



## President's ponderings

Whatever your political opinion, for or against- the UK has left the European Union. What this will bring, we will have to wait and see. But I have been reflecting on this change of international perspective from a YMCA point of view.

Being internationally focussed and connecting with people across all the continents in our shared mission and vision has been part of our very being ever since the adoption of the Paris Basis at that pioneering first International YMCA Conference in Paris in 1855.

For many of us, our international YMCA involvement has enriched our lives and the lives of many young people that we have worked with. It has given us experiences and forged friendships at World and European Councils, Youth Events, Secretaries Conferences and exchanges that have transcended the miles and crossed cultural and political boundaries.

Through supporting the old World Service, RAID, Y Care International or Secours Speciaux we have been able to play small but significant parts in contributing to the quality of life in body, mind, spirit of many around the world.

The YMCA has and, I hope, will always work to transcend those boundaries created by politics and economics, race and gender, wealth and poverty.

At the heart of our Christian movement is the knowledge that Christ came to bring God's love and Salvation to the whole world. He came to break down barriers!

It will soon be Easter when we celebrate Jesus breaking of the boundary between death and life through his resurrection, so that all who believe in him 'may be one'. In an ever fracturing world may we hold firmly to those things that unite us and release those which divide us in the world, in the country and perhaps even in our families !!

I wish you all a Happy Easter and a glorious spring!  
Graham

## Almost a billion-pound decline in funding for youth services by local authorities across England and Wales

**Denise Hatton, Chief Executive of YMCA England & Wales, said:**

"Youth services exist to provide a sense of belonging, a safe space, and the opportunity for young people to enjoy being young. However, for almost a decade now local authorities have struggled under the weight of funding pressures, meaning youth services are being forced to endure continued and damaging cuts.

"No part of society could be expected to suffer almost a billion-pounds worth of real term cuts and for there to be no consequences across our communities. However, young people's needs continue to be brushed aside by decision makers as unworthy of support.

"The reality behind these figures is that since 2010 more than 4,500 youth work jobs have been cut and 760 youth centres have closed. We believe this is unacceptable. Without drastic action to protect funding and significantly re-invest in youth services, we are condemning young people to become a lonely, lost generation with nowhere to turn."

*Read more on page 6 – and if you wish to share, add your positive response to your facebook page (editor)*

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## TRIBUTES CONTINUE FOR PAST PRESIDENT

12 years! Thank you, Jim, for your record of remarkable service with UK FYR. Well done.  
Norris

**Norris D Lineweaver**  
**Immediate Past Chair**  
**WFYR**

Thank you David.  
I entirely agree with the sentiments you have expressed concerning Jim. Over a long period of time, he executed his role with a level of diligence which will have been appreciated by all the membership. So well done Jim, very many thanks for all your efforts.

Welcome aboard Graham!!

Regards, **Roger (Hunt)**

Thank you David.  
Just returned from Palestine and Jerusalem having had the privilege of leading a group of Trustees, staff, and members from Stoke YMCA .  
The work of the East Jerusalem YMCA in Jericho and Beit Sahour continues to be breath takingly inspiring. I am convinced from this a new generation of British YMCA leaders will follow in the path laid down by others from this great movement. I have 4 more trips planned for next year if God gives me strength.

Thank you for you and Jim and President Graham.  
**John (Drake)**

In many ways David, a very moving Newsletter, with an amusing and interesting "kick off" from Graham. Thank you for everything you have done and continue to do, on behalf of Ys retired, it is much appreciated by everyone

Best wishes to you and Sue.

Regards, **Roger (Hunt)**

## Y's Retired Newsletter - Rough Data

First issue - March 1983. Editor Geoffrey Peters.  
These continued until September 1994 with annual breaks substituted by Reg Wake in 87, 88, 89, 90, 94,95.

Half yearly edition - Editor Reg Wake. 98 - until handover to David H Smith.  
Bi-monthly as from September 2008 till present day.  
First "President's Letter (Geoffrey Harris) Dec.98.

## FRED DALDRY

Friends of 96 year old Fred Daldry might wish to know that he has recently moved from 4 HENGIST COURT  
13-15 HENGISTBURY ROAD BOURNEMOUTH BH6 4DH to:-

**19 Lampreys Lane South Petherton**  
**Somerset TA13 5DU**

His daughter Maggie Foster says he does enjoy reading the newsletter and gives thanks for it.

Dear David and Sue

Thank you for ecard and news. Wish for you many blessings at Christmas. Our Liverpoolian family is coming down. We are looking forward to seeing them.

Mervyn, you will be pleased to know got the 'all clear' on his bladder tumour report. They will, however, keep an eye on him every six months

Look forward to seeing you at St Ives

**Beryl (Moorhead)**

## Secour Speciaux update

Dear John Naylor and Keith Rennie,  
The point raised correcting my quick calculation recognising that the donation to Secour Speciaux should have read \$5115.60 and not \$4350.  
My fault! Apologies! 5,000 US dollars sounds so much better.

It would be helpful for the eventual amount to be published in the March 2020 Newsletter to amend any misunderstanding.  
(duly achieved - Editor)

**Jim (Lamb)**

Hello Graham,

I give you a short introduction about our retirees organisation. We have for the WFYR not the usual regulation - not only professionals in our group, but also volunteers who were responsible in the YMCA. Some were responsible for groups and branches for 40-50 years.

- We founded 12 years ago the CVJM-Senioren-Initiative (CSI)
- We have two times in the year for meetings:
  - Bible-Camp (120-130 members)
  - Sighseeing tour (30-40 members) in a European city. We were in Wien, London, Paris, Budapest, Oslo, Danzig, Strasburg, Brussels and more.

Now we had 323 members from all over Germany. Our board consists of 9 people and our leader is Reverend Klaus-Juergen Diehl.

Maybe we can plan a meeting between our Boards? - it would be an enriching meeting.

Best wishes - **Albrecht Kaul**

Dear David

Thank you for your Christmas card - one of the first of the season and most apposite. During advent it is appropriate to welcome Graham as our President.

Graham is an excellent choice - great Christian gifts with a love of the YMCA but also able to give an outside perspective from a different generation (a member of our youth wing?). I am really looking forward to his leadership.

I have written congratulating Graham and also to Jim, thanking him for his committed leadership over the years, including the most recent appeal for Secours Speciaux. We have been really outstandingly well served.

Meanwhile you carry on doing an excellent job as our newsletter editor. Well done and thank you very much.

With warmest good wishes to you and Sue  
**John (Naylor)**

Dear David,

I thought you might like the attached photo for the newsletter with the following caption:



**The co founders of YCare International (from left John Naylor, Terry Waite and David Bedford) at a Lambeth Palace Reception in November to mark Terry's 80th birthday.**

Terry spoke on the night about how John and David had visited him in 1983 to ask him to become YCare's founder Hon Chairman.

Terry has been Chairman or President of YCare ever since. Terry also paid tribute to the late Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie who Chaired every Y Care Board meeting while Terry was in captivity.

Best wishes, **David (Bedford)**



**Dear David.  
May I add my most sincere thanks to you for your excellent work as editor of Y's Retired.**

I have been most grateful to receive and read your regular bulletins which have been most informative and often inspiring. You will know that I am a mere lay person but I have been most happy to know what is happening with so many old friends.

With all best wishes for good health during the upcoming year.

Thank you. Kind regards,  
**Terry (Ratcliffe)**

**Geoff Cooper writes:-**

The last year has been a good year for kayaking on the sea with Fraser, my son, organising a men's walking group. Volunteering at the local food bank looking after the garden and doing lots of DIY such as fitting the new kitchen. Fraser is the Strategic Commissioner for Adults with Learning Difficulties who this Spring will be off on holiday to South Africa, followed by a friend's wedding in Australia and a visit to New Zealand.

**Jan Cooper writes:-**

Recently had three very exciting days of training and fun for prayer ministers and visiting chaplains on a New Year retreat at Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. My autobiography "This Spacious Place" was launched last July with sales being gifted to Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre of over £500 to date.

Other son Graham and wife Mel with grandsons Hope and Isaac all attend Holy Trinity Hastings with us and Fraser being part of the worship team, also plays the sax in a big band called Swing Street.

**Jess and Bert Caswell write:-**

No trips out last year. Bert is now on 'gluten free' food which has proved a game changer even though his other chronic illnesses are ongoing. Jess continues to have tests that seem to baffle the consultants, but, so far nothing significant has been found!!

Grandson Liam is 17 and learning to drive with A levels this year whilst granddaughter Alex has GCSE's. Alex plays the trumpet, Liam plays the guitar and keyboard both being involved with the local Baptist Church at Blackheath.

Sharon and Mark are purchasing property in Carbis Bay near St Ives, Cornwall. Hannah is a Financial Advisor and Emma a Primary School teacher.

**Ann Heath writes:-**

My life is kept busy with regular dancing with a Bollywood Group, singing with a community choir, walking with a local group in the Devon countryside, volunteering in the church café and weather permitting, sailing as a crew member on a friend's yacht. Racing around the buoys in the bay!!

Trips aboard continue with a skiing holiday in France (without broken bones) Gran Canaria, Venice, sailing to Alderney and race sailing in Northern Brittany. Also enjoyed a river cruise on the Douro in Portugal.

The annual "Heath" extended family took place on Craft farm with all 25 members and two dogs where they enjoyed a performance of Ali Baba and the 40 thieves.

**Stephen and Hanna Milner write:-**

At the end of October/beginning of November we travelled by car from Dorchester to Harwich then by overnight ferry to Hook of Holland, spending 11 days in Germany visiting Osnabruck, Hannover, a day in Bremen by train and 2 days in Bad Bentheim on the German/Dutch border on the way back. The Autumn colours were magnificent, we had good weather and enjoyed seeing family and friends in Germany.

We have been helping again with sorting and delivering the Dorchester and District Christmas Scout Post which raises funds for the local Scout Groups; today we finished the last of the Charminster deliveries!



**It's a time to reflect on what an incredible year 2019 has been for YMCA. We came together in London to celebrate and to focus on how we can empower young people.**

We've seen great work across our Movement as we strive towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. But most importantly, we must take a moment to reflect on how we will move forward in the next decade, how we will remain true to our values as a Movement and take joy in seeing young people all over the world flourish and reach their potential.

Have a very happy New Year!  
**Patricia Pelton**  
**President | World YMCA**

**Vic and Mary Hills write:-**



On 7th March 2019 Vic's mum unexpectedly died. On April 5th, Joyce the vicar of St Martin's Church (where "Mum" had been involved in a variety of capacities over many years, (including flower lady; choir; bereavement visitor; PCC member) the family celebrated her life in the church, with around 100 family and friends. Over 30 of the hats she wore accompanied her coffin "Mum" lives on as some of the hats have found new homes with admirers.

By 6<sup>th</sup> June the family were on a plane to Orlando, for a 21 day holiday of 3 parts. The beginning and end were in Orlando visiting with Universal Studios to enjoy Harry Potter; Disneyworld; Kennedy Space Centre and our personal highlight Discovery Cove— where Mary faced several of her deepest fears. Mary conquering her deep set fear of deep water and claustrophobia by donning a diving helmet and submerging for 20 minutes to walk on the bottom of the cove, also allowing a dolphin to tow her.

In August we had two thoroughly enjoyable days staying in a B & B in Puddletown, visiting Swanage, The Tank Museum and The Steam Railway.

On 23rd we were driving on the LZ-2 to Playa Blanca taking a detour to Costa Sal. We returned several days later with grandchildren in tow to snorkel and having dried out, hired a 6 person cycle, (as we had done 8 years previously), this one broke down!! Some tried out segway riding instead. Our 9 days at Jardine del Sol in Playa Blanca were relaxing; a lot of fun. And so to Boxing Day and as we are off work, so we will all watch Basingstoke Bison Ice Hockey team.

Brexit is done! The union flag might be intact for a couple more years. Wonder what God and 2020 have in store for us all? **Can't wait—how about you?**

Dear David,  
I am writing the memoirs of my aunt Rose Venn-Brown who worked for the YMCA during 1916 – 1920 at Harfleur and Le Havre bases. She later went on to work as the YMCA representative for the War Graves Commission.

I would like to reference David H Smith in these memoirs (Forgotten Angels Part 1).  
**Sandy Venn-Brown**

*Dear Sandy,  
I would be honoured to be referenced in your Aunt Rose Venn-Brown's memoirs as the author of the "Forgotten Angels Part 1."*

*I worked for the YMCA both nationally and internationally for 45 years and was involved in a number of YMCA Women's Auxiliary Groups throughout the country.*

*The WA eventually ran its course but was never properly recognised for the active involvement during the war years or its influence of supporting (especially fundraising) for the work of the YMCA in Great Britain.*

*I'm pleased you were able to find the data available on the website. If you think it possible, I would love to read a copy of your aunt's memoirs and with permission - add them onto the website.*

*Kind regards and hope to hear from you - David H Smith*

Dear David  
Thank you so much for getting back to me so quickly. Rose's memoirs are actually looking more like a pretty extensive book. I reference the WA quite substantially and highlight the wonderful work they do.

Here is the excerpt where I reference your work.

*Shortly after the first hut appeared on the frontline, in December 1914 the YMCA Auxiliary Committee for Women's Work was formed, with Princess Helena Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, granddaughter of Queen Victoria, as its president and the Countess of Bessborough as its honorary secretary. Until it was disbanded in 1920, 1870 women workers, passed through the committee's hands for service in and around France.<sup>[1]</sup> Lady [yW1] Bessborough was a nurse's aide during the war and was eager to volunteer her contacts and services to the Christian cause through the YMCA Auxiliary Committee. The Countess of Bessborough herself travelled to France in early 1915 with HRH Princess Victoria.*

<sup>[1]</sup> David H. Smith, *The Forgotten Angels: YMCAs of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales*, <https://www.yretired.co.uk/> year, page 11

I will certainly keep in touch as the book develops.

## **make it memorable**

An elderly Florida lady did her shopping and, upon returning to her car, found four males in the act of leaving with her vehicle.

She dropped her shopping bags, drew her handgun and scream at the top of her lungs, "I have a gun, and I know how to use it! Get out of the car!"

The four men didn't wait for a second threat. They got out and ran like mad. The lady, somewhat shaken, then proceeded to load her shopping bags into the back of the car and got into the driver's seat. She was so shaken that she could not get her key into the ignition. She tried and tried, and then she realized why.

It was for the same reason she had wondered why there was a football, a Frisbee and two 12-packs of beer in the front seat. A few minutes later, she found her own car parked four or five spaces farther down. She loaded her bags into the car and drove to the police station to report her mistake.

The sergeant to whom she told the story couldn't stop laughing. He pointed to the other end of the counter, where four men were reporting a car-jacking by a mad elderly woman described as white, less than five feet tall, glasses, curly white hair, and carrying a large handgun. No charges were filed.

The moral of the story? If you're going to have a senior moment . . . make it memorable.

## **SURPRISE SURPRISE**



One just never knows who you might find lurking in the Chapel of Unity" in Truro Cathedral, but I spotted these two from Wiltshire.

What a delight it was to unexpectedly welcome Janet Hopkins and Norman Owen who were holidaying in Charlestown, to our cathedral church and reminisce on YMCA times gone by whilst sharing hot chocolate and a Yorkshire brew in the cathedral cafe.

This liaison was followed up two day later when we all met at Falmouth Marina for a most enjoyable relaxing lunch together.

For that's what YMCA colleagues do, enjoy each other's company. Believe me – many of you were warmly remembered.



**IVOR CRESSWELL**  
**25 April 1936 – 02 December 2019**

On 30<sup>th</sup> December 2019 the Celebration and Thanksgiving service for the Cornwall District former Youth Officer Ivor Cresswell was held at Truro Methodist Church.

It was a stunning service of both Celebration and Thanksgiving. The music in the entire service was sublime as was the 'spiritual' singing of the hymns.

Ivor served the YMCA in both London Central YMCA in Russell St, London as well as Ipswich YMCA with Ray Onions and Arthur Bennett.

Those who attended were privileged to be allowed to share in such a personal intimate time which was handled with great humility and skill by Rev Mark Dunn- Wilson of TMC.

Ivor was a loyal servant of Jesus and served the District with care and love for all children and young people.

He deeply loved Anne and the family. A true Methodist, Ivor would only want us to be encouraged after such a service. Those who attended certainly were.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory

**District Chairman – Reverend Steve Wild**

**Provisional booking for the Cambridge Reunion.**  
**Wednesday 1st July 2020 12 for 12.30pm.**

**Venue - GIRTON Golf Club, Cambridge**

Jim Lamb will circulate a general invite to those who have attended in the past plus to 'others' in due course.

Those wishing to make an early booking contact Jim at:-

31 David Bull Way, Milton, Cambridge CB24 6DP  
T 01223 440228  
E: [j.lamb22@outlook.com](mailto:j.lamb22@outlook.com)

Jim will be more explicit nearer the date regarding the cost as the Manager who sets the menu cost is presently on leave. Last year it was £16 but will likely be increased as Jim argued a reduction of £3 from the quoted price last year - not to be expected this year!!

# Almost a billion-pound decline in funding for youth services by local authorities across England and Wales

Continued.....



**Figures uncovered** by YMCA reveal the true extent of cuts to youth services funding by local authorities in England and Wales since 2010, with an allocation of just under £429m in 2018/19, compared to £1.4bn in 2010/11 – a real terms decline of 70%.

Discovered as part of a report into local authority expenditure on youth services in 2018/19, these latest figures add to almost a decade of devastating cuts as spending reaches its lowest point in a generation.

The report emphasises England as most severely affected with a further loss of nearly £26m (6%) identified in the past year alone, delivering a damaging blow to already strained resources.

Every region of England has each seen funding for youth services cut by more than 60% since 2010, with some of the most severely affected experiencing average area cuts of as much as 74% in the North West, 76% in the North East, and 80% in the West Midlands.

Further breakdown locally reveals funding deficits of more than 90% in areas such as Gateshead, Nottingham and Norfolk, with a complete loss of funding for youth services uncovered in Trafford, Medway, Luton and Slough.

With a decline of 38%, cuts in Wales have been less acute than in England, however vital funding for youth services has still reduced by £19m since 2010, with significant and persistent loss evident each year.

Young people in Mid Wales have faced the biggest cuts as a region with funding more than halved (58%) compared to 2010, while Cardiff has suffered the most severe decline of 64%.

The findings from this research are set out in the [Out of Service report](#)

The day-to-day impact of youth services often goes unnoticed by the public, but the consequences of these cuts cannot be underestimated. Cases of knife crime, mental health difficulties and isolation among young people continue to rise, while the number of services available to positively intervene and prevent such cases continue to decline.

Each year YMCA supports more than 33,500 young people through our youth work, with almost 8,000 participants involved in crime prevention and avoidance programmes.

In response to such overwhelming funding cuts, YMCA is asking the public to show their support in making young people the central focus of government action. By reinstating youth services funding to 2010/11 real term levels and introducing a national youth services strategy, government would enable local authorities to deliver necessary youth services locally and support their communities.

**YMCA ask the public to show their commitment by signing this [petition](#) and raising the issue of youth services with their local MP. Together, we can ensure that the services, which provide a sense of belonging and keep young people safe, do not become a thing of the past.**

## Greetings from Janet Hopkins and Norman Owen

In 2019 have enjoyed some good holidays and to pick out just two – staying in a decommissioned RAF control tower in Lincolnshire that had no airfield but overlooked an aerial bombing course just off the coast which was no longer in use.

The second was our trip to Western India for nearly four weeks. It started in Shimla the Summer Capital for all Asian colonies in the days of the Raj.

We visited the Golden Temple in Amritsa, numerous forts, Hindu shrines monasteries, the Tibetan capital in exile just missing the Dalai Lhama at his Indian home, tigers roaming free in a game park, the Taj Mahal, stayed on a rice boat converted to be a temporary home for tourists to stay aboard, numerous other exciting sites and places ending with three days in a first class beach centre, Kerala, to get a tan before going home.

We are active members of St. Leonard's C of E Church in Keevil with Janet being the PCC secretary. Norman is a Server complete with robe and surplis and at the beginning of 2020 will be providing Home visit Communion on behalf of the Rector to housebound or sick members of the village.