



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

MAY 2019

www.yretired.co.uk



**Dear friends
and colleagues.
Greetings**

Annual Report/President's Letter

Please note this letter takes the form of the Annual Report for 2018.

The year under review 2018 has passed without anything untoward occurring! All matters have been attended to as they arise.

Of significance are two items. First the retirement of Ray Allen who has rendered fine service as the Honorary Treasurer for some ten years attending to all matters of finance with due diligence. His successor I am delighted to share is Andrew Jenkins who recently retired (2018) as CEO of the Cardiff YMCA and further the first Welshman to join the Executive Committee of the Y's Retired of the UK!

The second is the appointment of John Naylor as our representative on the Secours Speciaux Committee in succession to David Smith who due to health reasons had to retire from the post he faithfully served. Both appointments to be ratified at the AGM.

Abbreviated Reports from the respective areas of our work are to be circulated by Executive Members of the committee post 31st March 2019 but here I share that our finances are in good order with all budgeted commitments/subventions duly executed and expenses kept to the minimum!

The wise increase of annual subscriptions two years ago have proved fully justified in further establishing the Trust Fund and by no means least our 'giving' to Secours Speciaux highly praised by the responsible WFYR

committee based in America. On the latter I draw your attention to John Naylor's first Annual Report on this fine YMCA Charity. Here I ask members to fully support additional donations as requested by the WFYR at the four yearly meeting held in Chiang Mai, Thailand in 2018.

This will allow further support for retired colleagues living in poverty worldwide due to inadequate income to meet such expenses as medical care and special needs. Such contributions direct to our treasurer addressed to Secours Speciaux, cheques made payable to Y's Retired of the UK.

I praise most highly the individual members of the committee for their service rendered over the past year and list here their names:-

President. Jim Lamb, Executive Committee – Vic Hills (Secretary), Ray Allen (Hon. Treasurer), Keith Rennie (Scottish Affairs), David Smith (Editor),

Consultants – Reg Wake, Prof David Miller and Rupert George (Indian Affairs – London).

The AGM for the year 2018 is held during February/March 2019 when all reports are collated by the Executive Secretary Vic Hills. Minutes will be released to News Editor David Smith 31st March for publication in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Thanks are expressed to all who contributed items for the Newsletter and in particular refer to the March 2019 issue one of the best of members input of some 65 issues under David Smith's fine editorship!

Keep as well as you are able and in good spirits.

Jim Lamb
President

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: Andrew Jenkins
33 Amesbury Road, Penylan, Cardiff, CF23 5DW
T: 029 2031 7153
E: a.jenkins@ntlworld.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

SCOTLAND Y'S RETIRED REP:- Keith Rennie
78 Dundee Rd, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 1DW
T: 01382 774092
E: keith@beechhedges.com

MEMBERS CORRESPONDENCE



(Mike Wilkinson – Far left)

Dave & Sue

Thank you for another interesting newsletter. I always read them with interest, taking great encouragement from former colleagues and what they are up to.

Just having celebrated, is that the right word! my 74th birthday. Still just a spring chicken I hear people say and still in reasonable health, with own teeth and a full head of hair. No long lasting effects from my heart bypass of 2 1/2 years ago, just keeping on taking the tablets.

Life is still very busy, continuing as part of the ministry team in our rural benefice preaching 2 or 3 times per month. If not in one of our 6 churches then at one of the local free churches.

Also very involved as vice-chair of our local primary school which is about to be formalised as a federation with another local primary school. Lots of meetings and discussion over above full governor's meetings to get systems etc right.

Helping one or two evenings per week for a couple of hours at the city's winter night shelter, accommodating mainly men with the occasional female, most of them with either drug or alcohol problems, if not both, plus some mental health difficulties.

Still act as chair of Hereford Open Door which provides breakfasts 3 mornings per week and over the Christmas week for 5 days a two course cooked lunch. We served about 120 lunches over that period. All those who help are volunteers and come from all over the county. Local people, organisations and some firms support us financially, as we get no grants from local or county councils, plus lots of food and other donations. Our local MP also came in and washed up on one day.

After 5.5 years, since it started in Hereford, I have stood down as a Street Pastor, finding the late nights or was it early mornings getting too tiring. Instead of that I have now been accepted as a Police Chaplain. which means I go in the police station more or less any time I want to and engage with officers and civilian staff, from the Divisional Superintendent downwards on anything they want to talk about except legal matters. Most interesting was a visit to the custody block talking with the staff in it and surprisingly they let me out afterwards! Soon I will be going on a 'ride along' with officers in a police car when on patrol, which will be very interesting.

Living in Herefordshire I still miss the fellowship of the 'Y'. not knowing where my nearest ex-colleague lives I still get the annual Christmas card from our esteemed President, whom I worked with in Lincoln back in 1970/71 before he went up to Newcastle. Glad to hear that he is still active and enjoying life.

With every blessing – **Mike (Wilkinson)**

GRAND WELCOME TO OUR NEW TREASURER



Welcome - Andy Jenkins

Welcome to Y's Retired of UK and the role of Treasurer

Andy lives in Penylan, near Cardiff with his wife Deirdre and recently retired at the end of February 2018 having reached the grand age of 65.

He was first involved with the YMCA as a child through his father who worked for the YMCA from 1948. Andy's first job with the YMCA was as Bournemouth in 1975.

Bournemouth YMCA – Youth Worker – 1975 To 1978
Dartford YMCA – Programme Director – 1978 To 1981
Bath YMCA – Youth Worker – 1981 To 1986
Cardiff YMCA – Housing Manager 1986 To 1992
Deputy Chief Executive 1992 To 2004
Chief Executive 2004 To 2018

In the days when AOS was valued, Andy was writer/ co-writer/ performer/ director/co-director of a number of AOS & APS presidential end of conference "plays"! In the 1980s he was involved in organisation work groups for Eurocross He has been Chair of YMCA Cymru (Welsh YMCAs group) for the last 4 years.



Dear David,

Ron (Ingamells) and I met up before the big match at Carrow Road recently when Ron's Norwich City narrowly beat the mighty Hull City 3-2! Ron's brand new scarf looks rather smarter than mine (which I have been wearing to Hull City matches since 1962!) Ron and I worked together on the staff of the National Council in the eighties and I am glad to report that the Christian fellowship between us, born in the YMCA, overcame the fierce rivalry on the night!!

David (Bedford)

A MEMBERSHIP QUESTION

When Ken Montgomery mentions "a long shot" he really means it. John Howell was Head of Personnel, and Training in the 1930s. Therefore, assuming he was at least 30 years old (holding such an important post) he would now be 119 years old !! Can nobody help!!



15th November, 1954.

Dear Member,

The beloved John Howell passed peacefully to rest early this morning after a short illness. He had been crippled and confined to the house for a long time.

It can be said of him, as it was of the late John Forrester Paton, that we shall not soon see the like of him again. John's place in the Movement and in our affection was unique. No one travelled further and spoke more often to Secretaries and members. His presence was a benediction and his words an inspiration. He came to us during the first world war and will be long remembered for his work on the Nomination Committee and in the religious, educational, and boys' work of the National Council. How great is the number of Secretaries who recall that it was John Howell who first interviewed them about Association service and remained their wise friend and counsellor, ever concerned about their true welfare and ever ready to help. What a joy it was to have him in our homes and to talk to him by the fireside after the meetings were over; what a lot we learned then for our good and for our work, as we unburdened ourselves to our friend and elder brother. To recall his visits to Divisional Conventions, Secretaries' Fraternal, and members' meetings, is to remember times of spiritual insight and refreshment, and how vast must be the number of boys and young men who gave their lives to Christ through his ministry. We may truly thank God for every remembrance of him. He was a good and faithful servant of his Master and surely the trumpets will sound for him on the other side.

He leaves a widow and a son and daughter. Mrs. Howell's address is 140, Dora Road, Wimbledon Park, London, S.W.19.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID G. GUNN.

As the staff member appears to have a Welsh name are there any geriatrics in Wales who may remember John Howell?

As for me I'm not quite old enough, but nearly.

Peter (Brookes)

Surprised Ken's memory doesn't go back that far!!

David (Bedford)

The group of Y's Retired folk enjoying the 2019 week at Treloyhan Manor, St Ives, Cornwall, well organised by David and Margaret Libby. The weather was reasonably kind but slightly colder than previous years.

The film, quiz (by Ray Allen) and mystery tour of St Mawes and Falmouth was as ever, all excellent. Good food enjoyed with friends in good company together – with nightly prayers and communion before departures.



Top row:- Des Wilcox, Paul Harper, David Smith, Tom Libby, Ian Haille, Margaret Haille, David Buckingham, Ray Allen, Ann Heath, Pearl Wilcox John Shinner, Hannah Milner, Val Libby Sue Smith, David Libby, Mervyn Moorehead, Stephen Milner.

Bottom row:- Gillian Langford, Margaret Skinner, Beryl Moorehead, Jill Buckingham, Margaret Libby, Ruth Moorehead, Sheila Hardy, Elizabeth Harper.

Cambridge Reunion Lunch 2019

Dear colleagues,

Cambridge Reunion Lunch 4th July 2019 – 12 noon for 12.30pm

I have retained the same time and date as previous years for the Reunion normally convenient to the majority! The date does not conflict with school-holidays.

You will appreciate from your own experience the setting of dates and numbers is of paramount importance when booking a suitable restaurant venue for meals and ask for your full support in early confirmation of your intention, including spouses to attend. Please would you respond by email, post or telephone whichever is most convenient!

The invitation is open to all members within striking distance or further afield if by car, rail or 'Shanks Pony' to Cambridge – a delightful city for a day out!

Suffice it to share that I have been able to make a provisional booking with the Girton Golf Club Restaurant with excellent car parking facilities much appreciated in past years! Expect a warm welcome, always present for visitors to Cambridge.

The Cost? I am awaiting hear whether there has been an increase in last years cost of £16 per person. Drinks are extra at the bar. Also the menu choice this year.

I look forward to meeting with you ALL for yet another pleasant social occasion!

Warm regards,

Jim (Lamb)

Cambridge Reunion Lunch Organiser

31, David Bull Way, Milton, Cambridge CB24 6DP

Tel: 01223 440228. E.mail:- j.lamb22@outlook.com

Dear David,
 many thanks for the recent News Letter.
 Always I'm reading them with lot of interest!
 I got hooked by the brief statement of John Drake, as just last weekend I received a book as a present, which refers to a similar visit to the cemetery in Jerusalem:

In the Steps of the Master - by H. V. Morton, Rich & Cowan Ltd. 25 Soho Square, London, October 1934

H. V. Morton writes about his journey through the Holy Land. To my surprise on pages 323, 324, 325 he writes about his visit to the British War Cemetery in Jerusalem in or before 1934.

Many greetings - Yours Eckard



Eckard M. Geisler
 Bundessekretär für
 Weltdienst und
 Internationale Beziehungen
 YMCA Secretary for World
 Service and International
 Relations
 Barmer Str. 20
 42899 Remscheid

§ 2

The Anglican Cathedral of St. George is distinguished in Holy Week by the devotional walks which it organises, and by the quiet dignity of its traditional ceremonies. An atmosphere of England pervades the cathedral close with its flowers and its quiet cloisters.

One of the first services I attended, and one that I shall never forget, was the Anglican service in the British War Cemetery in memory of the British troops who died during the Palestine campaign.

The War cemetery stands on the northern end of the Mount of Olives, to the east of Mount Scopus. Across the valley that falls away from its gate rises the ridge on which Jerusalem stands. The cross in the cemetery is faced by the walls, the roofs, and the domes of the city, and rises over the graves as the banner of St. George might have stood above a company of Crusaders. All other war cemeteries face the east, this one alone faces west. The Garden of Gethsemane is only a little way from it in the hollow, and from the cemetery you can see the site of Calvary.

There are 2,180 soldiers and airmen of the United Kingdom lying there, and 143 soldiers from Australia and 34 from New Zealand. There is one woman's grave in those white ranks, that of Nurse Charlotte Berrie, of Neutral Bay, Sydney, New South Wales.

There are always gardeners taking care of the flowers that die so quickly in this fierce soil. Tall hedges of rosemary lie between the graves, and someone with an English eye has planted daffodils and marigolds, wallflowers and geraniums. There are also wild red Flanders poppies growing there.

324 IN THE STEPS OF THE MASTER

In the hush of afternoon English voices were lifted in prayer and an English choir in white surplices shielded its eyes from the sun which was sinking towards the western hills. It was good to hear English prayers in a spot sacred to the British race.

The clergy and the choir walked away between the graves and the sun dipped down towards Jerusalem. I remembered the little priest of El Kerak who was so happy to have lived to see Christian soldiers march into Aleppo. That his feet will bear the scars of the Turkish rods until the day of his death did not matter to him, for he had endured, he believed, to some purpose.

Big thank you from all those who journeyed to Treloyhan Manor St Ives to Margaret and David Libby for arranging yet another excellent week.

Next year the dates are:-

Monday 20th April to Friday 24th April 2020

Do put the dates in your diary now !!

The Duke of Sussex visits YMCA to talk about mental health



As part of His Royal Highness's campaign work around mental health, he visited YMCA to learn more about the vital support it provides to young people. The Duke met some of the residents of YMCA South Ealing; participants in YMCA's Mental Health Champions programme; and young people involved in the #IAMWHOLE campaign, run by the NHS and YMCA.

During the discussions, the Duke was particularly interested in how the peer-2-peer element of YMCA Mental Health Champions programme worked and the support provided in schools for key adults. As part of the visit he also met with parents and young children who attend the Y Active ballet class for children between four and six, that helps raise much-needed funds for the centre.

The Duke joined YMCA England & Wales Chief Executive Denise Hatton at a roundtable with organisations to discuss the current climate of support for those with mental health difficulties and the personal and social issues that are often the underlying cause. He said: "Every single one of us in here can suffer from mental health. There continues to be huge progress in smashing the stigma that surrounds mental health, but let's keep normalizing the conversation. Let's keep reminding each other that it's okay to not be okay, and to listen to each other. After all, how we think determines how we act, how we feel and how we treat ourselves and those around us."

YMCA South Ealing is part of YMCA St. Paul's Group, which provides services across London and is one of the largest in Europe. The organization provides housing for 151 young people who are dealing with a range of problems such as homelessness, mental illness, recovering from substance misuse, or are fleeing domestic violence. Over 17,000 young people are aided by YMCA's mental health support in England and Wales every year.

Sophia Zahra, 21, who met the Duke, was helped by YMCA as a 17-year-old carer and now works for YMCA Swansea's Young Carer Project said: "Prince Harry brings much-needed attention to young people, especially men, and their mental health. It's amazing for people who are struggling [with mental health] to see Prince Harry, who is so inspiring and has spoken about his own experiences."