



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



**DECEMBER 2012**

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

**GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT**



**Dear colleagues and friends - greetings**

I very much hope that this issue of the Newsletter finds you in good spirits coping with all the exigencies that age can bring through good health or infirmity! No doubt you too like me suffer aches and pains through exercise (gardening!) where once a job would take one hour it now takes three! Such are minor problems compared with many of our colleagues and friends as the following example shows.

A recent letter 'out of the blue' from an associate of some 50 years ago who on picking up my name and address from a national newspaper article I had written wrote asking, "Are you the same Jim Lamb I knew 50 years ago?" brought me up with a jolt! "Yes" I meekly responded.

The lady concerned had with the help of my wife made dresses for a group of young people appearing at the MAYC (Methodist Association of Youth Clubs) Annual Concert at the Albert Hall, London. She was a Youth Worker, a lively person so my memory recalled but now in a Care Home, wheelchair bound, suffering from multiple ailments yet determined to complete a Master's degree commenced whilst in better health – such is the human spirit.

The above led me to muse over the 'consequences' following retirement by individuals in any group not least the Y's Retired of the UK where we experienced hierarchical structures. I called to mind George Orwell's classic 'Animal Farm' and the oft quoted words, "All men (*and women*) are born equal but some are more equal than others" a quote I have never felt at home with until I 'laid low the lie' by a similar quote yet so different, "We are all first among equals!" and realised this applied to all retirees including the Y's Retired of the UK and the WFYR.

We retirees all worked in various positions with the YMCA – retirement arrived – we joined the Y's Retired/WFYR-affiliated and suddenly we were all equal, not just that but FIRST among equals!! In other words we share in a fellowship of an organisation carrying on friendships cultivated over the years from our service with

the YMCA on equal terms.

An example! – Peter Brookes and Bob Boyce (What a pair!) recognising Rodney Stones ailment visited him at his Care Home in Halifax with the intention of taking him on a second visit for a drive through his beloved Yorkshire countryside ending up with his favourite 'sticky bun' in a local cafe! Mind you I suspect Rodney will do a 'runner' as they approach on the day if he knows he will have to pay!! This kind of action is pastoral care among friends! Let our Editor have your stories.

With the approaching AGM I am reminded to share with all members the opportunity for any of you to inform Reg Wake if you are interested in giving service through nomination to the Y's Retired of the UK committee or similar. – over to you.

It would be remiss of me if I did not wish you all a blessed Christmas and a very happy New Year. Have a wonderful time where able with family and friends, if alone, prayerful thoughts of those who care at this Holy time. Warm regards.

Jim Lamb

**RECENT NEWS ALERT**

**The English YMCA Movement will have an opportunity through the new-look Forum to say farewell to Ian Green and Tim Waldron, CEO and Chair of YMCA England respectively.**

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Hanna and I attended the wonderful service and unveiling of the YMCA Memorial at Alrewas. At the same time we met up with two former BBBF boys John Cargill and Frank Clark and their wives. They joined in on the Buffet Lunch at the last minute through the kindness of Sam Johnson.

The next day we went to Derby YMCA to meet the staff and another former BBBF boy, Peter Wells. I gave Derby YMCA a copy of the BBBF Book. In the evening we drove round the former BBBF Hostel at Park Hill. It is currently up for Letting, but it was last used by the NHS. The nearby Park Hill Cottages are still there.

From Derby we went to Newcastle to see Margaret Peebles, what a welcome we had as well as having Tea. Margaret loaned me some paper work including newspaper articles and photos of the "Demise of the YMCA BBBF Mappleton Camp" when the cliff fell in the sea which ended this BBBF centre.

We stayed the night at Middleborough and the next day we went to Redcar to meet George Spenceley who has written his long life story on North East CommuniGate including approx 23 pages of his time in BBBF in Chapter 3. He kindly gave us a book on his life.

On the way back home we stayed a night at Birmingham to look through Barbara Vessey's BBBF papers held in the YMCA Archives. I need to have another look through as there is some remarkable history that has been collected but not in the book.

A week later we went again to Derby for the 165th Anniversary Service of Derbyshire YMCA in Derby Cathedral. Peter Wells (BBBF) also attended. Tony Gratton led the Intercessions and included the BBBF. At the Reception that followed we met up with Tony Gratton, who I had not seen since 1980. Tony is Senior Housing Manager at Burton-on-Trent and would very much like to become a member of the Y's Retired when he retires next year. He has been in the YMCA quite a long time - not sure of his starting date, but he has worked in YMCA General Services as well as local Associations including Grimsby. After the service we drove through Egginton and stopped at East and West Mammerton Farms, both are now independently owned working farms.

We recently stayed with my niece at Greenwich. Hanna and I had arranged to see Peter Parfitt and have lunch with him at Morden College, Blackheath, and afterwards to talk about YMCA & BBBF. When we arrived we learned that Peter had a fall the previous night. When we saw him he was very apologetic and was quite shaken by what had happened. We only had a very short time together but it was very good to see him and we look forward to seeing him again. Wartime Farming (8 part series) is currently on BBC 2 at 8pm on Thursdays. The farm used for this documentary is Manor Farm and Country Park (Hampshire County Council) at Bursledon near Southampton and is open to the public. I had earlier been in contact with Dr Sue Dent, Visitors Services Manager there and on our way home from Blackheath we called in to have a look around and gave them a copy of the BBBF book.

North Cadbury Court is going to be a Conference Centre with Residential facilities and the website is partly set up and mentions that the YMCA used North Cadbury Court for the YMCA British Boys for British Farms Training Scheme. I am still trying to arrange a meeting with the two Montgomery brothers Archie and James who are both farming, making Montgomery cheese and growing potatoes.

Four new names have come to light and two people have contacted me and one made a comment about a Fordson tractor in "Wartime Farm" that was made after the war - what a keen eye for detail.

With best wishes - Stephen and Hanna

### URGENT MESSAGE FROM DAVID AND MARGARET LIBBY

#### ANNUAL Y's Retired Gathering

Most of our regular 20 members have now confirmed their intentions to be with us at Treloyhan (see page 3 of this newsletter) between Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2013 - and we have been able to confirm a good programme. But there is still room left.

The cost is £196 per person (Half Board, en-suite) which includes a full day tour of the villages on the Lizard Peninsula with coffee and morning devotions at Debigna Prayer Chapel.

We also have arranged a visit of the Quintessential Music Quintet and as some of you know, the lively humorous Rev Steve Wild, Chairman of the Methodist Church in Cornwall, is coming to talk about Methodist and ecumenical initiatives in the county and his recent trip to Ghana.

This wonderful relaxing five days at half board is offered at the astounding cost of £196 - A real opportunity for you all to come and join us. Anyone interested please contact either David or Margaret Libby on 01752 773040

Dear All,

With regret I have to report that on grounds of declining health, Colin Mawby has expressed his wish to retire as a member of Y's Retired committee with effect at the upcoming AGM.

More immediately, he asks to be relieved of his long time responsibility for co-ordination of our Inter-Com system. I can report active steps are being taken to identify and recruit a replacement for this task and I will keep you informed on outcome. Regards. Reg.

It is with some sadness but understanding that I have received the news and hasten to respond personally and as President of the Y's Retired of the UK.

On behalf of the committee and members I express deep appreciation for the service you have rendered whilst on the committee and recognise the wise counsel so freely given. We have had good reason to be grateful for the forthright contribution to matters of importance you have made not least in finance, lay membership and the Inter-com. There is little doubt that the Executive members have been alerted to matters giving you concern and affected the manner in which queries have been dealt with in the best **interests of all concerned**. For this service we the committee and members offer **our** sincere thanks. We hope that you will enjoy better health in the years ahead and that your membership will continue unabated.

Jim



Celebrating Vatican II: The Second Vatican Council was a sign that the Church was strong enough to ask itself some demanding questions about whether its culture and structures were adequate to the task of sharing the Gospel with the complex, often rebellious, always restless mind of the modern world, according to Archbishop Rowan Williams.

Speaking on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Council, he paid tribute to the Council's work which had helped the Church to recover the energy needed to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ effectively in our age. The Archbishop was in Rome to address the Synod of Bishops on the New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith.

"The Council was, in so many ways, a rediscovery of evangelistic concern and passion, focused not only on the renewal of the Church's own life but on its credibility in the world."

To be converted to the faith, said Archbishop Rowan, does not mean simply acquiring a new set of beliefs, but becoming a new person, a person in communion with God and others through Jesus Christ.

"Evangelization, old or new, must be rooted in a profound confidence that we have a distinctive human destiny to show and share with the world."

Exploring the importance of contemplation for evangelism - "wherever initiatives are being taken to reach out in new ways to a lapsed Christian or post-Christian public, there should be serious work done on how such outreach can be grounded in some ecumenically shared contemplative practice" -

Archbishop Rowan spoke of the work of communities such as Bose, Taizé and the World Community for Christian Meditation as well as "the great spiritual networks, Sant' Egidio, the Focalare and Comunione e Liberazione".

"Evangelisation is always an overflow of something else – the disciple's journey to maturity in Christ, a journey not organised by the ambitious ego but the result of the prompting and drawing of the Spirit in us."

In our considerations of how we are once again to make the Gospel of Christ compellingly attractive to men and women of our age, Archbishop Rowan concluded, I hope we never lose sight of what makes it compelling to ourselves, to each one of us in our diverse ministries.



Treloyhan Manor is a stunning Victorian building located in Carbis Bay St Ives, set in acres of its own land surrounded with lavish gardens and with private car parking. Originally a Methodist run establishment but now an open Christian hotel. The hotels General Manager is Kieran Lynch who is now spending his 23<sup>rd</sup> year in Cornwall, and has managed Treloyhan successfully over the last 7 years.

Kieran was quoted saying "I believe that it has been our ethical Christian way of operating that has stood our company in such good stead in what is a very competitive Cornish tourism marketplace.

We are one of 5 hotels within the Christian Guild Ltd group, and we will be celebrating our companies 100 year anniversary next year, we have continued trading well in a less than stable economy, with our forward bookings for 2013 also looking good.

Our recent industry achievements have included the prestigious national Investors In People Award, Gold CHEFS Food Certificate qualifications, and affiliation within the St Ives Hotel & Guest House Association."

Treloyhan offers an added value hotel experience compared to most other hotels within the region. Which includes a goodwill fund (where the company pays the total holiday costs for people in need) hosts, and reduced tariff rates for clergy and lay people within church parishes, which assists those who support and help their local churches, funded from within our company which makes us quite unique for a corporate Ltd company.

The hotel caters for holidays, short breaks, church groups, businesses conferences and has hosted numerous weddings over the last few years with up to around 100 guests in attendance.

Treloyhan's full company details can be found at:- [www.christianguild.co.uk](http://www.christianguild.co.uk)



### WE CONTINUE TO REMEMBER COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS IN OUR PRAYERS

Rosamund and Roy Weaver are both now home. Roy still has ongoing treatment to endure.

Others always in our prayers are Janet Ingamells, Bill Ayers from Bath, Eve Lamb, Gareth Williams (Ex APS Treasurer) and Rodney Stone.

#### **If there are others, do please let me know (Ed)**

Message from Maggie - Rodney Stone's youngest daughter via Derek Sheppard - Dad moved into a residential care home at the end of August as his dementia was worsening and he was unable to cope anymore at home even with carers going in 4 times daily. He has had a few medical problems over the last couple of years, food poisoning March 2009, TIAs August 2009 and then a UTI in December 2010 all resulting in a spell in hospital. Each time taking a knock on his dementia.

He realised he could no longer manage and at home and was in full agreement into moving into the home. It is purpose built care home specialising in dementia care. His general health and well being is much improved and the staff are wonderful. Lee Mount Baptist have helped dad enormously and they have a rota for picking up for Sunday services am and pm.

He likes to get out as much as possible and the family take him out for drives around the moors ending with a cup of tea and bun somewhere.

His memory varies but I have been printing off the emails and taking them to him and he loves to hear any news.

If you want, please write to him at the home saying who you are etc or e mail here and we will pass it on.

Dad's address is, Savile Park Care Home, Room 31, Mellor Street Halifax, HX1 3AE. My details are, Maggie Metcalfe, 15 Caldercroft, Dewsbury Road, Elland, HX5 9AY Tel: 01422 256015

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I have just returned from the Thanksgiving service for the life and work of Bob. The church at Seal was packed with kinsfolk and representatives of the several organisations/causes supported by Bob and Dawn. The address was fulsome in tribute to his long YMCA career and especially his local involvement. Mention was made of his forthright manner familiar to many YM colleagues! I had opportunity to speak with Dawn (who I think I had not met before but have from time to time exchanged correspondence). I had not realized she and Bob first met while they were both in British Guyana.

It gave much personal pleasure to see Ted Ewing (a particular buddy of Bob) and surprise surprise, also Bill Sargison and Miriam. It was Bob who introduce Bill to YMCA while both were in British Guyana. Bill appeared in good form. I did mention that we have heard absolutely nothing of or about him almost since he retired!! Point taken. Bill & Miriam had made a 6am start from Cheltenham so much kudos.

Seal is about one hour drive from here, mostly motor way but a touch confusing - once into the byeways. We survive! All good wishes. Reg.

### TRIBUTES TO BOB YOUNG



Bob's link with the YMCA began as the leader of a very successful youth club at Kingston-on-Thames when Percy Waiting was the Secretary in the 1950s.

He then joined the full-time staff of the movement for over 30 years from his first appointment at Northampton YMCA to his final work as General Secretary of Walthamstow YMCA.

He served in a variety of Associations including Stockwell, Halifax, Hoylake, Hornsea and a period of three years as Fraternal Secretary in Guyana.

Bob brought a strong sense of duty and commitment to the movement: he was a traditionalist with a clear sense of the priorities which should be our guide along with a real desire to serve the young.

He and Dawn were married in 1981 and they shared complementary partnership during which time Bob's care of and for Dawn enabled her to make a remarkable recovery from a severe illness and he learned to cook!!

Bob was a faithful member of the church, of liberal instincts, he and Dawn were active in many voluntary services in Seal, Nr Sevenoaks and both were keen workers of the Children's Society, notably in the production of recycled greetings and Christmas cards.

Latterly, Bob was troubled by severe arthritis which hampered his movements but he continued to drive under Dawn's usually gentle guidance to the end.

Kindly contributed by **Ted (Ewing)**

I am so sorry to hear that Bob Young has died. He came to Wilderwick House whilst I was there about 1951 as an Assistant Warden. And I remember seeing him at Skegness at the BSA gathering when I was one of the 'Recording Angels' and we watched the famous cricket match which Walter was part of - fun and happy times!!

Kind regards,  
**Jean (Saunders)**

Dear David, My contacts with Bob goes back to 1960 when he was in Hoylake and I in Liverpool. He was a regular guest to our flat in YMCA Mount Pleasant. At that time he lived alone and he, I believe very much appreciated our friendship and the involvement of our very young family.

We were with him during his good and upsetting times. For many years the YMCA was an important part of his life. A long time after Hoylake Maureen and I were delighted when he informed us he was getting married to Dawn. He had been in touch with me recently in connection with the YMCA memorial **Sam (Johnston)**

**Richmond YMCA: An unexpected welcome at the Palace!**



An interesting story:  
A member of the Household Cavalry who winked at Ken Allinson as he left Buckingham Palace after receiving his MBE from the Queen, turned out to be someone who walked into Richmond YMCA needing help and support 16 years ago.

A great demonstration of the value of the work of the YMCA that was being recognised that day.

Photograph shows Carol Treweek, Household Cavalryman Kris and Ken Allison MBE. Hope you can use it Regards - Gillian Howells

Here I am in Kenya visiting Nairobi YMCA (where I stayed in my old room) Shauri Moyo YMCA where I used to work and stayed at Naivasha YMCA where I worked one day or more per month. Very encouraging -report when I return.

Regarding the report in the 60s - try Eric Hodgson he may well know - he worked in Barnsley YMCA in the mid 60s .I only started with YMCA Kenya in 1967. Best wishes **Neil (Sjoberg)**

David

I am delighted to say that I am contact with Les Yeates who was Warden and his late wife was Matron at Park Hill. Les Yeates had his 91st Birthday on 31 October 2012. - **Stephen (Milner)**

My Dear Friends around the world,  
I can tell that the X-mas time has now begun in Sweden. Like the last 4 years (this is 5th) I have the happy position to meet all infant children in Stockholm and listen to their wishes about X-mas presents.

Oh my God - how much they would like to have. The place I spend my time at is the largest, most luxury and nice store in the city centre.

Yesterday was the first Sunday and now its weekends and the last 14th days every day until I will fall asleep at Xmas night. Hope you all feel fine and have a nice start of this week and December when it comes. I will supply you with a Santa photo later....

Lars Rooth

**Hello, David,  
Greetings from Oregon.**

**I've uploaded some 'photos to the album on Y's Retired web page. I didn't add captions and wondered if you or someone else might do that? I can't recall which year(s) are represented but that maybe less important than the occasions recorded. Perhaps names might be put to some of the pics?**

Some colleagues will enjoy seeing Norman Talbot and Ralph and Agnes Scargill. Pete Brooks was always competitive, though not so much as Sam Johnson. The Friday night concert at the AOS produced hilarious moments, all of which I harbour as most treasured memories. You can tell Paul that I've often wondered why he didn't wear that uniform all the time.....joking of course. Good picture of Tony....or perhaps not.

Also have attached a memory of AOS which you may or may not think to include in the newsletter. **(will be featured in the March 2013 edition..Ed)** I don't mind either way because I had great fun recalling the 'incident.' Paul Harper will be able to authenticate my 'story' even though I may have taken a little license!

Speaking of the Newsletter, which I enjoy very much, it would save money if you removed me from the mailing list. I can access it on the web page, which incidentally, is very good. I had twenty seven years with the YM, man and boy, and it is great to read about and see photos of my 'old' colleagues.

I continue working part-time as a consultant for hospice. I now have twenty three years of hospice work 'under my belt' and, like the YM have enjoyed every moment. Both movements founded in the UK, have added a dimension to my life which I never would have imagined. Having commenced my full-time working life four days after my fifteenth birthday as an apprentice fitter, little might I have guessed how things would change. I began working for the YM on December 6th 1960 as a 'supernumerary' at Gateshead YMCA. Roy Butterfield was the General Secretary. Peter Cody was assistant Regional Secretary and he regularly dropped in to see how I was doing - a great man. In 1961 I went to work with Wilf Pearson at Cheltenham, just for a few months, then went onto the training course in October that year.

Bill Leyland appointed me as Youth Secretary at St Helens YMCA in Oct. 1962. Starting salary (I still have the letter offering me the position) was £680 a year less £400 for room and board.....staggering! OK, that's enough rambling, I've 'gone on' more than intended.

Best wishes to you and yours. - Denis Carnaby

**MEMBERS - DO VISIT THE WEBSITE AND SEE FOR YOURSELVES**

## Correspondence from the membership

This was a difficult conversation but I have recorded it as best I could (Ed) :-

Quick phone call back from Peter Brookes confirms that he did in fact meet up with Bob Boyce having not been in touch with each other for over nine years and together they took time-out to visit Rodney (Stone) who sadly is suffering from Dementia - up onto the moors for a drive and sticky bun.

However it soon became apparent that after a short time Rodney became very tired so they felt it best to return him back to the Retirement Home.

A lady waiting just inside the door, assured Peter and Bob that the fish in the fish tank were not hers, and they departed without Rodney receiving his sticky bun.

However, the next time they meet Bob promises to bring some money with him for a sticky bun and Peter, a couple of goldfish.

Dear David,  
Thought this was appropriate - given all our ages!!!!!!  
Peter (Brookes).

### **KEEP ON LAUGHING! - IT'S THE BEST CURE**

During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine whether or not an older person should be put in an old people's home?"

"Well," he said, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the person to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No" he said. "A normal person would pull the plug out. Do you want a bed near the window?"

### **ARE YOU GOING TO PASS THIS ON OR DO YOU WANT THE BED NEXT TO MINE? :)**

Hi David – just to say thanks for posting the question with the Y's retired people about this. It was really helpful and also good to catch up with a few folks!

Val Wallis kindly lent us her copy of the report from her loft and we have managed to get it copied for the chap from Clothworkers who was suitably impressed and very pleased with our efforts.

Could you possibly pass on my thanks to everyone who responded to help? I really appreciated it. It's heartening to know that there's such a rich vein of YMCA knowledge at our fingertips!

Best wishes - Christine PS- Sir Francis Portal who was Master of the Clothworkers Company and Chair of the Commission was related to George Williams through his mother's side and 2 of his sons are now members of the current Court of Clothworkers.

**Christine Douglas - Head of Trust and Statutory Fundraising** Direct line : 020 7186 9537 [www.ymca.org.uk](http://www.ymca.org.uk)

### **IN THIS PLACE HE IS HONOURED.**



In September, thanks to a Government sponsored scheme, I had the privilege of returning to India and Bangladesh (formerly East Bengal) which I knew during the second world war. My main intention was to visit the Commonwealth War Graves Cemeteries at Chittagong and Delhi. Because it was impossible to enter the Arakan coastal region of Burma, the furthest east I could travel was to Chittagong itself - which was railhead then and still is. Seventy years ago, it was notorious as a malarial swamp surrounded by miles of jungle and flooded flatland.

Because Chittagong has expanded enormously in recent years, the cemetery, which would have been on the fringe of the city has been bypassed by urban growth but still remains a quiet and beautiful place. I could not help but notice that it is also the place where young Moslem boys and girls gather under the shade of trees - each in their separate group. They were not really communicating but subtly letting each other know that each had been seen by the other.

The cemetery itself is a memorial to the men of the Commonwealth who were killed in action or died of disease in the Arakan sector during the Burma campaign.

Here, on the bronze tablets marking each grave, are badges of the Corps and Regiments of the British and Indian Armies: the Royal Air Force and the Royal and Indian Navies. The Royal Scots, The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, The Berkshires, The Rajputana Rifles, The Frontier Force Rifles the Gurkhas, the Gunners and the Royal Indian Army Service Corps - my own "mob". Here too, lie the men who came from West Africa and who died in the battle for the Kaledon Valley. men from the Gold Coast Regiment.

The significance was that as they had served together, so they lay together whether they were black, brown or white, whether Christian, Moslem, Hindu or Jew. In this place they were not divided.

And with them lay one whose memorial tablet was most moving of all. Under the badge of the RIASC were the words, Sweeper- then his name- then a date. And underneath the words, "In this place he is honoured". He was a Sweeper, an untouchable, the second world war epitome of Kipling's Gunga Din and someone, somewhere, recognised that he too was fully deserving of his place among the honoured dead.

**Jim Thomson**