



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

NOVEMBER 2018

www.yretired.co.uk



Dear friends and colleagues. Greetings

Since my last President's Letter there have been important international YMCA events not least by any means reports published in the last Newsletter, when Jim Thomson and John Naylor reported on the recent four yearly meetings of the YMCA World Council and World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees held in Chiang Mai, Thailand in July. As with all International YMCA 'gatherings' recommendations by way of action to be taken need to be taken seriously. Therein follows two items most relevant for retirees!

The priority is the announcement that the 175th Anniversary of the birth of the YMCA Movement in London will be celebrated worldwide next year! Already committees have been formed at National YMCA level with the mammoth task of celebrating such an historic occasion at the Excel facilities in London.

Though primarily aimed at YOUTH such an event demands all who have experienced the YMCA during their lifetime are invited to the Celebration to be held between 4th and 8th August 2019. Our Y's Retired representative is Vic Hills who is already involved at a senior level and will furnish up to date information via the Newsletter together with our Editor David Smith.

More central to Retirees is the suggestion raised and duly recommended by the WFYR through their group discussions the feasibility of arranging through each National Retiree Group worldwide 'Ambassadorial Colleagues', for want of a better title, who would be designated as contact persons welcoming visitors from other countries.

It is appreciated that some colleagues do this already through personal contact made during their service in the YMCA. Indeed, on the pertinent date for our American colleagues of the 4th July I was privileged to host two such persons!

The guests were retirees from the staff of the New York YMCA having a vacation in London. From the moment we greeted each other at 10:30 at Cambridge Railway Station to a farewell on a drenched street near the station at 17:15 we encountered nothing but an ongoing friendship generated by YMCA experiences.

Coffee, lunch, tour of the amazing city of Cambridge (via on – off bus) where a 'must' was the American Cemetery, where engraved on the Memorial Wall was the name of none other than Glen Miller and in the beautiful chapel to my friends pleasure, they experienced how America helped to win the war!

A visit to the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough YMCA proved a 'highlight' of their trip when they found the similarities of the work and that of New York YMCA were all but identical!

I submit that I did not recognise the word 'ambassadorial' on the above occasion but the affinity of likeminded colleagues! I appreciate that to many Nations it is an important word by way of language! We await a more enlightened description from the WFYR office!

Together with Ray Allen, I attended the funeral of Barry Ward in Lincoln. Barry had not enjoyed the best of health for some years but his twelve years as CEO of Lincoln YMCA was highly praised not least by a full church who celebrated his life within the context of Barry's evangelical outlook on his personal faith.

I draw your attention to Ray Allen's and other colleagues excellent tribute to Barry in this issue of the Newsletter.

Time flies!

Look forward to the seasonal pleasures of Autumn and Winter retaining as you are able good health throughout.

Jim (Lamb)

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MEMBERSHIP CORRESPONDENCE

So, how about inviting short pieces titled: "Why I have reason to thank the YMCA.....!"

Dear David,

Well this message slipped through prematurely owing to my computing incompetence before I had expanded my story relating to the origins of the Cambridge Reunion!

The story began with our son Andrew's interest in outdoor pursuits. He had worked briefly at YMCA Lakeside and Outward Bound Ullswater.

Then Sam Johnston kindly arranged for him to attend a summer 'camp' at YMCA Toronto's 'adventure facility' that he greatly enjoyed and to which he returned several years running.

We wanted to thank Sam for his help and proposed a pub lunch with him in a village near Cambridge where he then lived. However, Sam knew of several other retired YMCA staff living in the Cambridge vicinity including such eminences as Jim Lamb and Reg Wake, who might like to join us.

Jim seized on the idea of a local Y's Retired Fellowship Reunion and with Sam arranged a lunch party (which included our partners) at Girton golf club. That 'one-off' occasion was so much enjoyed by all half dozen or so of us who gathered that it became an annual habit for increasing numbers.

One more example of how a small acorn can grow! - a trick the YMCA is rather good at! I was delighted to read Jim's report on this year's event and only sorry we could not be there to share the fellowship and listen to John's talk - always a pleasure.

As for Andrew, his career has since blossomed. He eventually qualified as a critical-care flight paramedic and is now based with a helicopter rescue unit at Dartmouth Medical Centre in New Hampshire, married to a lovely American girl with two children who, like their Dad, enjoy outdoor pursuits!

May Y' Retired continue to flourish
Best regards to all

David (Miller)

TRELOYHAN CONFERENCE CENTRE ST IVES, CORNWALL

1 - 5 April 2019

Ensuite Half Board £218.00

Non ensuite Half Board £180.00

£40 deposit by 20 October please

Balance due 20 February 2019.

**Cheques payable to David or Margaret Libby
15 The Quarterdeck, Strand Street, Plymouth PL1 3RL**

Five days of fun, relaxation, exploration and reminiscing.

CAN WE COPE WITH REQUESTS?

Hi David,
Thanks for sending Jim Thomson to the Secours Speciaux meeting to represent you. He did a good job. He is amazing. Minutes of meeting will come soon. Now my question - my friend Ralph Christian and his wife will be visiting London in August.

Ralph is a retired Y director; he and I co-chair the New York State Y retiree chapter. His wife Ronnie is a retired teacher still very active with her school. He asked me if I have any Y contacts in London and I don't think I do. (Reg Wake - but I know he does not travel.)

Would you know any Y retiree in the London area who might like to meet a NYC retiree for a cup of coffee (tea) or whatever? Thanks in advance for any suggestions you may have.

Best wishes. **Bonnie (Mairs)**

PRESIDENT JIM STEPS INTO THE BREACH

I took Ralph and Eleanor Christian on the Cambridge City Tour hopping off at the American Cemetery to show them the engraved name of Glen Miller on the Remembrance Wall and the display in the Chapel of how the Americans won the war!!!

They were suitably impressed! Also, I arranged for them to meet the staff of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough YMCA who rose to the occasion chatting and showing them round their building.

All in all, a very pleasant day! **Jim (Lamb)**



What a wonderful surprise to welcome for a fleeting visit Vic and Mary Hills to our home. Together we enjoyed sharing our recent medical histories and enjoy together an excellent Cornish cream tea (jam first!!)

Happy memories were shared of Y's Retired folk both past and present and an agreement we should do this more often. If you have a Y's Retired colleague living near you and you are mobile and able, time spent together can conjure up some great reminiscences.

To the Hills we say, see you both next year. Best wishes
- **David and Sue**

I moved to Lincoln YMCA from Barnard Castle YMCA in July 1978. I was very happy to come back to Lincolnshire, my home county.

Barry arrived in April 1979 and my Christian faith strengthened through him. He was a lovely man and easy to work with. Lincoln YMCA was very successful under Barry's leadership. I was the live-in Warden and Barry and I worked very well together.

Under Barry's guidance we formed a Youth Drama Workshop, and consequently performed several plays. We also performed children's plays and a couple of pantomimes too.

One of the greatest events which Barry and John Hindmarsh, the Youth for Christ worker, along with the board and other church members organised, was the Christian festival, Freshground, held on Lincolnshire showground, for three years in the early 1980s. The name Freshground was the idea of Dorothy, Barry's wife.

I will be constantly in Barry's debt for furthering my Christian witness. He was a lovely man along with his wife Dorothy. Lincoln YMCA should be proud of his belief and the work he did.

Thank you Barry. May you rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

Ray (Allen)

Hello David,
Not sure if you will remember me, but I retired from Dunford House six years ago, after looking after the place for a good number of years. In the end I worked for the YMCA almost 25 years, it was a special time in a special place. But things have to move on.

I have seen (via Val Wallis) that you are looking for stories to aid the 175 year celebrations, and that Ken Montgomery thinks he recalls a heads of government meeting at Dunford to discuss African Countries Independence.

He is absolutely correct. I'm not sure if it was a single or a series of meetings but these certainly took place at Dunford in the 50s. Details of who attended can be found in the Dunford House Visitors Books from those years, I do hope they have been looked after and are now somewhere safe.

Hopefully these visitors books can be allocated because another interesting meeting happened at Dunford, I believe in or around 1932 (20 years before YMCA ownership) when heads of government met to discuss the formation of a United Europe.

Much later the British Council held annual 2 week residential meetings to discuss topical international mostly educational issues, a lengthy publication of each of these was produced and a copy stored at Dunford dating every year I think from the late 1970's to late 1990's.

During my days many of the large Charities used the facilities from VSO for their volunteer preparation courses, to Oxfam, Save the Children, Sightsavers and so many more for their board and management meetings. The place held many secrets in its walls!

I'm sorry I cannot help more with where the books and publications may be since Dunford has closed its doors, but I believe that Jason Stacey or Paul Smillie may help with that if you think it's worth a follow up.

I wish you well and trust you will have a successful and joyful celebration. 175 years is certainly an achievement and I also wish you well on a more personal level David and hope that you are happy and fulfilled.

With very best wishes,

Pauline (Dey)



It is with sadness that we share the news of the passing of Barry Ward who was General Secretary (CEO) at Lincoln YMCA in the 1970s to early 1980s.

Barry was a true advocate of the values that underpin our work in Lincoln YMCA to this day, and our thoughts and prayers are with Barry's family and friends during this time.

In 1984 I moved from Yorkshire to Lincoln to start a 6 months Youth Opportunity Scheme. As a young lad with no religious background or upbringing I was a little taken aback to be introduced to Mr Barry Ward. He was a total cultural shock to me.

This man, I thought, was always talking about "Jesus" and "The Kingdom". Barry was clearly at the helm of the ship and wanted to make the "C" in YMCA very prominent.

Barry had a big impact on my life, talking to me about Jesus. He encouraged me to go to Church and get involved in Christian activities. Barry and "Youth for Christ" were instrumental in pulling together a large youth event on Lincolnshire Showground called Fresh Ground which ran for several years very successfully.

He was very visionary and innovative in spreading the word and work of the YMCA. There was a genuineness and sincerity about Barry that I had never come across before. Barry was a father figure to me and made sure I stayed on the straight and narrow.

I think only eternity will tell of the impact and influence that Barry and his lovely wife Dorothy have had. I am immensely grateful to God that he guided my path to Barry's door and he invested not only in me but lots of people during his time as General Secretary of Lincoln YMCA. A true unsung hero of the faith! Forever grateful.

Dean (Bell)

From 1986 to 1999 I was honoured to be the Regional Secretary and later Area Secretary of the enlarged Central region of YMCAs.

Barry was the CEO in Lincoln, a strong evangelical Christian who was very aware of the clear Christian Aims and Purposes of the Movement. He was dedicated to the Association and determined to see it grow and prosper but through prayer and love. And always at his side he had the unfailing support of his wife Dorothy.

Barry faced up to a number of the Association challenges of which his calm and capable nature saw him through. He was always supportive of our quarterly Regional Fraternals and Central Region events and had a strong recognition of the history and dedication of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Over many years, he maintained a strong and loyal Board of Management which agreed with his vision for the Association; an Association which has served many folk through its young people's housing and community activities in the greater Lincoln area, since its inception.

His legacy includes the number of staff and members that he personally has given time and support to over many years. It was a great pleasure to work with Barry who through his personal journey with God impacted so many lives.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

David (Smith)

ROBERT LOVELESS



We welcome Robert Loveless into the membership of Y's Retired of UK. Robert used to work at Worcester YMCA. He writes:-

I continue to remain active in youth work since I am a great believer that as you progress in years one has much to offer from experience and wisdom and that being amongst students and young people it enables the brain to remain active open to new ideas and not vegetate.

Currently, I organise the annual North Worcester Venture Scheme now into its 38th! year and the 26th. when we have included young people from Le Vesinet our twin town SW of Paris near Versailles. This is always the last week in July.

Also, I host students from Le Vesinet during their holidays so that they can undertake work experience and practise their English.

I am an active member of Ombersley Road Methodist Church here in Worcester and assist with a luncheon club at our premises on Wednesdays.

Tuesday afternoons I am part of the welcomers team for Worcester Cathedral.

From Easter until the end of September I am one of Worcester's green badge tour guides and have undertaken duties for the past 18years, so if you or any of our colleagues are in Worcester we operate Monday to Saturday from the Tourist Information Office next door to the Guildhall at 11.00am. price £6.50 for a two hour overview of Worcester. You can of course google 'Worcester Walks'. My duty day is a Friday.

As with most of us the garden keeps me busy and for my guests it is all home cooked prepared food including the bread and cake.

Remain alert, fit and active and if you are able ride the bicycle this will be a very good example for a younger generation.

A PRAYER FOR TODAY

Heavenly Father,
when we're tempted to feel despondent,
when our lives seem dreary or dull,
and the world around us looks fragile
and forlorn,
surprise us with your Spirit.
Challenge us to stop, listen
and look again:
to see a world transformed by your love,
a people bearing your divine image,
and a new day, open to all the rich
possibilities of your infinite,
amazing grace. Amen.



I sincerely hope my dear friend Paul (Harper) won't mind me using this very fetching picture of him, officially kitted out whilst visiting Erdington YMCA new build with those attending a Y's Retired of UK Conference held at the Quakers Conference Centre at Woodbrooke, Birmingham on 21st September 2010.

Editor - DHS

Hi David

I am responding to President Jim's plea for more contributions from members

Firstly, to thank Jim (Thomson) and John (Naylor) for their reports from the Y's Retired World Conference in Thailand. It was obviously an inspiring event, further evidence that the YMCA is a truly international movement!

Secondly, I thought I would cobble together a few memories of BSA, AOS, APS Conferences.

My first was in 1965, when Wally Blair was President, some years later I was responsible for the Friday evening entertainment when Ronnie Howe was President. (Des Wilcox still walks like Ronnie, with the Times under his arm and his pipe in his mouth). Fortunately for me Wally Blair 'took over' the organisation and did a great job.

One of the benefits of the Conference in those days was that it was held from Saturday to Saturday, which gave plenty of time to make new friends and enjoy a wide-ranging programme, not least the quality of the Guest Speakers, namely Lord Coggan, when Archbishop of York, David Watson, from St. Michael-in-the-Belfry, York, and especially that great friend of the YMCA Dr William Barclay.

I suspect that I am not alone in saying the Conferences recharged batteries that were running low at times!

Two final questions: Did the entertainment, usually in the form of a humorous tribute to the President, assume a greater importance than it should and secondly did those of us who had been for a while, without realising it, exclude newcomers, visitors, who didn't always appreciate the 'in-jokes'?

Maybe other Y's Retired members have their own memories of the Conferences, especially at Skegness!

Paul (Harper)



The 5th BBBF Reunion was held at Askham Bryan Agricultural College near York on Tuesday 31 July 2018 when 15 people attended.

We had a very enjoyable day with a tour of the College, Minibus tour of the Farm, Dairy unit and livestock, the Horticultural Department and the Wildlife Centre where we saw fish, frogs, reptiles, alpacas, meerkats, tortoises, wallabies and monkeys!

One of the 'BBBF boys' attending was Alec Hornsby who stayed in farming and later became an agricultural lecturer at Askham Bryan College. In the evening 6 of us enjoyed an evening meal at the Nags Head at Askham Bryan Village. A group photo is attached.

On the YMCA BBBF Facebook page there is a 1920s film clip of YMCA boys leaving Liverpool to go to Canada during the depression years before the BBBF scheme started in 1932.

Stephen (Milner)

FURTHER TRIBUTE TO BARRY WARD

Baden-Powell once said; 'Try and leave this world a little better than you found it'.

Barry was a man who strived to make life better for the many people he came into contact with. Many former residents of Lincoln YMCA have been touched by his gentle kindness and wise words of advice, probably never realising the trust he engendered in others. He was a father figure to those who were lost or in difficulty and he loved everyone in his charge unconditionally.

His vision to allow the creation of a Youth Drama Workshop was inspired and enjoyed by a huge number of people in the group, mostly teenagers, all of us under twenty five!

The confidence and self-esteem generated amongst the group was what Barry aimed to do; as a former member of this group I went on to train as a Drama specialist! Others have achieved careers in a wide variety of trades and professions. I will always remember Barry as a man who worked very hard to leave this world better than he found it.

Michael (Gallimore)

Former resident and Youth Drama Workshop member of Lincoln YMCA

BBC programme shows how YMCA is improving the lives of young people

Three young people from a YMCA in Salford have featured in a BBC Radio 5 Live documentary in which they share their inspiring stories of how a green-fingered YMCA scheme has transformed their lives from troubled childhood to a brighter future.

Speaking to Nihal Arthanayake, Tyler, Kieran and Joe, aged between 16 and 19, each described their difficult upbringings, the challenges they face and how the horticulture programme offered through YMCA Training, has provided them with the essential building blocks, encompassing focus, education, support and friendship, to better their lives.

Tyler, 16, has lived in foster care from the age of four and described his upbringing as negative and the root cause of his severe anger issues. Currently living in a care home, his enjoyment of gardening coupled with a desire to turn his life around, meant that he was instantly drawn to the project. Since enrolling and spending time at YMCA, Tyler has not only felt more settled but he has found gardening to be the perfect therapy as it offers a way of controlling his anger and nurture self-love.

Having experienced a difficult upbringing, Kieran was subsequently placed in the care of his grandmother by social services at the age of 10 and struggled in school. Now 17, Kieran first turned to YMCA for support with English and Maths in mind but his focus quickly turned to horticulture. The project has given him an array of skills and an invaluable boost in confidence. Today, Kieran lives with the philosophy that, "Every day is a new day and you got the opportunity to learn something new."

Joe, who has learning difficulties, knew that YMCA was the perfect place to change his future. Joe's struggles started at an early age. He found making friendships difficult, experienced low confidence, and had a tough home life. After doing gardening for his family, Joe knew that the horticulture programme was the perfect fit and with YMCA's support, it has helped him get him back on his feet. When asked if he loved himself, Joe said: "Yes, now I have a purpose. I'm about halfway up the mountain on who I want to be. I feel like I'm at home and welcome."

YMCA Training's range of horticulture apprenticeships and study programmes, award young people with an array of opportunities, from landscaping and planning gardens to agriculture and crop production.

[You may be able to listen to the programme here.](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06kzq3q)
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06kzq3q>

