

Kingswood, UK - Chartered 1960

The Youngster



Sept 2019

Bendrey brings us booze on a balmy day - 22nd June

After weeks and weeks of rain Mike managed, yet again, to pick a good day for us to spend together. 'Be at the George Inn by 12-15' he said but there were times when that seemed unlikely as we queued to get over the toll bridge. Nevertheless Mr B's organisation was so concise that we got served straight away. The chatter was a delight as usual and we were able to leave the pub at just the right time to get to the Mumford Vineyard soon after 2.30.

Driving into the vineyard was in fact driving into the front garden of a rather lovely house on a hillside that was, as you would expect, on a south facing slope. We parked in the field at the back of the house where we were delighted to see a hen party enjoying a picnic. The party of about eighteen people, were all young, female, lively and beautiful. They were obviously having a lovely time. It suggested that we were in for a good visit.

There wasn't a lot to see apart from vines (but what do you expect?) And yet we spent another enjoyable hour just listening to our host, Tony Cox, telling us about the growing and harvesting of grapes. And next came the need to taste the result of the vine growing. Tony spoke about the different wines they produce (not many small vineyards make their own wine) and encouraged us to sample six of these.

The whole experience had been a joy; the weather, the wine and the company. The most important thing though is the company isn't it? How often does the Y's Men's Club meet that isn't a joy? Thank you yet again Mike.



The Demise of the Christmas Tree

The Board of Governors has decided that we will not be selling Christmas Trees this year. And so ends more than fifty years of tradition but life is to be played going forward not backwards. In the first few years our annual sales were about a thousand trees, last year it was 21. They call it market forces. We used to almost have a monopoly, now they are sold everywhere. Nearly every family bought a natural tree, now the artificial ones are far more popular. The cost to us of natural trees has risen a great deal, the cost of artificial trees (some of them already decorated) has fallen. Christmas tree sales will, like marching band competitions, selling petrol on the A38 and taking film shows round to elderly people's homes become a part of the history of the Club.

A Change at the Top

Unfortunately Roger Clutsom is unable to continue his work as the Programme Chairman at the moment and his place will be taken by Mike Bendrey. Thanks for stepping in like this Mike and we look forward to Roger reclaiming the position when he is able to do so.

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To acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right

Club 60th Anniversary Celebration Windsor Castle and the Tower of London

Plans are under way for a joint visit to Windsor Castle and The Tower of London on the 28th and 29th of March next year. This is something special in the Club's calendar to mark our 60th birthday; the last one we celebrated was our 50th with a dinner at Filton Golf Club. It would be good to get a full house, or nearly a full house, at this event.

As members will be staying at an hotel well outside the central area of London there will be no theatre visit but instead dinner in the evening will be included in the price of £160 per person with a £45 single supplement.

Bob Gray is organising this which is entirely appropriate as he was one of those who started it all. Let's hope he can bring his older brother whose idea it was.

Let's go for Tea

Last year we had a gorgeous afternoon at the home of Carol and Alan Saville in Bitton when a superb English tea was served. The weather was wonderful, very, very unEnglish. Here is the report that appeared in last year's Youngster. There seemed no point in rewriting one for this year. It was all the same and equally delightful.

"Sunday 2nd July was just one of a long succession of hot summer days. What a great idea it turned out to be. This was the Y's Men's equivalent of strawberries at Wimbledon. Carol and Alan Saville's garden at Bitton was just lovely (that's Carol and Alan in the picture on the right). It made you feel ashamed of your own modest plot but it made you marvel at the amount of work needed to keep it looking so lovely. There was nothing foreign or crass like barbecues or coffee. This was a meeting of the English middle classes enjoying the sort of summer tea party that is so often depicted in films of the Victorian era. Tables for everybody, no balancing plates on your knees, comfortable garden chairs to sit on, tea was served from bone china teapots into bone china cups (with saucers of course) while the sandwiches were offered from bone china plates to be followed by fruit scones (skons please, not scones) with sundae dishes of strawberries (real English ones, not the hard, tasteless variety that comes from Spain). Some of our ladies had baked beautiful cakes which brought the meal to an end as Bob came round to ask if anyone wanted more tea.

Do I give the impression that the whole thing was magic - well, it was.

After the meal Our President gave thanks to Alan and Carol for hosting the event and the ladies who had made the cakes. And we all praised Bob and Sherry for organising what must surely be the first of a long tradition of English Summer teas."



Coffee Mornings

Takings in July was £55, in August £43 and in September £30. This fall is almost certainly due to the time of year rather than the quality of our coffee. Thank you Dave Moore and all your helpers for running this activity.

BBC Visit - Sat 9th November

The plan for this event is to have lunch at Wetherspoons just above the BBC on Whiteladies Road at about 12.30 after which we wander down to the BBC for our guided tour to start at 2.45. The cost will be £10.25 for each person and participants will need to bring some proof of identity such as a driving licence or passport. This is a really enjoyable trip and highly recommended.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

There will be a Board of Governor's meeting on October 10th at 19.30 followed by the 2019 AGM at 20.00. Both meetings at Lincombe Barn in the Britannia Room (upstairs). Please do your best to attend.

YMCA 175

I was privileged to be asked to represent Area Europe at the special celebration of 175 years of the YMCA. There were more than 3,000 people from over 100 countries there over the four days.

Sunday 4th August

My day started off very early as my Mega Bus was leaving UWE at 7.45am. Once in London I had to find my way to my hostel which was in Lewisham. From the tube station I had a 20 minute walk. At the hostel I found I was sharing my room with three other girls but as I was the first person there I got to pick the bed I wanted. Next I went to the ExCel centre where the celebrations were happening.

I had a look around the heritage room which had lots of information about what the YMCA has done over the years. It had different sections that told you about what the YMCA has done for other countries and also in the UK. There was a part with George Williams' office with his desk and you could sign the visitor's book whilst sitting at his desk. There also was a little area that had seats, deck chairs and bean bags where you could go and relax and watch videos of YMCA groups from around the world and how they help young people.

Later that evening was the opening ceremony. There was a lovely a cappella group who sang lots of fun and modern songs. Then they had a procession of flags which were of every country that had young people represented there. I had an hour's journey to get back to my hostel.

Monday 5th August

Headed off to the Excel at about 8.30am. At 10am the Health and Wellbeing section opened which is where all the sports was going on many of which you could join in with; Football, Dodge ball, Volley ball, Zumba, Basketball, Field ball, Arrow tag and dancing sections. There were also a few talks which you had to sign up for on a phone app. I had signed up for one on the Monday which was recreational songs basics – leading and creating which was all to do with new ways you can teach songs to people which would have been great for me for Tensing but unfortunately the person who was supposed to be leading it wasn't able to come because they couldn't get their visa. But they didn't tell you this until the last minute when it was too late to then sign up for anything else so I just watched people playing dodge ball.

At 1pm it was lunch time so you all had to go into this massive hall, where we were herded to the tables at the far end of the room. Two out of three days were veggie days so the options were cheese and tomato toastie but there was nowhere to toast them, a hummus wrap or an onion bhaji sandwich and a packet of crisps. After lunch you could carry on with the sports in the health and wellbeing area or go back to the bottom hall or just go and explore a bit of London.

That evening there was another show. There was a brass band which was very good, they played an Ed Sheeran song, an S Club 7 song and the national anthem. After that the great great great granddaughter of Sir George Williams came to speak to us. That finished at about 10 and again had to do the hour long journey back to the hostel.

Tuesday 6th August

Today there weren't any talks that interested me so I just walked around watching other people enjoying themselves with the sports but I did join in with the Zumba which was lots of fun but very tiring. Today was the meat day for food so today I had the chicken and bacon toastie and then for tea it was either pasta with meat bolognese or pasta with veggie bolognese. There wasn't any entertainment in the evening so I went back to the hostel a little earlier and had an early night.

Wednesday 7th August

Today I was booked into two groups, a Y's Men's talk and one about Ten Sing in a new country. The Y's Men's session was run by IP Jennifer Jones, ISG Jose Varghese and AP Ulrik Lauridsen. It was very interesting to go and listen to them; there were some people who had never heard about Y's Men or the Y Service clubs which means that they might start up their own groups near them. There were also a few people there who were in the Y's Men which was good because it meant that they could put their points across. The Ten Sing talk was given by a lady who had started a group where she lived and told us how it had grown so big in the 5 years it had been going. We then got an opportunity to join in and do lots of different things to get us to talk to each other and work as teams.



The closing ceremony was at 7.30pm. It started with showing a video of the last four days which was very nice as you got to see what everyone had been doing. There were lots of musical acts this time and they were good. It was supposed to finish at 9.30 but was still going at 10 and I thought I'd better go because I had a long journey home and didn't want to get back too late so didn't stay until the end.

Thursday 8th August

Today was my day of travelling home. It was about 4.45 by the time I got back to UWE.

Over all I enjoyed myself, I made some new friends and got to find out a lot of things that I didn't know about the YMCA. I did feel that a lot of the stuff that was going on was aimed a lot more at the younger people and not so much at the leader's age. I also felt that it had a lot of Christian based talks and that's not really me. Area Europe sponsored me, I am very grateful for the opportunity I was given to go to this and I will never forget the time that I had there.

Sandy Mundy



Visit to Children's Hospice, South West - 8th July

A group of eighteen members of both our club and the Probus club enjoyed an excellent meal at the Failand inn. We were on our way to visit the Childrens Hospice South West which caters for children up to the age of twenty one with terminal illness.

When we arrived at the hospice we were split into three groups of six and were taken on a conducted tour. The guides were very informative and went into great detail in each room we entered. All of the rooms were very well equipped and were child friendly. There is also accommodation for the children's parents and their families.

At the end of the tour we were given refreshments. The visit was a wonderful experience for all of those who went.

Dave Moore

Diary

Thu 19 Sept	7.30 pm Dinner Night - 'Welcome Back' - Alan Wallington
Sat 12 Oct	7.00 for 7.30 pm Race Night
Thu 17 Oct	7.30 pm Dinner Night with Hanham Club at the Barn - 'Fun with a G String' - Phil Collins
Sat 9 Nov	2.45 pm Visit to BBC Whiteladies Road - £10.25 pp - bring proof of identity
Wed 13 Nov	Visit to a London Theatre of your choice - organised by Roger Clutsom
Thu 21 Nov	7.30 pm Dinner Night - 'Brunel's Bristol' - Chris Bigg
Thu 19 Dec	7.30 pm Christmas Dinner - 'A Magic Show' - Tony Griffith

2020

Fri 3 Jan	Visit to Bath Royal Theatre to see 'Beauty and the Beast' - Bob Gray organising
Thu 16 Jan	7.30 pm Dinner Night
Thu 20 Feb	7.30 pm Dinner Night
Thu 19 Mar	7.30 pm Dinner Night - 'An Hour with Rudyard Kipling' - Graham Walker
Thu 16 Apr	7.30 pm Dinner Night
Sat 25 Apr	7.30 pm Concert at Mangotsfield School
Thu 21 May	7.30 pm Dinner Night - 'Our Heritage of Song' - Robin Burton
Thu 18 June	7.30 pm Presidential Handover with skittles and a buffet at Mangotsfield Football Club
Sat 10 Oct	Race Night