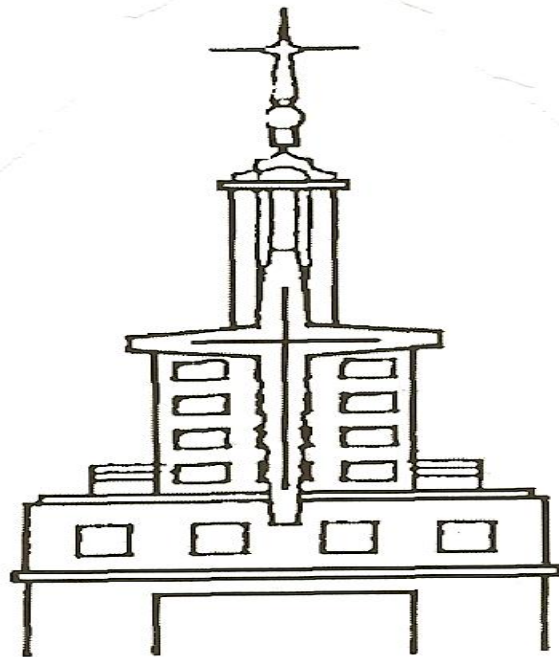


CLARION RECALL Number 25

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EDITORIAL

Watching late-night TV fairly aimlessly the other day (as you do...), I was surprised to find a fashionable show-biz performer from 'yoof culture' turning up on the sofa at Andrew Neil's past-midnight "THIS WEEK IN POLITICS" midweek show. This was Lily Allen -- dubbed "Britain's naughty little sister" for her near-the-knuckle performances on stages around the country. Even more surprising, though, was to find myself thoroughly agreeing with her comments, when asked for her views about what caused the disaffection of many young people with society these days. Lily's answers were brief and to-the-point.

She listed ' 1) Pressure of having too much money and not knowing how to spend it sensibly -- 2) lack of community facilities for young people in local neighbourhoods (at least in London) --3) kids watching too much unsuitable (violent and sex-ridden) TV because it wasn't 'safe' to go out and hang around on the streets '--- as prime causes of unrest. She characterised most politicians as either 'sleazy' (unable to be trusted) or 'greasy' (bragging about knowing the Arctic Monkeys) and said it wasn't surprising that young people had no interest in voting these days.

Diane Abbott and Michael Portillo, the unlikely pair of politicians who are very chummy together as weekly pundits on Andrew Neil's show (both ex-Harrow County school pupils, incidentally, who often speak up for each other's relatively humble background) looked fairly sheepish and accepted the diagnosis meekly.

It made me reflect that the era when there were youth clubs with defined membership requirements, proper programmes and week-long lists of sports and other activities at minimal cost (cue your recollections of JKCYC) was really what Lily was hankering after. That often-derided diet of 'ping-pong and orange juice' is easy to caricature but it didn't do us too badly

Our local parish church held a Lenten Choral Evensong the other evening. (Usually Evensong in St Mark's is a fairly low-key service attended by just a handful of faithful worshippers, though we have good congregations for the morning Communion services.) Wendy and I had already been to a christening of a friend's child in a local Methodist church in the morning, so we nearly didn't go. But having made the effort to tear ourselves away from the fireside as the winter twilight loomed, we were really glad that we had done so.

The choir of one of the Cambridge colleges came and joined forces with our own church choir and the two choirs together, fifty-strong, made (literally) heavenly music. The Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis sung to Stanford's majestic settings in C, Allegri's stunning Miserere (sung by groups of the choir in three different places in the church), a thrilling modern anthem with music by Joubert and all the rousing congregational hymns were part of a memorable experience. And a brilliant sermon (from a man who had come to Cambridge as a young student with no religious beliefs but who had been converted to Christianity and Anglicanism in particular through his encounters with English literature) bound the whole thing together and reminded us of the heart of our faith. We went home afterwards feeling that it had been a real privilege to be part of the large congregation at such an uplifting occasion.

Just every now and then the dear old Church of England makes you remember just why you belong to it

With some astonishment, we see that we have reached the Silver Jubilee of CLARION RECALL --this is Issue No 25. The magazine started back in 1987, stimulated by a reunion event which had been organised by Ricky Claydon in the previous year. The first issue was just 8 pages, and included a letter from Edward Motley. Whether we shall keep going for another 25 issues is anyone's guess, but as long as you keep fit, keep reading it, keep providing news for it (and keep subscribing --see back page) we'll endeavour to keep the presses rolling.

JK EVENT 2007 --- IN FRANCE

Readers of CLARION RECALL 24 will have seen the generous invitation from Derek Holden to join him at his house in southern France for a JK summer reunion event in 2007. Accompanying pictures in that issue underlined the fact that Derek's summer 'retreat', sited in the Correze region of central France, on a tributary of the Upper Dordogne River, is in a glorious part of the country, with lots of recreational opportunities to hand. And those who have already been there in previous years vouch for what a delightful place it is. Janet and Rob Saffery were recent visitors and have told us that they had had 'an absolutely wonderful time' there.

We are glad to say that enough positive returns have been made for this event to be a 'starter' and that already about 20 people have signified their intention of going to Derek's place, just outside the village of Neuvic, in the third week of September 2007, i.e. at some point between September 19th and 26th. Derek has the use of adjoining properties to his own large house there are also some reasonably-priced hotels nearby, if you don't want to be involved in communal self-catering.

It is still possible for you to join the group, if you would like to. Derek reckons that he can rustle up some good accommodation for more than the 20 who have already intimated that they are likely to go ---just as long as he knows in advance -- and this would include en-suite rooms for those who like their creature comforts. All the houses to be used have microwaves, dishwashers, washing-machines and etcs. And you can go for as long as you like --anything between an overnight stay to five or six days.

Derek assures us that costs will be minimal (apart from the expense of getting yourself there by car, train or plane and apart from what you choose to spend in local restaurants and sightseeing places while you are there). So if you would like to join the group and enjoy the restaurants, golf-courses, tennis, sailing, wind-surfing, power-boating, water skiing and swimming just read on to the next page where there are further details about how the holiday is being arranged.

Further arrangements for France --Sept 2007

If you filled in the form from the last issue of CLARION RECALL and returned it, Shirley will have passed this on to Derek. These returns have established that there are a viable number of likely 'takers'. What we now need to do is to firm up the bookings. We have decided that the best way for people to do this is **now to write a further letter to Derek direct--(or phone him) confirming their proposed arrangements. See details below -- let him know the exact dates when you plan to be arriving and departing.**

Derek reckons that Neuvic is about 500 miles from Calais and that you can drive it in the day if you start early. Alternatively you can fly to Limoges airport (1 hr 45 minutes away) and arrange to hire a car from there. Or another alternative is to get there by train. Derek reckons that he could arrange transport from the local station (Ussel) if he has enough advance notice.

Anyway -- prospective JK holidaymakers for France

September 19-26th 2007 should, as soon as possible, contact in writing

Derek Holden

24 Birklands House

Birklands Park

St Albans, Herts. AL1 3QB

Derek's phone is 01727 - 864046 if you want to ask for some further clarifications or discuss the detail of particular arrangements.

This is a golden opportunity to visit France in high summer and be with old friends in very comfortable and relaxing surroundings --- at a cost which will be much less than what you would normally pay if you were touring. Don't miss the chance!

And, if you are not sure, why not ring Derek up for a chat and ask him your questions; have you ever known him lost for an answer?

Ken Pinner 1933 - 2006

Ken Pinner was one of the earliest stalwarts of the John Keble Church Youth Club, with a membership card number 'No 13' and known to many readers of RECALL as one of the great personalities of the early days of the club. He and his family lived in Meadow Gardens in JK parish for many years. Ken went off to fly jet planes in the RAF before settling down in Lincolnshire in later life.

Ken died suddenly last October in Spain. He had moved there in retirement, in 2004, with his wife, Vivien, a few months after being on the receiving end of a memorable THIS IS YOUR LIFE occasion which was recorded in CLARION RECALL 19 (November 2003).

There is to be a service of thanksgiving for Ken's life at 12 noon on Saturday 31 March 2007 at Amersham Free Church, Amersham, Bucks, to which any of Ken's old friends and colleagues will be welcome. The church is prominently sited in Amersham-on-the-Hill, on the corner of Woodside Road and Sycamore Road.

If you are planning to come please let Ken's sisters, Patsy Wray (on 01590645777) or Sheila Eldridge (on 01494 431432) know. There will be light refreshments after the service in Amersham Common Village Hall which is not far from the church. Directions for both venues are available from Sheila on the number above and the family extend a warm welcome to all JKCYC members and friends to come to the occasion.

REX REMEMBERS 'THE WHITE LION'

Did you ever go and see a football match 'down the White Lion'? There must be a fair number of JKCYC members who went to support their local football team -- Edgware Town --there from time to time. The ground is near the bottom of Deansbrook Road, just across the Barnet/Harrow boundary, and adjacent to the old White Lion Hotel. I remember the hotel well --- John Pryke-Smith, Donald and Brian Wright and I (then performing as a youthful vocal group called 'Four Boys in Rhythm) entertained there more than once for a local impresario, Billy Gunns, an ex-pro entertainer, who used to stage concerts with a mixed pro/amateur bill in the sizeable hall at the back of the hotel. (We were once on the same bill as Clive Dunn-- but much lower down). Anyway, the old White Lion pub was knocked down about ten years ago and a rather swanky Premier Travel Lodge built in its place.

Edgware Town F C (founded in 1939) have hung on to the ground at the back, but it is now threatened by powerful development interests (Edgware Properties (sic)). The football club have been trying to persuade Harrow Council not to allow the ground to be re-zoned for housing. In 2006, they managed to negotiate a new 5-year lease, but the future is far from clear, despite local outcry to try and save the ground for sport.

Reading of this imbroglio in the national press recently, gave me an urge to go back to 'The White Lion', since I used to report the matches there when working for the HENDON TIMES in the 1950s. I turned up at one mid-week match early this season (The match has since become famous since it was later replayed because the referee got the actual laws of the game wrong in disallowing a goal and the FA, for the first time in history, ordered a game to be replayed on those grounds). The crowd was sparse but the ground was much as I remembered it (double-decker stand, balls kicked into the adjoining Silkstream) and the Edgware team looked a classy outfit. And so it has proved. This season, they head the Spartan League, having lost just 2 out of 31 games at the time of writing --and are well on the way to promotion to a higher level. What a shame if, at the pinnacle of success, they lose their home and Edgware loses its senior football team. If you ever went 'down the White Lion', lobby the Harrow Planning Committee now and save the ground from becoming past history!

A Letter to the Publisher ---

Dear Shirley -- Once again I have enjoyed reading RECALL (issue 24) and trying to recognise some of the faces. I remember my years as a member of JK youth club with great fondness, though I was of the era that followed on from many of those that featured in the Sevenoaks photos. I was Frances Webb in those days and lived in Downhurst Avenue. My contemporaries were Margaret Smith, Vic Walker, Brian Hawkins, Keith Brown, Elizabeth Barnes, Eileen Jessup, Mike Watts (county table-tennis), and Nick and Beverley Owen to name but a few.

It is with great sadness that I have to advise you that my husband of 44 years, Alan Wilkinson, died suddenly on May 17th 2006. Whilst Alan was not actually a member of JK youth club, many of his contemporaries were. He attended Hendon County School and was a keen sportsman, playing football for Finchley and Apex. He always commented on the great rivalry between JK and Apex on the various sporting occasions when they met.

Alan worked for Unilever and after living in West Africa for almost 4 years, we returned to the UK and came to live here in Worcestershire, where we have lived for almost 33 years. We have two daughters and a son, living in Shropshire, Nottinghamshire and Bath respectively, and 5 grandsons, lovingly referred to by Alan as his 5-a-side football team. Alan and I were married in John Keble Church by the Revd Rennie Simpson and the Revd Alfred Turner and Margaret Gerrard (nee Smith) was my chief bridesmaid. I am still in touch regularly with Margaret (my oldest and dearest friend) and Graham and from time to time also see Derek (Holden),

Keep up the good work. Kind regards to all who might remember me, --- Frances Wilkinson (nee Webb)

(Our thanks to Frances for her evocative letter and condolences to her on the loss of Alan, also remembered well by many at JK -- if old friends want to contact Frances, Shirley and Rex have her address and phone number -- Ed)

KEEPING IN TOUCH..... .

Frances Wilkinson (nee Webb) --see previous page -- mentions some of her contemporaries at JKCYC. Of these, we know that some are already RECALL readers, -- but we still haven't made contact with Liz **Barnes, and Nick and Beverley Owen**. Can anyone supply us with possible clues to follow them up?

Our appeal to find 'missing members' in the last issue produced some phone-calls from RECALL readers, and as a result we were able to track a couple more old JK-ites and add them to the mailing list.

Henry (Hank) Tuppen writing from Halton in Bucks tells us that his wife Veronica, --a great supporter and worker for Riding for the Disabled -- inveigled him into being a Father Christmas mounted on horseback for the RFTD Christmas Party. So, says Henry, "I had to practice not only my Ho-ho's but my Whoa-Whoa's". Hank and Veronica were in Cyprus last June and so unable to make the Sevenoaks reunion event --but hope to join future occasions.

Marian (nee Stanbridge) and Ken Pratt had a difficult 2006 with Ken having several trips to hospital (6 weeks in total) and a bout of pneumonia. Latest news is that he is 'moving forward'. . If that wasn't enough, having lived in the same house for 44 years (near St Ives, Cambs), Ken and Marian discovered that their main boiler needed replacement. Marian comments ' We've gone down memory lane -- drying washing in front of the fire, heating rooms with convector heaters, and boiling a kettle for hot water. Isn't it amazing how we take things for granted now?'

Another recent invalid has been **Ann Young (nee Brookson)** who lives in Suffolk. Ann, clearly on the mend, e-mailed to us recently " I know it's pathetic, but I was so pleased that I was able to get out and cut some lawn (if you can call it that) edges yesterday. I'm just not used to having to take things easier. I'll be back on my tractor soon and cutting the long grass.... Best wishes to everyone from JKCYC "

JOHN KEBLE CHURCH YOUTH CLUB - Still going in the 21st century....

If you look on the next page, you will see an article scanned-in from the current edition of FOCUS (the monthly JK newspaper, which itself is 50 years old this year). This, encouragingly, reports that the John Keble Church Youth Club is still alive and well, and that, even more encouragingly, its members still maintains the honourable JK tradition of 'doing a show' from time to time.

At this point, readers --pause for reflection. Were you involved in A DAY AT BOREDBLASTING HOUSE? KEBLE KAPERS? 1066 AND ALL THAT? COMPETITIVE VARIETY? CHRISTMAS FARE? Etc? etc? Probably most readers of this magazine will have memories of a JK show in their bones somewhere..... Well, by 2006 desperation in relation to titles had reached new depths-- since the current youth club have just done a show called "THE SHOW WITH NO NAME"

The report makes interesting reading -- if only to show that things don't change much after fifty years. Help --we're running out of time for rehearsals..... We've got good opening thirty-minutes but what can we do in the second half? Will anybody turn up to see it? Who shall we give the proceeds to?

Perhaps even more interesting is to find that some of the songs chosen for performance in the musical mixture were some that could well have been (and probably were) used in JK shows in the time when RECALL readers were in their youthful pomp. I'm sure we used 'Winter Wonderland' and 'Sleigh Ride' for a Christmas scene once, and selections from "THE SOUND OF MUSIC" sound suspiciously familiar. So the hits of the The Clash, and The Police, and even The Darkness don't seem to have supplanted the good old good ones....

The final paragraph of the report notes that, after the show, the club members went off carol singing and finished up making a donation of £500 for a good cause. Good to know that that hasn't changed either.....

PEEPS FROM THE PAST ----- AYP

When I 'googled' the word 'AYPA' on the internet recently, I was directed to a dictionary of urban street slang and told that it was street talk for 'Whatever, Man!' or "Chill out!" -- but despite this, I think JK-ites will remember that it had a different connotation in Youth Club days. AYP was the acronym for the Anglican Young People's Association, the group which met in the Small Hall on Sunday nights through most of the 1950s, while the Youth Club was meeting in the Large Hall.

The AYP was preceded at JK by the "Over-21 Club" which flourished briefly from 1948-52, but that club had no national affiliation. The AYP eventually replaced the 21 Club and catered for younger JK people who were 18 plus. There was an effort for a time to 'move people up' from the Youth Club to the AYP, but the two organisations had somewhat different styles and this never came to anything very much... However, there will be some familiar names in the extracts below

There is no doubt that between 1953 and 1959 the JK AYP was quite a flourishing organisation for young adults --- and an endless source of speculation for youth club members was 'What goes on in the Small Hall on Sunday nights?' especially when a succession of JK twenty-somethings slipped through the Large Hall one by one and the AYP announced the mysterious 'CMA' as a regular element in its programme. This mystery deepened when it was discovered that CMA stood for 'Corporate Mental Action', a term which seemed to stand half-way between a hypnotism session and taking over the world.

I recently asked some former JK AYP members what they could remember of those Small Hall evenings and of their memories of membership of the club, but all were somewhat evasive and disclaimed particular recollections --whether this was from rapidly advancing amnesia or because they had something to hide, was not entirely clear. However, as the following extracts from JK Journals show, there was no doubt the AYP had some fun. -- In fact judging from this first extract, it seemed to be pretty well all parties.....

From the February 1954 JK Journal

Our last meeting before Christmas consisted largely of eating hot dogs, drinking lemonade (?) and playing hilarious games with elusive balloons. Last Saturday, we accepted an invitation to a party given by the AYPAs branch at St Albans North Harrow and had a very enjoyable evening. Next week we are having our own party and Mrs Newman has very kindly invited us to hold it at her house.

Further programme; Feb 7th; Talk by a woman police constable
Feb 14th JKCYC invite us to a Magic Circle demonstration
Feb 21st CMA
Feb 28th Discussion

From the December 1954 JK Journal

We have marked the completion of our first full year as an AYPAs branch in two ways; by holding a first birthday party.... and in more serious vein by an AGM where we took stock of our position (the occasion was not too solemn, however, since the report of the retiring Hon Sec, Jean Clark, was one of the finest humorous monologues many of us had ever heard)... Officers and Committee elected for 1955; President -- Francis Bisson; Vice-President -- Margery Day ; Secretary-- Ron South ; Treasurer --Helen Hickson ; Committee; Barbara Warland, Jean Clark,

From the June 1955 JK Journal

A welcome to our four newly initiated members --Barbara Conner, Mary Herne, Margaret Singleton and John Hobson..... Our second debate with St Michael's Proscenium Club came very close to ending in a tie but by dint of an inspired 35 minutes complete nonsense, John Hobson managed to swing one vital floating vote to his side.....

From the August 1955 JK Journal

During August, informal meetings will be held on Sunday evenings after Evensong; members, their friends and anyone who cares to come will be welcome. The activity undertaken will depend on the state of the weather and on the state of the members...

END PIECES

CLARION RECALL only exists because you, our readers, want it to. You can help keep it interesting by sending us YOUR contribution -- either of past reminiscence, or of some news of what you are doing now. Or just some views on life We'd love to hear from you -- and so would those who know you or used to know you...

2007 will be the year of the JK REUNION EN FRANCAIS but we hope to organise a day event somewhere in southern England for 2008 so that more people can get to it. And we especially welcome those who haven't been before. We've been to Cuckfield, Cambridge, Finchley and Sevenoaks in recent years. Any offers of hospitality (or ideas for venues?) for lunch and a visit for some time in the summer of next year?

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Well, we don't have subscriptions as such, as you know and are kept solvent by those who regularly send donations.

Our indefatigable editor and publisher put in hours and hours of unpaid work to get this magazine into print and circulation. Every now and then we need to replenish the CLARION RECALL treasury fund coffers, since we have to spend money on paper, postage, print cartridges and other things. If you enjoy receiving and reading this magazine and haven't offered a contribution to costs over the last few years, we'd appreciate a small donation, if you can afford it, so that we don't emulate the NHS and run millions of pounds into the red..... Send it to Shirley (address on front cover) as she keeps the treasury. Thanks.