

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Tirley Garth, Tarporley

#### LOCAL HOHO

- **March 22**, 8 pm – **March 25**, lunchtime

An invitation for all those in the United Kingdom who care about Initiatives of Change (MRA) and plan to give their best to it over the next years.

Last December and January in Panchgani, India (the first Global Hoho), was a unique opportunity to bring together IC's world-wide fellowship for a time of reflection, honest conversation, visioning and learning. Now we hope to have a chance for those of us in the UK to reflect on where we are at, our vision for our own lives, and for IC's work in the UK.

**Kristen Cibelli, Fiona Leggat**

- **Sunday, April 7**, 2.45pm

*Silence, Beauty, Spiritual Exploration*  
A public screening of *The Cross and the Bodhi Tree*, followed by time for reflection in the Quiet Gardens, then discussion and tea.

- **April 11**, 11am – 4pm

*Friends of Tirley Garth*  
Spring in Bloom in the gardens, refreshments available.

Admission: adults £3, children 50p

- **May 20 – 26**

Come and paint – flowers, landscape

and interiors – at Tirley Garth.  
Information from Barbara Marsh:  
Tel: 01829 751368

- **June 8/9**

A Celebration of 60 years of Tirley Garth. What next?

New beginnings ...

*A series of events for all.*

- **April 23**, 6.30 pm, **Westminster Cathedral Hall, London**

Public meeting with Lebanese group (See page 3)

### London, Greencoat Place

#### FRIENDS OF WESTMINSTER PRODUCTIONS

- **March 16**, 3 pm

**Ian Kiaer** – “An Artist’s Vision”

A talk illustrated with slides of his work, followed by tea. All are welcome. A collection will be taken for expenses.

#### GREENCOAT FORUMS

6.30 for 7.15pm

- **March 19**

**Ann Widdecombe MP** will speak on “Faith and Politics”

- **April 16**

**Lord Plumb**, former President of the MFU, MEP and present Member of the House of Lords

# UK NEWS LETTER

IC/MRA 24 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1RD Tel: 020 7798 6000 www.mra.org.uk

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## HONEST DIALOGUE IN BRITAIN

“There is a need for trust-based partnerships through dialogue for connecting those groups who are disengaged,” stated Lawrence Fearon, a national co-ordinator of *Hope in the Cities*. “We are now operating in a climate where we are failing to establish an inclusive society.”

Over 50 people devoted to community regeneration and building an inclusive society came together to have an honest conversation over the last weekend of February at Tirley Garth, Cheshire.

*Hope in the Cities* (HIC), one of the Initiatives of Change programmes, aims to help individuals and communities to resolve conflicts, create trust and encourage personal responsibility. It is linked with a similar initiative in the USA based in Richmond, Virginia, which has received wide recognition for its work to put “honest conversation on race, reconciliation and responsibility” onto the national agenda. Now it was time for HIC in Britain to organise and facilitate an honest conversation on their own ground.

Leaders from the civic, business

and voluntary sectors and grassroots community workers from nine cities took part in the weekend, including city councillors from Birmingham and Newcastle upon Tyne. They shared their deep concerns about the future of cultural diversity in the UK.

“For too long communities have had to live with other people’s agendas,” said Denzil Nurse, a Director and Secretary of the *Connected 2* group from Huddersfield. “How do we as community activists begin to reach the wider community?”

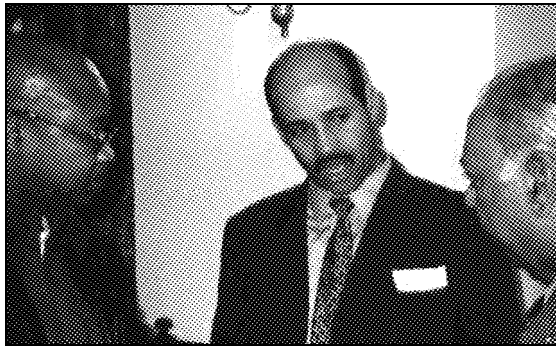
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**Cultural diversity in the UK**

This issue was edited by Mary Jones and Janet Paine, with layout by Blair Cummock. Please send material for the next issue by March 25 to Dron Hore-Ruthven, Hugglepit Cottage, Higher Clovelly, Bideford, N Devon EX39 5RN.  
Email:dronhr@btinternet.com

"The government has to know it's not about ticking boxes; these are not figures but people," said Bill Midgley from Newcastle upon Tyne, Deputy President of the National Chamber of Commerce of Britain. "We all have responsibility and accountability."



Leeds, London and Newcastle participants

Talking about honest dialogue, Dan Robertson from BUILD in Nottingham said, "It's about bringing two structures together: the upper (government) and grassroots organisations."

"We have to go to the right sources, to people who make decisions, showing them practical examples of what can be done," said Grace Macauley, Executive Director of Birmingham Education and Training Academy.

### Mutual respect

The panel of speakers set the mood for the facilitated dialogue that followed. Openness and sincerity created rapport, which was much appreciated by all participants. "I valued the mutual respect for each other and the honesty that came out," said one of the participants... "the recognition of the spirit of love that flowed through us all, whatever the name given to that spirit."

People came expecting to listen and to be listened to - the essential elements of an honest dialogue. "We often hear the remark, 'They don't listen'. I hope that through this weekend we listened to each other and to our hearts," said Gerald Henderson, an HIC co-ordinator in Liverpool.

The closing session, starting with a quiet time, burst into a discussion on the issue of asylum seekers and refugees bringing changes into the life of local communities - proving the great need for such honest dialogues.

"One need in every situation is the courage to meet, listen to, and talk with people who think differently and may be opposed to oneself," commented another participant - "to include them in one's own hopes, needs, hurts, fears and to see together how to move forward."

**Anastasia Stepanova**

matic concepts as the nation-state, multilateralism, and preventive diplomacy.

*In this well-written book containing accounts of many delightful episodes in his diplomatic life, Archie Mackenzie succeeds in combining his working principles with his deeply held beliefs... It makes both enjoyable and impressive reading.*

**Edward Heath KG PC**  
Prime Minister from 1970-74

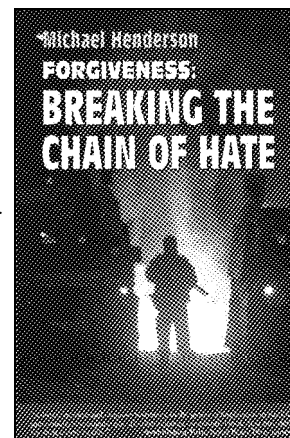
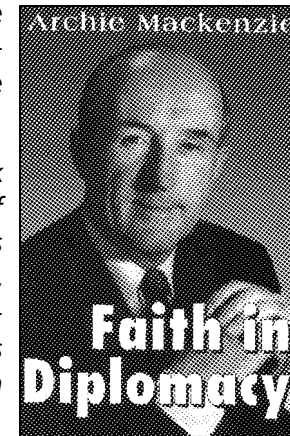
*A man of deep personal integrity... a diplomat of the highest quality. His story is well worth the telling.*

**Ivor Richard PC QC**  
UK Ambassador to UN 1974-80, Leader of the House of Lords (Labour Government) 1997-98

Available from Grosvenor Books, 24 Greencoat Place, London, at £8.50 inc p&p (special price)

### **Forgiveness: Breaking the Chain of Hate**

The British edition of **Michael Henderson's** book will be



launched four days before Easter, on March 27, at Politico's Bookstore in Central London.

The book features over 70 stories, including the apologies at Caux of Assaad Shaftari and Muhieddine Shehab for their part in the civil war in Lebanon, together with stories from Northern Ireland, Australia, South Africa, Warrington, the Middle East and other parts of the world.

Lewis B Smedes, author of *The Art of Forgiving and Forgive and Forget*, writes, "Henderson's book is superb - the best I have read on forgiveness, a harvest of marvellous stories that add lively support to its urgent message."

Advance copies are available from Grosvenor Books at £10 each, including inland postage, and after that date copies can be purchased through bookshops at the retail price of £11.50.

**David Locke**

## **Opportunity at ninety**

My old firm, Ricardo Consulting Engineers plc, invites its pensioners to two events during the year at its premises in Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex – a summer visit to see anything new and a Christmas dinner in early December.

I had not been to the Christmas occasion for several years, but in 2001 I thought I would try again as I was now 90.

The September 11 attacks on New York had shaken the world and stirred men and women of God everywhere to struggle even harder to get nations and faiths to seek answers from God.

It occurred to me that it might be right to use the fact that I was probably the oldest person present to ask if I could say a few words at the end. On arrival, the chairman entered just behind us, and so I had only to turn around to speak to him, which clinched for me the matter. He said he would arrange it.

I said, "I thank God that when I was 17 and needed a job, I knew Ricardo (Sir Henry later) just well enough to be able to ask him for one in his engine-testing laboratory at the Bridge Works. He did give me a job, which remained interesting and challenging until 1976 when I retired. Here I am still, aged 90.

"I will tell you something else I

have stuck to. In about 1934 I met a movement named the Oxford Group. This changed its name to Moral Re-Armament in 1938 and now, in the new millennium, to Initiatives of Change for Moral and Spiritual Renewal. Because of the events of September 11, they have issued a declaration entitled *What each person can do*. Anyone who would like a copy can get one from me."

Several people came up to me afterwards and congratulated me on speaking without notes at 90. I went home with a sense of certainty that I had not missed an obvious opportunity for God at a time of crisis.

**Leslie Lilly**

## **BOOK REVIEW**

### ***Faith in Diplomacy***

**Archie Mackenzie** has seen diplomatic service over 32 years in Burma, Cyprus, France, Thailand, Tunisia, United States and Yugoslavia. Weaving through his narrative are insider stories from war-time Washington with Isaiah Berlin; Tito's Yugoslavia and beyond; the Brandt Commission; and the United Nations from its very start at Dumbarton Oaks and San Francisco. He probes the moral issues behind such familiar diplo-

## **LEBANESE VISIT UPDATE**

### **LIVERPOOL**

**Sunday April 21:** An evening reception at the home of Gerald and Judith Henderson to which people working for reconciliation are invited, including members of the Warrington Ireland Reconciliation Enterprise.

### **BRADFORD**

**Monday April 22:** Plans are taking shape for the group to address

- the University's Department of Peace Studies
- a Christian-Muslim gathering in association with the Bradford Council of Mosques
- an evening meeting at the St Andrew's Interfaith Education Centre.

The Bradford hosts, including Dr Philip Lewis, advisor to the Anglican Bishop on interfaith issues, are arranging for the group to stay overnight.

## **LONDON**

**Tuesday April 23:** a meeting at 6.30pm in Westminster Cathedral Hall (capacity 400), Ambrosden Avenue, London SW1. All are welcome. It will be the one public meeting in London for the Lebanese and the first major occasion for the newly named Initiatives of Change in the UK. Invitation cards and colourful leaflets are available from Marijana Longin at Greencoat Place (Tel: 020 7798 6051; email: marijana@london.mra.org.uk). Please be bold in thinking whom to invite.

**Wednesday April 24:** a meeting from 5 - 6pm for MPs and Peers in a room at Westminster, hosted by Sir Patrick Cormack MP. An invitation card is available for you to send to your MP and/or a Peer you know. In applying for the card (from the same address) please name the person you wish to invite.

Prayers please for the Lebanese friends coming, and for all our preparations.

**Peter Everington, Peter Riddell**



The prophet's mission: "a mercy for all mankind"

## CAUX SUMMER PROGRAMME

### Globalizing Responsibility for Human Security July 8 – August 18

The programme for the series of international conferences in Caux, Switzerland, is now available. It reads in part:

“All of us can have a part in building a society that enhances people’s lives and offers hope of justice.

“We need a transformation of hearts – and structures – in every part of the world to connect communities, to build an inclusive society where people can live in security and peace with their neighbours and with nature.

“Globalization can then become a tool for justice and community.”

For copies of the programme and also for the specific information sheets about each conference, please be in touch with Reception at 24 Greencoat Place for the number you require.

The first conference weekend will be an opportunity to celebrate the 100 years of Caux-Palace Hotel, which in 1946 became Mountain House - the world conference centre for Moral Re-Armament.

### July 5-10

Service, Responsibility & Leadership – working for a world that works

### July 12-18

Connecting Communities for Reconciliation and Justice – towards an inclusive society

### July 20-24

Globalization – from conflict to opportunity

### July 27-August 3

The Road to Renewal

### August 4-10

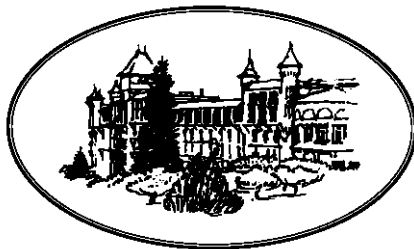
Peace-building initiatives

### August 11-12

The Spiritual Factor in secular society

### August 13-18

Human Security in a changing world



## A Personal Pilgrimage

**Gordon Wise** attended the recent Service of Thanksgiving for **Lord Hailsham** at Westminster Abbey. He remembers him as not only one of the most distinguished men in British public life in the last half century but as a lifelong friend of Peter Howard, who was in charge of the world work of Moral Re-Armament after Frank Buchman’s death in 1961.

He recalls Hailsham’s tribute at Howard’s memorial service, “He was determined that goodness shall not perish from the earth”, and refers to Hailsham giving the address at the memorial service of Buchman’s biographer, Garth Lean, another old friend.

Hailsham’s personal pilgrimage of faith, writes Wise, was from an agnostic outlook as an Oxford undergraduate to the faith expressed in the following poem he wrote, which was read at the Westminster Abbey service by one of his daughters.

### THE SPARROW’S PRAYER

Father, before this sparrow’s earthly flight  
Ends in the darkness of a winter’s night;  
Father, without whose word no sparrow falls,  
Hear this, Thy weary sparrow, when it calls.  
Mercy, not justice, is his contrite prayer,  
Cancel his guilt and drive away despair;  
Speak but the word, and make his spirit whole,  
Cleanse the dark places of his heart and soul,  
Speak but the word, and set his spirit free;  
Mercy, not justice, still his constant plea.  
So shall Thy sparrow, crumpled wings restored,  
Soar like the lark, and glorify his Lord.