

The Youngster

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



February 2026

President's Lunch

This year's lunch celebrated the Club's 66th Anniversary and was held at The Compass Hotel, Tormarton, just a few miles from our regular meeting place. The occasion was chaired by President Robert Gray who sported a posh Gold Medal around his neck; had he been to Italy for the Winter Olympic Games - perhaps for the Bob-sleigh event? No, it's the President's Badge of Office!

Attended by 24 Club Members, including a few friends plus 9 members of the newly formed Hanham Group – the Friday Friends Supper Club – we enjoyed a very nice meal. Having had a choice of Beef, Pork, Chicken and two vegetarian options, in very generous servings, together with a choice of desserts, I don't think anyone was going home with thoughts of "What shall we have for tea?" Coffee and/or tea was brought to the table by the younger members of the Gray franchise – thank you Miranda, Sam & Sandy!



All in all, a very pleasant Sunday Meal in good company and, considering the way costs have shot up recently, very good value. Thank you, President Bob, for booking this venue – it was also nice to see that the ladies had dressed for the occasion!

Coffee Mornings

Mixed weather again but brightened up towards the end helping us to take £60.00. We should recognise, however, that this sum was greatly enhanced by generous over-payment for their coffee by a couple of members and visitors. Thanks to Eileen again for cake!

Note that future Coffee Mornings will be Saturday, 7th March, 4th April, 2nd May, 6th June, 4th July, 1st August, 5th September, 10th October, 7th November with the December date yet to be confirmed.

Dates for your Diary

19 th February	Time of Fast – Speaker, Bruce Kent – "Turnaround, Bristol" a Methodist Charity
21 st February	Race Night – The Tynings School; further details later.
19 th March	Dinner Night – Speaker, David Burlison – South Gloucestershire Waste Disposal
16 th April	Dinner Night – Speaker, Chas. Ashley - "From Flat Earth to Google Earth"
25 th April	Jazz Night t.b.c.
21 st May	Dinner Night – Speaker, Oliver Davey – "Yanks in Bristol".

Why Time of Fast?

For those who may not know the background to our 'frugal' meal this month, here follows a brief outline of the ToF Project

ToF began as an idea of Y's man Vivret Norman from Waterloo, Iowa in 1969. An initial programme outline and draft policy statement was prepared by the Human Crisis Committee (a group that had been formed earlier that year to address – among other things – poverty, racial discrimination, denial of basic human rights....).

A statement based on Vi's ideas was presented and accepted at the 46th International Convention in Copenhagen, Denmark (the first outside the North American continent) in July 1970. It outlined a plan in which club members would give up a meal and, ideally, give the equivalent cost to a specified international fund to help finance projects of the YMCA which also addressed the goals of the commission. The first international "Fast Day" was held on 13 December 1970, raising USD 3,974 which was donated to the World YMCA for its refugee programme.

Purpose & Objectives

Time of Fast projects can have a clear and timely impact at the local level, improving the everyday lives of their beneficiaries in a sustainable manner. They encourage deeper systemic and enduring changes that help YMI in "building a better world for all humankind," which is our overlying mission.

ToF money has supported directly:

- The installation of latrines and sanitary facilities in rural schools
- A variety of vocational training opportunities for those who otherwise would not have access to such education
- After-school and tutoring programmes for at risk pre-teens and teens
- Healthy living courses, fitness programmes, hygiene and personal care initiatives
- Senior socialisation and elder care initiatives
- Medical and palliative services for the poor by trained professionals within our organisation

Monitoring & Reporting

Each approved application is eligible to receive 30% of the allocated funds up front. Project coordinators are expected to provide regular progress reports including expenses and photos or video and these are studied by the International Secretary General; if satisfactory, two subsequent instalments of 30% follow. The final 10% is released after the compilation of a comprehensive report covering:

1. Introduction/Project Overview
2. Objectives/Outcomes
3. Project Benchmarks
4. Sustainability
5. Beneficiary Stories
6. Final Financials

It is well worth looking online at <https://www.ysmen.org/our-work/international-support/time-of-fast> to see how much Time of Fast is a worthwhile project.

January Dinner Night – “Whitaker’s War”

The title of our speaker’s talk at the January Dinner was sufficiently vague to have us guessing what was so special about the war – and which war - in relation to the mysterious Whitaker. Our guest Gary Atterton was to tell us about his great interest – some may say obsession, when considering the price of some rare items – in Post- Cards, of which he has an impressive collection.



The first part of his talk was an introduction to the advent of post-cards and reminded us of the many cards by the popular card artist Donald McGill, most famously known for his many saucy seaside cards of the 20s, 30s, 40s and early 50s. This type of card gradually faded from the scene following complaints from people with a limited sense of humour.

The main part of Gary’s talk brought us on to the war aspect of the title. He has managed to acquire a very large collection of post-cards sent between troops and families during the 1st World War, especially those of the Whitaker family. William Dent Whitaker was a Colliery Clerk in civilian life but served in the war and during the period 1914 – 1920 sent over 2,000 cards to his son John back home in Blighty. Despite the censorship which existed in relation to correspondence, this collection of notes home makes an important record of happenings at ‘the Front’.

The stories Gary told illustrated the depth of interest he shows in his hobby and this interest certainly came out in this evening’s talk. Above: A typical WW1 embroidered post-card.



Did you know the most common owl is the Teat Owl?
There is probably at least one in every kitchen.

I was born to be wild – but only until 9.30 or so!

I have neither the time nor the crayons to explain
this to you!

Most people don't think I'm as old as I am until
they hear me stand up!

Ask your doctor if a medicine with 32 pages of side
effects is right for you.

President's Lunch - Sunday February 8th
At The Compass Inn Tormarton



Top table



Middle table



Hanham table



General view



General view



General view



General view



Coffee is served



Hanham President vote of thanks



"To whit, to whoo....."

"If I've told you once, I've told
you a dozen times.....it's
To whom!"

