



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

SEPTEMBER 2009

www.yretired.co.uk



Message from our President



Greetings to you all as the summer season now with us makes demands of all kinds on those of us retired, some for many years some new to the experience! My garden appears to have greater respect for the weeds than the abundance of flowers otherwise adorning the borders of a small lawn - I was told retirement gave greater time to attend to both!

Dear colleagues,

The Y's Retired members have recently experienced both ends of the 'retirement' spectrum of life in the loss of a much valued member Geoffrey Harris. Geoffrey was a true Christian gentleman who after 20 years dedicated service as both Treasurer and past President passed away following a spate of ill health. I draw your attention to Reg Wakes most fitting tribute by way of an 'obituary' in this copy of the Newsletter.

With the loss of Geoffrey who as Treasurer attended the Y's Retired of the UK finances so admirably your Executive Committee are pleased to announce that in their search for a successor Ray Allen has been appointed! Ray, a relatively new member, the other end of the spectrum, is already fully engaged with Reg Wake in co-ordinating a smooth handover through Geoffrey's son Graham who in turn has 'pulled out all the stops' in ensuring all matters relating to the accounts are diligently dealt with. We are indebted to all three.

The Re-union or 'Gathering' as it has sometimes been called draws nearer, those registered according to my correspondence are looking forward with great anticipation to the well prepared and balanced programme. A highlight is a visit to view the YMCA Archives at the Birmingham University Library no doubt raising many memories and of course nostalgia! Late application may still be made for the Re-union (3pm Sept 21st to 11am 24th) – just telephone 01223 440228 or email; j.lamb22@btinternet.com for full information.

A closing thought. After taking a church service in Newcastle upon Tyne and shaking hands at the door a dear old lady with a hearing aid in each ear said "Thank you Mr Lamb, I am stone deaf but heard every word you said!" Now was that for her a spiritual experience from a biblical text or just clarity of speech?!

Keep as well as you are able, hold fast to your faith and enjoy your retirement – the flowers are more attractive than the weeds!

Warm regards,
Jim



IAN GREEN IS APPOINTED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF YMCA ENGLAND

Ian Green has held the position of Chief Executive of YMCA England in an interim capacity since July 2008 and previously was the Chief Executive of Kingston and Wimbledon YMCA. Ian, now 43, started his work with the YMCA movement in 1987 as a Housing Manager at the YMCA in Ealing.

Still living in Ealing, where he sits on the Council and previously served as Mayor, Ian also serves as Chairman of the Board of the Ealing Hospital NHS Trust, along with being a Justice of the Peace.

'I am honoured to lead such a dynamic group of YMCAs that every day pour their hearts and souls into supporting young people who too often have nowhere else to turn,' said **Chief Executive Ian Green**. 'I've dedicated the last 20 years of my life to the YMCA Movement because I believe in the work we do, I believe in the people doing that work, and, most importantly, I believe in the promise of young people.'

'When Ian took over at Kingston, we were in a very difficult financial situation,' said **John Holland, Chairman of Kingston & Wimbledon YMCA**. 'He came in, refocused our efforts, helped lay the foundations for the Association's future, saw us through a complex merger with Wimbledon YMCA and helped formulate and then implement a new strategic plan. We are now one of the largest and most successful YMCAs in Europe. We owe much of that success to Ian Green, and I couldn't think of a better choice to lead the Movement across England.'

While Interim National Secretary, Ian put those same skills to work travelling the country meeting with YMCAs in order to devise a strategic plan that will move YMCA England into a new phase of development and service to its members. Moving forward and implementing that plan will be one of his first tasks.

'Ian is going to make the entire YMCA Movement very proud,' said **Tim Waldron, Chairman of YMCA England**. 'Ian has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to helping young people build a future. Over the last year, he has earned the trust of the Movement, excited the membership, and provided critical strategic leadership. The National Board is confident that under Ian's continuing guidance the Movement will thrive and reach new heights.'

Ian's term in office starts immediately at YMCA England.

PRESIDENT : Jim Lamb T 01223 440228 E: j.lamb22@btinternet.com
TREASURER: Ray Allen T 01522 683920 E: rayc.allen@btinternet.com

SECRETARY: Reg Wake T 01372 275402 E: regwake@aol.com
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SUNDANCE



This beautiful boat is a Jeanneau Prestige 32 weighing 6 1/2 tons with twin 285 hp Volvo Penta Engines giving her a top speed of 28 knots.

The Skipper and Owner is one David "Kid" Smith (aka the Editor of the Ys Retired Newsletter and a member of the Executive Committee) with an efficient First Mate and crew known as Sue.

Based at Falmouth, the crew, in mid May 2009, hosted most royally, Bet and Col Mawby, members of the Ys Retired, for a voyage up the Fal. Apart from the sky being overcast, the currents strong, the waves high and the wind bitterly cold, we all enjoyed ourselves immensely.

We had to get over the 'bar' in the waterway leading out of the Marina before 11am else we would have been stranded for the day. The boat bravely beat into the waves, ably controlled by the Skipper, with its ensign fluttering madly in the breeze(?), until we could turn up the Carrick Roads, when the battering moderated.

It was great being with Sue and David and getting to know them better. We enjoyed watching the banks passing all covered with bright green trees and were amazed to see the huge ships, mainly car transporters, mothballed and moored on the quiet, peaceful River above King Harry Ferry.

We stopped at The Smuggler's Cottage, on the side of the River, for a nice lunch of Cornish Pasties and discovered that it stood by for one of the beaches from which American G.I.s embarked for the D Day landings. The interior of the Cottage was most interesting in that one room was devoted entirely to memorabilia of the S.S. Uganda, the very vessel on which Bet and Col, and their two young children, sailed for Kenya in 1955. Another coincidence was that a Chadburn's Ship's Telegraph was on display – this being the Company Col joined upon leaving the Accountancy Profession in 1951!

As we surged on up the River, studying, with some amazement, the various instruments, including weather forecaster, a depth gauge, and rev counters the grey skies opened as forecast and a patch of blue sky appeared – which lasted for precisely 5 minutes! We turned when nearing Malpas and headed downstream, mooring to a pontoon in the middle of the River for victuals – tea and a super iced cake laid on by Bo'sun Sue. On past St Just in Roseland when Skipper Dave suddenly proclaimed "there's St Mawes!" to the joy of Bet and Col who spent part of their honeymoon there in 1951! They eagerly, if with some difficulty, identified the Idle Rocks where they had stayed.

And so to Sundance's berth, into which Dave backed 'stern to' with great skill. It really had been a most enjoyable day, with the crew handling the ropes with great skill and aplomb – the Captain shouting orders and the crew responding in her own inimitable way! We can recommend the voyage to anybody who is in this beautiful area of Britain. Sue and David are admirable hosts who are sincerely thanked.

Bet & Col Mawby.
28th May 2009



OUR FINANCES

The July 09 Newsletter included a letter from Arthur Bennett on the subject of member subscriptions coupled with further support for "Secours Speciaux". To remind you, Arthur's suggestions were:

- a) "That the annual member's subscription payable in January each year be raised to £10 which would include a donation of £5 to "Secours Speciaux". (With the proviso that those who wished to do so could increase their donation!)
- b) "That consideration be given to the annual payment be made by Bank Standing Order as an option, helping members ensure that their dues are automatically met"

Your officers are of a mind to adopt Arthur's suggestions but as a first step sought member's opinion.

Sadly, only a few responses have been received. The matter is to be considered at the planned gathering in Birmingham in September.

It is seen to be important the widest possible sounding of member opinion is available to assist a proper decision.

Responses are again requested and may be sent my mail to:-
Reg Wake,
8 Chaffers Mead,
Ashtead.
KT21 1NG)
or by 'phone (01372) 275402)
or e-mail (regwake@aol.com)

The decision taken will be published in a subsequent November Newsletter. If there is support for Clause (b) the same issue will include a Standing Order pro forma for use of members in giving instruction to their personal bank.

Following in the death of our long serving treasurer Geoffrey Harris, we are in the process of transferring accounts to Ray Allen who, most thankfully, has undertaken the task in Geoffrey's stead.

These arrangement may take a little while to complete. Meanwhile, it would be helpful if any payments are deferred pending further notice.



INTERNATIONAL YMCA NEWS AND VIEWS

Dear David,

The news that Bart Shaha was to leave the World Alliance in 2010 reminded Mary and me of the first time we met this remarkable man.

We were in Bangladesh and went to the seaport of Chittagong to visit the YMCA there and more particularly to have a look at a simple coir matting project set up to help very poor women earn some money. The part-time project leader was Bart.

He went on to become General Secretary, National Secretary, Asia Area Secretary and Secretary General at the World Alliance. He was also a most self effacing man as I think that this photograph taken in 1978 shows.



Rather less self effacing but nevertheless delightful company was John Newton who remains as active in the dangerous places of this world as ever.

I once went to Nigeria where John met me at some odd little airport. He had a company of small boys lined up in three ranks like a guard of honour and insisted that I inspect them.

We then travelled to some embryonic YMCA where I planted a palm tree and having made our greatly extended farewells, John reversed the Land Rover and flattened the tree.

Next was a long trip down what I think was the Grosso River to Port Harcourt. During the trip, I had to be reminded not to trail my fingers in the water otherwise I would almost certainly lose them and Port Harcourt boasted one so called hotel with no water.

The District Commissioner granted us an interview next morning and, on being reminded that we had a plane to catch, he announced that planes left Port Harcourt when he said so. John --- better you than me.

Jim Thomson

Bonnie Mairs, Jerry Prado Shaw and I met with World Alliance Secretary General, Bart Shaha in Toronto, Canada on 19 - 20 June. The purpose was to develop a plan to address the unsecured retirement issue in developing countries.

I am pleased to say that because of Bart's attention to this critical issue, the prospects look good for making some real progress after years of study and talk. I will report more in Bridges. The goal is to complete work in order to present a plan at the July 2010 World Council in Hong Kong. This is very exciting news!

The meeting also provided an opportunity to talk with Bart about WFYR's participation in the 2010 Hong Kong World Council. We will receive more complete information in about a month but we know this much now:

The Main Venue will be at the Wu Kwai Sha conference grounds of the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong. WFYR has 50 spaces allocated to it. There is a small chance we might receive a few more at a later date. Also if some of us could be included in national delegations we could stretch our numbers.

Registration/meal cost will be about \$750 and housing at the main venue (two to a room at the YMCA's Wu Kwai Sha) will be \$40 per night. So total expense is airfare plus about \$1,000. We will register through the regular process for the World Council meeting and will not need to set up our own registration procedures. I will provide a list to the World Alliance so they will know who has been assigned our 50 slots.

There will be optional tours into mainland China organized for World Council participants that we may join. We will hold a WFYR leadership (officers & national chairs) meeting the day before the World Council begins.

There will be the option to stay in Hong Kong hotels with daily bus service. This will cost more and WFYR will not allow this in financial assistance. Key dates are July 19-24 for the World Council and July 18 for the WFYR leadership meeting.

Egon Slopianka has found it necessary to hand over his WFYR responsibilities as Vice Chair for Europe. John Knox of Scotland has graciously accepted the role. Egon will continue as a WFYR advisor.

I ask that all national retiree groups and Area Vice Chairs to consider raising funds for the WFYR Travel Fund so that we can assist in the participation of retirees from developing countries in Africa, Latin America, South Asia, etc. All contributions should be sent to WFYR Treasurer Dottie Eley, Make checks payable to NAFYR with a WFYR Travel Fund notation.

I am pleased to share that the US retirees (NAFYR) have just given another \$2,000 USD to the fund which now has a \$13,189 balance. We need to raise another \$12,000 to \$15,000 over the next 10 months.

PLEASE MAKE THIS A PRIORITY.

Thank You - Don Anderson

Dear David,

Many times over the past 10 years I have intended to write to the Secretary of "Y's Retired" to say I wished to resign. The reason was always the same. You will realise that as General Secretary of a small Association – Wellington - I was not often "allowed" into the big world of the YMCA due entirely to cost. Month after month I would read the Newsletter and hardly ever did I come across someone I actually knew. Recently the Newsletter has become more interesting and so I have change my mind!

A few things that have occupied me since retirement. I now do 'House and Animal' sitting for an organisation, and find this most rewarding; not so much financially, but rather the pleasure of seeing new parts of the country through living in someone else's home and of course looking after dogs or cats.

Two years ago I heard of Ruskin College, Oxford, and have spent quite a lot of time there. It's a place some of the other Y's Retired might find interesting. It exists to offer a university type education to those who were not able to attend University at an earlier age. The college is independent and offers three types of courses.

Firstly - short courses in a variety of subjects that in most cases are an "introduction".

Secondly, a full term course to study a subject of your choice, in a manner identical to a university course. This has the unusual name of 'Ransackers', a word that originates in the Viking lands and means "one who searches for knowledge". It is part funded by the Government's, "Better education for older people" strategy and part by the Esme Fairburn Trust. Hence, if you are over 55 it is entirely free. This can be followed by a second full term, but this time the study (again of your choice) is completely independent. Again free!

The third strand is to study full degree courses up to Masters. The first year of which is free. I chose "The decline of Industry in the UK" for my Ransackers course and when I return next January I am looking at "Time, what is it?"

Already I am getting cold feet it is so complex but I'm sure it will be interesting. The nine of us who met last January keep in touch and meet up regularly and one called Pam has a home at Sennen, Cornwall (two tin-miners cottages converted into a nice little home).

I intended to pop into the Penzance YMCA but just didn't have time, but did have time to see the Basking Sharks, but not dolphins. Pam is an eager "chough" watcher and so we were up early to see them near to St. Just and also enjoyed a lovely day at Lizard Point to watch the colony there. The babies were on their first flight. The cafe there does great food, try the grilled mackerel!!!

St. Ives Tate, as a building was good but it is a shame about the contents. Another of the group has a large house in Snowdonia and I am going there in two weeks time for some walking and later in the year I'm going to Norway on a fjord cruise.

I haven't heard anything of Bert Caswell for several years, have you?

I owned a narrow boat for three years and navigated most of the canals and rivers of this country. Living on board makes one very insular.

Christine, my wife, went to her maker, about five years ago, and I now enjoy the friendship of a lady who is a good companion (a word not often used these days).

Unfortunately while boating in France last year she very suddenly lost most of her sight, but after the initial shock she is now able to do most things I do. She has bought a tricycle as she is unable to ride a bike, and is doing fine, I can't manage it at all!

It was interesting to read about the Women's Auxiliary, apparently Mrs Rose in Wellington is still alive if somewhat frail.

I have a copy of "British Boys for British Farms" (the photo of "threshing" fills me with horror!) if you know of anyone who needs one please put them in touch.

Regards to you both,
Brian (Templar).

AND FROM JOHN KNOX:-

Just thought that you might be interested in the attached photo.

From the left they are:-

John Naylor, Tom Lawrie, Keith Rennie, Kerry Reilly (Acorn Centre YMCA), Jim Thomson, Hayley Dunn (Acorn Centre YMCA).



The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending and to have the two as close together as possible.

George Burns

MEET THE NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL OF JERUSALEM INTERNATIONAL YMCA



On June 12, 2009, the Jerusalem International YMCA (JIY) Board of Directors, with the endorsement of the YMCA of the USA Board of Directors, appointed Forsan Hussein as the Director General of JIY. This appointment is an important step in the process to transition operational control of JIY from Y-USA to the local board in Jerusalem.

Peace Camp Canada, that nation's first Palestinian-Israeli youth summer camp.

Recognized for his expertise in advancing dialogue, equality and coexistence, Forsan has given more than 200 lectures at conferences, universities and community centers reaching tens of thousands of people. Forsan's work has been covered by leading international media sources including National Public Radio, The Boston Globe, Haaretz and The Jerusalem Post.

Forsan received a master of business administration from Harvard Business School; a master of international relations and international economics from The School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University; and a bachelor of arts in sociology from Brandeis University. In addition,

Forsan was a member of the Academy of Achievement Summit and the USA Today 2000 All-USA College Academic Team. He also was awarded the Horace W. Goldsmith Fellowship from Harvard in honour of his lasting contributions to the non-his contributions to JIY over the last several months.

**Sincerely, Neil Nicoll
President and CEO - YMCA of the USA**

Jim Thomson writes:-

I have just heard from Frank Kiehne (formerly International Director of the US YMCA and one of my successors at the World Alliance) that the International YMCA of Jerusalem, formerly the West Jerusalem YMCA but better known as "The Jewish YMCA" has appointed Forsan Hussein as Director General.

As Director General, Forsan will work with JIY's board, staff and volunteers to advance JIY's mission through programs and services that address community need and promote interfaith dialogue and peaceful coexistence. Forsan is taking over from Mike Bussey, who has served as JIY's interim Director General since October 2008.

Forsan brings to this position a dynamic blend of commitment, education and experience with a strong emphasis on program development, fundraising and international relations. His passion for promoting coexistence and unity began at a young age while growing up in the northern Israeli village of Sha'ab, and evolved into an academic and professional commitment to community service.

As the public affairs associate and spokesperson for the Abraham Fund Initiatives, Forsan helped establish the North American outreach and fundraising strategy and directed the grant allocation process that awarded \$1.25 million to 100 programs. His social entrepreneurship efforts include the founding of several international nonprofits such as Shalam, an organization for the advancement of peace in the Middle East, and



Some of the South West Ys Retired youngsters gathering to share food and friendship in Polperro, Cornwall on 15th July 09 Methodist Church (otherwise known as Libby country!!)



In order from the left:- Editor David Smith, Sarah Wood, Ruth and Mervyn Moorehead, Hilary Robins, Joyce Finnemore, Des and Pearl Willcox, Margaret Libby, Beryl Moorehead, Ray Onions, Sue Smith and Mary Jarman

Visit the Ys Retired of UK website at www.yretired.co.uk

Information courtesy of: Colin Mawby via Metropolitan Police Service.

Subject: HOTEL KEY CARDS

This is pretty good info. Never even thought about key cards containing anything other than an access code for the room!

HOTEL KEY CARDS

Ever wonder what is on your magnetic key card?

Answer:

- Customer's name
- Customer's partial home address
- Hotel room number
- Check-in date and out dates
- Customer's credit card number and expiration date!

When you turn them in to the front desk your personal information is there for any employee to access by simply scanning the card in the hotel scanner.

An employee can take a hand full of cards home and using a scanning device, access the information onto a laptop computer and go shopping at your expense.

Simply put, hotels do not erase the information on these cards until an employee reissues the card to the next hotel guest. At that time, the new guest's information is electronically 'overwritten' on the card and the previous guest's information is erased in the overwriting process.

But until the card is rewritten for the next guest, it usually is kept in a drawer at the front desk with YOUR INFORMATION ON IT!

The bottom line is: Keep the cards, take them home with you, or destroy them. NEVER leave them behind in the room or room wastebasket, and NEVER turn them into the front desk when you check out of a room.

They will not charge you for the card (it's illegal) and you'll be sure you are not leaving a lot of valuable personal information on it that could be easily lifted off with any simple scanning device card reader.

For the same reason, if you arrive at the airport and discover you still have the card key in your pocket, do not toss it in an airport trash basket.

Take it home and destroy it by cutting it up, especially cut through the electronic information strip!

If you have a small magnet, pass it across the magnetic strip several times.

Then try it in the door, it will not work. It erases everything on the card.

PLEASE FORWARD to friends and family.

Why keep aspirin by your bedside?

About Heart Attacks

There are other symptoms of an heart attack besides *the pain on the left arm.*

One must also be aware of *an intense pain on the chin*, as well as *nausea* and lots of *sweating*, however these symptoms may also occur less frequently.

Note: There may be no pain in the chest during a heart attack. The majority of people (about 60%) who had a heart attack during their sleep, did not wake up. However, if it occurs, the chest pain may wake you up from your deep sleep.

If that happens, *immediately dissolve two aspirins in your mouth* and swallow them with a bit of water.

Afterwards

- *phone a neighbour or a family member who lives very close by - say "heart attack!"*

- *say that you have taken 2 aspirins.*

- *take a seat on a chair or sofa near the front door and wait for their arrival and...*

~ do NOT lie down ~

A Cardiologist has stated that, if each person, after receiving this message, sends it to 10 people, probably one life can be saved!

*I have already shared the information - -
What about you?*

Do forward this message; it may save lives!

COOKING OR A PILL?

I find it terribly boring
Watching chops under the grill
Boiling the veg. and potatoes
Its hardly a mind-blowing skill.
I believe there are some people out there
Who seem to get quite a thrill
From planning and cooking supper
For me the pleasure is nil.
It starts from first thing in the morning
With the usual question from Bill
"What do you fancy for dinner tonight?"

Couldn't we just have a pill?

Think on it.....
No more boring trips to the Co-op
No more carrier bags to fill
No more washing of dishes
We'd have lots of spare time to kill.
No more planning of menus
No more kitchen cupboards to fill
No more cooking.....ever
If we could just have a pill.

I had a rose named after me and I was very flattered.
But I was not pleased to read the description in the
catalog: - 'No good in a bed,
but fine against a wall.'

>>>

Eleanor Roosevelt

**FAREWELL TO OUR TREASURER, EX PRESIDENT AND FAITHFUL SERVANT
GEOFFREY HARRIS 1922 - 2009**



We of Y's Retired have enjoyed the friendship, support and stalwart service of Geoffrey for more than twenty years. He will be sorely missed. Geoffrey came late to full time YMCA service with his appointment as Programme Manager for Watford YMCA in 1976. He was in fact "head hunted" by the Board of Management in the light of his already notable record of leadership in many areas of community service in the area.

He retired in 1987 and immediately became a member of Y's Retired. He and his wife Jean became regular participants in our then annual residential re-unions and both contributed wholeheartedly to the warm friendships typical of the events. He was elected as Treasurer in 1989 and continued in that office until the day of his death.

With the death of our Founder Geoffrey Peters in 1996, our Geoffrey took on the organisation of the re-unions until 1998 when sadly, they had to be discontinued. At a time when the future of Y's Retired was very much in question, Geoffrey gave leadership as President until reorganisation became possible in 2008. His encouraging and thoughtful presidential letters featuring in each issue of the newsletter were subject to warm comment and appreciation by many readers at home and overseas.

During his service with Watford YMCA the community outreach programmes with youth and older folk greatly expanded. His wife Jean was active with the YWCA and together they were associated with, and in some cases initiators of many other voluntary organisations and activities in the area.

They were both active in the Baptist Church. Jean pre-deceased Geoffrey by some ten years and tributes paid to her, and by association to Geoffrey, spoke volumes to the extent of their joint Christian witness in the wider community.

In more recent years Geoffrey did not enjoy the best of health, suffering a stroke which left him with some disability. Nonetheless, and with later failing eyesight, he remained cheerful and totally committed to the interests of Y's Retired and his stewardship as Treasurer in particular.

Ever a quiet and unassuming person, Geoffrey was surprised but deeply appreciative when in 2008 he was honoured with the highest award the YMCA can bestow on a layman after retirement, namely The Order of the Red Triangle as a token of the high esteem in which he was held by his retired colleagues. As the Master said of his steward (Matt. 25 v 21) "*Well done you good and faithfully servant*". Seems apt!

As can often be the case, it is not until a service of thanksgiving for a life that fuller details of that life become more widely known. This was certainly the case at the Service of Thanksgiving for Geoffrey's life of service, details of which we of Y's Retired knew little!

Teenage involvement with youth clubs and with The Boys' Brigade in particular; war service with the RAF; some years as Secretary to the ILEA Training Group; Area Officer for The Boys' Brigade in Lancashire/Cheshire; 'hands on' Governor for the Breakspere School for children with disabilities, and even organisation of the most popular "Tea Dances" for the elderly in Watford, and much more! In the process, his service was recognised by civic awards in Watford, by The Boys' Brigade, and the appreciation of many others.

A remarkable life of service for which so many people have cause to be thankful!

Reg Wake.

LET'S TEST THE MEMORY

I came across these badges on the internet and am inquisitive as to their origins.

So over to you. Is there anyone out there who has knowledge as to the background to any of the three badges?

Replies please to:-
Secretary Reg

Reg Wake, Secretary,
8 Chaffers Mead,
Ashted, KT21 1NG
Tel: 01372 275402
Email: regwake@aol.com

From Editor - David



SNIPPETS

You may be interested to know that I have yet another 'fitness consultant'. She has not yet finished her training, having completed 2 of the 4 modules. She is doing a London Central YMCA course.

Regards – **Brian Barrett**

Thanks for sending me details of the Funeral and Thanksgiving Service of Geoff.

Geoffrey was a very loveable person and bore all the characteristics of an able YMCA Secretary. May the Almighty bless all the good deeds he had carried out and grant him eternal rest.

Rupert George

I am just back from two weeks in the Highlands and want to thank you for letting me know about Geoffrey's death. I only met him a couple of times but did hear a lot about his YMCA work from others.

John Knox

I just came back from South India where, together with **Rupert and Beulah George**, I attended the India Fellowship of Y Retirees. It was an excellent, well attended meeting. The location was also very good Yellagiri YMCA Camp Site and we were able to unveil a commemorative stone to the labours of former colleagues who were responsible for the purchase and development of the Camp including Frank C. Brown. We also held a Reunion of "Old Boys" from the YMCA Tirupattur Hostel and Boys Home which was well attended.

Don Anderson, President of the International Fellowship of YMCA Retirees was also there and gave some excellent speeches concerning the work of other Retiree Fellowships, Pensions and the work of Secour Special.

Now I have a lot of work before I leave for Sri Lanka in September. Fund raising, getting materials together, etc. I wish "The Gathering" every success, and hope that there may be another chance for me to join with you all.

Yours- **John (Newton)**.

We welcome in to membership.

John Drake ex Norwich. (email address pending)
Postal address: 30 Plumstead Road East,
Norwich. NR7 9NE

Please Note Derek Sheppard's new email address.

delsheppard@hotmail.com.uk



Very hearty welcome to our new Treasurer Ray Allen. He still hasn't learnt not to volunteer!!!

Nice one Ray.



John Drake with his successor Tim Sweeting

At a retirement presentation attended by YMCA Norfolk board members, church and civic leaders and his family, John's role in building up the organization to where it is today was publicly acknowledged.

YMCA Norfolk patrons' chairman, the **Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Rev Graham James**, paid tribute: 'There is much to admire, appreciate, honour and cherish for all John has done for people in need across the city and county. Everyone can see that it is John's faith that helps brings hope and renewal to people's lives.

'All of John's passion will go on to Tim along with a wonderful inheritance of a dynamic and forward-looking organization.'

YMCA Norfolk President, Richard Jarrold, said: 'John has done an enormous job for the YMCA in the county. When he first came it was in a financially parlous state. He has since built up strong finances and built up the work, laying good foundations for the future. In John's time, the organisation has expanded from just being in Norwich to stretch right across the county from Great Yarmouth to King's Lynn and Thetford.'

YMCA Norfolk Chairman, David Ingham, said: 'John has united those with faith and those with none. He has done more than just talk the talk - he has lived out his faith and his legacy is a superb new Central Norwich YMCA. He will be a very tough act to follow.'

At the presentation on July 16, John said: 'I consider service a duty, a privilege and an honour and my Christian faith demands both action and a response. The commitment of my children Fergus and Hannah and my wife Barbara has been vital to me and I leave the YMCA in good hands with a strong board, staff and new leadership.'

Taking over from John as Chief Executive, is Tim Sweeting, 32, who was Development and Partnership Manager at West London YMCA. He also holds several national posts within the YMCA movement.

Tim, who is a graduate of the **University of East Anglia**, said: 'I am really excited by the opportunity to lead YMCA Norfolk forward and build on the great work John has done. I am passionate about delivering the highest quality outcomes for young people and I eagerly anticipate working with the trustees, staff and key stakeholders to achieve this in a way that retains YMCA distinctiveness.'

YMCA Norfolk today employs over 120 staff and works not only to support and house homeless young men and women, but also in pastoral care in schools, faith development, outreach work and personal development training. In January 2009, a new £3m Central YMCA opened in Norwich city centre providing accommodation for 34 young people.