



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



SEPTEMBER 2015

www.yretired.co.uk

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Dear friends and
colleagues
greetings**

Summer is a quieter period for the Newsletter and gives opportunity to share with you a matter relating to the financing of the Y's Retired of the UK not least recognising your committee's responsibility to you for it continuing to be a viable and successful operation for the future.

During the last two financial years the Treasurer and I have noted increased administrative costs over budgeting and agreed that necessary action should be taken to ensure this is remedied in the financial year January 1st – December 31st 2016. We shared our concern with your committee and retired members through various means including area Reunions and after careful consideration agreed that the Annual Payment from members should be increased from the present nominal payment of £10.00 (which includes £5 subscription and £5 to Secours Speciaux) to £20.00.

For information. The Y's Retired of the UK finances include three main areas, Administration, the Trust Fund and Secours Speciaux (the main YMCA Charity supporting retired Colleagues world-wide many without YMCA and their State pensions some below the poverty line). Charity Law (CC) states that contributions to the two latter named funds have to be used for the purpose donated which we strictly follow. The administrative costs including subventions are met from the subscription alone.

We are all aware of the well prepared and produced Newsletter developed to a high standard in recent years by our editor David Smith. It is estimated that the cost of its production alone is £2.25 which does not include the voluntary time given to each issue of which there are 6 a year and the hidden cost of distribution bourn by the Herts YMCA.

We must bear in mind Secretarial & Treasurer's costs (postage & stationery, telephone), subventions to Secours Speciaux, World Fellowship of Y's Retired and the Trust Fund, which supports grants to our representatives at the occasional International WFYR meetings and the ongoing annual costs of our website www.yretired.co.uk The members of the committee receive no remuneration and all give of their time voluntarily. It is appreciated that you are all by now shouting "Enough Mr President we agree £20"!

We submit that the new annual subscription of £20 will

underwrite and stabilise our financial needs and extend the Aims & Purposes of the Y's Retired of the UK. It is noted that Standing Orders will need to be changed, all things being equal new Standing Order forms will be made available or alternatively if agreed personal arrangements with your bank may well be best. Further information on Standing Orders for your action will be made available before the due date. We note that some members give above the agreed rates and hope that this will be continued!

On a different note! Together with Tony & Jenny Miles we represented the Y's Retired of the UK at the funeral of Colin Williams the great, great grandson of Sir George Williams the founder of the YMCA. The service was held at Conington Parish Church, Cambridgeshire 22nd July 2015 attended by some 500 people from 'all walks of life'. A brief reference was made to Colin's association with the YMCA to which he gave his financial support attending many events over the years.

Please read Sam Johnston's brief article in this Newsletter, both Sam and Maureen were also present at the funeral.

I very much hope you are keeping well given personal circumstances and enjoying the warm summer weather not least the torrential rain helping gardens to recover from the dry spell!

Warmer regards! *Jim*

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David,
Many thanks for the message re: Phil; that is extremely sad, he was a good man and fantastic company. I will pray for Ann and family. Mike King.

Thank you for all the information, newsletters etc that I receive. I am truly sorry with what happened to Phil Heath. It has hit a few people here in Porthawl from our Eurocross days, and our Junior Youth Club stayed in Bridgwater several times.

I have piggybacked on Y's Retired England, though at one time I was mooted as the Wales representative, but never did anything about it! As the YMCAs of Wales are now in process of being affiliated to YMCA England perhaps all (or any known) retired people in Wales can more legitimately be members of Y's retired England. I have paid a membership subscription in the past, but I don't see that it has been paid, I think, for two years!

I am still involved with Porthcawl YMCA as a Trustee / Director and president! I will stand down from the Boar next year when I hit eighty and my three year term concludes! We managed to complete a £600k refurbishment and partial rebuild about three years ago and once again have a significant presence in the town.

I stood down from a number of town organisations and committees last year when angina hit me badly. I have remained with the YMCA, Churches Together in Porthcawl and the Mayor's Charity Fund. Enough to keep me out of mischief! In February two stents were inserted into my heart and now life is much easier, though I am having to ensure it remains quieter!
Trusting you are well. As ever, **John Berry**

Dear David - Passing of **Phil Heath**.
That is such sad news. Ours not to reason why! He did so love that boat, and perhaps to die doing what you most love is a good thing, but Oh so sudden and unexpected. The family must be reeling from the shock. **Beryl Moorehead**

CAMBRIDGE Y's RETIRED REUNION



Here is the photo which was taken at our Cambridge re-union on Wednesday 8th July at Girton Golf Club, Cambridge.

From left to right:- David Bedford, Tony Miles, Elaine Hunt, Mary Hills, Jenny Miles, Jim Lamb, Ron Ingamells, Roger Hunt, Raziya Christian, Chandu Christian, Ray Allen, Vic Hills.

Hi Dave,
Devastating news about Phil. I first met Phil at Maidstone YMCA. When I started the international event Eurocross there were three key workers who joined me Andy Winter, Vic Hills and Phil. I was very fortunate to have Phil alongside – he was one of the very best of youth workers. He had all the skills but more than that he related to everyone exceptionally well. Another joy of those days was that all three families came to Fairthorne and became part of the event. I shall always be grateful that I knew Phil and counted him as a friend.
Rev Ron (Ingamells)



PHIL "SKIPPER" HEATH 02-07-1949 to 08-07-2015

On Monday 3rd August Phil was put to rest in a private family ceremony in Brixham. At 2pm at Brixham Methodist Church there was a Celebration of Phil's Life which was shared by a full church. Those present heard tributes from his son Johnny, his nephew Ray, YMCA Andy Winter, local friends from the URC Church and from Frontier Youth Trust to which Phil was Acting National Chairman. We heard how he had packed so much into his 66 years of life being a husband, dad, granddad and mentor.

The service included the sharing of anecdotes; expressing fun and laughter with those present remembering the occasions when Phil organized youth groups, or fed everyone on home made curry, served excellent coffee, only ate 70% dark chocolate, drank good quality wine, experimented with all sorts of electrical gadgets and of course, was involved with anything related to water, whether it be sailing, canoeing or power boating. Many attending had reason to thank Phil remembering the Eurocross days in Lakeside or for teaching them the intricacies of safe sailing.

So many Y's Retired colleagues attended that I knew: David Pendle, Martin Pearse, Phil Willerton, Angela Hall, Paul Harper, Andy Winter, John Berry, Mary McGinty, Vic Hills, Stan Wojcick, David and Sue Smith, Chris Hitchins and those not yet retired and not necessarily with the Y: Stuart Capewell, Paul Smillie, Paul Aldersley, Mark Hills, Karen Deverell, Maria Goodwin, (my apologies to those who were there but not known to me).

Phil served the YMCA for 37 years in Maidstone, Totterdown Bristol, Bridgwater and South Devon YMCA. He organized audio visuals at Regional and National Conferences, National Assemblies and was one of the founding staff team members organizing Eurocross at Lakeside for many years, an event which has influenced the lives of many young people both in this country and abroad. Phil's faith was real and practical - David (Editor)

The 'WISE' retirees of the South West experience an 'Away day' at Talland Bay and Sclerder Abbey



But, first of all they think they are visiting a monastery which turns out to be this abbey, tucked away in reclusive grounds between Polperro and Looe.

Now, the Libby family are familiar with this territory, as, formerly when children they used to peep with great curiosity and not a little trepidation between the slits in the gate to observe the nuns of this closed order perambulating the gardens, among the apple trees!

If their presence were to be detected the latter would scurry away, out of sight, behind closed doors. Only one of the sisters was ever to be seen purchasing provisions in the village.

Father Libby who used to deliver the freshly charged accumulators, commented, 'if a carpentry job was underway and he had to go to his van, leaving a trail of sawdust behind, on his swift return, the sawdust had silently disappeared, as if by magic, but no one was ever seen!'

A memento of these nuns is seen in the chapel, in the metal grille which separates two areas. Reminiscent of the film, 'The Sound of Music' one can imagine the sweetest sound of voices ascending to the rafters, in praise of their Creator.

Alas, a more tangible evidence of their presence is found in the enclosed cemetery, where the Poor St Clare's were laid to rest, mainly having reached a great old age, so the lifestyle must have well suited them! Only two were found among the many nontegenarians, aged twenty five and thirty respectively.

They were succeeded by Carmelite nuns, but today's nuns are of an entirely different calibre!

The Renewal movement of the sixties and seventies saw the Catholic Community, as well as the rest of us being blessed with the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Worldwide, Christian Communities mushroomed and one street in France called Chemin Neuf brought a community of that name into being, as first one house and then the whole street was purchased by Christian folk who came to care and to share.

Not all were called to live a celibate life, and so the sacrament of marriage was embraced in the calling.

The movement spread internationally and recently a small Chemin Neuf community has been planted in Sclerber Abbey, one married couple (Jean Levalle with his wife Desiree and one single nun, Sr Jacqueline Coutellier (one of the original founders of Chemin Neuf in Lyon, France in 1973).

With great enthusiasm, Sr Jacqueline spoke of the work they do, accompanied by a DVD and a trip round the Abbey and the grounds. The three kindly served and shared with us a simple, savoury meal with a chocolate and ice cream deservé, followed by tea and coffee.

After lunch we met together for a short service in the beautiful Chapel where David Smith led us in prayer and Des played the organ whilst we all sang "Crown him with many crowns."

We sadly remembered within our prayers the families of Phil Heath and also Colin Williams great, great, grandson of the founder of the YMCA Sir George Williams. Incidentally, the name Sclerder comes from a shrine dedicated to 'Our Lady of Light' in St Pol de Leon Brittany.

As foretold in Isaiah 60 v1-3

'Arise, shine for your light has come,
The glory of the Lord is rising upon you.
Though night still covers the earth
And darkness the peoples
The glory of the Lord is rising upon you!

Jean and Desiree later accompanied us to the neighbouring beach to sample a delicious treat prepared by Margaret Libby.

Now that we are companionably gathered round, and fortified by tea and strawberry scones, it is the time for story telling!



David Libby recounted a time, when a boyhood prank could have led to danger as ignoring a prohibitive command he and friends took a naval commander's boat out to sea. To their great dismay they holed it on a hidden rock. Not short of initiative they took refuge in a nearby cave and with discarded Heinz bean cans, found in the cave, recommenced their journey, bailing out the rising water level as best they could.

Fortunately some fishermen had espied what they were getting up to and came to the rescue and towed the boat back to its moorings. The culprits disappeared as silently as the nuns and to this day the cause of the damage has not been discovered.

Should we have put David Libby in the confessional box, we wondered? And so a great day was experienced by all.

Beryl Moorehead



Founder's Day

On June 6th, members of the IFYR UK Chapter along with the current YMCA Secretaries, their spouses and 2 visiting K T Paul Scholars from India, met at the Indian YMCA, London to observe our Founder's Day. While Chandu Christian gave a brief account of the vision of Sir George William and the history of our Movement, Rev Jessie Anand complimented for what has been achieved so far and encouraged all serving the YMCA in various capacities to continue to do their best. Sundersingh Barnabas, General Secretary and all other colleagues made us most welcome. There was an opportunity for all to share briefly our contribution to the Movement. The meeting concluded with a fitting fellowship lunch.

YMCA Colleagues living in the South

I am writing to invite you to attend the second gathering of the Y's Retired in the South which will be from **12noon to 2pm (approximately) on Thursday 24th September. at 'The Beach Houser' Milford -on-Sea.**

When we met in Salisbury on March 8th at our first meeting convened by Sam Johnston, we agreed to meet again in the early Autumn in a different location. Somehow I was 'volunteered' to be the convenor this time and asked to find a suitable venue in this part of Hampshire, preferably beside the sea and with pleasant views'----hence this invitation which I hope you will be able to accept

The venue is as follows:

The Beach House, Westover, Pub Restaurant, Park Lane, Milford-on-Sea, Lymington SO41 0PT. Information about this venue can be found on the internet. Marjorie and I had a lunch there recently with Sam and Maureen Johnston who gave it their seal of approval.

The main focus of this gathering, like the first, will be a very informal lunch, commencing at noon and ending about 2pm - giving the opportunity to 'catch up' with colleagues. However, if you choose to arrive earlier and/or stay later you will find lovely seaside walks from the Beach House -e.g. Hurst castle is a possibility for anyone with enough energy and the necessary mobility as is the Solent Way. There are plenty of other B&B's and hotels nearby if you want to stay overnight.

I am contactable via my email address which is delsheppard@hotmail.co.uk

Very best wishes and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards - **Derek** (Sheppard)

Dear David

Received notice of **Margaret Hart's** passing. She suffered for some considerable time with Dementia. Now at peace. I just thought some members might remember her. I can from our times at Skegness Trust you are keeping well.

Best wishes Anne.

Anne Barratt

Dear All,

Had a telephone call, from Andy Hart informing me that his mother Margaret Hart, had passed away on 1st July in Becksie Nursing Home, North Hykeham. Lincoln. Margaret was the widow of George Hart, General Secretary of YMCA Centres, in Skegness and Lowestoft. George passed away on 11th November 2010.

Donations if desired to be made payable to the RNLI c/o Lincolnshire, Co-operative Funeral Services, Tritton Road, Lincoln. LN6 7QY. Tel. 01522 534971.

Regards **Ray Allen**

STOP PRESS:

Although I have taken on the role as one of your representatives on the YMCA Pension and Insurance Plan I must state very clearly that this is not an area I feel comfortable with.

*I think it is **vital** that someone more recently retired and with some financial background or experience comes forward as soon as possible. I will not let you down during the rest of this year but not beyond that. For someone with an interest in this field it is a valuable opportunity to serve the YMCA and the retired.*

Even from one meeting I should emphasize how fortunate we are to have both Isabel Kaye and Paul Smillie, with their impressive knowledge, working for us.

Best wishes - **Ron** (Ingamells)

Anyone willing to consider representing YMCA colleagues in place of Ron then please contact President Jim Lamb, details of which are on the front page.



Dear Jim,

I promised some time ago to send you a contribution on my early YMCA memories for the newsletter. I have of course a long trail of treasured memories of the YMCA, especially of the many admired friends who gave so much to our great Movement.

It all goes back to October 1952 when Harry Smith, the then General Secretary of London Central allowed me to take up residence in the hostel of the 'old building' against his normal rule denying admission to over 21's ! (I guess he rightly wanted to bring me down to life on earth after the rarefied academe of Cambridge!) I stayed in residence for a year and only moved out to allow me enough time for my essential studies! What a year!!

I was soon admitted to 'Full Membership', then I think numbering over 100 . Full Members met once a month for a short service followed by a period of social fellowship and refreshments. They formed a core of committed Christian members who generated several 'action groups', including a 'reception group' who sought out and mentored every new member, a Christian Service group and a World Service Group who raised funds for the Y's international work. I remember we set our first target at £300, the next year raised to £500, and finally to £1000 - these were very substantial sums in those days. And we tried to establish links with overseas Y's, such as Frank Brown's boy's town in India which was very rewarding.

I have vivid memories too of some of the YMCA stalwarts of those days: Harry Smith our devoted General Secretary sitting in the lounge every evening, chain-smoking those lethal hand-rolled cigarettes, surrounded by young members, dispensing his wisdom, challenging and encouraging us, comforting the troubled and telling rather sad jokes (eg the tale of the illegitimate Rice Krispie: lots of crackle, plenty of fizz but no pop!)

Pipe-smoking Leslie Adams, responsible for keeping us residents in order while encouraging ventures such as a daring Christmas show in King George's Hall (the same Leslie who after a spell in Liverpool returned as Associate Gen Sec and later succeeded Harry in the top spot)

The kindly silver-haired patrician Nat Berry, chairman of the Board, resident in the hostel also seated with his pipe in a corner of the lounge engaging young people.

The resourceful and friendly Joe Osborne, chief engineer (which of you boys let off a fire extinguisher on the back stair?)

The rather dour front desk keeper of our innocence (Wendy had to exercise all her sweet charm to get even as far as the foyer); and then a succession of young assistant Secretaries many of whom went on to be leaders in the Movement, including such as Derek Shepherd, Alan Keys, Brian Rowcliffe and the irrepressible John Drake!

What a gang of energetic, creative and deeply committed friends they were! A joy and a privilege to know and work with.

One day some of us 'young Turks' were moaning about being governed by a bunch of grey-heads.

Harry responded that the remedy was in our hands - to elect one of our number! Somehow the lot fell on me and it was the start of an awesome new phase of my Y career lasting till I too was silver headed!

And of course there were the devoted supporting ladies (no lady Members then), especially our lovely 'mothering' Phyllis Smith and Enid Adams, the office staff, the buffet service, domestic and restaurant ladies who looked after our physical needs and comforts with much good grace.

We were also introduced to the wider English Y as delegates to the annual national Conventions, always great fellowship experiences and inspiring new endeavours. At the time the National Council offices were located in the building and we would occasionally meet with some of the staff, including the formidable dome-headed National Secretary Sir Z Frank Willis and others such as Ronnie Howe and Edwin Barker.

These are a few random memories of my Y life in the early 50's. They were exciting times which engaged our enthusiasm, energy, ambitions and, for many, life-long commitment to the YMCA. Can this still happen?

Most certainly it can and does, as I have seen in many of the Met Y's that I visited during my tenure as Regional President where young people (now both boys and girls) are being rescued and sheltered, their talents are found and developed, ambition is being sparked and confidence cultivated and a new generation of committed young people is carrying forward YMCA ideals into their communities.

Warm regards to you and to our Y's Retired colleagues many of whom, I am sure could relate similar memories of good friends and rewarding ventures.

Prof David Miller

PLEASE NOTE

"Members would wish to be aware that Rev'd Ron Ingamells nominated by Jim Lamb , seconded by Vic Hills was duly elected as a Member Nominated Director of the YMCA Pension Plan. This is not representative of the Y's Retired of the UK but of all members of the Plan! Either way - we congratulate Ron on his appointment!"

Warm regards,

Jim



**COLIN CAMPBELL WILLIAMS
1942 - 2015**

The YMCA was appropriately represented at Colin's funeral with Peter Posner YMCA World President, CEO of YMCA England, Denise Hatton with Christina Comber, Vice President Val Wallace and husband, retired National Secretary Sam Johnston with wife Maureen, Jonathan Martin, CEO of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough YMCA and colleagues from Indian YMCA London.

The service was described as most impressive and dignified held in the packed parish church of St Mary's Conington and conveyed the outstanding life of Colin, always supported by his wife, Gelinda.

He was a man that held the YMCA very close to his heart knowing well the family history of the Movement and being very proud of the work it undertakes today in 60 countries worldwide, supporting and assisting internationally the development of young people.

The service was relayed to an adjoining marquis packed to capacity of several hundred. All who attended were invited to meet the family in the marquis laid out in such splendour at Conington Hall; not dissimilar to Garden Parties many have attended at Buckingham Palace.

During this time, Sam took the opportunity to chat to Colin's son, Alex, who is the great, great, great, grandson of George the founder. He agreed he would be interested in growing into keeping contacts in a similar manner as his father Colin had successfully done. By chance Sam also met his wife Mai, who is American and familiar with the Y.

John 11.25-26

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

1 Tim.6.7; Job 1.21

We brought nothing into this world and it is certain we can carry nothing out. The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

Editor (plus contributions from attendees)

Donations, if desired, for CMT United Kingdom - may be sent c/o F.W.Cook, Funeral Service, 49 Church Street, Willingham CB24 5DS

George Williams and YMCA memorial window.



In the south aisle of the nave of Westminster Abbey is a stained glass window in memory of the services rendered by the Young Men's Christian Association during the First World War. The window also remembers its founder Sir George Williams. Two portraits of Sir George, in youth and old age, appear at the base of the window. The window was designed by Dudley Forsyth and dedicated on 14 November 1921.

The subjects are the Sermon on the Mount and the Transfiguration of Our Lord; above are St Michael and St George; below these are the royal coat of arms and the arms of Edward the Confessor. In the quatrefoil at the top is Our Lord in glory surrounded by angels. In niches in the window borders are figures of soldiers from all over the world who served with British forces during the Great War, with the shields of arms of their countries. At the base of the window is the YMCA symbol and the *chi-rho* sign (the two letters which begin the Greek word for Christ). The inscription reads:

"To the glory of God and in memory of the services rendered through the Young Men's Christian Association during the Great War 1914-1918: and to George Williams, its founder"

George was born on 11 October 1821 at Dulverton in Somerset, one of seven sons of Amos, a farmer, and his wife Elizabeth. He was educated locally and worked on the family farm until being apprenticed to a draper. Moving to London he worked in many areas of the ministry of the non-conformist King's Weigh House Chapel. In 1844 he and some friends set up the YMCA. This soon grew into an international movement. In 1853 he married Helen Hitchcock and had several children. He became proprietor of the drapery firm he had worked for (Hitchcock, Williams & Co, which only closed down in 1984). In 1894 he was knighted by Queen Victoria and he died on 6 November 1905. His funeral was at St Paul's Cathedral and he is buried in the crypt there.

His great-great grandson Colin Williams, Vice President of the YMCA, was a donor to the Abbey's recent restoration appeal and a small window for him, with the YMCA badge, can be found in the Abbey's Lady Chapel.

Member's correspondence

PASSING OF LES YEATES

On 1 Jun 2015, at 16:08, Peter Brookes wrote:

Dear David,

Within the last half hour just had a 'phone call from the son of Les Yeates to tell me that his father died in March. Apparently matters of pension etc. have been sorted but it will warrant an announcement in Newsletter.

I do not know much about Les, I think his time was spent in serving with BBBF, and I only had contact with him in the event of a members' death when he was one of my contact list. No doubt one of our really old colleagues, i.e., much older than me will have some information. I'm told that Les was 93 years of age.

Best wishes, **Peter (Brookes)**

I was sorry to hear of the death of Les, who was a nice chap to work with. You won't need me to tell you, a lot of water has passed under the bridge since I was at Park Hill which was between 1961 and 1965.

When I joined the YMCA Training Course I lost contact with Park Hill which is a pity especially when it would be good to pass on some memory's. If I think of anything I will of course come back to you. I do of course remember Fabian Lance and Peter Kitts sadly in name only.

Best wishes - **David (Tipping)**

I am very sorry to hear of the death of Les Yeates. I have tried to contact him recently by email and phone (unobtainable), with no reply. Les Yeates, although not mentioned in Barbara Vessey's BBBF book, he was on my BBBF list of contacts, keeping him informed of BBBF news etc.

BBBF Park Hill, Egginton, Derby

In 1962, Fabian Lance, Mr Kitts and David Tipping were at the BBBF Park Hill centre. Les Yeates was at Park Hill, Derby in 1963, 1964, 1965 and 1966 and may have been there when Park Hill finally closed in 1968. David Tipping may have more information for us on dates etc.

When I first joined the YMCA staff in January 1967 at Portsmouth YMCA, I am sure Les was at the YMCA RAF Apprentices Hostel at Farnborough. One Christmas, November or early December between 1967 and 70, Les laid on a "Christmas" YMCA Southern Fraternal at Farnborough. What a wonderful Christmas Lunch we all had. I am sorry I cannot furnish more information at the moment, but hope this is start.

With best wishes - **Stephen (Milner)**

Dear David,

Firstly, thank you for all you do to keep us informed and connected. I know some times the news you have to convey is one of loss. However for the most part, we are comforted by the sure knowledge that a new life in all it's fullness is being experienced unconstrained by time or pain.

On Monday night Barbara and I watched the Panorama TV doco featuring Stoke YMCA. We felt proud of Danny and his incredible team. It was powerful and uplifting. The call of God to Christian service through the YMCA is clear today as in times past. The love of God to the most needy is not diminished.

I am sure Danny and all those "still in the field" would appreciate feed back and the encouragement that comes from knowing we who have gone before continue to pray.

Thank you David for everything.

John (Drake)

FROM LAST NEWSLETTER ARTICLE ABOUT FRITZ PAVELZICK

I worked with Fritz Pavelzick in Nairobi and I drove his VW combi "SERVE YOUTH JOIN YMCA" while he was away because Norman had the Hillman which had blown up. I got into trouble because I scratched the combi on thorn trees taking a football team to play at Naivasha. No roads, impossible to get there without ploughing through thorn trees-I don't think I was ever forgiven. Karin said quietly "Never mind Neil it still works!" I went back there year before last - very interesting to see changes and a lot of progress.

From **Neil (Sjoberg)**

Dear David:

Thank you for the latest edition of the newsletter circulated among our UK YMCA retirees. I noted the minutes and report of the Executive Committee. On behalf of the WFYR Leadership Team, we join you in your acknowledgement and appreciation of Reg Wake for his devotion and steadfast leadership over three decades.

I also join your colleagues in commending your leadership for editing the communication centerpiece for the UK. We cannot take for granted the generosity of a local Association toward our efforts.

I was particularly interested to read the report of the Herts YMCA, the CEO Guy Foxell, and his staff member Lorraine Stocken providing technical and office support for the publication of the UK newsletter. The Philadelphia YMCA does the same for Bridges, our global newsletter.

Secours Speciaux is our signature charity for all the right reasons. I express deep appreciation for the generosity of colleagues demonstrated by your reports. THANK YOU.

Godspeed to each of you: Jim Lamb (President), Ray Allen (Honorary Treasurer), Rupert George, Sam Johnston, David Miller, Keith Rennie, David Smith (Editor), Reg' Wake, and Vic Hills (Secretary) for your dedicated leadership above and beyond the call of duty.

Norris D. Lineweaver - Chairman World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees

UPDATE ON RICHARD GOOCH

I was out with Richard rather later than usual yesterday because I took a laptop and set it up to use our Sky account so he could watch All Blacks vs. Argentina.

He is progressing but as everyone says it is very slow etc. etc. At least he's off the thickened water and pureed food. And he now has a giant-sized walker that he uses (with supervision) to get himself to physio and to lunch.

I asked him if he's bored and lonely and so on and he says he's okay, but I suppose he would wouldn't he. He can talk more, and more clearly, and it's very clear that the same sense of humour is present.

Linda Caradus (Gooch)

Dear David,

I am very sad to learn that Richard Gooch is so unwell. He is remembered with much pleasure as a person with great strength of character, good humour and a genius at rugby. He displayed his coaching skills of a young team in Morpeth where he spent part of his career in the YMCA. My prayerful thoughts are with him and his family at this difficult time!

Regards **Jim (Lamb)**

Dear David

Thank you for your email. Very sad to hear David Bellotti's news. He was a good friend of the YMCA College and I remember him visiting us and talking to students. I believe he was also Regional Secretary at some stage in his YMCA career?

Chandu (Christian)

Dear David

Thank you for your email re David Bellotti, very sad news. I knew Jo when she was a member at Weston-super-mare YMCA, and it was suggested she went to Hove to gain experience! Whilst 'in power' at Bath, David generously invited Y's Retired for a day out, coffee at the Guildhall, lunch at the YM, and a tour of the Roman baths. I met him last at Stewart Page's funeral!

In his early days with the YM, he was always a bit of a rebel, "Whose this young upstart? would be the question when he questioned certain long held YMCA traditions!

Paul (Harper)

Dear David,

Thank you for the communication regarding David Bellotti. It is with sadness I take note of his death and await further information of the funeral arrangements. I did not get to know David very well but do recall Sam Johnson and I attending to him at a conference many years ago when he fainted. Further contact was through YMCA National Conferences.

Warm regards, **Jim (Lamb)**

Thank you David.

I remember him well. Crystal clear mind, usually three steps ahead of the rest of use.

Watching him taking on the "old guard" at the BSA AGM in Skegness, was a wonder, so bold, so sure of this facts and detailed understanding of the constitution.

Poor old Will Steele and Bill Leyland - they just could not cope.

Thank you for all you do. **John (Drake)**

Must say that the news of David's passing came as a considerable shock. Thank you so much for keeping me in touch David.

With best wishes,

Roger (Hunt)

I served on the YMCA Pension Committee with David for several years. I had a great deal of respect for him, as I believed him to be a very able person. His contribution to the work of the committee was valued for the level of understanding he had about pensions as well as investment.

After being elected as an MP he was asked to remain on the committee emphasising the previous comments.

Amusingly I went with David to the local underground station after a meeting and he produced a card and said as an MP I can travel anywhere on the underground free of charge!!

Best Wishes **Richard (Long)**

Dear David

I was shocked to hear about David..... He was such an active person always giving more than 100% to the causes for which he had a passion, the YMCA being one of them. His last role in society, that of being a Cabinet Member for BANES and responsible for Finance and Resources, gave David a great opportunity to influence the Council's provision of services in a caring way. He spent our money wisely.

I first met David as I started out on my Youth Work career. David was elected President of the YSA- Youth Service Association, that became CYSA and later the Youth Workers Union. He demonstrated his leadership skills even then (early seventies) and contributed to the establishment of JNC for Youth Workers - still in existence.

Then we met through the YMCA, and then, to my amazement we met in Bath M&S (men's section) and have maintained contact ever since.

Others will remember David Bellotti MP - for two years!

Also, David's control of Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club. He was also Don Foster's agent for a while. I could go on. A great man and a serious loss to society. David was a true expression of *faith in action*. I know he could talk at length but most of it made sense!!

Sadly I shall not be able to attend the funeral service next Tuesday since I shall be travelling, with Barbara, daughter and grandchild to Suffolk to attend my sister's funeral service on Wednesday 24th. As I travel my thoughts will be with all those gathering at St. Lukes.

My thoughts are with Joe and the children.

Blessings **David (Pendle)**

I asked Mervyn had he had any special memories of David. He chuckled and said 'He stirred things up'. He was restless for progress. He was an MP for a short time and we so enjoyed a visit to Bath at his invitation where he entertained us 'right royally' at the Mansion house and we had lovely refreshments and then followed by a visit to the Roman baths

Beryl and Mervyn (Moorehead)

Dear David

Unfortunately I will not be able to make the funeral and will write to Jo. Here is a short memory, slightly different from the eloquent advocate at National Board meetings.

David invited me to the House of Commons soon after his election as the MP for Eastbourne. He was a little like a new boy at school. He was in an unusual position as he had won a by election and therefore was the only new boy so it was quite challenging.

He was excited, positive and rightly proud but also shared some of the difficulties such as getting office space and a seat in the House. It was as if he welcomed the chance to share some of his frustrations, knowing that they would go no further.

It was a privilege and joy to be with him and moved our relationship to a new level.

With best wishes

John (Naylor)



THE BBBF REUNION

This year's **YMCA BBBF Reunion** took place on Tuesday 23 June 2015 at Plumpton College near Lewes, East Sussex. 26 former BBBF boys were joined by family and friends so we were altogether 48 on the day. Five of the BBBF boys also attended Plumpton College after their BBBF training including Tony Crittenden who was the 1000th boy to pass through the BBBF Wilderwick House training centre.

One of the boys present, Alan Spendiff, who trained at the North Cadbury Court BBBF centre, became a Lecturer in Agricultural Engineering at Plumpton College.

The College gave us a great day starting with coffee on arrival. Robin and Ruth Foster brought their Harp and Q Chord instruments and we sang the folk song "To be a Farmers Boy". The College Principal Des Lambert welcomed us, showed us slides of farming in the past and talked to us about the College courses today using the general term "Land based Studies".

We enjoyed a Ploughman's Lunch with Plumpton Cheese, a variety of deserts with Plumpton Cream and Plumpton Ice Cream!

After Lunch we toured the outside of the College visiting various departments: Stables, Dairy, Winery, Veterinary, horticultural areas and Engineering workshops where young people were using the forge while attending Summer School.

We returned to the College for tea before making our way up to Dormansland to visit the Wilderwick Estate where Wilderwick House once stood.

The BBBF boys spent their first 8 weeks living in Wilderwick House while working on local farms before moving on to other farms further afield. Wilderwick was used by the YMCA BBBF from 1948 to 1966.

Our next port of call was The Royal Oak at Dormansland for an evening meal attended by 28 people. In days gone by the parents of Jean Saunders owned the Royal Oak when Jean was BBBF Secretary at Wilderwick House in 1949 - 52 before her marriage to Walter.

Later Jean's parents moved to The Plough at Cowden. The current owners of The Royal Oak, Dom and Sara, had recently moved from The Plough at Cowden to The Royal Oak! Do call in for a morning Coffee, Lunch or Evening Meal at Dormansland, Sara and Dom will make you very welcome.

I received 60 apologies for various reasons (ill health, old age or too long distance to travel from the north of the country or abroad).

The next Reunion is planned to be held in the Derby area to reach the 'North of the Country' boys!

I am now in contact with over 155 people connected to the YMCA BBBF Training Scheme, either former boys, staff, lecturers, family members or farmers.

Stephen Milner

Thank you Stephen for your report - such a wonderful day you all must have had. Without your personal persistence and dedication to the cause, none of this amazing gathering would have happened. A truly inspiring achievement. (Editor David)





Shortly before completing his term of office as Chair of City Council in Bath, David Bellotti kindly extended an official invitation to a number of Y's Retired folk living in the area, to join him for a tour of the Guildhall and Roman Baths, lunch being organised by Mike Fairbeard, CEO of Bath YMCA.

David told those present that the first 24 members of Bath YMCA accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour at the Guildhall in 1846 when George Williams stopped over on his way from London to set up the YMCA in Taunton.

Dear David (editor)

Thank you so much. It's lovely to hear such kind words and thoughts about David. The Service was lovely and Mike Fairbeard was brilliant. Thank you for your prayers they are much appreciated,

Jo, Luca and Mils

Dear Jo - just returned from a 1500 mile working trip around the UK travelling to conferences and meetings one of which was in Southport where I met with **David Pendle**. Our thoughts and prayers were with you all, as we both reminisced over our remembrance of David's life which had to include his vitality and energy.

I personally did not know David well but from a distance admired his ability to question where others would not go. For him there was always an alternative which could be put into the mix and worth appropriate consideration.

I remember how proud we all were as YMCA staff, that David had been elected as an MP, a great achievement, soon to be followed up by so many other achievements. He will be sadly missed by us all, as we remember his life's work.

I haven't yet heard from Mike Fearbeard, but I'm sure he will have represented Y's Retired of UK and the YMCA in general with a homily which David, yourself and the greater family deserved. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with you and your children - Kind regards

David (Smith)

Chandu Christian writes to share that on 6th June the Indian Chapter of the YMCA Retired Secretaries met at the YMCA Indian Student Hostel in London to celebrate the Founder's Day.

Chandu also says that:- "as a family we are doing well, although old age sends me reminders about old age from time to time! Hope you and your family are thriving. I do enjoy reading your newsletters. Thank you for keeping us informed and connected."

The Picture below

Front Row (from the left) Eryl Davies; Mike Kent; Alan Reid; Allen Isaac; Peter Brookes; Derek Machin; Hans Wirz; Arthur Bennett; Bill Sargison..

Middle Row (from the left) Mike Reid; John Bygate; Paul Harper; Jim Black; Stewart Page; Ted Milburn.

Back Row (centre) Peter Close.

It is suspected that the 17th student, Keith Scott who was one of the group, took the photograph.

From Professor Ted Milburn

On 3rd July 2010 we started our 50th Reunion in Loch Lomondside of the YMCA Youth Workers' one year training course in London for qualification as full time youth workers. The survivors of this group of eager students, the class of 1960/1961, met in joyful celebration with spouses. Most are now over 75 and therefore are given to startling behaviour, and occasional eccentricity. In this picture is a lifetime of committed service by people who care about positive opportunities for young people.

We salute you!!!

