



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



SEPTEMBER 2013

www.yretired.co.uk

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear colleagues and friends - greetings

We have all experienced a very warm but late summer wherever we live in the UK and rejoice in the late flowering of everything that grows. Whether we indulge in large/small gardens or simple pots, flowers and weeds have been in abundance. Daisy and dandelion lawns have been in profusion! It may be that we grow indifferent to our surroundings and become a little too blasé about the beauty of nature but is this also true with our neighbours, do we lose touch?

"When I needed a neighbour were you there, were you there." is the opening line to the chorus of a popular song/hymn. We might be in or near the 70 to 90 age group and conscious of losing loved ones whether family, colleagues or friends. On hearing such sad news we can be prompted to dwell on such words as, "If only", if only I had paid that visit, if only I had sent that letter, if only I had telephoned, if only I had had the time. It leads to a succession of thoughts for me to the words of the Abbe Pier who so graphically described the use of TIME in one of his poems ending with the words, "There is no more time!"

Loneliness is probably as great a problem as ill-health! It can cause illness easily beaten by genuine friendship offered unreservedly. During some 12 years now past it has been my privilege to have involvement with a group of elderly people as an older person myself in more recent years!

The socialising in pleasant surroundings enjoying lunch together has given them the opportunity to experience a remarkable depth of friendship and for some it had saved them from unbearable loneliness. The common denominator has proved to be that all have had a lifetime's experience indeed some 25 with an average age of say 80 equals 2,000 years! Of course there are those who just listen, those who talk too much, those who are somewhat demonstrative but the silver thread is really amongst the gold!! The dedicated 'helpers' let it be said are not just 'do gooders' but equally identified in age and ill health. *Have we time to be simply good neighbours?*

There are occasions when internationally we can meet retired colleagues from other countries and enjoy in depth socialising with a programme suiting all tastes. It is good to share again that the Y's Retired of the UK is a member of the World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees (WFYR).

Presently we will be represented by John Knox at an international 'gathering' of the WFYR at The YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado, from June 29th through July 5th 2014, The YMCA World Council will also be meeting at the same time. Whilst we do not have the kind of funds to support interested members to a great extent, it may be that any member interested in travelling to America would welcome the opportunity to attend at ones' own expense but with a small grant!

The cost we understand is some £400 plus travel and insurance expenses. If you are interested please contact our Executive Secretary Reg Wake at the earliest who will give further information. Reg has been some years ago now to Estes Park and speaks very highly indeed of the place!

Keep well and in good spirits.

Jim Lamb, President

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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 Weaver - Colin and Bet Mawby - Bob and Barbara Brunswick.**

Dear David,

Just received word from Bob McConkey in Belfast that GLYN EVANS died on 7th August. How Bob obtained news unclear. Informed that Glyn had heart attack hence need for post mortem and delayed notice.

I have no further info or even name of wife. There is always a possibility that we may hear from family but I think doubtful. Reg.

ST IVES CORNWALL 2014

Dear friends

At the Polperro Meet there was discussion about our time at Treloyhan next year so this early notice is to give you all the information we have.

Dates:- 28 April - 2 May 2014

Prices (including Wednesday day trip)
£200.00 - with ensuite
£170.00 - non en-suite (all rooms include washbasin)

I understand 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. Treloyhan have kept the price virtually the same as last year but have reserved the superior rooms for their own use.

Do hope you will all be able to join us again - it's always a really special time - and I look forward to hearing from you later in the year. God bless - Margaret

PS **Please note our change of e-mail address** which is now dandml@hotmail.co.uk

DISCOVERY VISIT TO ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

Thank you for your interest in seeing at first hand the challenges our YMCA colleagues on both sides of the border face on a daily basis.

The visit is fast moving and the geographically widespread programme is subject to change due to incidents, accidents, and the usual stuff when moving in and out of a country under military occupation.

We will tour/ visit/see etc

1. the old city of Jerusalem
2. Jericho YMCA Vocational Technical College
3. the oldest city in the world Jericho
4. a passing glimpse of the Dead Sea, the lowest landmass on Earth.
5. Ramallah YMCA and explore be amazed and proud of this YMCA.
6. Beit Sahour YMCA ,
7. The JAI programme
8. The programme for those children traumatised by Military Detention.
9. The work of Bethlehem Bible College
10. The incredible city centre Jerusalem International YMCA
11. A one day return trip to Galilee and Peniel YMCA , St Peters House

In Jerusalem accommodation is in twin rooms at HB all en suite. In Bethlehem it's twins en suite at BB. I am please to say all rates are significantly discounted.

The outcomes from the last visit are already apparent namely:

Derbyshire YMCA will explore technical and job training partnerships, staff exchanges, with East Jerusalem YMCA
Coventry YMCA should receive more enquires for it's Olive Picking programme in October in the West Bank.
Gaza YMCA will be able to up grade it's vital broadband connection to the world.
The drafting of protocols for out of country fund raising is being developed.
Invitation for both EJYMCA and JIYMCA staff to attend the UK extended.

Costs

Easy jet prices change daily and once booked amendments are costly.

Include in the suggested price, this is not a Thomson's tour, airfares, accommodation, three meals a day, and the big one, internal transport.

I suggest you budget for £599.99

Not included, water, bar drinks, site visits (very few), tips ie driver, church collections. Car Parking at Luton.

John Drake pays his own way. This is a mission not a business. If you want to know more then please ring me on 07850682683 or email, at ANYTIME and we can discuss.

If you want to extend the stay or be joined by others after we have finished then lets discuss and make it happen.

Peace be with you.
John (Drake)

BBBF NEWS

Hanna and I attended Peter Parfitt's Memorial Service at Morden College on Wednesday 5 June 2013. Hanna and I represented the YMCA at this service. It was a wonderful service full of Tributes, Readings, Hymns and Prayers. Christine Reed nee Parfitt sent me this photo which I thought you might like to add to the next Y Retired Newsletter.



Mr and Mrs Parfitt with Christine on the bonnet of the tractor surrounded by BBBF boys at Wilderwick House, East Grinstead.

I recently met Peter Barton, a former BBBF boy who was at Wilderwick at the time when Peter Parfitt was the warden there. Peter Barton manages a large chicken farm in Sussex. He writes in his email to us about Peter Parfitt: 'Sad to note the passing of a true gentleman, a life well lived'.

I will try to obtain the Eulogies that were read out at the service. There was a lot of information on Peter Parfitt's life, his two spells in farming in Africa with Christian Charities as well as his time in the YMCA.

On Thursday 6th June 2013 we attended the YMCA National Thanksgiving Event at St Giles-in-the-Field Church, London, and met John Drake, Ken Livingstone and Ken Montgomery there.

Programme is enclosed including the Brief History of the YMCA, which was very well written and presented by a young man, who is the Chair of the YMCA National Residents Forum (read copy on next page).

Unfortunately we were unable to attend the annual YMCA Lecture in the evening at King's Hall as we had to travel back home.

With best wishes –

Stephen and Hanna Milner

Dear David,

John (Newton) has been in UK "catching up" with family and friends, Extracts from recent message as of possible interest/usage?

He regrets unable to repeat attendance at reunion 'former hostel boys' at YMCA Boys' Division in Terupattur and IFYR Conference at YMCA camp site in the Yellagiri Hills scheduled for late August but is delighted that Rupert (George) and wife Beulah plan to attend.

John writes: "*This year, it is 50 years since I went out as an enthusiastic but quite naive volunteer to work with Frank C. Brown and Rupert George. I remember The Revd. AG Fraser (Sandy) and Ronnie Howe seeing me off!*"

"I'm planning to be back in Eastern Sri Lanka at the end of August to continue my involvement with the community there. It is now 11 years since I went there as a VSO volunteer to work with a local peace organisation and than of course I became involved in Tsunamis relief from December 2004. I suppose I can blame YMCA for the long term connection with India and Sri Lanka,

John speaks on his appreciation of contacts via N/L. From Reg Wake to Editor!

New part time staff appointed at World Alliance of YMCAs in Geneva

- July 30, 2013



Ian Green, until recently the National CEO of YMCA England, has been hired part time to work with the staff team in Geneva. He will work from his base in England and come to Geneva for staff consultations from time to time. We welcome Ian as a very experienced, resourceful and well connected member of the World Alliance staff team!

Ian has over 25 years of high profile leadership roles in the voluntary, health local government, housing and social care sector in executive and non-executive roles. He has been involved in YMCA for over twenty-five years and his most recent role was as Chief Executive of YMCA England. He also served a two-year term as Chair of the YMCA Urban Network.

A BRIEF YMCA HISTORY
by Nick Worsley, Chair,
YMCA National Residents Forum

Thine be the glory – a hymn made famous when it appeared in a YMCA hymnbook in 1904 – emphasising the long history and influence of the YMCA Movement.

It was 169 years ago today, 6th June 1844, that the Young Men's Christian Association was founded - just 2 miles east of here.

At that time, the British Empire dominated world industry and trade, and London was at the heart of that. But the fruits of Britain's and London's wealth were not enjoyed by all. The 1840s were known as The Hungry Forties – many children starved on the streets, or lived in workhouses; child prostitution was common.

It was into this context that Charles Dickens wrote, Scrooge had first appeared just months before. Some of Dickens' key themes were child poverty, rising inequality and high unemployment.

And it was into this world that the YMCA was born. Motivated by a concern for the moral welfare of young men in the city, and sparked by passionate Christian faith, George Williams and his friends established the first YMCA. Their objective was the 'improvement of the spiritual condition of the young men engaged in houses of business, by the formation of Bible classes, family and social prayer meetings, mutual improvement societies, or any other spiritual agency.'

George Williams was just 22 years old.

What started as a few young men meeting in some room in 19th century London is today the world's largest youth organisation, working in 119 countries, touching the lives of 58 million people.

So as we meet today, we remember and celebrate the work of George Williams, those who worked with him, and those who followed, continuing the legacy. We are part of that legacy.

**THE BIBLE -an epic
10 hour TV mini series**

that has broken all records for viewing in Australia, Canada, Portugal, Spain and the USA will be shown in England later this year. THE BIBLE features powerful performance, exotic locations and cutting edge visual effects to create a spectacular television series telling the big stories from Genesis to Revelation; from Noah's Ark, the Exodus and Daniel in the lion's den to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

The publicity for churches and Christian Associations will be created and supported by Damaris. These resources will be ideal for special schools with powerful video features.

Do look out for it and maybe get your church involved.

**THE SUMMER POLPERRO MEET –
Beryl Moorehead**

I was sitting there, minding my own business, never once did I anticipate being dive bombed by a raucous seagull intent on depositing his trademark on my shoulders, before by passing Hilary, and repeating the performance on her neighbour the other side! He was obviously marking a territory belonging exclusively to him!

And so to the other side of the harbour! The sun shone, the water sparkled and a few delicious moments of reminiscence were shared by David and his sister Joyce as to their childhood habitat. Gleaming white in the sunshine with another seagull on guard on the rooftop, two gentle residences, one appeared to be three storeys high with loads of windows to accommodate a grandmother with a brood of no less than nine children! The other family home of the offspring who produced family Libby junior!

David's father must have been an extremely clever man of the ilk of no less than Marconi I suspect, but very unassuming. He provided a service to the village erecting a mast to channel their first television signal ever. Alas he failed to make his fortune! What an idyllic place to spend your childhood.

To cap it all, it was Festival week in Polperro. A large marquee erected next to the Chapel provided a centre stage for drama, dance and song. Childhood voices rang out to the strains of 'Consider yourself, one of us!' the teacher energetically conducting the motley crew.

The Fishermen's Choir was programmed for later in the evening, but alas we had to go.

Local shops provided plenty of variety. Hilary discovered a craving for Bassetts Jellytots and aniseed balls and liquorice torpedoes titillated the palate served by a young lady who wore an artistic range of garments including fingerless mitts and a rose in her hair.

Another equally decorative young lady was discovered in a stone flagged interior somewhat resemblance of Aladdin's cave. Bric a brac, vintage garments and colourful glass bling items were tempting. Up some stairs was an artist's owlet and down some stairs a specialist clothing store.

The ladies of Polperro are still industrious knitting fishermen's Guernsey's, by hand.

The fish market must be a hive of activity at dawn. Sadly the Anglican Church has closed, as the members diminished to two remaining ladies, but a notice on the door of the Methodist Chapel seemed to proclaim an imminent resurrection of ecumenisms.

The Bishop of Truro scheduled to preach in the square, and the Reverend Robert Saunders (Methodist) and our very own Cornwall Ecumenical Officer, David Smith, was present and kindly obliged with the grace before lunch.

Thanks to the foresight of Margaret and Pearl we were provided with a sumptuous feast of salad and new potatoes washed down with fruit juice, tea and coffee – what more could the heart desire? The warmest of fellowship, and background music to boot. Des at the piano and the strains of Danny Boy – the pipes, the pipes are calling. I know the words and I enjoyed the sing-along.

Can you hear the pipes from your seat on the stalls in your corner of the woods? I hope so!

Dear Jim:

I hope you are doing well and enjoying the summer. Probably you already hear from our good friend John Knox about the upcoming WFYR Fifth World Conference in conjunction with the World Council, and the need to facilitate the participation of our colleagues from around the world.

We hope that we can count this time with a good participation from the UK.

Kindle let me know if you need additional information, as stated attached is the official letter for your kind consideration.

Warmly, Jerry

Dear Sir / Madam,

City of Exeter YMCA – 20th Anniversary Service of Thanksgiving and Open Day



This year commemorates a historic landmark in the long history of Exeter YMCA, which was founded in 1845 and was one of the very first YMCAs in the world. The milestone we are celebrating is the day our Residential Centre opened its doors 20 years ago in 1993. Since then, this centre has been providing safe supported accommodation for 31 homeless young people. We are marking this special occasion by holding a Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate twenty years of supporting vulnerable young people in Exeter.

We would be delighted if you could join us for this celebration service which will be held in Exeter Cathedral, commencing at 7pm on Tuesday, 24 September, with refreshments afterwards in the Chapter House.

Earlier on the same day, we will be holding an Open Day where there will be the opportunity to visit the St David's Hill hostel and hear a short presentation outlining the activities of our current projects, as well as the chance to be told some inspiring stories from young people who have been transformed by the work of the YMCA.

We are pleased to include invitations to both of these events taking place on 24 September and we would kindly ask you to RSVP for catering purposes.

We really hope that you are able to attend and look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,
Lisa

What if God had an answering machine? Have you ever wondered what it would be like if God decided to install voice mail?

Imagine praying, then hearing this:
"Thank you for calling My Father's House. Please select one of the following four options:-

press 1 for a request.
Press 2 for a thanksgiving.
Press 3 for complaints.
For all other inquiries, press 4."

So I press 1 and I hear: "We're sorry. Due to heavier than expected volume we are unable to make a connection with God; please try again later. Your business is important to us."

What if God used the familiar excuse: "All of the angels are helping other sinners right now. However, your prayer is very important to us and will be answered in the order it was received, so please stay on your knees."

Can you imagine getting these responses as you call God in prayer?

- "If you would like to speak to Gabriel, press 1
- For Michael, press 2,
- For a directory of other angels, press 3
- If you want to hear King David to sing a psalm for you, press 4.
- To find out if a loved one has been assigned to heaven press 5, enter his or her social security number, then press the pound key. If you get a negative response, try area code 666
- For reservations at My Father's House, simply press the letters J-O-H-N, followed by the numbers 3-1-6.
- For the answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth, or where Noah's Ark is...wait till you get here!"

"Our computers indicate that you had already prayed once today. Please hang up and try again tomorrow so that others may have a chance to get through.

"This office is closed from 5pm on Friday, all day Saturday and Sunday. Please pray again Monday after 9.30am. if you are in need of emergency assistance, contact your local vicar

Emergency number: when you leave home - Psalm 121.