



# Foy News Spring 2023



# The Foy Society

is a fellowship of women and men who, in a spirit of free inquiry, seek to understand the nature of present issues and problems - political, social and religious.

Founded in 1924 as The Fellowship of Youth, in 1957 we became known as the Foy Society. We had gradually taken on the role of an inter-generational group.

Despite the fact that most of our members are Unitarians, all are welcome to join and participate, whatever religious background. Our discussions and interaction thrives on a rich texture of input. Please feel free to join us.

**Cover picture:** By Richard Merritt (see article opposite) - a Winter's Walk in N.Wales.

**Photographs:** Richard Merritt, Elizabeth Usher, Gwyneth Roper and John Hewerdine.

Please don't paste images into documents, but kindly send as separate jpg attachments.

**Hard Copy produced by:** David Warhurst, using the GA Zette equipment

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# From Winter to Spring

*I love it when you send me your photographs  
Thanks Richard for the cover picture*

It was a cold ramble in North Wales with the local Walking group. We were wearing gloves, woollen hats, our warm fleeces and winter anoraks. It was cold, it was windy. It was undeniably Winter. One of the group mentioned that we were approaching a more sheltered area and thought we might see snowdrops. Scepticism abounded. There were mutterings that we had yet to see any in our garden. But, as we progressed, we did indeed see a group of those delightful flowers, harbingers of Spring, waving in the cold wind. Just one week later, not far from the previous week's outing, there were snowdrops in abundance. There were rural gardens and hill slopes carpeted with them.

Snowdrops are amongst the smallest of flowers, their heads drooping modestly, but they are amongst the most delightful, standing out, despite their size, because of their bright snowy whiteness against the dark soil. There are people rather like that! There is something joyful and optimistic about a snowdrop, pushing itself through the earth regardless of the weather. Determined! Encouragement for us all.

Tchaikovsky chose the "Snowdrop Flower" as the title for the April slot in his "The Seasons" for piano, a reminder that Spring comes later in Russia. In fact, the original title for the piece was "Podnezhnik" which means the first flowers to show up, literally "under the snow".

Of course, Spring has been the inspiration for many other pieces of music, some very well known like the "Spring" in Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons". Amongst my favourites are Delius' "On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring" and Beethoven's sunny "Spring Sonata" for Violin and Piano. But my first place goes to the Unitarian composer, Edward Grieg's "To Spring", one of his 66 Lyric Pieces for piano solo. He captures the delicacy of the flower, partly by placing a greater than normal proportion of the music in the upper part of the keyboard.

Just gazing at a snowdrop can momentarily give some reprieve from the sadder and more problematic aspects of life. It can make one smile. It doesn't need music. But, if you want to fill yourself further with the joy of Spring, go onto You Tube (or whatever) and listen to the pieces I have mentioned!

Richard Merritt



## A Bit of A “Catch-up” from our President

I don't know if any of you are in the same boat as me, in that you had several holidays booked before covid struck and then they have all been bumped forward so three come at the same time. Robert and I had taken a conscious decision that when we retired we would look at long haul holidays before we became too decrepit to enjoy them. We had taken the first of these as a cruise around New Zealand and touching on Australia, and arrived home 2 weeks before we were in lockdown.



Our first delayed holiday was back last April in a cruise that should have explored Latin America and travelled back to Europe crossing the Atlantic. We thought travel was getting back to normal, how wrong could we be. I won't bore you with the details, only to say we had a stressful flight over the seas to travel back having only explored Uruguay on the taxi ride from the airport to the port and did not see any more of South America .

Our next big adventure was to explore Vietnam and Cambodia. We arrived in Hanoi, a busy bustling city. There are 5 million scooter/motorbikes in Hanoi so just crossing the street is an experience. ( The trick is to wave your hand in the air, give eye contact and walk at a steady pace and they all go around you).



We went on street food tours and tasted the fresh cooked cuisine of the area. (We declined the offer of deep fried bugs).

We visited Ho Chi Min's house and mausoleum as we entered into the history of Vietnam. We also visited the water puppet show which has a long history in Hanoi. The “Hanoi Hilton” the infamous prisoner of war

prison was also on our itinerary. It was interesting to see that they had the history of events from both the Vietnamese and the American perspective.

From Hanoi, we travelled into the countryside of Mai Chai, to be surrounded by paddy fields and the sounds of nature. The scenery and peacefulness was in marked contrast to the city. We fell asleep to the sounds of frogs singing in the fields. I took advantage of having a massage which, although deeper than western style massage left me relaxed and at peace with the world.

We then visited Hue and Hoi An, which was the beginning of our temple tours and also expanding our wardrobes with some made-to-measure clothing. We also spent a morning whilst in Hue in search of red shanked douc monkeys that look like little old men with long brown boots. Our guide was not only knowledgeable but also passionate about saving this endangered species.

Our adventure continued as we visited Ho Chi Min City (Saigon) We left the city to explore the tunnels used in the Vietnam War and gain some understanding of why it lasted so long and we learned about life for the local population, during these troubled times. I was not brave enough to enter the tunnels but Robert took some time to experience tunnel life briefly.

We left Vietnam behind to travel on to Cambodia and the stunning temples that surround Sien Reap. The most famous being Ankor Wat which we visited at dawn to see the sun rise above. It was originally built in the 12th Century as a Hindu temple and then converted to a Buddhist temple, it is the largest religious temple in the world. Although not completely abandoned, it was only in the 1800's that it was rediscovered by French explorers. It is hard to believe that this was able to be constructed without today's technology. We spent several days exploring the vast temple network that surrounds Sien Reap including those used in the Indiana Jones movies.

Our travels concluded in Cambodia's capital Phnom Penh which included a visit to the killing fields where the Khmer Rouge killed over a million people between 1975-1979 under Pol Pot's regime. It seemed a quiet, serene place during our visit and was a time of reflection and for paying respect to those who perished.

We were only home for 3 weeks before we embarked on our Christmas jaunt out to the Caribbean.... But that's another story.....

Gwyneth Roper

# A memorable Family Road trip



Family and friends' celebrations provided the chance for us to travel across Eastern Australia for the first time in three years. It was wonderful.

With 2 extra willing drivers the family of 4 took off from Sydney on a 3000+km trip. We drove via Hay aiming for Adelaide. A sunset to remember with a 360 degree panorama surrounded by salt bush and arid vegetation.

On to the rapidly moving Murrumbidgee and Mighty Murray Rivers. It was the first time I had seen the rivers full and waters pouring into Lake Alexandrina.

Adelaide, the City of Churches, provided the venue for a Unitarian Meeting House get-together. Geoff took the service and Andrew played the wonderful old organ from the church where we were married. Andrew was invited back, but the commute from Canberra is a bit far!



Family were all well and spoilt us and friends are still up to mischief. A swim at Brighton with dolphins completed the stay in Geoff and Andrew's home town of Adelaide.

The return trip took us to The Blue Lake Warwar (crater), and Umpherston Sinkhole Balumbal at Mount Gambier is always a treat.



We'd been through the World Heritage Coorong Site (Storm Boy film). The tidal passages were full and we had this part of the world to ourselves. Nothing compares with the Great Ocean Road to Geelong.

London Bridge has fallen down since we were last here! We kept away from the cliff edges. However, the gale force winds were still as strong as ever.

Wonderful being with my brother in Melbourne at last after the long lock downs in Victoria, and then, we reached the Dog on the Tucker Box at Gundagai, and Sydney at the end of the road. By then we were experts at fitting all our luggage in the boot!



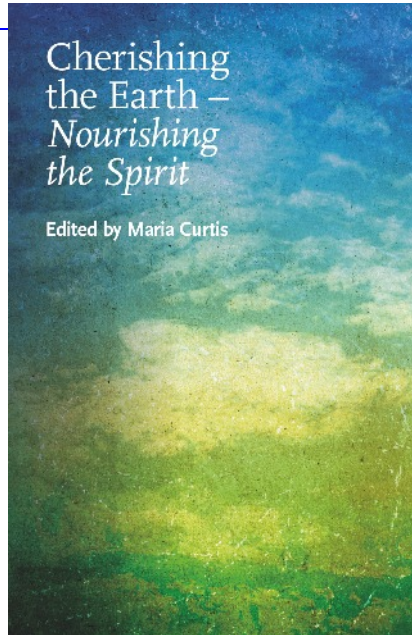
Maybe we can travel further next time!

*Ann Usher - Down-under*

*Photos: Elizabeth Usher*



***NEW LINDSEY PRESS TITLE PUBLISHED  
4 APRIL 2023***



***Cherishing the Earth – Nourishing the Spirit***

**Commissioning Editor: Maria Curtis**

*Principal contributors: Michael Allured, Elizabeth Bergeron, Maria Curtis, Rebecca Daley, Sheena Gabriel, Winnie Gordon, Jo James, Bob Janis, Stephen Lingwood, Claire MacDonald, Rob Oulton, Ann Peart, Penelope Quest, Catherine Robinson, Judy Ryde, #Blessed*

This new book presents a range of Unitarian responses to the global environmental crisis. Contributors include ministers, lay people, and children, writing from diverse theological and ethical perspectives.



Maria Curtis asks what changes we need to make in ourselves and in our society if we are to work towards healing the Earth and restoring balance to the global ecosystem: *“We need to re-imagine what a healthy relationship between humanity and the natural world might look like, one conducive to the flourishing of all beings on Earth.”*

The chapters are interspersed with poems, prayers, and short rituals. Each chapter ends with questions for reflection and discussion, providing a resource for study by individuals or small groups.

**Maria Curtis** is a Unitarian minister with a background in education and psychology. On retiring from congregational work, she joined the team at Unitarian College, training students for ministry. Maria believes that the ecological crisis presents us with the major spiritual challenge of our time.

264 pages; £12.00

ISBN: 978-0-85319-098-1

*Published on 4 April 2023 by The Lindsey Press, London  
for the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches*

***On sale for £12.00 at the Annual Meetings of the General Assembly  
at Staverton Park  
from 4 April 2023***

*Available from 12 April 2023 from Unitarian Headquarters  
at Essex Hall in London, tel. 020 7240 2384.*

*Price: £12.00 plus p&p. Pay with a debit/credit card.*

*Orders can also be placed online from 4 April 2023, using the following link:*

**<https://www.unitarian.org.uk/shop/>**

# One-in-Three...

**Dotty Haughton**

I was a 1 in 3. Never heard of it? Well, not surprising as it was a government initiative in the 1960s that was abandoned very quickly. I can now find no record of it so I presume it was swept under the carpet.

Do you remember the Civil Defence?

1948 to 1968 – the Civil Defence Corps and Auxiliary Fire Service. In Bury there was a wooden Civil Defence Hut. We used to joke that if a bomb was dropped on Bury we would find the hut undamaged at the centre of the crater.

We were summoned to the hall and sat obediently as we always did. A very nervous lady told us that she was going to prepare us all for an atomic bomb attack. The government had decided that one in three school children were to be so prepared and we were the lucky ones. She then held up a picture of a mushroom cloud upside down which was an appropriate beginning.

You must understand that we were not idiots and since the Bay of Pigs we had been reading newspapers (mainly the Guardian) so we were, as it were, up to speed. And her advice was frankly ludicrous.

Your family was to take refuge under the stairs with two buckets, one of clean water and one for human waste. You also needed candles and two terracotta flower pots. You put a candle in one pot, lit it and put the other one upside down on top. This created a stove on which you could boil a kettle.

If you were unfortunate enough to be caught outside then you were to lie in the gutter to take advantage of the pavement to shield you from the blast. We pointed out that a) pavements weren't really that high and b) the heat of the blast would turn the roads into rivers of liquid tar.

It did not seem fair to point out that though we might be all right under the stairs for a couple of days this would not be long enough for the radiation to have dispersed and, anyway, what we would find would be devastation.

But I was a 1 in 3. They should have given us a cyanide capsule. They might have given us a badge. But no, all I have are my memories.... and the pride!

**“I am a One-in-Three!”**

**Dotty**

Are you going to Foy Conference  
at the end of April?

Have you ever led Morning Devotions  
or an Epilogue?

Would you like to do one for our Conference?

Please let Gwyneth (our President) know.

She will be delighted, as she asked me to  
do a shout-out....

John Hewerdine  
(Editor)

Gwyneth Roper <[gwyneth.roper1@icloud.com](mailto:gwyneth.roper1@icloud.com)>





# Ramblings

## From The Editor's Rather Tired Keyboard



As the editor of Foy News, I enjoy putting the magazine together but I try not to write much of the content. Also, as a photographer, I feel that the main skill I have is my use of the camera. This means that I prefer not to write too much. I even take this further than people expect and refuse to report for certain publications or presentations, on the basis that I have done the photographs. "Who will write the report?", I might ask. One thing that, "keeps me on the hop" though, is that we all have cameras these days. There are few mobile phones that don't have them today. In many ways we are all photographers.

I'm sure though, that it's not as simple as all that. You could say that we are all now Graphic Designers because our computers can do so many clever things with type-faces, text sizing, underlining, hyphenating and moving margins, not to mention adding colour and changing colour saturation. I know that there are so many things my computer is capable of doing, but knowing how to achieve good results is another question. Learning simple rules is not as simple as all that, especially when you get into more complicated rules, which might not be so self-evident.

Well now, to get onto the subject of the liberty, I am taking by writing this. I have, this morning, talked to a man who is rather attached to room 10 when they stay at the Unitarian Holiday Centre in Great Hucklow. Many of you know that Lynne and Richard Varley have been through rather choppy waters of late and a serious bout of pneumonia (to cap it all) is not to be ignored.

Richard had requested a stay of execution, regarding the deadline for his contribution to this edition of the honourable newsletter you are now reading, so I telephoned him and suggested that maybe a break from, “having a deadline to meet”, might be just the ticket for both of them. That said, Lynne will be busy proof-reading these pages before they enter your computer or letter-box. I would, in thanking Richard for his ongoing contributions to Foy News, like to say how much I have appreciated his regular and punctual additions to our newsletter, over many years. Richard, all of the members of Foy wish you a good recovery and look forward to future contributions to the social research you have enjoyed sharing with us.

As a header to this piece, the self-portrait shows my desktop computer (which is still running on unsupported Windows seven) down in our living room for the winter production of the Spring edition.. I have two reasons for bringing my kit down from the loft. One is that it is warmer here, even without the heating on, and the other is that I have a delightful view over the Leeds Liverpool Canal, which gives me the inspiration to mobilise my creative energy.

There seems to be an increasing likelihood for production of Foy News to have its times of sadness and, as the years pass, the chances of losing a beloved friend increase. The recent loss of Ernest Baker, although not unexpected, has saddened all of those who knew him, including the IRF “oldies”. Ern was a dedicated IRFer and very active in so many ways. As a Unitarian, I feel privileged when we do lose a good friend. Although there is always sadness, there is also the ability of our Unitarian leaders to be thorough in their preparation for funerals.

As I get used to the idea that Ernest is no longer with us, I am also looking forward to his funeral. I know that it will give me the opportunity to share my feelings with others who admired the man and can pay respect, whilst knowing that the family will feel supported by those present. I really do feel that Unitarians do this rather well and have you noticed that, however well you knew the deceased, you usually come away from a funeral, having learned something you never knew before, about the departed person?

*John Hewerdine* (Editor - Foy News)







2023

Winter  
Walking  
Weekend



## **John Hertz Reflects on His first Winter Walking Weekend at Great Hucklow with Gevene**

Gevene and I have a long history with Hucklow, going back to Family Holiday Conferences in 1990 and 1991. It's the place where, in 1991, our son Josh met Cathy Hewerdine, whom he married exactly ten years later.



At Henry's Infant Dedication  
In 2009



We've both been back a few times in the years since, but for me the last time was on the occasion of the Infant Dedication Ceremony for our grandson Henry in 2009.

So, when Cathy asked whether we would be interested in coming to the Winter Walking Weekend this year, we thought it was well past time to see Hucklow again, and we didn't hesitate in signing up.



The place has changed physically (for the better, especially the food) since the 90's, but the old welcoming atmosphere remains the same. We felt right at home, with all the Hewardines and our other friends the Teagles and the Merritts, and we got to meet many more of you as well. My only concern was about which walk, long or short, I should sign up for.



When we retired Friday evening, the storm was howling outside and I must admit that we felt some anxiety about the weather. I wondered whether I would feel like walking at all, but in the morning it was calmer, mostly dry and even with occasional sunny moments. Still feeling cautious, though, I opted for the shorter walk. It was easy and, especially in the moments of sunshine.



The hills and fields were looking their best, making me realise why you all keep coming back here and doing this every winter.





I had my one momentary experience of cultural differences when, sometime about halfway through the walk, it was announced that we would take a break and have a brew. I quickly learned that the word “brew” means something different to English people than it does to Danes, and, in retrospect, maybe in these circumstances tea was a better idea than beer anyway.

Back at the centre afterwards, I felt a little regret that I hadn't tried the longer walk, but Gevene reassured me that, after all, the weather might have turned bad, so I had made the right choice.



Our granddaughter Mabel informed me around this time that there would be a talent show in the evening. She and Holly were preparing a little performance, and she asked whether I would contribute something. So I changed the lyrics of the country classic “Tulsa Time” a little, turning it into “Hucklow Time”. I don't think my performance was up to the level of the other numbers in the show, but I had a lot of fun singing it and will probably play it again the next time I come to Hucklow.

Sunday it was time to leave, and Gevene and I and Josh, Cathy, Henry and Mabel set off, driving through the Derbyshire Peaks. It was a little harrowing on the narrow roads, but we and our oversized hire cars survived unscathed, and the views were spectacular. As we came down to the civilisation of Greater Manchester, we parted ways, Josh and family continuing to Chorley and Gevene and I driving back to Manchester Airport for our flight home.

We thank you all for the delightful time. We promise that sometime soon we will be setting our watches back to Hucklow time and returning to see you again.

John Hertz (Denmark)



# to the Barrel

## 'til further notice

Some of you will have wondered what the barriers just to the East of the village of Great Hucklow, shortly beyond the left turn on the route up to the Gliding Club, are all about. Well it's part of the price we are paying for the discovery of seams of lead, which were discovered in abundance, in the days when Derbyshire lead mining was having a "hay day". Since then, there have been regular signs of subsidence.



IS ANOTHER  
FAVOURITE PUB  
UNDER THREAT?



The left hand one of these two pictures is what you are now confronted with, and the road further East (as seen on the right hand image) is clearly not navigable by car. How long it will be before the route is passable, once again, we don't know, but the fear is that, with a large sink-hole, not far from Foolow, the local council will be unwilling to spend money repairing the road, if the same thing can happen again, as it has done nearby, closer to the hilltop, just a little nearer the Gliding Field. Let us hope that the loss of business at The Barrel doesn't close it..... (Ed.)

# News of Members



Hazel Warhurst

The sad news of the death of **Geoff Taylor** on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2022, two days before his 79<sup>th</sup> birthday, was circulated to members by email. **Liz**, and their children **Isabelle and Robert** were touched by the many letters and cards sent to them, and have asked me to pass on their thanks.

The service to celebrate Geoff's life was conducted at Dean Row Chapel on 16<sup>th</sup> December by **Rev Jeffrey Gould**. Geoff was a Liverpool supporter and played in his school Brass band. His children followed in his footsteps with their interest in playing brass band music, so it was fitting that a recording of, "You'll Never Walk Alone", played by the CWS Glasgow Brass Band featured in the service.

Liz has many old Foy documents which Geoff was holding for us, including letters going back to 1945 and visitor books back to 1934. She will be sending them along to our next Flagg Trust AGM, for the trustees to evaluate and decide what we need to keep in the archive.

It is with extreme sadness that we record the death of another longstanding Foy member and friend, **Ernest Baker**. Ern died peacefully in hospital on 19<sup>th</sup> February, with Marion and Tim at his side. There are details of the service arrangements on the following pages. Ern was involved with fund raising and organisation of the, "**Send a Child to Hucklow**", fund and it is appropriate that donations at his funeral will go to this very Unitarian Charity.



**Martin Slatford's** friend, **Jane** recently got in touch. Older Foy members will remember Martin from his appearances at Flagg Barn Work Weekends, Trustees Meetings and somewhat unorthodox attendances at IRF gatherings. He has settled into his care home and is now helping to keep the garden area tidy. He would love to hear from you if you can spare time to write. Martin's address is: Meadow Court, Old Church Street, Aylestone, LEICESTER LE2 8nd. If you wish to speak to the staff, ring 01162248888.

Frank Pinder regrets losing touch with us. To contact him, please email me.

### **News from Down Under - New Zealand**

It was exciting to hear the news and congratulate **Becky Dewdney** and her **daughter, Emily** on being awarded citizenship at a ceremony on March 11<sup>th</sup>. They pledged allegiance to King Charles and his descendents and were given a small Kowhai tree, in a pot, to take home and nurture. Well done!

### **Kind Thoughts**

Our family thanks everyone for the concern and messages of support, when our 15 year old **grandson, Alex**, suffered a cardiac arrest in January. The quick reaction by Emergency services and the care and prompt treatment by all the family, by many sectors of the NHS, was fantastic. Alex had an ICD (Internal Cardiac Defibrillator) fitted and is gradually getting back to school and his life is getting back to normal.

We send our love and good wishes to Valerie Horsefield, who had an unfortunate accident with her car boot at New Year, and to other member and friends who have been, or are going through a difficult time. Please send news of members in good time for the Autumn edition. Deadline on page 2.

### **Membership Subscription Rates:**

The treasurer thanks you for your subs for this year 2022-23. Fee is still £7.50 for an individual and £10 for a couple. Reminders will be sent to you if you still owe for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. If you have decided that you no longer want to remain a member please let me know.

If you feel able to pay a little more, please consider adding a donation which assists young people attending Unitarian events and appropriate conferences. Thanks, if you have donated generously in the past.

**Payment for subs** by bank Transfer is preferred. Santander plc. Account name: The Foy Society. Sort Code: 09-01-50. Account number: 05454689. If this is difficult, write a cheque made out to, "The Foy Society", and post it to

# Loss of a true Friend of

Rev. Ernest Baker 1940-2023

Ernest initially intended to be a physicist, but eventually changed tack and in 1969 began his training as a minister at Unitarian College, Manchester.

His first ministry was in West Yorkshire at Lydgate and Wakefield, then in 1981 he moved to Sheffield where he was the loved and respected minister at Underbank Chapel in Stannington until he retired.

For many years, he was a tutor on the Worship Leaders Studies Course and for twenty years, the conscientious and creative secretary of the **Send a Child to Hucklow Fund**. Affable and clever, he was widely read, widely travelled and a friend to many.

He had an eclectic taste in music, ranging from Mahler to George Clinton, and he was on first-hand acquaintance with the products of many of the UK's micro-breweries . He was a life-long supporter of Leeds United, but nobody's perfect. For nearly sixty years he was married to Marion, herself hugely involved in Unitarian affairs. She and their son Tim are in our thoughts.

John Allerton

John was a fellow-student of Ern's at UCM  
and will lead the funeral service  
at Underbank Chapel, Sheffield  
at 2.0pm on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2023.

Family Flowers only please but donations welcome to: **Send a Child to Hucklow**



Ern speaks at the Nightingale Centre retirement of Stella Burney last August

# irf Idies 2023

Whether an IRFer from the 1960s, 1970s or later, or if you joined this friendly international group because your partner brought you to one of the 'Oldies' Reunions - which started in 1994 and have over those 29 years been hosted by our Dutch, German and Swiss friends as well as we BIRFers, and if you have not yet booked in for this the tenth (and sadly likely to be the last) Reunion, read on...



Switzerland, Oldies, 2019

From Friday 16 to Friday 23 June 2023 we will be gathering at the Parkway Hotel and Spa in Cwmbran, S. Wales. There will be ample opportunity to enjoy the pleasant hotel and gardens and there is a full programme of visits arranged with a local coach company, starting with a visit to St. Fagans the Welsh National Museum of History where we will hold our Sunday service in the delightful Pen-rhiw Unitarian chapel, so there will be plenty of opportunity to experience the heritage and beautiful countryside of this area of South Wales.

No time to waste, if you have yet to book contact me immediately for information and a booking form.

*Valerie Walker*



The hotel ([www.parkwayhotelandspa.com](http://www.parkwayhotelandspa.com)) is in South Wales, close to the spectacular Brecon Beacons National Park.

It is a comfortable and welcoming venue, with a beautiful pool area and is set in attractive grounds with facilities for outdoor chess, table-tennis and badminton, or pleasant areas to sit and chat for the less active.

The website for the Welsh National Museum, where we will be joined by Welsh Unitarians is: [https://museum.wales/stfagans/buildings/penrhiw\\_chapel/](https://museum.wales/stfagans/buildings/penrhiw_chapel/)

We plan other excursions to include a day in the Welsh Capital City of Cardiff and a day-trip to Bristol across the stunning River Severn estuary. We also want you to experience some of the industrial heritage of Wales, visiting Blaenavon Ironworks, the Big Pit (with the option to go down a coal mine!) and a journey on the Brecon Mountain Railway.

We will conclude the week with a visit to a historic house with extensive gardens and, in the evening, a Welsh-themed Celebration Dinner.

All our journeys will be by luxury coach but rest assured that the longest single journey will be just over one hour, since all the planned destinations are within easy reach of the hotel.

### **Extra Note for British Oldies:**

Several of you have already offered to help with the smooth running of the Reunion - thank you. After the booking deadline, we will circulate a list of activities for which help would be appreciated. These will include 'meeting and greeting' at transport hubs, checking people on and off the coach for outings, translating, arranging the service in the Chapel and, in particular, organising optional activities for some of the evenings, ideas and offers most welcome.

We are so looking forward to all being together again.

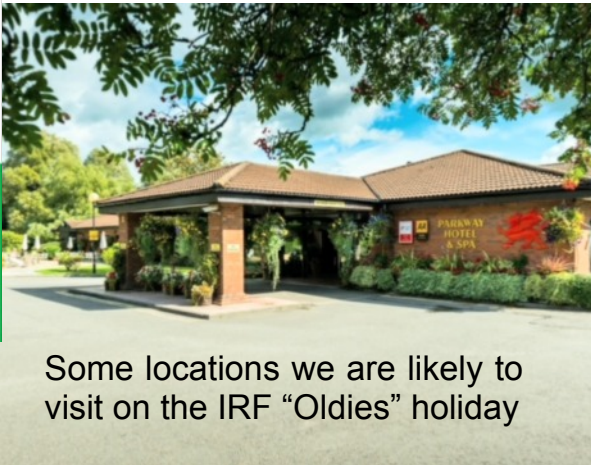
*Valerie and David*

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# IRF OLDIES REUNION

## 16-23 JUNE 2023



Some locations we are likely to visit on the IRF "Oldies" holiday



# DO YOU HAVE LGBT STORIES TO SHARE?

We are writing to you to let you know about an exciting new project called **LGBT+ Unitarian Voices**. The project aims to lift up the voices of LGBT+ Unitarians by recording and sharing stories that help us learn from the past and celebrate our significant contribution to LGBT inclusion.

We are keen that all Foy Society members have a chance to contribute to this project and so we are writing to ask whether you have any photographs, leaflets, posters, banners, newspaper stories, documents, or any other items that help shed light on our movement's LGBT+ story. We are also interested in including written reminiscences and we invite you to send us those stories.

We hope to use images of these items, alongside audio recordings of LGBT+ Unitarians telling their stories, to put together a portable exhibition that can be moved around groups and showcased at the annual meetings, alongside a website that sheds light on our LGBT+ past. We also hope to archive everything we collect at Harris Manchester College, Oxford. We are working closely with the librarian there, Kate Alderson-Smith, to house and exhibit the collection so that future generations may better understand the role of our movement in LGBT inclusion.

Once we have your details, we will be in touch directly to discuss the most appropriate way to use the items you would like to share. This includes discussing whether we should use the originals or take copies. We are also interested in the stories behind the items you send to us.

With huge thanks, this project relies on all our team working together to record, share, learn from and celebrate our past and ongoing commitment to LGBT+ rights.

We are proud to be working on this with you and would love to hear from you,

*Rory Castle Jones and*

*Lizzie Kingston Harrison*

## Complementary Therapies

Healing hands, compassionate hearts, & intuitive minds.



**Complementary therapy (also referred to as complementary or holistic medicine) is a branch of healthcare practices and treatments which aims to treat the patients by complementing conventional medicine rather than providing an alternative.**

**Many forms of complementary therapy and medicine are steeped in history and tradition, having been based on ancient western and eastern healthcare practices. Examples include the Ayurveda system of medicine which originated in India 5,000 years ago as well as Traditional Chinese Medicine. Such is their standing that both are still the prevalent forms of healthcare in their respective countries.**

Holistic therapy (or holistic medicine) considers the patient rather than individual symptoms. The holistic approach considers your physical, mental, spiritual and social wellbeing and aims to balance these as an entire system.

It is the aim of the conference to explore a few complementary therapies, their origins and how they are used today. There will be both information sessions and “hands on” periods.



# Next Foy Conference

Open also to non-member of the Foy Society

28<sup>th</sup> April - 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2023

## COMPLEMENTARY THERAPIES

CONFERENCE LEADER  
GWYNETH ROPER

Healing Hands  
Compassionate Hearts  
Intuitive Minds

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The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow

**Peace Poles, Are you aware of them?**

**Have they entered your life?**

**Have you seen several, or even Lots?**

**The Editor Reflects .**

**John Hewerdine**

In my youth, enlightened members of our society would join together in public spaces in silent protest about the, "Nuclear threat". I remember joining Elspeth and Arthur Vallance, married Unitarian ministers, living in Altrincham, Cheshire. My camera has always galvanised me into a false sense of bravery, when it comes to being at controversial events, especially any with "Peace or Conscience" as an issue. Peace protests started for me in the late fifties.

And so, along I went, with my camera, to Albert Square and the imposing Manchester Town Hall in the background, to make pictures of the Vallances and a few lonely souls standing in front of the Great Manchester Library and the Town Hall in "silent protest". Arthur and Elspeth resided at The Manse in Dunham Road, Altrincham, and made a big impression on me, living their religion and taking many Sunday School children from the Manchester area to Great Hucklow, on Cowburn and Cowper road-haulage vehicles, to do so.

Since these days (late fifties and early sixties) I have maintained a positive pacifist view of society and maybe become a more compassionate person in the process. My camera, and a desire to meet those of many other world religions, has also taken me into a wider world than just that of Christianity.

One of my regrets, on this front, has been that the Unitarians in the Khasi Hills of India, have been so swamped by the flood of Christian missionaries, from their early evangelising in the mid-nineteenth century, that they tend to defend their Unitarian faith, to their neighbours, as Liberal Christianity, rather than valuing the rich nature of their indigenous tribal faith. My prayers today are for them to bring more of this deep-rooted and inclusive Khasi/Jaintia tribal religion, into the foreground of their current form of Liberal Christian worship.

Margaret Barr, as a Gandhian devotee, lived her own religion, but few of her Khasi adopted-family have enjoyed feeding, as Granny did, on the riches of all the Eastern faiths which cascaded into Kong Barr's life, when she made the decision to live in India and make it her home, in the early 1930s.

Over the years, my contact with the youth organisation, The International Religious Fellowship (IRF), and The International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) have enriched my personal life, as I moved to the Universalist, end of the Unitarian theological spectrum.

Apart from my exposure to Margaret Barr's philosophy of the great Mahatma Gandhi, India had much to teach me about Theology and living ones' religion. Later, a trip to South Korea with IARF, enabled me to attend the Peace Chapel in the demilitarised zone to the South of its border with North Korea, and to share with the local people in their passion for reconciliation with North Korea and their heartfelt need for restoration of long-overdue re-connection with relatives in Northof that border. I was also proud to work on the British Unitarian Peace Education Working Party for several years.



Another Peace-pole about to be planted outside our Rawtenstall Unitarian Church in Lancashire

Currently, many Unitarian meeting places, including Old Chapel in Great Hucklow, are putting up their own Peace Poles. It is a way of coming together with others in continuing to share the desire to co-exist with all faiths, in the unending need to express our desire to live in peace with each other. Russia is dragging its feet at present, but let us not pigeon-hole the entire population. Many ordinary Russian folk are now unhappy about the situation in Ukraine.

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