

Kingswood, UK - Chartered 1960

# The Youngster



**December 2018**

## Barn Christmas Fair

Friday Nov 16th saw Jerry, Sam, Sandy and myself busy transforming the cupboard off the corridor into Santa's Magic Grotto. We had panels from last year and soon the basic structure was assembled. Silver sheets disguised the walls and a large white sheet covered the ceiling. The final touch was added with fairy lights and curtains between the sections made from strips of coloured ribbons for the children to push through on their way to find Father Christmas.

Saturday morning we were ready for the visitors and at 11.00 Father Christmas made a dramatic entrance to open the Fair. The camera club took photographs of the children with Father Christmas and 47 children were delighted to meet the great man and tell him of their dreams for Christmas. We were pleased to add to the Christmas spirit of the Fair and will be able to make a donation of £80 to the Barn funds. Janet, Gwen and Olya ran the jewellery stall as they have for many past years.



*Wally*

## Diary

Thu 20 Dec	7.30 pm Dinner Night - 'It's Beginning to look a lot like Christmas' - Mike Britton
Fri 4 Jan	7.00 pm Pantomime at Theatre Royal, Bath (Bob Gray organising)
Sat 5 Jan	Coffee Morning
Tue 8 Jan	8.00 pm Board of Governors meeting, 19 Signal Road
Mon 14 Jan	8.00 pm Programme/Project Committee meeting at 4 Ludlow Court
Thu 17 Jan	7.30 pm Dinner Night - 'The King and his Fifteen Wives' - Jenny Bowen
Sat 19 Jan	7.30 pm Games Evening at Bob and Sherry's. Tickets £5.00 - bring your own drinks
Sat 26 Jan	Coffee Morning
Sat 9 Feb	7.00 for 7.30 pm Quiz Night - tickets £7.50
Thu 21 Feb	7.30 pm Dinner Night - 'Songs from the Second World War' - Graham Walker
Sun 24 Feb	12.00 for 12.30 President's Lunch - St Augustine's Church, Downend - bring your own drinks
Sat 2 Mar	Coffee Morning
Thu 21 Mar	7.30 pm Dinner Night - 'Guilty Pleasures: Chocolate, Beer and Tobacco' - Chris Bigg
Sat 6 Apr	Coffee Morning
Sat/Sun 6/7 Apr	Weekend in London - Post Office Underground Railway Emirates Cable Car
Thu 18 Apr	7.30 pm Dinner Night - 'The Grand Tour' - Bernard Higgins
Sat 4 May	Coffee Morning
Sat 11 May	Phoenix Wind Band Concert
Thu 16 May	7.30 pm Dinner Night
Sat 1 June	Coffee Morning
Thu 20 June	7.30 pm Dinner Night - 'Family Favourites' - Graham Walker
Sat 6 July	Coffee Morning
Sat 12 Oct	Race Night

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**To acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right**

## Visit to Oakham Treasures

This was yet another excellent Y's Men's outing organised by Mr Bendrey.

For the editor and his party though it didn't start off too well. We arrived an hour before we were due as I, the Editor, didn't bother to check times shown in the Youngster and then having expected heavy traffic that would delay us, found the roads largely empty. For a while we worried that we had come on the wrong day.

We started the visit with a meal.. It was just too good to be true. It didn't cost very much. It was very, very tasty but it was just too big for our elderly stomachs. In the end we all had to eat and eat until our plates were cleared. Nobody needed to play the Oliver Twist role that day. Maybe as it was a museum and we were surrounded by artefacts we grew up with we all felt that we were children again and had to eat up all we had been given because there were lots of poor children in Africa who were going hungry and would love to have what we were offered.

There are six halls at Oakham packed with 'Oh yes, I remember it well' exhibits. We couldn't possibly see everything but we spent a long time trying not to miss the many items of interest. Much of it had been bought by the owner, Keith Sherrell. Some rooms contained collections of bizarre objects like tractor seats, Bells whisky bottles or rusty spanners which were donated (?) by their original owners. Some of it was individual items offered by people who had previously visited Oakham Treasures and thought the museum might like something that they owned. It seemed as if shops, with their shop fittings, had been transferred in their entirety to the museum.

There was an old post office to bring back memories, tractor after tractor, packets of everything that we used to buy to eat or keep ourselves clean. Alan fancied the haberdashery shop imagining that it was Olya behind the sewing machine, Mike made a bee line for the writing implements to reinforce his title of 'ink monitor'.

Many of our visits organised by Mike would be enjoyable just for the company you share; this one was excellent for this and the fascination of the museum. Thank you Mike - yet again. And thank you Alan for all the pictures on the next page taken during the visit.

Graham

## Christmas Tree Sales - 2018

December 1st was a cold and wet occasion to accept delivery of our trees for sale in the Barn car park but four of us were there at 07.00 to receive 50 trees. We had advertised with large posters on the approach roads and put our event on Facebook. We sold from 08.00 until 15.00. We find that most of our customers are repeat visitors; some of them saying they have supported us since we started selling at the Barn in 1993 when we first moved our meetings there. Our efforts will result in a profit for our charity funds of about £230. Christmas tree selling is very competitive now with trees on sale at supermarkets, petrol stations and even our local pub car park.

By way of contrast I give below an extract from the Youngster Jan 1968 - 50 years ago.

*Well we nearly made it...As you all know, we stuck our necks out this year, to the extent of ordering another 250 Christmas Trees and due to our efforts at three sales points and two touring lorries we succeeded in selling all but 40 of the 1,000 trees. The bill is not yet available, but we should have made a profit of about £130. A Board meeting to be held soon will consider our financial position and make suggestion about where the profits might be allocated.*

Alan



**Two lucky girls looking forward to Christmas**



**The afternoon shift**

# OAKHAM TREASURES



**The Acorn Cafe**



**Part of the visitor group**



**There were some strange collections**



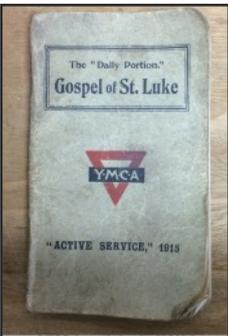
**Mike preparing for his talk on being an Ink monitor**



**The original Post Office from Bletchley Park**



**A magnificent collection of tractor seats**



**YMCA activity in WW 1**



**General store and Tobacconist**



**At the Dressmaker and Milliner**



**Does Her Majesty know these are missing?**



**We all love chocolate**

## Questions - by Helen Withers

Eileen Harding invited me to include this poem in the Youngster. It was written by Brian's sister in 1971 but is relevant today and, I imagine, will be relevant for as long as people inhabit this planet. *Editor*

"Where can we go?" the young man said  
"Where can we go and live in peace?  
All we want is a plot of land  
An average house that's not too grand  
A place to work - and we'll do our share  
But where?"

"What do the other countries want  
That they sometimes need to fight  
What do they choose their leaders for?  
If their countrymen die by the score  
And their homes and culture go to pot  
Tell me, what?"

"When will they see it's a waste of time  
To argue and bicker on rights?  
The more we work for a fair return  
Have pride in our job - then maybe we'll learn  
You only take out the amount put in, so then  
When will they see, when?"

"How can we put the world to rights?  
So each man has a share -  
How can we cure the sick - and teach  
That a place to live is the right of each,  
To learn to trust and keep that vow  
How oh God, how? Surely the time is now"

"Why we must always live in fear  
Of atom bombs and war?  
Aren't there natural disasters enough  
To kill and maim and make life tough?"  
Sadly the young man shook his head  
"Why oh why?" he said.

"Who is there left to put things right  
To show us the way to go,"  
The ones who 'create' and 'build' and 'heal'  
And grow the food - and deeply feel  
The pain of others - and whatever they do  
Show they care - become aware -

Of the wind in the trees  
That whispers and sighs  
Of a sky full of colour  
When the sun starts to rise  
Spider webs and wild flowers  
There for all to see  
Butterflies and rainbows  
And the humming of a bee  
Wild creatures that will trust you  
And take food from your hand  
The autumn tints of bronze and gold  
And footprints in the sand  
Of standing contemplating  
The movement of the sea  
And the whole of creation  
Wherever you may be.  
It's there for each to marvel  
In a world that's free of bars,  
And perhaps at our departure  
We will rise to the stars.

But one thing that worries me"  
The young man was heard to say-  
"Should God think that we don't want them  
And take them all away"

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## Pleasures to come

Visit to Royal Mail underground railway and the London Cable Car (Emirates Airline) 6th and 7th April

Roger Clutsom is organising this weekend visit to London at a cost of only £150 pp which will include entry to the two sites, coach fare and accommodation at a London hotel.



### Quiz Night - Saturday 9th February

With the decline in Christmas tree sales this fund raising event is becoming even more important. It has been good fun during the past two years so we expect the same in February. Tickets are priced at £7.50 per person and we need to make tables of six people. Bring your own drinks, Bob will provide the supper. You should have received an entry form from Chris Holmes in your emails.

