

Remember



when . . .

Dear Friends,

In the last issue George wrote about scientific experiments and brought back memories which I thought I would share.

Before I moved house eighteen months ago, I cleared out my bureau. It belonged to my parents for many years and was full of drawers and pigeon-holes which still contained a few of my father's bits and pieces.

In one drawer was a plugged test tube which had once contained a cube of sugar in alcohol. The alcohol was gone but the sugar remained like a little rock. Dad had obviously used it as an illustration when he was a Band of Hope leader about 70 years ago and it had been part of my life ever since.

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. . . is a publication from Hope UK for anyone connected with the Band of Hope movement. It is sent out three times a year. Contributions from former Band of Hope members are very welcome and can take the form of memories and thoughts about the impact that Band of Hope membership had on adult life. For a free copy (if you have not already signed up), please get in touch with Ruth Mills at the address on the back page.

Some years ago, my daughter Hazel worked for Hope UK doing school lectures in the Greenwich and Bexley area. As she was teaching the dangers of other drugs as well as alcohol, she wanted the children to have some idea of what the different drugs might look like.

She prepared a shallow box with a compartment for each drug. As she was unable to use the real thing, there was a tablet with a pattern scratched on it for Ecstasy, talcum powder for cocaine, little pieces of paper with yellow smiley faces for LSD, a gravy cube for cannabis and so on. It looked very realistic. Hazel's husband, Tim, was shocked because it looked so real and he was worried in case she was stopped by the police for some reason. Tim was a police sergeant! Some of you must have similar stories to tell - so how about sharing them?

God bless you all.

Ruth Mills

Government's Alcohol Minimum Pricing Policy – Too Little, Too Late?

Hope UK was recently asked to comment on the Government's proposed minimum pricing policy for alcohol. In an article published in Christian Today, we said:

Alcohol presents a huge dilemma to Government. On the one hand, alcohol misuse in the UK carries an enormous price tag of about £6 billion a year in costs to the NHS, losses to business (from absenteeism and suboptimal performance) and alcohol-related crime and accidents.

On the other hand, the Government receives about £11.5 billion in duty and VAT from the drinks industry each year.

So when the Government considers the issue of alcohol from a purely fiscal point of view (ignoring the tide of human misery that alcohol all too often leaves in its wake), it is clearly not worthwhile doing anything that will seriously affect alcohol sales.

This is reflected in the weak minimum pricing legislation being considered by Ministers at the present time. It is proposed that alcoholic drinks cannot be sold for less than the cost of the duty and VAT, but doesn't include the cost of making the drinks in the first place. According to a BBC report (18th January), this means that a can of weak lager can still be sold for 38p – well within the reach of most

children, never mind adults who can direct their greater spending power to stronger stuff.

It seems that nothing changes because in 'The Hope of the Race', written by Robert Tayler and published in 1946, he writes:

"Yet those who hope to legislate for a better Britain give no lead in seeking a solution. Never were the brewers so well entrenched in national life. Never was their propaganda so brazen. In newspapers and on hoardings the fictitious merits of alcohol are extolled. Parliament remains unmoved by the corruption and debilitation of the people.

"The politicians are not reticent and inactive because they are rogues, but because they are afraid. They are the servants of those who elected them. In effect, the public sit at Westminster. Any Government that made a determined raid on the working man's glass of beer or Society's cocktail would soon be out of office. You cannot legislate on a higher level than the moral level of the people who gave you power. The key to the situation therefore is to lift that moral level. This can be done most effectively by getting hold of the children. Indeed, this is probably the only way."

This is what Hope UK's Drug Educators continue to do today – whenever and wherever they can.



Lovisa Liyanage, Hope UK's Assistant Training Co-ordinator, gave birth to a baby boy called Victor on Sunday, the 23rd of January 2011. Mother and baby are doing well.



Some of you may not know that Alun Morinan, one of our voluntary Drug Educators, died unexpectedly on the 1st of January. Alun was a research pharmacologist at King's College

(University of London) National Addiction Centre, doing valuable work to help people overcome addictions to drugs and alcohol.

He became a voluntary Drug Educator in 2005 because his work with people struggling with addiction made him realise the importance of prevention work. Despite many other voluntary commitments, he became one of our most active Educators, carrying out numerous drug awareness sessions with a wide variety of groups, acting as Hope UK's Scientific Adviser and responding to media requests.

He is sadly missed.

From the Band of Hope Chronicle, 1943

Extract from 'The Greatest Wonder in the World' by Bertha L Fox MTCA

"What is this greatest Wonder of all? Yes, the Human Brain.

The brain is very uninteresting to look at..., just a greyish mass. You would never think it possessed the marvellous powers that it does possess. ...

The machinery of the brain is so intricate that we do not fully understand it, but we know that it is very finely adjusted and easily injured. Alcohol, a drug and a poison, is one of the things most injurious to the brain. It puts the control centres out

of action by drugging them – putting them to sleep; first those of the spirit, then of the mind, then of the body.

In Shakespeare's play Othello, an officer called Cassio takes too much alcoholic drink, loses control of his words and actions in a drunken brawl, and is dismissed from Othello's service. In remorse Cassio cries: "O God, that men should put an enemy in their mouths to steal away their brains!"

**A poem from the
Band of Hope Chronicle,
October 1942:**

The dear Lord's best interpreters
Are humble human souls;
The Gospel of a life like theirs
Is more than book or scrolls.

From scheme and creed the light goes out,
The saintly fact survives;
The blessed Master none can doubt,
Revealed in holy lives.

J. G Whittier



Band of Hope Tableau 1927



Band of Hope event 1936

An artist asked an old farmer,
"Do you commune with nature in the roseate
hues of dawn until the subtle tints of night?"

The farmer replied,
"Not since I signed the pledge!"

Any other temperance jokes?

Recycling

We have enclosed an envelope that you can use to send any old jewellery you no longer wear to a company that recycles it and sends a good proportion of the proceeds to Hope UK. If you wanted to get the whole church involved, and include foreign coins and mobile phones as well, then the company will deliver a cardboard box into which unwanted items can be deposited. They will also collect it once the box is reasonably full. Please contact Marolin Watson (020 7928 0848) if you are interested.

Do you have memories of the Band of Hope you would like to share? Write to:
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