



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



SEPTEMBER 2008



Greetings from the President

First may I express the honour and pleasure it gives me to be elected by you all as President of the Y's Retired of the UK. This I will endeavour to do giving service above self in what is a changing world in context of both individuals and the Y's Retired of the UK.

If there can be two 'firsts' then this is the second! It is incumbent upon me as President to speak on your behalf in expressing to both Reg Wake and Geoffrey Harris deep appreciation for all that they have achieved in the past twenty years in holding together the Y's Retired of the UK now acknowledging in consultation with other members the time for renewal had arrived. They have performed a sterling service to those retiring from employment with the YMCA Movement in the UK, we are indeed indebted to them. Fortunately we lose neither from the executive staff as Reg continues as Honorary Secretary handing over the portfolio of Editor of the Newsletter to David and Sue Smith and Geoffrey continues as Honorary Treasurer. It is relevant to record here that the highest honour that YMCA England can confer on laymen is the Order of the Red Triangle, this was presented to each of them on 5th July 2008 at the National Board meeting by the newly elected chair Tim Waldron.

There is a true story told of a young soldier passing through Doncaster Railway Station being challenged by two burly Military Policemen.

He was asked three questions, "Where do you come from?", "What are you doing here?" and "Where are you going?" Apt questions for each retiree and the Y's Retired of the UK! Of course we can easily respond personally to the first two questions but the third causes hesitation and taking of stock.

The personal nature of the question is just that – personal! On the other hand we are members of a fine organisation each one of us the 'first among equals' as shared in the frank, honest articles in the December 07 Newsletter by Reg and Geoffrey when they gave warning of the imminent closure of the Y's Retired of the UK! I will not dwell on the outcome for it is recent history but emphasise that each one of us must 'OWN' the Y's Retired of the UK for it to have a meaningful future. How you may ask?

Support.

- Providing interesting 'material' for the Newsletter the means by which we communicate with each other and the wider YMCA world. To this end our new Editor David Smith has good ideas supported by some suggestions!
- Pay our annual subscriptions regularly at a higher rate than the present £2.00 giving opportunity for development. Your new committee at their first meeting 4th September 08 have it on their agenda! A report will be made in the next Newsletter.
- Support our main Charity Secours Speciaux and help retired colleagues world-wide who have no YMCA pensions and most limited 'State' pensions if at all. A few years ago we raised over £7,000 for this most worthy cause.
- Encourage where feasible area meetings of one day or more with the primary purpose of socialising.

A few suggestions!

Thank you one and all, retired colleagues and spouses for your ongoing support as we look to the future not through 'rose coloured spectacles' but with a 'spring in our step'!

Warm regards, Jim



The Team GB did so well at the Chinese Olympics !!!!

We have our own Gold Medal holders

Reg Wake and Geoffrey Harris being presented with the Gold Order of the Red Triangle by the new Chairman of the YMCA National Board, Mr Tim Waldron

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A DURHAM ADVENTURE BY

BRIAN BARRATT

As reported in the last edition of the Newsletter I was a member of the 197/58 Training Course for YMCA Secretaries at Durham. The principal was **RAYMOND HALL** of whom I have fond memories

After completing a three month spell as supernumery at Leeds YMCA to make sure that the YMCA and my-self were compatible, together with Tony Cable who had completed a similar three month spell at Hornsey, we were driven up to Durham from Chesterfield. We were both founder members of that town's newly opened Association and so were nominees of the late Charles Nunn.

We were driven by Margaret, Tony's wife and my own wife Anne and after an uneventful journey arrived at the Dunhelm hotel which was the H.Q of the course and our home for the term of study. I say term because the course was linked to St. John's College. We also eventually discovered that we, and the rest of the YMCA trainees, were not the only students to be housed at the Dunhelm.

A course for Pre Ordinand's of the Anglican Church were also in residence although they seemed to spend most of their time at the University, When we did see them at meal times and in the evening they presented a rather mournful disposition, walking slowly with small goatee beards, wearing their academic gowns and hands clasped in an attitude of prayer. They tended to keep themselves to themselves. We also wore our gowns but only on Sunday mornings when it was mandatory to attend Service in the Cathedral.

It was January, and the Cathedral was bitterly cold, so the gowns helped us to keep warm as we listened to the long boring sermons preached by dusty but eminent theologians. In the evening, to temper the Cathedral services, some of us joined with a local church choir who were rehearsing Giovanni Pergolesi's Stabat Mater.

Once the course got going we had to attend the University periodically to attend lectures on Old Testament history. We also had to eat a specified number of dinners in the University hall's refectory.

Raymond Hall had a very direct way with his lectures. For instance, in those on the subject of "YMCA History and Principles" he was apt to start with the statement "The YMCA has very little history, and even fewer principles." Early in the course he presented each one of us with a copy of Harold Laski's "A Grammar of Politics" written in 1925 with an instruction to read it cover to cover.

Laski was a political theorist and a leading British intellectual of the 20th century and Professor of Political Science at the LSE. He also set us essay's to write. Two of mine were entitled 'Blue Indigo' and 'Man is distinguished from the monkey by his ability to laugh'.

Towards the end of the course, 'The Bernard Gilpin Society, for that was its title, and by virtue of its connection with the University, was invited to be involved in the 'Annual Rag Day' So a week before we trundled a hospital trolley around the City streets collecting a large amount of money. On the day itself we entered a previously constructed float. And lo and behold we won first prize – a keg of beer. This caused us a dilemma. Not knowing the National Council's policy on alcohol, we sought the advice of the Education Secretary, Edwin Browne? He listened to us carefully and pronounced his decision. "Drink it," he said and came up on the next train to help us.

Of the other students on the 57/58 course, Tony Cable died a few years ago; George Megahy disappeared into the Scottish mist after failing to honour an undertaking to be a Godfather at my son's baptism.

(please also see Sam Lamour - page 4)

Message

from the Editor



So the time has come, dear friends, for me to work fearlessly, ensuring that the news about retired colleagues and their families gets to the membership.

We will follow as best we can in Reg's footsteps, a colleague who has served all of us as editor with dedication and commitment for over 20 years. Reg continues to guide us through his position of Secretary to Y's Retired.

We believe that the style of the newsletter will continue to evolve, but it is incumbent on all of you, to send us news items, articles and pictures of interest for inclusion.

We thank each and every one of you who have kindly emailed to wish us well.

We want to hear what you're up to now and when you last met a YMCA colleague. Come on – send us your news!!!

If you have an email address and also receive a postal copy of Y's Retired, do please send us your email address.

The Committee are hugely indebted to Robin Webb, Chief Executive of Central Herts YMCA. Robin was a Director and Trustee of London City YMCA for 9 years. We offer our sincere thanks to you and your staff member Kerrie who does the printing and postage of the Newsletter. Robin says that the costs incurred are the Central Herts YMCA contribution to all of us. Robin, we are most grateful.

Please note: It is anticipated that the Newsletter will form part of a Y's Retired website and Archive. Therefore please be aware that any personal contributions may well be visible to members of the general public.

David

**The new broom:
Tim Waldron takes
over after the recent
leadership upheaval.**

**(Edited from an article in
Third Sector)**



It could be said that Tim Waldron has the YMCA in his blood. The new chair of the Christian young people's charity grew up attending a youth club at his local branch in Plymouth, before rising through the ranks to be elected to the charity's most influential post earlier this year.

Tim Waldron, who is head of the charities department at law firm Coffin Mew, took the post after former YMCA England national secretary Angela Sarkis and former chair David Bedford resigned.

The handling of Angela Sarkis's departure, which coincided with the organisation's national conference, drew criticism from insiders. Delegates were informed of her decision on a slip of paper and the matter was never mentioned publicly, even though she was due to give the keynote address. Tim's most pressing priority over his three-year term will

be to lead the organisation through a review that could result in splitting the responsibilities of the national secretary, who has hitherto been expected to manage YMCA England, lead the national movement and be the external face of the organisation.

"Those are three distinct roles requiring three quite different skill sets," he says. "I don't think a person with all those skills necessarily exists. If they did, we wouldn't be able to afford them."

According to Tim, the review will not result in moves by YMCA England to take away the independence - which he says is a "blessing and a curse" - of its 135 associations, which are autonomous charities affiliated to the national body.

"I cannot envisage the federated structure being changed or collapsed in the same way as in the YWCA," Waldron says. "I struggle to see ways in which that would be beneficial."

A name change is also out of the question. "There is strength in that name," he says. "Village People have a lot to answer for, but I have never had a discussion about changing it."

He thinks a crucial question in the review process will be whether the organisation, founded by George Williams in 1844, can find a way back to its roots. "We need to reclaim part of our history," he says, "George Williams was a social entrepreneur before the term existed and all he did was about helping young men achieve their potential. The other part of his motivation was his Christian faith.

"We need to revisit that history, understand how that has developed over the past 160 years, contextualise the historical roots and take hold of them in the 21st century."

PRAY FOR THE FAMILIES

August 14, 2008

Death of YMCA Volunteers in Guatemala

On Tuesday, 12th August, the World Alliance of YMCAs was informed of the murders of three young volunteers from YMCA Guatemala.

Eliazar Bernabe Hernandez Rhodes, age 22, Mario Rene Gamez Moon, age 23, and Juan Luis Navarro, age 19, were volunteers at the YMCA in Amatitlán. They were well-known for their work with children and youth in the community.

According to reports from YMCA Guatemala, they were taken from their homes on Sunday night and driven to an unknown location. Their bodies were found on Monday 11th August in the San Vicente Pacaya district. They had been brutally beaten and then killed.

The World Alliance of YMCAs supports the call made by YMCA Guatemala for a thorough investigation by the Public Prosecutor's Office to clarify the facts, and punish those responsible for their deaths.

We extend our deep condolences to families, friends and colleagues of Eliazar, Juan Luis and Mario, and pray that God give them courage and comfort in these difficult times.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE KIDS WHO WERE BORN IN THE 1940's, 50's, 60's and 70's!!

First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they carried us. They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a tin, nuts, eggs and didn't get tested for diabetes and we didn't suffer allergies. Then after that trauma, our baby cots were covered with bright coloured lead-based paints. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets, not to mention, the risks we took hitchhiking. As children, we would ride in cars with no seat belts, car seats or air bags. Riding in the back of a van 'loose' or on the parcel shelf, was always great fun. We drank water from the garden hosepipe and NOT from a bottle. We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and NO ONE actually died from this.

After years of persecution and fear, Christianity is now undergoing massive growth in China – in fact Christianity is now the country's fastest growing religion.

To find out why, Martin Palmer travelled to Beijing and the ancient imperial capital of Xi'an in a special feature for BBC radio 'Sunday Worship' to explore the history of Chinese Christianity. In the next edition of Y's Retired, Martin's story is shared.

From page 2.....

Sam Lamour writes about Raymond Hall – he was part of CACTM based at Dunelm Hotel. The YMCA training was an 'add on.' I well remember spending a hard winter there, joining in with the C of E Ordinands at the students Rag Day and winning a 'Tun of Beer' for the best float, (verified by Wilma, Raymond's wife).

Also the Bernard Gilpin Dinner. I 'googled' him and it shows that Raymond was Principal of the Society. Also mention was made of his activity as a church organist for some 35 years at St James's Congregation church in Newcastle.

We ate cakes, white bread and real butter and drank pop with sugar in it, but we weren't overweight because..... WE WERE ALWAYS OUTSIDE PLAYING!!

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on. No one was able to reach us all day. And we were OK.

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem.

We didn't have Playstations, Nintendo's, X-boxes, no video games at all, no 99 channels on cable, no video tape movies, no surround sound, no cell phones, no text messaging, no personal computers, no Internet or Internet chat rooms.....WE HAD FRIENDS, went outside and talk to them and made up our own games!

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits from these accidents. We played with worms and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever.

Made up games with sticks and tennis balls and although we were told it would happen, we did not poke out any eyes. We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just yelled for them! Local teams had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that!!

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law! This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers and inventors ever! The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas. We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned HOW TO DEAL WITH IT ALL!

And YOU are one of them!

CONGRATULATIONS!

“In July, members of the YMCA Training Course 1960-61, met for what has become an Annual Reunion over the years



This took place at the Willowfield Hotel, Arnside, Cumbria, as it has done for a number of years, a beautiful area, overlooking the River Kent estuary, ideal for bird-watching, walking and watching the trains trundle over the bridge.



Those attending were Arthur & Rosemary Bennett, Stewart & Hilary Page, Paul & Liz Harper, Peter & Olive Brookes, Ted Milburn & Jeannie Mackenzie, Freda Sutherland-Scott, Barbara Kent.

As they say a “good time was had by all,” including a visit to Blackwell House, plenty of trips down memory lane, and most important lots of laughter, with happy memories of **Keith Sutherland- Scott, and Michael Kent**. It was especially pleasing that Freda and Barbara were present as these Reunions were greatly enjoyed by Keith and Mike, who are sadly no longer with us.

It is planned to return to Arnside in 2009, although the future of the Willowfield is in some doubt. 2010 sees the 50th. anniversary and plans are already afoot to meet in Scotland, on the banks of Loch Lomond”

Paul and Liz Harper

Contribution sent in by Egon Slopianka

Secretary General Calls on Young People to Actively Engage in Challenge 21 Imperatives from

Agents of Change – On 4th August, about 7,000 participants gathered in Prague, Czech Republic to attend the YMCA Europe 2008 Festival. Secretary General, Dr. Bart Shaha, called on young people to be active agents of change by engaging in the imperatives of Challenge 21-- the contemporary mission statement of the YMCA.

Working Together

“When we come together, an unknown joy wells up in our hearts. We feel strengthened that we are not alone. Let our coming together give us new inspiration to address the challenging issues of our times, like poverty eradication, advocating for and promoting the rights of women and children, being mediators and reconcilers in situations of conflict, and defending God’s creation by taking up concrete programmes that will promote the earth’s resources for coming generations” --Dr. Bart Shaha

Calling to Make a New Day

Participants responded enthusiastically to his call to work for social change in making a better world and repeated with him the opening verse of his song.

Together we’ll live
 Together we’ll grow
 The seed of new hope
 Together we’ll sow
 Together we’ll pray
 Together we’ll say
 We’ll make a new day
 With the YMCA.



Dr. Shaha congratulated YMCA Europe for organising the event under the theme “Real Life”.

FAMILY NEWS & VIEWS

ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE INTER-COM SYSTEM

Under Peter Brookes add Ted Milburn (01505) 351001

Under Mervyn Moorhead add David Libby (01752) 773040

Under Mervyn Moorhead add David Smith (01736) 719432

Under Bill Leyland add Eddie Carroll (01582) 767463

Under Gilbert Dickson add Keith Rennie (01382) 774092

Under Colin Mawby add Brian Ridsdale (015395) 6564880

Under Reg Wake add John Newton (01952) 251968

Under Jim Thomson add John Knox (01875) 815423

Phil Granvill writes about the late **Ron Gourdie** and explains that he came into the movement through the BBBF Scheme. He had been Youth Work Secretary under **Harry Steele** in Bolton in the mid 70s. After unsuccessfully trying to set up his own business, he returned to the YMCA in Bolton through the 'Training For Life' project after which he moved to St Helen's YMCA as an Assistant Secretary where he remained until he retired.

Gordon Wickens remembers that Gourdie was General Secretary at Woking YMCA when Gordon was Regional Secretary in the South East 1964-68.

Phil comments on his own recent retirement by sharing the thought that since retiring like many others, his skills seem to be in constant demand – meetings 3 or 4 times a week, involvement in the Town Centre Chaplaincy which is part of the Christian Cohesion Project, Emmaus Bolton (working with the homeless) other organisations and his church work at Bolton Methodist Mission. Phil finishes by saying, "It is better to keep active than to disappear into oblivion!!."

Ray Onions now has his second hip replacement after having a week of trauma as the blood transfusion didn't enter the vein properly but bled into the tissue of his arm. Pleased to report all is now well – in fact now we can all say - Hip Hip Hoo Ray!!!

Jim Grey (Stamford) has been 'frail for a long time.' He writes ... "I'm okay and still able to enjoy life by courtesy of a wheelchair and loving care of Margaret. We have charming ladies who come during the week 'to care for us.'

Peter Cody (Sidmouth). A letter tells that after a long period of caring at home for his wife Ray, she has now moved to residential care. Peter says he is wrestling with his own health problems and the adjustment to changed circumstances. They have been together for 65 years. Our thoughts and prayers are with them both.

Pat Haworth (widow of Fred) has joined the bionic set with a hip replacement. She has been fund raising through successful annual 'Strawberry Teas,' ably assisted by **Brian Rowcliffe**. Pat's several efforts to convene a gathering of retirees in the North West have so far been unsuccessful.

'SAD PASSING'

VERA CHARLESWORTH

died 6th August 2008

With her late husband Stanley, Vera's association with the YMCA began in the 40's and 50's with BBBF, followed by many years in the North West with Stanley as Regional Secretary, and then to London where he served as National Secretary. Vera was an early member of the Y's Retired, travelling long distances to share in the annual residential reunions of the 90s. A quiet and most gracious lady and valued friend to many of us. **Reg Wake**.

In lieu of flowers, the family invited donations to 'Y Care International.' Donations may be sent via Mrs Barbara Ainger (daughter) 17, Curborough Road, Lichfield. WS13 7NG.

Peter Parfitt expresses thanks that "a strengthened team are to carry on the tradition of keeping we oldies in touch with each other. I keep in touch with Ernie Carroll. We both miss the lunchtime reunions for Met retirees previously arranged by David Myles."

Comment: Within days of the July Newsletter being delivered, a dozen or so urgent calls were received from "defaulters" requesting continuation of mailings. Happily all were confirmed.

Arthur Bennett (Nottingham) has just had one cataract removed with the other eye scheduled for the same treatment in two weeks time. He spoke of happy memories of YMCA work in Ipswich with the new editor and Ray Onions in the early 60's, and the delight now for him and Rosemary of their five grandchildren.

Eric Hodgson reports that he and his wife Norma have moved from Barney to Gainsborough. The changed accommodation is more suitable for Norma who now has limited mobility as a result of an accident and is cared for by Eric. We wish them both well.

SECOURS SPECIAUX

And how you can help!!

Cases of hardship experienced by YMCA staff who retired without adequate secured pension provision continue to be identified, especially in countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Their need for financial assistance can be acute and Secours Speciaux exists for such a purpose.

At a tele-conference on 25th July, committee Chair Bonnie Mairs emphasised a need to promote the widest possible awareness of Secours Speciaux among potential donors. Publicity material to this end is being prepared and will be widely circulated.

Figures presented showed approved expenditure for 2008 amounting to \$24,287 while income secured to 25th July amounted to \$14,298. While the shortfall is expected to be reduced by contributions during the financial year, further applications for grants in aid are also likely. In fact approval was given for already processed applications from retirees in India, Ghana and Liberia, amounting to \$36,200.

As previously reported in the N/letter, Ys Retired makes a modest donation of £100 per annum from funds, plus any contributions made by members. Such contributions are urgently needed and may be sent to the Treasurer, Geoffrey Harris, 60, Homemanor House, Cassio Rd, Watford, WD18 0QS

Cheques payable to "Y's Retired A/C" and clearly marked 'Secours Speciaux.'

John Naylor (Edinburgh) writes that "Life trundles on up here. Margery retires today (18th July). On the 7th July we celebrate our Ruby Wedding anniversary. I am still active on many fronts but will probably cut down so Margery and I can see more of our three children and perhaps some travel.

Dorothy Ingle (widow of Norman) confirms her wish to remain on the N/letter mailing. She extends greetings. Although subject to ailments acquired with age, she enjoys caring for offspring and friendly neighbours and remains her usual cheerful self.

Philip Cheal mentions that in "Happenings" in the 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."

Joan Tranter sends via e-mail that "as far as achievement of life goals is concerned, I am beginning to feel that I have left things rather late. Still driving and making the most of what's around but the choice is limited. My six weeks in Hungary last year fulfilled my ambition and I noticed that my passport has now expired, so maybe it's telling me something?" (hope I'm still driving at 93!! Ed)

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Heartiest Congratulations to:

Mervyn and Beryl Moorehead	08 th Feb	50 yrs
Eric and Norma Hodgson	18 th Mar	64 yrs
Barry and Dorothy Ward	28 th Mar	59 yrs
Derek and Majorie Sheppard	31 st Mar	52 yrs
Brian and Christine Ridsdale	25 th Apr	47 yrs
Colin and Betty Mawby	23 rd Jun	57 yrs
John and Margery Naylor	27 th Jul	40 yrs
Jim and Evelyn Lamb	09 th Aug	50 yrs
Ron and Janet Ingamells	03 rd Sep	51 yrs
Philip and Hazel Cheal	08 th Sep	57 yrs
Peter and Olive Brookes	09 th Sep	44 yrs
Norman and Barbara Rudge	19 th Oct	62 yrs
George and Margaret Hart	23 rd Oct	62 yrs
Jim and Mary Thomson	27 th Nov	65 yrs
Peter and Ray Cody	December	65 yrs

Happy birthday to Colin Mawby who celebrates his 80th birthday in Sept 2008.

YMCA INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION



YMCA Europe Festival 2008 Ends on a High Note



"Real life has no borders therefore we come from all over the world with a deep wish to learn and respect, to love and understand, so that we may all be one in the light of Jesus Christ." (Festival Mission Statement)

From 3 – 9 August 2008 in Prague, Czech Republic, the YMCA Europe Festival brought young people together to share experiences, challenges, new ideas and resources under the theme of "Real Life".

This is the second YMCA Europe Festival. The first, organised in August 2003 for the 30th Anniversary of YMCA Europe, was a great success. In 2008, the festival gathered around 7000 young people, mainly from Europe, but also from other parts of the world.

The festival programme was extremely diverse and included: morning shows, a global village, outdoor activities, stage shows, sports, and night worship. Participants were invited to celebrate a world wide Christian fellowship, the growth and strength of the YMCA, national and cultural diversities, and of course to experience friendship, fun, and happiness during the weeklong festivities.

On 6 August, over 150 guests including key YMCA leaders from Europe and other Areas were invited to attend the Mayor's Reception. **The President, Mr Peter Posner, and Secretary General, Mr Johan Vilhelm Eltvik, of the European Alliance of YMCAs** greeted all present and thanked the Deputy Mayor, who spoke highly of the Festival and the YMCA's work with young people.

General Secretary, Dr Bart Shaha, also greeted guests on behalf of the World Alliance of YMCAs and the **President, Mr Martin Meissner**. He noted that during the festival, "young people are sharing their aspirations and hearing encouraging stories from their peers of how they are finding meaning in their lives. Through music, poems, art, dance, and prayer, they are expressing themselves with confidence and care."

He also recalled that "amidst the rapid process of globalisation and increasing violence, there is a new awakening amongst young people to work on spiritual growth and the search for alternative lifestyles. Many YMCAs are responding to this in new and creative ways. These are inspiring moments for our Movement and we at the World Alliance, thank all of you who are collaborating and giving leadership and support to make this happen."

The World Alliance of YMCAs extends its congratulations to YMCA Europe for successfully organising this fruitful and inspiring meeting of young people.

African Alliance of YMCAs Launches New Website



Today, the African Alliance of YMCAs launched its new website:

www.africaymca.org

General Secretary of the African Alliance, Carlos Sanvee, is excited to share this moment with all YMCA family and friends:

"We have been ambitious in Africa this year...first we launched Siyahamba, our newsletter, in March and have managed to produce it monthly. And now, we launch our website which we are planning to update on a regular basis so as to ensure its relevance.

Both these communications tools are in keeping with our renewed vision and strategy, which is about empowering the continent's youth for the African Renaissance.

For us to achieve the reality of youth as participating citizens, the YMCA needs to be visible, and a credible opinion maker.

Our newsletter and website help us to tell our story to Africa and the world - our story of our march towards the empowerment of youth in our continent...We invite you to share in the journey..."