

BBC Radio Newcastle. *The Newcastle Journal* devoted eleven columns to the book, including the Mother Teresa story, headlined 'Book's powerful message for all'. *The Journal* writes, 'The cumulative effect of these stories on the reader is very powerful indeed and would leave even the most cynical with a sense of hope for the future.'

**David & Elizabeth Locke**

### **FAC OPPORTUNITY**

Ever since we launched *For a Change* 15 years ago, Jill Robbins in Clacton and a friend of hers have generously and methodically produced the annual index for the magazine. We editors are enormously grateful to them. Jill has now asked to hand over this responsibility. So we are now looking for a new indexer, somebody with a methodical and diligent mind, and preferably with a computer, to take on this role. It is immensely valuable as we are frequently asked for particular references in back copies. If anyone, perhaps retired, would like to respond to this need, please would they be in touch with us in London.

**Ken Noble, Mary Lean, Mike Smith**

### **MUSKETEERS PLANT TREE**

They have been called the Three Musketeers: Henry Bouch, Leslie Fox and Hugh Elliott, life-long friends in their 90s who live in Hall Grange Methodist Care Home for the Elderly, Croydon. It came as a complete surprise when, on his 91st birthday party recently, Hugh was asked by the home's management to plant a tree in honour of his commitment to MRA/Initiatives of Change and the spirit of prayer and honest sharing that they have encouraged in the home, which has had a long-standing commitment to regular times of prayer for all its 'family'.

### **FUTURE EVENTS**

The **October National Meeting** will be held in Manchester on **Saturday, October 12** at Luther King House, Brighton Grove, Manchester, starting at 10am. All interested in IC are welcome, but it is essential to notify Miles & Janet Paine at 0161 881 6674, not later than September 19, if you intend to come. Accommodation over Friday night is available. This centre is easily reached by public transport and there is plenty of car parking space.

This issue was edited by Mary Jones and Janet Paine, with layout by Blair Cummock. As usual, because of the Caux conferences, there will be no issue in August. Please send material for the September issue by August 26 to Ann Carpenter, Bourne Cottage, Mill Lane, Mere, Warminster, Wilts BA12 6DA, email: russell.ann@tiscali.co.uk.

### **TIRLEY GARTH – WHAT NEXT?**

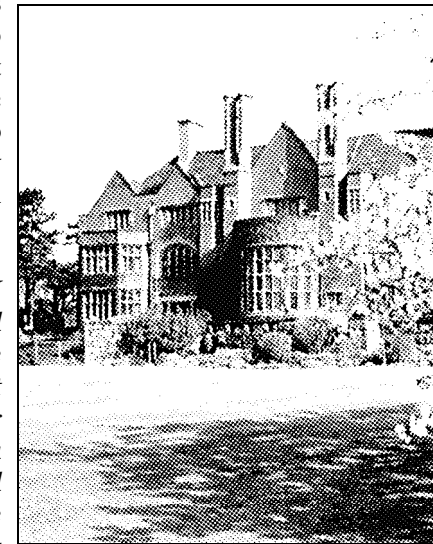
Bill Lang, who now lives in Lavenham, was 23 and studying horticulture at London University, when he met the Oxford Group. It was 1937 and, on going home to Nantwich, he enquired who else in the area was interested. He was given the names of Bill Porter, who was 17 and still at school, and Irene Prestwich, who lived at Tirley Garth. He decided to call on Irene, who was then 53.

*'On arrival I was overwhelmed by the size of the house and couldn't find the front door bell! Eventually a butler appeared and showed me into the sitting room to meet Irene, who became a close friend until she died. I was invited quite soon after my first visit to meet her parents. Tea was served from their silver tea service. I can see it to this day! They were charming and we had a very happy time together. After that Irene, Bill Porter and I would search for guidance together on how*

*to change the people of Cheshire. I suppose I was one of the first people in the Oxford Group to go there.'*

This (sent by letter) was one of the many memories shared as 70 people from all over the UK and beyond gathered at a one-day conference on June 8. They were celebrating 60 years of Tirley Garth as a home and centre where people found new life and new ideas.

There were vivid memories of the war years, when, through Irene Prestwich's generosity, Tirley became the administrative centre of MRA and the beautiful lawns were ploughed up to grow turnips. Many service men and women experienced all-too-brief periods of rest and refreshment and a chance to recharge their spiritual batteries. Dr Ken Stewart, who at 90 flew especially from Northern Ireland to be present, spoke of those years and also how, after the



war, he took up a practice locally and became Irene's doctor until she died. Someone described Irene's action in setting up a Trust to purchase Tirley as 'the transfer of private privilege to the service of a whole people'.

Some remembered the times in the mid '60s and early '70s when Tirley was bursting at the seams with young people, many sleeping in tents. There would be a blast on the trumpet at 6am and PT at 6.30. Musical shows that carried the message of MRA, like *65 Alive, It's our country, Jack!* and *Anything to declare?* were conceived and produced there.

Keith Neal from Manchester highlighted what Tirley had meant for education over the years. The paper *Polestar* was born and then edited there - supporting and encouraging teachers who wanted to bring moral and spiritual values into their work. He also spoke of Tirley's role with many from China, hosting occasions for those living in the UK and a series of weekends for the Chinese Embassy staff in London.

Albert Benbow recalled how he had come to Tirley as a militant trade union leader, for whom management was simply the enemy. What he had found there, particularly the thought of honest dealing, had helped him to be instrumental in saving his firm (SU Carburettors) from closing. Such was the turn around resulting from a startling change of attitudes, that

the factory went from crisis to become the 'jewel in the crown' for the Rover Group.

Richard Pearce, a New Zealand engineer, told how, at a weekend conference in 1993, Bill Peters and Martin Dent decided to join forces to launch the *Jubilee 2000* campaign.

There was looking forward as well as back. The imminent sale of Tirley naturally concentrated minds on seeking out new ways of operating. More care, better communications, regional as well as national meetings to 'fill the gap', were all suggested. Over the years - through an emphasis on teamwork, honesty and high standards of caring - we had learnt much about creating community at Tirley. Now the challenge was to make community happen 'out there' where the need was greatest. 'We have to create a network of care and ride loose on property for the moment,' was one comment. 'It's not to do with buildings but with commitment.'

Thanks were given that for more than 60 years Tirley Garth has been a home open to the world. And that so many who rose to its challenge are now taking responsibility for Initiatives of Change in every corner of it.

Nobody was saying that parting with Tirley was not painful or would not leave a gap. But, as Ivan Poulton put it in a letter from Northern Ireland, 'We believe, in due course, it will be seen that God has been ahead of us, eager to use us all in new developments.'

**Paul Williams**

'My book is not the story of my accomplishments,' he continued, 'but about this guiding hand in my life and career.' This was not the same as Adam Smith's 'invisible hand' of the free market. But, Mackenzie pointed out, Smith had written in *The Theory of Moral Sentiment* that there was a voice in every human heart which Smith had described as 'the vice-regent of the deity'. 'This has taken me out of the rat race and made me do things I would not otherwise have done,' said Mackenzie.

### **Best seller**

He told, for instance, how he had had the thought in his morning meditation to bring two leading politicians together, who had been at loggerheads over the drafting of the ground-breaking Brandt Commission report on global development. Months later these two men were charged by the other commissioners to write the final draft, and the book subsequently became a best seller.

Mackenzie concluded that he had lived not 'in the fast lane' but 'the life of the high road'. Applying matters of faith in current affairs had been 'strenuous, hazardous and passionately interesting'.

**Mike Smith**

*Faith in Diplomacy: a memoir*  
by Archie Mackenzie,  
Caux Books/Grosvenor Books  
ISBN 1-85239-030-1 £9.95 plus postage

## **HENDERSONS IN NEWCASTLE**

Michael and Erica Henderson spent a week in Newcastle at the invitation of Hari and Ranju Shukla and others from Tyneside. They met the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, the Mayor of Gateshead and other civic officials and were welcomed at the two universities, Newcastle College, and the main Mosque as well as at Newcastle United Football Club.

A public lecture in Newcastle City Council Chambers was chaired by the Anglican Bishop, the Rt Rev Martin Wharton. The bishop said that the recurring themes in *Forgiveness: Breaking the Chain of Hate* were more needed today than ever. 'It is a profoundly moving book,' he said, 'full of people's experiences and stories that challenge us and give us hope. The author has shown us that forgiveness is never easy and always costly.'

A dinner reception in the Rupali Restaurant was chaired by Bill Midgley, Chairman of the Durham County Cricket Club and Vice-Chair of the English Chambers of Commerce. It was attended by councillors, representatives of different political parties and leaders of the different ethnic communities.

The book was launched in Gateshead Public Library. Blackwells Bookshop has ordered books for a display. Michael had interviews on Tyne-Tees TV and

## **'AN INSPIRING LIFE'**

Declaring that Archie Mackenzie's new book *Faith in Diplomacy* had 'succeeded wonderfully', Sir Richard Jolly, Director of the UN's Intellectual History Project, described the British diplomat's autobiography as 'a fascinating story and an inspiring life'. He was speaking at the book's London launch, at a luncheon in IC's London centre on May 30. 'I have read it very carefully and found it absolutely fascinating and full of humour,' Sir Richard said.

Referring to Mackenzie's diplomatic career at the UN's Economic and Social Council in New York, Sir Richard said he believed that 'there has been much more success in the economic and social side at the UN than in the political side'. Mackenzie's book emphasised the role of key individuals and their commitment in post-war events and the establishment of international institutions.

### **Key thoughts and phrases**

Sir Richard highlighted some of Mackenzie's key thoughts and phrases from the book, such as that which he used in the run-up to the Seventh Special Session of the UN General Assembly: all parties needed to be ready to 'cross the philosophical bridge of change', Mackenzie had said. This phrase was often quoted in subsequent months and helped towards the unanimity achieved at the

Seventh Special Session.

It was 'the problems sitting around the table', which Mackenzie addressed through his 'people-centred diplomacy', that were often more significant than the problems on the table, said Dr Philip Boobbyer, lecturer in history at the University of Kent, introducing Mackenzie.

### **A blueprint for statecraft**

For centuries Machiavelli's *The Prince* had offered a blueprint for statecraft, Dr Boobbyer said. But Mackenzie's book and life offered a 'practical refutation' of this approach. 'Good statecraft must be founded on sound morality. It is possible to be a pragmatist and loyal to fundamental principles, as this unusual and radical book shows.'

Boobbyer said that Mackenzie had been wrong on two counts: firstly that he did not believe that he could write a book; and secondly that he did not believe anyone would want to read it.

Mackenzie admitted that he had been reluctant to write his story. But he thanked Dr Boobbyer for his encouragement. 'Philip lit the fuse that produced the book,' Mackenzie said. Dr Boobbyer had been concerned about the number of students he met who lacked a sense of purpose in life. He had told Mackenzie, 'There seemed to be a guiding hand throughout your career. Why don't you write about that because it might help people?'

## **BRADFORD RETURN VISIT**

On my return visit to Bradford in June, I was interested to gauge feedback following the visit of the Lebanese group there last April. One Roman Catholic community leader, who had not met the Lebanese, told me that Hisham Shihab's story of pointing his gun at an elderly lady running for cover 'had gone the rounds of Bradford. I have heard it from several sources and it has been repeated back to me.'

Philip Lewis, advisor to the Bishop of Bradford on interfaith issues, read a proof copy of a new pamphlet reporting the Lebanese visit. He especially picked out how the Muslims and Christians in Beirut had had mirror image misconceptions of each other. He said it was exactly the same in Bradford. He told me that a new Inter-Cultural Leadership School brings together the city's best youth leaders - Muslim, Christian and of no faith - twice a year for four days of discussions, in order to 'break down stereotypes' of each other's communities. The young people participating are selected on the basis that they already have some form of 'role model' status in their communities.

Ishtiaq Ahmed, General Secretary of the Bradford Council of Mosques, said he wanted more copies of the report for a Muslim-Christian forum in Huddersfield, where he is now Racial Equality

Officer. David Fitch, co-ordinator of the Interfaith Education Centre, said he thought the report would be a useful resource for school study.

**Mike Smith**

## **LEBANESE REPORT**

*Did you or anyone you know not have the chance to meet the Lebanese ex-militiamen in April? A 16-page pamphlet on their visit is now available. It gives their remarkable statements at Westminster Cathedral Hall and reviews their programme in Liverpool, Bradford and London. Copies are available up to July 15 from Marijana Longin at 24 Greencoat Place and after that from Reception. Printing cost is just over £1 each and contributions are welcome.*

## **INDIAN DEVELOPMENT**

Twenty people gathered at the end of May in Panchgani, India, to set up an Environmental Learning Centre at Asia Plateau.

The planning workshop was remarkable for its breadth of local expertise and for the unanimous sense that this was an initiative whose time had come. Part of the students' experience will involve an exposure to the principles and practice at the heart of Initiatives of Change.

**Alan Channer**

## A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE MIDDLE EAST

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**Dr Bryan Hamlin**, a scientist in Massachusetts, wrote recently:

I have made seven visits to Israel and Palestine over the last 14 years, two with Rabbi Marc Gopin whose new book *Holy War, Holy Peace* is most timely. For anyone associated with the Middle East, indeed for most people, the violence of recent weeks has been heartbreaking. One feels so helpless.

Dr Gopin and I decided that one thing we could do in a crisis like this was simply to care for people, to care for our friends. The recipients of our phone calls and e-mails may feel that our expression of care helped them, but what they gave to us was an inspirational reminder of the heights of human courage and nobility.

A memorable moment at Caux last summer was when Israeli Merri Minuskin spoke from the platform: 'I apologise for the sorrow and loss of dignity my people in Israel have inflicted on the Palestinians....Every morning I make a choice to make a difference...With God as my witness, I promise to do more.' Two Palestinians in the hall led a standing ovation. Merri and her new Palestinian friends have stayed in touch and she has stuck to her promise.

Through her work with the

International Institute in Israel, Merri has for some time organised weekly discussion groups between Palestinian and Israeli women. I called her after the terrible Passover bombing near where she lives when 28 people died.

I was very doubting when Merri told me that she was going ahead with her next women's meeting, especially when Israeli tanks invaded the West Bank where the Palestinian women would be coming from. Amazingly, nine Palestinians got through the various obstacles and showed up.

The meeting began with one of the Israelis announcing that her cousin had been killed in the Passover suicide bombing. 'I can't go on with this peace work any more,' she said. However, when some of the Palestinian women offered to come to the *shivha* (wake) of her relative, the Israeli was deeply moved and decided to stay with the discussions.

Somehow, Merri was in touch by phone with the head of the hospital in Jenin, scene of the fiercest fighting on the West Bank. The hospital was desperate for medical supplies. Eventually, she was able to get hold of two truckloads of medical supplies and arrange for them to get through to the hospital. She received a very emotional phone call of thanks from Dr Abu

Ghale whom she has yet to meet.

The four Palestinians who were in Caux last August, from Gaza, East Jerusalem and Israel, have stayed in touch. Several friends, myself included, were deeply moved to receive Easter greetings from Kamal and Nadine Halawa, Muslims from East Jerusalem, in the midst of their difficulties.

In recent weeks Marc Gopin and I have talked several times on the phone with a Palestinian family in Bethlehem. For several days they could not get out of their house and our friend's brother was missing. The family feared that he was one of those holed up inside the Church of the Nativity. Their eight-year-old son needs regular injections for a serious health condition. Fortunately a Red Crescent ambulance has been able to get to their home. When I asked about food, my friend chuckled and said that they were out of meat but still had a fair amount of rice. He's heard from his brother by phone. It is unnerving when these friends always seem to start the conversation by asking how I am!

In recent weeks passions have been high, and not just between the combatants in the Middle East. Finger pointing has become a major pastime. Some who used to be for reconciliation have become advocates for one side or the other. I cannot afford the luxury of taking sides. I simply have too many Palestinian **and** Israeli friends, whatever their governments do or don't do.

When my children were small and did something wrong I came to learn that at that point I needed to love them more, not less. The challenge seems to be to extend that love we feel for our immediate family to ever widening circles.

## AFRICA ARISE

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Six from the UK - Jim and Sally Baynard-Smith, Ailsa Hamilton, John and Fiona Leggat and myself - were part of the 23 nations (16 African) present at the All-Africa Arise conference in Nairobi, May 30 - June 2. There were many from the conflict areas.

The Kenyan hosts launched the event with conviction, vision and down-to-earth stories of what they are doing through the Clean Election/Clean Kenya campaigns. There were stories of how these had caught the imagination of others in Kenya who, as a result, were taking their own initiatives.

Perspectives from elsewhere helped focus minds on issues such as AIDS, war, poverty and family life. There were continual references to the growth in character required to get to the root of difficulties. A telling phrase, certainly appropriate for us in the UK, was, 'What you can tolerate you cannot change.' It was very interesting to return after 32 years and appreciate the changes since the 1960s when I was teaching there.

**Jim Wigan**