

Autumn

2023

Foy News

Doris's
Tribute
(Revised)

"Long Live The Queen"



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: Dorothy Haughton, as she featured in The Inquirer recently,
but with added "Pomp".

Photographs: The Ropers, Richard Varley, Diane Bennett, Dorothy Haughton
and John Hewerdine.
Please don't paste images into documents with text, but send photos as sep. jpg files.

Hard Copy produced by: David Warhurst, using the GA Zette equipment

Deadline for contributions to the Next issue: 1st March, 2024
(because of 100 yrs celebration)

Contents



Page 3.	What another Foy President?
Page 6.	Spider - Peter Sampson
Page 7.	Barn & Flagg update - Neill Warhurst
Page 10.	Travelling Again - Gwyneth Roper
Page 13	Uluru Voice to Australian Parliament Referendum - Ann Usher
Page 16	IRF Oldies Reunion in Cwmbran - Annette Percy
Page 20	Countryside Show - Dorothy Haughton, Nay Dottie, Nay Doris
Page 24	Ramblings from Room 10 - Richard Varley
Page 29	The GA "Four Motions Rule" to Go? - David Warhurst
Page 32	The Big Foy & IRF Centenary Celebrations - Dot Hewerdine
Page 35	Unitarian Handkerchiefs, on sale from Hazel
Page 36	News of Members - Hazel Warhurst
Page 38	Conference Poster
Page 39	Unitarian Chalice Ties, also available from Hazel
Page 40	Some Useful Foy Contacts

What, another Foy President?



"I need a President's Piece from you for the Autumn Foy News and I need it now," came the cry from the other end of our shared office spaces in the roof!
"What? Me?" I cried back, "Why me?"

"Because you are the President, or had you forgotten?" came the response!

"Oh, right. Maybe I didn't think the fuller picture through when I, somewhat hesitatingly, offered to be President whilst inspired by a wave of excitement during discussions about celebrating the Foy Centenary in 2024! OK, I did get

a bit carried away by enthusiasm as ideas poured forth from those present, during this year's Foy Conference and the following Foy AGM! And, having volunteered to coordinate the Centenary Celebration, buoyed by the enthusiasm of others and offers of help, it did seem to make sense at the time for the two roles to be merged into one!"

So here I am, once again putting pen to paper, or rather fingers to keyboard, to write a President's Piece for Foy News some 35 years since the last time when I was President of Foy in the heady and inspiring days of our 'Not Just Every Sunday' project which led to two events: in North Devon in October 1988 ('Beyond the Mortgage – the Essence of Living') and at Bradford in October 1989 ('Every Nation Kneeling') on interfaith activity and worship.



We issued a pamphlet about this project in 1998 (compiled by Colin Partington following his involvement as President of Foy as we trialled the events in North Devon and Bradford) with advice for anyone planning similar events in future. Interestingly, the magazine 'Stirrings' from the students of Unitarian College Manchester in 2002 was entitled 'Not only on Sunday', aiming to bring together material for those spiritual needs which can arise on other days, not just on Sundays and in which reference was made to the Foy project.

As usual, Foy leading the way in identifying gaps in our Unitarian offerings and trialling possible solutions, not in an either/or but more in a both/and sense. The gaps in what we can offer to people (including parents with young children and teenagers) who are unable, for whatever reason, to become involved in a local Unitarian community have once again been highlighted by the Covid Pandemic and plans are being made to address the gaps at both local and national levels.

But I digress, distracted by looking back through past issues of Foy News for inspiration for our Centenary celebrations. One of the perks of coordinating the celebrations is that I have been receiving archival material to help with the research and planning of activities. The details about 'Not Just Every Sunday' were mostly taken from a history of 20 years of Foy written by Howard Hague and published in Foy News September 2004. Thank you, Howard!

Now, if only someone reading this could come across a copy of that pamphlet and send it to me, my cup would run over! Other material could be available! Please email me if you have any! dot@hewerdinefamily.co.uk

Elsewhere in this issue of Foy News you will see more about the plans for the Centenary Conference 2024 and ways in which you could help in the planning and preparation of what we anticipate will be a family friendly programme including a visit to Flagg by coach on Saturday.

Then, a special service at Hucklow Old Chapel, tea and cakes on Sunday at The Nightingale Centre, story telling, a 'Parade of Presidents,' Voices from the Past, Present and Future, games, singing, dancing, walks, displays of archive material and, of course, worship.

Dot Hewerdine, Foy President

Our respect for The Royal family by the editor

A few days before I sat down at my desk to start my twice-a-year task for Foy, a current edition of The inquirer dropped through our letter-box. You might have seen the issue, our good friend Dorothy Haughton, wearing her crown and speaking to the nation, but with a rather drab, indeed mundane, background.

How could this important, "Town Crier from Foy", be expected to expound on the aspirations of the Unitarian movement, without, "No expense spared", environmental support! Our editor decided to share with you, and, at the same time, express his own, appreciation for Dorothy's self-imposed duties.

With the help of a poor man's version of Photoshop, and a bit of my own photography, I embraced modern electronics & some IT technology to move our dear friend onto the cover of this edition of Foy News, but located Dorothy, this time, in the Royal location of "Trafalgar Square"....

Spider by Peter Sampson

Not a floater in front of my eyes,
as I examined the details in the drawing before me.

The gallery reached up and around
and the frames caught glimpses of light,
and the reflections of other pictures, of myself looking.

But this was in front of the drawing, in the space between us:
A spider hanging on the end of its single thread of web,
and almost as if it realised an alien presence.

Or maybe sensing it was in the way of the looker and its object,
it rose up into its invisible cord, taking itself (beautiful in its own detail)
out of my way, up out of my sight, still in its own sphere.

Unaware (how could it be else?) that my sphere of attention was now **it!**
Was now the age old empathy with that mysterious creature,
which I could never understand or live the life of
(save for a reincarnation)
and no longer humanly focused on the human endeavour.

Devoted to depicted endeavour in the drawing, in front of me
not quite as near, my eyes....

Sunny Days at Flagg

Neill Warhurst

Those of us who love Flagg are happy to endure occasional (!) driving rain, in fact, some of my best memories are trying to find a place round the stove for wet boots and stringing waterproofs to dry, while warming up with a brew (or something stronger). When we're treated to a weekend like Trustees in May this year, blazing sunshine and switching the waterproofs for sun cream, it is all the more special.



Friends gathered outside in the glorious sunshine for the Trustees meeting where a generous donation of £2k was suggested for Foy's 100 yr. celebrations next year, received by Foy council with grateful thanks.

Special mention and thanks should be given to Rosemary Ruston, who has stepped down this year from the Flagg Trustees after too many years to count. What a fantastic contribution to celebrate, she will be sorely missed. A full report of the meeting will of course go to Foy Council.

Some revellers headed off for a stroll to the pub, while some of us soaked up the sunshine, sitting in one of the most peaceful places. We shared stories of our visits to The Barn over the years, especially enjoyable chatting in the company of Rev Chris Buice, a visiting Minister from Knoxville UU Church in Tennessee, USA.

John Hewerdine diligently arranged some chairs in the woods, and we wandered along to form a circle for Chris to lead us in quiet worship. If only every worship could be blessed with such a location. Sitting listening to birdsong and gentle rustling of the trees is my kind of spirituality.

We were treated to
time for peaceful
reflection, thoughtful
words and joined in an
acapella singalong of
'Flying Free', with the
trees providing the
underscore.



For some, the
highlight will
have been the
haul of books
from the local
second-hand
stores.

I always come away from Flagg with a sense of peaceful contentment, it is exciting to think about celebrating the relationship with Foy and The Barn next year and hearing more of those stories. So please, dig deep into your archives, make copious notes and get ready to bring those memories along to our Grand Celebration in 2024 !

Neill Warhurst

Hobson Farm

23/August /23

Dear Helen and Trustees of the Barn,

I'm writing at

last on behalf of Flegg Village Hall to say a big thank you for your very generous donation. It will help enormously.

Our funds have depleted due to the hike in electricity, we are solely powered by electric. There are so few on the committee now, but I'm hoping to get a few of the villagers interested in helping raise funds or obtain grants? to change our heating system.

You have always supported the Hall (especially Joy) and we ~~do~~ appreciate this donation.

Thank you all so much.

Regards

Sue Naylor

The Ropers go Travelling Again

Just before the pandemic hit we decided that we would have a family holiday before our children (Always remain your babies) flew off to make families of their own. "Where would you like to go?" We asked. "Japan" came the quick reply from Lizzie. "Choose the most expensive place on earth" I said. The quick reply came "Why wouldn't you if your parents are paying" So, after the original thoughts of Japan came early in 2020 we eventually set off on our journeys in July 2023.

Our first stop was Tokyo and after an overnight flight we were hit with a hot and humid day but rearing to see the sights. Japan is a country of contrasts from the bustle of the large cities to the peaceful, tranquil countryside. What first struck me was how polite and respectful everyone was and how clean everywhere was. I soon learnt to bow as a means of respect. We travelled around Tokyo via the very reliable and punctual underground. The underground was noisy as tinkly music played to indicate to departure of the trains.



We were fortunate to see a Japanese wedding at one of the many Shinto temples we visited. Places of peace amongst the hustle and bustle.

Tokyo is a shoppers' paradise and it was fascinating to see all the gadgets and gizmos in the large stores. I was surprised to find that Japan was not as expensive as I first imagined so my suitcase was more full on the way home.

From Tokyo we travelled on the bullet train to Hakone where we stayed in a traditional ryokan or Japanese inn run by a family. Our rooms were simple with futons for beds. The meals were also traditional Japanese fare with miso (a stock) where we cooked vegetables and fish at the table. A similar miso was also served for breakfast. We were spoilt with our private onsen (hot spring bath) heated from the local hot springs. There is a ritual for using these onsens which includes perching on a low stool to bathe before getting in the water. (I now know why the Japanese are so fit).

I met a little furry friend on the handrail which left his mark, a nettle string slug caterpillar, I thought something had taken a chunk out of my hand!

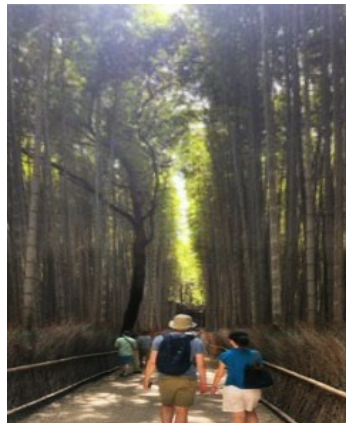


We took a circular tour around Hanoko which included train, funicular railway, cable car and boat. We finished the day with one of the many sweet meats that are popular.

The next day we took the bullet train again onto Kyoto to take a guided Gion walking tour in the hope of seeing the famous geishas. Although we were unlucky I found the history and the area fascinating. It takes 5 years of unpaid training in dance, flower arranging, music etc to become

a geisha. The next day a tour guide took us to a bamboo forest on the edge of Kyoto and then onto lunch at a sushi bar which was first and so so much fun.

From Kyoto onto Hiroshima and a visit to the peace museum and Peace Park. A sobering day but also hope as we observed the work being done towards peace. It is not about forgetting but forgiveness and working towards peace.



Our home there was a Ryokan in Miajama where I saw my favourite sight of the holiday in the floating torigate at the Itsukushima shrine. It appears to float as the tide comes in over its base.

We travelled on to Osaka the food capital of Japan. We had to take a foodie tour which enabled us to delight in specialities such as Octopus balls and local meat skewers whilst sitting at low tables like the locals. Another highlight!

Another ryokan was our home for 2 nights in Takayama that allowed us some free time to explore this village and surroundings up in the hillside. The local market was fascinating with everything from traditional fans to Sake.

We ended our time in Japan with another brief stop in Tokyo. Lizzie and I met a friend to go out for a Japanese special dessert which was either a sweet one based on peaches or a more savoury corn-based dessert. I have special memories stored from our trip and would I go to Japan again in a heartbeat. I might choose a cooler time of the year.

If you are thinking about it give me a call to get some trip tips. Where are you off to next? I hear you ask... Wait and see!

Gwyneth Roper

Another chance for the Australian Government to Review their Stance?

Ann Usher brings us up to date on Uluru Tribal Concerns

“Voice to Parliament”, Referendum

Australia is a very sad place at the moment. A Referendum giving the indigenous people, “A Voice”, will occur on October 14th. The negative attack on the document ‘Statement from the Heart’ is dividing the community - both aboriginal and non aboriginal people, across the country.

To read “Statement from the Heart – The Voice” please go to <https://ulurustatement> or Wikipedia.

There are over 300 mobs, tribes, clans & families of aboriginal people and there are 11 indigenous representatives in government. The ideas expressed in this document have taken time to collect and made available for all to read.

Naturally one would expect different ideas and thoughts to emerge from such a diverse people. That is not the issue. The problem is that the respect and honest debate is lost, and it is a political topic for the opposition.

In 1967 a referendum was held to recognise Aborigines as Australian citizens so they are now included in the Census. My father Eric Innis, a Unitarian who joined the John Pounds Memorial Church in Portsmouth in the 1950s fought hard for this referendum to succeed.

In 1993 the Mabo decision was given by the High Court
to recognise Land Rights.

Now is the opportunity for Australia to listen to the Indigenous people,
and that is what this Referendum is about

Yes, is the right answer,
and this is the Right Time

More details on the next two pages....

The Uluru Statement

Some more information on what was sent to us by Ann

The Statement represents diverse First Nations views from across Australia. It was developed through a series of Regional Dialogues involving more than 1200 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across the country.

The final Statement was presented to the Australian people by 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at the First Nations National Constitutional Convention at Uluru on 26 May 2017.

The Statement calls for:

- a First Nations Voice to be permanently included in the Constitution
- the establishment of a Makarrata Commission to supervise agreement-making and truth-telling about our history.

The Australian Government is committed to implementing the Statement in full.

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart:

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from ‘time immemorial’, and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or ‘mother nature’, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of what

exists with the sovereignty of the Crown and co-ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or extinguished,

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is the torment of our powerlessness.

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country.

We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.



Annette Percy on the Reunion at Cwmbran



I first went to an IRF Conference near The Hague in the Netherlands in 1963 - sixty years ago! - and it changed my life. I had gone, slightly unwillingly, and enjoyed the first week to some extent because I was able to be useful, typing up various things for the study leader, Trevor Jones.

I went on a second week in Amsterdam led by Wendy van Noppen. A really interesting week with lots of excursions, closer friendships formed, and I learned about the existence of Foy.



On my return home I joined the Manchester branch of Foy.

By 1964 I was becoming deeply involved in East-West Contacts and the following year, having moved to London, to work with Grenville Needham (Neddy) in the Unitarian Youth Department, I was encouraged to go further with this. I became East-West Contacts Secretary for IRF and at the IRF Conference at Wiston Lodge in Scotland in 1965, I became IRF Secretary.

Boris Merhaut from Czechoslovakia was at the conference and he invited me to Prague to meet the Unitarian Youth Circle there over New Year 1965-66. (That was the start of another adventure for me!) I was IRF Secretary for a total of seven years and at our reunion in Cwmbran it was a special pleasure to be reunited with two of the IRF Presidents from that time – Helmut Manteuffel and Andrew Patrick. And thanks to Gudrun I was able to greet another of those Presidents by Zoom call – Paul Reiber.

David Warhurst and Valerie Walker did a fantastic job preparing every tiny detail of our Reunion week at the Parkway Hotel and Spa on the outskirts of Cwmbran and on arrival we were presented with a comprehensive package of materials about a very full week to come.

It was great to have a rest day in and around the hotel on the Saturday. This gave us a chance to catch up with some of our special old friends



There was a meticulously planned set of outings by coach for every other day but I didn't join all of these. The visit to the St Fagan's National Museum of History near Cardiff on the Sunday was a must for all of us and it was there that we held our special service to commemorate 100 years of IRF.

Thanks to the South East Wales Unitarian Society who hold services there twice a year we were able to meet in Penrhiw Chapel, originally built in 1777 in Carmarthenshire and painstakingly moved stone by stone to its site in the Museum in 1956 to take its place in this collection of folk architecture from other parts of Wales.



David Warhurst led the service which was bilingual in English and German.

We were welcomed by retired minister Rev Eric Jones who spoke in Welsh (and English) and introduced us to the chapel.



I didn't go on the Monday trip to Cardiff or the Tuesday trip to Bristol, but stayed happily in the hotel, one day having a long lunch in the lounge bar with Esther.

On Wednesday I joined the trip to the Rhondda Valley where we were shown round the Welsh Coal Mining Experience and later took a trip on the Brecon Steam Railway.



On Thursday I joined the trip to the National Trust property Tredegar House near Newport. This was a good destination for those who visited the house and people like me who wanted to spend time in the park around it.



It was a hot and sticky day but I enjoyed sitting in the shade, waiting for others to do the walking and then spent time chatting and eating welsh cakes in the café.

Every IRF Oldies' Reunion has been special but this time we were meeting after a long period of absence and having survived the limitations of the pandemic and it didn't matter whether those present were from the long-ago time when I was attending conferences every year or were IRFers from a later era. It was equally good to be reunited with those with whom we have become friends through meeting at previous reunions.

We had thought that this might be the last Oldies' Reunion but at the end of a splendid dinner with a Welsh harpist on the last night we were overjoyed by the announcement made by some of our newer Dutch friends that they would organise the next reunion in Holland in 2025.

Annette Percy



Our grateful thanks to David Warhurst and Valerie Walker and their team of helpers for providing us with such a wonderful reunion week.



COUNTRYSIDE SHOW

and, "Nothing much around here", by Dorothy Haughton

Write something. says he. Like what? We live in the middle of nowhere and rarely go out. Our nearest shop is 10 miles away and nearest biggish town is 15. It takes me over an hour and a quarter to get to church.

We are surrounded
by scenery and
sheep. I have taken
photos to prove it!



I can see two of our neighbours from our garden, Gwn and Cei at Stone's Throw and Chris and Sara at Pen Bwlch. We live in a little hamlet called Bwlch y Sarnau (also written Bwlchysarnau), which means the causeways pass. Which causeways, no one seems to know. But we are situated at over 1300 feet in the Cambrian Mountains.

Please note that Welsh Mountains are smaller than other people's mountains, think a more hilly Derbyshire or a less hilly Lake District. We who live here call it Bulsarnee. The Welsh like complicated names which foreigners can't pronounce but don't use them themselves. •Surrounding towns are Rhayader (Raider, so some enterprising young people set up a cafe called The Lost Arc), Llanidloes (Llani) and Llandrindod Wells (Llandod or Llandead, if we are feeling especially savage).

We have an ex-primary school, which now acts as a community hub and where you can attend the art group, the photography club or the Womens Institute. We also have, just across the road from us, the Baptist Church. We are high up as I said and we have one approach road, which is particularly steep and we are thus a favourite port of call for cycling clubs. If they let us know in Advance, the WI leaps into action and provides a cafe.

The hamlet is crossed by the long distance footpath, Glyndwr's Way so we have a DIY cafe on a shelf next to a convenient toilet. Walkers are very grateful and leave gushing comments in the visitors' book. We met some walkers from Canada. Why? we asked, when you have such beautiful scenery in Canada.

“You have no bears”
“True”.

Our house is called Penpentre which means head of the village, which is a bit of a show-off name, •we are the last house at one end of the single road through. We are the second people to live here. We think the previous owner who had the bungalow built had delusions of grandeur. At one time all the water in BYS was gravity fed from a large vat. When the Water Board decided to put the hamlet on the mains the container became redundant and the land was sold off. We have a large lump in our garden which is not that easy to mow. Fortunately Eddie planted trees on two of the slopes.

The nearest pub (soon to close) is the Mid Wales Inn. The landlady claimed that under the lounge carpet was a nail that marked the exact centre of Wales. So there.....



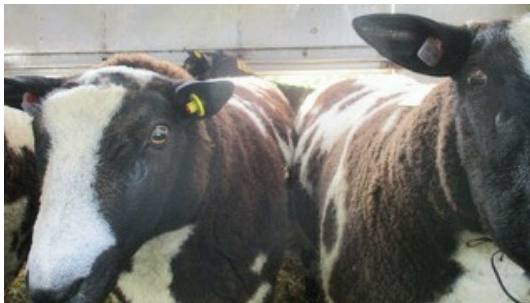
We are in Powys which was an amalgamation of two old counties; we are in the Radnorshire part. We are actually at the heart of Wales. In the spring we have lambs which is nice as they gambol and play. Sheep just eat. Unfortunately, they know that the grass on the roadside is tastier than that in their field so they escape as often as possible and play the lovely game of Walking Slowly in Front of Cars. Tractors are less of a problem than they were wont to be as they now have enormous tyres and drive at quite high speeds.

The main traffic blockages are caused by small vans tugging trailers full of sheep and the Conversation Stop. People only see other people when they are on their way, somewhere by car or van. So when you meet a friend you

both stop for a chat. Do• not, under any circumstances, hoot your horn. I get out and ask, 'Is this the Monday chat spot?' and they say, 'Sorry, do you need to get by?' To which I reply, 'Only when you have told me all the news.'

AND NOW FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE SHOW

Ah me, you poor townies and city folk who know nothing of the joys of a countryside show. A chance to meet, to talk, to shop. And every Countryside event gives a different group of animal owners a chance to show off. This time it was dogs and horses but we shall see in the future, sheep and possibly the odd cow. Other animals do get a look-in if they are interesting enough, such as giant rabbits or pigmy goats.



Items for sale are mainly food and as such of not much interest until they are on your plate but I was taken by the spectacular cakes. We bought samosas for our lunch which we enjoyed later. You can also buy clothes but mainly of interest to farming folk so not much in the way of catwalk fashion.

One point of major interest this year was the medieval section where we saw people in costume playing games such as Nine Men's Morris or carrying out medieval task such as carding fleece and spinning it. I paused to talk to the aglet maker who was burnishing the metal tags placed on the end of laces to make them last.

There is also lots of interest for children. Sadly the magic circus had not got going but Fleur, also proprietress of Natural Foods in Llanidloes, was doing a great job blowing bubbles for children to chase and pop. We met a stilt walker and a man on a penny farthing.

There was an exhibition of Land Rovers to celebrate the brand's 75th birthday but I was most taken with a copy made by dad for a small lad.

There are show rings for judging and we stopped to see some of the horses. At some point, the animal has to be seen running and the poor presenters have to do the 50 yard dash, towing or pursuing their dog or horse. It was in the show-ring that we enjoyed seeing what is probably the last bowler hat alive in captivity.



Here are a few more of Dorothy's photographs with the local Baptist Church shown on the right

It would not be a show, clearly, without ice cream so we went to Milano's and I indulged in a coffee cream and Dave in a toffee apple.

There was thankfully no permanent pop music but a stand from which various people sang and played. As we left it was 'Baby light my fire.' Ah, nostalgia.

So you see, there is no point the editor asking plaintively for news as I simply haven't got any.

Dorothy Haughton



Ramblings from Room 10

*Idle thoughts
of a not so idle fellow*

Richard Varley

Some of you will be aware that I have been interested in railways from an early age: mine that is, not the railways!• Many people will be aware, of the controversy over the construction of the new high speed railway line HS2.

Initially, it was stated that it would reduce journey times, whereas the main aim is to increase the capacity of the railway network between London, the West Midlands and the North. • It was envisaged that the introduction of HS2 would free up space on existing routes by removing several express services, thereby allowing additional local train services to run and enabling the network to handle increased numbers of passengers. •For example, this is particularly relevant in the case of the line between Rugby and Birmingham, which must accommodate local trains, express trains and freight on a double track route.

It was considered that constructing a new high-speed railway would be more cost-effective, and less disruptive, than upgrading the existing rail network. • The Department for Transport has forecast that improved connectivity will have a positive economic impact, and that favourable journey times and ample capacity will generate a shift from air and road.

The whole HS2 project has been dogged by spiralling costs and delays. • It was originally projected that the original cost of the project would be £44bn, for opening in 2026. •It is now estimated that the cost of the first phase, to Birmingham alone will be close to £60bn on its own with an estimated completion date of 2029 to 2033. • As to the cost of the entire project, the publication 'Railway Technology', reported that a leaked report, seen by the Financial Times, has found that there is a "considerable risk" that the cost of HS2, could reach £106bn.

Another expensive rail project was Crossrail, now known as the Elizabeth Line, which provides an underground connection between existing commuter lines west and east of London. The initial plan was for it open, in 2017, at a cost of £14.8bn.

It was opened by the Queen in May 2022, £19bn having been spent on its construction. •One large project which was completed on time, fortunately, were the facilities for the 2012 Olympic Games. • However, the BBC reported they were, having cost three times the originally projected figure. • I daresay some of the extra cost was the result of having to have construction completed by the very fixed deadline!

It raises the question as to why such large scale projects may run late and significantly over cost. • No doubt there is a lot of complex work to be undertaken in the planning, the preparation and seeking of tenders prior to the placing of contracts. • The actual construction work may well reveal unexpected problems.

Outside factors, such as the consequences of Covid, the war in Ukraine will have an effect. • We have the high level of inflation and the fluctuation in fuel prices. • When planning our domestic budgets, we didn't factor in the effects of these and have had to make some hard decisions as to what we can realistically afford. • Some have been hit more seriously than others; it has been reported that some have had to choose between heating and eating. Over the last winter, how many gave their heating thermostats a tweak down and examined when it really needs to be on?

When costing these projects, contingency sums will be built into the projected costs. It begs the question as to whether the level of contingency is sufficient. There should be experience, from the past, to work on; to learn the lessons of why previous projects ran over time and cost.

Dare I say that there will be pressures, in a competitive environment, to keep projected costs as attractive and tight as possible? By coincidence, shortly after writing this piece I was in conversation with a friend of mine, who I discovered worked on the Crossrail project, and he confirmed that the opinions I've expressed above weren't far off the mark.

As we move into September, the temperature rose towards thirty degrees. Having endured a distinctly mediocre, July and August, you might know that the weather would become more summer-like just as the schools go back to start the autumn term! Just as we approached the start of the term, comes the revelation that schools are being checked for the presence of RAAC concrete about which it has been said has the consistency of an Aero chocolate bar.

The consequence is that some schools, or least part of them, are unable to reopen without compromising the safety of pupils and staff. It is an understatement to say that the timing is unfortunate as the headteachers of

such schools are having to put in place alternative arrangements. A sub headline on the front page of the 'i' quoted the Chancellor as pledging to 'spend what it takes' without new funding - money coming from the Department of Education's existing repairs budget. Work that one out if you can.

The second part of my career, was an engineer in facilities management, spanning almost twenty years, I was involved in the site management of schools. I know from first-hand experience, how underfunded is the maintenance of school premises. I once calculated that, according to facilities industry figures, I received approximately thirty percent of the funding I required to maintain the premises in an 'as built' condition.

With a substantially lesser figure, some very difficult decisions must be made. An example is that in one school I received what was termed as capital grant money, which was ear marked to be spent on the infrastructure. Over three or four years I replaced batches of 20+ year old fluorescent light fittings, giving welcome relief to the day to day maintenance budget. It was a win-win situation as each batch achieved a significant reduction in the electrical load.

Throwing the RAAC situation into the mix, leaves one wondering exactly how the overall financial situation is going to work out? An interesting fact that this form of concrete is lighter and cheaper to use but has a thirty year life; significantly less than conventional concrete. It reduces the initial spend only to incur additional cost in the long term.

Harrow Court House has had to close for an undisclosed period. Northampton's Derngate Theatre, opened in 1983, has closed whereas the Royal Theatre next door and opened in 1884, is unaffected: I say no more. It is so concerning, just how many buildings, other than schools, are affected?

A close watch is being kept on several hospitals: just what the effect on the NHS could be, doesn't bear thinking of. Since I wrote this piece, a few days ago, has come news that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Kings Lynn is in a dire condition, the build in the early nineteen eighties, use was made of RAAC concrete. It was reported that nursing staff keep a eye on the weather forecast to avoid patients being in the 'wrong' place!

My comments here are a snapshot in a developing saga. I only hope that the effort now concentrates on effective remedial action. There are a lot of blame accusations flying around at the moment. The time for a thorough enquiry must follow, to ensure that lessons are learned.

I don't recommend a severe bout of pneumonia, having spent ten days in hospital at the start of last December. It wasn't particularly painful apart from

the distinct inconvenience of a persistent cough which took a while to completely clear. The treatment included antibiotics, either intravenously or by tablet, regular use of a nebuliser and two days of oxygen.

However, the recovery period is proving rather protracted. Even after nine months, I suffer from bouts of tiredness, especially if I'm particularly active. Fortunately, I have followed the advice, I was given, that if you find yourself suffering from a persistent cough, which doesn't clear, go the doctors. Mine became more severe, but after several consultations, including paramedics, the pneumonia only manifested itself over just a couple of days, which led me to being transferred straight from the doctors' surgery to hospital. I shall probably become paranoid when I suffer from a cough in the future!

I was advised to do things that I enjoy and find relaxing. I enjoy my art classes and I find painting relaxing, but there are other things I have had to give up.



Returning to my art classes, I have developed an interest in the Impressionists, during the winter term, in which we studied the Fauvists in particular.

The use of a brighter palette allows one to achieve interesting interpretations of subjects. Creating something bright and cheerful currently has a lot to be said for it. An example is one I completed recently of the School House on Bryher in the Isles of Scilly, where an aunt of mine lived when she taught on the island in the 1950s.

My rate of reading books has increased. Both Lynne and I consume them at a rapid rate, either in paper form, on an e-reader or as audiobook. I normally have two on the go at once; one being read and the other I listen to, generally whilst carrying out a task that isn't affected by doing two things at once! Lynne occasionally reads three at once; the paper one at home, an e-reader one if we go out and another audibly as I do.

One biography I read recently was that of Michael Jackson who was brought up in care, followed his ambition and joined the Metropolitan police at the age of sixteen, studied for a degree at Sussex University and, in his forties, became the first black Chief Constable, leading Kent Constabulary. The book

shows how he achieved a balance in controlling his reactions to prejudice, whilst making steady progress through the police ranks.

I vary between biography, other non-fiction and crime thrillers and lighter fiction. The book group, which Lynne coordinates is a source of a variety of books, often introducing new authors. That can lead to reading further books by the author. Some get a thumbs down, either by all, or some, of the book group members!



Just when you go down to the beach to enjoy a good book, the sun has a habit of going behind a cloud.....

One book, I have just finished in time for Lynne to read before the group meets at the beginning of October is Elif Sharaf's 'The Island of Missing Trees'. It is a powerful story centred on the partition of Cyprus, combining history, the impact on the population, the effect on a romance between a Greek boy and Turkish girl. It is also the first story, that I have read, that is narrated by a fig tree!

My tailpiece image is of a sign on the toilet door of a nearby village hall: very useful if it were not for where it was displayed

I suggest, it would be better seen on the inside of the outer door, as you opened it to leave!

Richard Varley



FOY Motion to Amend the Constitution of the Unitarian General Assembly

In 2018 clause 10 of the constitution of the Unitarian General Assembly was amended to limit the number of ordinary motions that could be accepted for debate during the GA Business meetings **to a maximum of four** and to limit the number of Emergency Motions **to one only**. The Foy Society takes the view that these limitations have damaged the GA's democratic procedures and wishes to propose a motion at the 2024 General Assembly Meetings to remove this amendment. The text of the proposed motion and the supporting paper are set out below.

Motions to amend the constitution of the GA must be proposed by a minimum of four organisations (i.e. churches, districts and affiliated societies) affiliated to the GA.

We will be putting a motion forward to the next GA, as the required support from other Unitarian groups has now been confirmed. Here is the likely wording of our motion:

That Clause 10 of the Constitution of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches be amended as follows:

Delete the following two paragraphs:

"There shall be a maximum of four ordinary motions accepted for debate by the Assembly. There shall be a maximum of one Emergency Motion (except in exceptional circumstances) accepted for debate by the Assembly.

In the event that more than four ordinary motions and/or more than one emergency motions are received a vote shall be taken at the beginning of the business meetings to determine which four ordinary and one emergency motions shall be accepted for debate."

Signed on behalf of The Foy Society:



Why the '4 Motion Rule' Should Go

The proposers of this motion consider that the limits to the number of Ordinary Motions and Emergency Motions imposed in Clause 10 of the constitution are damaging our democratic procedures, and are unnecessary.

Anyone who has ever set about raising a motion for discussion at the Unitarian Annual Meetings will know how hard it can be. Let's say you have an important social issue you want to raise – such as climate change or the refugee crisis – or you might want to propose something about Unitarians – such as raising our commitment to social responsibility or voting rights for Associate Members. First you have to persuade a church, district association, affiliated society or 12 'Full' Members to support your motion as these are the only groups authorised to propose motions at GA meetings. The precise wording has to be agreed, then your chosen organisation has to hold a meeting of its governing body to agree and minute its decision to propose the motion. Next you have to write a background paper to go with it.

The secretary or convenor of your chosen group must then submit the motion to Unitarian HQ **at least fifty-six days before the start of the GA Annual Meeting**. It's a fiendishly difficult process that has to be started long before the meetings. Small wonder that there are often few significant motions on the order paper – as happened in the recent 2023 meetings.

Then, in 2018, along came a change which would make it even more difficult – namely the introduction of the '**4 motion rule**' into section 10 of the GA Constitution. This limits the number of Ordinary Motions that can be discussed in each annual meeting to a maximum of four and Emergency Motions to a maximum of one. If more than four motions are submitted delegates have to vote to decide which four will be discussed. So, if there are more than four motions, it is perfectly possible that your carefully crafted motion, into which you and your supporting group have invested so much effort, might not even get on to the agenda. Similarly, if serious matters arise after the deadline for ordinary motions which justify the raising of Emergency Motions, only one will be permitted.

The change was made in the context of the move to shorten the GA meetings by one day, which was also brought into effect from 2018. The concern was that too many motions could be difficult to fit into a shorter meeting. However, since 2018 there has only been one occasion when

more than four motions were proposed. The problem has been **insufficient** worthwhile motions rather than too many. In any case, motions are a vital part of our democratic procedures, which should not be sacrificed to administrative convenience. In the rare occasions in the past, when more motions were on the table, the organisers proved perfectly capable of managing the debates within the time available.

Since the GA's foundation in 1929 many motions have been passed which establish where Unitarians stand on a wide range of important issues, such as Equality, Drugs, Civil Liberties, Climate Change. These can be accessed on the GA's website. It's an opportunity that we have only once a year. Also, the debates are a rare chance for the voice of ordinary members to be heard. Restricting the number of motions can prevent us from making a stand on current issues and harms our democratic credentials.

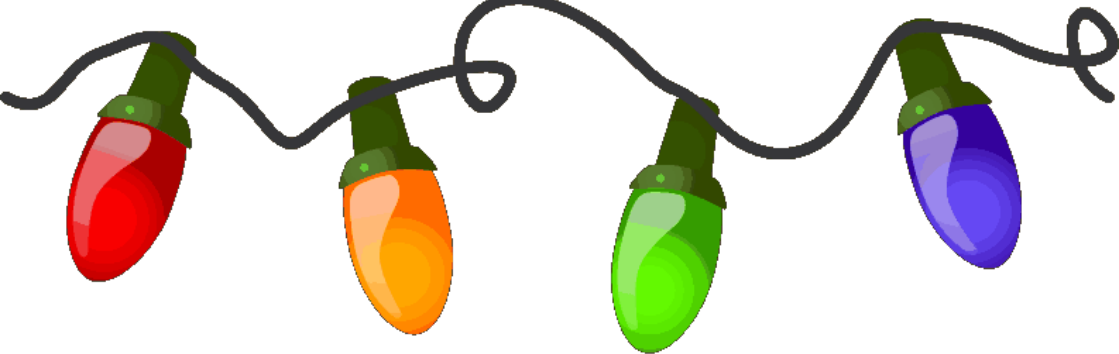
As it happens, the 'four motion rule' has only been used once since it was introduced. This was in 2021 when six ordinary motions had been submitted. Delegates were forced to select four for debate so that two important and currently relevant motions were bumped off the agenda regardless of the importance of the issues and the work that had gone into preparing them. One of the motions lost would have re-affirmed the General Assembly's support for Transgender Rights at a time when this was a 'hot' topical issue. The other motion lost would have confirmed the Unitarian commitment to support the emergency humanitarian work of the Red Cross and, in particular, the newly formed interfaith Red Cross Memorial Peace Appeal. Ironically, the 2021 business meeting finished ahead of schedule - there would have been ample time to discuss these two important motions.

This is why the proposers of this motion take the view that the '4 motion rule' should go. All that is needed to make the change is the deletion of the last two paragraphs of Clause 10.

Editor's note:

Foy Council are indebted to our Treasurer, David Warhurst, for the time and effort he has put into getting this motion together and seeking support from other Unitarian Groups, in order that it can go forward to the 2023 Unitarian General Assembly.

Thanks David



The Big Foy and IRF Centenary Celebration!



2024 is the Centenary Conference-Anniversary of Foy (formerly Fellowship of Youth) and IRF (International Religious Fellowship)! The Foy Society (for one year only) has decided to move the dates of its Annual Conference to Easter Weekend 2024 (28th March to 1st April) for this special celebration which will be held at The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow.

We have plans for a family friendly programme to include a visit to Flagg by coach on Saturday, a special service at Hucklow Old Chapel, tea and cakes on Sunday at The Nightingale Centre, story telling, a 'Parade of Presidents,' Voices from the Past, Present and Future, games, singing, dancing, walks, displays of archive material and, of course, worship.

The programme is slowly evolving and, as the Conference Coordinator I am looking for volunteers to take the lead on specific activities either throughout the weekend, or a single session. Some options are:

Roles (small teams with named leader) needed to take responsibility for making sure specific activities, admin etc. are being organized:

Overall co-ordinator: Dot

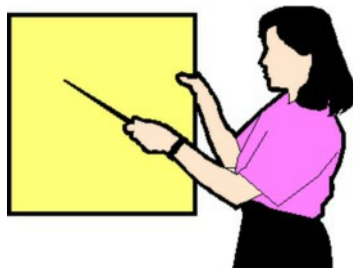
Bookings admin: a bit like Conference Secretary but with additional bookings for 'independent' events, e.g. visit to Flagg. Joan

❖ **Finance:** Budget, accounts, paying bills etc David

❖ **Research:** historic records from Foy Bulletin, The Inquirer, Foy News
A number of people offered to help with this. Please can you confirm what and how you want to be involved so I don't miss anyone out?

❖ **Worship:** Arrange worship leaders for Morning and evening devotions including the Closing Circle.

❖ **Publicity:** Drip feed publicity via social media, Foy News, The Inquirer, UniNews etc. starting with a 'hold the dates' notice. The first flyer has already been posted on social media resulting in several bookings. By the time you read this, details will have been published in The Inquirer (thanks to Colleen Burns for support).



Flagg trip: liaise with Flagg trustees. *We are very grateful to the Flagg Trustees for their generous grant of £2,000, which will help us with the additional costs of this special weekend.*

❖ **Hucklow celebration:** liaise with Old Chapel and The Nightingale Centre.

❖ **Evening events:** find leaders and support leaders.
Offer to lead a specific evening event.

❖ **Session leaders:** Past, present, Future sessions.

❖ **Children's programme:** crèche upwards if/as required. *We are planning to make the whole Conference more family friendly than usual. However, there will be some sessions each day for which we will arrange a separate children's and/or teens programme.*

Youth programme: *We are hoping to run a parallel Youth Programme. There could be options for this group to stay at Flagg or use The Nightingale Centre.*

So, what is needed now? Volunteers!! I am grateful to everyone who has already made offers/suggestions and to those who have offered useful documents to help with research.

Please search your boxes, shelves and cupboards for any documents and photos you have relating to any aspect of Foy and IRF! We are gathering some excellent material which lends itself to being turned into short historic sketches featuring notable Foy personalities through the decades (authors and script writers needed)!!

This is an exciting project BUT we need to be realistic and practical! We can only achieve this if we have lots of people offering to take on responsibility for part(s) of what is needed. Some might be able to offer to do research, contact people etc. others may offer to lead one of the sessions or events at the time. Every little helps!



**Please do email me if you are able and willing to help in any way!
I will make a list and see how we fit and what, if any, gaps we have.**

There will be some options for day visitors. More details on the programme and Conference charges will be available shortly.

Accommodation will be mostly at Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow, Derbyshire, UK. Book now to secure your bed at The Nightingale Centre 01298 871218

info@thenightingalecentre.org.uk

There may be some options at Flagg for hardy ones!

I look forward to receiving your ideas and your offers! **Dot Hewerdine.**
(Foy President and Conference Coordinator)

dothewerdine@btinternet.com

Unitarian Handkerchiefs

New **Sale** Prices

Hurry while stocks last!



Men's single chalice logo handkerchief £3.50 **now £2.50**

Ladies' handkerchiefs, 2 in a chiffon bag £7.50 **now £5.00**

Men's handkerchiefs, 3 in a box £15.00 **now £10.00**

★ *Special offer - free postage and packing* ★

Send orders to: Hazel Warhurst, 18, Priory Way, Ingleby Arncliffe,
NORTHALLERTON, North Yorkshire, DL6 3LR, email:
hazndaz@warhurstfamily.co.uk

Cheques should be made payable to **The Foy Society**

For payment by bank transfer contact hazndaz@warhurstfamily.co.uk



A Foy Project
supporting young people attending
GA and other National Events

News of Members



Hazel Warhurst

I have very little news to report this time.

Happily, one event was the wedding of **Lizzie Roper**, daughter of last year's president, **Gwyneth Roper** and husband **Robert**, to **Dave Cox** on 27th August, with their reception taking place at the Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow. Congratulations and Best Wishes to the happy couple.

On 10th September I received the sad news of the death of Foy member **Rev Penny Johnson**. Her funeral service will be held on Friday 6th October at Dean Row Chapel, Wilmslow. A condolence card from us all was sent to her husband, **Ken**. He would prefer to do Penny's obituary for Foy News and will send it to us for the next edition.

We have also just heard of the death of another Foy member, **Martin Slatford**, who died peacefully in hospital on Saturday evening, 30th September, 2023. You will receive details of the funeral arrangements from Hazel. when we have them.

We send our sympathy to **Christine** and **Alan Dawson** and family following the sudden death of **Stini's** father, **Jack Niederer**, who died suddenly on 1st September.



Jack was well known to many Foy members as a long standing and much-loved member of the IRF community.

We were so pleased that he was able to join us at the IRF "Oldies" Reunion in South Wales in June, where he was hale and hearty and much fun to be with, as always.

Susanne Dubs was one of the group from Germany who made drawings of our activities in Wales. Here, in one of her sketches you see Jack, on the right, portrayed on a railway journey he took with a group of us.



Our caring thoughts are with those Foy members who have been, or still are, facing challenging times with their health.

Please let me have any news of members in good time for the Spring 2024 edition of Foy News.

(The deadline can be found printed inside the front cover)

Membership and Subscriptions

I apologise for not sending out individual reminders yet to those who forgot to pay in March - the end of the financial year. I'll be asking if a few of you no longer wish to be members so that I can update my records.

Membership is still only **£7.50 for an individual** and **£10 for a couple**.

If you feel able to pay a little more than the basic subscription, please consider adding a donation for the Flagg Chapel Fund which assists young people attending Unitarian events and appropriate conferences.

Payment of subscription by Bank Transfer is preferred, but if this is difficult then by all means write a cheque and make it payable to **"The Foy Society"**. The Treasurer's address is on the back page of Foy News.

To pay by Bank Transfer here are the details of the Bank account:-

Santander plc

Account name: The Foy Society

Sort code: 09-01-50

Account number: 05454689

Next year's Foy Conference Combined with the IRF

Open to non-members

Family Friendly activities
Fun at Great Hucklow
Coach Visit to Flagg
Worship Service at Old Chapel
Story-telling and Good Food
"Parade of Past Foy Presidents"
Archive Material on Display
Games, Singing and Dancing

More information from our Conference Secretary
Joan Partington

coljopartington@gmail.com

28th April - 1st May, 2023

Bookings with

The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow



**Jacquard woven in finest polyester
by Maccravats of Macclesfield**

Single Flaming Chalice motif

£10 each

Available from Hazel Warhurst, on behalf of
Martin Fieldhouse of Bridgwater Unitarians

Some Useful Contacts

Treasurer and Printing:

David Warhurst,
18, Priory Way,
Ingleby Arncliffe,
N. Yorkshire. DL6 3LR



01609 882442

Flagg Contact:

Neill Warhurst,
Flat 2, 9, Grosvenor Road,
Scarborough,
N. Yorkshire, YO11 2LZ



01723 365589

Membership Sec:

Hazel Warhurst,
18, Priory Way,
Ingleby Arncliffe,
N. Yorkshire. DL6 3LR



(mobile) **07765005870**

General Sec:

Richard Varley,
60, Weggs Farm Road,
Northampton,
NN5 6HD



01604 587860

Conference Sec:

Joan Partington,
“Sandcroft”,
Townhead, Hayton,
BRAMPTON,
Cumbria. CA8 9JF.



01228 670565

Editor - Foy News:

John Hewerdine,
Whittle Wharf,
Whittle Springs,
Chorley,
Lancashire. PR6 8AE



01257 269502

Editor's email : john@hewerdinefamily.co.uk