

Agape World

Chairman:

Dr Paul Dakin

Skywood

138 Tolmers Road

Cuffley, Herts EN6 4JR

pkdakina@aol.com

Founder and Director:

Keiko C Holmes OBE

35 Leyburn Gardens

Croydon CR0 5NL

agape.kingdom@gmail.com

07968 057 059



AGAPE WORLD
Working for Reconciliation

Pilgrimage 2020 special pp.3-4

Dear friends,

Greetings from Hokkaido! I trust that you had a lovely summer. We, at Agape World, had an eventful summer - starting with the afternoon tea at Cavalry & Guards Club, the reception at the Japanese Embassy for Peace & Friendship on 14th June. Our Paradise Lunch on 6th July was for the first time held at Doug and Hiroko's home in Wimbledon. Along with our usual friends and new volunteers, we were thrilled to welcome many guests, the first, second and third generations of former FEPOWs. The weather was kind, the roses and hydrangeas were in full bloom, news and stories exchanged, and hopes were proclaimed, after the veritable feast. Our very new guest, **Helen Haynes**, who brought her daughter Tali, kindly contributed her story on p.2.

All the photographs taken during the events are uploaded on our website. Please have a look on <https://www.agapeworldreconciliation.org/photo-gallery/>.

Some of you are aware that I had an unexpected problem at my home - one of reasons for the delay in sending the newsletter. Back in May, water from the bathroom leaked into the kitchen below. This forced me to take up a complete kitchen refurbishment, and the work has, unfortunately, *not* yet been completed, even though it was meant to finish within 3 weeks. In the midst of all this, my back went into spasm. The pain lingered on well into August, with shooting pain down my leg. Thanks to your kind thoughts and prayers, and to our God, I am healed and was able to fly to Japan in the early September for the speaking tour.

In the midst of kitchen upheaval, there was a plethora of exciting happenings, one after another! It was a pure joy and delight to see all my three grandchildren at the tea and the embassy gatherings. For them it was a privilege to have the experience to mingle with you.

My dear friend, Keiko Kosuge, from Yokohama came and stayed with me. I am with her now in Japan. Then, my great-niece (photo left) brought her friend to stay with me. It was definitely a time of meeting with people, and so the list goes on...



The Paradise Lunch - Wimbledon 2019

By Helen Haynes

Who would have guessed that a photo that was discovered amongst my late father's 'treasures' would be the start of quite an adventure, and a now, a special relationship with AGAPE World?

We were invited to the Paradise Lunch for the first time, this July, in Wimbledon. We were not too sure what to expect ... lunch certainly, and we knew that we would be taking our shoes off too, but that was about all.

What a wonderful time my



daughter Tali and I had!

We were welcomed by so many interesting and friendly people who had been brought together by AGAPE and whose main focus was friendship and reconciliation.

It was so interesting to hear accounts and share

memories of others, who like my father, Ernest Victor Haynes, had been a FEPOW after the fall of Singapore until its liberation. Like many others, my father rarely talked about his time as a prisoner in Changi, but

suddenly we were with people who shared histories together and we learned so much.

I was very happy to share with others that my adventure with

AGAPE started with a photo of a Japanese soldier which I discovered after my father's death in 2004.

The photo was simply labelled '**Tobe**' and when asked, my mother had some memory of my father saying that this man '**Tobe**' had helped him. It was only after



my mother's death in 2017 that another discovery was made, a different photo and a message on a scrap of paper '**From Y. Tobe to Haynes**'.

My father had kept the photographs for over 60 years. These photographs were clearly important to him and I suspect that without this man's help, I, my brothers and our families would not be here.

Keiko has managed to trace the '**Tobe**' family and now I sincerely hope that I will have the opportunity of meeting his descendants on the Reconciliation Trip to Japan next year. It would be a true honour.

Thank you AGAPE World for the warm welcome, your friendship, your hospitality and the delicious food at the Paradise Lunch ... we're already looking forward to next year!



Agape World Pilgrimage of Reconciliation 2020 27 October - 12 November

Provisional Itinerary (updated on 9 Sept 2019)

Tue 27 Oct: Depart from Heathrow by Japan Air Lines (early in the morning)

Wed 28 Oct: Arrive at *Haneda* in early morning, fly to **Nagasaki**, *Kyushu*. Stay at a hotel in *Nagasaki* for three nights until 31st October, then transferred by coach to *Hirado*, north of *Nagasaki*.

In **Nagasaki**, we will visit Glover Garden, *Nagasaki Peace Park*, and various museums. There will be a time to shop and eat out. Weather permitting, we will take taxis to the mountain top for the million-dollar night view. A memorial service in *Koyagi* is being arranged. Our coordinator, *Mr Ihara*, sadly passed away recently, so we are in search of a Christian minister who will take the service.

Sat 31 Oct: After the memorial service, depart for **Hirado** (three hour coach journey). Arrive in the evening. First night, stay at a hotel.

On the second and third night, stay with host families. The people of *Hirado* are jolly, good-humoured and internationally minded, as they frequently receive foreign guests, especially Dutch visitors. Since my first visit to *Hirado* in 1986, Agape World made a lot of connections with this idyllic Island. Our hosts in *Hirado* will arrange all our activities.

Tuesday 3rd Nov: Depart *Hirado* for *Kyoto*, the ancient capital of Japan.

Mariko Sugino, the head of Agape World Kyoto, will organise our accommodation and visits to local sights.

My friends, *Osamu* and *Yoko Abiko*, who live in Singapore, has a house in Kyoto, which can accommodate

up to six people. The Terry family are booked in with them, which leaves three more places. Welcome tea, breakfast and

sukiyaki dinner for one night will be served at the house.



image photo: *Arashiyama, Kyoto*

Both *Osamu* and *Yoko* love entertaining and introducing Japanese culture to visitors from overseas. They will guide us through *Kyoto*. It is the season when autumn leaves are colourful.



Why do we visit **Hirado**?

It is because of the legacy of **William Adams** a British navigator, whose ship met a storm and drifted to *Kyushu* Island at one of the most turbulent times in the history of Japan. He became the first blue eyed *samurai* about 400 years ago. He had worked for the Dutch East India Company creating a strong link between *Hirado* and the Netherlands as well as Britain. Adams died at *Hirado* on 16 May 1620, at the age of 55 and buried there.

Adams was known as '**Miura Anjin**', meaning 'the pilot of *Miura* Peninsular in Japan', where he was granted land and subjects. He became an adviser in international matters to the feudal lord, **Tokugawa Ieyasu**, who later established and became the first *shogun* of the *Tokugawa* shogunate, following the Battle of *Sekigahara* in 1600.

Adams quickly learnt and became fluent in Japanese. *Shogun Ieyasu* replaced his Portuguese interpreter with Adams. It seems that *Ieyasu* and Adams made a good impression on each other at their first meeting.

Thursday 5th Nov: Depart *Kyoto* for ***Kiwa-Cho, Kumano City*** in ***Mie Prefecture***, *Keiko's* home town and where Agape World all started (please read the story on <https://www.agapeworldreconciliation.org/>). Stay for two or three nights at *Seiryu-So*, the only hotel in *Kiwa-Cho* (<http://www.ztv.ne.jp/irukaspa/>).

image photo: *Togo gorge, Mie-prefecture*

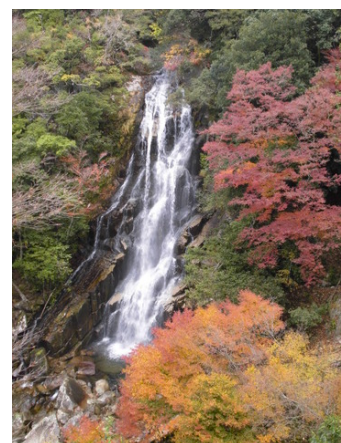


The hills around *Kumano* in autumn are spectacular with tangerines and oranges. We may even have time to go tangerine picking! We will visit *Iruka High School* on Friday, the breath-taking *Toro gorge*, and the Mine museum. The mountains will be magnificent in red and gold.

Saturday 7th November:

A memorial service at the *Iruka Boys' Memorial-Grave*, followed by lunch together with the local people at *Seiryu-So* hotel. After lunch, the host families (subject to confirmation) will take us to each home where we will stay overnight. In the evening, we will all get together for a BBQ at *Keiko's* brother's home.

image photo:
Arataki fall, Kiwa-cho



Sunday 8th Nov: Take a local train to *Nagoya*, then catch a ***Shinkansen*** or '***Bullet Train***' to our final destination *Tokyo*.

Agape World will purchase *Japan Rail Passes* for one week: from Tuesday 3rd Nov (to Kyoto) to Monday 9th Nov (to Tokyo).

Please note that the passes must be exchanged at large stations or an airport for *Bullet Train* tickets. This can take some time as we will need to show our passports and fill in paperwork. We need to discuss this later to allow enough time.

Monday 9th Nov - Wed 11th Nov, Visiting *Keio University* in *Tokyo*, one of the top independent universities in Japan, a courtesy call to the British Embassy (subject to confirmation), the British Commonwealth War Cemetery in *Hodogaya, Yokohama*. Also included is dinner at a *shabushabu* restaurant, and shopping with our Agape World friends.

Thursday 12th Nov: Leave *Tokyo* by JAL, arrive at Heathrow on the same day
The itinerary will be finalised once we know exactly how many people will be travelling.

Busy visiting months for Keiko...

I received a from **Iona Williams** informing that she was in a home and her husband, Byron, had passed away earlier this year in the same home. She urged me to visit her in Aberystwyth, Wales, while Keiko Kosuge (Keiko-K) was with me in June.

It was in 2014, when they were struggling to

manage on their own at home, Keiko-K flew in from Yokohama to help them for three weeks.

The hills and moors of the Pembrokeshire sped past the windows of our car, as we hurried to see Iona, with my son Danny driving.

At the request of Iona (2nd right, in photo below), we went down memory lane - to her

old church, through the narrow and winding roads of a quiet village, and her old house.

Because his dearest brother, Lynne, was on the Borneo Death March, Byron swore to himself never to involve himself with any Japanese people.



In 1996, however, his friend Geoff, a professor at Aberystwyth University, who knew me, twisted his arm, and took me to see them.

After my heartfelt apology, they accepted me into their family. I've visited them countless times, they in turn came to stay with me and my boys.

In early 2000, during their pilgrimage to Japan, Byron accepted the apologies of numerous people and was totally set free from his anger, pain and oppression. Byron & Iona became very keen host parents of Japanese young people, hosted them at their house by Cardigan Bay.

During lunch at her favourite restaurant, Iona astounded us with her brilliant mind and quick mental calculation. She used to be a teacher and her intelligent mind is very much alert.

Pam Raven invited Keiko-K and me to stay with her in Tavistock, for three nights. She is now over 90, yet collected us from Plymouth station and drove us to her home. It is such a peaceful and pleasant little town. I wish I could live there!



husband was on the Thailand and Burma railway. He did return but died many years ago.

In March 1997, Pam, cheerful and full of humour, travelled to Japan with us. Arriving at Hirado port, we were welcomed by people who gave an unexpected short speech. Pam answered with an impromptu speech.

Since then we have visited each other's homes numerous times.

In Tavistock, Pam drove us around and showed us breathtaking peaceful green hills and mountains. We laughed through our four day visit.

Our longing to meet Stuart and Monique Watt was also fulfilled in June. Monique's late father, **Jack Caplan**, was famous among British FEPOWs. He was in the media almost every month.

In 1988, Emperor *Akihito* and Empress *Michiko* rode by carriage through the Mall to Buckingham Palace, and Jack from Canterbury, burned the Japanese flag in full view of the emperor and the world.

A man called me and said, 'I want you to know why I burned your flag. Will you meet me, Keiko?'



From left, Stuart, Monique, Keiko and Keiko-K at a quiet restaurant near Blackheath station

Danny and I drove to meet, for the first time, Jack and his charming French wife Claudia in Canterbury.



Jack on the left and Charles on the right with their host family

You may have guessed it already. Yes, we became friends.

In 2003, he visited Japan, ignoring his doctor's instruction not to fly. In Japan Jack was uncharacteristically silent - deep in thought. He wore a kimono, as others did, and paused on the stage at the farewell reception in Kumano City.

After coming home, Jack made an about-turn and started praising Japan to the media. Letters flew in from Japan. Jack replied each one, using his typewriter.

The couple also enjoyed hosting their newly made Japanese friends a few times.

Monique and Stuart came on our Pilgrimage, and also visited their new friends independently in several cities and rural Japan. They are looking forward to the Embassy do next year.

Ahead of his 100th birthday in October 2019, we visited **Dennis Morley** a former FEPOW and his family, in the lovely town of Stroud in Gloucestershire. We chatted with Dennis and his daughter Denise until his dinner time, before going back to a near by B&B. The following morning we met Dennis' great granddaughter, Leone, who is now 22 and recently married.



From left, Jon, Denise, Leone, Dennis

In 2007, Dennis, at the age of 88, came on the Pilgrimage with Denise and Leone. She was only 11! Dennis was thrilled to be back in Kobe and became animated when

describing his war time experiences to the media. The place he worked was now a small post office.

Leone is a student nurse at Cheltenham Hospital, and will finish her course next year. Her husband Jon is a youth worker. After the Sunday service, all six of us went to a nice restaurant. Dennis walks with his walking aid.

He has a concurring spirit and says, 'let bygones be bygones' and is determined to live in the present rather than the past. He climbs the steps to his room upstairs and come down again by himself. He is blessed with a loving and caring family. We hope to visit Dennis and his family again next year.

In July, three of us, Harue, Keiko-K and I visited **Marianne Abbott**, a daughter of a Kumamoto FEPOW. She is now over eighty and lives in a splendid elderly peoples' residence in Chislehurst Kent.



residence in Chislehurst Kent.

Marianne (right in photo) stressed how

visiting her father's grave in the British Commonwealth War Cemetery in *Hodogaya, Yokohama* on the 1995 pilgrimage, had brought a sense of closure as she sought forgiveness and reconciliation. Her father was captured in Changi, then sent to *Kumamoto*, Japan, where he died, leaving his wife and four children back home.

Marianne's husband passed away some years ago. Her story has its daunting challenges, but she is a forward looking, fun-loving, young-at-heart lady who loves painting, some of which she sells. She enjoys travelling, especially cruising with her friends.

As my back went into spasm and walking became impossible, I could not carry on with my visiting, so Keiko-K visited **Marion Maule**, a lecturer and writer, on her own.

Thanks to Marion's generosity, Keiko-K had an eye-opening three days, visiting museums, parks and a mesmerising walk along the River Ouse, chatting for ages with bookworm Marion.

Farewells to our friends

As the Scripture says that "There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, ... a time to weep and a time to

laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, .. a time for war and a time for peace" (Kohélet 3:1-8), there were a number of times for us to weep and mourn the loss of our friends.



On 8 March, we said good-bye to **George Reynolds** (left) at St John's Church, Maindee in Wales. At the reception, Keiko was able to share with his daughter, Dawn (left), her memory of George from the Pilgrimage of 2000. 'I thanked God for George that he was

there!', exclaims Keiko. When she brought the group of former FEPOWs and their families to the ward-office of Mine-City in Yamaguchi

Prefecture in the north west of Japan, she thought it would be a short courtesy visit. Yet all the officials and staff were lined up waiting for them at the entrance, turning the visit into a surprise ceremony.

George, sitting next to Keiko, spontaneously stood up and delivered a brilliant off-the-cuff speech in response to the mayor's speech that included a

heartfelt apology. As Keiko did not know about the surprise ceremony, no response had been arranged. But George was there to save the day!

On 3 April, it was farewell to **William MaCauley**, known as Bill to us, who was also known as 'Mac' at Edgar Newman Chapel in

Kettering. It was the time of a family reunion, as we were surrounded by the MaCauleys, some of them travelled from Northern Ireland.

Bill was relatively new to Agape World, but Keiko recalled with his wife Kay, his son Jonathan and daughter "in-law" Heather (middle and right in above photo), how Bill acquired in captivity, the taste of *takuwan*, or pickled daikon radish, and loved the *takuwan* that were sent from Japan.

Ken Pett's funeral was on 29 April at St Peter's Church in Petersfield, which we sadly learnt about afterwards. Ken visited Japan in 2012 with his daughter Lynn and son-in-law Mike, who kindly penned **Agape's website**. You can read the story of Ken, and how he was finally released from the recurring

nightmares of the past 67 years here:

<https://www.agapeworldreconciliation.org/testimonies/ken-pett/>

Ken repeatedly expressed a desire to return to Japan once more, as he had reconciled himself even with rice, which had disagreed with the men's digestive system so badly.

Owing to a prior engagement, we were unable to attend the funeral of **Jack Swain**, which took place on 2 April at St Mary's Church, Hitchin in Herts.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends.

Ahead of next year's 75th anniversary of VJ Day

The petition, organised by our friends at COFEPOW, the Children of Far East Prisoners of War, to establish a national day to commemorate the significance of the 15th of August, or VJ Day - the Victory over Japan, collected almost 18,000 signatures in the six months to July. The British Government is understood to be working to create a fitting tribute, as they did for the D-Day veterans in June this year.

Long after VE Day, Victory in Europe, their dads and uncles continued to fight, and remained in captivity. With few now left, we, at Agape World, sincerely share your calls to mark this day, a national day to commemorate for their endurance and sacrifices.

May the souls of these brave men who felt overlooked upon their repatriation be consoled and comforted as we approach the milestone of 75th anniversary.

At the Japanese Embassy: It was lovely to meet the Kohima Battle veteran, Richard Day (94, 2nd from left), who brought the hat he wore at the battle to the Embassy.

