

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Dear friends
and colleagues.
Greetings**

Dear friends and colleagues,
The main part of my letter is to express to all members sincere thanks for the excellent result of the Appeal launched on behalf of retired colleagues who live on an inadequate income in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The Appeal was to give them the opportunity to attend the four yearly conference to be held by the World Fellowship of YMCA Retired (WFYR) July 2018 in Thailand.

The conference will be held alongside the World Council of YMCAs four yearly Meeting offering the bonus to retired colleagues of a 'once in a lifetime experience.'

WE RAISED THE HIGHEST FIGURE FOR MANY YEARS – ONCE EVERY FOUR YEARS!

ENGLAND (ONE Wales!)	£1,415.00
SCOTLAND	£ 555.00
TRUST FUND	£ 500.00
Total	£2,470.00

Our donation will be part of the European YMCAs total which by way of process will be included in the world total when eventually collated by the WFYR committee. This amount will be published through our Newsletter once available.

Anyone wishing to make a late donation please send direct to me made out to 'Ys Retired of the UK' I will send a receipt by return!

Attending under a different umbrella and representing the Y's Retired of the UK, may I quickly add, will be David Smith and Rupert George.

David has the added responsibility of attending the meeting as a member of the Secours Speciaux Committee at the conference.

On a different level. Elsewhere in this Newsletter is shared the name of Anne Pears wife of the late Brian Pears - the person referred to anonymously in the last President's Letter.

Anne had been given 4 to 8 months to live by the medical profession.

Suffice it for me to add that she and her family completed the Baltic Cruise – a happy event and would have been leaving 2nd October on her last wish to tour parts of Britain and Scotland ending her journey on the Isle of Skye. She died peacefully with her family around her – a courageous woman!

I have written to Charles her son sending condolences on your behalf.

Warm regards and keep in good health as best you can!

Jim Lamb
President

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AN INVITATION TO ALL

YMCA Maidstone would like to send an open invitation to any YMCA friends that have fond memories or connections with us as we **Celebrate 50 years of YMCA Maidstone working in the Loose community.**

This will be on December 2nd and the evening will start at 7.00pm until 11.00pm there will be light refreshments served, loads of chat and laughter and catching up.

There will be displays of our history and lots of Photos and the game will be can you recognise yourself and others from all those years ago.

The YMCA has been on the site in Melrose Close, Loose since 1923, it then being used for Cricket and football, but in November 1967 a new Youth and Community Centre was opened.

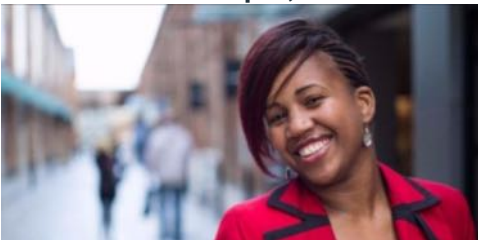
For nearly 40 years we had a very successful centre with youth work and sporting activities. We have now redeveloped the centre and have been in the new building for 6 years and in November 2016 we were voted YMCA of the year.

So it felt very right to celebrate our half century. There are just a few of us left that can remember the opening and have walked the Maidstone journey. I, as one of those who have served my half century as well, know what a privilege it has been to share those years. After many years as a trustee I was given the huge honour of being asked to be Maidstone's President this year.

We look forward to seeing anyone able to make the journey and if you are intending to come if you could let me know to help us with catering please. Any queries please do contact me Email is probably easiest. valwallis1@btinternet.com
Val (Wallis)

Save the date!

21st October 2017 - 2pm, Wells Cathedral



YMCA Mendip 1892 - 2017

Celebrating 125 years of supporting young people in our community

This year, YMCA Mendip is celebrating 125 years of supporting communities across the whole of Mendip. The charity was formed in a coffee shop in Wells back in 1892 by a group of local men who ran prayer groups, Bible study and talks. Since then, the charity has grown and adapted to the times and we now offer a range of services to all young people and communities across Mendip.

To mark this achievement, we are holding a celebratory event in Wells Cathedral at 2pm on Saturday 21st, October 2017 and we would be delighted should you be able to attend.

The Very Revd Dr John Davies, Dean of Wells and recent patron of our charity, will be leading the service and we hope to present a vibrant, lively celebration of the work that we do with young people in the community. We will be providing light refreshments after the service which will give everyone a chance to meet our staff, volunteers, supporters and some of the young people we have supported.

The 4th BBBF Reunion



This was held at North Cadbury Court on Wednesday 26 April 2017. Coffee and biscuits on arrival. Archie Montgomery gave us a historical talk and tour of the Court, the boys trying to remember their dormitories and various escapades that took place.

60 people attended including David Berkley, David Tipping and at the end of Lunch a great surprise Ted and Gardinal Lush (nee Reed) joined us - so good to see them and they send their best wishes to everyone.



After lunch we went up to Manor Farm Dairy and the Cheese Parlour. Archie Montgomery gave us a very interesting talk on the production and storage of cheese. The Mature Cheddar cheese can be kept up to 18 months before being sold. We then had tea at the Court before departure. We gave our thanks to Archie and Janet Montgomery for a wonderful day. The next day six of us managed to see the actual processes used for making cheese including the cheddaring of the cheese by hand.



Stephen Milner is researching a Mr Hasler, an assistant warden at Park Hill and a hostel warden at the YMCA Egdon Hall Hostel for the UK Atomic Energy Establishment, Wilfrith Dorset where apprentices were based.

Does anyone remember the hostel and/or Brian Hasler and is this the same Mr Hasler that was at Park Hill? Tel: 01305 - 266197 or email: stephenmilner222@btinternet.com

In a paragraph from the research document the following is stated:-

"The Egdon Hall hostel was run by the Community Services Department of the YMCA with Eric Hook as its secretary and Mr RI Roberts as the supervisor of its various hostels around the country.

The resident warden was the unassuming Eddie Hapgood, assisted by his wife. Hapwood had spent some time previously as the warden at the Portway House premises of the Harwell establishment. Before that again, Hapgood had proved himself as a renowned footballer at full-back for Arsenal and England in the late 1930s, which included the England captaincy."

MEMBERS CORRESPONDENCE



Very sad news on the passing of Sam Larmour. Correspondence received by President Jim early September from Elizabeth Larmour shares with us that:-

I was unable to tell you about Sam's death, suddenly and unexpectedly on the 28th June, because I didn't have an address or phone number.

It was only when I wrote to Colin Derry and he sent me a bulletin that I had your email address.

Sadly, the collage shown in the September Newsletter was not done by Sam, but put on his facebook by our son Neil.

Sam had visited his brother in Belfast for one weekend and the following Friday went to hospital for a MR Scan. He didn't have it so was kept in overnight and didn't eventually have it until the following Monday afternoon. By this time, we were told that he had an infection and he seemed by now to be quite disorientated. Following his kidney dialysis (which he had 3 times a week) on the Tuesday, he was very poorly. On the Wednesday morning, we were told that he was a bit better, the infection had gone and the scan was clear.

I was called to the hospital early afternoon and then told he had had a massive heart attack and they had been unable to save him. So, after caring for him for many years, I was not with him to say "Goodbye". It seems appropriate to be talking about him today as on this day (7th Sept 2017), 58 years ago, we were married.

But the children and I were happy for him that he went quickly the way he did. I don't know how many personal friends he had left in the Y's Retired, but I'd like, through you, to send my good wishes to Mervyn Moorhead. Yours in friendship, Elizabeth Larmour. eliz.larmour@btinternet.com

Hi David,
Thanks for sending this sad news... I was able to email Elizabeth as I knew Sam when he was here in Norwich and of course, on my various visits.

Are you well? Let me have some of your news as well as other folks!

I cannot recall the last time I emailed you but certainly not since my 'significant event' of getting married to Ann – I moved in with her a year ago here in Upton near Acle Norfolk!

It has been a busy and enjoyable summer with a visit to London for 3 Prom concerts; another few days for the Lord's Test match; a week in the Yorkshire Dales and now back to football! – together with theatre visits and concerts plus taking services in 19 different churches in the year. Other than that, I have been here! Love to you both.

Ron (Ingamells)

As you so rightly intimate David, the news concerning Sam's death is very sad indeed. Although our paths never crossed, I am well aware that he was held in very high regard by so many former colleagues.

Many thanks for keeping me in touch.

Best wishes - Roger and Elaine (Hunt)

Dear Dave and Sue

Thankfully we both survived our trip to the Emerald Isle and actually we were blessed.

It is a bit daunting now that Mervyn is approaching his 90th (Christmas Eve) but he is very safe on a familiar route. The car had started misbehaving, so he had to get used to a new Nissan model (New to us!)

We stayed with Christian friends in Irby, the Wirral and I was able to visit my elderly cousin at some sort of 'clearing Station called 'The HUB' at Norris Green, Liverpool. They assess clients and decide if they are fit for home still or need nursing care. She was, so we saw her on the way back in her home again.

Then a smooth boat trip from Birkenhead and stayed for three nights with Mervyn's niece and visited Lena and Muriel Respectively 97 and 88 in their nursing homes (Mervyn's sisters!)

A lot goes on in Portrush in August. First week was devoted to the International Christian police Mission which is always inspirational, needless to say and a strange thing happened two years ago. We found ourselves sat next to the Assistant Chief Constable for Devon and Cornwall and lo and behold he was able to help with our Gideon dilemma of getting the bibles, stockpiled in the treasurer's garage for three years, out at last to the police here in the South West!. The history of the Christian police is very interesting and started with a Miss Gurney at the end of the nineteenth century here in London.

Next lovely thing is the Vineyard Branch at Coleraine. That worship has to be experienced to be believed and they have a 'healing night' and they also have a 'Fun night', hill-billy style in this farmer's barn. There was line dancing and folk singing and all sorts of attractions all gospel orientated. Hundreds attend their three Sunday services.

Thirdly they have the equivalent to our 'Spring Harvest' in a huge marquee on the university campus in Coleraine. We have to pay quite steeply for our 'Spring Harvest' and 'New Wine' but their's is paid for by wealthy Christian business men, or so I believe.

We were further blessed by staying at two houses, both owned by lovely Christian folk, and although we had a busy three weeks initially, because a friend came to stay and also the family from Liverpool join us and we were up and down to visit Mervyn's sisters and meeting other friends. The last week was all to ourselves and what bliss to sit by a beautiful view and rest and read.

So now, as they say in Ireland, "its back to porridge." That's what Mervyn's mother said once Christmas was over each year!

So, there you are David.

We are welcoming the third new Methodist Minister this week and church activities are being resumed. Her name is Kate Konrad and she remembers with fondness being trained up to preach by Gerald Finnemore.

Love to you both

Beryl and Mervyn (Moorehead)

Anne Pears passed away Wednesday 27th September 2017.

Thanks David and Sue for your emails.

Sadly, we didn't know Sam (Larmour) but can wholeheartedly sympathise with Sam's wife, Elizabeth as the 'Kidney family' as well as the 'Y' family, support each other. We have written her a warm letter. Dear Lord, help her - she can't have had an easy time of it latterly.

On the subject of dialysis – medical consultants are always keen that you should lead as normal a life as possible and encourage you to go away between sessions of dialysis. We can remember one near fateful time that we were encouraged to take our daughter Ruth away and it nearly ended in tragedy as we too went to Northern Ireland and had to have a midnight dash to the airport which ended up in the Belfast renal unit as she became very sick very suddenly. You do learn to live with subliminal anxiety, but console yourself that that is a price you pay for being alive at all!

Well as Christians we can console ourselves that death is only a temporary state of affairs and we know that Elizabeth and family are well upheld in our prayers.

Mervyn remembers Sam from the time he was in Scotland.

We are still soldiering on having just returned from the Emerald Isle. Life goes on with our love in the Lord.
Bless you both

Beryl and Mervyn (Moorehead)

Dear Len & Joyce (Wilson)

You have caught me whilst on holiday (vacation) in the beautiful town of Kitzbuhel, Austria situated in a mountainous region! Have just come down from a cable car trip up a nearby mountain in the afternoon to enjoy a Tyrolean Evening when a Tyrolean band and entertainers captivated a large audience - fabulous!

As usual you will be receiving the Y's Retired of the UK Newsletter to extract material for Bridges and do not hesitate in thanking you both for the time and effort given in its production.

Whilst I am unable to be present in Thailand for the WFYR conference next year no doubt many retired colleagues not least those assisted through the recent financial appeal for Latin America, Asia and African colleagues to attend will enjoy an experience of a lifetime! David Smith our Editor of the Newsletter will be representing the UK together with Rupert George a Committee Member and David Bedford, founding CEO of Y Care International.

Warm regards,

Jim,

President

Y's Retired of the UK

David

Recent visit to Bletchley Park. Attached is a picture of the former YMCA Hostel for the CAA Air Traffic Control Apprentices, now part of the Bletchley Park Museum. Upstairs is home to the Royal Society of Great Britain National (Amateur) Radio Centre, the aerial is top of the building. I went with a friend who is a radio amateur. His father instructed SOE agents Morse Code.

Stephen (Milner)



Dear David,

I have to share the sad news that Anne Pears died today Wednesday 27th September 2017.

I have just spoken to her son Charles who shared that his mother died peacefully with Charles and family members present at her bedside.

You will recall that in my last President's letter I had shared anonymously that a colleague's wife had been given 4 to 8 months to live and was preparing with her family first a Baltic Cruise with the family and then a tour of Britain ending up on the Isle of Skye. Charles has agreed that I should share that it was Anne Pears wife of the late Brian Pears who died in September 2015.

Anne and her family, despite Anne's health, had, and I quote Charles's words, "A whale of a time" on the Baltic Cruise and Anne had returned happy but tired. Within weeks she together with her family had discussed and just arranged her second and last wish, to tour Britain ending up on the Isle of Skye leaving this Monday 2nd October! Her death preceded her well planned programme but in the way she would have wished with her family knowing each day might be her last. Suffice it to say that her 'faith' was paramount throughout her journey.

Appendices

Anne was a member of the Accounts Staff of the Milton Keynes YMCA and together with my late wife Eve introduced a colour carded system on the payment of 'rents,' which amazed the Finance Department of the Milton Keynes Development Corporation.

Jim (Lamb)

Very recent news – The Memorial service celebrating the life of Anne Pears will be held at Waterhouse's Village Hall DH7 9AS - near Durham on Sunday 8th October. Arrival 11.30am for a 12.30pm service.



A CELTIC BENEDICTION

The peace of the running wave to you;
the peace of the flowing air to you;
The peace of the quiet earth to you;
And the peace of the shining stars to you;
And the peace of the Son of peace to you!