



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



JANUARY 2015

www.yretired.co.uk

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Dear friends and
colleagues
greetings**

Please accept my opening personal note! The period covered since the last publication of the Newsletter has been somewhat hectic for me. My first response is to thank all of you who expressed condolences on the death of my dear wife Eve on 5th October following 56 years of a very happy marriage. Her Thanksgiving Service held on 22nd October 2014, though sad was also a happy occasion.

The prayerful support received from all was most appreciated. For any of you bereaved in recent times please accept my sincere condolences – I can now share with you the depth of sadness I have experienced.

Members would wish to know that the Y's Retired of the UK remains as ever a service to all retired colleagues and lay personnel who enjoy membership. That I can report changes in your committee with Reg Wake finally enjoying a much deserved retirement, Vic Hills taking over the reins to ensure the responsibilities of the Executive post are covered is indeed a blessing for the changeover has now been successfully completed!

Arising from my recent experience I am increasingly more aware how important it is that members share even at the risk of repetition any reports of death or serious illness of members by letting our secretary Vic know at the earliest in order that appropriate information may be circulated promptly.

The main means of communication we enjoy is that of the bi-monthly Newsletter so ably edited by David Smith. Contributions to the Newsletter are gratefully received and at the discretion of the editor regularly published. Please feel free to prepare suitable 'articles' of a personal nature which can be shared – even personal profiles giving information of present commitments to society in general.

Such articles may well be of personal service through being a grandad or Nana to a grandchild – here I share the most recent from my experience.

"Grandad I'm hungry!" – promptly his favourite Pringles are served! "Granddad I'm still hungry" – prompt service follows! "Granddad I'm STILL hungry" to which granddad responds "Does your mummy serve you the third time?" – NO! is the reply – "tell me does your daddy serve you the third time of asking?" – NO is the reply – exasperated me! – "Why me then?" – "Because your my granddad"! Come on put pen to paper and send a contribution to David.

Do bear in mind that our year end is 31st December, membership subscriptions and donations to our Charity Secours Speciaux (Helping less fortunate colleagues) and Trust Fund are due in January.

Should you need a 'standing order' form these can be obtained from Ray Allen Treasurer, or David Smith Editor!

In closing I take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed Christmas and a successful New Year offering new experiences in what we hope will be a peaceful period worldwide.

Every good wish,

Jim

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THE NEW FEDERATION BRANDING OF YMCA'S IN ENGLAND

Comments received have been mixed and are shared on this page, many of those comments being understandable from an age group whose lives were dedicated to the furtherance of a movement that didn't just happen to be Christian - but was Christian as the central motivation and proud to follow Jesus Christ. We live in different difficult troubled times. The bible clearly says we would, once we turn our face away from Jesus.

Dear David,

My thanks for sight of the very comprehensive and well produced branding revision and strategy document, all clearly a result of much thought, expertise and effort expended. Coupled with the extensive and professionally produced appeals materials reaching me from time to time, all speaking well to the range and quality of services being extended to young folk in need. It is to be hoped that further developments will follow the renewed impetus.

Allowing for reactions of a now very aged old timer, perhaps some reservations that the old concept of a participating membership and local association strengths do not feature as strongly as they might and with focus more on a professionally directed service perhaps little different from a host of charities concerned for the wellbeing of young folk, albeit for YMCAs with the core motivation unchanged?

I confess the new logo does not excite me. The configuration of triangles is clean and clever but I wonder if the art registers with the public or youngsters in particular who know not the significance or origin of the triangle? For me, it lacks the impact/recognition of the traditional red triangle. This said, I do see the point in a new image and wish it well.

Long ago, in my AOS presidential address (1985 in fact!) I made reference to the good book which has it that "Old men shall dream dreams and young men shall have visions" 'twas ever thus?

Warmest regards. Reg (Wake).

I like the aim of the attachments – sounds like they are trying to create a NATIONAL COUNCIL...- seem to have heard that somewhere!!!

Ron (Ingamells)

Dear David

Thanks for sending this info. I think it is a very professional document/presentation and hopefully the majority of Local Associations will buy into it with gusto!

The new tangram logo will take a bit of getting used to, but it is very distinctive - perhaps we will no longer be confused with the YHA!

Best wishes

Chris (Batten)



A MESSAGE FROM YMCA OF UKRAINE

Dear International YMCA Friends!

We really appreciate your warm words and moral support during this hard time in Ukraine! It was extremely important for us to get many letters of support from you!

This armed conflict was very unexpected for us as at the beginning it was a peaceful demonstration against a sudden rejection of the president and government to sign an Agreement on Association with the European Union. After the violence against peaceful protestants, many thousands of people in Kiev and other cities of Ukraine went to the streets to oppose the regime that we had, corruption, for human rights and social values.

Last week the authorities started real war against the people of Ukraine! We never could imagine that in peaceful times so many people can be killed and so many people can be injured in three days! And this happened in the middle of Europe...! These days were so long to each of us... We actually started to understand more clearly the human values when you do not know what is going to be the next moment, who is going to be killed, attacked, injured... It is hard to explain in words the feelings that we had...

At the moment the situation has become quite stable in Kyiv, though we still have big tension and the cases of the violence and separation in the Eastern and Southern parts of Ukraine.

YMCA all over the World always was an organization that supports civil people during the wars, the one that gives to suffering people a hope. And at this moment of the crisis in Ukraine, when hundreds and thousands of civil people have been injured, we really need your support and help from the international partners!

We would like to ask for the financial support to those who were injured and for their families. There were around 100 people killed and more than 5 000 injured. We kindly ask you to support and help people who really need it.

Unfortunately we also had losses in the YMCA Ukraine. One of the volunteers of Rivne YMCA was killed by a sniper on the 20th of February. His name was Oleksandr Hrapachenko, he was only 26 years old... The people knew him as positive, energetic, enthusiastic young man who was fond of scouting, tourism, alpinism.

Another young man – YMCA scout leader, who was injured is Vladyslav Zubenko. This young person is from Kharkiv, he came to Maidan and got shot by the police. He has injured lung, kidney and liver. Now he is in re-habilitation after being critically injured. These are just two persons about whom we know. But still there are lots of people missing.

Referring to this situation we kindly ask you to organize a fundraising activities in your communities to donate money for the people, injured in Ukraine. Afterwards we will agree with you how they could be transferred to the YMCA account in Ukraine. We are in close cooperation with organizations, organizing help for the victims and we will transfer the money to them or to the families directly.

Please be sure that the spending of the money will be in a transparent way and we will send you the reports about how all these money were used.

Thank you for your understanding and support!

Member's correspondence

Dear David,

I have just spent 3 days at Wimbledon with the Chef and his wife. John was the Chef Supremo (as Walter called him!) and they spent 30 years working together at Wimbledon YMCA. Whilst I was there he had invited two other work colleagues, John Ahern who helped John in the kitchen and Maureen McShane who has been Head Cleaner for 40 years.

We had a great time trying to remember all the people we had known that had passed through the doors - first one would remember a surname and then another would get the Christian name so we had a lot of laughs too. And when we got on to remembering the many Assistants Walter had we were off again!!

Maureen recently appeared on the TV programme Under Cover and had come out of it as a very dedicated worker which she still is.

I still have contact with many people from our Wimbledon days and wrote to a few to ask them if their ears were burning that particular evening - it was good to get replies from most of them too!!

Regards,
Jean Saunders

Dear David
Miss Joyce Lamb died on 26th September last aged 97. Joyce entered YMCA service while in her teens and was closely involved throughout the war years in much bombed London with YMCA services via the iconic YMCA Tea Cars and canteens for HM Forces and civilians alike. Joyce served as PA to the department head concerned. Come peace, she continued as PA to other National Council officers and ultimately to national secretaries Bob Roberts, Stanley Charlesworth, John Naylor and Norman Ingle. The custodian of many confidences never betrayed! On retirement Joyce became resident in Ashted where we shared membership of St. George's church and frequent sessions of recollections of people and YMCA experiences of a life time in YMCA service.

Reg (Wake)

COLIN FOUND THIS LITTLE JEM

The British Penny - European Union Directive No. 456179

In order to bring about further integration with the single European currency, the Euro, all citizens of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland must be made aware that the phrase "Spending a Penny" is not to be used after 31 December 2014.

From this date onwards, the correct term will be: "Euronating".

It is hoped that this will be a great relief to everyone. If you have any questions, just give me a tinkle

Colin (Mawby)

Dear all,

I have just been in touch with Jim Thomson who shares the good news that Kerry Reilly, John Knox's daughter, has been appointed as the new National Secretary of YMCA Scotland - a fine appointment. Also that the appointment of a successor to John Knox will be decided at the Scottish colleagues meeting in the spring of 2015! Keith Rennie is presently 'holding the fort' so to speak.

Warm regards,
Jim (Lamb)

Just a note to say there is a computer scam when an international caller cold calls and says there are errors on your computer. They try to get you to type in various commands. They tried it with friends.

Don't fall for this; hang up!

Colin (Mawby)

Dear David,

Thank you for your message about Eve Lamb and my thoughts and prayers are with Jim, although I don't really know him.

For the moment I am keeping the present e-mail address, which includes Fred's name of course, but as I was only associated with the YMCA through Fred's involvement - and we made many valued friends there - I did not know many others in the 'wider' movement. Colin and Betty Mawby, and David and Wendy Miller were our closest colleagues and I would always be grateful for news of them.

I pray for God's continued blessing on all the work done in His name by the YMCA. Julie Evans

SAD NEWS JUST RECEIVED JOE RENSHAW

I have just heard that sadly Joe Renshaw died peacefully early this morning (Saturday 13th December 2014). Further details will be forthcoming - Regards - Colin (Derry)

King Felipe of Spain, Honorary president of YMCA in Spain

- NOVEMBER 10, 2014



"His Majesty the King Felipe VI has accepted the honorary Presidency of our movement in Spain.

After many years as Honorary President while being Prince of Asturias, heir to the Spanish throne, His Majesty King Felipe VI has accepted to be joined to our movement and to its values in this new stage of his life as King of Spain, for which we feel great joy and high honor.

We want to share this happiness with the whole YMCA movement, so do not hesitate spread the news"
Pedro Fueyo Díaz
General Secretary – YMCA Spain