

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

JANUARY 2019

www.yretired.co.uk



Dear friends and colleagues. Greetings

We are presently in the midst of a period of 'memories', a word with many connotations, as we remember a wide range of events - first from 100 years ago.

The 'media' really did go to town on this important event offering brilliant coverage of Armistice Day 11th November with photographic evidence second to none added to which were sobering thoughts to balance the images of 'the life of the soldiers in the trenches'. Of how the lives of whole families were shattered and remembered to this day throughout generations. Indeed, the majority of our members were born post Armistice Day but carry stories of the valour from 'relationships' such is history.

I could repeat the above in relation to the bestiality of the Second World War for likewise can be repeated the addition of Concentration Camps of horrific magnitude and the effects to this day on countless people. I share two sobering moments for me when my life was influenced forever by memory.

A visit whilst serving my two years National Service in Germany to Belsen and viewing the images laid bare before my eyes, the huge mounds of earth that stated "here lie 20,000 bodies" etc.

The second was much simpler when conducting a Remembrance Sunday Service at a church in Newcastle-upon-Tyne an elderly 'veteran' resplendent with his war medals played the Last Post not once but twice (the second time without permission!) tears rolled down his cheeks whilst many 'hankies' appeared among the congregation!

Certainly, POPPIES were more evident than ever in previous years which reminded me of the excellent pamphlet our late YMCA colleague Geoffrey Palmer a Cambridge Don produced on the history and the involvement of the YMCA in the original story of Flanders Fields.

I was privileged to meet Geoff on the sweeping stairs of London Central YMCA, Tottenham Court Road on one occasion and for 'an hour and fifty minutes' we conversed on a philosophy of life! I missed my train to Newcastle but came away a better man! Some of you will also recall his fine booklet on 'Walks around London' inclusive of conversation on the times he was the guide!

Another recent memory is of course The Invictus Games and the immense influence it had on those who followed the televised event. Disablement became a reality to all whether physically whole or disabled and not least the extent of human courage.

A final memory at the close of this period of remembrances! Memories of Christmases past now present and the New Year of 2019, other times for 'people of all Faiths and of none'. Here is the time so cherished in our youth when through Christian teaching of the birth and life of the historical Jesus we came to terms with an understanding of right and wrong, of morals applicable to our life styles throughout our lives. A time which gave understanding to life albeit many years ago.

We were introduced to elementary theology on the nature of God which in succeeding years became an understanding of our own spirituality and respect for religion.

Where do we stand in 2019? Our faith which is the base on which we maintain our personal belief and understanding throughout our lives has matured until the present day. How will we enjoy Christmas 2018, as a truly blessed time or as yet another festival pleasantries but meaningless. *"For unto us a child is born – the Saviour of the world"* a forgotten memory or is it still a revelation?

LEST WE FORGET!

Jim Lamb

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MEMBERSHIP CORRESPONDENCE

TRELOYHAN CONFERENCE CENTRE ST IVES, CORNWALL

1 - 5 April 2019

Ensuite Half Board £218.00

Non ensuite Half Board £180.00

£40 deposit by 20 October please

Balance due 20 February 2019.

Cheques payable to David or Margaret Libby

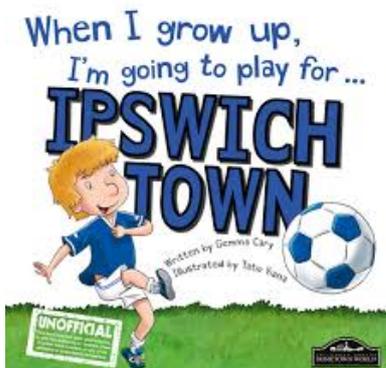
15 The Quarterdeck, Strand Street, Plymouth PL1 3RL

Five days of fun, relaxation, exploration and reminiscing.



This very sad Norwich City (top of the Championship) reprobate called Rev Ron Ingamells wrote to me recently with great glee, amusement and satirical abuse over the current demise of my dear Ipswich Town Football Club which finds itself propping up the Championship table.

As a true and dedicated "tractor lad" I watch with great interest the results as they come in at 4.40pm each Saturday. This season has been devastating with negative results each match. Even Delia Smith (no relative of mine) glories in the demise of such a club built up on Tolly Cobnut!!



What would the great Sir Alf Ramsey or Sir Bobby Robson think of our present situation but all is not lost with the appointment of Paul Lambert.

Go for it Paul, show the 'canaries' who is in charge and get yourself a knighthood.



Hi David,

Liking the thought of a glorious sun soaked summer. I clearly guessed incorrectly when I chose to climb Carrauntoohil, Ireland's highest mountain, on a glorious sunny day in June. I wish. Guide told me the previous 5 days were as you said, until I came along!! Wind gusting at 40 miles an hour and a whiteout at the top!!! See pictures. Hope everything wonderful in your family, grateful for all your work with Y's Retired. Saw Vic and Mary a couple of weeks ago, they seem energised!!

Blessings,
Stan (Wojcik)



Paul Martin of Flog It!

Flog It! On 23rd Oct Flog it came from Norwich Cathedral in Norfolk. In the knave were experts Kate Bateman and David Fletcher who picked out some choice items to take for auction. Among them was a vintage model car.

What a treat to see **Barbara Drake** on Flog It.

I was watching afternoon TV while waiting for my hip operation when who should appear with her stylish pink glasses but the unmistakable Mrs Drake parting with a toy car created from a kit.

My immediate thought was that John may not be aware that one of his toys was being sold, but I then learnt it was owned by Barbara's Uncle Tom. It made £110 and Barbara was happy with the outcome. Nice one Barbara!!

OUR ADVENT PRAYER

In this Advent of expectation draw us together in unity, that our praise and worship might echo in these walls and also through our lives. In this Advent of expectation draw us together in mission, that the hope within might be the song we sing, and the melody of our lives. In this Advent of expectation draw us together in service, that the path we follow might lead us from a stable to a glimpse of eternity.

THE YMCA INDIAN STUDENT HOSTEL

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Dear Friend & Well-wishers,

In 2020 we will be 100! Indeed, a time to be thankful, reflective and futuristic.

While we promise to be back with more thoughts on the above, we would appreciate that you respond and confirm you have received this note. We wish earnestly to celebrate with you and other friends and associates who have made the ISH what it is!

Briefly, the celebration proposes the following:

- Thanksgiving Vespers
- Public Day celebration with a member of the Royal Family, Ecclesiastical community, Trustees past and present, residents past and present and invitees
- Launch a Wall Mural of 30' x 60'
- Initiate a Royal Portrait
- Refurbish internally and externally the Heritage Building (Grade II listed)
- Update the ISH History Exhibition
- Update the Coffee Table Book
- Write 100 year History

Your suggestions are most welcome.

Kindly feel encouraged to refer to us people we may miss out who have been associated in the past.

Regards

JPFX Fernandes
General Secretary

THE PASSING OF TOM LAWRIE

Dear David,

This is to let you know that Tommy Lawrie, the late husband of Mrs Elizabeth Lawrie of 66 Beechwood Gardens Bellshill ML4 2PG passed away in June this year.

Tommy died, having been in a nursing home for some considerable time where he had suffered from dementia. A number of our Scottish group attended his funeral.

Tommy was a committed volunteer at Bellshill YMCA where he went on to serve as Chairman. He then decided to go full time and served under Gilbert Dickson at Coatbridge and returned to Bellshill YMCA as General Secretary. Finally moving to Motherwell YMCA in the early 1980s for many years before he retired in the 1990s.

Keith (Rennie)

Dear Friends,

SECOURS SPECIAUX

Having successfully undergone a new hip replacement operation, I am aware that I now need to concentrate on regaining my mobility and my strength.

It was because of my lack of mobility that I had to withdraw from attending the Chiang Mai WFYR Conference in Jun/July this year. I was not therefore able to properly represent Y's Retired of UK at the various Secours Speciaux meetings which good colleagues in Jim Thomson and John Naylor were able to attend and report back, on our behalf.

As important SS action points now need addressing, I offered my SS resignation as your representative to President Jim who after accepting it, soon identified a very worthy successor in John Naylor.

So, I am delighted to share the President's appointment of John to be our SS representative going forward. I'm very pleased to share that John Naylor was willing to accept the appointment.

Kind regards – **David (Smith)**

Dear All

This is just to let you know what is happening on Secours Speciaux from a UK perspective. Apologies, if I am repeating information you already know.

As most of you know, I have been elected by the UK Y's Retired of UK Committee as David Smith's successor on the SS Committee. David has had some health issues, so felt he should step down. Bonnie Mairs has warmly welcomed me onto the Committee and has informed WAY.

David has given me all his information and Phil Dwyer, Chair of WFYR, has sent me the above two papers as background.

David was most helpful over the phone and stressed the need for improved communication from Geneva and Bonnie, so there can be improved feedback to donors.

Phil has also invited me to join a WFYR leadership team conference call to New York at 14:00 on Wednesday 12th December, when SS will be discussed.

Among the topics will be improved communication from and with Geneva; the balance held as a minimum on the balance sheet better reflects the level of grants (the present 250,000SFR minimum is equivalent to 8 years of grants); more grants are made; the grant making process is more transparent; and the fund is better publicised to attract more donations..

Hopefully this brings you all up to speed.

If you have any comments, please send them direct to:-

cjohn.naylor@blueyonder.co.uk

With best wishes

John (Naylor)



REV'D DOUGLASS BOYCOTT

As in many places Remembrance Sunday in the village here in Upton, Norfolk was very special. I led the Remembrance Day Service and we had a full church (seats about 100) and the village has only just over 500 residents. The church was suitably decorated.

In the afternoon the Upton History Group organised an amazing display with lovely poppy arrangements and lots of Upton history relating to 1914 -18.

I was especially interested to learn that the then Vicar of Upton, Revd. Boycott, went to serve with the YMCA in France., He is pictured here in his YMCA uniform. We have not yet discovered for how long he served in France.

Earlier in the week, in my capacity as a Life Vice-President, I attended the Norfolk YMCA AGM after the usual formal meeting chaired by General the Lord Dannant. There was a superb presentation by young people who gave their testimonies of how the YMCA has helped them to regain their lives. Some very sad situations but rescued by the Y staff. I am full of admiration for the work Tim Sweeting and his team undertake in Norwich, King's Lynn, Gt. Yarmouth and Lowestoft.

A few months ago. I welcomed the establishment of a consortium of Voluntary Organisations to work together to try and overcome the problem of rough sleepers. Working together with others dedicated to the same aim has always been an important thing in my work. Coming back to Norfolk after 40 years I was shocked to see so many homeless people sleeping in shop doorways and around churches in the city. The YMCA are playing a leading role.

Also last week the Archbishop of Canterbury visited and we had a very moving event in the Cathedral on the theme of 'Reconciliation'. Talks from a Rabbi and the Roman Catholic Bishop and others were very vividly summarised by the Archbishop together with his theological aspect of reconciliation. When we speak on this theme we must never forget the need for this between Israel and Palestine. Sadly, the Palestinians continue to be dealt blow after blow. I keep in touch with the YMCA in East Jerusalem and hear news that is never on any national news.

My two and half years in Norfolk have been busy but interesting – I have taken services in over 20 different churches in this time!

Ann and I are very happy and enjoying life – including our season ticket visits to Carrow Road!! I still enjoy playing golf – not always very well!

If any are on holiday in Norfolk do make contact.

Ron

Revd. Ron Ingamells

Dear David,
When at Highcliffe we attended a magnificent concert at a packed Poole Lighthouse Theatre last Sunday (11th Nov 2018). The concert was titled 'Always Remembered'.

There were 100 musicians forming Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra 150 members of Bournemouth Symphony Chorus and Youth Chorus they all received a deserved standing ovation at the end of the Concert.



The purpose of this e-mail however is to draw attention to something in the programme notes. The Concert started with the Symphony Orchestra playing Mars from the Planets by the well-known composer Gustav Holst.

His popular suite "The Planets" was composed during the First World War and was first heard in 1918. it was a private performance funded by a friend of his since Holst was about to take up an appointment as the YMCAs Near East Music Organiser based in Salonica working with the British troops.

Best Wishes to Sue and yourself.

Richard (Long)

Experience a 1918 YMCA Hut

100 years ago, guns fell silent and peace returned. In association with the town's commemoration of the end of the First World War, King John's House, Romsey, became a YMCA for a weekend. During the weekend of 17/18 Nov there was the opportunity for folk to experience the workings of a YMCA Hut.

There were showings of silent films of the year with musical accompaniment. A canteen with good wholesome nourishment, where one can read the paper, write a letter home or read a book. Entertainment by the local dramatic group and the opportunity to play a quiet game of cribbage or draughts. The hut was opened free during the weekend from 10am to 4pm.