



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



MAY 2014

www.yretired.co.uk

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear colleagues and friends - greetings

Without hesitation I have to express on your behalf sincere appreciation to the eight retired YMCA colleagues who have given of their service to a high degree over the past year. Who are they you may ask?! Namely:-

- Reg Wake - Honorary Executive Secretary has administered the office to a very high standard providing expert guidance on all matters.
- Ray Allen – Honorary Treasurer has conducted the financial affairs most ably together with our Honorary Auditor David Bennison. The accounts have balanced to the last 1p!
- David Smith – Editor the Newsletter has produced the Newsletter to a very high standard indeed. It continues to be acclaimed by all readers even beyond the UK and plays an integral part in providing information for all members plus various items of interest.
- John Knox – represents our Scottish colleagues in a most professional manner producing 'reports' as and when required. Also holds the post of WFYR Vice Chair for Europe.
- Jim Lamb – President gives of his time and leadership in presiding over all matters as and when they arise.
- Sam Johnston – Consultant shares wise and reliable experience of National and International YMCA affairs – an important input with general consultancy.
- Rupert George – Consultant is an expert on Indian retired colleagues' affairs and general consultancy.
- David Miller – Consultant our lay representative with valuable experience in governance, holding over many years officer status in the London Central YMCA and the Metropolitan YMCA Region.

It is wise to share at this point that apart from David Miller all the above have served for many years over and above any faithfully followed Constitution!!!

I appeal to the general membership in confidence to approach Reg Wake as the Executive Secretary if you wish to give service on the committee.

It is NOT an onerous task as all affairs are conducted by email, telephone or post.

Honours – 2013

Two Scottish and one English colleague have been honoured.

Rev. John Knox - Received the Sir George Williams Medal

Jim Thomson - Received the Sir George Williams Medal

David Smith - Was made a Non-Residentiary Canon of Truro Cathedral

Congratulations to you all!

Reunions It is good to note that there have been three Reunions during 2013; the South West Group, (a five day Residential in St Ives, Cornwall) the Cambridge Group and the Scottish Group. Collectively, over 60 attended these Y's Retired gathering. It takes only two/three members to arrange meetings around the UK – how about it?

Finance We have had a sound financial year and are presently reviewing the actual layout of the accounts to give a clearer picture. It is acknowledged that we hold very limited funds having a small turnover.

We do need additional support and gently ask all recipients of the Newsletter to consider the annual subscription of only £10 of which £5 is donated to Secours Speciaux, a further donation to the Trust Fund will be most welcome in order for the Y's Retired of the UK to play a greater part in the world YMCA Retirees activities.

All in all we have enjoyed a stable year well managed by those concerned and look to the future with optimism!

Jim Lamb - President

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EDITOR'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE AGM REPORTS – 2014

Six years now completed as editor of the Y's Retired of UK newsletter. At that time it was a quarterly offering filled with letters from members exchanging information, news, thoughts, jokes and articles, keeping the membership informed and involved.

Now 35 editions later, the newsletter still tries to keep the membership informed of current affairs affecting the YMCA Movement, comments from colleagues and friends, expressing where they are in their retirement, where they have been, what they have seen, family additions and occasionally, sharing the sadness of days gone by and detailed notices of members and friends who have passed over.

But for those remaining in membership and new to the Y's Retired of UK membership, my report request continues to be - please do share with us all the new adventures you have undertaken or experiences that have become part of your daily routine; I would love to hear from you and perhaps have a jpeg picture so that others can remember the smiling face which is yours. Just send to: ses.dhs@hotmail.co.uk.



As in previous reports, there has been always been an emphasis on communication. Within each bi-monthly newsletter there are details of the website which continues to be regularly updated: www.yretired.co.uk All the past and present newsletters are featured on it, under the heading "Newsletter Archive." The Memorial pictures are featured there in all their glory, alongside albums of pictures sent in by colleagues throughout the year.

Other international colleagues who are part of the World Federation of Y's Retired (WFYR), receive our UK news and have voiced their gratitude, with some articles being highlighted in "Bridges," the WFYR quarterly Newsletter.

Our President Jim sends his regular bi-monthly 'front page' contribution, which he always completes in very good time, with interesting up to date worldly events and comments which often affect his personal life and that of others.



I'm always mindful of the continual dedication to detail of our Secretary Reg, who keeps us all in line and does such a tremendous job for us, quietly working behind the scenes. His memory is far more alert than mine and he knows so many people. He continues to be an inspiration on past YMCA facts and figures.

Thank you also to Ray Allen in his role as Treasurer and for supporting me in my role as editor. Thanks to my own personal "wordsmith" Sue, who scans every edition to try to ensure it reads well and makes sense.

Thanks to those of you who have kindly emailed or written back to me, letting me know that you are enjoying the content, maybe finding it stimulating, even the saucy bits!!

Finally, we continue to be grateful and offer our heartfelt thanks to Herts YMCA, the CEO Guy Foxell, and his staff member Lorraine Stocken. Without their willingness, time and help, the printed version would not be distributed, and because Herts YMCA kindly fulfil this task as their donation to us, the Officers are able to allocate a higher annual proportion of funds to Secours Speciaux year on year. This is dramatically reflected in last year's amazing results.

But above all – thanks to you, the readership, without whom the purpose of the Newsletters would be meaningless.

Y's Retired of UK Editor – David H Smith

Member's correspondence

YOUR CONTINUED PRAYERS PLEASE

Dear Colleagues - prayers are requested for dear friends and colleagues whose names I bring to your attention - those that are suffering with specific illnesses and ailments. Please also remember in your prayers, their families and carers - **Rodney Stone - Eddy Brady - Colin Mawby - Bob and Barbara Brunswick.**

Dear David,

I hope all goes well with you! We struggle a little with Janet being so immobile and other problems BUT we have been to see the latest films '12 Years...' and 'The Railway Man'. Hope to see the Monuments Man on Monday.

Also we lunch with Roger and Elaine last week and then with Sam and Maureen next week - they are very kind and come to our village!! Sunday we plan to see the direct transmission at Cine-world from ENO Coliseum - means that I will have to record the Norwich game! I have been to three matches this year and hope to go again in spite of, or because of, their precarious position. It is 160 miles round trip.

Thanks for the newsletter as usual. Rev Ron (Ingamells)

Dear Friends

You may have heard already the sad news from the YMCA in Ukraine. Viktor Serbulov, National Secretary of the Ukraine YMCA, has passed on the news that a YMCA volunteer was shot dead in the violence of the past week and another volunteer was badly wounded.

Please pray for Viktor and his colleagues at this difficult time in Ukraine.

God bless you all - John (Knox)

YMCA British Boys for British Farms 1932-1968 (BBBF) Reunion Tuesday 13 May 2014

To the YMCA Press and Media Department, London
Copy to Ken Montgomery and Reg Wake

Archie Montgomery is the current owner of North Cadbury Court. North Cadbury Court was one of the YMCA BBBF Centres from 1950 -1966. Archie and myself are arranging the 1st National BBBF Reunion at North Cadbury Court to be held on **Tuesday 13 May 2014** at North Cadbury Court, Somerset.

Archie is a farmer and has contacts with Farmers Weekly and other Press / TV / local media etc. Archie is hoping someone from the YMCA Press and Media will be present at the Reunion.

I am hoping to meet Archie Montgomery this coming week (early March) to discuss the way forward and the Reunion.

We will keep you informed of all developments together with any Press / Media Releases.

David Smith I think was the person I was in contact with last. My name is Ruth Gilchrist and I gave some of my work for the archive a few years ago when I worked for Newcastle YMCA.

I ve just been on the web site and would like to point out a few inaccuracies and make some requests.

1. I would like to be credited for the work I did - ie writing the chapter on Betty Stevenson YMCA and with the right spelling of my name
2. Youth and Policy should be credited with the work also(all NYA did was publish it) and they and I gave permission to use the chapter in full from the Youth and Policy History book - "Architects of Change, Studies in the History of Community and Youth Work" Editors Gilchrist, Jeffs and Spence which I think should also get credited as Youth and Policy is a completely voluntary journal - none of us get paid.
3. I don t mind people getting in touch with me about the chapter - in fact I m very happy to help and share my research - it took a long time to write and still have people interested in her. I have had recent contact with a historian in Harrogate who had difficulty finding me as you wouldn t pass on my contact email - but didn t ask if I minded.
4. For information and further reading - There are other writings about the YMCA in our history books T Jeffs wrote in 'Essays in the history of youth and community work, Discovering the Past' pub Russell House Pub, Chapter 9 'Starting Out: Origins of Newcastle YMCA'

Hope you will put the mistakes right - and note my email. I work for UKYouth now. Please pass on my regards to Jim Lamb who used to be my boss!

I m still involved with Betty - am giving a talk this Saturday in Newcastle on her and would welcome any information anyone has about her and her family.

Best wishes

Ruth Gilchrist

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<http://www.yretired.co.uk/ymcawomensauxiliary.htm>

The 1st National YMCA BBBF Reunion is being held on Tuesday 13 May 2014 at North Cadbury Court, North Cadbury, Somerset.

It is hoped that there will also be a presence of TV and Media.

Further details from Stephen Milner, 22 Ellerslie Close, Charminster, Dorchester DT2 9QQ

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SCOTTISH YMCA RETIREES GROUP

The Scottish Retirees group met twice during 2013. The first meeting was in Tollcross YMCA in April with ten retirees attending. As well as the usual sharing we had a presentation about the wide variety of work in Tollcross YMCA. The second meeting, the twelfth meeting of the group since we first met in 2008, was held as an integral part of the YMCA Scotland Annual Business Meeting in Perth. Greetings were received from Jim Lamb, from Jerry Prado Shaw and from Egon Slopianka, then in a Palliative Care Unit in a Berlin hospital.

In response to Jerry Prado Shaw's appeal for financial contributions to help some retired colleagues from Africa, Latin America and South Asia attend the WFYR meeting in Estes Park, Colorado in July 2014, the small group of nine attending set a target of £1,000 to be raised through anonymous donations by members of the group. Within three months that sum had been exceeded, £1,300 being raised. This was sent to WFYR as part of the UK Retirees donation.

In the afternoon we joined the YMCA Scotland ABM. The ABM was presided over by John Naylor, the new President of YMCA Scotland and one of the retirees group. A major highlight, unknown in advance to the retirees, was the awarding to Jim Thomson by Aileen Campbell, the Scottish Government Minister for Children and Young People of the Sir George Williams Medal. This was a well-deserved recognition of Jim's major national and international contribution to the work of the YMCA.

Europe:

Prague: I was privileged to attend the YMCA Europe Festival in August, having been at the 2003 and 2008 Festivals. While Egon Slopianka and Jerry Prado-Shaw had both attended the first two Festivals in Prague, neither of them was able to be take part this year. It was particularly sad that Egon could not be present as there was a special celebration in Prague Castle of the 40th anniversary of YMCA Europe. His weakened health situation forced him to stay at home in Berlin. Among retirees attending, one who was heavily involved was Albrecht Kaul from Germany who played a major role in organising the worship tent.

WFYR: I am disappointed that while the target we set of eight retirees from Europe attending the WFYR meeting in Estes Park, Colorado in July this year, at present only six have registered to attend. Albrecht Kaul is planning to be there together with John and Margery Naylor, Jim Thomson, my wife Patricia and myself. Recently, however, some others have now indicated possible attendance.

Egon Slopianka: It was with a great sense of loss that we heard of the passing of Egon Slopianka in November 2013, co-founder and first Secretary General of the European Alliance of YMCA's. I was privileged to know Egon through international work ever since the early 1980's. Following his death many tributes were received, but perhaps I can sum them all up with words in an email from Johann Wilhelm Eltvik "Thank you for sharing this sad message with all of us...a truly great personality of the YMCA has been God's gift to all of us for so many years. We are grateful."

WFYR European Vice Chairman - John Knox

MEMBERSHIP

The Register at year end again reveals largely static numbers at 133 plus spouses as compared with 131 for 2012. Of this number 8 are lay members, 6 overseas and 4 are 'courtesy' contacts viz. WFYR and Secours Speciaux officers. Our Treasurer reports that of the total membership, 79 have paid their membership subscription.

While every effort is made to keep track of new retirements and to extend invitations to membership, the fact remains that numbers retiring after career long service have inevitably declined and those with shorter term service appear to be less interested in continued association with YMCA via Y's Retired.

Limitations of the Data Protection Act have some effect, as does the reorganisation of regional personnel who have previously been helpful with information about staff changes and retirements. Our most effective source remains our 'internal grapevine' and therefore important that all members be alert, especially to retirements of their ex-colleagues, and channel such news to our Secretary! This applies also to news of illness or hardship.

All this said, the objectives of Y's Retired to provide opportunity and encouragement for continuation of contacts and of friendships enjoyed while in service remain valid, not least in evidence that those concerned are not forgotten?

SECOURS SPECIAUX

Expressing thanks to members of the committee responsible to the World Alliance for promotion and administration of Secours Speciaux, chairperson Bonnie Mairs provides some preliminary statistics;

"In 2013 the emergency fund has assisted 12 YMCA staff and retirees in 5 countries: Bolivia, Chile, Ghana, India and the Philippines. Of these 8 were suffering from lack of pensions, 3 had emergency medical expenses, and 1 had overwhelming funeral expenses. Thank you all for your thoughts and speedy consideration of applications for assistance and for your advice in helping colleagues around the world receive the support they need when they are in trouble."

Nearer home, thanks are due to subscribing Y's Retired members who continue their financial support by earmarked gifts and via the 50% 'levy' on subscriptions which, together with a subvention from general funds, produced a total contribution to Secours Speciaux of £595 for 2013.

Secretary - Reg Wake

SNIPPET OF YMCA AND 1st WW

The North American YMCAs were remarkably successful in raising money to support this war work. The American YMCA, as part of a coalition of charitable organizations, the United War Work Campaign, raised over \$200 million to support the work of the YMCA and others. While the American campaign raised money explicitly for war work, similar Canadian and British campaigns raised money that was later diverted to other association programs.

This success was somewhat problematic for the YMCA after the war. All three national YMCAs wrote reports detailing the work they did that they then submitted to their relevant war departments. This was partly about promoting the YMCA's participation in the First World War effort, but also about defending the organization against charges that, among other things, the YMCA had attempted to convert Catholic or other non-Christian soldiers to Protestantism, as well as to the charge that the YMCA had benefitted financially at the expense of Allied soldiers. There was also a certain questioning that happened within the different YMCAs, similar to that which happened within various churches and religious groups, over the propriety of involvement in a war that had come to be so questioned after its end. All of these factors contributed to the much less belligerent attitude of the YMCA during the Second World War.

The First World War was an important moment in the evolution towards stronger national YMCA organizations, due to their increasing involvement in national war efforts and campaigns, and a weakening of the influence of international structures. Accompanying this was an increasing bureaucratization and professionalization. This also contributed to different attitudes and directions in regard to war work. The Canadian YMCA has, since the end of the First World War, followed a trajectory that has led to an increasing focus on peace and reluctance to engage in any kind of work with the Canadian military. The American YMCA, on the other hand, has continued to engage in work with the military, so much so that a separate department, the Armed Services YMCA, continues to work closely with the US military to provide services to American soldiers and their families

This history is an important one. Not only does it contribute to our understanding of the First World War as we near the centennial of its outbreak, but the YMCA is also a useful organization to study in order to understand how war and conflict have impacted and guided the development and growth of the charitable and voluntary sector.
read the full article at:-

<http://www.vahs.org.uk/2013/04/feature-4/>

EXTRACTS FROM AUDITED ACCOUNTS Year Ended 31st December 2013

RECEIPTS:

Membership Subscriptions.....	410. 00	
Donation (Trust Fund)	90. 00	
Secours Speciaux contributions.....	596. 00	
WFYR Travel Appeal (part c/fd.)	835. 00	£1,930.00

PAYMENTS:

Subvention Secours Speciaux.....	200. 00	
Secours Speciaux ('Levy' + donation)....	605. 00	
Subvention Trust Fund (2012/13	500. 00	
Subvention WFYR	100. 00	
Secretary (post.stationery)	32. 70	
Administration	63. 00	£1,500. 70

Surplus @ year end £ 429. 30

BALANCE:

2012 balance b/dn.	2,674. 50
2013 Surplus	429. 30
Year end balance c/fd.	£3,103. 80

***** Less restricted funds:

Trust Fund	1,026. 40
WFYR Travel Appeal	835. 00
	<hr/>
	1,861. 40

Liquid Assets. £1,242. 40

Dear Friends

In case you had not heard I thought I should let you know of the death of Dale Vonderau whom you may have known. There is a tribute to him on the YMCA World website.



Dale Vonderau

Dale passed away on March 9th. His volunteer leadership roles in the YMCA encompassed more than 45 years including service as Chairman of the Board of the YMCA of the USA and as a member of the World Alliance Executive Committee (1977-1988).

Dale was deeply involved with the YMCAs in Europe – especially in the development of the YMCAs in Central and Eastern Europe following the collapse of Communism. He supported the development of the YMCA in Russia through years of service on the YMCA Europe Field Group. He was a great source of inspiration to the European YMCAs and many YMCAs around the world. Do remember his family circle in your prayers as you thank God for all Dale did for the YMCA. **John Knox**

WORLD WAR 1 - THE RUHLEBEN CAMP SPANDAU - GERMANY

During World War I, internment camps for both civilian and military prisoners were set up in all manner of available spaces such as abandoned castles, old fortresses, military barracks, schools, and even racetracks.

The Ruhleben racetrack was leased from its owners by the Prussian Ministry of War beginning in September 1914 and housed Russian, Russian-Polish, and Japanese prisoners before the large influx of British prisoners arrived in November. On a footprint of about ten acres, arrivals at Ruhleben found eleven horse stables, an administration building, the 'Casino' or staff restaurant, a 'Tea-House', and three grandstands. The racetrack itself and its interior space were off-limits to the internees until March 1915.

The stables or housing barracks were less than welcoming homes. Each barrack contained an average of twenty-seven horseboxes and an overhead loft for the storage of hay. Ten feet square, each stall was expected to house six men. The horseboxes were luxurious, however, compared to the loft spaces overhead, which housed up to 200 men. Barrack overcrowding was a problem immediately and privacy and personal space were nonexistent luxuries.

The public spaces did not offer much in way of relief from the barracks. With the coming of spring rains came a giant pool of water in the middle of the camp measuring 130 feet long by 25 feet wide. The washing facilities were inadequate with a warm shower being available only once every two weeks at the emigrants' railway station. The latrines were a horror. In inclement weather, there was almost nowhere for the men to go except their cramped and dark barracks.

Through the good efforts of the internees and demands from outside forces, the housing situation improved drastically and the public spaces of Ruhleben took on the appearance of a healthy town. The military authorities, under pressure from the American embassy, built four new barracks in June 1915. These new barracks took about 150 residents each from the overcrowded lofts.

The internees improved their horsebox homes by buying wood to build tables, chairs, and other furniture. In April 1915 interned engineers put in drainage and elevated pathways between the public buildings, latrines, and washing facilities. New latrines were constructed in June 1915, and warm showers became available once a week with cold showers available at all times.

The YMCA donated and built the YMCA "hut" in December 1915 providing the men with a well-lit and comfortable place to go complete with a large hall for gathering, classrooms, and a reference library.

The Ruhleben Camp had several distinct areas including spaces for recreation, administration, and even gardening, as indicated on the map.

Opened on December 24, 1915, the YMCA Hall held about five hundred; during the day it was used for reading, study, and general gathering. The building also contained a chapel, the reference library, and several classrooms.

The Casino, or administration building, contained offices and a restaurant for German staff and guests. Many of the public areas at Ruhleben -- such as Bond Street, Trafalgar Square, and Marble Arch -- were given nicknames after prominent locations in London. The Ruhleben Horticultural Society's Market Garden provided the Camp kitchen with fresh fruits and vegetables. Internees could also purchase the garden's proceeds to supplement their provided meals.



The prisoners included Englishmen (known as *Englanderlager*) who had been in Germany for work or holiday as well as representatives from all divisions of the United Kingdom and almost every country in the British Empire. Nearly 20% of those defined as British were born in Germany to English parents. Some did not speak English and many had never been to England. The internees were sailors, academics, musicians, businessmen, clerks, students, workmen, waiters, fishermen, and domestic servants representing various religious and secular traditions.

The men were assigned living quarters as they arrived. Some subsequent segregation did occur at Ruhleben based on religion, pro-German sentiment, and skin color. Some seventy Jewish prisoners were segregated for a time into Barrack 6. To avoid conflict, prisoners applying for German naturalization were housed in separate quarters beginning in April 1915.

The bulk of these prisoners were slowly released beginning in January 1916 under guidelines set forth by the German authorities. Finally, about 100 black sailors from the British West African and the West Indies were housed in Barrack 13 beginning in December 1914. Except for on sports teams, the black residents were never fully integrated into the community at Ruhleben.

Despite their diversity and with these examples of segregation notwithstanding, the residents of Ruhleben did find common cause in their captivity and came together in their barracks, on sports teams, and in various clubs and associations. While the experience of Ruhleben varied from man to man, there was a gradual sense of national solidarity and patriotism that helped them make sense of and endure their captivity.

For further information go to:-

<http://library.law.harvard.edu/digitalexhibits/ruhleben/exhibits/show/ruhleben/ruhlebenites>