

Kingswood, UK - Chartered 1960

The Youngster



February 2020

Christmas Toy Memories

How did we get from "an orange, apple and a few nuts" to the sophisticated computer games of today? David Cheesley gave us a very entertaining evening at Dinner Night on 16th January by taking us on a journey from simple toys of his childhood to today's modern toys.

He began in the 1950s with the pedal cars and spinning tops as found in Fairfax House and the tin soldiers in Woolworths together with Dinky and Corgi toys. "The Westerns" of that era such as Rawhide and Wagon Train spawned all sorts of Cowboy and Indian toys.

When the 1960s were reached we were interested to hear about "Circus Boy" and about the development of Meccano (Frank Hornby) and then Triang. We heard about Snakes and Ladders, Lego and Bayko and then walkie talkies, Dr Who and Barbie Doll and Cindy.

The 1970s brought us Action Man and toys from such series as Z Cars, Man from Uncle and Thunderbirds.

Finally we reminisced about the first computer games and Rubix Cubes with just a thought for the "orange, apple and a few nuts".

Roger Clutson



Diary

Thu 20 Feb	7.30 pm	Time of Fast Dinner Night - 'The life, the poems and the songs of Rudyard Kipling - Graham Walker
Sat 7 Mar		Coffee morning
Sun 8 Mar		Lunch at Berkeley Arms before visit to Edward Jenner Museum, Berkeley at 2.30
Thu 19 Mar	7.30 pm	Dinner Night - 'Downend and Bromley Heath in Bloom' - Jackie Baker
Sat/Sun 28/29 Mar		Visit to Windsor Castle and the Tower of London
Sat 4 Apr		Coffee Morning
Thu 16 Apr	7.30 pm	Dinner Night - Club history - Bob Gray
Sat 25 Apr	7.30 pm	Band Concert at Mangotsfield School
Sat 2 May		Coffee Morning
Sun 17 May		Visit to Shepton Mallett Prison with pub lunch
Thu 21 May	7.30 pm	Dinner Night - 'Our Heritage of Song' - Robin Burton
Sat 6 June		Coffee Morning
Thu 18 June	7.30 pm	Presidential Handover with skittles and a buffet at Mangotsfield Football Club
Sat 4 July		Coffee Morning
Sat 10 Oct		Race Night

To acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right

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Kiss Me Kate

"This year, from 10th-14th November, BLOC Productions (formerly Bristol Light Opera Club) will be staging 'Kiss Me Kate' at The Bristol Hippodrome. This is a great musical with music by Cole Porter and songs such as 'Another Opening, another Show', 'Wunderbar', 'So in Love', 'Brush up your Shakespeare' and 'Too darn Hot', amongst many others. If there is enough support, I propose making a block booking for the show, as I have done in previous years, but need some guidance as to which will be the most popular time for the visit. A few people have mentioned that they would welcome a matinee performance - there are usually afternoon shows on the Wednesday and Saturday - although In the past we have gone on a Friday evening. I realise that Wednesday afternoons are not possible for everyone but can understand why a matinee might be popular.

Although prices are not yet available, they are usually way below touring company prices, I will send a list round at Dinner Night with a choice of the Friday night (13th Nov.) or Saturday afternoon (14th Nov.) and perhaps you would indicate your preference if you wish to come along."

Roger Cromwell

Hanham Fish & Chip Night

The annual event at Hanham was attended this year by 14 Kingswood members. As always we enjoyed a pleasant evening with our friends from Hanham. We were reasonably successful in the raffle and I won a very pretty apron and tea towel, nice as long as I am not expected to use it at coffee mornings.

Wally



The second January Coffee Morning

This produced a lovely profit of £55. The picture is included in order to show off the new table clothes which certainly brightened the appearance of the room. The tablecloths were given to the Club by Francois and Danielle Muntzer. This was very kind of them and suggests that our country's withdrawal from the EU has not damaged the entente cordiale. F and D, many thanks.

Quiz Night - Feb 15th

The first time we held a Quix Night I recall we were complimented on how well the whole thing was run and lots of people said how much they had enjoyed it. And it happened again this year. It was only a couple of weeks again that Chris was expressing his concern



about the number of participants but the Jubilee Hall was pleasantly full on the night, enough to produce a profit close to £400.



I liked the way in which the questions were grouped into categories like Geography, 'Big' and History. I liked the food during the interval. I liked the way Alan read the questions loud and clear

and quickly enough to keep us all on edge rather than our twiddling our thumbs because we already knew the answer to that one. Perhaps, most of all, I liked the difficulty of the questions, no team would have found them so difficult that they would have lost interest in the competition.

The winners went away with glasses nicely engraved by Sandy, the strong team at the bottom with wooden spoons and the rest of us with memories of a very enjoyable evening. To all who made it possible, thank you very much.

The Y's Men's Club of Kingswood

60th Anniversary Lunch –

3rd February 2020

Our nation may have just taken a thoughtless step into the unknown by leaving the EU but in order to show that not everything from across the channel has been abandoned, today's lunch was held at The Italian Kitchen, Alveston. However, it happens that the restaurant management throws off its Italian associations at week-ends and offers the traditional English Sunday Lunch: no signs of tagliatelli, spaghetti, cannoli or tiramisu!



We couldn't quite replicate the figure of 60 (President's age, the Club's anniversary and banners on the wall) as only 57 people were able to come along. Our own club membership was augmented by a group of our Y's friends from Hanham, a goodly crowd of President Mundy's family and friends plus former members Geoff Ann and Bob Brimley, travelling up from Weymouth & Portishead respectively. It was also very nice to see Eileen Price again, down from her new home near Reading, accompanied by Andrew & Helen.

We were welcomed by President Jerry and after Grace, said by his sister Gill, we all tucked into a very nice two course Sunday Lunch with a choice of Beef, Pork or Chicken and a good variety of vegetables. Why there were only two courses became evident a little later in the afternoon.

Having finished eating, Jerry (who was only a couple of months old when our Club was founded) proposed the loyal toast followed by our traditional toast to "Y's Men the World Over". He then invited John Gray, one of the three Founder Members present, to speak on the origins of the Club.

John reminded us of our once close association with Kingswood YMCA and a conversation he had with the then YM Secretary, Frank Dyer, and the possibility of setting up a club for members who had outgrown the mainly teenage programme provided at the time. Frank suggested a Y's Men's Club then left it to John to take it further. At that time there were other Ys clubs in England, one being in Weston-super-Mare and John just happened to know one of their members, who had a business in Kingswood. Meetings took place, potential members were gathered together and the club was chartered in due course. At that time, according to the International Constitution, members should be over the age of 21 and only 20% of the membership was allowed to be over the age of 45. Somehow, over the years, we have managed to forget that policy. John's career took him to the North of England only a few years after chartering and he told us this afternoon of his pride in the Club being able to overcome the closure of the Kingswood YMCA many years ago and still be a thriving group, serving the local community and beyond, after all this time. He did express disappointment that the idea of Y's Men has not caught on in other British YMCAs, possibly due to lack of interest by YM Secretaries. John then proposed a toast to The Y's Men's Club of Kingswood and our future success.



Alan Wallington then responded briefly (that was good – you know how he can go on sometimes!) to thank him for his good wishes and to say that although there was little activity on forming new clubs in the UK, in his capacity of Regional Director for Central & South Europe he had recently visited

Catania in Sicily to promote interest and would be visiting Thessaloniki, Greece, in the next few days to help with the resurrection of a club which existed there some years ago.

After the speeches and toasts we discovered the reason for the absence of a dessert course – there was BIRTHDAY CAKE! In fact, there were two cakes, made by Sylvia Brown of the Hanham Y's Men's Club. They were duly cut up, served, and followed by tea or coffee. The meal finally over, members and friends gradually drifted off to their homes having had a very enjoyable meal with good company. The lunch had been arranged by Sam & Jerry so many thanks are due to them for an inspired choice of restaurant for the occasion.

Extension in Italy

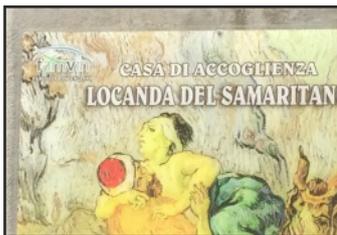
On 23rd January, Wally and I flew to Catania in Sicily, acting as Regional Director and Regional Treasurer respectively, to represent the Region in a familiarisation meeting with a possible new club.



What we found was a wellorganised group of 20+ members who were already exhibiting many important aspects of an active Y's Men's Club. Their members were sporting Y's Men's pins, had a detailed draft constitution, met regularly at the YMCA and were supporting a number of charity projects. We were met at the airport by a YMCA welcome party and driven to the YMCA Campus and the club meeting.



The YMCA Campus in Catania consisted of a hotel, a university and the YMCA itself, and we were put up for the night in the le Dune Hotel, the YMCA hotel, in rooms which had everything needed for a comfortable night.



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On Friday morning after breakfast we were taken through the narrow streets of Catania on a whistlestop tour to the homeless hostel supported by the club as one of its projects. The hostel, called Locanda del Samaritano, is run by the Catholic Church and provides mainly overnight accommodation for homeless men and women of any faith for lengths of time dependent on each individual case. There is also provision for lone fathers with their children. The hostel is efficiently



run with only about 8 full time employees and over 50 volunteers. The Club planned to assist in the development of the children's and fathers' section of the hostel.

A drive back to the YMCA Campus for a quick tour of the YMCA University, another Club project. The university is run by



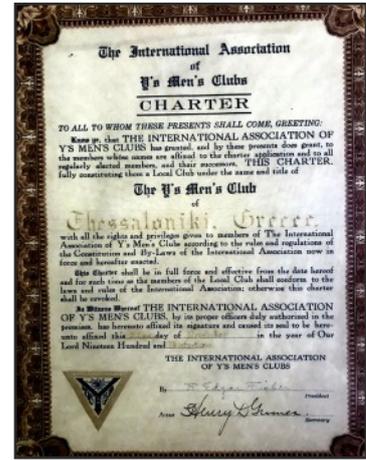
the YMCA Italia Foundation and caters for about 100 students on a degree course related to HR Development, Governance, Property Development and Strategic Planning. A quick coffee with a small Club/YMCA group, and then to the airport for the flight home.

It was a very fruitful and interesting visit and, since the visit, there has been a Charter application with a target date of April 2nd 2020 for Chartering of the new club in CSE.

Mike Bendrey

Extension in Greece

One could say this is about rebirth in Greece. There was a Y's Men's Club chartered in Thessaloniki in 1933 and the last record of it was in 1974. Some members of Thessaloniki YMCA have now decided to create a new club to work independently from the YMCA to support the work done there. ISG Jose Varghese and I visited on Feb 6th and 7th to assist in the preparations.



We were met and taken to the Thessaloniki YMCA, a very large building right in the centre of the city. It is a four story building with great amenities including offices, a gymnasium, swimming pool, a basketball museum and many outdoor sport facilities. The meeting was attended by nine people who will form the core of a team to charter the club.



We gave two presentations which resulted in many excellent questions we were able to answer. It is clear the drive and ambition is there for a new club and plans are in place for writing the constitution, setting out the aims of the new club and forming committees to consider the next steps.



On the Friday morning we were taken to see some of the work of the Social Action Sector of the YMCA. We visited a kindergarten where the children, aged 2 to 4, of immigrants are encouraged to learn Greek in an interactive environment. Up to 20 children each morning and afternoon are led by well-trained leaders to encourage integration into the Greek language and culture.



We were later given an excellent session with some of the members of the Social Action Sector team which included information about the REACT programme which was given support by the Regional Project for the last two years.

The trip was tiring with a lot of travelling time but well worth the effort and I look forward to welcoming Thessaloniki back into the fellowship of Y'sdom.

Wally

More about Ryan

Mike B received this email from Helen and Andrew Price. He has advised them that this concert clashes with the Club visit to London but those not involved in this might like to celebrate Ryan's life by attending this concert. Tickets are available from Antony Jefferies on 0117 9562309

Antony Jefferies from Mangotsfield church is organising a concert in memory of Ryan. I have attached a flyer which you can use to advertise it if you wish. He is hoping that some of the Y's Club will come and support it. It will be most if not all music which he either wrote or arranged for handbells.

Andrew & I will be there and Christine and Keith and we are debating whether or not it will be a good idea to bring Eileen.

We will see you next Sunday at the President's lunch and will bring Eileen to that.

If you need any more information please come back to me.

Best wishes

Helen

Concert for Ryan

A Concert to remember Ryan Price showcasing some of his original music as well as some of his musical arrangements played by Handbell teams connected to him

Including

The Handbell Ringers of Great Britain SW Region Team -

The Sou'westers,

Price Ringers

Winterbourne St. Michaels Handbell Ringers

And others

Where Christchurch, Downend Bristol

When Saturday 28th March 2020 @ 7.30pm

Tickets £10 Adult £5 Children Proceeds to St. James Church, Mangotsfield Cre800 appeal

available from:-

Antony Jefferies :- antony.clare@tiscali.co.uk

0117 9562309