



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

December 2022

www.yretired.co.uk



President's ponderings

It is with great sadness that I open this edition of the Newsletter with a tribute to our President Emeritus, Jim Lamb who passed away on 1st December 2022.

Jim was a stalwart of the movement, serving in many locations with enthusiasm, energy and commitment, embracing the new and innovative particularly in Milton Keynes and Biker Newcastle, while holding firm to the Christian values and ethos of the movement, in which he found his vocation.

Always slightly mischievous, with twinkle in his eye and a distinctive laugh, he could challenge the views and actions of those he disagreed with, (particularly National Council staff and officers) in a gentlemanly and constructive way.

Jim taught many of us not to take ourselves too seriously, by gently and humorously pricking our bubbles!

His gifts and skills were recognised well beyond these shores and he was greatly admired in his role as Coordinator of The World Urban Network.

Along with others, Jim was a powerful force behind establishing and maintaining Y's Retired, becoming President after Reg Wake. I consider it a great honour to be carrying the baton on. His great passion was for the friendships and collegiality forged among YMCA folk. Thus, organising the Annual 'Cambridge Lunch' at Girton Golf Club was a joy more than a task for him.

Jim had suffered a number of illnesses in the past few years which he bore with great resilience, but when asked about them he would direct the conversation away from himself and towards his gratitude for the skill and care of the staff of Addenbrookes Hospital.

Jim Lamb was the embodiment of the YMCA Secretary. Committed to the development of young people in body mind and spirit, no matter what their background or belief. We would all have been so much poorer without him.



Jim Lamb President Emeritus Y's Retired A life of YMCA Service

Stockwell (Sir John Ben Hostel – later YMCA King Georges House),
Lincoln, Sheffield CEO, Wellington GS,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne (AGS.& GS).,
Milton Keynes, Leeds GS.
Chair British YMCA Urban Group,
CEO World Urban Network.
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NEWSLETTER EDITOR & WEBSITE DESIGNER:
A Vacancy exists for an Editor to collect articles and correspondence to forward to someone who has volunteered to compile and publish the Newsletters. Could you help? Contact Graham or Vic.

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TRIBUTES TO JIM LAMB

Jim was a lovely chap who made a real difference to the lives of so many people through his lifetime of commitment to the Christian Faith. He will be greatly missed - a cliché perhaps, but, nevertheless true. **Roger Hunt**

So sorry to hear this,, observed him from afar. Great Christian man, He will be sorely missed. **Stan and Celia Wojick**

Sad, sad news. I worked with Jim in Lincoln when I left college. He was very supportive in his quiet way to me at all times. He and his wife, Eve, would invite me for a meal on occasions and when he moved up to Newcastle for a weekend. He and Eve attended my first wedding in Leeds and for a few years when my daughters were young he would send them small gift tokens at Christmas. A couple of years ago when Maggie and I were on holiday in Cambridgeshire we met up and he treated us to lunch in a local hostelry. A lovely, lovely man who will be greatly missed **Blessings Mike Wilkinson**

On behalf of the German CSI and as Chair of the European Chapter of the WFYR, I send my sincere condolences on the passing of our brother Jim Lamb. Please forward our deepest sympathies to the family and friends. With fraternal greetings, **Günter Ozdyk**

This is truly sad news. I remember Jim fondly from international meetings and particularly his excellent leadership for the YMCA World Urban Network. **Rich Bailey**

I had a particular soft spot for him, as he spent so much time at Newcastle YMCA, the city of my birth and formative years. He was part of the transition from a gloomy building in the city centre to a modern city YMCA, responding to community needs – visionary change. **John Naylor**

I am sorry to hear of Jim's death. I had only met him a few times, but he and my late husband Sam were friends when Sam worked in Edinburgh. When I read your last letter and all the people mentioned in it, Jim's name stood out for me, along with that of Bonnie Mears, and Ron Ingamells. A last from the past. Another friend was Mervyn Moorhead. **Elizabeth Lamour**

Both Beulah and I are pained to hear the passing of dear Jim .It was a privilege to have known Jim for a long time.

He was known for his kindness and he showed that to us in plenty. He was fully committed as a YMCA man through and through.

In recent years mainly due to covid , we could not meet. Rather sad.

It is our prayer the God should bless all that he was able to contribute and achieve both as an active YMCA Secretary and a Retired. Kindly convey our deep sympathies of Beulah and I and all from the India Fellowship of YMCA Retirees, to his family Jim has left behind. **Rupert George**

I succeeded Jim in Newcastle when he retired. He had established and developed a very different approach to YMCA work, which I was privileged to continue and take forward. I also tried to succeed him when he left Milton Keynes, but sadly the interview panel chose someone else!

Jim was very popular with the staff that he had appointed to work at Newcastle YMCA, he was also a key player in Churches Together in the City Centre of Newcastle.

He really did see his YMCA career as a vocation and made an enormous contribution to the Movement in so many ways. **Michael King**

As a former colleague I was so sorry to hear of Jim's death. I always enjoyed seeing him at his various YMCAs over the years. He also was interested enough to join a group I took to Romania where I was working to start the YMCA after the revolution.

Those of us in the eastern region of the Y's retired especially owe him our gratitude for being determined to make it possible for us to meet regularly. Again, I enjoyed meeting him at these events. The memories of Jim are many but all good! He was also very clear about his faith and his love of, and commitment to, the Methodist Church. He will be sadly missed by many of those of us who knew him in the YMCA.

I am very sorry that I cannot come to the funeral – I have a commitment at a Carol Service on that day. I do hope many representatives of the Y will be able to attend.

*With love and sympathy. **Ron Ingamells***

*I was sad to hear about Jim Lamb. I remember him well from National Assembly days when we found that our membership of the Methodist Church made the connection closer. **Geoff Havers***

A Family video tribute can be seen on YouTube <https://youtu.be/l3B5wm7yuew>

Remembering Jim

I think the word "faithful" sums Jim Lamb up for me.

He was, like so many of his generation of YMCA secretaries, a faithful Methodist. He took his Methodist local preachers exams in my father's study in the Manse in Hull in the 1950s (where he also baby sat me as a small child!). He took the Methodist Recorder to the end, passing it on to a fellow elderly local preacher and was always ready to comment on developments Methodist!

He was faithful to the YMCA and especially to the cause of local Associations. I remember once appearing at a National Assembly expecting high praise (!) from the gathered throng for an exceptionally successful appeal when my baby sitter's voice boomed out from the gallery: "*Can David Bedford please tell me how much of the £1m raised will end up in the hands, not of the National Council, but of local Associations*". I knew my place!

He was faithful to the members of Ys Retired and essentially treasured us for what we are and for what we have done.

But above all he was faithful to his Lord and Master. In one of the last emails I received from him he wrote: "I am packing for eternity". Absolutely no doubt in his faith and his ultimate destination!

With so many more, I thank God for Jim Lamb.

David Bedford

I first met Jim when I was on student placement with him at Lincoln in early 1970, I saw him occasionally at AOS, National Assemblies and at British Urban Group (BUG) meetings but it wasn't until I became secretary to The Y's Retired of the UK would I say I knew Jim.

For nearly 8 years we exchanged regular emails and telephone conversations about all sorts of topics, not just Y's Retired matters and colleagues. Quite often our times with of our grandsons and their exploits were topics. Our shared enjoyment of visits to New Zealand. In Jim's case with his family to celebrate his daughter Sue's wedding. During Covid, to keep himself busy he was busy tunneling out of Cambridge.. I checked on progress occasionally. He didn't make it! We kept this joke going for several exchanges.

I and Y's Retired folk will miss him as a person, his often "Methodist" view of difficult issues, clearly his humor, in my case his encouragement of me, with advice when he thought I needed it. With Reg' Wake, David Smith, Professor David Miller, Tony Miles, Ray Allen and a few others their desire to keep Y's Retired Alive, when it was in danger of collapsing. And of course the Cambridge lunches. We have a legacy which seeks to keep us retired "Y" folk in touch, with memories of - good and amusing times past - and share tales with each other of what we are doing now in retirement.

Thank you God for Jim. **Vic Hills.**

Y's Retired were represented at Jim's Thanksgiving Service on 22nd December at Wesley Church Cambridge by Graham Clarke, Vic and Mary Hills and John Drake. Graham gave a moving appreciation of Jim as part of the service.

AGM

2.15pm 20th March 2023

On Zoom!

This is a FIRST for Y's Retired!
An opportunity for participation from where ever
you are!!

Meeting ID 838 2103 8035
Passcode YMCA

Papers will be circulated in advance

Message from Bertha the YMCA Tea Car



Negotiations are ongoing in finding me a new
undercover home away from the National Trust
at Croome. I fear some mechanical work may be
needed (and perhaps some finance) before I can
be moved! I will keep you posted!

Mervyn Moorehead



We give thanks to God for the life of Mervyn
Moorehead, Dartford's genial Irishman and man
of deep faith who died in December. He was a
regular supporter of SW Reunions following his
retirement to Plymouth. A fuller tribute will be in
our next newsletter

*Join us on Zoom for the next
Y's Retired*



**10.15 am Wednesday
25th January 2023**

A chance to catch up with friends and
colleagues without even leaving the
House!

Meeting ID 745 598 6792
Passcode YMCA

Please let Graham Clarke know if you are
coming!!



Can you be our next Editor?

The Y's Retired Newsletter is the key way
in which we keep in touch with each
other. Technical help can be available, we
just need you to put the Newsletter
together!

Please contact Vic Hills if you could
consider doing this,

Meanwhile please send all news and
contributions to Vic Hills
or Graham Clarke

Secours Speciaux

Andrew Jenkins, our treasurer will be forwarding our contributions to this special fund supporting retired YMCA staff across the world who have retired with little or no pension.

£1,470 - donated by members / others

£1,000 - from Jim Lamb

£2,000 - In memory of Reg Wake -
(brought forward from 2021)

£500 - As we agreed at the AGM - from our reserves

£1000 - In memory of David Smith (to date)

All of which will be rounded up to £6000

Thank you for the donations that you make to support our friends and colleagues

Welcome to Peter Posner OBE



We are delighted to welcome into our membership Peter Posner, Former President of the World Alliance of YMCAs, and former president of YMCA Europe. He is currently Vice President of YMCA England and Wales. Peter first became involved as a Board Member at Leicester and continues to be involved in the Central Region Trust Fund and Derbyshire YMCA.

YMCA England & Wales and YMCA Scotland awarded Platinum Jubilee Award For Volunteering

We are delighted that YMCA England & Wales and YMCA Scotland have been awarded as joint recipients of the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Award.

Only 20 organisations across the UK received the award which recognises work exceptional work to empower young people.



Terry Ratcliffe MBE – a personal appreciation

We were sorry to hear of the death in October of Terry Ratcliffe MBE Former President of YMCA Europe. John Naylor offers a personal appreciation



Terry was undoubtedly one of the great English YMCA laymen of the past 50 years. He made major contributions at YMCA regional, national and, most notably, international level.

I first got to know him in the 1970s, when I was at Lakeside. He impressed with his energy, willingness to innovate and above all his personal support to me as a new YMCA staff member.

He was Vice Chair of the North-West Region, then arguably one of the most dynamic regions in England, developing new YMCAs and acting as the incubator for Training for Life. At the same time, he was building his architects business, fathering his family, and acting as his running club secretary, while performing at a high standard as a member of the Lancashire county team. Hi wife Molly was a stalwart support throughout.

Lakeside benefited from his design skills cleverly integrating a new lounge and clothing store with the existing buildings.

In the 1980s he was Vice Chair of YMCA England and was very supportive of new developments such as Y Care, the Lennie Henry drugs education film and related initiatives.

He recognised the YMCA needed to raise its profile so welcomed the Best of British Youth run for 5 years with BBC Today programme, the Royal Variety Performance celebrating the International Year of Youth, and the development of the parliamentary group.

However, he will probably best be remembered for his contribution to the YMCA internationally. He helped shape the European Alliance from its earliest days and was committed to the expansion of the YMCA in Eastern Europe – an involvement he maintained until he died.

Above all I will remember him as a wise and supportive friend. He had strong views and a clear vision. We had stimulating discussions, which led to improved ways forward.

We often shared rooms at European and World Executive meetings. Even if not sharing we ran together most days. I say 'ran' but at Estes Park we tottered until we were acclimatised at this mile high venue.

Latterly he was less mobile, quite a challenge for an athlete, but he retained a twinkle in his eye; was always thinking about the future and above all committed to the development of YMCA in Eastern Europe.

I will miss him greatly.
John Naylor

The Last Word as we leave a difficult year and face the future with hope and faith

It is better to light a candle than

It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness

Work together to make a bridge of light

It is not the strongest that define us but the weakest

If we can connect our weaknesses we can make the world right

Do you let the candle burn, do you let it take its turn?

Always keep the candle lit.



GRANTS FROM THE BENEVOLENT FUND

Grants of assistance are available for Y's Retired Members, through the Officers of Y's Retired of the UK.

Are you in a situation where you are about to make a significant expenditure on something that will help or improve your condition of life, i.e., stair-lift, mobility scooter, electric chairs, adjustable bed, or similar?

Do you personally know of a Y's Retired member who would benefit from a gift (of up to £500) towards such costs? If so, please make contact (by email or in writing) with brief details to our secretary, Vic Hills.

Vic Hills Email: vic_hills@yahoo.co.uk or at:- 5 Kernham Drive, Tilehurst, Reading, RG31 6GB

All applications will be quickly assessed by two independent panel members who may contact the applicant for any additional information required to assist consideration of the request.

NOTICE FROM YMCA PENSION PLAN

Several members of Y's Retired of UK will be in receipt of a YMCA pension, either paid via the Plan's administrators, XPS, or via an annuity provider such as Legal & General or Aviva.

Information on the YMCA Pension Plan can be found on the website www.pensions.ymca.org.uk which does not require any password to access it.

To help with the ongoing administration, it is important to let the YMCA Pensions Administrator know of any changes to your circumstances, such as change of address. You can do so by contacting XPS Administration by email: YMCA@xpsgroup.com or telephoning 0118 918 5750 and ask for Balbir Sandhu.

YMCA NEWS

Lots of current news across the federation of YMCAs are on the Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn platforms and I have included the links to those platforms below.

For information, please tap on the links below.

ymca.org.uk |
[Facebook](#) |
[Twitter](#) |
[Instagram](#) |