



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

JANUARY 2012

www.yretired.co.uk



GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear colleagues and friends - Seasonal greetings to all readers

I welcome another issue of the Y's Retired of the UK Newsletter for its contents are always worth reading with opportunity arising to identify the names of colleagues on many subjects!. Of interest one learns of the service given by the A.N.Others of our membership not least recently of Jim Thomson's research published under the title 'The work of YMCA National Movements and the World Alliance of YMCAs with refugees and rehabilitation 1945-1995' a credible achievement. The interest created has resulted in the printing of a second batch at only £10 a copy obtainable from Jim (Tel; 01764 670152)! – a most worthwhile 'buy'.

Recently I had occasion to recheck a pile of files from a box stored in my garage and was reminded of my overseas trips one of which I will share. I attended as the CEO a YMCA World Urban Network Conference in Santiago de Chile. It included an ecumenical service in the Roman Catholic Cathedral (John Drake read a lesson!). My visit also included, Santiago, Valparaiso and Concepcion YMCAs in Chile and by invitation broke my return journey home to visit Sao Paulo and Osasco in Brazil.

Visiting these South American YMCAs was an occasion even to this day that changed my life and thinking for if I had ever lost my faith in humanity then it was restored in South America. It was there that I was privileged to meet not just one or two but many YMCA colleagues and volunteers whose work was dedicated to tackling the social ills of their respective communities. They were and are working on the edge of society meeting the greatest needs often at personal sacrifice. Evidence of their work was the establishment of education facilities for the deprived, health care, social & life skills, typing, hairdressing and many more, the reasonably affluent city centre YMCAs provided physical education and IT to a high standard. Above all was the spirit of the people who without reserve welcomed a 'stranger'.

Of similar ilk but different is the present world-wide surge against capitalism identified for many in the London based campaign camp in front of St Paul's Cathedral. If like me your first thoughts were anti this method of demonstration, the longer it went on the more conscious we became of the fact that much, not all, of what was stated by the campaigners was at the very heart of Christianity and as such by no means least biblical in the broadest sense. That three of the clergy of St Paul's resigned their posts was indicative of this position.

Historically from the day of Sir George Williams the YMCA in 1844 was very much involved in the social ills of the time when wealth and poverty were synonymous and easily identified as 'running mates' but with a clearer emphasis on the wealthy providing for the poor. *What do you think? – letters to the editor please!*

The whole of my letter is related to Christmas with its goodwill moving on into the New Year and the need for understanding and compassion in all areas of society, our neighbours, 'people of all Faiths and of none', indeed the very nature of equality demands "that we love one another as indeed God loves us!"

Enjoy your Christmas festivities to the full as you are able but spare time for those less fortunate.

With warm regards,

Jim Lamb

Y's RETIRED OF THE SOUTH WEST

Still places left 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.
16 places already booked.**

South West President by proxy, Mervyn Moorehead will be arranging the devotional times. 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 !!!

Don't delay – book today!!

News from the membership

Reg (WAKE)

You will be pleased to know that I spoke to Peter Parfitt a few minutes ago. He has had a hip op at Guy's Hospital and has only just got home. We had a good chat and he sounds fit, well and cheerful! We look forward to meeting up when I visit my niece. Will write about Frances Johnson.

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

Hi David!

I wrote immediately in response to your latest email - but it has disappeared! Congratulations on another excellent production. I don't know how you have the time!

So sad to learn of the passing of **John O'Melia**. He was a good friend and gave me a lot of help when I was Chairman of the YWUN.

My prayers for **Roy Weaver**. I have spoken to him but had not picked up on his operation.

After many years I have been in contact with **Jim Thomson**, just before he left for Thailand. I have ordered a copy of his research paper.

It is great that we are getting so much support from Ian Green and pleasing to learn that the plaque is in prime condition.

Finally, the report from **John Knox** is first class. Good to know that we are so well represented at the WFYR.

Warm regards to Sue and yourself,

Col. (MAWBY)

Dear David,
Pleased to report that **Roger (Hunt)** and I visited **Roy Weaver** in Leigh on Sea mid November. It was a very pleasant visit and we found Roy in good spirits. He is now convalescing at home and growing stronger daily.

His sense of humour continues and we shared many driving stories about the A1 and the North Circular – in fact it is said that the idea of bus lanes came from police watching Roy cutting in front and jumping lanes.

It was great being with Roy again and Roger and I enjoyed recalling the music tapes, listening to **Rosamund** playing her grand piano and accepting home made cakes and biscuits kindly offered by Rosamund.

Best wishes
Sam (JOHNSTON)

I had heard rumours that Richard Long, Angela Hall and Jackie Walker were about to join our happy band of sisters and brothers. I know that Reg is on the case. Are there others out there that you know of that could be invited? Just let us know – **Editor**.

David (Smith)

SURPRISE ! SURPRISE !!

Greetings from Judy and Richard Selby-Boothroyd from Hayle now at Lyneham Vicarage. **BIG HUGS FROM JUDY!!**

We met at Poole RNLI HQ and Training College while on the Salisbury Diocese Vergers Day Out. We had a very interesting visit. Lunch at a very good Fish Restaurant near by, ending the day at St George's Church, Oakdale with Tea and Biscuits, followed by short evening service.

Judy was surprised that I worked for the YMCA and we talked about the Penzance YMCA and the Ys Retired gatherings at the Treloyan Methodist Guild Centre!!

We are also looking forward to the Ys Retired Gathering again at St Ives in March 2012

Best wishes - Stephen and Hanna Milner

How many of the class of 1972 do you remember?



Left to right John Oliver, Paul Davies, John Richardson, Scot Carol, Chandu Christian, Pete Wade Brian Magee, Gordon Boller, John Smith Class of 1972. 40 years ago on a college "STUDY" trip to Sweden.

picture kindly supplied by Phil Heath

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Armistice Sunday 13.11.11

It is the evening of Armistice Sunday and the Antique Road Show from the National Arboretum has just finished on BBC1. It was a programme relating stories of men and woman who had given so much in the cause of peace.

In watching the programme, I felt a great sense of pride that our organization, the YMCA, has been so involved with the armed forces for many years.

How wonderful it is that the Movement has entered into the spirit that will enable a YMCA memorial to be placed at the Arboretum paying tribute to all those who through the YMCA served the armed forces, and some who gave their lives in the service of others.

A big thanks to all individuals and Associations who have already generously contributed but If you have watched this emotional and moving programme, but have not yet donated, it is not too late to be part of this lasting tribute to our brave devoted YMCA colleagues.

Sam (Johnston)



DES AND PEARL (WILLCOX) HAVE ORGANISED 35 HOLIDAYS - BOTH EUROPEAN AND UK BASED EACH YEAR SINCE 1994.

Many people, especially those from Plymouth, have benefitted so much from the organising, care and attention to detail given by both.

This coming July 2012 the group will be staying at the Marriott Hotel, West of Edinburgh; they enjoy staying in Marriott hotels because they provide the quality of the holiday experience.

In the early days the holidays included Norwich, Peak District, Durham then further afield to Norway, Austria, Normandy, Brittany, Holland, Ireland, Isle of Man and many more wonderful places.

A special trip to Oberammergau was also included. Des says "Organising two holidays each year has been most enjoyable."

That's not surprising as both Des and Pearl have enjoyed taking 50 plus folks on each trip, trips that many thought, for personal reasons, would never happen again – a real and wonderful service to so many people.

YMCA ENGLAND RELOCATING

YMCA England moved offices on 1st December 2011.

YMCA England has left its previous location at 45 Beech Street and has now moved into permanent offices. The new contact details will be:

YMCA England, 29-35 Farringdon Road, London EC1M 3JF
Tel: 020 7186 9500 Fax: 020 7186 9501

YMCA National Brand Development – The Way Forward

Copied from YMCA Enews

How many of us have been here before?

Quote:-

We do important, life changing work every day but we don't get the recognition we deserve, our voluntary giving does not reflect our impact and other nonprofits receive much more media attention. We need to change that and key to that change is a consistent Brand that we all share.

Research has told us how the YMCA is perceived and a lot about why the YMCA is not reaching its full potential, and why we need to act to change that.

Over the next 7-10 months, we will be undertaking a review of who we are, what we say about ourselves and how we look with the aim of developing a shared brand that can deliver a compelling story and speak of our unique capabilities. This process will be led by a Brand Task Group made up of a diverse and skilled group of people from across the Movement, facilitated by YMCA England.

We have presented our process of engagement and development to Chief Executives and Chairs within the Movement and to the Autumn Forum. Support has been given to a process that will get us to where we want to be.

[The process of engagement and development](#)
[The Brand Task Group](#)

We will be keeping you informed of progress and of other aspects of the process, including holding Immersion Conferences where we will be finding out what you do, think and want.

If you have any questions or comments please contact our Brand Manager: ben.hunter@england.ymca.org.uk

Our Advent prayer composed by Robert Louis Stevenson:

**'Loving Father,
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.**

**Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.**

**Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.**

**May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be your children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake.**

Amen.'

Charity Brand Index 2011

For the third consecutive year Third Sector Research, in association with *PRWeek* and Harris Interactive, present the *Charity Brand Index*: a comprehensive assessment of the nation's Top 125 charity brands based on a survey of more than 3,400 members of the UK public.

The report aims to arm charity communications teams with the hard data they need to measure their effectiveness and compare their performance with other charities working in their cause area and beyond, as well as enabling them to track their own organisation's performance year on year.

The YMCA has risen a staggering 30 places in the [Charity Brand Index](#) to 37th during the past 12 months. We are the highest movers in the index, putting us above some really big charities, including the Scouts.

This is a tremendous achievement for the YMCA, really great news to build upon through our brand project and above all is a testament to the fantastic work that YMCAs do locally within communities.

YMCAs get millions from Homelessness Change Fund

The Government this week [announced £37.5 million of funding](#) from its Homelessness Change Programme to 37 projects across the country to improve facilities for rough sleepers and provide almost 1,200 extra bed spaces.

A total of seven YMCAs received funding totalling £10,792,328 or 29% of the total funding pot available. The YMCAs who were successful in the funding bids were:

- Bridgwater YMCA - £1,089,599
- Cheltenham YMCA - £3,308,819
- Leicester YMCA - £660,000
- North Staffordshire YMCA - £1,812,510
- Slough YMCA - £661,400
- St Helens YMCA - £660,000
- West London YMCA - £2,600,000

YMCA Youth Matters 2011

BBC Radio 1Xtra's Gemma Cairney hosted our third annual [Youth Matters Awards](#) on Monday 24 October and joined in celebrating the skills and talents across our Movement.

For many it will be a night to remember for a long time, a feeling that was reflected by our special guests, our President, The Most Revd and Right Honourable Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York, and Colin Williams the great-great grandson of the YMCA founder George Williams, who were both pleased and inspired by the successes within our Movement.

Huge congratulations are due to the YMCA Youth Matters Award winners and thanks to all those YMCAs who made the event possible.

Four years ago in May 2008 the first of what has become a regular six monthly meeting of the small group of Scotland based YMCA retirees was held. That meeting was hosted by YMCA Scotland and since that first meeting we have been hosted by six different local associations. In October 2011 we had our eighth meeting again hosted by YMCA Scotland. We were delighted to have Mike Will, Chair of YMCA Scotland and World Alliance Executive Committee member and Peter Crory, National General Secretary, with us. Three of our small group, Gilbert Dickson, Bob McConkey and John Naylor were not able to be there.

- The main part of the day was a presentation by Mike who had come in response to an enthusiastic invitation from the Group. He spoke about the work of YMCA Scotland and his excellent presentation gave us both challenge and great encouragement as we saw how the YMCA is using and adapting approaches relevant to the challenges of Scotland today. He also opened up for us the issues, challenges and opportunities at World Alliance level and spoke encouragingly of the work of the new World Alliance General Secretary, Johan Wilhelm Eltvik.

We also shared other issues including

- the work done by Bill Harte to re-establish YMCA work in Bangladesh in response to the request of Bart Shaha, then the World Alliance General Secretary
- the distribution of and positive response to Jim Thomson's research report, initiated at a meeting of the UK Retirees in September 2010, regarding the YMCA work with refugees from 1945-1995. A second print had already proved necessary
- the success of the Volunteering Programme with YMCA Scotland initiated by Ted Milburn
- the WFYR Strategic Planning Gathering held in San Diego in September with plans for Bridges, Secours Speciaux, Global Retirement Initiative, the creation of more national YMCA Retiree fellowship organisations and discussion on the role, structure and function of WFYR
- plans for 10,000 young people and other YMCA people at the week-long YMCA Europe Youth Festival in Prague in 2013 and the commitment to have a WFYR presence there

In line with the UK Retirees policy it was agreed to invite lay YMCA retirees to be part of the Scottish group and it was arranged that we would meet again on 26 April 2012. With encouragement from Mike Will and Peter Crory it was also agreed that we should meet as an integral part of the YMCA Scotland Annual Business Meeting programme on 6 October 2012.

It was one of those meetings that sent us away with the strong conviction that it was good for us to be there and proud that we are still part of and contributing to the work of the YMCA.

