



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

MARCH 2012

www.yretired.co.uk



GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear colleagues and friends - greetings

How wonderful it is to be a grandparent! One of the joys of getting older and retired is to have a grandchild, for me a grandson aged five in March. A lighter letter than usual! It has fallen to my lot to have the opportunity in recent times to take Kyle to his school in the village. The walk there and back is an experience – playing games en route of which the latest is that he plays the ‘invisible man’ and I have to hold a conversation including such questions, “Where is Kyle?” “Gosh he has disappeared!” “Anyone seen Kyle?” So I look round and round not noticing of course the crouching figure on the pavement.

By now other parents making their way with ever so obedient children marvel at a grandfather – a grown man – perhaps out of his mind talking to a supposedly invisible boy who cannot contain his pleasure with a constant giggle! The fact that their children want to join in at the school gate does not escape the vigilant eyes of bemused parents. So I ask myself, “Am I normal?”

What is normality? Is it a part of one’s nature/character which tells others we are sane human beings BUT how can they judge for the question to be asked of them, are they normal to make judgement on my normality! Such is the attitude toward elderly, retired YMCA Secretaries and laymen.

Here quiet observation gives rise to the realisation that ‘those people ‘younger than old’ look at those ageing as peculiar, not normal, eccentric, unusual, angry old people, polite, courteous, sweet and most often with praise. So we repeat the question, “What is normality?” Even reputable Dictionaries do not give an adequate answer, quote, “Conforming to what is standard” which begs the question what is standard? Another quote, – “Free from mental or emotional discord”.

Now the latter is the nearest to my state for those other children joining in at the school gates confirm that I am normal. Even when I am sure one parent mouthed the question, “Who is that idiot over there?” That was the moment I realised I was truly normal!

Two points for your attention.

- A note of congratulation to Sam and Maureen Johnston for the efforts Sam ably assisted by Maureen in establishing the lasting ‘memorial’ to the YMCA along with others at the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire so gaining equal status and respect with

other ‘bodies’ represented is appreciated by us all. Those of us who have not yet contributed but wish to do so at this late stage of completion contact Sam on 01954 781107 to check the position. Those contributing will all receive an invitation to the eventual celebration!!

* Your committee continues to serve the needs of the Y’s Retired of the UK and I am sure you would wish to share with me appreciation for a very fine job Reg Wake has done in completing a new ‘Y’s Retired Membership List’. Those of you who are members or associated in any way are reminded that subscriptions are due. If you have not yet joined for whatever reason may I invite you to take out full paid membership with Reg Wake, this does enable your committee to work even more effectively for the future of the Y’s Retired of the UK and contributions to our YMCA Charity Secours Speciaux supporting YMCA colleagues who have no State nor YMCA pensions often living at poverty level enduring hardship and a poor quality of life.

Warm regards, Jim Lamb

Y's RETIRED OF THE SOUTH WEST

Last call for all members to enjoy the clean sea air of St Ives, Cornwall

**From:-
 Dinner on Monday 26 March to after
 Breakfast Friday 30 March 2012.**

**Half Board accommodation in en-suite rooms –
No single supplement**

**£40 deposit to:-
 Margaret Libby, 1 Lyndrick Road,
 Hartley, Plymouth PL3 5TA (01752 773040)
 as soon as possible with balance
 due mid February 2012.**

There will be singing from a local Male voice choir, Liz Harper’s famous quiz evening and “YMCA family” communion service. The daytimes will be free to explore St Ives, the Lands End Peninsula, or St Michael’s Mount, however on the Wednesday there will be an all day coach trip.

All this for £196.00

UNBELIEVABLE !!!

My friends - Don’t delay – book today!!

Thank you David and your PR team,

Just returned from Spain and feeling for all those serving YMCA colleagues dashing around preparing their staff for the Christmas onslaught. I didn't realise what we (the YMCA) achieved until I stepped out of it. More things to do, more impossible expectations to meet, more family bust ups than at any time of the year. That is the reality of front line hostel work over Christmas...and now with fewer staff.

On a much more positive note, opportunities for work are developing in Bethlehem and now Gaza. The links with those YMCA's are proving a God-send literally. I go out at least four times a year and would be happy to share what's happening at any of your meetings.

Thanks again for the news. **John (Drake)**

I keep very well with golf and cycling, services and funerals to take! However, my wife is struggling with Parkinson's – makes mobility very difficult but we keep doing things – concerts, theatre, poetry group etc.

Rev Ron (Ingamells)

As promised I have followed up primarily due to a Christmas card the new address for Margaret Grey!! She is most appreciative of the information sent to her about the YMCA Y's Retired of the UK, Quote: "It is a good feeling to know that people remember Jim and a happy feeling that we are remembered as a pair, I was always proud of him, a Very Special Person.". In the circumstances do keep her on the list for it is sincerely appreciated. She is in a 'Care Home.' Quote, "I like the complex where I live and all the ladies and ... I enjoy the company ..." Please note the new address as under -

Margaret Grey, 142, Essex Road (Flats), Stamford, PE9 1LT.

I have also received a Christmas card from Margaret Powell, she has health problems but is as cheerful as ever. I still need to check if she wishes to be retained on the list. **Jim (Lamb)**

Dear David

Just a thank you for the great job you do in compiling the Y's Retired Newsletter, without which we really would feel like the forgotten men and women of past generations. You do so much to keep that YMCA spirit alive in us and for that I and many others I know are very grateful.

Giving my 13 year old grandson a lift he turned to me and said in a very authoritative voice that I have not heard since I worked with John Naylor, "How are you Grandad?" "Oh I am fine thank you Edward, I don't have to go to school and now I don't even have to go to work". After a short pause he replied, "Grandad you're living the dream". Perhaps we are.

Have a good New Year and every blessing on you and yours

Alex (Cloke)



Our Swedish Retired YMCA Secretary colleague - Lars Rooth still filling a magical role over the Christmas celebrations

Thanks friends for X-mas card and New Year wishes. Today it's snowing - nearly the first real snow this winter. But in my - our- minds just now is the tour to Sri Lanka.

As you know we are bee-keepers and with that follows a hard working summer. But the bees are not doing much just now and it gives us the chance to fly away. I have never been so far in that direction so it will be a new experience. I have looked into the weather forecast for Sri Lanka and it shows sun, sun sun!!!

Have a nice winter and lookout for ice - it can give you broken legs or arms.
Take care.

Lars (Rooth)

Dear David Jim and Reg,

Just to inform you that I transferred £700 to Secours Speciaux today. This is made up of £500 in members donations and £200 subvention from General funds.

I wanted to get 2011 contributions sent before the year end so that I can include it on the 2011 Balance Sheet.

Regards **Ray (Allen)**

YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

Please keep in your prayers our dear friend Roy Weaver who has been slowly recovery from major surgery.

Please also keep in your prayers, Ray Onions, who contracted a debilitating virus, the effects of which took him into Liskeard Nursing Home where he had a fall, which meant he had to go to Derriford Hospital in Plymouth. He is now back in Liskeard Nursing Home.

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In Cahoots.....

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

**I've also never been in Cognito.
I hear no one recognizes you there.**

**I have, however, been in Sane.
They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family & work.**

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go. I try not to visit there too often.

I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

**One of my favourite places to be is in Suspense!
It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!**

Author Unknown

I am not afraid of tomorrow for I have seen yesterday and I love today

The following email was sent to Damaris by your Editor, the reason being self explanatory.

"Dear Sir,

I am a keen supporter of www.damaris.org/ and grateful for its existence and all that it does, however, on one of the handouts entitled "Coping with change" which goes with the book advertising the new film - The Iron Lady, it clearly states that Lord Shaftesbury Founded the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association). He did not.

The founder of the YMCA was George Williams later to be knighted. The YMCA was founded in 1844 by the forward thinking of twelve young men from different Christian denominations the leadership coming from George Williams.

The YMCA in England still works hard to support homeless young people all over our country. From 1851 and Albert's Great Exhibition, it spread worldwide and remains a Christian international movement with a membership of over 26 million.

Just thought you should know so that you can - in some way, make a correction."

Kind Regards - David H Smith

The Hotel Bill

Next time you think your hotel bill is too high, you might want to consider this:

My wife and I were traveling by car from Victoria to Prince George. Being Seniors Citizens and after almost eleven hours on the road, we were too tired to continue, so decided to take a hotel room. But, we only planned to sleep for four hours and then get back on the road. When we checked out four hours later, the desk clerk handed us a bill for £230.00.

I explode and demanded to know why the charge was so high. I told the clerk although it's a nice hotel; the rooms certainly aren't worth £230.00 for four hours. Then the clerk tells me that £230.00 is the 'standard rate'. I insisted on speaking to the Manager.

The Manager appears, listens to me, and then explains that the hotel has an Olympic-sized pool and a huge conference centre that were available for us to use. "But we didn't use them," I said. "Well, they are here, and you could have," explained the Manager.

He went on to explain that we could also have taken in one of the shows for which the hotel is famous. "We have the best entertainers from London, Hollywood, and Paris performing here," the Manager says.

"But we didn't go to any of those shows," I said. "Well, we have them, and you could have," the Manager replied.

No matter what amenity the Manager mentioned, I replied, "But we didn't use it!"

The Manager was unmoved, and eventually I gave up and agreed to pay.

I wrote a cheque and gave it to the Manager.

The Manager was surprised when he looked at the cheque. "But sir, this cheque is only made out for £30.00." "That's correct. I charged you £200.00 for sleeping with my wife," I replied.

"But I didn't!" exclaimed the Manager.

I said, "Well, too bad, she was here, and you could have."

Don't mess with Senior Citizens!!!

Dear David and Sue

I've moved to Dorridge - just down from Knowle, where the housing office used to be. It's tough going, but rewarding.

Email working again. Any plans for a conference this year? Have I missed anything in the past 3 months? How are you both?

We have a lot of space if you ever need a resting place, 5 minutes off the M42, or 10mins drive from NEC, or 10 min walk from a train station that gets you into Birmingham in 20 mins.

Blessing to you and yours. **Tony (Rev'd Malcolm)**
Name and address supplied

Great Yarmouth YMCA hostel approved for Two Bears Hotel



The former hotel is set to be taken over by the YMCA. Councillors in Great Yarmouth have approved plans to turn a redundant hotel into a youth hostel, despite objections from businesses and others. The Two Bears Hotel on Pasteur Road will be turned into 20 self-contained flats and three disabled units for 18 to 24 year olds. To meet planning requirements developers will have to cover some of the windows which overlook a nursery. The YMCA would move into the premises in June 2012.

Cheltenham YMCA receives £3.3m for work with homeless



The Cheltenham YMCA currently offers 56 units of accommodation has received a funding boost of £3.3m to improve facilities for rough sleepers.

It received the largest grant from a pot of £37.5m shared between 37 homeless projects in the UK.

David Wallace, chief executive of the YMCA, said the money was needed to build 73 new accommodation units as demand in the town far exceeded supply. Mr Wallace said they were currently doing "the best they can" in the out-of-date YMCA Cheltenham building which has 56 small rooms lacking in quality. "This will undoubtedly give the whole housing project a big future and serve young people for years to come," he said. "We are very much in demand and by having additional accommodation we should be able to meet some of that demand with modern accommodation."

Greetings from **Norman and Janet (Owen)** with the news that son John is to marry Kate on Easter Saturday. Janet had a knee replacement in March. Slight complications being allergic to morphine. Now each week does three trips to the gym, two swims of 40 lengths, an hour of cycling and a day of rest on Sunday. (same as me then!! - Ed)

Norman, via a Council grant purchased a marquee for the village, has co-ordinated another successful Summer Fete and taken part in the drama groups 'murder mystery' evening and 'Allo Allo' as Herr Flick. Part of the performance required him to dress as a woman complete with fishnet tights, short skirt, large boobs and a wig. He looked like 'Mrs Doubtfire.' Janet continues to help prisoners in Erlestoke Prison with their problems and Norman is busy finishing off his gauge 1, radio controlled, live steam railway when not involved with the Church Building and Development Committee.

Graham and Julia (Clarke) Although there has been sadnesses in the passing of Julia's father aged 92 and Graham's brother in law, both of sudden circumstances, there were celebrations for Graham's Mums 80th birthday. God has been actively at work in Graham's church life introducing a continual influx of young families mainly through Messy Church. Last Messy Church had 92 children and 55 parents attending.

Julia now manages the Referral Management Team in Watford, Dacorum and Three Rivers having moved from Buckinghamshire.

Graham has stepped down from the Central Herts YMCA Board, but is chair of a local youth project which has a seconded YMCA worker. He continues as Moderator of the Central Baptist Association which takes up much of his time.

Martin and Anna Pearse write: Martin is busy managing Community Repaint UK network, which involves schemes that take in surplus and leftover paint, store it and redistribute it to community and sports groups, Housing Associations and many Local Authorities. He continues to referee and is now an assessor of referees. Anna continues her work with Somerset County Council in Glastonbury.

Phil and Ann Heath share that the start of the year (2011) heralded the birth of Alfie Jon, their fifth grandchild. In March Ann's dad celebrated his 90th birthday. Ann continues to locum practice nurse duties at various surgeries in Torbay. Phil was recently in Amsterdam working with a friend renovating a classic Dutch Barge. He has also tutored a Youth Work course for the YMCA. In October they had 17 solar panels fitted at the back of the house, so Phil now requires it to be sunny everyday.

Having travelled with their boat through the French Canals 2010, this last year they crossed over to Menorca to Majorca lifting the boat out for wintering at Addaya. Both have enjoyed three months of meeting interesting people, swimming, snorkelling and fishing in warm clear seas, and exploring new places. They enjoyed a Christmas table surrounded by four generations.

General Correspondence

David, just to encourage you...please share it if you think fit.

John (Drake)

Dear Grace (Heeley) and all the planning team.

Thank you so much for being a key part of one of the most Christ centred YMCA conferences I have attended in my 45 years of YMCA service. It took me back to the late 1960's when Peter Cody and Mervyn Moorhead with a young Rev David Watson led the YMCA prayer fellowship.

Did you know that Oswald Chambers the author of the worlds most read daily devotional book " My Utmost for His Highest" died serving as a YMCA Secretary and that there is now a YMCA edition.

So much happens when Jesus is uplifted....At Unify APS committee members took the opportunity to discuss with Jackie Bone about a closer tie up with the YMCA Chaplains movement - how neat is that.

Also I was thrilled to share the Jerusalem YMCA story. There are really prospects of new links emerging - how about a Unify Conference in Jerusalem open to all our European family???

Well done and God favour you in all he calls you to do in his service.

WELL, WE'RE ALL ADULTS AREN'T WE?

Miss Beatrice,
The church organist, was in her eighties and had never been married.

She was admired for her sweetness and kindness to all. One afternoon the pastor came to call on her and she showed him into her quaint sitting room.

She invited him to have a seat while she prepared tea. As he sat facing her old Hammond organ, the young minister noticed a cute glass bowl sitting on top of it.

The bowl was filled with water, and in the water floated, of all things, a condom!

When she returned with tea and scones, they began to chat.
The pastor tried to stifle his curiosity about the bowl of water and its strange floater, but soon it got the better of him and he could no longer resist.

'Miss Beatrice', he said,
'I wonder if you would tell me about this?' pointing to the bowl.
'Oh, yes,' she replied, 'Isn't it wonderful?'

I was walking through the park a few months ago and I found this little package on the ground.

The directions said to place it on the organ, keep it wet and that it would prevent the spread of disease.
Do you know I haven't had the flu all winter.'

UK Advertising Standards Authority try and stop HOTS Bath from sharing the Gospel!

Breaking news !!!

As a registered Christian Trust, "Healing On The Streets Bath" has been working on the streets of our city for over 3 years now, and has seen scores of people physically healed and come into a personal relationship with Jesus. However, it has taken just one letter of complaint for the UK Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) to make the ruling that we should no longer claim that "God can heal the sick" and are trying to silence us by ruling that our website is breaking their marketing and advertising code.

It would also appear that other teams around the country have been targeted in similar ways. Despite the Queen's Speech on Christmas Day in which Her Majesty announced her alliance with the Christian faith saying "It is my prayer that on this Christmas Day we might all find room in our lives for the message of the angels and for the love of God through Christ our Lord." Despite David Cameron's Prime Ministerial speech to church leadership, which included such statements as "The Bible is a book that has not just shaped our country, but shaped the world.....a book that is not just important in understanding our past, but which will continue to have a profound impact in shaping our collective future".

It would appear that the ASA have taken a different view on Christianity in the UK and would now like us to recant our Christian faith in the Bible and go as far as to sign a letter which includes the following line "We will not make claims which state or imply that, by receiving prayer from our volunteers, people could be healed of medical conditions."

Although from the ASA's angle, this may look like a simple case of encouraging Christians to play down their claims in the beliefs that the Bible hold so clearly, it would appear now that the ASA regulate websites - they have decided that even though we don't have a product to 'sell', we are still breaking "marketing" regulations.

HOTS Bath tried to reach a compromise (without changing our message), recognising some of the ASA's concerns, but there are certain things that we cannot agree to – including a ban on expressing our beliefs. We are now in the process of appealing against the ruling. It appears that the complaint to the ASA was made by a group generally opposed to Christianity and was regarding our website where we state " God can heal." It therefore seems strange to us that on the basis of a purely ideological objection to what we say on our website, the ASA has decided it is appropriate to insist that we cannot talk about a common and widely held belief that is an important aspect of conventional Christian faith.

We have a Trustees meeting scheduled in a couple of weeks where we will be praying and discussing where we believe Father is leading us in our next step of our walk, and how you can help us in our visions as a Trust to promote Christian healing as a daily life style for every believer.

In the mean time however, we would like to reassure all of our team and supporters that the HOTS Bath team will be back on the streets of Bath as usual, for the start of the season, on Thursday, 1st of March , outside Bath Abbey from 11am to 1pm, as the ruling will not affect us offering to pray for people. In the meantime, we would ask you to pray that this ruling is overturned through the appeal that we are lodging, to bless those who have lodged the complaint against us, and ask Father for an increase in the demonstration of signs and wonders on our streets.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ who give such comfort to so many people who wish to be prayed for in the market place not just in Bath but in many of our cities.