

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

MARCH 2018

www.yretired.co.uk



GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Dear friends
and colleagues.
Greetings**

Recently I have been looking at the different kinds of 'Retired Groups' associated with the World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees (WFYR) and noted how the traits of individual National YMCAs (worldwide) vary in their approach to retired staff and lay persons through their respective reports recorded in the Newsletter – Bridges.

I welcomed the fact that David Smith editor of the Y's Retired of the UK Newsletter negotiated an arrangement with the Publication Officer of Bridges to circulate Bridges to all our members.

This has led me to survey from the individual National groups 'reports' their nature and how varied they are in practice! I have little information as to how they have been formed and whether they originally came into being through a 'model' Constitution or started 'had hoc' by keen colleagues! (*I am sure there must be in the archives of the WFYR such information!*).

What is apparent is how varied 'programmes' are encompassed by the impressive list of member countries of the WFYR and here I quote, *Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Taiwan, UK, Uruguay, and USA, (as listed and governed by some 14 officers in governance roles).*

From the recorded 'reports' in Bridges what follows is a brief overall picture of the nature of 'national groups' whose common calling originated in the Biblical quotation from John c.17 v. 21, "That they all may be one". Additional information is through association.

Some retired groups are highly organised with Constitutions dictating governance procedures with elected officers, rules of procedure and laws not least audited financial accounts. These 'groups' are inclined to follow the practice experienced in the YMCA and follow a formal pattern whilst others follow a 'loose' Constitution purely as guidelines with the emphasis on socialising.

Programmes and activity common throughout include residential meetings varying between one to five days, one day reunions with lunch - a valuable time of socialising where the main topic is "Do you remember?"!

Most groups enjoyed relationships with Local, Regional or National Councils of YMCAs either through visits, invited speakers or electronic means. Reference was made to joint YMCA/YWCA meetings. A few groups question through discussion/debate and presence political issues at local and national level. Stressed was individual involvement in their respective communities not least social needs. Religious emphasis mainly Christian formed a natural part of the whole meetings of some retired groups. Otherwise the reality of a broad view was that the YMCA was open to people of all Faiths and of none.

E&OE Business

I give notice that the AGM is held between February and March 2018 when all reports are forwarded to Vic Hills our Honorary Secretary by our Executive Committee together with the President's Annual Report for collation/publication in the Newsletter.

Friendly reminder - subscriptions are due from 1st January 2018!!

Jim Lamb

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MEMBERSHIP CORRESPONDENCE

I was particularly struck by the comments made on 'loneliness', sadly a common issue especially for some retired folk.

I recently received a card depicting an elderly gent holding a sheaf of health services records and exclaiming: "I sometimes think I retired just to keep all my appointments!!"

Actually those of us in the healthcare business are aware that the underlying reason for some consultations is loneliness more than illness. Some of us are blessed with families and friends and past colleagues who keep us too busy to dwell on our loss of previous involvements. This is where a fellowship like Y's Retired can be a real help and I hope we will all do our best to be aware of and help relieve loneliness in our older friends and colleagues.

Warm regards
Professor David (Miller)

I often wonder how it was 90 years ago on Christmas Day in a little Irish homestead. Whether May, the eldest girl was left in charge of five others. I hope they weren't turfed out "in the bleak mid-winter" whilst their mum and the midwife had other diversions.

I expect they would be taken in by the various other nearby siblings.

She wanted him to be called David after Cecile Francis Alexander who was wife of the Bishop of Derry, who wrote "Once in Royal David's city."

So now you know.

(Ed – thanks Beryl Moorehead and happy 90th Christmas Eve birthday to Mervyn.

Dear David

'Life in Norfolk is very good... it would be improved if the weather allowed more golf and Norwich City could win at home!!

There seem to be many churches needing help in this area and so I have taken services in over 20 different churches since moving here 18 months ago.

I find the small congregations in large East Anglian churches very welcoming and they care for the church building so well.

It has been a special privilege to take the Communion Service in mother Julian's Cell from time to time and I really enjoy visits to the main city church (St. Peter Mancroft).

On Trinity Sunday (27th May) this year I shall have been a priest for **60 years**. Ordained in Ripon Cathedral. To mark this occasion, I am returning to Buckden where we lived for 13 years before Janet's death. They have very generously agreed that I can preside and preach on that day at the main service at 11am.

Of course, if any YMCA friends are within reach it would be great to see them. Whenever we go to Buckden Ann and I are given a lovely warm welcome so we look forward to this occasion.

Our plan is to then head from Buckden on the A1 for a break in Northumberland.

Greetings to all old friends... always good to read the excellent newsletter!

Ron - Revd. Ron Ingamells

South West Y's Retired of UK Annual get together at Treloyhan Manor, St Ives, Cornwall

Date 16 - 20 April 2018

Cost:- ensuite half board £214.00
non ensuite half board £184.00

Daily morning and evening devotions, evening activities and a full day coach trip exploring parts of beautiful Cornwall.

Deposit of £40 per person required asap with balance in February 2018.

Contact:- Margaret Libby
1 Lyndrick Road Hartley Plymouth PL3 5TA

PRAYER REQUESTS

As we continue through a harsh winter, I ask for your prayers for our friends and colleagues, their wives and siblings, that are suffering with quite severe illnesses and medical afflictions at this time. For those that I know of (and I am sure there are plenty more) please add the following names to your prayer list.

David Bedford
Arthur Bennett
Chris Batten
Jim Lamb
Colin Mawby

We pray for all who suffer in mind or body and for those who care for them. We pray for the sick; for those who mourn; for those without faith, hope or love.

We pray for any known to us who are in special need of our prayers at this time. We remember them now in a moment of silence

**Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer**

Dear David

I am sorry to report that I have been diagnosed with late stage cancer, for which no treatment is possible. I am being well looked after at home and God is giving me great stoicism.

Keep in touch - Chris (Batten)

BERYL AND MERVYN'S WEDDING DAY

This first week in February 2018, I celebrated with my faithful spouse our diamond wedding. The card from the queen takes pride of place and the memories of that snowy windswept day are clear in my mind.

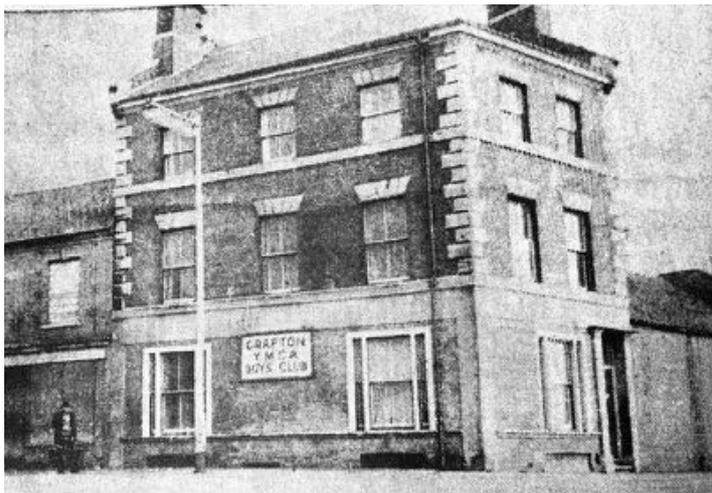
I laughingly remember saying that my dad was so anxious to give me away, that he yanked me up the church steps and I missed my footing and sprawled.

We are still glad to have each other, so there must be something to be said for 'being wed!' Beforehand, I went headlong into the nearest tomb stone. I went up the aisle with my veil askew and seeing stars. The groom must have had stars in his eyes as he still said 'I will'

Beryl (Moorehead)

Members correspondence Focus on Northampton YMCA

Pictures sent through to the editor by family relative who was archiving other historic material about Northampton and came upon these photos.



The Grafton YMCA Boy's Club HQ, once occupied by a "gentleman" butcher and since 1920 a club through which thousands of boys passed.



100th year celebration of service through the existence of Northampton YMCA in 1969. Now 149 years old.

Employment laws need to reflect modern workplace

Last month the Government responded to the Taylor review of modern working practices, announcing a consultation on several new reforms that will address the challenges of the changing world of work in the modern economy.

Responding to the Government's new plans, Denise Hatton, Chief Executive for YMCA England & Wales, said: Young people are one of the main groups keeping the gig economy running, but ultimately they are in the most insecure and low paid jobs offering little to no employment rights and security.

It's crucial that today's employment laws reflect the realities of the modern workplace to stop young people being exploited.

It's positive to see the Government taking on board Matthew Taylor's recommendations, but it remains to be seen how these plans will be implemented in practice and if they will truly reflect what's best for young workers.



Reg Bailey CBE has been newly appointed as Chair to the Board of Trustees of the National Council of YMCAs. He was the Chief Executive of Mothers' Union from 1999 until his retirement in 2015.

YMCA is the oldest and largest youth charity in the world, founded in London in 1844. Across England and Wales, it runs as a federation working in 740 communities to support young people to belong, contribute and thrive in their communities.

Reg said: "It is an honour to be elected as Chair of the National Council of YMCAs. YMCA has a unique history, one that we are rightly proud of. I believe it is our responsibility as a society to ensure children grow into emotionally resilient young people and YMCA is taking an active role in communities across the country to do this.

"I look forward to helping to provide the leadership and governance we will need to strengthen our National Council and, through our members, impact on and support young people and communities who access our services on a daily basis."

While YMCAs work and respond locally, YMCA England & Wales acts as the national council, supporting each local charity within the federation and acting as a national voice with Government and decision makers.

Reg was appointed CBE in 2013 for services to children and families. He is an Honorary Canon of St Alban's Cathedral, member of the ASA (Advertising Standards Authority) Council; the BBFC (British Board of Film Classification) Advisory Panel on Children's Viewing, and is Chair of SANDS, the still birth and neo-natal death charity.

YMCA launches parent mental health guide for Children's Mental Health Week

New figures, published last month by the YMCA, show that despite the important role parents play in supporting the mental health of their children, many are not up to the task.

YMCA spoke to more than 2,000 11-24 year olds about stigma and mental health, with fewer than half of young people (46%) who had seen or heard harmful language and negative stereotypes about mental health, saying they think that their parents are not comfortable talking to them about the issue. A third of those young people also said they don't believe their parents know where to direct them for support with mental health difficulties, leaving them to scramble for information elsewhere.

To help parents tackle conversations about mental health, YMCA has launched a free parent and carer mental health guide, as part of this year's Children Mental Health Week which was designed by young people. The guide was developed after they spoke to parents who told them that they often felt isolated, embarrassed and ashamed by the challenges they face when talking to their children about mental and emotional difficulties.