

Kingswood, UK - Chartered 1960

The Youngster



Guilty Pleasures

April 2019

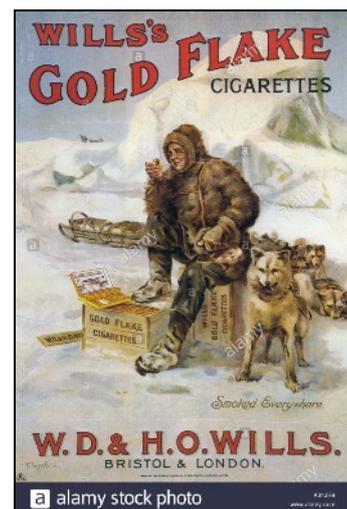
Chris Bigg identified 3 "Guilty Pleasures" at Dinner Night on 21st March, these being Tobacco, Beer and Chocolate and how they impacted on Bristol's history and economy.

He focussed particularly on W D and H O Wills started at Redcliffe Street in 1791 by 30 family members and he mentioned some legendary cigarettes including Gold Flake, Wild Woodbine and Embassy. The Wills factory opened in Bedminster in 1866 and Wills later merged with other Companies to form Imperial Tobacco. Cigarette advertising reached a high in the 1970s when the Hartcliffe factory was built which was then manufacturing 350 million cigarettes per week. There has since been a marked reduction in advertising and a consequent drop off in manufacturing.

Other legendary names occurred when Chris moved on to beer and these included Georges Brewery (formed in 1788), Courages and Harveys (best selling Sherry). Members nodded approvingly when mention was made of Harveys Restaurant and this obviously triggered some happy memories.

When chocolate was mentioned the obvious name to mention was Frys with its roots being in Small Street in 1759 and Union Street in 1777. The legendary chocolate cream bar was one of the first chocolate bars as was Five Boys. A merger occurred with Cadburys in 1918 and the organisation moved to Keynsham in the period 1924 – 1935. There were of course honourable mentions for Carsons at Shortwood and Packers at Greenbank as the chocolate empire expanded.

This was a fascinating evening aptly summarised by Dave Moore and all of us present had our own particular memories evoked by Chris.



Roger Clutson

Extraordinary General Meeting

During the May Dinner Night an extraordinary general meeting will be held to consider the need to raise the annual subscription for next year. This cannot be delayed until the next annual general meeting.

Diary

Thu 18 Apr	7.30 pm Dinner Night - 'My Life with Musical Instruments' - Geoff Pegler
Sat 4 May	9.30 am set up, 10.00 open Coffee Morning
Sat 11 May	7.00 for 7.30 pm, Phoenix Wind Band Concert, Mangotsfield School
Thu 16 May	7.30 pm Dinner Night - 'Grand Tour' Bernard Merrick
Sat 1 June	9.30 am set up, 10.00 open Coffee Morning
Thu 20 June	7.30 pm Dinner Night - 'Family Favourites' - Graham Walker
Sat 6 July	9.30 am set up, 10.00 open Coffee Morning
Sar 3 Aug	9.30 am set up, 10.00 open Coffee Morning
Sat 12 Oct	Race Night

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To acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right

A. Ryan Price 1927 – 2019

Club President 1972/73

The middle 60s was a good time for the Y's Men's Club of Kingswood! We were fortunate to have Richard Davies as a member at that time, but more importantly, as it happens, was the fact that his wife Mary worked at the Central Electricity Board Regional Headquarters in Bristol. She had already recruited Arthur & Heather Linforth to our fold through this CEB link and it was there that she met Ryan who had been transferred from Cardiff. Mary wasted no time in letting him know all about our Club's activities and encouraged him to join up, which he did soon after settling into his and Eileen's new home in Mangotsfield.



It was not too long before Ryan's musical talents came to the fore and we were quick to exploit them. A Regional Conference had been arranged by the Club and entertainment was required: the aforementioned Mary was appointed as choir mistress for the recently created 10 man choir. Ryan was one of our baritones - until he showed his prowess as a guitarist and from then on he became our 'backing' music and accompanist when no piano was available. Not content with just being a guitarist, he then introduced us to one of his favourite musical loves, bell ringing, of the hand bell variety. This was something Ryan was passionate about and from leading The Price Family Ringers (with Eileen, Andrew & Christine) he recruited a number of members' wives to play and the team name changed to The Price Ringers. This group entertained at an untold number of Club functions over the years and even produced a CD. With the passage of time some team members moved away and Ryan then took the remaining members to Lincombe Barn and founded The Barn Bells, which still rehearses each Thursday. This involvement with hand-bell ringing was not confined to the UK and Ryan & Eileen gained many friends from the hand-bell ringing communities of Japan, Korea, North America and many other places around the world.

This interest in bell ringing was not just confined to tintinnabulation! Ryan was also into campanology, learning to ring church bells as a teenager in Bedwellty and continuing with this activity until the past few years, when increasing frailty prevented him from climbing up to the ringing chamber at St. James Church, Mangotsfield. It was not unknown for Ryan and Eileen to "collect" ringing experiences when visiting other areas by going to the local church and asking to join in.

And it doesn't end there! Ryan was also involved in our venture as concert promoter at the Colston Hall when he arranged for the Thurleston Ringers, a very accomplished hand-bell team from Yorkshire to visit and share a programme with the Bristol Barbershop Choir and the Sun Life Brass Band in our "3 Bs Concert".

Despite a life full of music, Ryan still had time to get fully involved in other aspects of our Club's life. Before achieving his Highers in Electrical Engineering, he was an apprentice at Penallta Colliery for a short while before going to work for the CEB. This early connection with coal mining led to him arranging for a group of our members to visit Oakdale Colliery where Eileen's father had



spent his working life underground. Oakdale is situated just outside Blackwood, South Wales. This really was an educational visit for us, mainly white collar workers. A Sunday morning with only a part shift working, 21 of us experienced the drop to the bottom of the shaft before a long walk to the coal face. There were a couple of miners toiling away in very uncomfortable conditions and it was difficult for us to envisage this as a way of life for thousands of men over the years. Most of us were tired out just by the hike to the face and the trudge back without having had the chore of working an 8

Ryan Price continued



walk, between humming cables, through the two and a half mile tunnel to Aust before climbing a long ladder back up to fresh air. An experience which has not been enjoyed(?) by many people: Ryan certainly knew how to wear us out on the visits he arrange!

However, even allowing for all the enjoyable things Ryan arranged for our Club, I believe his lasting legacy will be The Band Contest. Whilst living in Wales, Ryan had become acquainted with the marching band community which had many followers on that side of the Bristol Channel. He came to a Board of Governors' meeting with the proposal that the Club should arrange a competition and invite teams over from across the bridge and also down from the Midlands. After Ryan had explained the procedures for the competition and the work involved, the other Board members, in their wisdom, decided it was too much work for a club such as ours. Just as so often happens after a local government consultation, Ryan thought otherwise and, using his Presidential prerogative, proceeded to book 12 bands for October 1972. He was right and the Board was wrong! The event was a resounding success with similar competitions being held for the next nine years and profits, on some occasions, exceeding £1,000.

Ryan was also very involved with an earlier big project of the Club. For many summers, before the construction of the M5 motorway to the south west, we sold hot dogs and drinks throughout the Friday nights during the school holidays to the many motorists on their way down the A38 to Cornwall & Devon. We used an old caravan as our snack bar and one of the leading lights, and chief electrician, in its conversion to catering use was Ryan, who also allowed us to park it on his drive for several weeks whilst the work was being done.

Then, of course, there is our longest running project, Christmas Tree sales! Once again Ryan was involved; in fact, during the peak times – when we were selling up to 1,000 trees each December – his garage was used as the local distribution point for sales in the Charnhill area.

Throughout his membership of the Y's Men's Club, Ryan had been a staunch supporter of all the projects undertaken – a true club man - with his last responsibility being the monthly Dinner Night raffle which he managed until the years caught up with him at around his 90th birthday.

The title of this piece says A. Ryan Price but as his first forename, Albert, wasn't used amongst friends, perhaps it should read The Ryan Price! A lovely, friendly, quiet but nevertheless determined man it has been a privilege to be a member of this Club with him. No more will we hear those soft Welsh tones but those who have known Ryan over the years will always remember him.

Roger Cromwell

Ten Sing Race Night

Fewer attended this year compared with last year. Nevertheless, Ten Sing made £883 profit on the night, not £830 which was reported to the last BOG. Thanks to all those of the Y's Men's Club who helped, attended or bought horses. I think Ten Sing would have difficulty in selling the horses without the contributions of our members, so it is very much appreciated.

Dave Moore, Mike McBraid and Alan Wallington all owned horses which won a race and each received prizes worth £20. Congratulations!

Mike Bendrey

Regional Director's Travels



March 22nd saw Olya and me motoring to Holland via the Dover to Dunkirk ferry. We spent a comfortable night in a posh hotel near Bruges and on the Saturday continued to Zwolle, a pleasant city of about 125,000 citizens. Once established in a Campanile hotel we were taken to the magnificent city hall where we met Martin Vosjan, who attended the Regional Conference in Bristol last year. He introduced us to the new members of the Y Service Club of Zwolle. My pleasant task was to induct the seven new members into membership of Y's Men International and install Martin as President. I gave the club a visitor's book as a welcome gift from Kingswood club. Area President Poul-Henning Lowendahl had the pleasure of handing over the official Charter document. Hamburg Oberalster 2 club is the mother club for Zwolle and Lothar Riebling welcomed them into Y'sdom. We had a small reception with the Mayor visiting to give the club a fine new logo from the city. We were then taken on a walk around the city centre before a meal in a restaurant near the main church and market square. We finished the evening at another restaurant where a superb selection of cakes, sweets and ice cream ensured we were full before bedtime. On the Sunday we walked around the city centre again and left on the Monday to travel home but not before a visit to the Keukenhof Tulip Gardens near Amsterdam. What a wonderful sight it was to see thousands of tulips, narcissi and daffodils in beautiful gardens with seven pavilions, each with a different theme. A fitting end to our visit to Holland.



RD Wally Installing the members



AP presenting the Charter

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Together at Keukenhof Tulip Gardens

Setubal, Portugal



Setubal YMCA

I was asked to visit Setubal YMCA to meet potential members for a new Y's Men's Club. I was met at Lisbon airport by International Secretary General Jose Varghese and together we spent two days giving information and encouragement to 10 people who had expressed an interest in Y'sdom. Setubal YMCA is a very active organisation with a fine headquarters and several satellite centres, including a camp site. We visited Alambre Camp Site where we met



With potential new members

the leader of an environmental project aimed at giving children a better insight into such matters. This project is being supported by our Time of Fast programme. Following our presentations the potential members agreed to meet regularly and consider what steps to take towards forming a new Y's Men's Club.



Setubal YMCA Alambre camp site

Alan



With YMCA Setubal CEO Luis

Weekend away in London Visiting The Post Office Underground Railway and Emirates Airline Cable Car

April 6th-7th April

Meeting at the Barn at the crack of dawn on a Saturday morning (well 7.45am but it seemed very early) on a lovely crisp morning to catch the coach to London. There was however a slight delay to our departure when Bob and Sherry turned up and realised that neither of them had picked up their suitcase and it was still standing on the doorstep at home so according to Sherry Robert had left the suitcase at home and Bob had gone back to pick it up, Once Bob had arrived back with suitcase we set off picking every one else up who had been standing out in the cold for an extra half hour, Bob was not very popular.

On the way to London we stopped at Reading Services - big mistake as most of the Bath and Bristol Rugby supporters who were on their way to Twickenham must have been queuing for the toilets.

We arrived at the Post Office Museum at about 12.15 and had a look round the Postal Museum which reveals five centuries of British social and communications history through the eyes of its iconic postal services; a very interesting exhibition documenting the history of mail in the UK.

After a bite of lunch we then crossed the road to the Underground Secret Subway that carried mail between the main sorting offices under the streets of London, I found this very fascinating to imagine mail running on these unmanned electric small gauge trains, the carriages we went in were not the original but had small compartments that 2 - 4 people could get into with a glass like dome covering you. Originally there was about 22 miles of railway running under the streets of London but the public run is only about 7 miles but still very interesting. They would stop at the sorting office platforms and show you videos showing you what it was like through the ages that the railway ran. The Railway ran from 1927 till its closure in 2003 when there was not so much mail to sort. It used to run 22 hours a day non stop.

After leaving the Mail Rail we headed off to Guoman Tower Hotel, Tower Bridge arriving about 4pm. We checked into our rooms and the rest of the time was ours. Sam, Sherry, Bob, Gwen and myself decided not to eat in the Hotel as Bob had already had a shock when a round of 5 drinks cost him £45 so we walked around St Catherine's Docks and Marina and found The Slug and Lettuce and had a very nice meal there, afterwards we went back to the Hotel and on the way back we bought some cans of gin and tonic in Tesco's and drank these in our rooms, a lot cheaper.

Sunday morning we set off about 9.30am to Greenwich for a ride on the Emirates Airline Cable Car. Unfortunately due to low mist you could not see a lot of London but still it was a very good experience and after this we spent the rest of the day going round Greenwich. Some people looked round the Cutty Sark, Sam and I went through the Victorian Pedestrian tunnel that runs under the Thames, looked round Greenwich Market and various shops had a very nice lunch in The Pie and Mash shop catching the coach to return to Bristol at about 4pm

This was an amazing weekend organised by Roger Clutsom and Brenda Our tour Guide. Unfortunately Roger and Joy could not make the weekend but my thanks go to Roger for all his hard work in the planning of this event.

Thanks again Roger

Jerry Mundy

Ed: Please see the collection of photographs taken on this break displayed by Alan overleaf.

Even More Fame

Last month you learned that Bob and Sherry were to get their big reward for years and years of Scouting. This is the picture that was taken at the award giving ceremony at the Mansion House a couple of weeks ago. What it is to know someone who is famous!



London Visit April 6/7th



Our Chariot for the weekend



Unique five wheel delivery mode



Ken admiring the GPO transport



Time for tea and buns



Mini Underground London



Mike takes a seat all for himself



Very cramped on the Mail Train



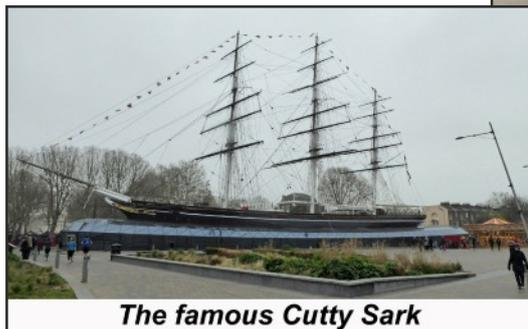
The Royal Barge



Figure heads at the Maritime Museum



Heading for the sky



The famous Cutty Sark



In the Emerites cable car