

The Youngster

The Bulletin of the Y's Men's Club of Kingswood, UK
"To acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right"



April 2025

March Dinner Night Speaker – Becky Court

'Age UK South Gloucestershire'

We were both entertained and informed by the talk given by Becky; she told us that Age UK South Glos is an independent local charity affiliated to Age UK, the national charity, with 25 dedicated staff and over 150 volunteers helping to deliver services and activities for older people in South Gloucestershire. Age UK South Glos. was founded in 1997 and is based in Thornbury but provides services to the whole area. It costs £63,000 a month to run and most of this comes from donations and bequests. They offer a range of eight specific services to people including Befriending, Walking Groups, Activity Centres, Improving Homes & Wellbeing together with general information and advice. Becky explained that one of the most used services was Befriending. This involves regular visits to lonely and isolated people by volunteers; they currently have around 150 clients on a waiting list and would love to double the number of volunteers. The information and advice service is well used and as an example, around 15 people are supported in applications for Attendance Allowance which gives financial assistance to those with disabilities or health condition severe enough to require help. Becky has only worked for Age UK South Glos for about a year but in that time she has gained a deep understanding of the work done and put the information over with humour and clarity.



Wally

Band Concert: 26th April 2025 at The Tynings



Only a week now until our next fund raiser! We had a very enjoyable evening's entertainment last year and you can be assured it will be equally good this time so remind your friends who came last time and make some new friends by introducing them to a great night out.

Dates for your Diary

17 th April	Dinner Night – Speaker, Mark Gregory – “Early Mornings and Late Nights”
26 th April	Band Concert at The Tynings – There's still time to sell tickets.
15 th May	Dinner Night – Speaker, Richard Lunn – The Dramway
19 th June	Dinner Night – Speaker, Eloise Green – My Interrail trip with the Guides
28 th June	Cream Tea at Bob & Sherry's 1500hrs. No charge but donations to Club welcomed!
25 th October	Quiz night at The Tynings – provisional date

Visit to St. Nick's Market, The Old City & cellars under The Corn Exchange.

Eleven members and friends met at midday in Corn Street outside The Corn Exchange where we were greeted by our guide, Dunca. An enthusiastic and knowledgeable young man, he was dressed for the occasion in a mix of 'uniform' garments and carrying a wartime knapsack from which he produced a selection of 'before' photographs to help with our orientation and the war-time history of the area around the centre of the Old City.

After pointing out the area devastated in wartime our guide then drew our attention to the clock on the front of the Exchange which had two Minute hands, one for Bristol Time and one for London Time i.e. Greenwich Time. Until the advent of the railways it hadn't mattered that London and Bristol were a few minutes difference but a standard time became necessary for such things as time-tables on the railway.

The Air raids in 1941 wiped out the Castle Street shopping area - now the open space of Castle Park - but so as not to cause panic in the population at large, news reports only mentioned that 'a' city had been bombed, without being specific as to which one.

Following our ground level descriptions and explanations we went down to the old cellars under the Corn Exchange; originally used for storage and then part converted to The City Treasurer's Bar, the cellars were used as air-raid shelters during the 1939-45 war. He also told us to beware the ghost, Margaret, who roams the cellars - everyone laughed until she appeared on our group photo! Duncan, who appears to be working almost single handed to popularise this period of Bristol History, had displayed many mementos relating to the war including a selection of gas-masks. As poison gas had been used in the 1st World War, there was the fear that it might be used again so the everyone was issued with gas-masks. Although, fortunately, the masks were not needed I am sure they brought back memories to some of the older members of our party - it certainly did for me! I had a lovely red one with separate eye pieces, whereas all my older siblings had boring black ones with a single glass at the front.



Despite being quite close to the ruined Castle Street shopping area, Corn Street, with its many wonderful buildings, was undamaged. Bristol also had its own Stock Exchange in nearby St. Nicholas Street until 1973 and that is now a listed building. Some of us learned that the four bronze Nails now standing in front of the Corn Exchange, upon which it is said merchants 'paid on the nail' having agreed a deal, had been moved from another location just up the road many years ago (as Michael Caine once said "Not many people know that!").



St. Nick's Market is housed within The Corn Exchange court yard which was originally open air but, to the annoyance of many, was covered in with a glass roof in the late 1800s with a subsequent replacement of that roof in 1945 in a lower level. This obscures many of the stone carvings decorating the upper part of the building which symbolise the many parts of the world with which

Bristol had trade links. I'm quite sure, however, that Bristolians appreciate the cover in winter when sleet and snow fall.

After a very interesting tour a number of us crossed the road to Wetherspoons in The Commercial Rooms for a light lunch.



Mike McBrida

Coffee Mornings

Out comes the sun, out come the customers! Marvellous sum of £77 for the April coffee meet helped along by very nice cakes by Judy & Angela and generous donations from a couple of customers. Our thanks to those who helped in any way.

Remaining 2025 dates are: 3rd May, 7th June, 5th July, 2nd August, 6th September, 11th October, 1st & 29th November then 3rd January 2026.

Set up help from 9.15 a.m. welcome, as are contributions of cake for sale.

Hanham Club

It was sad to read the news that our friends at Hanham Methodist Church have decided to close their membership of Y's Men International due to an ageing membership and fewer people able to take on official positions. They hope to continue their fund-raising activities as an informal church group. Our best wishes go to them with the hope we can still support each other on occasion.

A note from former member Richard Nicholls

Just to let you know that Mary – wife of Ray, deceased member - passed away peacefully in her sleep early on Sunday morning.

We are having a small thanksgiving service to celebrate her life at 3:00pm on Thursday 1st May at Valley Chapel, Haycombe Crematorium, Bath.



*Still a few tickets left for our Hippodrome visit to the BLOC production of "Les Misérables"
Wednesday 13th August 2.30 p.m.*

Please let me know as soon as possible if you need some more. Payment for tickets needed by the end of the month please, £56.00 each – cash, cheque or, if you prefer, bank transfer, let me know and I will give you details.

Roger Cr.

More photos from the Corn Exchange visit



Can this true?

Women talking with other women generate the most laughter.

Women tend to laugh less as they get older, but not men.

Babies laugh up to 300 times a day.

A 6 yr. old child laughs about 3 times more than an adult

Research has found that being around other people is the most common trigger of laughter.

It's not really about jokes. Social laughter is far more common than solitary laughter. People laugh about 30 times more when they are with other people than when they are alone.

Children under the age of 6 cannot distinguish between lies and jokes. They learn to joke after age 6.

Borrowed, with thanks, from The Whittler, Newsletter of The Whittier A.M. Y Service Club, California

A lorry with a load of Vick Vapour Rub overturned on the motorway yesterday.

There was no congestion for 8 hours!

Your fingers have fingertips but your toes don't have toetips.

Yet you can tiptoe but not tipfinger.

Lazy is such an ugly word – I prefer the expression, 'Selective participation'.

The word Queue is just a letter Q followed by 4 silent letters.

Why do we Recite in a Play but Play in a Recital?

All my passwords are protected by amnesia.

When old people say, "Enjoy them whilst they are young", they are usually referring to your hips and knees, not your children!