



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

NOVEMBER 2016

www.yretired.co.uk



GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Dear friends
and colleagues
greetings**

If you are not aware as to how the YMCA is faring in 2016 let me share some thoughts! I have reason to believe the YMCA is thriving even blooming despite some of us older retirees saying from time to time "It's not like it used to be", "It has lost the verve and vigour", "Where is the Christian emphasis apparent – after all it is the base on which the YMCA was founded?"

On the latter I recall some 50 years ago a young reporter from the local 'paper' challenging me with the same question in similar terms, "Where is the 'C' in the YMCA?" Just a few of the varied comments I hear from time to time.

Where does one start to believe the YMCA is blooming? First visit the YMCA Manifesto published in 2015 by YMCA England. Read each page noting the two words held by a YMCA member (Romero aged 18) printed on a plaque, "We Believe" – this is on the cover page followed on the first page by the Chief Executive, Denise Hatton with the Foreword.

The first paragraph refers to the origins of the YMCA but without reference to it being a Christian Movement! I hasten to add that though it is a fact this is not a criticism in the context of today's society for the emphasis is on the WORK of the YMCA admirably illustrated on the 31 pages easy to read Manifesto.

The Manifesto does have references to, "At the heart of YMCA's beliefs" and "Christian values ..." Suffice it for me to add that the Manifesto is one of the best publications I have had the pleasure of reading but please let us acknowledge that but for the 'faith' of the Founders – young Christian men there would not be a Young Men's Christian Association which for 172 years has understood the only true reality in life is change. Origins cannot!

Where else can I suggest that the YMCA is 'blooming'? In contrast to the above I must draw attention to an experience worth recommending. Together with a close retired colleague we travelled to Sheffield to see the acclaimed YMCA play "The Soul in the Machine" the story of the life of Sir George Williams, founder of the YMCA.

Five actors, (four male and one female) enabled us within two hours to travel with them from the birth of George to his death 90 years later encompassing all the significant happenings in his life. Here there was no hesitancy in proclaiming loud and clear the origins of the YMCA as being born in prayer through the most difficult of Victorian 'times' and nailing their colours to the mast as Christians.

I highly recommend you take the time to visit the play whether Christian or not and allow the emphasis of the play to inspire you with the true story of a Christian gentleman.

Finally on the subject those of you who have email would receive from our Editor David Smith recently copy of the YMCA enews which gives news and here precis but three:

- The YMCA Southport and its vision to become one of the lead organisations for children and young people in the Borough.
- YMCA Burton has won a new contract to support rough sleepers across East Staffordshire.
- Recent Conference. YMCA's 'Unity Christian Mission Conference' met, to discuss the Paris Basis (1855) the Founding Document of the Global YMCA Movement. Report awaited.

The reference for those of you interested. web@ymca.org.uk
The Y's Retired of the UK is in good heart and as you will have noted from the September issue of the Newsletter the Reunions of the SW, SE, Cambridge and Scotland are well supported. New attendees welcome at all four. Times and dates published in the Newsletter.

Enjoy the seasons, keep in as good a health as growing older measures to each one of us and do not hesitate to contact any of the named Executive Committee as displayed should you wish to do so for whatever reason – such calls always welcome.

Warm regards,
Jim

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CORRESPONDENCE

50 Editions - wow. Thank you both for achieving the 50th edition of The Newsletter. I wonder how many hours of work that equates to? Do you have any idea? It was good to read of the various re-unions and meetings over the last couple of months. This seems to be a "productive" time of the year for contributions.

It was good to hear from Peter Brookes and be reminded of Bob Boyce. I have some vague recollections of times with them both at AOS (in those days) but they stirred happy memories of good times and lots of laughter with them both. I think it was Bob recounting his work at an AOS that influenced me in later YMCA life to understand the importance of older folk and their subtle influences on young people and their behaviours being part of the YMCA "mix".

Your own thoughts about the demise of Regional meetings, Fraternal, APS, etc. does make me wonder too, whether those who follow us into retirement will have the same sort of "Happy Memories" of fun and enjoyment with colleagues as we recall and occasionally recount.

Kind regards and congratulations with warm thanks to you both,

Vic (Hills)

Thank you for the 50th newsletter!

Last year I visited my old haunts of Nairobi YMCA, Shauri Moyo YMCA and Naivasha Camp YMCA where I worked as a VSO in 1967.

I was thrilled to see what great progress Kenya generally has made and how prosperous and vibrant without European staff these centres have become.

Also last year I note with sadness that Fairthorne Manor has closed down the golf course that Gaye and I made for 54 pence (9 bamboo canes @6p each) in 1972. So many golfers started their time there including at least two professionals.

I did offer to guide and advise on its management several times but received no answer each time. With a captive audience of 300 a week it should have been a goldmine for the YMCA but there we go.

By contrast I should report I have passed on the management of The Epping Golf Course to my son and daughter in law where we now have a big waiting list and full house almost every day. Maybe one day someone at Fairthorne will wake up to the great opportunity they have there. I'm here to help when they do!

On a happier note Gaye and I have located and renewed our friendship with Bonskeid House and Martinjohn Farnworth. Bonskeid is no longer owned by YMCA but still has many of the signs up in the grounds. It is being refurbished as a Hotel/conference centre.

Martinjohn once was the watersports director at Fairthorne Manor (C1974-1978) and now works for Dundee University.

Bonskeid House was also where Eric Hodgson, Mike Whitehouse, Dave Purnell and I spent many a happy evening whilst on the training course (led by Guru Wake) in Scotland (C1972).

I have also to report that Don Gillooly hard working and effective estate manager and Youth leader from Fairthorne manor for almost 40 years has had a serious illness but has come through the treatment with flying colours and is resuming his retirement almost where he left off. I'm sure all who remember him would wish him well.

Best wishes to all
Neil and Gaye Sjoberg.

Wow! Talk about a newsletter with an optimistic view of the future! Did I just receive in July, the September issue of the UK retiree newsletter? : >) Well done, David.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading it cover to cover. Thank you for your generous acknowledgment of our YMCA Hall of Fame in the USA. Jerry Prado Shaw and Len Wilson are both most deserving of their rightful place in YMCA history.

Norris

Norris D. Lineweaver
Chairman
World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees

Dear David and Sue

Congratulations on your 50th newsletter and for the sustained quality you have achieved.

At church this morning there was a baptism and the minister read 'Our Precious Children', which then was the subject of supper discussion with our grandchildren, who are staying with us. We could not remember the exact words but, hey presto, Y's Retired to the rescue – quite a coincidence.

I will explore up here in Scotland, the valid point you and Peter have made about the decline in YMCA identity among present secretaries and the isolation felt by retired colleagues.

I think it may not be quite the same as Scotland has a smaller YMCA Movement so that communication is easier, there is still a strong Christian core in the majority of our associations and our present National Secretary is from a YMCA family.

However, there is no need for complacency (there is always more that can be done) and I would like to test my view with some facts before anything is written and said publicly as is advised by your Franciscan benediction.

With warmest good wishes
God bless
John

Dear David:

Thank you very much for sharing another great issue of your Y's Retired Newsletter, as always it is good to hear the news from your part of the world, as well thank you very much for your nice comments and publication in relation to the YMCA Hall of Fame.

I have to confess that I am still overwhelmed by such an honor, as well as moved and very humbled for the kind words and generous hearts of so many good friends that participated in the nomination.

Joining the Hall of Fame, alongside so many admired and loved colleagues is a great honor, one that I am also sharing along with my family and countless colleagues in USA, Latin America, and from around the world who offered me their wisdom, expertise, counseling and permanent companionship during my wonderful YMCA journey. To all of them and to you, I owe my eternal gratitude.

Warmly and grateful, Jerry

**Originally printed on September 7, 2016
in the Hertfordshire Mercury.**

Cheal Philip Gordon - Passed away peacefully on 24th August 2016 aged 88 years. Husband of Hazel, father of Nick, Andrew and David he will be sadly missed by all his family. Funeral took place on Monday 19th September at Harwood Park Crematorium, Stevenage at 11.45am.

Donations in memory for Diabetes UK may be sent c/o Powell Funeral Service, 83 Railway Street, Hertford SG14 1RP. Tel: 01992 509611.

**Memories of Philip's writings in the
Ys Retired Newsletter.**

SEPT 2008 – PHILIP CHEAL WROTE:-

Philip Cheal mentions that in Happenings in the Y's Retired July N/letter - I had feared that the particular boat named Y's Retired was going to sink and with it a large slice of YMCA history. Health problems do not improve but I have clocked up many miles on one of my two scooters. Quite a number of people around here have one, and most mornings we greet each other on our rounds. I hope to be able to keep up my flow of rubbish to David and thence to the rest of you brothers and sisters.

JULY 2009

Philip Cheal reports "My health is quite good apart from the fact that I am quite unable to walk without the aid of two sticks. However I can well get out and about on my very trusty scooter." Typical of his cheery approach to life!

Contribution from Philip Cheal on Governmentium –

The Facts Lawrence Livermore Laboratories has discovered the heaviest element yet known to science. The new element, Governmentium (Gv) has one neutron, 25 assistant neutrons, 88 deputy neutrons, and 198 assistant deputy neutrons, giving it an atomic mass of 312.

These 312 particles are held together by forces called morons, which are surrounded by vast quantities of lepton-like particles called peons.

Since Governmentium has a normal half-life of 2-6 years; It does not decay, but instead undergoes a reorganisation in which a portion of the assistant neutrons and deputy neutrons exchange places.

In fact, Governmentium's mass will actually increase over time, since each reorganisation will cause more morons to become neutrons, forming isodopes.

This characteristic of moron promotion leads some scientists to believe that Governmentium is formed whenever morons reach a critical concentration. This hypothetical quantity is referred to as critical mass.

When catalysed with money, Governmentium becomes Administratium, an element that radiates just as much energy as Governmentium since it has half as many peons but twice as many morons.

May you rest in peace Philip, and rise in glory.

David



**Philip Gordon Cheal
21st February 1928 – 24th August 2016**

Attending funerals of colleagues and friends the services, often structured by families, reflect the personality of their loved ones. The variety is quite surprising – such was the case with our colleague Philip.

Attending Philip's funeral service whilst having a sense of sadness also vibrated with carefully chosen words of his three sons Nick, Andrew and David who together with instructions from their father to make the funeral a happy occasion gave way to a lasting experience of the man.

The 'coffin bearers' entered the Crematorium Chapel to the well-known music on TV when introducing a session of Cricket – Philip's favourite sport!

There followed the rousing hymn "Guide me, O thou great Redeemer" sung loudly at Philip's request "so that he too might hear it"!

Often the Eulogy can be quite solemn but each of the three sons spoke seriously with affection for their father using the three words inscribed in the YMCA logo – Body, Mind and Spirit (physical, mental and spiritual) giving credence to a father whose life was well lived with humour until his final days.

The service was led by Rev Alan Stewart recognising the wishes of the family who after the committal and blessing invited the congregation to remain standing and sing together Ken Dodd's song HAPPINESS! A happy farewell to a man loved and respected.

Jim Lamb

YMCA BBBF Reunion held on 9 July 2016 in Derby



Another YMCA BBBF Reunion was held on a wet and windy morning on Saturday 9 July 2016 at Park Hill, Egginton, Derby, which was a YMCA BBBF centre from 1939 to 1968. 30 people including family and friends of BBBF attended the morning session at Park Hill which is now owned and managed by Acorn Care and is a special educational school with one to one teaching, called Longdon Park School. Little change has been made to the house since the BBBF days with the exception of some essential Health and Safety requirements. Jonathan Foster, Head of School and two other members of staff made us very welcome. After coffee and biscuits on arrival we had a tour of the school when everybody was exchanging memories of their BBBF years spanning from 1943 to 1967. Nine of the former BBBF boys present actually trained at Park Hill. We were pleased that David Tipping was able to join us. He worked at Park Hill from 1961 to 1965, reminiscing and telling stories about his time as Assistant Warden there. The school is now trying to re-acquire a field that used to be part of Park Hill to use as a horticultural area. The Vicar of Egginton, The Revd Fiona Solman attended, as well as Alan Mosedale who still farms at the former BBBF centre at Mammerton Farms, Longford near Derby.

Jonathan Foster said that he would like to see the BBBF group visiting again as there was more to the YMCA BBBF scheme than he thought!. We all thanked him for his hospitality and we look forward to another visit sometime in the future. Jonathan was given a copy of Barbara Vessey's BBBF book.

The morning session of our Reunion ended with a prayer read by one of the participants, Bernhard (Bernie) Janes, himself a BBBF boy at Mammerton Farms in 1943:

The Way ahead

Be with us Lord, we pray, in all our doubts and fears
And bring us peace of mind to fade away our tears.
The promise of each dawn leads to a brighter day,
and helps our hopes to rise along life's future way.
If faith in Thee be strong, and trust is in Thy might,
Then fill us with Thy strength within Thy holy light.

After our visit at Park Hill we headed for Broomfield Hall Campus, part of Derby College, for lunch.

After a lovely Ploughman's and dessert we were given an informative talk and tour by the Assistant Farm Manager as we enjoyed a tractor & trailer ride around the College Farm seeing the rare breed cattle (British White cows) and sheep and visited the animal unit with rare breed pigs and chickens. Afterwards the free range eggs were selling well!

The Broomfield Hall Campus was of special interest to one of the former BBBF boys, Alec Hornsby, who travelled from Thirsk, North Yorkshire, to be with us. After his BBBF days at Mappleton in 1949 he attended the Yorkshire Institute of Agriculture (now known as Askham Bryan College) and later became a lecturer in Agriculture at Askham Bryan College after doing his teaching practice at Broomfield Hall 46 years ago!

Following our outdoor pursuits we enjoyed our well-deserved Tea or Coffee and Cake at Broomfield Hall Campus. We departed after Bernie Janes again stood up and ended the day with reading the following poem:

Friendship

Friendship buds and blossoms like summer in full dress,
Friendship brings a harvest of joy and happiness,
Friendship is sustaining through winter, wind and snow,
Friendship can't be hoarded; by being shared, it grows.

This year we received 47 apologies for various reasons (ill health, old age or too long distance to travel from the north or the south of the country or from abroad). We hope to see many former BBBF boys and staff and others connected with the BBBF (family members, relatives of BBBF boys and staff, lecturers and farmers) at our next Reunion, hopefully at North Cadbury Court in Somerset, in the Spring/Summer of 2017.

Stephen and Hanna Milner

PLEASE NOTE:-

As from September, the management address of all YMCA England's shops will be transferred to:-

Retail Administration, YMCA England
10-11 Charterhouse, London
EC1M 6EE

Pleased to report that from the articles about lack of knowledge about the activities of YMCA England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales mentioned in the September Y's Retired of UK newsletter, a response has been gained which now offers a regular positive insight into the work being achieved and very pleasing to observe it is, as some of our colleagues have commented below.

Dear David, (mid Sept)

Later this morning I will be speaking at a meeting of The Schiller Institute for Life Long Learning in Connecticut. One of the questions which is almost certain to arise is the position of the YMCA regarding the Middle East and in particular its policy towards the Palestine/Israeli conflict.

Your papers on this matter arrived two days ago and I will I feel justified in saying that the main positions stated in the document "Dismantling the Barriers" can be seen as synonymous to that of our Movement. So there!! Well done young man. Are you psychic or what!!
Kindest regards - Jim (Thomson)

Dear David,

I am just back from a month of gallivanting and am just off on another month (back 22 October), so I am now catching up on e-mails; I am particularly glad to have the wider current picture - many thanks for that,
Yours, Clyde (Binfield).

Thanks for this very useful link David: your persistence has borne fruit.
best wishes Derek (Sheppard)



Please pray for the families who have been affected by hurricane Matthew in Haiti, particularly those who are most vulnerable, children and the elderly.

Haiti was predicted to have a good harvest this year; however, up to 80% of crops have been destroyed in affected areas, as well as losing much live-stock. Please pray for those who have suffered great loss to their livelihoods, that they would be provided with all they need in the coming months.

Many roads and bridges have been destroyed, and telecommunications have been cut off in affected areas- please pray that the most vulnerable areas will be accessible soon, so that humanitarian support can reach where it is most needed.

Thank God for the local church, partners such as the YMCA and other networks on the ground; over 1500 churches and schools have opened their doors to provide shelter to vulnerable communities. Please pray that local churches continue to engage and mobilise together to respond to the huge needs arising in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew.

Pray for wisdom and discernment for the government and local leaders, as they decide how to respond in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew.



Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA)

The EAA is an international network of 100 churches and church-related organisations committed to campaigning together on common concerns. The World Alliance of YMCAs is founding member of the EAA, and remains active in EAA's work. As of 2009, the World Alliance of YMCAs is represented on the strategy group for EAA's Global Food Campaign, by José Pablo Prado Córdova of YMCA Guatemala.

Website: [Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance](http://www.ecumenicaladvocacyalliance.org)

The Vatican, Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity

The World Alliance has a close relationship with the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. Rev. Father Gosbert Byamungu, staff of the Council, is an observer of the World Alliance's Executive Committee.

For more information: www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/chrstuni/index.htm

World Council of Churches (WCC)

The WCC brings together 349 churches, denominations and church fellowships in more than 110 countries and territories throughout the world, representing over 560 million Christians. The World Alliance of YMCAs is a related member of the WCC and represented at its Central Committee.

Website: [World Council of Churches](http://www.wcc-coe.org)

The World Student Christian Federation (WSCF)

The World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) is a global federation of student Christian groups. WSCF is ecumenical, welcoming people from all Christian traditions and encouraging dialogue between students of different traditions.

The World Alliance of YMCAs and the WSCF have a shared history : J. R. Mott was the inspiration behind the founding of both international ecumenical organisations. Today there is an-going dialogue between the YMCA and WSCF at international level and in some of the regions, and many members of the Student Christian Movements go on to become YMCA leaders.

Website: [World Student Christian Federation](http://www.wscf.org)



Reverend Eltvik is the current Secretary General of the World Alliance of YMCAs, the largest and oldest youth movement in the world. He is also an Ordained priest with the Lutheran Church of Norway. Born in Karmøy, Norway in 1953 Reverend Eltvik is married with two daughters and three grandchildren

Reverend Eltvik has held career positions within the YMCA world movement for over 20 years holding various leadership and programme director roles, including Secretary General of YMCA Europe.

On behalf of YMCA Europe he led the re-establishment of 20 National YMCA Movements in Central and Eastern Europe after the fall of the Berlin wall.

He was also initiator of the YMCA Europe Youth Festivals in Prague, where more than 7500 young people from 50 countries met in both 2003 and 2008. Previously Reverend Eltvik has been involved in teaching and the Ministry, both in the military and The Church of Norway.

In addition to his professional career, Reverend Eltvik has held many volunteer positions including Board member of the National Association of Theologians.

Reverend Eltvik has been widely published and has been decorated in 2004 with the Cavalier Cross of the Polish Order of Merit from the State President of Poland.

In May 2011 he received an honorary doctorate from the Queens University of Charlotte, USA.

World Week of Prayer November 13-19, 2016 'Leaving no one behind'

The fact that we are all created equal in the image of God sets the tone for this year's YMCA/YWCA Week of Prayer.

The booklet is designed to help us reflect on our diversity and to discuss how we can better accept, include and celebrate individuals for their uniqueness. At the same time, it reminds us that just as we are all equal in God's eyes, we should be equal in each other's eyes.

Here are 7 days of reading and reflections, with stories and inspiration from the work of the YWCA and YMCA. Each day has questions for individual or group reflection and discussion. We encourage you to use and share it.

[Click here to download the full brochure in English](#)

Imagine all the ads into which you could effortlessly embed the Village People and their joyful jukebox of hits. Royal Navy careers. A multi-trade recruitment agency. Cheap flights to Cornwall. Instead, shouty property-slinger YOPA has gazumped everyone, tapping the hi-NRG troupe for a brand push that is presumably designed to sear the nebulous online estate agent into the brainpans of potential house sellers.

But in its haste to tickle our nostalgia glands, YOPA has overlooked one crucial detail: even decades after their heyday, the peacock provocateurs still radiate such giant discoball charisma that any and all marketing messages are burned away.

Instead, the campaign – featuring six macho men cohabiting in a British suburban home, fretting over moving – has become the best houseshare sitcom on TV. There are no cheap gags about “fixing up a semi”; it's just sweet, well-observed absurdity: the Young Ones with well-oiled guns, Fresh Meat with a disco beat, House Of Fools with a belt of tools. In fact, these ads are so great they will probably never last. But if anyone knows a place they can go when they're short on dough, it's these dudes.