



Foy News
Spring 2014

The Foy Society

is a fellowship of women and men who, in a spirit of free inquiry, seek to understand the nature of present issues and problems - political, social and religious.

Founded in 1924 as The Fellowship of Youth, in 1957 we became known as the Foy Society. We had gradually taken on the role of an inter-generational group. Despite the fact that most of our members are Unitarians, all are welcome to join and participate, whatever religious background. Our discussions and interaction thrives on a rich texture of input. Please feel free to join us.

Cover picture: Refurbished Gong at the Nightingale Centre. See page 33

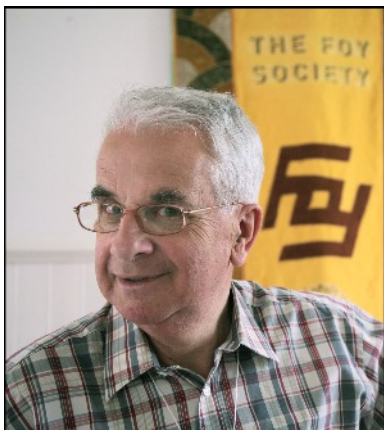
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PRESIDENT'S PIECE

Richard Varley

As I approach the conclusion of my two year term of office as President, it seems an appropriate opportunity to express some personal reflections. To serve an organisation with a small and very wide geographical spread is not something that I am used to. I have been concerned that all our members should feel a part of the organisation but it is difficult to gauge the feeling of the Society as a whole.

The two main areas of communication are Foy News and the annual Foy Conference. John Hewerdine does an excellent job in producing the two editions of Foy News each year and they form a valuable means of communication. However, I do feel that the communication is largely one way: does the membership as a whole feel included? About a fifth of our membership takes part in Foy Conference.

My term of office will have touched on three conferences, covering a wide range of topics. Consideration of the impact of the fictional detective was perhaps a lighter subject but, nevertheless, did have a serious aspect in considering whether there could be an impact on the working of a jury. This year's subject on the War on Drugs is in the very capable hands of Dot Hewerdine and I am sure will be an event not to be missed.

I was pleased that last year's conference on the subject of Climate Change fell in the middle of my term of office. It is a subject which I find fascinating and thought provoking. I was sorry that one member felt sufficiently moved to resign his membership as he felt that the planning of the conference was biased in its approach. I felt that Vic Mason and Colin Partington were very careful to ensure that all sides of the subject were presented in a balanced manner, putting their own personal opinions to one side. To arrive at a consensus at the end of the conference was not easy. There was an overall view that our activities *are* impacting on our climate. What was far more difficult to ascertain was to what extent they are having an impact. Informed opinion differs. We had concerns that some opinions and actions could be subject to commercial and political

influence. I was happy that our 'Inquirer' article adequately summarised our thoughts.

Whilst, in some ways this may be viewed as something of an inconclusive outcome, it is one with which I am comfortable. It certainly leads me to extend my study of the subject. Before the conference, my reading included Nigel Lawson's book 'An Appeal to Reason: a Cool Look at Global Warming'. It is a book that I would commend to you. I feel that he puts forward some very valuable and balanced opinions. It is right and proper that we should reduce what we perceive to be harmful emissions. However, there do appear to be differences of opinion as to which are the most harmful ones. We have a responsibility to ensure that we use finite resources responsibly; that we reduce waste and pollution, not just in disposal but in the optimum use of resources. We should ensure that the measures we take are free of commercial and political influence and do not place an unfair financial burden on those least able to cope with it.

What I fear is that whatever we are doing is a proverbial drop in the ocean. In particular, vastly larger nations like China and India are industrialising at such an extent and pace that their potential impact is overwhelming what we, and the EEC, are achieving. They are seeking to attain a standard of living to which we are accustomed and feel entitled to do so. Whilst that battle is being fought, it would appear that if we are being subjected to more extreme weather patterns more frequently, then we must focus on taking measures to alleviate the impact of these on our lives. Throughout history, life on our planet has adapted to changes in climate. It is a view that Lawson expresses in his book. For instance, it would appear that some measures we are taking are having an impact. Whilst there are those who have sadly suffered as a result of the latest floods, many fewer homes have been inundated compared with previous serious floods. On the other hand, our rail network has suffered to a greater extent but I have not to date been able to discover so far whether industry and farming communities have to a greater or lesser extent. Climate has changed in the past: it will continue to change in the future. It is important that we recognise the fact and react accordingly.

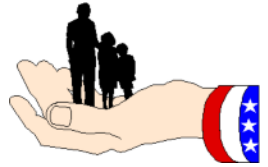
It is a challenging subject, rightly considered by Foy as a conference topic. It is one to which we should return in the future, in one shape or another. Consideration of the ways in which we are wasteful is one which has been short listed previously and a topic which I feel we should seriously consider visiting in the future.

If during my term of office, Foy has raised awareness of the various aspects of Climate Change, and encouraged wider consideration and study of the subject, I shall feel that some small progress has been made.

Richard Varley

Pledging USA style

Douglas Copley



Many years ago, at a Foy gathering, two worthy members were discussing the practice of pledging which happens annually in American Unitarian Universalist churches. They came to the conclusion that it was another peculiar American activity which would not work in England. I was not aware of what pledging involved then so could not influence their decision. However, after living in America for almost 20 years and annually pledging to my local Unitarian Universalist Church, even organizing the pledge for the church several times, I feel now qualified to comment on the matter.

Unitarian Universalist (UU) churches begin their financial year with a pledge drive in the early spring. The members of the church are asked to say how much they intend to give to the church over the coming year. This is organized in a variety of ways differing from year to year and church to church but it is done in a confidential way. The purpose of the pledge is to enable the church to prepare a budget for the coming year which is as realistic as possible. The budget allocates money to the various departments and committees of the church as well as for wages of employees and the upkeep of the church. Once the budget is set, the committees of the church (Sunday school, music, worship, social justice and so on) can all plan their activities for the year knowing what they can afford. If this is beginning to sound like running a business I am not surprised, as my local UU church employs six people: the Minister, the Religious Education Director, the Administrator, the Music Director, the Organist, and the Custodian (Caretaker). It is important to know that the church is going to be able to pay their employees.

The pledge drive can be as simple as a letter to all members with a pledge card in it and an envelope to return the card. However, it seems that the more effort that is put into the pledge drive the better result of the pledge. Obviously, a committee is formed to plan the pledge drive and the first task is to pick a theme for the drive. "Spread the light", "Sustain the Message", "Forward Together" are samples. "We need all the pieces to make the Picture," was one when we used a jigsaw puzzle of the church. A piece of the puzzle was distributed to each member, to bring with their pledge to put together the picture and contribute to church. A good imagination is needed for this. The next task is to design a brochure to inform the congregation of all the activities that are part of our church, the proportion of our income that we devote to the activities, the fraction of our income coming from each source of income such as the pledge, plate collection, lettings of our buildings and so on. Some worthy member of the congregation writes a letter to go with the brochure encouraging the congregation to pledge and be generous.

The pledge campaign may be brought to the attention of the congregation at a social event held at the church. The congregation is given a good time, wine and dine, then given a short light talk about the pledge drive. This may be taken as a good time to distribute pledge cards, brochures and letters to the congregation or they may be posted to them. The evening is a jolly one to be looked forward to.

The minister may devote a sermon to inspiring the congregation to pledge generously and this has been referred to as “the sermon on the amount”. During the time of the pledge, a slot in services can be allocated for members of the congregation to speak about the importance of the church for them and why they intend to give it their support. A canvass of the congregation is also often a part of the pledge campaign. A few members of the congregation volunteer to be canvassers and visit other members to talk with them about things in general, church life and pledging “the ask”. The canvasser may have been given an amount to suggest for the pledge and the Unitarian Universalist Association publishes a table of suggested pledging levels for different levels of income. It is generally thought that canvassing improves the result of a pledge drive; variety in the form of the pledge drive is also welcome. The amount of each person’s pledge is kept confidential of course.

Pledges are not legally enforceable contracts but reminders do get sent when people forget to honour their pledges. As a rule of thumb about 90% of pledges will be paid so this is taken into account when budgeting.

Would this work in England? Who can tell!

Flagg Update

Mark Ruston

This is just a quick update regarding the work on the Green, Flagg. As always seems to be the case in the Derbyshire dales (regardless of the state of the national economy), contractors have 6 month order books. The upshot is that we are hoping that work will start on the Green very soon and should be complete before Trustees weekend at the end of May.

We hope to be able to get tenants in for the summer (which is just the time when we want agents to show them around). Obtaining the finances continues apace and we have a workable forward solution to cover the costs we expect to meet, within the limits agreed at the last Trustees meeting in 2013.

More from across The Pond

Patricia Kent

Our faith journeys are often varied and questioning and learning has always been a part of my journey. It has only been in the last ten years that I have found enlightenment in Unitarianism.

If I had heard of Unitarianism, it was certainly not much and to be honest, it had never made any major entrance into my conscience thought. Then I met Geoffrey Kent. I was working for the United Methodist Church District Office in one of the 3 largest districts of the Methodist Church in the U.S.

Geoff and I were both church goers. I was raised very ecumenically and taught a great respect for other people and their beliefs. Initially we took turns and went with one another to our churches. The more I learned about the Unitarian Universalist Church of Atlanta (UUCA), and what they stood for and believed in, the more impressed I became. When Geoff and I decided to get married, we also decided to get married in the UK at Great Hucklow, as many of you who came to help us celebrate will remember. We had the good fortune to plan the wedding with David Shaw and I realized immediately I was far more comfortable initially, with Unitarianism than UU's.

Our Atlanta congregation struggles to come to terms with what I have come to believe is trying not to be over biased to Christianity. It does a great job in being so inclusive for all the seven principles, that if anything it shorts Christianity, just to make sure it is not at the top of that list. This is of course my perspective and I am sure a good argument could be mounted for an opposing view.

I was amazed when David Shaw asked me if I would like the Lord's Prayer at our wedding, something that has never been said to my knowledge in our UUCA congregation here. I was delighted. In my walk,, of faith, I have been on a Christian path. This of course is due to my parents and where I was born and into what culture I was born. I am sure, had I been born in China, all would be different.

Unitarians I have come to know are a very open, inclusive bunch of people. They are supportive of one another and certainly try hard to exist in a community where respect for one another's faith walk, whatever the path each of us is on is paramount, in their working together for the greater community's good. I am so impressed with Geoff's church and grateful for the time I spend there and the deeper I get involved the more there is to like. They are constantly trying to do what is right for the environment and all of us, trying to make our way through.

They embrace the arts, UUCA has the oldest continuous art gallery in the city. Geoff has helped to hang the art shows that change monthly for years and I have been helping for the last several years. I am now serving on the Art Committee, even though I am not an official member. I am treated with respect but not proselytized. In a Methodist church the conversation of when I was going to join would have happened long before now and been a fairly constant subtle if not outright aggressive attempt to bring me within the fold. I have felt I am already a part of Geoff's church without any of the pressure. Having lived 4 years in Utah among Mormons, I can tell you I know proselytizing pressure at it's most formidable.

UUCA is an open church to all, blacks, gays, lesbians, transgender, Asians, Buddhists, Jews, Catholics, etc. etc., Methodists, Southern Baptists, and the pews are filled with all of us. This is an amazing feat for Atlanta, Georgia. This is only because the seven principles are embraced by all. UUCA was the first white congregation to invite Martin Luther King to speak and the first one to desegregate. That is a huge statement. Gigantic in it's proportion to members losing their jobs, and having crosses burned on their front lawns as direct consequences of walking their faith and practicing what is, I would say, preached here. Sermonized is a much better term for UUCA. For any of you who might like to find out more about you can go to www.uuca.org.

In what started for me as giving support to the man I love's beliefs, to coming to a deeper understanding of these beliefs, I have come to respect and admire what Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists believe. I am continuing my journey with a decision to attend the classes to find out more about joining you all on this open path to enlightenment I have come to walk on and love.

Patricia Kent

THE PRIESTLEY SOCIETY

HAZEL WARHURST

The Priestley Society was the Cambridge University branch of the Foy Society and Roger Mason was one of its last members. Cambridge Foy ceased meeting after the Minister Rev Stuart Carter died in 1966. Malcolm Hall held a series of reunions of former members in Cambridge up to 2009. He sadly passed away in 2010. The other former members of the Society are all aged 72 or older, says Roger, and in discussion with them it has been decided to close the account and make the outstanding balance of about £100 available to the Foy Society.

Foy Council thanks Roger for arranging this for us. The Treasurer proposes to transfer the money to the Special Projects fund. This will be discussed at the AGM.

Bigger is Better - up to a Point

Geoff Kent

(Editor's note: The Kents, along with Douglas Copley, have put us Brits to shame in this edition. Yes, 100% of our American members have sent contributions for the last two editions of Foy News.)

Pat and I have been going to church quite often, lately, in contrast to a year or two back when we hardly went. Pat's interest has flourished and she has become quite an advocate of the UU cause and the outreach activities of the church. We are now on the Arts Committee, partly because I submit drawings for the members' show, but mostly because we are Ruth's best picture hangers for the monthly show.

Last week, there was a congregational meeting about the church building. Apparently, Anthony Makar, our energetic minister, had referred to possibilities of expansion in two previous services (something that obviously went right past me) and he raised the discussion topic of expansion or moving to a new church.

This has come up before, of course - I have been on two building expansion committees, the first coming to nothing but the second resulting in a big expansion/upgrade about 12 years ago. On that occasion, we built a new admin wing and put insulation on the huge roof, as well as upgrading windows, lighting and the sound system and installing lifts between various levels.

There have been two philosophies that have run through the congregation in the past. One for building expansion and the other for spinning off new local congregations. When I said my piece, it was to discourage moving to a new site, pointing out that the building (designed by a notable local architect) had an established identity in Atlanta and beyond. Even the art gallery is the longest established exhibition venue in Atlanta.

There has always been a concern about the Sanctuary. The original brief for the church was for an emphasis on community and our worship space reflects this. It is circular, with steeply raked seating so that we all get a good view of one another during the service. I like it, and so do many others, but it has its limitations.

One drawback is capacity, with a 450 person maximum (with the Fire Marshal around). That sounds like a lot, but our membership is up around 600 and during the Autumn to Spring period we have two Sunday services. Another problem is accessibility to the raked seating. We address this to some extent

with the last refit, installing a lift to the upper level and devoting the seating round the lower floor to the less agile.

In my address to the meeting, I referred to Hucklow, and that the ancient chapel, small by most standards, was more than a local place of worship, but had a much broader ministry due to 'Nightingale' and the 'wider congregation' generated from attendees over the years. While Hucklow cannot have a significant influence in the denomination due to its small local attendance, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Atlanta is big by American Unitarian Universalist standards, and has an energetic outreach programme ranging from civil rights to trans-gender and environmental issues.

During the 1960s and 70s, when the congregation bumped up to the limit of its capacity, the spawning of outlying congregations began. These grew with seed money from UUCA and the enthusiasm of old UUCA members who formed the base congregations. These grew from fellowships in rented buildings to congregations in their own churches, with ministers who had often been ordained from UUCA, which had, and still has, a lay minister programme. Thus the 'mother church' extended its ministry by means of outreach, rather than expanding on its own, and this is the approach I recommended should continue.

I referred, earlier, to the problem of accessibility because of the raked seating. This actually has an unintended merit and that is, the concentration of the infirm and the old to the lower and the upper levels, making them easily identifiable. As we grow old, it is noticeable how, on finding the climb too arduous, we slowly settle out to the accessible seating. The next step from there is to disappear. On occasions (usually around pledge time) a member will extoll from the pulpit our emphasis on community and how we look after each other at times of need. I do not think that this is altogether true for our older population, who are likely to get noticed and helped more in a small congregation than our large one. But that is another topic for another time.



GEOFFREY KENT,
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Pat and Geoff Kent,
after the 2012 Foy Conference
enjoy a British canal holiday
on their way to mooring up
In Salthouse Dock, Liverpool

THE ADDICTION EXPRESS

John Pickering

When I sent John Hewerdine a few samples of my new range of "Out of Darkness: Addiction Free" postcards, I was very encouraged that he shared my concerns about the increasing problem of alcohol abuse in our country.

Back in the 1970/80s I worked in anti-alcohol education with various agencies; we did make some progress in helping to reduce drink driving through publicity campaigns and getting more non-alcoholic alternatives available in public houses. Unfortunately, today we are faced with an even bigger problem that is fast running out of control.

Like many, I watched the news about the high speed rail link planned to cut through our countryside; demolishing land and homes in its way, except for where it has been rerouted to avoid an area where the more affluent and influential live. All this to save 20 minutes off travel time at a cost of an estimated 42.6 billion; that will probably at least double by the end of the project. This colossally expensive rail project put me in mind of another, even more expensive train: The Addiction Express - that regularly hurtles through our towns and cities; leaving a trail of social debris and devastation in its wake. Yet no one, it seems, has the political will to stop it or the vision to see the destructive long term consequences for our society and subsequent generations.

The two main areas of addiction are Drugs and Alcohol, but alcohol abuse is by far the heaviest load on the Addiction Express. The social and economic consequences of alcohol abuse are devastating. Treating alcoholism and alcohol related illnesses accounts for over 68% of the NHS budget.

Binge drinking in the UK is at almost epidemic proportions; according to the latest figures: crime and accidents, policing and all the mental health issues related to alcohol abuse, gobbles up over 40 billion pounds per annum!

And every day, in every town, supermarkets are contributing to this problem by selling cheap booze to our youngsters. Millions of people in the UK today are regularly affected or damaged by alcohol abuse; the economic cost of this problem is crippling our society. Unchecked, it will only get worse.

Alcohol abuse is the runaway train that successive governments have either turned a blind eye to or pretended to be "managing". But clearly there is no one at the controls of the Alcohol Addiction Express; it is gaining momentum everyday. The reality is - you cannot manage a runaway train - logically at some point, it has to be stopped before it crashes.



OutofDarkness
Addiction Free © John Pickering 2014

If these few words have made you think - do your own research - put pressure on your councillors, MPs and ministers; write to everyone you can think of that has any influence at all, to bring this situation to the attention of the public and our government. If enough people stand up and say "NO" to alcohol and drugs today we may stand a chance of changing the future and leaving a healthier society for those who come after us.

John Pickering



No one who is addicted
to anything is free.

**STAY FREE
SAY NO TO DRUGS!**

OutofDarkness
Addiction Free

© John Pickering 2014

Editors Note:

I met John Pickering at a Skype meeting where a group of Unitarians were discussing the Unitarian Public Image and how we might improve it. Remarkably, John, who is a designer and entrepreneur, makes a living from publicising issues which concern him. He will be at the Unitarian General Assembly Meetings this year with a stall of his wares. I look forward to seeing more of John's output.

IRF (International Religious Fellowship) Oldies Reunite

A Very Special Friendship - Twenty Glorious Years

Valerie Walker

In the summer of 1994, about 50 Swiss, Dutch, German and British people arrived at the Swiss Alpine Club chalet on the mountainside above Schwyz. This first 'Oldies Reunion' was suggested as a chance for former IRFers from the late 1950s and early 1960s to meet up again. That it has set off what has now become a traditional get-together every few years, is a testament to a very special friendship. Not just those original 'Oldies' but ones who attended IRF conferences through into the 1970s, have joined in later Reunions and it has been a delight to meet again old friends and to make new ones from the 'younger' set and we have enjoyed some fantastic holidays together at different venues in our four countries.

This year our Dutch friends are the hosts and plans are going well for our week on the Anna Maria Agnes river cruiser. As usual a good British contingent will be attending as 24 have booked in and we will be joined by 16 Swiss, 10 German and eight Dutch for a week of rural scenes, architecturally interesting cities and the opportunity to 'get on your bike' now and then.

The boat will leave Amsterdam on the morning of Sunday 29 June, so there will be time to explore the city on Saturday afternoon and evening. Sunday afternoon we arrive in Kinderdijk, the UNESCO World Heritage site of polders and windmills, later travelling on to Rotterdam to moor overnight and on Monday we will make a tour of the city. Next is Dordrecht, where buildings from the Middle Ages can be seen, including a historic bell tower which it is possible to climb (be warned it is 65 metres high and the steps are steep!). Tuesday is Schoonhoven, another historic town, nicknamed 'Zilverstad' (Silver City) and since the 17th century renowned for its silver trade. We arrive in Utrecht on Wednesday and will have a guided tour of the city. As we travel towards the end of our tour, we arrive in Zaandam, just north of Amsterdam, where there will be a chance to use your land-legs again and go walking or cycling, and on Friday morning we arrive back in Amsterdam where there are many city sights to enjoy until we say our farewells on the Saturday morning.

This year we will be celebrating our 20th Anniversary - let's make it really special.

Obituary for the UYPL

Kindly extracted from the Archives by Howard Hague

(from GA Zette 1984 No. 4, - in Brighton)

The Unitarian Young People's League, or UYPL as it was known to its friends, passed away recently after a long illness. Although in later years UYPL did not have the vigour of its younger days, it still made great efforts to get around in spite of the distress this caused.

UYPL was born almost 50 years ago. The circumstances of its birth are shrouded in mystery. Whereas most people are satisfied with one father and one mother, at least four fathers are claimed for UYPL and the name of the mother (perhaps understandably) is hidden from us.

UYPL was a hearty infant, though not one of the brightest of children. Indeed it has been referred to as the drinking man's Foy. The cause of death has been the subject of much discussion (and no particular conclusion has emerged). The wake will be held on May 19th at Stand Chapel. Please buy a ticket, by request.

It is likely that it will be reincarnated at a later date, since it was evident during its life that it still has a lot to learn before it finally remains in the finite world.



The piece is anonymous
(as were most Zette contributions at the time, 16th April, 1984)

The editor of GA Zette in 1984 was David Ogden.



Ramblings From Room 10

**Less idle than ever,
Richard Varley takes to
The Indian sub-continent**

Lynne and I have recently returned from visiting our son, Nigel, who is part way through a work secondment in Mumbai. It was an opportunity, not to be missed; to visit a country somewhat different from that which we are accustomed. Our travels have normally been within Europe and our only two previous longer ventures were to Japan and Australia; again, both the result of visiting relatives who were temporarily overseas.

Our fortnight's stay was divided into just over a week in Mumbai, staying in Nigel's apartment in the suburb of Bandra, and a five day guided tour of India's Golden Triangle, featuring Delhi, Agra and Jaipur. An opportunity to see some of the classic sights and learn of India's history associated with them.

In one of the pieces that Nigel has written about his experiences in Mumbai, he sought to describe the place. Busy? Chaotic? A beautiful mess? One observation he had heard was that it was the "city of opportunity", which he thought was quite a neat statement. It goes some way to explain why this city is so crammed. A population greater than London, is compressed into an area one third of the size. People come from all over in the belief that they will earn their fortune. Unfortunately, the reality is that there are a lot of very poor people, which can lead to some disturbing sights as you travel around the city.

Before we set off, we had read Katherine Boo's Pulitzer Prize winning book "Behind the Beautiful Forevers", which carries the reader headlong into one of the twenty-first century's hidden worlds, and into the lives, deaths and hopes of the Mumbai slum dwellers. As we flew into the airport we had our first dramatic sight

of the vast metropolis and as we taxied to the terminal, we gained our first disturbing sight of the slums which were the subject of Katherine Boo's book. What were our first impressions? Apart from a dramatic change from the 4°C of a Birmingham mid winter evening to 30°C of a Mumbai day, we encountered Indian bureaucracy before being plunged into the city traffic.

One reads about the Indian city traffic, but nothing really prepares you for your first encounter – I think that the phrase 'moving chaos' sums it up! The noise, the fumes, the constant jockeying for position: spaces disappearing as soon as they appear. We were initially driven to Bandra through a melee of cars old and new, taxis, tuk tuks, motor cycles, cycles, hand propelled carts and people. The only thing generally missing in Mumbai, which we encountered elsewhere, were cows, goats, donkeys, elephants, etc!

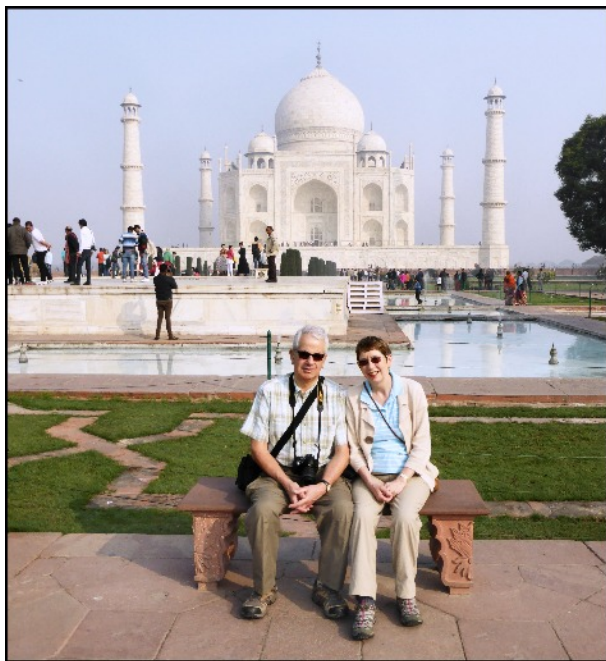
Mumbai is a city of vast and, often disturbing extremes: where a twenty first century office block, five star hotel or modern shopping precinct is locked in amongst abject poverty and ramshackle buildings. Wealth and poverty are so closely intertwined. Smart office staff walk past the beggars and street dwellers. Often there is little incentive for landlords to attend to the appearance of apartment blocks: much of the building stock has a much neglected appearance.

Between 2002 and 2012, an average of about 600 people died annually on Mumbai's suburban rail network. One of the reasons for the deaths was overcrowding, whilst others resulted from passengers crossing the tracks on foot to avoid footbridges. Some passengers died when they sat on train roofs to avoid the crowds and were electrocuted by the overhead electric wires, or fell while hanging from doors and window bars. We didn't see any passengers on carriage roofs, but there were many hanging from the open doors.

We encountered security measures quite widely. Bags and people are screened when entering the majority of public buildings, hotels and tourist attractions. On the one evening when Nigel ordered a take-away (Indian, naturally!), the delivery man was escorted to and from his apartment door! The only doors that aren't opened for you are automatic doors. Apartment blocks invariably have security staff at their entrance with the attendant plastic chairs! Entry by car to hotels involved the opening of a gate, a mirror to examine the underneath of the car and a look under the bonnet and in the boot. These are reactions to the 2008 bombings.

This column has, in the past, refrained from naming companies but I feel moved to express praise for Trailfinders, with whom we made our arrangements for our trip round the Golden Triangle. Because Nigel had used them in the past and their 97% customer satisfaction rating in Travel Which? influenced us. Their organisation and service was faultless. Being a cautious traveller, the way in which we were met and escorted on our trip was reassuring and the local guides were

able to impart a considerable amount of knowledge. The highlight of the tour was the visit to the Taj Mahal. No photograph does it justice: built by Shah Jahan as a memorial for his third and favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died giving birth to their fourteenth child in 1631, it is stunning and the detailed craftsmanship in the decoration remarkable. It is a craft which has been handed down through the generations and we were afforded an opportunity to see it being carried out, still with primitive tools and by eye: truly remarkable.



The walled pink city of Jaipur has a beauty of its own. The observatory, including one of the largest sun dials in the world, built by Sawai Jai Singh II between 1728 and 1734, was fascinating. Apparently some of the instruments are still used to forecast how hot the summer months will be, the expected date of arrival, duration and intensity of the monsoon, and the possibility of floods and famine. The astrology section of the observatory was used in the past to match make, but the internet has taken over these days.

To the north of Jaipur, the Amber Fort crowns the crest of a hill overlooking Maota Lake, formal gardens and the old town. The entry is up a steep cobbled roadway: the opportunity for an elephant ride if you make it before each of the ninety two elephants has completed five round trips. You certainly get a very good view and it tested my lack of a head for heights! The half hour wait in the queue attracted the inevitable hawkers, selling everything from turbans to memory cards!

To be driven along India's roads is an experience in itself. I still haven't worked out which is the overtaking lane is: I guess it is wherever there is a gap! If it's quicker for some to travel against the flow of traffic, so be it. The horn reigns supreme, not as a indication of frustration, rather a warning of proximity and an intention to occupy the space in front first! Our driver's opinion was that the three things you need to drive in India are, good brakes, good horn and good luck: not far off the mark if you ask me!

Our last two days in Mumbai saw us make two fascinating two hour long guided tours. The slum tour was in Dharavi: claimed to be the largest slum in Asia and where some of the scenes from the film Slumdog Millionaire were shot. We saw a wide range of activities including very comprehensive and labour intensive recycling of absolutely everything!, pottery-making, embroidery, bakery, soap factory, leather tanning, glass making and more besides: welcoming and happy for them and their activities to be photographed. Apparently, there is a degree of contentment with their lot. Conditions in the monsoon seasons amidst the very primitive buildings must be very testing. Plenty of cell phones were in evidence!

Our last trip was to see the fishing 'village' of Worli, now in the shadow of the Bandra to Worli sea link road, built to afford quicker journeys from north to south Mumbai. It is a self contained community of some thirty thousand, reliant upon the fishermen who have been forced to venture further afield because of paucity of fish within the area of the new bridge. Vibrant, colourful and welcoming, you see all sides to life. The market was in full flow during our visit, run by the fishermen's wives and, seemingly, attracting most of the cats in Mumbai!



Fishing village of Worli.

Editor's note: Mostly plastic rubbish strewn everywhere
Sadly characteristic of modern India...

Our visit to India was memorable, moving, thought provoking and, at times disturbing. I felt a sense of guilt that we saw it from within our 'western bubble'. We were able to rub shoulders with the city and the country, then retreating to reflect on our experiences in more familiar surroundings.

My son got me on a plane again! I am a reluctant flyer as I dislike the drawn out airport process and I have little enthusiasm for sitting cooped up in a metal tube for eight hours! Added to which, landing in a Boeing 777 at Birmingham airport in a strong cross wind is an interesting experience! However, it was very much worth it.

As customary, I leave you with a thought, this time triggered by my recently acquired iPad. I've noted that when I send an e-mail from it, it suffixes it with the words "sent from my iPad". I've noticed in the past when someone sends an e-mail from an iPhone, a similar message is displayed: why? Of what interest is it to the recipient to know what device was used to communicate with them? I think I've sussed it out! I delete the phrase on the basis that I'm not aware that the manufacturer has recompensed me for advertising their product!

Richard Varley

Approaching Conference

Non-members of Foy Welcome

The War on Drugs

The following points have been sent to me by David Barrie and serve to prepare us for the subject which we have chosen for this year's theme. They were compiled by a colleague of David's from Chatham House. David tells me that they reflect his own thinking on the issues around drugs:

- In spite of a decades-long 'war on drugs', the global drug trade persists as a significant problem for international security given its scale, the number of deaths related to trafficking and consumption it creates, and the organized crime and corruption it fuels.
- The international drug control system has been ineffective in reducing the size of the market and in preventing the emergence of new drugs and drug routes that cause and shift instability around the world.
- Current drug policies have been counter-productive, often causing more harm than the drugs themselves through capital punishment for offences, widespread incarceration, discrimination in law enforcement, violation of basic human rights in forced 'treatment' centres, and opportunity costs.
- In the last three years, the drug policy debate has evolved more than in the previous three decades. There remain a number of political obstacles to making recent developments sustainable ahead of the UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on drugs in 2016, but these should not be used as excuses for continuing with a failed status quo.

Page 22 for details of date, location and booking details for our Conference



David Barrie

**will be our keynote speaker
at Great Hucklow**

David is hoping that his wife Mary will also be joining us

After studying Psychology and Philosophy at Oxford University, David Barrie served for 17 years first in the Diplomatic Service and then the Cabinet Office. He was closely involved in the negotiations that culminated in the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985 which paved the way for the Good Friday Agreement.

In 1989 he became Executive Director of The Japan Festival 1991, a nationwide celebration of Japanese culture, and was appointed Director of the National Art Collections Fund (now the Art Fund) in 1992, a position he held until 2009. He organised many campaigns to secure major works of art for public collections and played a leading role in the successful campaign to restore free admission to all major museums and galleries in the UK. He was awarded a CBE in 2010.

David was chair of the campaigning organisation, Make Justice Work, from 2010 to 2013 and is now supporting international efforts to find effective alternatives to the disastrous 'war on drugs'.

He is chair of Ruskin Today and a trustee both of the Ruskin Foundation and the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art in Gateshead. He has served as a trustee of many organisations including Butterfly Conservation and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council.

David's book about celestial navigation and maritime exploration, Sextant, was published by William Collins in February 2014.

David was brought up in Lymington, Hampshire, where he first learnt to navigate, and has sailed in many parts of the world. He lives in London and Emsworth.

THIS QUOTE WAS PASSED TO ME DURING
WINTER WALKING WEEKEND
AT THE NIGHTINGALE CENTRE:
WE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BRING A SMILE
TO YOUR FACES - ED.

Leonard Mason wrote:

Come return to your place in the pews,
And hear our heretical views.
You were not born in sin
So lift up your chin,
You have only your dogmas to lose.

Foy Conference 2014

Non-members of Foy very welcome

**Should our Society re-think
Its policy on addressing
the drugs problem?**

2nd-5th May, 2014

Great Hucklow
May, 2014

Booking Details
Joan Partington - 01228 670565

Work-Weekend

Pointing to the Future....

Friday 4th - Sunday 6th April

A few hardy Foy Members, along with the usual hangers-on, will be making their way to Flagg to finish off the work on the back wall, which will make The Barn warmer and dryer,. This will involve some relatively unskilled (you can learn it in five minutes) use of a trowel and mortar.

If you don't fancy that, there are some indoor jobs to do, including simple woodworm treatment and tear-making.

Yes, let me know if you can be with us. The gathering is from Friday evening until mid-day on Sunday. Let me know if you can come. If there are not enough takers the event will not happen so do be in touch.

John Hewerdine 01257 269502

john@hewerdinefamily.co.uk

DIARY OF A RELUCTANT PATIENT



JANICE CROUCHER

Oh to be boringly "normal" but, as William Shakespeare observed [*Hamlet*], we are none of us immune to "... *the thousand natural shocks / That flesh is heir to...*"

Day 1 (Tuesday 4 February): the "Stitch" in my left side had been with me throughout the weekend & seemed surprisingly stubborn. Not feeling great, prepared for weekly one-one home physio' session when "Stitch" went into 'overdrive' and left me gasping for air. Husband Martin, staggered to see (& hear) his wife become a "drama queen", nevertheless calmly arranged a GP appointment for that afternoon. However, within seconds I collapsed in agony: Martin dialled 111.

Rendham being a small village in the Suffolk countryside, it was remarkable that Paramedics arrived in 13 minutes, called an Ambulance which reached us 18 minutes later. I was "Blue lighted" to Ipswich Hospital 25 miles away, afterwards told the Ambulance exceeded all speed limits!

Admitted as an acute emergency, on a morphine drip, oxygen and other dramatic paraphernalia, the Senior Paramedic ordered **an urgent CT Scan** to aid diagnosis, but..... pain levels controlled by morphine, diagnosis unknown, no named Consultant i/c of my care, in the first of my four moves (in as many days) I was placed in a surgical assessment ward. It was a "gothic" experience, something akin to an episode from a 19th century novel by Hugh Walpole or Willkie Collins - four ladies to all intents and purposes "*out of it*" on morphine to keep us '*quiet and comfortable*'.

Day 2: *Tempus fugit*. No CT Scan. Reading my name on the chart above my bed confirmed my identity but the space for "Consultant" remained bleakly blank....

Morphine & I became well-acquainted.

Day 3: Martin's 72nd birthday: he was unable to get away to see me. **No CT Scan**, more & more Morphine.

That night around **0100**, pain levels left no choice but to press my bell. A very reluctant Nurse responded: "*What do YOU want NOW!!!!*". Not being the bell-pushing type and just about holding things together, I ceased to be "passive" & explained. The nurse took *umbrage*. Another nurse came to "mediate" – was someone at last prepared to listen to me & the other acutely sick women in the room who all felt utterly abandoned and confused? *[By the way, the reluctant Nurse returned later to apologise]*.

Day 4: Someone, somewhere must have got last night's message - around **09.00** a delightful Senior Physician promised now laughingly "urgent" scan within the hour. Scan happened, **all of three minutes duration** & another couple of hours wait for a porter to return me to the Ward.

The wait was an ideal opportunity to chat to the excellent Scanning Department staff. Martin & I put their comments together with his observations of the **three** night staff caring for **28 patients** on the surgical assessment ward. Staff appeared to be expected to pay more attention to a suited gentleman behind an IT Screen than answering call bells of people genuinely *in extremis*.

Martin had an interesting visit to the **Patient Advice & Liaison Office**. The delayed "urgent" scan was attributed to the implementation of a new Scanner Booking IT system (started **1 February**) with training taking place "on the job" hence staff focus on suited IT "gent". *[How on earth to divide themselves between human need/new technological 'know-how']*.

Staff gave us to understand the former system functioned well but they now found themselves horrified, perplexed and annoyed having to resort to easily lost handwritten notes until their training was seen to be complete & signed off before a password could be assigned to allow entry "in" to the system and begin to fathom out how to use it..

Day 5: Concerned by absence of feedback from the CT Scan (due to *Le Weekend*) son Adam (NHS Consultant) came down from London to check on 'progress', if any. Due to the startling "old school" efficiency of a retired Nursing Sister (back as a nurse to help out) plus cooperation of the House Officer on duty, Adam was able to review the CT Scan and it was he who told me the news: a large mass, 15 cms (6") X 13 cms (5"), covered in multiple twisted adhesions, had grown on my Left ovary.

Day 6: 1800, Senior Registrar (Gynae Department) appeared (during visiting hours) & outlined "may be" procedures.

Day 7: My **3rd move** to the Stour Centre specialising in Gynae Oncology. At last I was given the name of my Consultant, Gynae Surgeon/Oncologist! The calm, warm welcome to Stour Ward was bliss.

Day 8: 0800 Gynae Surgeon Mr X & I actually met. Surgery mooted in a fortnight (more waiting – at home?); more morphine..). **1700:** concerned Dr Adam came down from London again. **1800:** unexpectedly Mr X reappeared, met Adam &

exchanged phone numbers. Mr X then took the decision to put me first on his list the following morning,

Day 9: Surgery – kind, efficient Mr X telephoned Adam to let him know what had been done.

4th move to HDU (High Dependency Unit) of the *Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Centre* where ironically from the day of its inception to completion I was the Patient Representative on the Critical Care Team; son Dr. Adam had proposed the name Ipswich Hospital eventually gave to the Centre.

Despite HDU Care, a seriously disorientated night. Already befuddled by Morphine, anaesthesia, + neurological condition *cerebella ataxia* resulting from previous brain surgery, it was a harder struggle than ever to come to terms with/make sense of visual/aural/physical changes in my environment. When in the early hours my Assigned Nurse told me she had been ordered to leave to work on another ward I felt, irrationally, utterly abandoned yet again.

Days 10 - 13: back to Stour Ward, superlative nursing care & on the road to recovery: getting back on my feet; trying to eat; working hard at physiotherapy + struggling to persuade traumatised personal 'plumbing' to function again. Morphine became a very close friend.

After care? Once upon a time there were Convalescence Homes but here I am back at the cottage supported by Martin & older son Giles, continuing with the 6 - 12 week recovery / healing process: I am working on it.



Put human beings under stress and strain and the following quotation becomes all too apt: *"to err is human, to forgive divine"* [Alexander Pope].

Prior to diagnosis I was with 5 other women, all of us uncertain of outcomes of health issues & the future, whether indeed we had a future at all. We became quite a "force"" when in the early hours of Day 5 one of us screamed in agony. I naturally jumped up to find help. The male Staff Nurse in charge **eventually** came. Sadly, English was not his first language and in response to her cries of *"Help me! Help me!"* was merely his "mantra",

"I am a Nurse, not a Doctor."

"No doubt satire was lost on him when in my best "Teacher's voice" I advised him, *"That is as may be but we are ALL human beings; this patient is in agony so GO and FIND A DOCTOR now!"*



Staffing was so limited, it was 45 minutes before the Doctor on Call could reach us. I was alone in the dark attempting to comfort a young woman writhing uncontrollably and screaming in agony. No avoiding of own inadequacies to give CPR (*Cardiopulmonary resuscitation*) had her acute pain brought on heart failure. Later that morning we learned that the Doctor on Call had discovered the patient had been accidentally critically overdosed, & on an empty stomach, something we lay people gathered had an affect akin to raw alcohol laced with an abrasive poison.

We collected leaflets to report the incident to the *Patient Advice and Liaison Office* but were "spotted". By **10.00** we "rebellious patients" were individually interviewed. The young mother, much recovered, received apologies left, right and centre. Suddenly the two-year old initial diagnosis of life-threatening disease would be completely reviewed; with an upgraded medication regime she would be able to return to a full active life as wife, mother & independent business woman.

I recalled Christopher Isherwood's wonderful title, *"I am a Camera"*, here not recording Berlin on the brink of WW2 but surviving on the edge of life in the wee small hours of a Friday night in the "care" of the NHS. All human life was there indeed, in fact, *"nature red in tooth and claw..."*.

During my seven days in 'no man's land' it was shocking to see wards "moth-balled" due to lack of funds to staff them; to see patients kept "in the dark" confused, worried, shunted from pillar to post by systems perhaps best, or only, understood by those who operated them from the "back offices".

Hospital systems appeared appallingly inefficient from under-staffing to too few showers and toilets in older adapted wards capable of meeting current needs. Would a small increase in the levy of personal taxation for the sake of our fellow human beings help to improve matters? Is there any politician in existence who could be **selfless** enough to put this proposal before Parliament?

But on an "up note": there was hilarity in Stour Ward when my husband Martin, ever the engineer, went to 'check out' the only bath in the Stour Centre, one which can rise to enable wheelchair patients to be bathed [said bath had been defunct for want of part since before Christmas 2013].

The bath was "stuck" at high level and whilst Martin was bent double investigating, the emergency chord caught on the button of the back pocket of his trousers and set off the alarm. Two Nurses came running and were seen to be holding each other in tears of laughter at the sight of Mr Croucher's lower half just visible as his voice echoed from the depths, *"I'm OK, Just trying to get this *!%£\$*! thing to work rather than it sit here like some utterly useless, modern monument"*.

Laughter is a great healer. [1685]

JANICE CROUCHER

FOY CONFERENCE 2000 - 2014

THEMES AND OFFICERS COMPILED BY HOWARD HAGUE

The Foy Society is ninety years old this year. The first conference was held at Manchester College, Oxford at Easter 1924. The previous year, a meeting of ministers and young people held at Essex Hall had proposed the idea of a 'League of Youth', but by the time of that first conference, 'LOY' had (perhaps thankfully) become 'FOY' – the Fellowship of Youth. It was in 1957 that 'FOY' became 'Foy' – The Foy Society. A fiftieth anniversary conference was held at Oxford in 1974 (when a motion to disband was clearly not carried!). In 1999 Foy's 75th anniversary celebrations were held at Flagg, with a well-attended service in the chapel (which sadly closed in 2003), followed by a barbecue, sing-song and much reminiscing at The Plough. The July 1999 issue of Foy News included a number of historical items, with a list of conference themes and some officers for 1971-1999. Our President Richard Varley has asked me if I could update those listings.

THEMES, LEADERS + LOCATIONS



2000	<i>Mutating into the 21st Century</i>	<i>Brian Packer</i>	
	<i>[H]</i>		
2001	<i>Changing roles for men in society</i>	<i>Kathy Packer</i>	<i>[L]</i>
2002	<i>Who makes the news? The influence of the media on society</i>	<i>David Warhurst</i>	<i>[H]</i>
2003	<i>Is there a better way? A critical look at our national organisation</i>	<i>David Usher</i>	<i>[H]</i>
2004	<i>Alternative energy - ultimate panacea or just pie in the sky?</i>	<i>Colin Partington & David Warhurst</i>	<i>[H]</i>
2005	<i>Society, addiction and the individual</i>	<i>Emily Hewerdine et al</i>	<i>[H]</i>
2006	<i>Is poverty now history?</i>	<i>Sarah Atkinson & Allan Warhurst</i>	<i>[H]</i>
2007	<i>Identity [ranging from 'Corporate' to 'Personal', 'Unitarian' etc]</i>	<i>David Shaw</i>	<i>[L]</i>

2008 The key to avoiding the need for keys: paths to reducing offending and re-offending Helen & Richard Merritt [H]

2009 Living together in the future: how today's global dynamics impact on tomorrow's world Claire Merritt & Josh Hewerdine [B]

2010 You can tell I'm serious ... because I'm laughing [on humour] Colin Partington [H]

2011 Anthropology in a digital age [social networking etc]? Martin Croucher [B]

2012 Who Dunnit - Innit? [the murder mystery in our culture]? Richard Varley, Dot and Emily Hewerdine [H]

2013 Climate change: did we do it, are we doomed? Vic Mason & Colin Partington [H]

2014 The war on drugs: do we need a new approach? David Barrie [H]

Locations: [H] = Great Hucklow, [L] = Ludlow, [B] = Bromsgrove

PRESIDENTS

Kathy Packer 1999 – 2001
Brian Packer 2001 – 2003
John Hewerdine 2003 – 2005
Sarah Atkinson 2005 – 2007
Margaret Robinson 2007 – 2009/10
Martin Croucher 2010 – 2012
Richard Varley 2012 - Present

SECRETARIES

Howard Hague 1990 – 2010
Sheila Weddell 2010 – 2012
Helen Hooley 2012 -

TREASURERS

David Warhurst 1987 - Present

EDITORS

Jane Howarth 1999 – 2003
Emily Hewerdine 2004 – 2005
Liz Shaw 2005 – 2007
John Hewerdine 2007 - Present

N.B. This list of officers updates the one from July 1999, but is not a complete listing of all officer posts on Foy Council. I will try to include other posts in a future article.

HISTORICAL + OTHER PUBLICATIONS

The following is a list of material relating to the history of Foy, with other related publications:

- (1) Foy Society Survey Group 'A Census of Unitarian Congregations in Britain', published by the General Assembly, 1967, 180pp. A shortened version entitled 'Unitarian Congregations Surveyed' by William Needham was issued by the GA, also in 1967, 63pp.*
- (2) Grenville Needham 'The Foy Society: 50 Years'. Published by Foy, 1974, 14pp & photos.*
- (3) Ben Johnson 'Recollections of a Remarkable Society: F.O.Y. From October 1937 until Easter 1957'. Published and distributed by Ben Johnson, 1998, 151pp.*
- (4) 'Not Just Every Sunday: a Summary of a Past Foy Project'. A small pamphlet produced & distributed by Foy to the wider Unitarian movement, January 1998, 3pp.*
- (5) Trevor Jones 'Unitarianism: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow' (1996). Produced and distributed by Foy, February 1998, 14pp.*
- (6) David Usher 'Is There a Better Way? A Critical Look at Our National Organisation'. Produced and distributed by Foy, 2002, 22pp [based on a presentation at the 2002 GA].*
- (7) Howard Hague 'A brief history of Foy, especially over the last 20 years'. An article in Foy News September 2004, pages 7 – 13 [includes a list of the day seminars and awareness days organised by Foy between 1994 and 2004].*
- (8) 'The Foy Society' in: National Unitarian Fellowship Viewpoint No. 210, April 2010, 11pp [a very useful summary of Foy's history and recent activities including the Barn at Flagg, conferences and its contribution and links to the Unitarian movement over the years].*

I hope to include a listing of some of the Foy archive material now deposited at Dr Williams's Library in a future issue of Foy News.

HOWARD HAGUE

THE SCOUTS NEW PROMISE

COLIN PARTINGTON

I have been an active Scouter for 30 years and in 2009 I was Cumbria County Chairman. Previously, I was Assistant County Commissioner for Cub Scouts and before that a Cub Scout Leader. As a County Scouter, I came in contact with youth leaders from many other Cumbrian Youth organisations and met several very competent youth leaders who said that they wouldn't join Scouting because of its religious policy. I investigated further and found prospective scout leaders who were turned away when they wrote on their application forms "N/A" next to **Religion?**

So far as I understood, to be a Scout Leader you had to believe in a Supreme Being, or be a Buddhist. All but three countries in the world require this of Scout Leaders. I felt this was discriminatory and poor for the future of Scouting, so I wanted change.

I wrote an article for the Autumn 2008 FOY News, called "Ethics, God and Scouting". This was well received in the Unitarian community, but led to a challenge in local Scouting who called into question my being a Member of Scouting as an Atheist.

Following this Mike Tracey, also a County Chairman, and I formulated a Motion for FOY to put to the General Assembly in 2009.

"That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, mindful of the fact that not all members of our religious body are allowed to be full members of the Scout Association without compromising their personal faith, encourages the Scout Association to be more accepting of diversity in matters of personal belief."

This motion was passed overwhelmingly and the General Assembly wrote to the Scout Association about the resolution. The Scout Association replied saying that they are bound by the World Scout Association rules, but there is always room, as an Associate Member, for people with any or no beliefs i.e. a disappointing non-committal reply.

Also at that time there were articles on Radio Cumbria about the motion, and a long article in the Cumberland News and this led some local and national Scouters to demand my dismissal from Scouting! But my County Commissioner refused! So I stayed on. A year or so later, in 2010, I met up with the new Chairman of the

National Scout Council, and we discussed the issue of Scouting and beliefs. I came away reassured that things were happening. And indeed they were. A national review was started, in Girl Guiding and in Scouting. The Girl Guides completed their review first and in January 2013 removed any reference to God in their Promise. (and this has given them a few problems!)

Scouts completed their review and announced in October 2013 that there would be an alternative Promise for Scouts and Scout Leaders without religious beliefs.

Alternative versions of the Scout Promise have been available for nearly 50 years and have been used by Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and those who live in the UK but are not UK citizens. This new additional alternative Promise will now add to the suite of alternative versions to ensure Scouting is inclusive to adults who are humanist or who have no affirmed faith who wish to volunteer for Scouting. Also for young people who are humanist or with no affirmed faith who wish to join.

The existing core Scout Promise remains in place and The Scout Association remains fully committed as a Movement that explores faith, beliefs and attitudes as a core element of its programme.

The alternative Promises became available for use on January 1st 2014, and read

For Beaver Scout section (ages 6 to 8):

I promise to do my best

To be kind and helpful and to love our world.

For Cub Scout section (ages 8 to 10½):

I promise that I will do my best

To uphold our Scout values, to do my duty to the Queen,

To help other people

And to keep the Cub Scout Law.

For Scouts, etc and Leaders:

On my honour, I promise that I will do my best

To uphold our Scout values, to do my duty to the Queen,

To help other people

And to keep the Scout Law.

Whilst many people, not least the British Humanist Association and many others in Scouting worked hard to effect a change, I would like to think that Unitarians had a hand in this important change too.

Colin Partington

(Still a Member of Cumbria Scout Executive!)

THE GREAT HUCKLOW GONG

CABALLUS COPIARUM



The rather sad gong as we knew it before its recent restoration

When you next go to The Nightingale Centre at Great Hucklow, you will notice that the very popular Gong has been renovated.

After some 100,000 hits, the Gong was showing some wear and needed some TLC. The frame was broken, and was held together with a plastic block, the strings holding the Gong were frayed nylon and grubby, the Gong was upside down and the Gong hammer had gone missing.

The brass plaque on the top of the frame had been well polished over the decades and was very difficult to read, but it said:

**PRESENTED BY THE HUCKLOWITES
BROOKFIELD GORTON 1955
GOOD FRIENDSHIP AND A SENSE OF DUTY
IS TO US AS PURE GOLD**

CABALLUS COPIARUM



A new Mallet - made by Colin



Original illegible plaque



It now has a repaired and renovated frame, brass chains to hold the Burmese Gong and a new Gong Hammer. It was used for the first time at Junior Weekend on the 28th February when the usual enthusiasm of youngsters, to be the one to hit it, prevailed!

It's second major outing was for the Liverpool **Send A Child to Hucklow** week in March. The 20 children had a fabulous week exploring the Derbyshire Dales and enhanced by our new Gong!

Dog friendly
Refurbished Burmese Gong



Send a Child to Hucklow Group with the refurbished Gong

The final step will be to have a new plaque made so people can read it.

By the way, *What does Caballus Copiarum mean?*

Colin Partington



NEWS OF MEMBERS

HAZEL WARHURST

Not a lot of news has reached me in time for this edition of FOY NEWS apart from people moving house or preparing to do so.

A WELCOME BACK

to former member, **Valerie Walker**, who has rejoined after a number of years absence. Good to make contact again, Valerie and thanks for your various contributions to Foy News.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Liz and David Shaw who celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary on 19th March 2014. A trip to Gretna Green was part of their celebrations!

Jane and Miles Howarth on the birth of their third grandchild, **Alfred Ahura Howarth** who was born on Friday 7th March to **Adrian and Sherry**

(see stop press attachment).

COMMISERATIONS WITH

Foy members who have been, or are suffering, unwelcome illness or disability.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

A number of members appear to have overlooked renewing their subs for the past year, and even the year before. Reminders will be sent and no more will be said if you send your payment promptly now to the Treasurer - address on the back page.

The rate remains £7.50 for Individual Membership and £10.00 for a couple. Please make all cheques payable to "The Foy Society" Bank transfers are very acceptable. Ask me for bank details.

Email reminders for subscription arrears should have been sent out by the time you read this as a pdf, or are enclosed with your paper copy of *Foy News*.

CHANGES OF CONTACT DETAILS

Send any change of address or email listing to me, or to the Editor, as soon as possible so that we can keep our records up to date.

Some useful contacts

Foy President

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