



Y's RETIRED OF THE UK
Affiliated to the World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees



NOVEMBER 2013

www.yretired.co.uk

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear colleagues and friends - greetings

A happy occasion for me recently was to share a half-hour telephone conversation with Joe Renshaw well known to older retired members for his work with the YMCA not least the Special Services Department.

Prior to the Annual General Meetings of YMCAs where I served was the time to call on Joe for varied YMCA prizes, awards etc. to be presented to YMCA members achieving such for their skills in activities during the year! Like many of us Joe had an interesting career with enviable experiences now shared through his local media not least the BBC – all at the age of 93. Well done Joe.

I am reminded through the above encounter how those of us in membership of the Y's Retired of the UK can have the opportunity to share our 'almost'(!) life-time experiences with the rest of our members through short articles in the Newsletter. Such articles would be welcomed by our Editor David Smith bearing in mind David has Editor's licence to censure any articles submitted and to advise members on the number of words in association with the space available!

The APPEAL for retired colleagues being supported in their attendance at the WFYR Conference 2014 in Estes Park, YMCA of the Rockies, Colorado, USA, (my letter early September 2013 refers), is 'slow off the mark'. Here I confess to allowing too long a span with the deadline of 1st December 2013 for this most worthy cause! With utmost respect from long experience allow me to invite earlier contributions by way of encouragement.

A personal aside may be appropriate – I among many of you benefitted by way of cost free expenses through the YMCA during our career to attend conferences, consultations, regional, national and international events in order to experience the depth of learning and fellowship gained toward enhancing our careers. Whilst it is appreciated that some retired colleagues never had the opportunity, some did through grants, a large number of colleagues however served the YMCA throughout

their lives living at or just above the poverty level and continue to do so. Here is an opportunity to repay through donations large or small for such colleagues to benefit from a life-time experience in attending the above-mentioned world event. All donations are acknowledged and channeled through our Treasurer, Ray Allen direct to the WFYR where the 'selection committee' I have been assured will carefully 'vet' all 'applicants for grants' to ensure our contributions are carefully used for the purpose given.

If you wish and want to support please send donations to Jim Lamb, 31, David Bull Way, Milton, Cambridge, CB24 6DP at your earliest. Cheques made payable to 'Y's Retired of the UK'. Renewed thanks for those already received.
Important!

Please would you refer any knowledge you may have of colleagues who are seriously ill or 'as and when' passed away' to Reg Wake. We have experienced 'colleagues' distressed and concerned at not being aware and therefore able to be in contact with those known to them in order to express condolences or good wishes as appropriate.

Christmas good wishes to you all!

Jim Lamb, President

PRESIDENT : Jim Lamb
31 David Bull Way, Milton, Cambridge CB24 6DP
T 01223 440228
E: j.lamb22@btinternet.com

SECRETARY: Reg Wake,
8 Chaffers Mead, Ashted, KT21 1NG
T 01372 275402
E: regwake@aol.com

TREASURER: Ray Allen
13 Hibaldstow Road, Lincoln, Lincolnshire. LN6 3PX
T: 01522 683920
E: rayc.allen@btinternet.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: David H Smith
Chyreene Warra, Rosehill, Marazion, TR17 0HB
T 01736 719432
E: ses.dhs@hotmail.co.uk

WEBSITE DESIGNER:- David H Smith
Website:- www.yretired.co.uk

Members correspondence

YOUR CONTINUED PRAYERS PLEASE

Dear Colleagues - prayers are requested for dear friends and colleagues whose names I bring to your attention - those that are suffering with specific illnesses and ailments. Please also remember in your prayers, their families and carers - **Rodney Stone - Eddy Brady - Roy and Rosamund Weaver - Colin Mawby - Bob and Barbara Brunswick.**

Sam Johnston remains in regular contact with Roy through Rosamund, Roy's wife.

Dear Reg,
Both Beulah and I attended the 18th IFYR Conference at the comfortable YMCA Campsite Yellagiri, India. It was well attended. Around 25, including the spouses were there. We were looked after by the Tirupattur YMCA (where Frank Brown was) and the National Council.

At the opening session, I conveyed greetings from the Y's Retirees UK and IFYR UK Chapter.

The "Old Boys" (about 50) from the Tirupattur YMCA Hostel - who had assembled there for their reunion one afternoon, invited us all to join them for a short duration. They were very kind and generous. Each one of us was given a gift! Several secretaries including D.S Chinnadorai, Egbert Samraj and Thomas Thomas asked me to convey their greetings to those YMCA Secretaries known to them.

Thanks to you, David and Jim for all the news you share with me.

Best wishes and greetings from Beulah and me. **Rupert (George)**

Dear David
With meticulous planning we have just had a weekend in London and went to 2 Proms. It meant getting local carers for Janet and doing lots of wheel chairing but it was really worthwhile!

Also with lots of planning we go to North Norfolk on Sunday for the North Norfolk Music Festival.

I will try and send a newsy letter for the Newsletter later.

I sent the following to a number of friends – not sure if I sent to you – anyone interested in the so-called peace talks between Israel and Palestine should read Robert Fisk's article in the Independent 15th August.

Best wishes **Ron (Ingamells)**

YMCA Central Herts to merge with Watford YMCA

We're delighted to announce that we're to merge with Watford YMCA to become one of the largest charities in Hertfordshire.

By coming together we can create an even stronger organisation for the local communities that we serve. We have shared aims and objectives, much of our core work is mirrored and we are passionate about supporting and working with some of the most vulnerable people within our communities – so this a very positive step.

Newsletter

Just a word to express appreciation for being kept in touch after so many years in which the YMCA was such an important part of my life. Christina Comber lets me know what is happening with Denise Hatton importantly following Ian Green, himself going to the World Alliance several years after Nick Nightingale. I hope to be at this year's President's Day.

2013 has been busy. Almost as important as Serena's and my Diamond Wedding was the organisation of the 60th reunion of the 1953 Coronation Gold Staff Officers. We sound important but were only ushers. Out of 393 then on duty only 13 were fit to attend so we added twice as many from the Pages to Peers in the procession.

Finances were stretched when the Queen asked whether she and Prince Philip could attend and also requested a group photograph. What a privilege to host such a person.

Keep up the good work. Yours sincerely,

Jimmy Remnant Past President, YMCA England

Dear David,
Greetings from Ghana to you and all old colleagues and friends of British Y's Retired.

I am grateful to you for continues sharing news of Y's Retired in your country. Anytime I read this newsletter it brings me good memories of good old days. Thank you!

May I take this opportunity to kindly request you to convey my special well wishes to old colleagues. Ie; Rodney Stone, Eddy Brady, Roy Weaver, Colin and Bet Mawby, Bob and Barbara Brunswick.

It will interest you to know that I had the opportunity to interact with most of them ie; Rodney Stone, Colin Mawby (London Centre Y) and Brunswick.

My prayer is that our good God should protect and preserve them during their suffering with specific illness. His healing hand should be upon them in JESUS NAME!

Peace be with you dear friend David!

Jonathan Quayefio-Mexico.

Hi David,

Not sure if I have notified you of my change of e-mail address. I don't seem to have received any newsletters since the February one of this year. I am still very much in the land of the living and as busy as ever before. I would be grateful if you could forward any editions that I have missed.

Still heavily involved in the leadership of our six churches in our benefice, continue to go on Missions--recently returned from one in Cornwall, which you may have come across, also part of the resurrected Healing on the Streets team which goes out on the first Saturday of the month.

A new venture in Hereford is the formation of a Street Pastors team, we were commissioned on May 11th and have just won an award through a local newspaper. Myself & Maggie are part of this and the team is very well received by all that we encounter. A team is out every Saturday night between 10.30pm and 4.00am.

Yours in Christ

Mike Wilkinson

EUROPEAN FRIENDS

Dear John, dear friends,

Last Friday I spoke with Egon again and shared the best greetings and blessings from all of you.

His voice sounded strong and with a higher optimism. In fact, he literally asked me about more than 10 YMCA movements in Europe and their developments! He was also interested to know about the outcomes of the Festival, if there were news about our staff team and also how the new Executive Committee led by Ed Eggink is doing.

Those were good signs and clearly express how close he feels the YMCA and how many good memories he has about his service to our common movement! Egon is an outstanding friend for all of us and he keeps us in his thoughts.

I told him that he is constantly in our thoughts and prayers.

Please do not hesitate in continuing these messages around all our friends and everyone who has the privilege of having met this amazing human being, Egon.

**Best regards,
Juan Simoes Iglesias**

You will hold copies of John Knox and Juan Iglesia messages re. Egon.

I only add that I too have spoken with Egon and strongly endorse all that others have said. His continued interest in all matters YMCA and his enquiries re. his many friends I find remarkable.

He is anxious to extend greetings to all who know him. Egon and I go back a long way and have been buddies since his Nigeria sojourn and especially through the many European events shared.

His mastery of at least four languages puts most of us to shame!! Trusting all is well with the pair of you.
Best wishes. Reg.

ST IVES CORNWALL 2014

Dates:- 28 April - 2 May 2014

Prices (including Wednesday day trip)
£200.00 - with ensuite

£170.00 - non en-suite (all rooms include washbasin)

All rooms now have a TV.

Deposit of £40 per person by 12 October
(cheques made out to Margaret Libby - please)

When booking please indicate the sort of room you would prefer. Treloyan have kept the price virtually the same as last year but have reserved the superior rooms for their own use.

God bless - Margaret

Please Note :- our change of e-mail address which is now dandmi@hotmail.co.uk

GLYN EVANS MBE



Glyn passed away suddenly at home on 7th August 2013. Glyn's health had deteriorated over the years, he was diabetic and through this had very poor eyesight, walking difficulties and other related problems.

Glyn was brought up in Neath and helped at the local Youth Club. Bill Collier was the General Secretary there at that time and encouraged him to join the YMCA. Before going to the YMCA training course in London he worked at Cheltenham YM with Wilf Pearson. While on the course in 1964 Glyn met his wife Barbara and they married in 1966 in Liverpool her home town. Wilf and Myra Pearson were guests as Wilf was then at Liverpool YM. Robert McConkey was his Best Man and Wilby Beaumont a guest as they were all on the same course and Bill and Amy Collier came from Brighton YM.

Glyn worked for a few years at Hornsey YM under Stanley Turnbull then in 1968 moved to Penrith in the Lake District. There was no YM there as such, but the local authority funded a new purpose built Youth Centre and Glyn ran this and liaised with the Eden Valley Association of Youth Clubs. At this time he worked closely with Gordon Bessey The Director of Education who was in Carlisle. While in Penrith Stanley Charlesworth the Regional Secretary often called to their home together with his Assistant Malcolm Lawrence and sometimes with Vera his wife.

In 1973 Glyn moved to Swansea YM and became fully involved in its work and with the local community becoming a Magistrate, joining the Prison Board, Crime Prevention, Rotary and the local Rugby Club. Glyn had started taking groups of young people abroad whilst in Penrith, but in Swansea took groups to Russia then India to work with the poor. Glyn fell in love with India and worked so hard to raise money for various projects and became closely associated with Mother Theresa. With the help of the Overseas Development Agency, Glyn raised the necessary quarter of a million pounds to build a Vocational Training Centre for the Young People in a rural area outside of Calcutta. He also initiated an exchange of YM Secretary's in Calcutta with those in Wales, all of the Indians staying at his home, which proved to be very successful. We still have contact with all of them in India.

Unfortunately Swansea YM were going through financial problems and Glyn retired in 1998 having suffered a mild stroke, the first of several. Glyn and Barbara had three children and seven grandchildren and they both enjoyed travelling, gardening and spending time with their family. Glyn celebrated his 75th birthday in June and his sudden death has left the family with a massive void. He has left behind a legacy of love, compassion and humility. Glyn was awarded the MBE for his Overseas work and received The Paul Harris Fellowship from Rotary, but very few people knew of these awards as Glyn never sought the limelight for what he did.

BBBF GATHERING TUESDAY 1st OCTOBER 2013



Herewith a group photo of those who attended the YMCA BBBF Reunion at North Cadbury Court on Tuesday 1 October 2013:

Former staff at North Cadbury Court:

David Berkley, Warden 1958-60, Instructor from 1960-61 and wife Vivien Berkley, Matron 1958-60. Gardinal Lush (nee Reed), Secretary 1950-52 and husband Ted.

BBBF boys who trained at North Cadbury Court:

Phil Miller, 28 Dec 1950 to Feb 1951 and wife Sonia, John Mills, July to Sept 1951 and wife Ann, John Mason, Feb 1952 and wife Beryl, John White, Aug to Oct 1955 (not on photo), Mike Mortimer, April 1961.

Local Farmers who had BBBF boys on their farm:
Alan Bartlett (not on photo) and Keith Northover.

Organisers: Stephen and Hanna Milner (Y's Retired).

The Tapestry of North Cadbury Court (see photo) which was made by Mrs Merchant, the last Matron at North Cadbury Court, was originally given to Eddie Brady, last Assistant Warden who closed down North Cadbury Court in 1966.

Hanna and I collected the Tapestry from Eddie. Archie Montgomery, the owner of North Cadbury Court, thought the Tapestry was brilliant and was very enthusiastic for it to be hung up at the House. He also suggested to have a BBBF Reunion as soon as possible. So we arranged this first get-together for the North Cadbury Court BBBF Boys. The Tapestry (44" =112 cm x 27"=68.5cm) will officially be unveiled at next year's Reunion in May 2014.

We met at 11am with Coffee/Tea and biscuits on arrival. Conversations and recollections were shared immediately which went on to lunchtime.

We enjoyed an excellent lunch: Homemade Vegetable Soup. Ploughman's Lunch, 3 Montgomery Cheeses (Cheddar, Smoked Cheddar from their Friesian herd and a Cheese from their Jersey herd), Brie cheese, Ham, Eggs, Mixed Salad, Pickled Onions and a range of Pickles and Mustards, Coffee/Tea and fresh home-made bread.

Archie and Janet Montgomery joined us for Lunch and asked about the funding for the boys who were on the scheme. We also talked about the farmers and the farms where the boys used to work. Archie had to leave us after lunch as he was very busy with the potato harvest on his land.

After Lunch Archie's wife Janet showed us around the house and the former BBBF quarters. Many stories came to light, i.e. dormitory raids so that the dorm next door did not win the weekly prize on offer, sliding down the banisters etc.

Afterwards we had our photo taken in the large ballroom where Gardinal Lush played the Grand Piano including the popular BBBF Boys Hymns: When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound with refrain: When the roll is called up yonder and To the work, to the work! We are servants of God, let us follow the path that our Master has trod. (see photo of Gardinal with Ted standing behind).

A light Tea was provided before some of us departed, driving back to Cornwall and Devon. Eight of us enjoyed an Evening Meal at a nearby pub The Camelot, South Cadbury. We departed at 9pm. Phil and Sonia Miller and Hanna and I returned to North Cadbury Court for the night, the only two couples to be resident that night in the big Manor House, and retired to our superbly furnished rooms at North Cadbury Court (see photo). These rooms were the Montgomery family rooms and not the BBBF boys quarters!

Self-service breakfast greeted us in the morning with Cereal, Orange Juice, Tea, Coffee, Croissants, which we warmed up in the Aga oven, all kindly bought by Janet Montgomery from their local shop that morning. After breakfast Phil and Sonia left for home at Burnham-on-Sea. Hanna and I went over to the Church and looked through the Visitors Book from 2001 onwards. We came across some new names stating that they were in BBBF at North Cadbury Court! We will follow this up!

Our very grateful thanks go to Archie and Janet Montgomery who made this Reunion possible by opening the doors of North Cadbury Court to us and making us so welcome, also for providing the Morning Coffee, Lunch and Tea.

Arranging a National YMCA BBBF Reunion at North Cadbury Court in May 2014 was discussed. Farmers Weekly and other media outlets will be contacted. David Berkley has already contacted Radio Devon. I will make contact with our local papers, Radio stations, other papers, Newsquest and YMCA Media Department. Everyone had a most enjoyable and memorable time and we all look forward to next year.

North Cadbury Court is now an Event Centre for private functions, English Country House Holiday Home, Weddings and Corporate events. See website: northcadburycourt.com.

Stephen and Hanna Milner

Great admiration for the tenacity and dedication both Stephen and Hanna have given over recent years to ensure this period of YMCA work is not forgotten. Ed



DAVID H SMITH - HONOURED

Seven new Non-Residentiary Canons were admitted by Bishop Tim and installed by the Dean following a special Solemn Evensong in Truro Cathedral on 15 September. One of the seven was David Smith editor of Y's Retired of UK.

In his sermon, the Dean of Truro, the Very Reverend Roger Bush, compared and contrasted Greek mythology with the Christian faith and likened the seven new Canons to the seven stars of Pleiades.

"Our seven stars," he said, "through their several ministries, their witness and discipleship, have been placed in their particular firmaments to shed the light of God on all who are bathed in that light, and in so doing are showing us a way out of the narrow defensiveness that can so easily lock us in to a morbid fascination with decline and irrelevance.

"The Pleiades rise in the spring heralding the rebirth of nature after the harshness of winter," he continued. "Our seven sisters point to another spring-time, life-giving event, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the hope this brings to all creation. That is what we are celebrating and honouring this evening."

Mr David Hilary Smith FIPD is the County Ecumenical Missioner. Before retirement he spent his whole working life with the YMCA, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally and served latterly as Chief Executive of YMCA Cornwall. David is married to Susan and is a Local Worship Leader in the Penlee Cluster. He will occupy the Stall of St Bartholomew.

"I feel very honoured to have been invited by Bishop Tim to be a Lay Canon of Truro Cathedral. I hope that with God's help the position will allow me to share more fully, the existing impetus of ecumenicalism within Cornwall and the wider Unity of the Christian Church, for it is in prayer and working together we fulfill Christ's message- 'That they all may be one'."

A Homeless Man's Funeral

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Kentucky back country. As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and, being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions.

I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt bad and apologized to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man. And as I played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together.

When I finished I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low, my heart was full. As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen nothing' like that before and I've been putting in these septic tanks for twenty years."

Apparently I'm still lost...

RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

Don't delete this just because it looks weird. Believe it or not, you can read it.

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg.. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid Aoccdrnig to rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the first and last ltteer be in the rghit pclae.

The rset can be a taotl mses and you can still raed it wouthit a porbelm. This is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wohe. Amzanig huh?

An elderly gentleman...

Had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%

The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said, 'Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again.'

The gentleman replied, 'Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!'