

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



**MARCH 2016**

[www.yretired.co.uk](http://www.yretired.co.uk)

**GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT**



**Dear friends and  
colleagues  
greetings**

We are at any one time moving through a period of world history! This affects the future as we understand our experience in making history now and not least in relation to the development of the YMCA including the Y's Retired of the UK. There is little historically to compare with the present and what is happening in the world today perhaps a bold statement as I attempt to clarify my thoughts as follows.

The movement of populations throughout the world, telephone communication (IT = Information Technology) affecting world economies, in the development of industry and commerce adapting continually convinces us that the only true reality is change! One illustration is our own Newsletter progressing from black and white print and photographs to colour with improved reporting on the fact that the Y's Retired of the UK Committee governs through email, telephone communication and only when necessary post, such as when one of our computers 'go down'!

The inaugural meeting of the renewing of the Y's Retired of the UK met on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2008 in the Barbican YMCA, London was the first and last meeting 'face to face', the committee met to agree how we might govern/administer the Y's Retired of the UK. We agreed the above format by using modern technology – it has succeeded very well!! \* see.

This changing world however relates also to the often misused word 'Ecumenical – (of the whole gathered earth)' and by no means least how they further relate to the word fundamentalism within Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, Buddhism and other Faiths. We often take out of context the original thoughts by our forefathers whatever their religious background their respective historical written word of the law as it applied to their particular understanding of their faith.

Likewise Sir George Williams and the group of young men who sat down together in Paris to formulate a Policy and expected direction for the YMCA would be amazed at the YMCA today! It might well be true that the YMCA has continued since 1844 due to 'it's' ability to change in service to succeeding generations through 172 years!

In light of the above we, the YMCA, proudly uphold the statement, "We welcome into our membership people of all Faiths and of none". Where does this statement then lead us in an Inter-faith society?

I suspect the majority of us would harp back by way of recall, whether professional staff or laypersons, to the strong Christian base on which the YMCA was founded and our own personal faith in God together with the influence of the church.

It has been my own experience in visiting Local YMCAs of the five Continents during my career an overwhelming evidence of the Christian Faith in leadership terms but occasionally none whatsoever.

In South America I encountered a bust of George Williams in a local YMCA and a large picture of George Williams similar to the one hanging in the entrance to the London YMCA in past years but no reference to the YMCA as a Christian Movement. That was some 20 years ago! Today I have to ask myself is the YMCA different, is inevitable change for the better, does it reflect the values based on the Christian Faith or is it more like a Philosophical Society. Colleagues have shared with me they consider the YMCA in general terms has lost the very emphasis of the Christian Faith! What do you think?

I close with a challenging thought. Have we reached within the YMCA a time when we have to consider major changes in the way we look at the bold statement I referred to in paragraph four above – "We welcome into our membership people of all Faiths and of none", do we also, "Welcome into our leadership people of all Faiths and of none" if so how do we now consider the Christian base on which the YMCA was founded? Certainly there is fine equally qualified leadership in all Faiths and of none. Religious loosely means God fearing.

Jim Lamb  
President

• Note. The Renewal of the Y's Retired of the UK meeting at the Barbican YMCA London was held 8<sup>th</sup> September 2008. In attendance: Rupert George, Jim Lamb, Colin Mawby, Geoffrey Smith and Reg Wake. Apologies on the day: Sam Johnston and David Smith (both much involved!)

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## Member's correspondence

Dear Jim and David,

With reference to the piece in the most recent Newsletter, which as always is an excellent read, I was particularly interested in the piece about the Olympic Committee awarding a trophy to the International Committee of the YMCA. Baron Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics is mentioned.

Two or three years ago, I was in the 'new offices' of the World Alliance at Clos Belmont in Geneva. I hope that my informant was correct but it was said that these self same offices were once what we would now call a retirement home. By coincidence, it was the last home of the same Baron Coubertin of Olympic fame.

With regard to the YMCA and your comments (Jim) concerning the wave of refugees from Syria and parts of Africa, the European Committee is sponsoring a Conference in Holland early in 2016 on the topic of 'YMCAs Working for Refugees and Migrants'. There will be representation from across Europe and the USA and reports on work already going on in Europe and globally. In Europe, this will include Spain, France, Germany, Ukraine, Austria, Sweden and The Netherlands. Additionally, there will be a report on the work of the YMCA of the USA with migrants.

Until recently, I had shared your concern but am now greatly impressed with what is happening unbeknown to most of us. I believe that I will be able to give a fuller report later,

With kindest personal regards, Jim (Thomson)

Dear David,  
Very sad news of Richard's death. He was a stalwart good natured fellow who once met never forgotten. I have the happiest of memories mainly of his sojourn in the North East (Morpeth) where he was a popular figure not least among the young people many of them rugby players who he coached to a high standard! He will be long remembered.

Warm regards, **Jim (Lamb)**

Dear Vic  
Many thanks for your warm welcome to Y's Retired and the good wishes for 2016 which are reciprocated.

We have received the December newsletter from David Smith.

Your mention of Sam Johnston reminds us of the time when he was appointed to West Bromwich YMCA, when our first purpose built accommodation block was under construction. The same buildings have just undergone a £3m refurbishment and extension at Carters Green.  
We look forward to sharing other experiences in due course.

Best wishes  
**Brenda and Eric (Moore)**

Dear David  
I am keeping in contact with Margaret Peebles who is now 94 years old. She has had some falls recently and also had two spells in hospital.  
I spoke to her a few days ago and gave her our best wishes from the Y's Retired. Margaret sends her best wishes to everyone.

Margaret's address is 1 Dovecote Road, Forest Hall,  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE12 9LL Tel 0191 -266 7072

Stephen (Milner)

Dear David,

Thank you for sharing the sad news about the loss of those who served the movement so faithfully.

Some are called to support and gently guide those more prominent. Ruth Edwards was one of those guiders. Graham Angus and I were under her watchful eye during our trainee years at Manchester YMCA. A woman of good looks, poise and charm. One of only a handful of Ladies allowed into the all male Manchester Association boasting 5002 male members. I know I was the Membership and Reception Secretary.

Richard Gooch had family who farmed in North Norfolk. He lived above us "trainees" trying to keep order at Stockwell YMCA with his confounded dog, I think it was called Sydney. Richard had the breeding and humility to instantly prick the bubble of pomposity with rapier like wit. Much need when the YMCA structure was over centric and appointments were based on patronage or old army service connections.

We can only offer Bob our prayers because nothing on earth will be able to fill the void in his life now that Doreen has gone to meet her Lord.

Thank you David for all you do.  
Enjoy the reason for the season - John (Drake)

Dear David

Richard was a joy to be with and he gave so much to the Y making a lasting impression to so many even beyond the Y. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife at this time.

Maureen & Sam (Johnston)

**SOUTH WEST Y's RETIRED WEEK**  
**Just to remind you that deposits of £40**  
**per person are now due for our time at**  
**Treloyhan Manor next April - balance**  
**due February 2016**

**Dates are 18 - 22 April 2016**

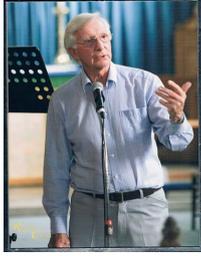
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**she will give you the bank details.**

## CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTERS

RON INGAMELLS - Just a few brief items of news!



I was about to write that it has been a lonely first full year without Janet but that is not really true. I miss her very much, but surrounded by family and good friends I cannot claim to be lonely!

I have maintained my interest in music and poetry with concerts in Cambridge (mainly The Academy of Ancient Music and the Fairhaven Singers) and the Little Gidding Poetry Group. Continued supporting Norwich City and playing golf at Brocket Hall and elsewhere.

During the vacancy at Buckden Church the three retired clergy kept things going for over a year. Very privileged to preach at St. Peter Mancroft Norwich in September. Also, I gave lectures on 'Bereavement and Loss' to student nurses in Cambridge. Lovely to visit St. John's Lemsford to help during their vacancy.

**Very pleased to have baptised great grandchildren Zachary and Sebastian and give a blessing at Hannah and Andy's wedding.**

**Sue and John's wedding in July 2016**

Once again it was good to meet up with Janet's cousins at the annual get-together.

I have a 'special' friend whom I have known for many years and whose husband (another hockey player) died a few years ago. We have been to the European Hockey International at the Olympic Park: North Norfolk Music Festival; a Prom concert – staying in student accommodation!; a week in Bournemouth and many events in Norwich.

I have had many visits to Norfolk this year and will be with Ann over Christmas – there happens to be two football matches that week and Ann is also a keen supporter.

Edith Cavell – I was able to visit a few exhibitions in Norwich about Edith Cavell and visit Swardston her birthplace. I then gave a talk to the Churches Together Study Lunch about her inspiring life. Enjoyed leading Lent Study Lunches on Celtic Spirituality!

Liz is a Trustee of **The Dominic Community Foundation**. She has been to Uganda twice and the object is to build a school and a clinic in a small deprived village. Funds needed – look at their website!

**PARIS**... Sadly the name is a reminder of the terrible events there in October but I had a lovely five-day visit in June. I stayed with Suzanna and her son... she was my interpreter when I was working in Romania and we have kept in touch for over 20 years. I was a real tourist for these days plus a visit to the Parish Opera.

**TRENT BRIDGE** - I was there when Australia were bowled out for 60!!! What a morning!

**PERFECT DAY** – morning session at Lords England v New Zealand... then to Wembley to see Norwich win to go into the Premiership!

**HOCKEY –OLYMPIC PARK** - European Hockey Championships – we saw some brilliant hockey!

Ron - thank you for sharing through your Christmas letter that life is for living after very sad personal bereavement has happened in one's life. (Editor)

Hi David,

Thanks for the sad news of the death of George Reynolds. He was a strong character, most able sailor and taught many hundreds of young people the skill of sailing, a life enhancing skill. I always thought George was before his time in recognising the importance of what later became Detached Youth Work. He organised groups of young people loosely on street corners developing activities!

It was a pleasure to have known him though to telephone him often resulted in high telephone bills!! A life well lived in service to others.

Regards, Jim (Lamb)

Many thanks David. Very sorry to hear that George had died, however, he must have been well into his nineties. Interestingly, I'm almost certain that Richard Gooch spent some time working for George, when he was General Secretary at the Woolwich YMCA.

Regards, Roger (Hunt)

### YMCA England's Ian Green appointed chief executive of Terrence Higgins Trust

Green replaces Rosemary Gillespie, who was asked to stand down from the post last summer after only 15 months in charge



The HIV and sexual health charity the **Terrence Higgins Trust** has appointed Ian Green, former head of **YMCA England**, as its new chief executive.

Green, who has worked for the YMCA for more than 20 years, will replace Rosemary Gillespie, who was **asked to stand down** from the trust last summer after 15 months in charge.

The charity said at the time that a "change of leadership was needed for the next stage of the organisation's development". Gillespie said **she had been poorly treated** and the trust did not "have the stomach for the programme of change I was brought in to deliver".

Green, who will join the charity in March, is currently part of the executive staff team of the World Alliance of YMCAs, based in Geneva. He was chief executive of YMCA England between 2008 and 2013 and before that spent six years as head of YMCA London South West. He spent 20 years until May 2010 as a Conservative councillor for Ealing Council in west London, including time as cabinet member for adult social services and housing, leader of the opposition and mayor.

He is chair of Advance, a housing association that works with people with learning disabilities and mental health issues, and is on the board of the West Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

A spokeswoman for the charity declined to confirm what Green's salary would be. Robert Glick, chair of the Terrence Higgins Trust, said: "Ian has a track record of strong leadership, and we are confident he will ensure that THT continues as the UK's leading HIV and sexual health charity."

Green said he had long admired the charity's work and was honoured to accept the role. "I look forward to working collaboratively with staff and volunteers, the board of trustees and all external partners to continue to deliver innovative HIV and sexual health services across England, Scotland and Wales, in what are undoubtedly challenging times, with cuts to health and social care budgets," he said.



**YMCA Appeal for Refugees**

**The YMCA worldwide family stands together in support of refugees.**

"Rarely in modern history have so many been so desperate to flee. Now their brave, and tragic, journeys are reshaping Europe and the world", reported 'TIME' magazine on October 19, 2015.

The shocking image of a 3 year old boy from Syria, dead on a beach, became the iconic photo of the 2015 European refugee crisis. But we, the worldwide YMCA family, cannot forget countless others; Kenya's large Kakuma Camp in Turkana County for refugees and asylum seekers from Somalia, South Sudan and Ethiopia; and over-crowded longstanding camps for refugees from Palestine and Syria in Lebanon and Jordan.

The YMCA has responded to this extraordinary challenge and crisis with The Global YMCA Refugee Initiative. A high-level Steering Committee for the Initiative agreed during a meeting on November 4 to open a YMCA Fundraising Appeal.

Taking into consideration:

- the unprecedented worldwide scale and contexts of the refugee crisis,
  - our Christian mission and dedication to fight against injustice towards young people all over the world regardless their religion, gender, race or culture,
  - our historical successful longstanding work with refugees, and today's extremely relevant YMCA work with refugees, immigrants and internally displaced people in many countries
- we ask for your solidarity and support.

Resources collected from this appeal will support current YMCA refugee work, as well as new projects of local and national movements worldwide who are ready to respond with various programmes to help refugees. Examples of countries and programmes include:

- Armenia (summer camps and day-care for children of Syrian refugees),
- France (Centre for Asylum Seekers and vocational trainings),
- Germany (housing for refugees and integration programmes),
- Lebanon (integration programmes and medical aid),
- Pakistan (school for Afghan refugees),
- Spain (return programmes and counselling),
- Ukraine (emergency relief and educational programmes for internally displaced children),
- Canada and USA (integration programmes for immigrants and advocacy).

The support will focus on young people, helping them to survive their first days, months, transitions and adaptations to their new lives. The support will have emergency as well as long-term impact.

"I was a stranger, and you invited Me in".



This year was our bi annual family holiday and all eleven of us had an amazing time at Lloret de Mar in Spain. We were very near to Water World (said to be the largest in Europe, but don't they all say that!) and everyone from three year old Zoe-Anna to Grandad made full use of all the activities there and at the hotel. Visits were made to Girona, Tossa de Mar and Barcelona having great fun travelling on local buses.

We have had some enjoyable holidays with Tom and Val including a Cultural Tour of North Cyprus and Turkey and a rail tour of Central Europe.

Our whole family are still very involved with work in the Church, Paul being the Pastor at Nailsea Baptist and Jonny working at the Methodist Central Hall including chaplaincy at the University and regular visits to the Middle East working with Palestinian Christians. This comes with much love and prayer with God's blessings - David and Margaret (Libby)

May the joy of Christmas remind you of God's love and may he always be a part of your life. May God's blessings be with you this Christmas and New Year - Jonathan Quayefio (Mexico) GHANA

During the year we made numerous visits to opticians, dentists, nurses, doctors, and hospitals - we now see ourselves as a "work-in-progress" and thank God daily for the NHS with all its faults and critics. 2016 will see celebration of our golden wedding. Unexpected visit from daughter Ruth who lives in Australia. Many visits from Sharon and Alison and grown grandchildren. Met school chums in Ireland where together we were students at Christ church Cathedral Dublin (choir and grammar school). Jessie and Bert (Caswell).

Enjoyed extended holiday in Portugal and a family holiday in Port Isaac (Doc Martin country). Geoff involved with local Food-bank, Christian Schools Workers in Hastings and the church. Son Fraser heads up a 'hub' for 20-30s for his Pastor and is involved in running an Alpha course. Jan is a prayer minister at Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. All our love - Geoff and Jan (Cooper).

The service to celebrate Phil's life saw over 200 friends and family gathered together from all over the country. It was good to see so many old friends, Phil I am sure would have been delighted to have seen you all. I only wish I had had time to talk with more of you.

But since I have been kept busy with the five grandchildren at their homes and at Centreparks. I don't know where they get their energy; 5 days of water park rapids and slides, cycling everywhere. It was exhausting but great fun. We talked and laughed about Phil a lot; he would have loved it. I went back to work in September and have had plenty of locum work at various surgeries in the Bay. In January 2016 I am looking forward to starting a long term locum position with a practice in Paignton three and a half days a week.

In spite of such terrible loss, I have lots to be thankful for, not least my wonderful "growing" family and am looking forward to the arrival of Jonny's and Carly's 4<sup>th</sup> baby in March 2016. Ann (Heath)