



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



JULY 2015

www.yretired.co.uk

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Dear friends and
colleagues
greetings**

I write this bi-monthly letter for the Newsletter conscious of the value it is to all readers in varying degrees! It is the main means of communication to retired colleagues, lay persons and friends of the Y's Retired of the UK. On this occasion I hope not to sound too emotional though recognise that emotion plays a large part in our lives!

There are constant reminders of what the Y's Retired of the UK stands for when considering ill health, funerals and Reunions for we are an ageing community. Whilst there is sadness in attending colleague's funerals there is also quite remarkably a sense of joy when hearing of lives well lived and not least in and through the influences of the YMCA. One such was Eddy Brady's funeral and I draw your attention to his obituary in this issue of the Newsletter.

Invariably linked to the sentiment expressed above we experience YMCA related telephone calls often carrying warmth with laughter and not without a sense of nostalgia. We call it the ethos of the YMCA which encapsulates a depth of meaning not experienced in other 'walks of life' but valued through our memories of 'association' based on the Christian Faith! I experienced this ETHOS at the South West Reunion in St Ives, Cornwall in April. There was much renewing of friendships for me with colleagues not met for some 30/40 years and yet continuing conversations as if it were yesterday but with no physical contact during those years!

I recall leading a training workshop for new YMCA staff loosely based on the 'YMCA and the Christian Faith' one person attending shared that she did not even know she was interviewed and employed by the YMCA such was the nature of her appointment in teaching 'Life and Social Skills'. That she had caught something of the ethos of the YMCA she shared but would not call herself even a nominal Christian. There is no doubt that the YMCA has changed from the time the majority of our readers were involved with the YMCA as staff or lay members.

Whilst we can recognise and understand that 'change is the only true reality' we have to take on board that the basis of the YMCA is the Christian Faith. Many of you have shared that the YMCA is not like it used to be not least the evangelicals among us whilst some however in not so many words would identify with the saying, "I'm packing my bags for eternity and it is amazing what I am throwing out!" – no more religious clichés for the sake of

it, no more repetition of religious words we cannot live with YET underwriting all is our continued faith partly influenced by the YMCA, embedded in Scriptural teaching and the Prayer of Jesus to his disciples on entering the Garden of Gethsemane, quote, "That they all may be one - that the world may believe that thou hast sent me". *It is interesting to note that the words underlined are the ones included in YMCA literature and not the rest of the sentence!*

How important the Reunions held in Scotland, St Ives, Cambridge and more recently Salisbury are for keeping in touch with each other for unlike many places of employment there need not be an abrupt end to the value experienced whether for 7 years or 77 years in a YMCA workplace!

An apt end to this letter:- *Verse 2 of the hymn*
"This, this is the God we adore"

*"Tis Jesus, the first and the last,
Whose spirit shall guide us safe home;
We'll praise him for all that is past,
And trust him for all that's to come."*

Enjoy your summer holidays!

Jim Lamb

PRESIDENT : Jim Lamb
31 David Bull Way, Milton, Cambridge CB24 6DP
T 01223 440228
E: j.lamb22@outlook.com

SECRETARY: Vic Hills
5 Kernham Drive, Tilehurst, Reading, RG31 6GB
T: 07974 683627
E: vic_hills@yahoo.co.uk (underscore between Vic & Hills)

TREASURER: Ray Allen
13 Hibaldstow Road, Lincoln, Lincolnshire. LN6 3PX
T: 01522 683920
E: rayc.allen@btinternet.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: David H Smith
Chyreene Warra, Rosehill, Marazion, TR17 0HB
T 01736 719432
E: ses.dhs@hotmail.co.uk

WEBSITE DESIGNER:- David H Smith
Website:- www.yretired.co.uk

Dear David

So sorry I am so late in sending this donation but, at the age of 93, I am struggling with everything. Frank was always the pen pusher so I miss him when it comes to writing and keeping in touch with everyone. I do hope this small donation will help the coffers a little. Hope all is well with you and your. My sight is failing so I find it very difficult to write. Regards to all that know me.

Margaret Peebles (wife of Frank Peebles, was NE Regional Secretary).

Obituary – Eddie Brady 1938 – 2015

There are times when we retired members of the Y's Retired of the UK are saddened more highly by the 'passing' of a colleague and at their funeral/thanksgiving services more highly appreciate the quality of a life well lived. Such was the time for me when attending Eddie Brady's funeral/thanksgiving service at St Paul's Anglican Church in Brookhouse near Lancaster where Eddie spent much of his life as the General Secretary of the YMCA.

We are indebted to Eddie's wife Rita, his son Sean and Lisa who delivered the eulogy at the service. The following are extractions. Eddie was a proud an Irishman as you can be, he was born and grew up in Ardoyne, Belfast – these roots never left him! He used any excuse to share his memories of home!

During his youth Eddie developed a love for boxing indeed in 1955 he became the Ulster Junior Champion. Later he was to use his boxing skills in promoting boxing as a regular activity in the YMCA not least in introducing the game to countless young people many from difficult backgrounds. His other athleticism was his love for 'running' nearly qualifying for the Perth Empire and Commonwealth Games in 1962 – running would shape the rest of his life.

Eddie was employed in the early sixties as a clerk at Fry's Chocolate Factory. There followed his successful application to the YMCA Training College from which he found his true calling working in the YMCA branches at Leicester, Worcester, Bradford, Liverpool, Doncaster and in 1974 to Lancaster YMCA to find it closed with no staff and no money! So began some 25 years of dedicated service as General Secretary during which Lancaster YMCA was reborn under his leadership and became successful not least in developing the Partnership in Prisons programme in 1994 helping to rehabilitate young offenders. Work with the homeless, unemployed ensued as did establishing YMCA work in nearby rural villages. Over 34 years Eddie made a huge contribution to the YMCA and the lives of many young people. In retirement he continued his love for running being involved in many road races and marathons!

Eddie was hard working, ambitious and a dedicated man being loving, caring and a devoted husband and father to Sean with who there was maintained a deep bond throughout his life. His family share that throughout his life Eddie was always smiling and quote, "A beautiful man".

The Eulogy extractions from which you have read ended with the words, "Eddie, "May the wind be always at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face and the rain fall softly upon your fields. Until we meet again may God hold you in the palm of His hand".

Jim Lamb

Dear David,

I have found it difficult to write an adequate tribute to Fritz Pawekzik within an acceptable length so please feel free to use your Editorial pencil.



" Even those who worked and laughed with Fritz are humbled when, with his death on January 29th the full extent of his work and writings are considered.

The beginnings of his life were years of turmoil. Born in the era of Nazi Germany, Fritz's father was a political prisoner. However, in common with children of his age he became a member of the Hitler Youth. At fifteen, he volunteered for the armed forces and trained as a fighter pilot, served as a 'ground soldier' on both the Eastern and European fronts, flew into Berlin as the war approached its end and was taken prisoner by the Russian army. From a prisoner of war camp in Russia he escaped and somehow made his way back to Germany.

There, by some extraordinary providence, he was given a bible by a British soldier, became a Christian and began a renewed life as a miner/missionary. In 1959 he was appointed by the German YMCA to be what was then known as a Fraternal Secretary to the YMCA in Ghana and so began a love of Africa which lasted the whole of his life. His colleague at this time was our own Ted Ewing.

With Karin, his Finnish wife, he worked for five years in Takoradi establishing youth clubs and training young Ghanians as leaders. In 1964 he continued that work in Accra, creating the building which is the headquarters of the YMCA and which incorporated a training school for building trade apprentices.

In 1967, with Karin and his family of two daughters and a son he came to Nairobi, Kenya as The World Alliance Leadership Secretary for East and Central Africa. There he and I renewed a friendship which had begun two years earlier and one of his first tasks was the training of YMCA staff who were being sent to work in refugee settlements.

For the next ten years, Fritz travelled extensively in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. His abiding message was that the young YMCAs should not imitate other older National Movements but develop their own, African, identity and expression.

In 1977, at a time of rapid expansion of the world YMCA Movement, Fritz joined the World Alliance staff in Geneva and took his leadership skills and experience to the YMCA world. In 1981, he returned to his native Germany as World Service Secretary, retiring in 1992

His work in and for his beloved Ghana was recognised by being elected Chief for Life of the Konongo Ashanti as Nana Kofu Marfu 11 and appointed life-time Chief for Development of Konongo. These duties he carried out faithfully travelling to Ghana annually, declining however, the traditional gift of 37 wives.

The YMCA world has changed immeasurably over the past half century and there will never be another Fritz Pawekzik. Perhaps that is why his passing should be well observed."

Jim Thomson

Member's correspondence

Memo to: All including past attenders and new!
From: Jim Lamb - Cambridge Reunion Organiser 31,
David Bull Way, Milton, Cambridge, CB24 6DP – 01223
440228 – email: j.lamb22@outlook.com

CAMBRIDGE REUNION 8TH JULY 2015

I am pleased to share that following initial enquiries among members it has been agreed this year to arrange a later date for the Cambridge Reunion Lunch. This allows for a good attendance and remains outside school holidays.

It is appreciated that the confirming of numbers able to attend is of paramount importance when booking a suitable restaurant venue for meals and ask for your support in early confirmation of attendance. Please would you respond by email, telephone or post at this stage if you intend to be present, see above.

This is an invitation to all members within striking distance of Cambridge whether by car or rail!

The meeting for lunch at a convenient venue such as the Girton Golf Club, Cambridge has proved a most enjoyable experience and much appreciated over recent years. You will be warmly welcomed together with spouses on the 8th July 2015, the only cost will be for the meal! Further information will be sent to all who confirm attendance once the arrangements are completed.

I look forward to your cooperation. Warm regards,

Jim PS. I have five names already!

David

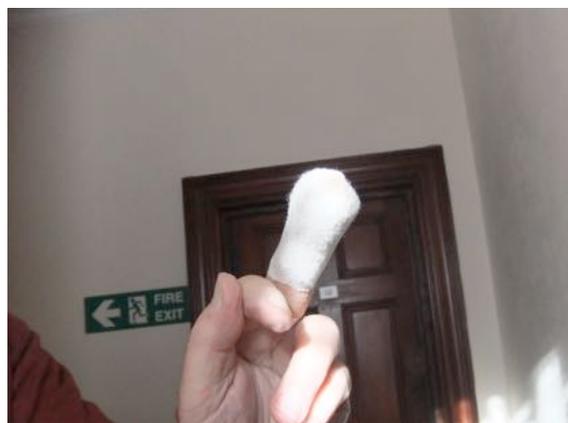
I have had an enquiry from Jane Parkin the daughter of Charles **Douglas Elliott Parkin** who is trying to find out more about her father.

CDE Parkin was born on 6 Sept. 1916 in Cudworth, Barnsley Yorkshire. His army records state that he was Assistant General Secretary of YMCA and that he spent 11 months in Basutoland, Africa. This would have been before he joined the army in Bristol on 20 August 1940. His main career was Theatre and Cinema Manager.

Note: The YMCAs in Africa went through some very difficult times. In YMCA World Alliance book it states that by 1951 the YMCA in Basutoland and in other parts of Africa had closed down.

Please let me have any information which I could pass on to Jane.

Stephen Milner Tel: 01305-266197.



Ray (Allen) quizzes the membership to declare whose finger they think this belongs too?



Margaret and David Libby with Bishop Tim



The blue shirted trio - Rev Ian Haille, SW President Mervyn and Ys Retired of UK President Jim



OUR STAY AT TRELOYHAN MANOR, ST IVES, CORNWALL 20th - 24 April 2015

Well, what can I say and what did I learn at the 'Y's Retired' at Treloyhan Manor this year? The superlative which best describes it was 'SUPERB!'

The best of organizational skills, the cream of fun and fellowship, the most interesting 'after dinner' speaker in Bishop Tim of Truro.

We found ourselves round the meal table with him and David and Sue Smith and the ensuing hilarity resounded round the walls of the dining room!

I can only think it was a release of one of the gifts of the Spirit! Does not the Psalmist say 'I will fill their mouths with laughter' – Ps 126 Laughter is a needed commodity in today's world which the newsreels tell us is in such a sick and sad plight! And joy is one of the fruits of the spirit, after all, no matter the circumstances! There were a multitude of expressions of the creative gifts of the spirit, upon which to feast they eyes as we enjoyed a tour of the Cathedral. So many expressions of worship through a variety of skills and craftsmanship, which brings me to share an insight from a book, which I had the privacy, space and time to read whilst there! 'What on Earth am I here for? By Rick Warren – Pastor of a 30,000 strong mega church in Saddleback, California, and whose name was known to Bishop Tim – this is what he has to say! From Ps 139 – v 13 – You shaped me first inside then out, you formed me in my mother's womb – 'What is our shape?'

All our abilities come from God, our natural and our supernatural. You have dozens, probably hundreds of untapped, unrecognized and probably unused abilities that are lying dormant inside you. Many studies have revealed that the average person possesses from 500 to 700 different skills and abilities – far more than you realize!

For instance – your brain can store 100 trillion facts, your mind can handle 15000 decisions a second, as is the case when your digestive system is working, your nose can smell up to 10,000 different odours, your touch can detect an item 1/25000th of an inch thick and your tongue can taste one part of quinine in 2 million parts of water.



'YOU' are a bundle of incredible abilities, an amazing creation of God. Part of the churches responsibility is to identify and release your abilities for serving God! All of which leads me on to describe three evenings which we shared.

The first evening we were entertained by the 'Krooners', a recipe for music, singing and mirth. The conductress was quite a comedienne the two young lady pianists so brilliant and I marveled at the ability to play Debussy and Gershwin without a note of music – what an engagement of brain, memory and digits.

'Film Night', when we all resorted to our youth again, titillating our taste buds with popcorn and Paynes Poppets. The film chosen was 'Evan Almighty', a parody on 'Noah and the Flood' – the paranormal was superbly evident in the instant appearance of shoulder length hair and a beard long enough to plait! Where did they assemble all those animals from? The mind boggled!

Liz in a subsequent Quiz tested our recall – what is a Quagga? Turns out that he is a variety of zebra, not a lama, as some of us thought he might be.

Well, from the ridiculous to the sublime and serious. Sam Johnston, to whom was presented a medal by Mervyn for his services in initiating fundraising for a 'Y' Commemorative Memorial in the National Arboretum gave us a serious resume of the work of the 'Y' at the front in the two Great Wars. Times might have changed, but sadly wars are ever present with us and the Christian life is still a battleground itself in whatsoever sphere we find ourselves in daily, community service, the prison service, refugee support, medical breakthrough in the frontiers of medical and surgical science – you name it and some of us are embroiled in it.

The important thing to recognize is that no matter what confronts us our resources in Christ and the Power of the Holy Spirit are infinitesimal.

See you next year? We fervently hope so – hitherto hath the Lord led us!

Beryl Moorehead - Plymouth

**MINUTES FOR THE Y'S RETIRED OF THE UK
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FOR MARCH 2015**

1. PARTICIPANTS

Jim Lamb (President), Ray Allen (Honorary Treasurer), Rupert George, Sam Johnston, David Miller, Keith Rennie, David Smith (Editor), Reg' Wake, Vic Hills (Secretary).

2. PROCESS

Appropriate documents had been circulated to all participants for consideration, comment and were subsequently approved (without comment). These were received with unanimous support.

3. MINUTES OF THE 2014 AGM

As previously circulated were approved and filed in the Minute Book for reference.

4. MATTERS ARISING

The following were approved;

- a. The appointment of Vic Hills in succession to Reg Wake as Executive Secretary.
- b. The appointment of Keith Rennie as the Scottish 'rep' on the Executive Committee in succession to Rev. John Knox (Deceased) 'pending the meeting of the Scottish Group May 2015'.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As previously published in the March Newsletter and circulated was warmly received and appended to the minutes.

6. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2014

Copies of the Audited Statements were circulated, and received with approval and appended to the minutes. Appreciation was expressed and recorded to David Bennison for his continued voluntary Auditing service*

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

Appreciation was expressed to Honorary Treasurer Ray Allen for his services and his report which had been circulated.

The following had been notified and were approved:-

- a. Year End Position; a slight operating loss of £315.86p, maintaining a balance of £2787.94p.
 - b. Membership Fees; 85 members had contributed subscriptions, an increase of 6 on 2013, 75 paying by standing order.
 - c. Contributions to Secours Speciaux of £1371, had been boosted through generous donations of £550 by Nottingham Women's Auxiliary and BBBF fund raising through the sale of books by Stephen Milner of £85. The £200 subvention had inadvertently been omitted and would be rectified in the 2015 accounts.
 - d. The regular donation of £100 was sent to the World Fellowship of YMCA's Retirees.
- Special Appeal for World Fellowship YMCA's Retirees to attend The 5th World Conference £2385, which included £100 from our trust fund.
- f. Temporary Restricted Fund of Nottingham Women's Auxiliary £500 balance for a Web Site development.
 - g. Recommendation to increase number of paying members and recruit new members.

8. BUDGET 2015 - approved

- a. Trust Fund subvention was set at £250, the same as 2014
- b. Secours Speciaux - £200
- c. WFYR- £100
- d. Administration - £150

9. MEMBERSHIP Secretary's Report:

Reg Wake's near 30 year service from founding to the present and his continuing involvement as Secours Speciaux representative was noted with appreciation and pleasure. Membership (2014)-130 plus spouses, of which 8 are lay members, 6 overseas and 4 "courtesy" contacts re WFYR and Secours Speciaux.

10. NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE Editor's Report

Appreciation is expressed to David Smith and Sue (his wordsmith) for seven years as editor of the Y's Retired of UK newsletter which offers six bi-monthly newsletters per year. Now 43 editions later, the newsletter aims to keep the membership informed of current affairs affecting the YMCA Movement, comments from colleagues and friends, expressing where they are in their retirement, where they have been, what they have seen, family additions and occasionally, sharing the sadness of days gone by and detailed notices of members and friends who have passed over. It was noted that International colleagues who are part of the World Federation of Y's Retired (WFYR), receive our UK news and have voiced their gratitude, with some articles being highlighted in "Bridges," the WFYR quarterly Newsletter. Heartfelt thanks were recorded to Herts YMCA, the CEO Guy Foxell, and his staff member Lorraine Stocken. Without their willingness, time and help, the printed version would not be distributed. Because Herts YMCA kindly fulfil this task as their donation to Y's Retired the Officers are able to allocate a higher annual proportion of funds to Secours Speciaux.

11. SCOTLAND REPORT

the notes of the meeting convened in October compiled by Jim Thompson and submitted by Keith Rennie (the interim Scot's Rep') had noted the service, sudden and sad death and high esteem in which John Knox was held in, had been circulated for information. It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for 11th May at Broughty Ferry.

12. INTERNATIONAL REPORTS

SECOURS SPECIAUX Report: Reg Wake was pleased to report that financial support has been maintained over the past year. Together with our annual subvention, levy on membership subscriptions and donations, the year-end accounts show a transfer of £1,371 plus a pending transfer of £200 subvention. On behalf of retirees in Scotland, who have SS as their special project, YMCA Scotland have sent their contribution of £1,618 direct to the World Alliance for SS. Reg' noted that there had been fewer calls on the fund this year, was it because of reluctance for reasons of personal dignity to apply for assistance or worse, that the potential source of assistance via SS is not as widely known as could be wished? Responsibilities for promoting the availability of SS funding are noted in the report.

WFYR REPORT: Reg Wake reported that earlier in the year, the WFYR President launched an appeal to provide travel subsidies to enable wider attendance of retirees at the then upcoming World Council meetings in USA. On the home front, support solicited by President Jim Lamb enabled a contribution of £2,385 to the travel fund (£1,085 from Y's Retired in general and £1,300 from Scotland).

In the event, a grant of £500 from the Trust Fund was made to John Knox toward his travel costs to World Council where, inter alia, he represented and reported on Y's Retired interests. He had the company and support of our Jim Thomson in this regard. All reports confirm that John made an outstanding contribution to proceedings!