rather than reinforce them as some members of the Cavendish Association would advocate. This difference almost seemed to illustrate some of the differences in 'pre-War' and 'post-War' cultural attitudes throughout Britain at this time as it struggled to re-adjust to a different set of peace time values.

"What one generation regards as an unquestionable truth, often seems snobbery and cant to the next"

Another stumbling block was the attitude to religion, with the Cavendish Club actively preventing Churchmen joining, in contrast to Toc H where the Padre had a central role in every aspect of its existence. The exception to this was the Chaplain of the Cavendish Club, Rev. Dick Shepherd, who was given his own chapel at the top of the Club (the only London Club to have one). However, it was said this was seldom used and covered in dust, in contrast to those in Toc

H Marks. (Dick Shepherd was also a member and influential figure in Toc H, helping amongst other things in drawing up the Four Points of the Compass).

Much difficult discussion followed focussing mainly on the above points but in May 1921



agreement was reached and the two organisations amalgamated resulting in the new organisation being stronger both in terms of finance and personnel. Subsequently, the network that the Cavendish Association had built up in Public Schools was extended to include secondary schools and by 1928, a new Schools Section had evolved that, it was hoped, would encourage the ethos of service in the community and help recruit new members to the new amalgamated organisation.

Inevitably months of discussion followed about the name of this new body, with the initial view that both names should be kept. Some (from Cavendish no doubt) felt the name Toc H conveyed little to the majority of people, so would be unsuitable in the long term. The only new suggestion that was recorded was, 'The League of Twentieth Century Ploughmen' ... which did not appeal! Eventually the prevailing thought that won the day was that the name Toc H was remembered with such affection by so many men all over the world and so it lived on. The name, Cavendish Association was retained in the small print until 1933 when it disappeared.

The growth of Toc H

By the beginning of 1921 Toc H was growing rapidly with a third Mark opening in London and another planned in Southampton. Across the country from Glasgow to Cambridge groups of people were getting together and spreading the word. As hoped for, this enthusiasm

seemed to encompass everyone from every walk of life. In Glasgow, 30 industrial workers joined forces with some professional men, in Durham a club was formed for miners, tradesmen and undergraduates, while in Cambridge, 115 members of 'both town and gown' met for supper every week. By the autumn of 1921, 70 groups of some sort were in existence and by 1922, 40 of these had become full branches.

The steady growth in numbers continued with members from all levels of society welcomed into membership and while this inclusivity was something Toc H advocated, the idea emerged that prospective members should be able to demonstrate a level of responsibility before full acceptance. A selection process was introduced to

"Preserve a balance between 'the very best of each class in the community,' and a period of probation was laid down in which would be members test their allegiance to Toc H ideals and their own desire and capacity for the service of others"

If, after the probationary period, which may vary between a year and a few months, the prospective candidate lived up to expectations, he was elected to full membership by fellow members of his branch. This however, was the ideal and over the years seemed to become less important since any man willing to commit himself was usually a great asset. The overarching concept was that workers would be made welcome with no restriction on "youth or age, wealth or poverty, Christian denomination or political party". Although, interestingly, an aspect of this was challenged just eight years later.

Admin and a party...

As numbers grew, so did the central administration team (that was to become the Central Executive) to provide a framework for the burgeoning organisation. In the spirit of Toc H, for whom the wellbeing of its members was always the first priority, one of the first things they did was to organise a nationwide party.

The date chosen for this was December 15th 1921. The significance of this related to the opening of Talbot House in Poperinge in 1915, although some would argue it was the 11th, the 15th became the official date.

There had, in fact, been a 'first' anniversary celebration the year before when members in London had enjoyed a low key evening, but in 1921 this was to be a much bigger event.

It was decided that the event would consist of an afternoon Thanksgiving Service followed by 'lay festival' in the evening, which was, on this first occasion just a very grand party. This model of a service, following by more relaxed sociable events, was to become the norm in the future as the 'Birthday Party' became an annual event.

The simple Family Service attended by 700 members from all over the country, was held at St. Martin-in-the-Fields and Padre Pym preached

the sermon. The party that followed was held in the former Grosvenor House at the invitation of the Duke of Westminster and his aunt Lady Grosvenor both of whom were supporting the work of Toc H. 1500 people ranging from Bermondsey bus drivers to Welsh miners came and enjoyed getting to know each other with the help of food, much beer and dancing in the ballroom. The Patron, the Prince of Wales was unable to attend but was represented by his brother Prince, Henry who brought a message from him which 'showed his real interest and knowledge of the movement'. Everyone present signed a round robin to demonstrate both their commitment and the acknowledgement of the progress made so far, with a promise of an unknown but optimistic future.



H.R M The Prince of Wales in 1921

This promise for the future was symbolised by the presence of George Coltman, an injured ex-serviceman who had visited Talbot House during the war but who lay helpless in his hospital bed surrounded by youngsters just out of school.

The journey overseas.....

The growth of the movement in the last 2 years had been so successful that it was decided that the model would work elsewhere in the world and to that end Tubby set out on January 6th 1922 to spread the word.

During 1916 many Canadian soldiers visited Talbot House and it was rumoured that some groups had already begun to form there so

Tubby set off to offer encouragement. At this time he was tired and struggling with his health. The months of unremitting work that starting an organisation entailed had taken its toll so he was looking forward to some travelling with a few lectures along the way to pay his way. When he arrived he discovered that a whole campaign had been arranged for him that took him all over the country on a journey that was constantly beset by logistical problems. He then went on to New York which was initially less welcoming but he warmed to them gradually. However, after 3 months that included 31 nights on trains, 16 public lunches, 18 evening lectures, 4 universities, 18 schools and colleges and 17 sermons he was exhausted and sailed home in the

sick bay. He arrived home on April 8th declaring that progress had been made and Toc H overseas was born. A Dominion Executive was formed and many other such pilgrimages were to take place in the future.

The women.....

While Tubby had been travelling in Canada he noticed the support that some organisations received from women. These groups, he explained, raised money, organised events, arranged acts of service in the community etc. and he suggested to the Central Executive that a similar body could benefit Toc H here. Just a month later, it was recommended that the Toc H League of Women Helpers (LWH) be formed in London and Miss A.B.F.Macfie, one of the Poperinge nurses who had been a Foundation Member issued the first L.W.H. leaflet which included a covering letter from Tubby, in which he referred to the 'London Women's Association' of Toc H.

At this point it was clear that the men of the Committee envisaged that the women would provide domestic assistance within the London houses checking linen, mending hostellers' clothes, and supplying flowers, cleaning and making the Chapels look beautiful, which indeed they did. The groups flourished and new ones began to form in other towns across the country. However it did not take long for the women to decide that they wanted to contribute more than just mending old socks. The idea that the L.W.H could provide service similar to the men for women and girls was evolving and was to change the focus of the women's organisation in the future. While no one could doubt the value of this work, this change of direction was to become the focus of great discussion in the future.

More diversification....

Toc H diversified in other ways organising pilgrimages to the battlefields of Flanders and to Oberammergau, the latter being repeated every 10 years. They acquired some land in New Barnet that became a very popular sports club for London members for many years, first with very successful football teams before rugby became more popular. Sporting competition including tennis, golf, athletics and bowls became part of many branches programme encouraging lively competition, fellowship and health benefits. The arts were not forgotten with the formation of a Drama league and encouragement offered for all types of creative expression.

As Toc H grew the need for communication also grew and in 1921 the news sheet began. This was written, arranged, edited, typed, printed, packed, addressed and posted by the Registrar and included news and amusing anecdotes. In June 1922 this was superseded, by a printed Journal with a dedicated Editor, much to the relief, no doubt, of the Registrar! This Journal was to become more than just an account of Toc H activities, including articles and discussion about contemporary social problems.

In the summer of 1922, the Archbishop of Canterbury unexpectedly offered Tubby the living of All Hallows-by-the-Tower, the oldest church in London. The Archbishop had always supported the work of Talbot House and the Ordination Test School that Tubby had been involved in, so knew a great deal about the work of Toc H. He considered that the move would benefit both the Church and Toc H but it was a big decision for Tubby to step aside from his role as Founder Padre in Toc H and return to life as a parish priest. After some thought he accepted the role and as a result All Hallows became the focal point in the Christian life of Toc H for the foreseeable future.

The Royal Charter

When Tubby left for his new post at All Hallows, Peter Monie became the Honorary Administrator and immediately decided that an organisation of this size and potential had to be put in order. A Constitution and Bylaws were drafted and the Executive Committee petitioned for a Royal Charter of Incorporation. This resulted in the full membership of Toc H being formed into an Association, the Prince of Wales became its Patron, Three Trustees were nominated to hold property and funds and the Objects of the Association were drawn up. This however, did not go exactly to plan as the membership, while accepting the 4 main objectives put forward by the Central Council, felt the Christian basis had been lost. So a new clause was added, which emphasised the Christian commitment first experienced at Talbot House during the war, which was to become known as the *Main Resolution* of Toc H.

So on December 14th 1922 the Royal Charter received the King's signature and Toc H became a recognised national institution.

"Its conquests were now the conquests of a company, its triumphs the triumph of a pervading spirit, its failures the failure of each individual member"

Journal 1930, 35.

The Years Between, 13

The Years Between, 17.

The Years Between, 18.

The Years Between, 18.

The Years Between. 74.

The Years Between, 23.

Op. cit. 23

The Years Between, 32.

The Years Between' in Supplements. 1933-34-35, 4.

'Ferguson, N. 1998. *The Pity of War*. P.298.

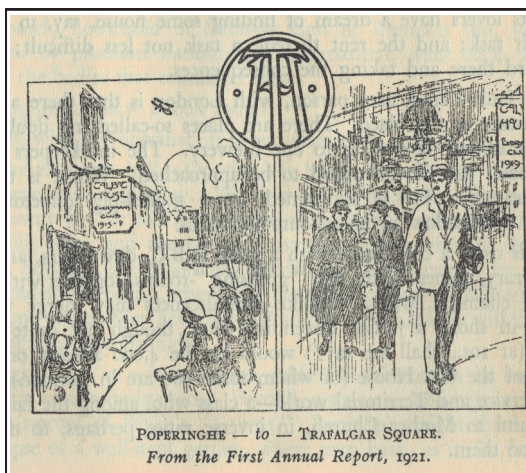
Each year we are privileged by the Palace to send two representatives to one of the Queen's Garden parties. Neither can have been nominated by Toc H before and each is allowed to be accompanied by a guest of their

choosing.

This year we asked Kevin Piggot who was completing a year as an observer on the Board and has since been elected as a Trustee. Kevin nominated to be accompanied by his wife.

Our other nominee was Netta Ryall whose daughter was delighted to go with her. Netta has since joined the Board as an observer

The opposite page may give a taste of the event



Remembrance Sunday

Toc H was again privileged to be allowed to take part in the Remembrance Sunday march past the Cenotaph in Whitehall.

Unfortunately we had little opportunity to draw together our small party of representatives this year and we were unable to send the our usual number of people. However it was good to know that we were in fact proudly represented in this our Centenary Year.



Perplexed !!

As the task of creating the new Catalogue to the Toc H Archive has finished, I had asked to be informed of any gaps in the archive.

One of the gaps in in the series of volumes of 'The Log' the women's movements equivalent to 'The Journal' it is the years of 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944 and 1945 the volumes are missing but we have a separately extracted set of files that index these volumes.

So if you know of the whereabouts of any of these volumes Toc H would be interested in adding them to the Archive. They cover an almost undocumented time of Toc H History the great work that was done in the UK with the Service Clubs. It is a pity that they are missing.

If you know of them please contact me on dgc@toch.org.uk
or 0121 44 33 55 2 .

Thanks!

Doug Geater Childs

The Palace Garden Party



For many years Toc H has been privileged to receive an invitation from The Palace to nominate two representatives to attend one of the Queen's Garden Parties. Each nominee much not have been previously and is allowed to be accompanied by one person of their own choosing.

This year the Board nominated Kevin Piggot who was at the time an observer on the Board and has recently been elected as a Trustee. Kevin's chose to be accompanied by his wife!

Our other representative was Netta Ryall who is a member of Heart of England Branch and who is now attending the Board as an observer. Netta chose to be accompanied by her daughter.

Despite the damp at damp weather they all enjoyed the once in a lifetime experience!!





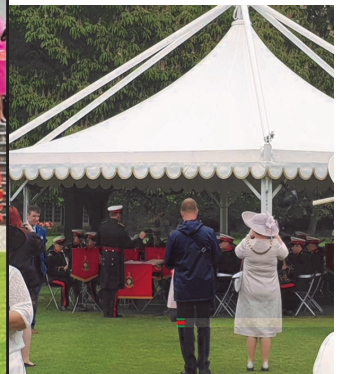
The Palace



The Queen in the Rain!



The Royal Escort of Beefeaters Shelter for the Band



We will remember them !

**Adrian Dudman
Peggy Long
Rene Harrison**



Age shall not weary them

Memories and Letters

Chris Hobby : Hampshire

As a second generation Toc H member I realise that the heyday of the Movement has passed. However, the Four Points of the Compass hold fast as principles to live one's life by. Sadly, I am now a lone member in the New Forest but that does not prevent me from carrying the principles out into my work life. Now nearing 50 years in membership; I joined as an associate until I reached 18 and could become a full member together with my late parents. The family will have given nearing 175 years of service within the Movement.

With my very best of wishes to all in Toc H.

Sincerely yours

Chris Hobby

We have also received a fascinating articles from Marion Tysoe and Pat Ingham and one or two others, but unfortunately have run out of space in this edition and will retain them for a later ones. Please keep them coming!!!!

Toc H is the sum of its members. Each one has their own story and each is UNIQUE—SO PLEASE SHARE THEM!!!!!!

Words from the General Secretary

Can I please take this space to thank all the members who increased their giving in an attempt to balance Toc H's books'. Once again I want to stress Toc H has no wish to exclude any from membership on the basis of their inability to afford large donations. That said any of you who have meant to do it, can I ask you, to do it now!

In the past day or two we have received two enquiries about membership and it might be helpful to some to see what I have taken to writing about membership dues which is:-

"Can I just make a small note the minimum membership subscription just about covers the cost of what an individual member receives during the year, In Touch and correspondence. The original suggestion, made way back in the beginning, was that members should pay to Toc H Family Purse a week's income. Now no one does that any longer. I do not want to put anyone off becoming a member on grounds of cost, indeed we have several members who are completely sponsored by the movement. The fact of the matter is that Toc H is currently being financed by legacy income, clearly not a sustainable method."

However we hope you all realise that Toc H is about people and it values them far more than the income they might bring.

Douglas Geater Childs.

Staff Update:

Toc H has managed on a skeleton staffing since 2008 and for the majority of that time only employed Doug to deal with the accounts at all sorts of issues on behalf of the Board. I as a Trustee have of course worked throughout in an entirely voluntary capacity. About three years ago Marcia was employed and completed two years training in book-keeping in order to start to take over the reins.

Unfortunately all three of us currently have serious, possible long term illness issues, **So please bear with us!!!!**

Hilary Geater Childs

NATIONAL PRAYER CYCLE

(This can be used weekly or monthly)

Friendship – We love widely

We love widely for all members, Branches and lone members in UK and overseas; and for those who are unwell.

Service – To build bravely

To build bravely thinking of people's needs in the UK and overseas;

Pray for activities serving others, for new ways of supporting

and that more will wish to share in this work.

Fair mindedness – To think fairly

We think of plans for Toc H's development and for the Board following the AGM; that its property can benefit our work, and the facilities of the HQ continue to develop.

Witness – To witness humbly

To witness humbly thinking of the Toc H Centenary and for all events being planned, starting with the World Chain of Light on 11 December.

We give thanks that the examples of former Members.

*Prepared by Canon William Bestelink
October, 2019*



MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

Friendship:

To love widely

Service:

To build bravely

Fairmindedness:

To think fairly

Witness:

To witness humbly