



Dear friends and colleagues. Greetings

First. I am pleased to share that I have been informed by a Cornish gentleman that our Editor David Smith has been honoured for his 'Service to the Church' and offer on your behalf our congratulations to him on his being the recipient of Royal Maundy Money from the Queen on Maundy Thursday at St Georges Chapel, Windsor!

Now passed but worthy of note. Like many of you I was engrossed in the televised World Snooker Championship held recently at the famous Crucible venue in Sheffield.

During the whole of my career in the YMCA playing snooker in different Local YMCAs I cannot recall such an occasion of the scale of the professionalism and the high standard of play. Indeed only once before have I ever experienced such a close affinity with the game. The occasion? My eldest daughter when attending her Primary School and along with the other pupils was asked by their teacher the kind of work in which their father was employed. My wife had occasion to check my daughter's Exercise Book in which she had written, "My father is a Snooker Player!" I have not played snooker since I retired!

Awakened however was the realisation of the broad scope of a YMCA Secretaries career and of how moving from one Local YMCA to another learning from experience and occasional 'promotion' was the natural process followed. Following on from such thoughts I was drawn to the advert for a YMCA Secretary in 1886 appearing in a local provincial paper. Rather than enlarge on its content here I have enclosed for David to print elsewhere but share there are similarities to my experience!

Whilst it appears that the 175th Anniversary of the founding of the YMCA at the Excel centre in London in August 2019 is not necessarily geared to Retirees there is no doubt that there will be items of interest for all concerned with the YMCA in whatever manner of contact.

Elsewhere in the Newsletter I understand there will be a Report of the 175th Anniversary Service to be held on 6th June at St. Martins-in-the-Fields in Trafalgar Square, London.

It was my pleasure to entertain for one day Lorraine Hill, wife of Terry Hill Retired CEO of the Christchurch YMCA, New Zealand and some of you will know involved with the YMCA World Urban Network of which he was Treasurer (Chartered Accountant). Terry, a one-time 'outdoors' man is now confined to his home following a 'four way heart by-pass' some years ago.

Lorraine took a copy of one of our Newsletters home with her for Terry who since has emailed me to compliment 'us' on such a publication and wishing there was such a communication among the few New Zealand colleagues!

Finally the committee wish to draw your attention to a major Appeal we will be launching for Secours Speciaux within 2019, the last one was some eight years ago. As you will be aware Secours Speciaux is the main Charity of the World Fellowship of Retirees of the YMCA (WFYR) set up to aid colleagues who on retirement do not receive either a State or YMCA Pension. Consequently, many live at poverty level unable to meet necessary health bills and recently enabled a spouse to pay the funeral costs of a husband who had given his life to the YMCA in an exemplary manner!

We recognise that the Y's Retired of the UK members presently give 25% of their subscription and we make an annual subvention budgeted from our accounts to this cause. This appeal however is over and above such commitments as there is an urgency to expand the service and cope with an identified need in our service to others. Please support as generously as you are able. We have received a cheque for £100 to set the ball rolling already. An Appeal letter will be circulated in due course.

May the summer season reflect the goodwill we have all experienced in our individual service through the YMCA.

Warm regards,

Jim Lamb

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



Sent onto editor via Brian Rowcliffe's iPhone
At ferry at Sandbanks near Portsmouth – just had Dorset apple cake - one piece here and the other taken home for Dennis.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please note that I have now retired from my roles with the YMCA. If your query relates to the YMCA Pension Plan, please contact:

Gwynne Jarvis
Company Secretary
gwynnejarvis@pensions.ymca.org.uk

If your query relates to YMCA England & Wales, please contact:

Duncan Berry
Company Secretary
duncan.berry@ymca.org.uk
Mobile number: 07976 700708

From Paul Smillie

CELEBRATION OF 175 YEARS OF SERVICE

On 6 June 2019, the YMCA celebrated the 175th anniversary of the founding of YMCA.

The YMCA began in a drapery store in St Paul's Church Yard when twelve young men, all in their twenties met to consider how they could promote wellbeing amongst others who lived and worked in the City of London. Today YMCA is working in more than 120 countries worldwide engaging around 65 million people.

To mark this important milestone, all were invited to join YMCA folk for the 175th Anniversary Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving at St Martin-in-the-Fields Church on Trafalgar Square, London on 6 June which commenced at 2.30pm.

At the 175th service, there were celebrations and thanks given for the work of YMCA in the presence of the President, the Archbishop of York together with many friends from across the globe and European YMCA Movement and young contributors from YMCAs across the UK and Ireland.

COULD THIS HAPPEN TO YOU?

This recently happened at an assisted living centre.

The people who lived there had small apartments, but they all ate at a central cafeteria.

One morning one of the residents didn't show up for breakfast so my wife went upstairs and knocked on his door to see if everything was OK. She could hear him through the door and he said that he was running late and would be down shortly, so she went back to the dining area.

An hour later he still hadn't arrived, so she went back up towards his room, but found him on the stairs. He was coming down the stairs but was having a hard time. He had a death grip on the hand rail and seemed to have trouble getting his legs to work right.

She told him she was going to call an ambulance, but he told her no, he wasn't in any pain and just wanted to have his breakfast. So, she helped him the rest of the way down the stairs and he had his breakfast.

When he tried to return to his room he was completely unable to get up even the first stair step so they called an ambulance for him.

A couple of hours later she called the hospital to see how he was doing. The receptionist there said he was fine, he just had both of his legs in one side of his boxer shorts.

I'm sending this to my children so that they won't sell my house before they know all the facts!

A John (Newton) contribution.

Dear David

Thank for sending on the latest "Bridges" news, much appreciated.

Don't think we will be able to make the 175 celebratory event in London however.

Mervyn is recouping from having a bladder stone 'blasted' at Derriford hospital. He awaits the 'follow up' visit to the urologist and hopefully that will be the end of that.

Keep well - God bless you both

Beryl (Moorehead)

Congratulations to **Arthur Bennett** who celebrated his 96 birthday on 28th May 2019. He was in good fettle when Sue and I were able to wish him well and Rosemary also was in good spirits.

Des Wilcox at 88 has recently gone through a torturous time with two hip replacements on the same hip within a three month period.

However, I am dutifully assured by his wife Pearl, that Des is pleasingly well on the mend and that he is now back driving his car which, as we all know, allows us all much welcomed mobility.

175 CELEBRATIONS ATTENDEES

I know we had representation with Jim Lamb, Jim Thomson, John Naylor, David Bedford, Graham Clarke, John Berry and Ray Allen. Hope you were all able to meet up. Let me know if there were others. Full 175 report by President Jim, which was truly informative, is on other pages within the newsletter.

The Smiths'

Much has happened in the last three months to the hectic schedule of the Smith duo. A time for re-appraisal of voluntary work load which comes to us all.



On 10th April at the Churches Together in Cornwall AGM David stood down from the role of Missioner, having fulfilled the post for eleven years. It had been a privilege for him on retiring from 45 years of full-time work with the YMCA, to have been giving the opportunity to work towards the unity of the nine Christian denominations working within Cornwall: Anglican, Methodist, Catholic, Salvation Army, URC, Baptist, Quaker, Greek and Russian Orthodox.

Much has been achieved during that time, but the highlight was the signing of the "Declaration of Intent" - working towards Christian Unity which was signed by all Christian members, at a service at St Petroc's, Bodmin and witnessed by Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby.



Then on Maundy Thursday 18th April at a wonderful service in St Georges Chapel Windsor,

David was presented with Maundy monies from Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. As the Queen reached her 93rd birthday, purses were given to 93 men and women within the service.

This was followed by a lunch time reception in Windsor Castle. It was a wonderful day, much enjoyed by us both. What an honour.



On 28th May, David led the fifth pilgrimage from Cornwall to Landevennec Abbey in Brittany of 31 pilgrims. Over the five years, 150 Christians from various denominations have experienced the annual pilgrimage to the Benedictine Abbey, enjoyed the singing of the brothers and attended the five services each day.



From left:- Reverend Stephen Wild, (Methodist Conference President 2016), the newly enthroned Bishop of Truro, Philip Mounstephen, the Abbot Jean Michel, (who officiated at the 2019 "Pardon" festival of celebration of St Guènolè) alongside Canon Perran Gay of the Isles of Scilly. David will continue to be the Chairman of the "Companions of Landevennec", a subgroup of Churches Together in Cornwall.



After six years, on 08th May David stood down as Trustee of Transformation Cornwall, an ecumenical charity, with the aim of providing infrastructure and capacity building support to various groups, churches, faith and non-faith based organisations to enable them to respond to issues of poverty, deprivation and marginalisation in their area.

Much thought of succession leadership went into the decisions for standing down. Choosing the right time is essential for good strong leadership going forward.

On 10th May David and Sue travelled by Brittany Ferries across to France to spend two weeks in St Paul De Leon, a few miles East of Roscoff. It was truly an enjoyable and relaxing time meeting up with and enjoying the company of some of our French friends.

"There is much still to do. There always will be much still to do, but I owe it to my wife Susan, for us to now share more time together and enjoy and treasure whatever time we have left."

David and Sue (Smith)

Dear David,

Thank you for the very interesting newsletters received regularly.

We hope that you have recovered from your operation and are now getting more mobile.

We keep reasonably well, but age catches up and sometimes we have to slow down. We can still enjoy holidays in Torquay and also we enjoy cruising.

We have recently retired as Trustees of Black Country YMCA under the 9 year rule. Having seen many changes over the years in West Bromwich, now Black Country, the work continues to grow in many ways to help young people.

Eric joined the YMCA in West Bromwich in 1953 to play snooker and cricket with his friends, also attending the weekly Sunday Christian fellowship meetings. He was soon recruited to the Committee and was soon persuaded to help with the accounts as he was training in accountancy.

He has continued to serve the YMCA in many roles as a Trustee, Treasurer, Chairman and now President of YMCA Black Country. He has served on Regional and National Committees and continues to Chair the Movement Trust Fund. He was awarded the Gold Order of the Red Triangle in 1998 for services to YMCA.

We met at the Church Youth Club and Brenda soon became involved in helping in various ways and became a Full Member in 1968. A Women's Auxiliary Group was set up and we met monthly, and this later became Friends of the YMCA, supporting YMCA and local charities.

Unfortunately we are unable to attend the service on 6th June in London to celebrate the 175th anniversary of YMCA as we shall be away on a cruise booked several months ago.

YMCA Has been and still continues to be a part of our lives in helping Young People to grow in Body, Mind and Spirit.

Best wishes to you and Sue
Brenda and Eric Moore



Picture above is of the last "one year" graduation in 1969-70 outside Stockwell YMCA, submitted by **John Newton** who asks the question – where are they now?

**Can you fill in the names
where the question marks are?**

Dear Blair (Crawford)

We look forward to joining you for Lunch on Thursday 20 June.

This will be very convenient for us as we are going to Portsmouth later on in the day for the weekend for the Federation Festival of the Cathedral Choristers Associations which this year is part of the Portsmouth Music Festival as well. Boat Tour of Portsmouth Harbour is also included.

Back to old haunts where my parents lived and when I was working with Mr Chorley at Portsmouth YMCA from 1967 – 1970 and again from 1973 to 1975 before moving over to General Services until 1982.

Hanna and I then moved to the Herrison Hospital Psychiatric Hospital at Charminster, Dorchester as residence officer for the staff accommodation as well as later working as Library Assistant in the psychiatric library.

I thoroughly enjoyed the library work helping the staff with their work and research and having links to other libraries as well for books and journal articles.

YMCA BBBF is going very well with another Reunion on Wednesday 5 June at the Cotswold Farm Park and Adam Henson is hoping to join us at some point in the afternoon.

BBC Countryfile with Adam was at our 1st BBBF Reunion at the Montgomery's North Cadbury Court in 2014.

We are in contact with about 180 people who were in or had contact with BBBF.

We are very sorry Blair to hear of the recent passing of your father and brother-in-law and send you our sympathy and prayers at this time.

We can gain hope and strength from that wonderful YMCA Hymn "Thine be the Glory" and the words of Paul from Thes. Ch. 4 v 13 – end.

With very best wishes,

Stephen and Hanna (Milner)

Names of some of those pictured on the left as graduates from 1969-70

Where are they now?

Top Row:- ?, ?, ?, Bob Sadler, ?, ?, ?, ?, Vic Hills, David Smith, ?, ?,

Middle Row:- ?, John Newton, David Hurford, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, Peter Robinson, ? Pat Estall ?,

Bottom Row:-? Mike Wilkinson, ?, ?, Principal Philip Wragge, Pat?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?,

Dear Jim, I was delighted to read your report as I sit looking out of the window at a grey wet day in Florida, as my daughter in law reads us the hurricane and tornado warning procedures!!

I was unable to be at the service on the 6th as it was my youngest grand daughter's birthday which we celebrated before flying out here.

Your report suggests your health is stable, so you were able to be there and it was clearly a "good" event. See you next month.

Warm regards (from here)

Vic (Hills)

Advertisement for a YMCA Secretary which appeared in a contemporary English newspaper-1886

"In a provincial town a young man is required at once by a committee of Christian men.

He must be talented, experienced, business-like, a good penman, spiritually minded, musical, a fluent speaker, a good financier, accountant and debt collector.

He must be thoroughly competent to make the preliminary arrangements for all meetings, such as prayer meeting evangelical services and Bible classes, literary, educational, social and business meetings of the whole body and the various committees, and if necessary, to conduct them.

He must be capable of taking the sole superintendence of a reading room and library, the catering for a refreshment room and the general working of the establishment, including the athletic and the other clubs connected therewith.

Preference will be given to a good gymnast. He must have a good literary style as all the correspondence, report, proof reading etc., will be left entirely in his hands. He must have a robust health.

He must have a clear head and a quick reader of character. He must be generous and open-handed, and at the same time authoritative but not overbearing.

The hours are from 9.00am to 10.30pm and on Sunday from 2.00pm to 10.00pm but he will be expected to attend church in the morning for his own souls welfare.

The Committee have pleasure in offering a salary of £75 per annum to a man possessing the above qualifications!

The above is authentic!!

Jim (Lamb)

Dear Jim,

Very many thanks for sharing your reflections on what was a wonderful day and reporting on it so well and succinctly.

A very good idea was for the large space before the actual entry doors to St Martins to be used as a meeting place. Rather than entering and taking our seats thereby only allowing a bit of a wave to such old friends we could see, there was a great milling about and cries of recognition and much laughter prior to the doors being opened.

At the subsequent reception on the terrace of the House of Commons, which sadly, you were unable to attend, this pattern followed. The few brief speeches were what might have been expected but the real joy was this repetition of reunion with friends.

For the benefit of taxpayers, I can report that the sandwiches at Westminster were excellent.

Kindest regards,
Jim (Thomson)

175th Anniversary Celebration Service of the Founding of the YMCA 6th June 2019 held at St. Martin's – in – the – Fields Trafalgar Square London

There are many occasions I have experienced in my 60 plus years of service in the YMCA at Local, National and International level but without doubt the one under review stands with the best!

The attendance, the preparation and the contents of the Thanksgiving Service were of a high order reflecting the wide variety of YMCA service over 175 years. I will just refer to the 'highlights' as no doubt there will be further contributions published!

The service was introduced by way of a warm welcome from Rev. Richard Carter, Associate Vicar for Mission, St Martin's-in-the-Fields and two YMCA Youth Ambassadors.

"Be Thou My Vision" was the first hymn appropriate to the occasion identifying personal requests of dedication for a further 175 years of YMCA service. This was followed by the National General Secretary YMCA England & Wales, Denise Hatton giving reference to historical features such as Bible Study Groups and Prayer meetings and the need to continue in 'FAITH' for the YMCA is as relevant today as ever before.

Greetings from the World YMCA and YMCA Europe were brought by two Secretary Generals followed by the Hymn "Lord for the Years Your Love has Kept and Guided" first verse referring to the years of past guidance and to the final verse, quote, "...past put behind us, for the future take us; Lord of our lives to live for Christ alone".

Young people processed down the main aisle each with a banner marking the key events in YMCA history followed by a wonderful rendering of the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah by the choir St. Martin's Voices. Though a relatively small choir by Albert Hall standards their performance was very inspiring as was the rest of their input much enhancing the service.

It has to be said, that Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York's sermon was the main highlight being both informative and outspoken. His knowledge of Youth and their challenges in today and future Society revealed an extraordinary understanding of young people and their challenges, quoting the Biblical Ten Commandments as "Thou shalt not ... as promises also!

In closing. Prayers for the World were shared by eight representatives of the World YMCA followed by a robust singing of the hymn, "Thine be the Glory" and here emphasis on the final verse, "**No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of Life!! Life is nought without Thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than conquerors, through Thy deathless love; bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son, endless is the victory, Thou o'er death hast won.**"

Personally, I claim attendances of over 60 years of the 175 years of many International and National events and without hesitancy state this event rates highly. You will note that the emphasis was on the 'religious' rather than the 'secular' aspect of our work!

Jim (Lamb)