



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

**SEPTEMBER 2017**

[www.yretired.co.uk](http://www.yretired.co.uk)



**GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT**



**Dear friends  
and colleagues  
greetings**

I am writing this letter whilst watching TV out of the corner of my eye celebrating the WW1 (1914-1918) tragedy experienced by the world at Passchendaele. Suffice it to share that though it happened 100 years ago at a time and place the majority of humankind have never visited it became all too familiar in July 2017 through the media! We can but recognise the absolute horror of war when brought into our 'living rooms' and say in retrospect that "here was the war to end all wars"

All of our members of the Y's Retired of the UK indeed of the World Fellowship of Retirees (WFYR) due to our age lived through WW2 and many experienced at first hand through military service the beastliness of involvement. Alas we never learn for there has continued to be available 'wars and rumours of war' ever since we have been able to access instant news from news outlets world-wide giving such information. It is history now that reveals how the YMCA reacted and served such an important role during those times. Modern technology alone is so advanced in 2017 that in the right hands it has the ability to become a clarion call for 'peace on earth' indeed on reflection in this modern world we can live with the premise that 'change is the only true reality'.

On a lighter but interesting note, I draw attention to an unparalleled action to be taken in Honolulu, one of the Hawaiian Islands and quote, "Honolulu has become the first major US City to ban pedestrians from looking at mobile phones, texting or using digital devices while crossing the road.

The measure, which will take effect in October, is aimed at reducing injuries and deaths from 'distracted walking'! First offenders caught gazing at devices, including laptops and digital cameras, face \$15 to \$35 (£11 - £26) fines!"

The above is a subject near to my heart for time and again I see the 'habit' abused by people young and old who should know better! When such is transferred to drivers of vehicles of all types, the whole nature of 'health and safety' shows an arrogance toward ones fellow men and women! I first recall viewing on TV many years ago the use of mobile 'phones on a busy street in Tokyo with countless people holding their hands to their ears – I could imagine my Grandmother saying, "Look at all those people with 'glue ears' – a medical condition!"

**The Appeal**

I have asked our Editor David if he would send out the Appeal Letter again should you wish to make a donation if you have not already done so. We have had a good response for which we are grateful!

I conclude with a sad but true story. One of our late colleague's wives, a realist on life and death matters, has been given four to eight months to live.

On learning of the medical opinion recently the family gathered together and made a decision for the whole family to take a Baltic Cruise together then given time to take a car/coach journey round Britain ending at the spouses favourite holiday destination the Isle of Skye in Scotland.

*I sought the persons' permission to share this with friends and colleagues. All things being equal health-wise they will have embarked on the cruise and returned by the time you receive this issue of the Newsletter.*

Keep in as good a health as you are able as the next season creeps upon us all!

Warm regards,

Jim Lamb  
President

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Dear David,

I too remember Rodney in his role at the National College, but my first contact was in 1961 when, after training, I was sent to Sheffield YMCA and found Rodney working in the Yorkshire Region as General Secretary at Halifax. This contact was fleeting as we tended to meet only at Fraternal (what happened to Fraternal?), so I did not get to know Rodney very well. In the fullness of time, and prompted by Rodney, I became an "Associate in-service training tutor" which was a wonderful title and really meant that I had to keep an eye on new members of staff in various Associations. Some interesting visits to Grimsby then followed. There were also visits to the National College where Rodney kept his eye on ME.

He was an easy man to work alongside and very likeable. I am pleased that Bob Boyce and I made an effort to visit Rodney in his care home, but I'm not sure he knew who we were, or perhaps he was just pleased to forget us.

Sorry I can't say more, but apart from Halifax we never worked in the same region.

Best wishes, Peter (Brookes)

Dear David,  
Thank you for alerting me to the sad news about Rodney Stone. I am about to write to his daughter - I cannot get to his funeral service because that day we are travelling home from Dorset. Rodney's is one of those names and faces and personalities, quintessentially YMCA, that I recall from years back.

With kindest regards, - Clyde Binfield.

### City YMCA's annual Whitecross Street Party



We love this photo from City YMCA's annual Whitecross Street Party –it's biggest yet - which took place last Saturday. Drawing an estimated 5,000 people, the event staged a vibrant showcase of performances from the local community and world-class artists.

Gillian Bowen, City YMCA's Chief Executive, said: "It was a pleasure to host the infamous Whitecross Street Party and for City YMCA London to bring a huge dose of community cheer to the local area.

"Seeing thousands of people of all races, ages, cultures and creeds out on the street together is what London is all about. In these challenging times City YMCA London was delighted to offer some fun and frivolity while raising awareness of a topical issue, the crime of homelessness."



Members present. Vic Hills, Mary Hills, Jane Wake, Reg Wake, Barbara Drake, Beulah George, John Drake, Jim Lamb, guest Jonathan Martin, Ray Allen, Roger Hunt, David Bedford, Rupert George.

### Cambridge Reunion 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017 – Report of the Annual Lunch held at Girton Golf Club Restaurant, Cambridge

It is always a pleasure to report on the annual Cambridge Reunion Lunch for the experience shared with retired colleagues is indeed a welcome interlude in life! The top game is always "Do you remember?" Such memories shared bring much joy as well as occasional sadness when respectful references are made to colleagues enduring serious health problems and by nature of an 'ageing' group, Y's Retired of the UK - loss of life! Rupert George brought the greetings of the Indian Retirees and Jim Lamb the apologies of regular members mainly for health reasons.

However this year for the first time since our inauguration we invited a speaker to share 'briefly' on what it was like to work for the YMCA in 2017. Our speaker was Jonathan Martin CEO of the Cambridge & Peterborough YMCA who delivered a lively dynamic talk on his personal experience as a YMCA Secretary and the exciting wider work of his responsibilities as a CEO.

He covered all aspects of a developing work from the amalgamation of Cambridge and Peterborough YMCAs and due to its success a major new amalgamation yet to be announced! Questions and answers which followed revealed a WOW sensation revealing in no uncertain terms that those 'oldies' present did not enjoy necessarily the best time to be a YMCA Secretary when they were in service!! Sincere applause for Jonathan's contribution was evident in enhancing the meeting.

The value of meeting even though only once a year was expressed post lunch as follows:-

- "Thought everything went extremely well – a very happy occasion!"
- "Lovely occasion – thanks!"
- "Lunch great value and good quality – setting beautiful!"
- "We thoroughly enjoyed meeting up with you all, reminiscing a little and enjoying the banter and the company!"
- "Very much worth the time, travel on a very hot day, collegueship at its best!"

General comment. Yes, good to have a speaker but not to diminish the value of the socialising time – we had the right balance!

All in all, an event much appreciated! - *Jim Lamb*

**173<sup>rd</sup> Founder's Day celebrations  
at the Indian YMCA, London**



Students, Secretaries/spouses, YMCA Trustees and a few invitees.



Secretaries/Spouses, YMCA Trustees past and present

The 173<sup>rd</sup> Founder's Day was observed on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at the YMCA Indian Student Hostel, London in great style. In addition to the students who reside at the hostel, several distinguished guests including Ch. RP Manikumar, National General Secretary of the Indian Movement were present.

Babu Markus Gomes, President of Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs was the Chief Guest. A few members of the IFYR UK Chapter along with their spouses too were present. The function was presided over by Lebi Philip Mathew, President, National Council of YMCAs of India. The significant role of Sir George William in the formation of our Movement as well as the contribution of the YMCA to the current generation world-wide were recalled.

The residents of the hostel provided a very fitting cultural programme. Their colourful costumes added to the enjoyment of all. The proceedings concluded with delicious Indian dinner at the Mahatma Gandhi Hall

**Y's Retired of UK Consultant - Rupert (George)**

**ST IVES HOLIDAY DATES FOR THE  
NEXT TWO YEARS**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018 and Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019  
Prices next year same as this year  
En-suite £214, Non en-suite £184.00. Deposits £40 per person by 20 October please, balance February 2018  
God bless – Margaret Libby

**YMCA England & Wales's email domain is changing**

When YMCAs in Wales affiliated to the National Council of YMCAs in 2015 our working name changed from YMCA England to YMCA England & Wales. Over this time, various steps have been taken to coordinate a seamless transition from one operational name to another. What will not have escaped many is that Wales is not reflected within our email addresses and therefore '@england.ymca.org.uk' is no longer fit for purpose.

In an effort to be more inclusive what has now changed is that all YMCA England & Wales staff email addresses will now end '@ymca.org.uk'. The changes came into effect from **4pm on Friday 28 July**.

The current email domain will remain as an alias address temporarily, so any emails that are sent to this address will still be received by the recipient.

**Belated Happy 91<sup>st</sup> Birthday to Derek Sheppard on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017**



Derek with wife Marjorie and with Felix, grandson at the Christchurch Priory concert in late July 2017



Great collage of Sam Lamour memories throughout the ages as posted by him on his facebook page.

Great pictures Sam!!



What joy it was to have a visit from Eric and Ruth Evans and Des and Pearl Willcox on a recent visit to Marazion. Another excellent excuse to have a real Cornish Cream tea.



Recently spotted on the TV was not the “Choughs” now breeding on the Lizard in healthy numbers, but our exceedingly handsome Treasurer and Lincolnshire pantomime actor Ray Allen, on an episode of that regular game show, “The Chase.” Not only was he on it but was part of the winning team.

Ray later the same week, appeared in the audience of the quiz show Mastermind. He continues having a “celebrity” impact wherever he goes!!



Lovely to welcome Rev Tony Malcolm, wife Joanna and daughter Hanna to Marazion, mid August, whilst they were holidaying near Launceston, Cornwall.



**RODNEY JAMES STONE**  
20<sup>th</sup> January 1928 – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2017

The life of our dear friend and colleague Rodney Stone, known to so many of us, was celebrated at Park Wood Crematorium, Elland on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 10.30am.

Tributes made about Rodney can be found elsewhere within this newsletter.

The service was conducted by Rev Terry Hepworth. Hymns sung and music played were:-

The Lord’s My Shepherd  
O Jesus I have promised  
Lord of all hopefulness

There were two readings – Psalm 121 and the reading from John 14 1-6

“Do not let your heart be troubled. You have put your trust in God, put your trust in Me also. There are many rooms in My Father’s house. If it were not so, I would have told you.

I am going away to make a place for you. After I go and make a place for you, I will come back and take you with Me. Then you may be where I am. You know where I am going and you know how to get there.”

Thomas said to Jesus, “Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way to get there?”

Jesus said, “I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one can go to the Father except by Me.

Music on exit was by Nat King Cole – ‘Unforgettable’.

In celebration of Rodney’s life, donations can still be made for the benefit of Christian Aid.