

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

SEPTEMBER 2016

www.yretired.co.uk



GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Dear friends
and colleagues
greetings**

By way of a further introduction to this letter – how many of you have observed something of importance with this issue of the Newsletter? No doubt a few of you for as circulated the Newsletter is received bi-monthly and like ‘bills to be paid’ taken for granted! The enlightened among you will have noticed that it is the 50th issue of the Newsletter in its present form with David Smith as the Editor!

Over the many years since its inception, the Newsletter was published in March 1983 under the editorship of the late Geoffrey Peters followed by Reg Wake in 1998 and David Smith in 2008.

I have recently done a little research on the Newsletter and share with you that each Editor brought their own style to the format and distribution to members and friends of the Y's Retired of the UK. We have good reason to be indebted to each editor for this valuable service rendered in what is our main point of communication with members and friends.

From the date of the first publication copy was in ‘black and white’ until David with his skill in these matters introduced us all to what had now been developed through ‘Information Technology’ and the use of colour and photographic imagery evidenced by the fine photo in the top left-hand corner of the front page!!

This he has done to a very high standard establishing a Newsletter ‘second to none’ in ‘like for like’ publications by voluntary groups.

On behalf of members and friends of the Y's Retired of the UK I express to David and Sue (word master!) sincere congratulations in the production of the 50th edition of the Newsletter in its present format – a fine accomplishment.

It has continued to enhance the service rendered to all retired members and friends and contributed by way of ‘extracts’ in the World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees Newsletter – Bridges.

It is now pertinent for me to share that ‘we’ the committee would very much like to see more relevant articles from members not least ‘personal profiles’ sharing experiences of time spent with and after YMCA service together with other items of choice. Such would give a wider perspective to a well-established Newsletter.

On a sober note please inform David if and when you have knowledge of colleagues who had died or suffering from ill health in order that appropriate action may be taken at the earliest and published in the Newsletter. Suffice it to add that David does send this information out promptly so enabling members to pay respects as desired.

In closing this letter again but in the words so often offered by the elder statesman of the Y's Retired of the UK Committee (Reg Wake) in naval parlance – “WELL DONE THAT MAN”! Thanks David!

Continue to enjoy the summer before the winter storms begin! Keep as well as you are able and if so drawn make a contribution to the Newsletter – bear in mind the Editor has the last word!

Jim Lamb

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Front from left to right: Mary Hills, Majorie Sheppard, Raziya Christian, Hanna Milner, Maureen Johnston
 Rear left to right: Stephen Milner, Vic Hills, Blair Crawford, Chandu Christian, Derek Sheppard, Fred Daldry, Brian Rowcliffe, Geoff Havers.

The first photo at the top of this email is the Mayor of Bournemouth Cllr. Eddie Coope and below the group enjoy a tour of the Russell Cotes Museum and Art Gallery.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Bournemouth Cllr. Eddie Coope and Mrs. Janet Coope welcomed 13 Y's Retired members to Bournemouth on Wednesday June 29th on what was a very grim June day weather wise. Thankfully everyone enjoyed warm fellowship, cultural stimulation and excellent food. The day began with a tour of the Russell Cotes Museum, once home to Annie and Merton Russell Cotes who bequeathed their beautiful home and its content treasures to the citizens of Bournemouth.

After a most interesting tour the group transferred to the Miramar Hotel where Tolkien was once a welcome guest. Warm fellowship and stimulating conversation was enjoyed by all over a delicious 3 course lunch followed by coffee and mints. Everyone in attendance send warm greetings to the broader Y's Retired brethren and look forward to the next opportunity to get together.

Blair Crawford - Group Convenor



Y's Retired Scottish Group Meeting Thursday 28th April 2016

In Attendance:- Jim Thomson, Ted Milburn, Tom McPherson, Walter Crosby, Colin McCaulay, Keith McIntosh, Gilbert Dixon, Stewart McCrae and Keith Rennie

Apologies from:- John Naylor, Bob McConkey, John McMurray and Andrew Haig.



Our meeting followed our normal routine of visiting a different Scottish YMCA on each occasion. This time we visited Penicuik YMCA at their new modern premises at the invitation of Chief Executive Clair Gillies.

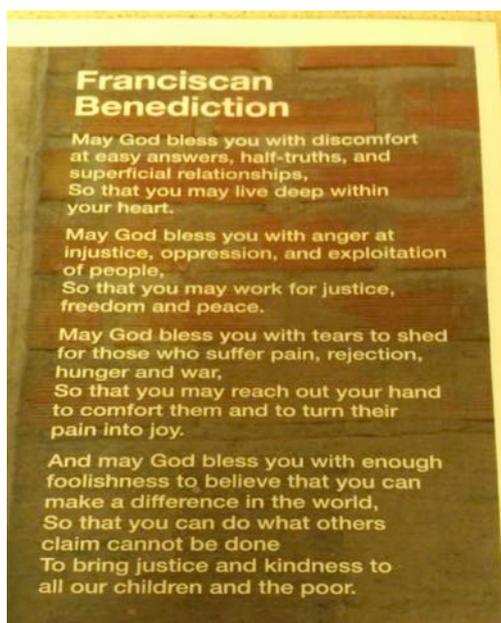
Our meeting started with our usual around the table update from each of us attending. This was followed by a report from Jim Thomson on the Europe YMCA Refugee meeting held in Holland.

We then had a tour of the premises and information on the excellent work that Penicuik is carrying out in the community from Clair Gillies and Keith McIntosh who is one of our group and former chairman of Penicuik YMCA.

After a very nice buffet lunch we had time for socialising which always results in good humour and fellowship. Before departing we agreed to hold our next meeting on the 12th October 2016 and ask Edinburgh YMCA if we could meet at their premises in Leith.

On leaving we had to dash to our cars in a blizzard of snow.

Kind regards - **Keith (Rennie)**



Founder's Day 2016



A few members of IFYR UK Chapter, joined the staff and residents at the YMCA Indian Student Hostel, London on June 6th, to observe the 172nd anniversary of our Movement.

Sundersingh Barnabas, General Secretary of ISH reminded us of the significant role of Sir George William in founding our organization, which is now serving young men and women all over the globe meeting the needs of the local community.

Chandu Christian outlined the great contribution of Mr K.T.Paul to the Indian Movement and whose vision helped to establish the YMCA Indian Student Hostel in London.

There was a time to reflect and share one another's experience with the YMCA. After a brief but fitting meeting we all had a fellowship lunch.

Rupert George
Convener, IFYR UK Chapter

It was the letter received from Peter Brookes (copy within) that started me thinking of how far apart many of us feel from the YMCA Movement which many of us served most of, if not all our working lives (and some are still serving in retirement) and how that bond that we have as YMCA Secretaries remains a valued part of who we are, through Y's Retired of UK. It would be good to know if this common sense of belonging was still engendered and growing and was evident within the YMCA in UK today.

However what I do read is the sad demise of APS and therefore the structural part it played for CEOs and all staff, the eradication of regional staff and Executive Regional Councils and those important monthly or bi monthly gatherings of staff we used to call Fraternals.

The result of this demise is the recognition that those leaving the Y or retiring from the Y, joining the Y's Retired of UK, will continue to diminish just as is happening within other national groups elsewhere in our YMCA world fraternity.

Our world, as we knew it, the fellowship and oneness within our YMCA work with colleagues, was tangible and valued. But now, it seems there is little or no contact between those in post and those retired. At least, in the USA the YMCA Hall of Fame in America ensures YMCA retired folk are not forgotten.

Ironic is it not, that when you look at the pictures within this newsletters it shows that those of Y's Retired, still welcome opportunities to meet and share and learn from each other. Happy memories

David (Smith (Editor)

Thank you David for sending the newsletter. I again thought of Sam Johnston, with whom I worked for several years when the Edinburgh YMCA was exchanging teens with US YMCAs, especially to Ohio. It was fun working with him as he had a great commitment to international understanding and an equally great sense of humor. I once nearly froze in his Edinburgh office which was barely heated by a very tiny heater during the cold damp winter. Sam was warm in his heavy tweed suit and sweater and he called my polyester pant suit summer clothes.

Sam led several groups himself, as did May Campbell. His wife wanted to travel too, so took a job in the Edinburgh Y lunch room, saved her money and made a trip to the States, staying a week with me and another in Ohio. As a thank you gift, she knit me a red Irish cable sweater which I still have. I would write her if I had her address or email.

Another memory is going with you during the World Council meeting to see the old housing in Hong Kong, where very old people were still living, in contrast to all those modern very high rises. That was an eye opener for me, though I had heard about the roof top day care centers run by the Y for refugees.

Thanks for the memories. Best wishes to you. **Bonnie Mairs**

New Address

Please excuse this means of information but there are a lot of people on my list! My last service at St. Mary's Buckden will be on 10th July and then I move on 14th. As many of you know I am moving to be with Ann (Polley) at the following address:-

5 Riverview Drive, Upton, Norfolk, NR13 6BH
Tel. 01493751919 Mobile 07592029826

The plan then is that we buy a flat in the centre of Norwich for when we want to be in the city for concerts, theatre etc etc – even football! Buckden has been a great place to live but the time has come and I shall also be nearer to most of my family.
Best wishes Ron

Revd. Ron Ingamells

Our precious children

If a child lives with criticism
he learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility
he learns to fight.

If a child lives with ridicule
he learns to be shy.

If a child lives with shame
he learns to feel guilty.

If a child lives with tolerance
He learns to be patient.

If a child lives with encouragement
he learns confidence.

If a child lives with praise
he learns to appreciate.

If a child lives with fairness
he learns justice.

If a child lives with security
he learns to have faith

If a child lives with approval
he learns to like himself

If a child lives with acceptance and friendship
he learns to find love in the world.

During the evening, 30th June 2016 across the UK, vigils were held to commemorate the start of the Battle of the Somme. YMCA England have submitted a tile to go into the memorial pathway in Manchester with the following dedication.

'Dedicated to Albert Mason who fought and was blinded in the Battle of the Somme. Albert was a resident at Central YMCA and, after the battle, was honoured by King George V.



In addition, we dedicate this tile to all those YMCA volunteers who provided support and sustenance to those fighting in the war, in particular, those who provided hot soup to the soldiers in the trenches during the Battle of the Somme.'

Dear David,

My wife, Olive, and I had a delightful visit to Bob and Iris Boyce on Saturday 9th July, to share with their family and friends a celebration to mark their Golden Wedding. Having got out of the habit of keeping in touch with Bob we have managed to visit Bradford three times in the last eighteen months and each of these visits seem to have been very welcome for Bob and Iris.

On one occasion I was accompanied by Paul Harper who was staying with us for Cricket reasons – what else! We had a really pleasant time, but what came over very strongly from Bob was his sense of isolation from former YMCA colleagues and friends. He has a good circle of church friends who were in attendance and they obviously mean a great deal to them both, but apart from the Y's Retired Newsletter there is no contact, other than me, with the YMCA.

I suppose the friendship between Bob and myself, and our wives, grew during the tenure of Alex Goodall as our Regional Secretary, when Associations, and their staff, spent a lot of time mixing together (Fraternal and Regional Events), which were the glue that held the region together. It cannot be that the lack of such events is good for the Region and certainly not good for the Movement.

That's my little moan, but if any colleague can spend a little time contacting someone like Bob, then please do.

Peter Brookes

Long retired but retaining a good memory.

CAMBRIDGE REUNION GROUP 6TH JULY 2016

Title "The Proof of the Pudding is in the Eating!"

The arrangements for the Annual Lunch went very well indeed. It was held again at the Girton Golf Club Restaurant, Cambridge and is best reported by those attending.

- "I so much enjoyed our lunchtime meeting and the opportunity that it gave for me to become reacquainted with former colleagues and friends."
- "It was a great day!"
- "We enjoyed meeting old colleagues and catching up with their news. We look forward to the next one!"
- "Lovely occasion - great camaraderie and fellowship".
- "Thank you for facilitating a very enjoyable occasion. It was great to meet with colleagues 'old and new' and jog some memories back to life".

It was good to have three new faces:- John Newton who shared his experiences with the YMCA in the five Continents and Rupert & Beulah George who brought greetings from Indian colleagues now retired.

Present were Jim Lamb, Ray Allen, Ron Ingamells, Vic & Mary Hills, Chandu & Raz Christian, John Newton, Reg Wake, Roger Hunt, Tony & Jenny Miles and Rupert & Beulah George.

As referred to above "The proof of the pudding was in the eating **and MEETING!**"
Jim Lamb



From left to right: John Newton, Jenny Miles, Beulah George, Reg Wake, Tony Miles, Raziya Christian, Chandu Christian, Jim Lamb, Mary Hills, Vic Hills, Roger Hunt, Ron Ingamells, Ray Allen and Rupert George.

YMCA SECRETARY WANTED

He must be talented, experienced, business-like, a good penman, spiritually minded, a fluent speaker, a good financier, account and debt collector.

He must be thoroughly competent to make the preliminary arrangements for all meetings, such as prayer meetings, evangelical services and bible classes, literary, educational, social and business meetings of the whole body and the various committees and if necessary to conduct them.

He must be capable of taking the whole superintendence of a reading room and library, the catering for a refreshment room and the general working of the establishment including the athletic and other clubs connected therewith.

Preference will be given to a good gymnast.

He must have good literary style, as all correspondence, reports and proof reading will be left entirely in his hands.

He must have robust health.

He must have a clear head and be a quick reader of character.

He must be generous and open-handed and at the same time authoritative, but not overbearing.

The hours are from 9am to 10.30pm and on Sunday from 2pm to 10pm, but he will be expected to attend church in the morning for his own soul's welfare.

The committee have pleasure in offering a salary of £75 per annum to a man possessing the above qualifications.

ALL APPLICATIONS WELCOME!!

Advertisement placed in a provincial newspaper in 1886 listing qualities expected from applicants for the post of YMCA Secretary, Norwich YMCA - One of John Drake's predecessors, Mr James May took the post - could he have been related to the husband of the new Prime Minister!!

UNIQUE TRAVEL EXPERIENCES FROM WORLD YMCA LAUNCHED.

Visit Cambodia, Romania, Sri Lanka, the Holy Land with YMCA Alternative Tourism.

World YMCA, together with local YMCAs, are pleased to invite you to join a new range of exciting tours especially prepared by local YMCAs, each providing a unique tourism experience.

Each tour is also a social enterprise that generates resources to support the Youth Empowerment initiatives of the local YMCA and World YMCA. These tours are not limited to just YMCA people and all are welcome to join.

The four tours now open for bookings are:

Cambodia	4-11 September, 2016
Romania	8-15 October, 2016
Sri Lanka	20-27 November, 2016
Holy Land	20-28 December, 2016

“These tours are unique and special. They combine the best of the local tourism highlights with an insight into the life-changing work of the local YMCAs” affirmed World YMCA Secretary General Johan Vilhelm Eltvik.

“I don’t think there is a better way to visit these great locations than to do it with the local YMCAs as your host and guides.”

“YMCA Alternative Tourism offers visitors the chance to experience the most impressive cultural diversities, real life of the people, and fascinating hospitality with the local YMCA. Visitors will experience the countries and the YMCA work in a very special way.”

“I encourage you to promote – and even to join one of these tours. Your participation in the tour also helps the work of the local YMCA.”

For enquiries or further information: yecatours@ymca.int



Cambodia : 4-11 September, 2016

Discover the colour, chaos and culinary delights of Cambodia with the local YMCA as your hosts and guides. Visit UNESCO World Heritage listed ancient ruins as well as local YMCA projects. See Cambodia come to life from Phnom Penh to Angkor Wat, through ruins of ancient civilisations, between quilted rice paddies and into traditional rural villages.



Romania: 8-15 October, 2016

Experience the essence of Romania, a dynamic country rich in history, arts and scenic beauty. From Southern Transylvania to the historic region of Maramures, this is one of the most beautiful countries in Europe.



Sri Lanka: 20-27 November, 2016

Experience the beautiful island nation of Sri Lanka on a unique YMCA adventure. Visit natural wonders and historical sites, enjoy the food and people of this jewel of Asia.



Holy Land: 20-28 December, 2016

Experience the history and excitement of the Holy Land in this unique YMCA Christmas tour. From Jerusalem to Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee and more, walk in the steps of Jesus and learn from interfaith speakers as you visit the major historical sites of the Christian world and Bible.

National YMCA Hall of Fame held recently in Kansas City

On Friday, July 15, 2016, a reception was held to welcome the Class of 2016 to the National YMCA Hall of Fame in Kansas City during weekend enshrinement ceremonies as part of the General Assembly of YMCAs.

A standing room only crowd congratulated the six individuals who were present of the class of 12, a mix of historical and contemporary volunteers and staff who have served the national and international YMCA movement.

The class includes Jesse N. Alexander, Jr., Harry Crowe Buck, Dr. David E. Epperson (represented by his wife Cecilia and two daughters Sharon & [Lia Epperson](#)), Dr. Lawrence A. Golding, Richard C. "Dick" Kautz, Ron Kinnamon (represented by his wife Sally), Adrian Lyon, Robert K. Masuda, Peter B. Post, John Wanamaker, Jerry Prado-Shaw, and Len Wilson.



Immediate Past
Chairman of WFYR

Jerry Prado Shaw

Honoured by YMCA
colleagues -
Len Wilson who has
served since retirement
as editor of Bridges,
a WFYR quarterly
worldwide
communication
newsletter



The outpouring of emotion, love, empathy and gratitude for these individuals was truly touching! On behalf of the [National YMCA Hall of Fame](#), we welcome, honour and celebrate these heroes of the YMCA movement for their selfless and devoted work to this great organization, founded in London, England in 1844 by a 22 year old draper, George Williams, a lifelong volunteer of the Y.

Harry Rock, Keeper of the Hall [#GA2016](#) [#LoveTheY](#)
[#NationalYMCAHallFame](#) [#HallOfHeroes](#)
[#CauseDrivenLeaders](#) [#BeCauseY](#) [#KansasCity](#)
[#GeneralAssemblyYMCAs](#) [#KeeperOfTheHall](#) Harry
Rock [David McMahon](#) [Springfield College](#) [YMCA](#)
[Professional Studies Program](#) [Springfield College](#)
[Springfield College Y-Club](#) [Springfield College Alumni](#)
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[Engagement](#) [National YMCA Hall of Fame](#) [Kautz Family](#)
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