

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

SEPTEMBER 2019

www.yretired.co.uk



Dear friends and colleagues. Greetings

The President's Letter has covered varied subjects over many years in a much valued Newsletter since its founding! I can only guess and stand to be corrected as to a reasonable estimate of the number of issues and suggest some 70 first with Reg Wake followed by David Smith as Editors. During this period, we have seen it develop through black and white to coloured print and photographic imagery. The number of pages increased and paper quality improved.

The Newsletter's circulation has expanded. Many are the 'exerts' published in journals such as 'Bridges' the World Fellowship of Retired YMCA colleagues (WFYR) Newsletter which circles the world with an international readership. Development of course can only proceed by the quality and personal contributions of the membership!

Recently there has been an increase encouraging further progress and I ask members to put pen to paper with articles submitted to our Editor David Smith for circulation. Whilst I would not wish to dwell on the subject of health it is most valuable to an ageing membership to learn of colleagues experiencing serious health problems encouraging our communication by card, email, telephone, prayer and visitation where appropriate. The Newsletter is a valued communication for such information. The 'strapline' on the Y's Retired of the UK letterhead is, **"Keeping retired YMCA staff in contact with each other"**. *Note. This includes Lay Persons in membership!*

The four areas of the UK presently covered by Reunions are Scotland (Keith Rennie), Cambridge (Jim Lamb), South East (Blair Crawford) and South West (Margaret & David Libby) the latter Residential and others Annual Lunches. Should YOU wish to start up a group in an area other than the four quoted then David Smith, Vic Hills and Jim Lamb can supply you with the names of retired colleagues near to you.

A reminder of the Physical Activity encouraged in YMCAs. As I write I am being constantly reminded through the media of many sporting events such as Cricket, Football, Netball, Snooker(?), and Tennis being played in a sportsmanlike manner nationally and internationally.

YMCAs promote such sports and here remind you that the YMCA introduced Basketball and Volleyball. I am proud to share that over the years (175) countless thousands of young people worldwide through the YMCA were encouraged to keep fit in 'Body, Mind and Spirit'!

Finally, a reminder and thanks! During the year 2019 we will be introducing a major appeal on behalf of the YMCA Charity Secours Speciaux as mooted at the WFYR Conference in Thailand (2018).

Identified has been the need for increased giving to Secours Speciaux which serves the desperate needs of YMCA retired Colleagues who on retirement face levels of poverty due to no State or YMCA Pensions or inadequate income. The Appeal letter will give more data. Please support generously on receipt of the said letter!

Secondly. Thanks were expressed in full measure to our Treasurer Ray Allen on his retiring from the post after ten years of faithful service at the Cambridge Reunion on 4th July 2019, please see article in this Newsletter.

Warm regards, keep well and in good spirits,

Jim Lamb

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Report of the Cambridge Reunion held on 4th July 2019

As usual the pleasure of the yearly Reunions is that of socialising and the 2019 occasion was no different than in previous years as indicated by the 'hub bub' of sound before, during and after lunch!



*In the group photo, the people are from left to right:
Ray Allen, Graham Clarke, Chris Poulard, Rev. Colin Smith,
Ann Poulard, David Bedford, Ann Polley, Ron Ingamells, Jim
Lamb, Reg Wake, Vic Hills, Mary Hills, Jane (Reg's Daughter).*

However, this year was exceptional in that we celebrated with Ray Allen the very fine service he has rendered the Y's Retired of the UK for ten years as Honorary Treasurer.

There were three main points in commemorating his outstanding service. A gift card was presented by the President, a Certificate prepared by David Smith presented by Reg Wake, Founder and oldest member (98!) who gave a fine tribute to Ray best summed up with one of Reg's 'sayings', "Well done that young man!"

Thirdly a unanimous invitation by the Committee of the Y's Retired of the UK for Ray to continue on the Committee as a Consultant. To the latter, in front of so great a 'cloud of witnesses' he could do no else but say YES!

We were well served with our speaker Rev Colin Smith who with a touch of humour kept to the ten minutes allotted! We were privileged to welcome for the first time Rev Chris and Mrs Ann Poulard.

Attendance was reduced through illness and one couple being trapped in the famous road building works on the outskirts of Cambridge for over one hour even with modern Navigational Technology! As it was past rondeau time they returned home!

Perhaps quotations from members present best sums up another fine Lunch. "An expression of thanks to all for the warm welcome! We came away deeply impressed by the affection for and the service to the YMCA shared by all present was renewed and strengthened." The speaker commented, "Thanks for the chance to meet such interesting people!"

Jim (Lamb)

Dear David,
I just want to say via the Newsletter, my appreciation of the presentation of a framed certificate, (which I understand you made on your computer) and a M&S Voucher for £100 in appreciation of my work as Y's Retired Hon. Treasurer over the last ten years. I have thoroughly enjoyed it and appreciate the support I have had through that time.

These were presented at the Cambridge Reunion on 4th July by Reg Wake and Jim Lamb. Reg spoke very wise words and I valued his support all through my tenure, as have all the committee. I am meeting with Andrew Jenkins on August 12th to hand over everything and I wish him well in this role. I will be on hand to answer any queries he may have, but it is a reasonably easy task. I was asked by Jim and Vic if I was happy to stay on the Committee in an advisory role. I accepted without hesitation. Thank you all once again.
Ray (Allen)



Left to right:- Ray Allen, Reg Wake, Jim Lamb.

Report from the Southern Re-union held on 20th June 2019

The sun shone brightly over the Bournemouth coast on Thursday June 20th as 12 folk gathered to enjoy an excellent lunch and good fellowship at the Southern Group Y's Retired Lunch held at the historic Hotel Miramar where Tolkien once sought inspiration for his writings.



From left to right, Razla Christian, Chandu Christian, Majorie Sheppard, Derek Sheppard, Jan Crawford, Brian Rowcliffe, Linda Voysey, Fred Daldry, Hilary Robins, Hannah Milner, Stephen Milner, and Blair Crawford.

Blair (Crawford)

MEMBERS CORRESPONDENCE



Hi Folks,
Greetings from us here in Plymouth. We thought you might like to see the attached. Svein and Unni Harsten had made a special journey from Oslo to visit us here in Plymouth.

It is 38 years since they came as strangers from the Norwegian YMCA with the idea of bringing a Ten Sing choir to the UK!

Des and Pearl (Wilcox)

Barbara had her last "chemotherapy session" this afternoon so we too were not able to make it.
I am still taking YM groups out to Palestine and Israel. From Stoke this November, Sutton Coldfield last February.
There is no retirement in Kingdom Service.

Cheers,
John (Drake)

Dear Y's Retired Friends,

This is to send warm greetings and good wishes for the Cambridge Reunion on Saturday. I wish we could be with you! Oddly enough I send this message from Cambridge where we have much enjoyed a few days with our daughter who lives here.

We return to our new home in Sussex this afternoon - there is now a train direct to Brighton which is very convenient but we rely on family to help us on and off trains so cannot be flexible with timing. Anyway, have a good time on Saturday!!

One feature of the Y that brings particular pride and pleasure is its international outreach work and membership. This depends on the vision and commitment of colleagues around the world many of whom struggle with pitiful resources and personal rewards.

We, who enjoy relative comfort, must help and support them and their work. I hope there will be generous support for Jim's suggestion of an appeal for Secours Speciaux.

Again warm greetings to all at the Cambridge get together.

David (Miller)

Completion of names from the YMCA Youth and Community Course 1969-70 featured in the previous newsletter – half at Stockwell YMCA and half at Waltham Forest YMCA has been kindly completed by Mike Wilkinson and Vic Hills – many thanks Mike and Vic. What a fine body of students

Top row:- Sid Toulson, Ralph Joiner, Jim Porter, Bob Sadler, Bob Stewart, Donald Fry, David Allen, Mike Bongard, Vic Hills, David Smith, Elias Avutia, Bill Evans

Middle Row : Ken Gibbons, John Newton, David Hurford, Sammy Semkumba, Colin Burlton, Lawrie James, Bob Beardsworth, Richard Morrell, Peter Robertson, Graham Hill, Pat Estall, Geoff Cooper.

Bottom Row:- Gordon Charkin, Mike Wilkinson, (Vince - I know he came from Eire originally?), Eileen Wragge, Philip Wragge, Pat Algie, Joel Kinagwe, Mike Jones, Sam Nyame, Graham Reese, ?

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Thank you all once again.
Regards
Ray (Allen)

Mass Shootings

Too often, when we turn on our phones, TVs, and computers, we are met with news of yet another mass shooting.

These tragic outbreaks of violence remind us that we live in a lost and broken world. But as people of faith, we know that this broken world is also so loved by God. We pray that our churches—and all churches across the world—will continue to be seen as places of refuge, of love, and of hope, rather than places of fear.

We seek God's guidance as we try to make sense of these tragedies and respond as Christ would. We pray for the future of our nations and for our integrated life together.

PICTURES OF THE YMCA 175 THANKSGIVING CELEBRATIONS

Dear David

Via the internet I found the information about the service in St. Martin in the Field, on the 6th June and that I was able to get tickets for my wife Sabine and myself.

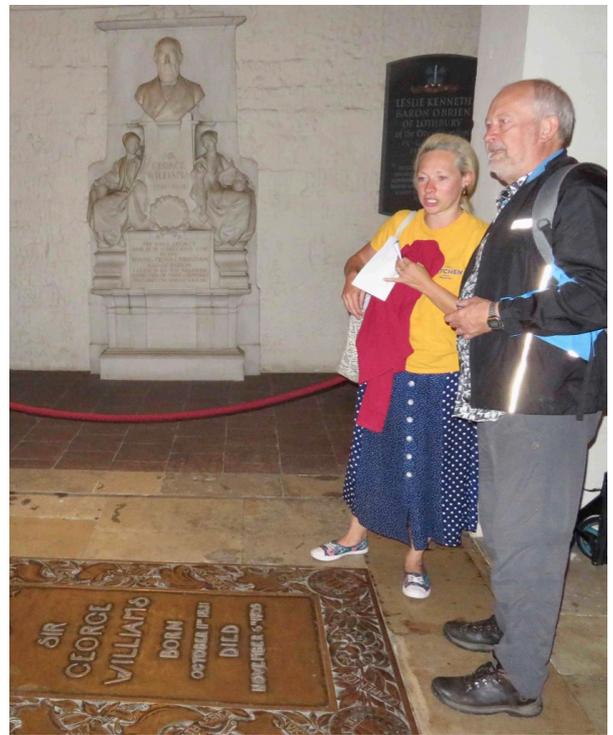
It was a very remarkable jubilee service and I am so happy, that during our holiday in London we were able to attend, as well as meeting colleagues of the World Alliance and YMCA Europe, I have had many encounters with in the past.

Please receive some images that I took of this great occasion.

All the best and many greetings to all

Yours – Eckard Geisler

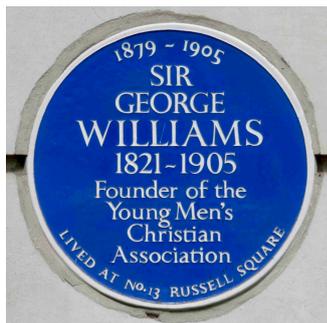
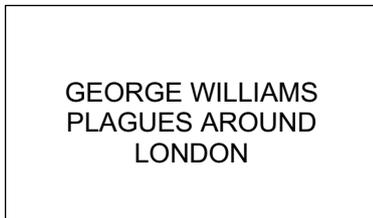
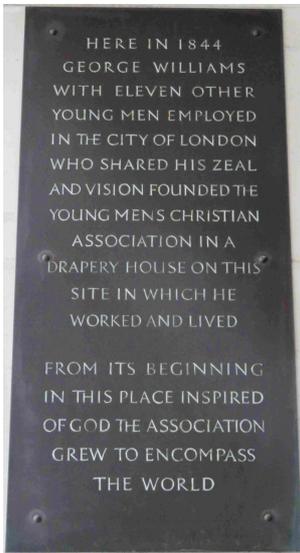
YMCA Secretary for World Service and International



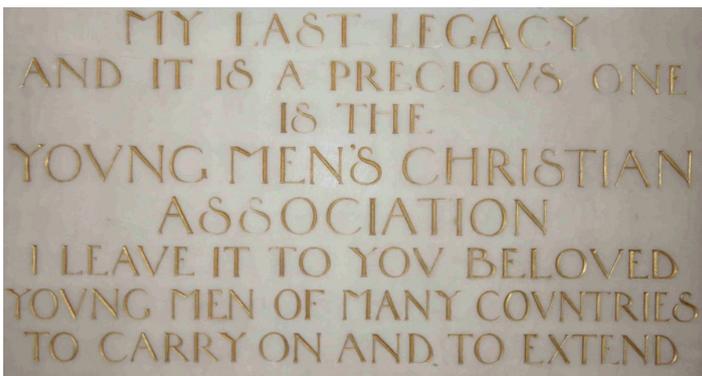
Eckard and Sabine Geisler



ENTRANCE TO LONDON CENTRAL YMCA



Johan Vilhelm Eltvik, passed Secretary General, Carlos Sanvee, present World Alliance of YMCA's Secretary General, with passed Secretary General of Dr. Bart Shaha



President of Ys Retired of UK Jim Lamb, surrounded by many other international YMCA dignitaries at St Martins of the Fields - London



Carlos Madjri Sanvee
Secretary General of World YMCA

Dear YMCA Friends

2019 - as Secretary General of the World YMCA has been an inspiring and challenging time so far. I want to thank everyone who supported me in my leadership and contributed to shaping our collective vision of the YMCA's future.

I came to this position with great ambition and aspiration for our movement, but without losing sight of the proverb: "If you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, go along." Together, we are now activating the three wheels of YMCA itself, the youth it strengthens, and the wider impact on our communities.

With our 175-year anniversary at the centre of our activities this year, this is an exciting time and also a profound opportunity to connect the movement in its mission and purpose, look back, look forward, refresh and celebrate.

Our journey thus far

It has been a great privilege to meet many of you during my visits to national movements and area meetings in Latin America, Africa and Europe. To see the Movement develop from this perspective has been invigorating, and my best moments have been meeting with young people who, thanks to your efforts, are being empowered to create solutions in their own communities.

In just the first half of the year we've witnessed terrorist attacks carried out in Christchurch and Sri Lanka, further evidence of the climate emergency has been felt with historically devastating twin cyclones Idai and Kenneth striking large parts of southern Africa, we've seen record-high temperatures in Europe and North America, and there has been extensive flooding in the USA, India and Japan.

We are watching a growing humanitarian crisis unfold as the rise in negative rhetoric against refugees and migrants traps innocent civilians and children fleeing war, poverty and injustice between unimaginable misery and a world that has forgotten our collective humanity.

These events have further convinced me that **the world's young people need YMCA more than ever**. That's why I am pleased to share with you some of the steps we have been taking to add value to the movement by creating a robust ecosystem for youth empowerment, increased movement relevance and improved financial sustainability.

Where we are now

Change Agents

Cohort 4 launched in April and has 160 Change Agents from 62 National Movements. YMCA Spain is making a return to the programme while YMCA Ireland is participating for the first time. New content and modules have been developed and will be delivered at the gathering alongside the Change Agents e-learning platform which has already been rolled out.

Communities of Impact

At the NGS meeting in February, it was agreed that the need for radical collaboration within the movement is paramount to increasing our visibility, extending our influence and driving our collective impact. We have identified the following themes to build Communities of Impact (COIs): Mental Health, Youth Employment, Climate Action, Disaster Response and Resilience, and Refugees and Migrants.

These COIs will share best practices, test and refine innovative programmes and solutions, and drive impact by inviting external experts and partners to contribute to community goals. We have agreed to launch three COIs in 2019: Mental Health, Youth Employment and Enterprise, and Refugees and Migrants.

Finance

Our 2018 audited accounts have been shared and the finance committee is providing regular oversight regarding our fiduciary responsibilities. A quarterly report has been submitted to the finance committee and regular conversations continue with the treasurer to ensure we provide good accountability.

The Investment Committee has appointed Hugh Fitzpatrick as its chair and positive results from its changes to our portfolio is expected by end of year. World YMCA is still lacking funds to fully implement Change Agents, the Refugee and Migrant Summit, and the data initiative for our Vision 2044 work.

Governance

At our first quarter meeting of the Executive Committee we took our first steps toward a digital transformation by adopting an online board meeting platform which has led to paperless meetings. The committee is structured into four active sub-committees which meet quarterly online. We also managed the first ever full-video conference of the 30 ExCo members for an important decision.

Partnerships

We delivered our first global partnership in May joining the United for Global Mental Health "Speak Your Mind" campaign launching this September. This three-year campaign will advocate governments to unlock more resources for mental health support.

YMCAs can opt to join national coalitions to define how they would like to participate. Another exciting collaboration launched at the Haiti Tech Summit in June aimed to include all young people in the digital revolution. We are exploring other strategic partnerships with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Global Citizen, Adecco Group, The Ocean Project, Wellcome Trust, Jesuit Refugee Service, and several agencies within the United Nations system.

Continued on next page.....

Resource Mobilisation

The Resource Mobilisation Sub-Committee was launched at the Executive Committee meeting in March with the aim of leveraging the expertise and networks of key YMCA leaders to collaborate on identifying new funding models that will contribute to the financial sustainability of World YMCA and potentially YMCAs dependant on project structure. The Committee, Chaired by CiCi Rojas, determined several areas of potential engagement: endowments, global philanthropy, impact investment (creating a property development fund, developing or creating a fund to scale global social enterprise), shared value partnerships and creating a shared services offering. It was agreed that for 2019 the Committee would focus on global philanthropy and exploring a shared services model with the immediate next step to articulate a clear value proposition for potential partners.

UN Advocacy

In the first half of 2019 we launched the new UN Advocacy Group consisting of 12 young people from 11 countries, which represented our movement strongly at the United Nations ECOSOC Youth Forum in April. The UN Advocacy Group has delivered a [high-level positioning statement](#) on social inclusion to the UN bringing the voice of young people and the issues they care about most to the forefront.

World Challenge

YMCAs in roughly 40 countries participated in World Challenge this year inviting people in their localities to volunteer 175 minutes to better the communities they live in. The majority of YMCAs chose to focus their efforts on environmental causes cleaning up beaches and neighbourhoods while others participated in community outreach such as feeding the homeless and visiting homes of the elderly. YMCA of the USA took part for the first time with 35 states and more than 120 local YMCAs participating.

YMCA175

World YMCA has provided communications staff while securing a prominent selection of keynote speakers and expert panellists including the UN Youth Envoy and President of the UN General Assembly. World YMCA has also collaborated on fundraising and global outreach to ensure the success of YMCA's flagship anniversary event.

Looking to the future

SDG Impact Report

At February's NGS Conference in Brisbane, World YMCA was tasked with producing a report outlining the movement's impact on achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. We are currently in the testing phase with nine national movements participating and the full survey is scheduled to go out mid-July.

Vision 2044

As we look forward to our 200th anniversary World YMCA has invited [Forum for the Future](#) to help craft and deliver a two-day workshop at YMCA175 which will help set the agenda for the next 25 years giving us our collective North Star. In preparation, we have begun a two-month global conversation through social media and we invite you to take part on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Look for opportunities to engage each week under #YMCA2044.

YMCA-YWCA Denmark officially put forth a proposal to the Executive Committee at the March meeting in Geneva to host YMCA's next World Council in Aarhus. After a scouting visit by World YMCA staff and ExCo members, a vote was held whereby the proposal passed by a high majority. **Congratulations to YMCA-YWCA Denmark!**

YMCA175 gets underway

On Sunday 4 August, more than 3,000 YMCA young people, staff, guests and volunteers from 100 countries gathered at ExCeL London to kick off its flagship anniversary celebration, YMCA175.

The opening ceremony got off to a rousing start as the United Nations General-Secretary's Envoy on Youth, Jayathma Wickramanayake, served as keynote. "You are not only the leaders of tomorrow, you are the leaders of today," she said. "When given the right tools and opportunities, young people thrive in making the world a better place. Our generation possesses the power to build a foundation for a better world."

YMCA officials first welcomed each delegation before Denise Hatton, CEO of host movement YMCA England and Wales, encouraged the delegation to "keep in mind the great leadership shown by our founder [Sir George Williams]."

Young leaders coached by TED-Ed shared their moving and inspiring stories on stage, urging young women and men the incentive to speak up, to act, to make their voices heard and not to give up. Alex Taylor, a Youth Ambassador from YMCA England & Wales shared her simple, but straightforward motto, "Change the things that irritate you."

With the original Paris Basis by her side, World YMCA President Patricia Pelton left an indelible mark on the ceremony, "As we celebrate our rich history, let's not forget to take this opportunity to look to the future and take our first step together to build a stronger, more inclusive society for all."

The ceremony closed by a blessing given by Tricia Hillas, Canon Pastor at St Paul's Cathedral. The celebrations of YMCA175 are now officially underway!