



YAH MONTHLY MONITOR

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COMMENT

Something funny is going on, High Halden seems to be mentioned everywhere I go, instead of being a sleepy village, the way it's been for over one thousand years, High Halden is becoming significant within the South East.

Now we know that Precinct 13, the USA Cop Shop, is probably the most unusual retailer that could possibly open anywhere, let alone High Halden, we also wish them a huge amount of good fortune in their enterprise, they are doing the village a great amount of good in participating in all our local events.

We have also recently become aware of the new Halden Heights, residential and nursing home of some considerable size which will undoubtedly bring large employment opportunities to our village.

No, it seems wider than that, bumping into some friends whilst down on the coast, they remarked "Oh, you come from High Halden, have you heard of Young at Hearts"? "Yes we replied, why?". "They are a very famous charity for retired folk" was the response, "they have done a lot of good for their village and have created a bench mark that surely will be copied by many other groups"

It is profoundly rewarding to learn about ourselves from others who have no knowledge of our involvement in Young at Hearts.

But here is my point, YAH has always been "special", the reason? It is the view of your Editor that Pat Wenbourne has a lot to with it, without Pat YAH would just be another mediocre seniors club, Pat has created a bona fide Friendship League where we all genuinely care about each other and have no guilt about enjoying ourselves, YAH suffers very few rules, so we do what we like as long as we all agree, agreed?

Please now let us continue to enjoy YAH, be proud of being a part of something so special and continue to bring new members into this exceptional fellowship.

Thank you Pat for making us famous.

Bill Phillips

Generous YAH member Bill Phillips treated 19 YAH members and guests to an amazing day out earlier this month to help celebrate his birthday on January 26th.

A coach was laid on which took the party firstly to a restaurant just adjacent to our destination....the Broadway Theatre a magnificent if slightly shabby chic and very famous South London venue, with more history than Bill himself.

In the restaurant another lovely surprise for Bill when one of his brothers unexpectedly showed up to join his sister and bother in law, who were already with us.

Bill was ecstatic and a jolly lunch was enjoyed by all, whether spoons or forks were most appropriate for such food we will not bother to find out.

Thence on to the Broadway to hear Tony Jacobs and his ensemble entertain and educate us for almost three blissful hours. Let it be explained that a very young and fit looking Tony has recently turned sixty which well qualifies him to sing and play trumpet to all the old standards that we love to sing and cry along with.

Composers like George Gershwin, Richard Rogers, Irving Berlin whose wonderful songs will never again be matched, were played and sung by an incredibly talented crew to our delight and amusement.

After the interval Tony paid tribute to Bill by thanking him for being a loyal fan for so many years, Tony acknowledged Pat's presence in the audience(probably previously arranged with Bill) by playing and singing.....Young at Heart!!, the whole YAH party were sobbing with joy.

Your Monitor is not permitted to reveal Bill's age, so lets thank him for a fabulous day out and look forward to Bill becoming an honorary member in just seven years.

Thanks again Bill, YAH's tallest member in integrity and good friendship.



PAT'S CHAT

After the last YAH meeting (4th January 2012), at which Shirl asked for ideas for the Diamond Jubilee, one member suggested a pageant depicting the six decades of HM Queen's reign. Having some experience of pageants, I know how long they take to write and rehearse.

It is a brilliant idea to remind ourselves of some of the great events of the last sixty years and how things have changed for us all. Having given the idea some thought, it seemed that a "pageant parade" would be possibly, building up to a tableau at the finish. For each of the six decades, we could select four or five events which could be represented by costumed characters who would form the parade. The characters would be responsible for producing their own costume. The non-costumed items could be written on a placard and carried to define and separate each decade. There would be no speaking parts, very few rehearsals and minimum expense. It would be rather like a children's fancy dress. I remember being in the Children's fancy dress on Coronation Day (1953). One of my friends came as Edmund Hilary as we had just heard about the ascent of Everest.

So how about it folks? It could be fun!!

YAH BUSINESS

YAH Members will be interested to learn that February's **Lunch Bunch** will be held at The Chequers PH on Wednesday **February 15th** 12.30 for 1pm. Kindly **phone The Chequers 850218** with your menu choice and numbers of lunchers. The February **Coffee Morning** will be held on **Friday 17th** 10.30 am until 12.00 noon.

YAH Committee has decided to send a cash donation to High Halden Primary School as a token of our appreciation for their excellent entertainment at both of our Christmas celebrations last December.

YAH Kitty for the "Holiday of a Lifetime" has, so far, accumulated £61.28 towards our target of £350.00 which we must achieve by 1st June 2012, loose change is especially welcome.



BILL PHILLIPS

Stop Press

YAH 2012 Quiz will be held on Saturday September 15th at HH War Memorial Hall.

WINTER from the RAFFLER

What an unusual winter we are having, mostly quite mild with the odd day of frost. Wandering around the garden I have seen some huge bumblebees and enormous wasps, not to mention one or two moths. Many spring flowers are in bloom and the tulips are already three inches high, the pond is completely dry and I have yet to build a snowman. (How can any winter be complete without building a snowman?!)

We had a terrible problem with moles last year, they have made an awful mess of our lawn and even though they now seem to have gone on to pester one of our neighbours, we are left with a very patchy lawn that is soft to walk on. Does anyone have any bright ideas how to keep them away? (the moles, not the neighbours.....mind you!)

The Sparrow-Hawk is back with vengeance, it took two of 'our' Collard Doves in one week as well as a Blue Tit, it is so upsetting. I would not mind any advice on keeping them away as well!. It is not however, all doom and gloom, last week I spotted a Stonechat with its wonderful russet breast, feeding on pyracantha, I watched it for about an hour whilst working in my office.

There was an article in my newspaper recently saying that birds like car drivers must stick to a speed limit. According to research they have to fly at certain speeds to avoid objects they could otherwise collide with, sounds like good advice to me, drivers take heed! I do wish that the Sparrow-Hawk could read and give the smaller birds a sporting chance.
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Whilst at my desk, I have a Theatre offer from The Duke of York's in central London for Wednesday 28th March 2012, matinee performance, at £29.50 (usually £63.00), the show is a well known comedy called "All New People" and has attracted very good reviews. Would all those members (and guests) let me know if they are interested ASAP. This offer will be held for me for one month only, payment will be required before the end of February. If we have enough acceptees, we will all meet at Headcorn station on the day, if we all agree I can also book a suitable restaurant for lunch.



Desert Island Discs, Bryan James

Hrrumph! how do I select 8 from 80? No room for the 1930's Big Bands, no Rag-time, no Jazz so no Cleo Lane. Perhaps I will be asked again. The following are some favourites picked at random.

Elgar, Edward: The Enigma Variations. Coming as I do from close to where the Shires of Gloucester, Worcester and Hereford meet, I would have some of Ted's music.

Rodrigo De Aranjuez. Guitar Concerto. This was one of the first LP's we bought when we acquired our first stereo player.

Hayden, Joseph. Almost anything by one of my favourite composers, but I'll take Joe's Symphony No. 104 (The London). It is said that without Hayden there would have been no Beethoven.

Beethoven, Ludwig van. Speaking of the great Ludwig reminds me of his 6th...known as The Pastoral. The one recorded by the Berlin Philharmonic with Otto Klemperere conducting at the age of 79. (Hope for me yet)

Saint-Saens, Charles-Camille. Symphony No 3, better known as the Organ Concerto. When the organ comes crashing in it makes the hairs on the back of you neck stand to attention. I'd also like to smuggle in his Carnival of the Animals and the spooky Danse Macabre.

Grainger, Percy. This is cheating as his music comes coupled with several others, but I thought I'd take one that included 'Mollie on the Shore'-nice and light.

Shostakovich, Dimitri. Must have something Jazzy, so I'll pick his Jazz Suite No. 2.

Albinoni, Thomaso Giovanni. Adagio for organ and strings. Provenance is a bit of a mystery, now attributed to a musicologist Remo Giazotto who, after WW 2 based the piece on a scrap of music manuscript said to have been left by Albinoni who died in 1751. Nevertheless one of the most beautiful pieces of music ever composed and just right to lull me to sleep after a hard day peeling coconuts.

It's pretty crowded on this island. 2,800 at the last count and some interlopers-I'm sure I saw Lord Lucan just now. Oh! Nearly forgot. Book-having a strange fascination with Time I'd take a book called, 'About Time' by Paul davies and hope to understand some of it by the time I was rescued. Luxury? A good supply of indigestion pills-for the coconuts. Which of the above would I have if shipwrecked a second time? Beethoven's Pastoral.

Sun rise-Sun set why does that remind me of a song?

For Feb my almanac tells me;

5th Feb Sun rise 7.33 Sun set 16.56

25th Feb Sun rise 6.56 Sun set 17.32

As an amateur astronomer, I have spent time some years ago encouraging Ashford Borough Council to turn off the street lights when they are not wanted say after 11pm. I got nowhere. Where we are now living in High Halden the Milky Way would be visible but for those d**n lights, quite unnecessary in a quiet suburban street, and what a waste of planet Earth's resources.

I will be giving an Astronomical lecture, the subject will be "Time", please come along to 10, The Martins TN26 3LD, Thursday March 28th 2.30 pm you won't regret it. Uninsufferably **Bryan James**

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