



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

SEPTEMBER 2022

www.yretired.co.uk



President's ponderings

It has (and at this moment continues to be) a long hot summer, especially here in Hertfordshire, where we have forgotten what rain looks like! Harpenden usually boasts wonderful green open spaces almost in the town centre, but now they are brown, dry and desolate.

So much so that you might be forgiven for expecting a pride of lions to emerge in places where the grass has been left to grow tall as part of a rewilding scheme!

In other parts of the country, the heat has brought real disasters with homes burned down and crops lost in scenes which we would never have imagined happening here in the UK. Our thoughts have to be with those who have suffered in this way.

These events have certainly focussed our minds on the environmental challenge that the world faces and the part that we play in exacerbating it or addressing it. 'Global warming' can sound innocuous enough but when the real effects of it are felt in our own homes and gardens its danger becomes starkly real.

But of course, like many issues in the world, we can feel powerless as individuals and unable to do anything about it - this is an issue that requires global action by governments and requires action by the industrial giants which, as we saw at COP26 in Glasgow, is not easy to achieve!

However, there is hope!

We can all make our contribution to the slowdown of Climate Change in the way in which we use the worlds resources,

We can try and shun the prepacked and plastic wrapped food on our supermarket shelves,

We can try to buy more locally sourced food or change to electric driven vehicles, buy items made only from sustainable resources and so much more.

We can also make a difference by supporting and encouraging those who have brought fighting these issues into the World YMCA domain.

The 2022 World Council adopted achieving a Sustainable World as one of the movements 'Four Key Pillars of Impact' agreeing that:

The YMCA believes that we should all commit and take action for the protection and regeneration of our Planet, preparing for a Just Transition to a world where humans live in full harmony with nature.

The YMCA commits to become a Greener Movement, an active youth voice on climate justice and champion of youth-led sustainability solutions.

These are powerful statements and, with the power and energy of youth behind them, we should find encouragement in knowing that young people in the YMCA can be part of making a difference in the world which so desperately needs it!

Graham Clarke

Y's Retired Website:- www.yretired.co.uk

PRESIDENT : Graham Clarke
 23 Welbeck Rise, Harpenden, Herts, AL5 1RT
 T 01727 857786
 E: Julia-graham@talk21.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 & WEBSITE DESIGNER:
 David H Smith
 Chyreene Warra, Rosehill, Marazion, TR17 0HB
 T 01736 719432
 E: ses.dhs@hotmail.co.uk

SCOTLAND Y'S RETIRED REP:- Keith Rennie
 78 Dundee Rd, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 1DW
 T: 01382 774092
 E: keith@beechhedges.com

SECOUR SPECIAUX:- John Naylor
 Orchard House, 25b Cramond Glebe Rd, Edinburgh, EH6 6NT
 T: 0131 312 8956
 E: cjohn.naylor@outlook.com

Y's Retired World Council Conference 2022 Report received from John Naylor (seen here with WFYR colleague)



This year the Y's Retired (WFYR) was more closely integrated with the main World Council with three intertwined strands – WFYR, World Council and our Danish hosts.

WFYR Conference

As always there was a great fellowship - friendships renewed, and new ones made. Among the highlights were:

Election of a new WFYR President

Kohei Yamada from Japan was elected as the new President, the first non-USA President. This is a milestone for Y's Retired and an expression of the global maturity of WFYR. However, it is recognised that our USA colleagues do still form an important bedrock for Y's Retired throughout the world. Unfortunately, Phil Dwyer, the outgoing President who did an outstanding job, had covid so there was not an opportunity to thank him formally.

Global Retirement Initiative

Pensions for retired colleagues who have no state or YMCA retirement income. The Latin America and Caribbean Area scheme piloted by WFYR with support from USA Brotherhood Fund has proved viable and plans are under way to extend it to Kenya and Sri Lanka as pilots for Asia and Africa. The poverty of retired colleagues has been a longstanding concern and it is very encouraging to see the progress being made.

Secours Speciaux

The report covered the response to covid where almost 100 retirees received at least \$1000 to help them and their families through the crisis and the \$100,000 given to support staff jobs threatened by covid as part of WAY initiative to prevent vulnerable national movements closing. There were heartfelt thanks from recipients some of whom were at the conference.

The new website, simplified application processes and form were outlined as were plans for the future expansion of the fund.

Area and Movement Reports were made to WFYR by World and Area leaders starting Carlos Sanvee, our very impressive Secretary General as were Y's Retired area Vice Presidents. An underlying theme for the next four years is the expansion of national Y's Retired organisations.

One of the most moving reports was from Viktor, the Ukraine YMCA National Secretary, who spoke of the courageous work by colleagues in the 18 local YMCA's who were providing support in their local communities including food, clothes, shelter counselling and family support.

There was a separate WFYR session led by Aarhus University on religious persecution and the challenges faced by countries and YMCAs worldwide. The final session brainstormed ideas for the future development of WFYR.

World Council

Record attendance 2300 (50% in person and 50% online); memorable presentations; excellent chemistry within the leadership, particularly between the President and Secretary General; and fantastic Danish hosts, all resulted in an outstanding experience for a conference hardened person like me!

For the first time WFYR formally endorsed Vision 2030 the World Alliance (WAY) strategic plan – an endorsement noted by the whole World Council. This reflected the way that World Alliance had consulted widely and researched thoroughly. All WFYR delegates participated in main World Council sessions and the co-labs (small cross generational working groups) to engage with the four main pillars of the strategic plan and its local relevance. Much to my surprise it was one of the Council highlights.

Danish Hosts

Aarhus, known as the city of smiles, lived up to its reputation. The ever-smiling team of Danish YMCA young volunteers gave a fantastic boost to the event. They were so warm and positive. For the first time we were entertained for dinner in family homes. The visits to YMCA and related work were stimulating. The icing on the cake was a visit with the Scottish delegation to Legoland!

Regrets? I was the only WFYR delegate from the UK. You missed a great experience. Hopefully there will be more UK retirees in Toronto, the 2026 World Council venue.

John Naylor.

August 2022

LET'S ZOOM TOGETHER!!

Join us for our 2nd Y' Retired of UK
Coffee Morning on Zoom on

Tuesday 25th October 2022 at 10.15am.

An opportunity to catch up with old friends and faces and news from the Movement and YMCA Archives

Meeting ID: 842 7764 6386
Passcode: YMCA

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84277646386?pwd=NnRreXdsbu0xQiVEUWE0V01hbFF4dz09>

Please let Graham Clarke know in advance your intention to join in and join us, by emailing him on:-

Julia-graham@talk21.com

**World Fellowship of Y's Retired (WFYR)
Group photo in Aarhus Denmark 2022**



From the left is New President of WFYR for 2022-26, Kohei Yamada from the Japanese YMCA. Followed by James Francis Ekow Sua Rhule from YMCA Ghana, Bonnie Mairs from YMCA USA, John Naylor from YMCA UK, Don Anderson from YMCA USA and Eckard Geisler from YMCA Germany.



Meet the new YMCA World President! A warm welcome to Soheila Hayek of YMCA Lebanon, elected at World Council on Tuesday 5 July 2022.

“Our global movement is a beautiful giant that is hiding in plain view, and it is time to change that! In parallel with pursuing the goals of Vision 2030, we have the task of elevating our brand and making our name synonymous with Youth Empowerment.”

No other youth empowerment organization can claim to operate in 120 countries, she said, or claim to serve more than 60 million people. “Let us put our collective thinking hats on and come up with inspired new revenue streams to fund our Vision 2030 plans and dream up alternative revenue schemes to build our reserves.”

Increasing the number of young people in leadership positions at local and national YMCAs and ensuring more women are in leadership positions at local and national levels are priorities for us all, she said.

“Leaders of the YMCA: let’s do our best for a world that desperately needs us,” she said. “This is our moment. This is our time to ignite change.”



Francis and Mary Asiema with John Naylor

Our visit in Germany was interesting and very historic because it was our first time to go to East Germany. We learned a lot to share with our families and communities back at home.

We come from a Country where Christians are the majority and we take everything for granted. We observed that that was not the same thing in East Germany. This came to us as a surprise because we had taken things for granted without knowing that there were other places where they had been and was still discrimination against Christianity both socially and politically.

We really appreciated and valued the hospitality we received from our hosts. The Programme they organized for us was all inclusive. It wasn’t just a visit in the form of tourism to visit interesting places but the tourism of meeting people and sharing their culture as well as learning from one another historically and socially. We were able to recall the history we learned in School as we faced and came close to the reality. The visit was therefore not only historical for us but also educational.

Our appreciation goes to our hosts in Germany who initiated this wonderful Programme as part of the YMCA World Council Meeting. This added economic value to our trip to Denmark. It provided us with an opportunity for a special holiday in Europe which we would have not been able to make after the formal meeting in Aarhus due to financial inability. In the absence of this special Programme, we would have booked our tickets to travel from the Nairobi Airport in Kenya to the Hotel in Aarhus and from there again to the AirPort back home!!

Francis and Mary Asiema.

Secretary General Carlos Sanvee asked delegates to ‘Go forth and ignite!’

The 20th YMCA World Council wrapped up on - Friday 8 July 2022 - in Aarhus, Denmark and online. Resolutions approved; three days' worth of Co-Labs concluded with a clear plan for implementation of Vision 2030; and the new President, Soheila Hayek, gave an inspiring address. All this with a spectacular closing ceremony.

See you for the 21st YMCA World Council in Toronto in July 2026 - if not before!





Y's RETIRED COLLEAGUES GATHERING AT GIRTON GOLF CLUB

Stephen & Hannah Milner, Roger & Elaine Hunt, Gwynne Jervis (Company Secretary of YMCA Pension Scheme), David Pendle, Ann & Ron Ingamells, Jim Lamb, Andy Winter, Mike & Maggie Wilkinson, President Graham Clarke, Thelma & Paul Kerridge, Vic & Mary Hills, Tony & Jenny Miles.

While the weather forecasters were warning the population to keep cool and avoid the heat 18 Y's retirees and their guest Gwynne Jervis were arriving from Bath, Hereford, Dorchester and addresses less distant to enjoy lunch, catch up, relate grandchildren and great grandchildren exploits and other topics that folk like us share.

We enjoyed the company of folk who hadn't been able to participate for several years, those who have been regulars from the early days, and delightfully new participants.

The noise of the comfortable chatter in the bar flowed on into the restaurant as we sat down to eat, only paused as President Graham welcomed us and invited Reverend Ron to open in prayers, for colleagues who had departed since we last met, colleagues who had submitted apologies through medical necessity and all colleagues.

When Nick and his catering team had removed plates (with minimal debris) and cutlery etc and coffee and tea served, Gwynne chatted to us about her role and how it had gradually been separated from that of YMCA England Company Secretary. Reminding as she talked of the recently circulated Superannuation Annual Newsletter and the improving position of the scheme. The responsibilities and abilities of Pension trustees and their advisers, including ensuring that YMCA's especially those developing new projects are able to meet their obligations to current and new members of the YMCA pension plan. Up to the year 2090 - yes - 68 years ahead. Subject to Plagues, Land Grabs, Flood or Scorched earth events our pensions are in good hands - thank you Gwynne and your colleagues.

The group photo on the practice putting green taken - colleagues dallied in the sun - reluctant it seemed to depart. It was a good day, we hope that those who gave their apologies, greetings and good wishes:- David Bedford, Neil Sjoberg, Ray Allen, Norman Owen, Rupert George and his wife, will be able to join us next time.

Our time together was so enjoyable there were ideas mooted of other venues and times - watch this space.

'Wellcome' to the Archives!

Colleagues will remember that the YMCA Archives (all 978 boxes of them!) are in the care of the Cadbury Research Library Special Collections at the University of Birmingham and being indexed and conserved as part of a project funded by the Wellcome Trust, along with the archives of the Youth Hostel Association under the title '*Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds*'.

The project is funded to run until June 2023 and employs two full time archivists, a student placement intern and volunteer. A recent update meeting heard of the progress being made on indexing and cataloguing national, regional and local papers prior to 2000.

The purpose is to produce a coherent accessible index of all the documents available which will make it more practicable for researchers around the world to access the information that they seek.

Although held back by COVID, the project is almost halfway through and work is about to begin on Community and Youth activities, BAOR work and associated organisations such as the Women's Auxiliary, BSA/AOS/APS as well as personal papers lodged with the archive.

A challenge that the project is beginning to face is the indexing of unannotated photographs taken of places and people not easily recognised. Y's Retired memories may prove helpful in solving these problems!!

It is hoped that a Zoom Meeting of Y's retired in the autumn will include a visit from Matthew Goodwin who is responsible for the YMCA part of the project.

You can find out more about the project and see on line blogs from the project at:-

<https://ymcaandyhaarchives.wordpress.com/>

or contact Matthew Goodwin at M.Goodwin.2@bham.ac.uk

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Dear David,
Recently received the July bulletin and I am delighted that you felt Ethiopia and Vietnam deserved inclusion.

There was an interesting sequel to Vietnam which may be of interest. The World Alliance Executive Committee met later that year and the various sub-committees went about their business. My regular Chairman could not be present so Gerald Ward kindly substituted. The Finance Committee, which seemed to consist of Swiss bankers met and were horrified that the Refugee Committee had exceeded its Vietnam budget.

Gerald and I were sent for and I was severely chastised. Gerald had no idea what was going on, but he was distinctly on my side. Fred Franklin was there and during the chastisement suddenly got up and went to the window. Silence fell at that and Fred said, "Just looking at Mont Blanc" He was actually hiding his anger. However, that was that. Until

Later that evening Fred Franklin took prayers for The Executive including the Finance Committee. He took as his reading that wonderful passage, Acts chapter 3 - when Peter and John go to the temple and meet the man who had been lame from birth. But instead of healing the man Peter explains that they are late for prayer and will speak when they return. When they returned the man had gone.

When the Disciples were together that evening, John told what had taken place and the disciples referred the matter to the Finance Committee who decided that a one-off donation might be made from unallocated funds.

And again, Peter went into the garden and wept.

Then Fred read the passage as it really is..... and walked off.

I never had another issue with The Finance Committee
Bless them.

Jim (Thomson)

Dear David – thank you for sharing the sad message about Arthur.
We have had time and space to reflect in Mevagissey. Read a wonderful book by Stephen Cottrell entitled 'Dear England.' It offered some superb insights. Also, to glean some words of wisdom from Sister Julian of Norwich. All is well, all will be well!

Had a dicey start to the holiday as Mervyn had a crisis of confidence about whether he felt well enough to go, however it was decided to pray about it and he took fresh courage. We had a wonderful week at Mawgan Porth and then a heavenly week in Mevagissey, in a fisherman's cottage overlooking the harbour and the sea. We have all felt the benefit I feel. However, we had trauma at the end as Phillip, Ruth's son, came to help us with the luggage and on the way back, experienced a car crash at an accident 'black spot'.

Mercifully, apart from shock, he and the other driver escaped injury. It was in one of those country lanes, but he had the right of way. He had to swerve violently as the other car came out at a junction. There was nothing coming from the other side but he lost control, hit a tree and rebounded to the opposite side of the road, landing in a ditch.

We are so thankful it ended as it did and there were no fatalities. All for now my dears God bless you.

Beryl and Mervyn Moorehead)



YMCA Retirement Indebted to a Career in the YMCA

I make no apology for putting my 'pen to paper' but in recent times of reflection can but share my thoughts on the immense value of a YMCA Career prior to retirement! Many are the positions, high and low, held by YMCA staff during their working lives from which they have retired looking to the future without the daily grind but quickly realising a sense of loss.

Some adjust in time but as one member of senior staff shared with me that on retirement he felt he was dropping off the 'end of a cliff' and feeling helpless such was the change from being the head of a 'department' giving orders. No longer was he in authority, no longer was he serving the needs of others! We all had our experiences on signing off to live on adequate YMCA pensions!

However, my reminiscing was awakened by the amazing experience I and others had enjoyed during the years of service. For we had worked for an organisation unlike many others given us whether by training, education or work experience a huge intake of knowledge and information and here I bore you with a few.

We had experienced a learning curve from the first to the last day. I quote. A knowledge of accountancy, building maintenance, sale of and purchase of property, employment of staff, social services, human relationships, counselling, legacies and wills, electronics in all its guises not least I am afraid ZOOM, Court appearances on behalf of wayward members, health and safety, safeguarding, writing skills, Christian principles as related to other Faiths etc. etc. you could add 'ad nauseum'! What other employing body can compete with that?!

What happens then in retirement according to your experience. I have found a lot of 'loneliness' for single colleagues together with 'teleitus', illness and ageing problems, bereavement of spouses, family members and friends!

With all our work experiences as 'paragraph four' those skills developed give opportunity of sharing voluntary service to numerous Charities in the Local Community, not least the Church always crying out for treasurers or people with the necessary skills like pastoral care among our ageing friends for whom a regular telephone call makes all the difference!

Quo Vardis (Whither goest thou?)

Warm regards to you all! - **Jim Lamb**

Members correspondence

Colleagues – you might recall that in the July 2022 newsletter Clyde Binfield brought to our attention a skit played at a National Assembly in front of our then President Lord Jimmy Remnant. Clyde writes:-

I recall the Annual National Assembly when an appropriately irreverent skit featured “Lord Leftover”. There were anxious looks to see how he might take it. There was no need to worry. It was a bit obvious, it was corny, but it was affectionate as well as very funny, and our President showed every sign of genuine delight.

Well David, for the record, it was in fact Richard Gooch who made up the Lord Leftover skit referred to by Clyde Binfield. Do hope you are impressed with my memory!
Roger (Hunt)

*Hi Roger - Thanks for jogging my memory for I was at that National Assembly - I think in Warwick University - and because I have a photographic memory I can remember taking a picture of exactly that occasion with Richard Gooch on stage and hearty laughter from Jimmie Remnant - Great memories – thank you Clyde
(from the Editor)*

I am keeping in touch with Walter Crosby who has had a bad stroke. Mentally alert as ever but with speech difficulty. He is at home being cared for by his son and daughter in law.

Yours, **Jim (Thomson)**

So sorry to learn that dear Arthur has died. He was such a delightful and kindly chap, whose memory is indelibly etched upon my mind.

Kindest regards, **Roger (Hunt)**

Dear David,
Much saddened by the passing of Arthur Bennett. He was indeed a true Christian gentleman who dedicated himself to service above self in all avenues of his life. My prayerful thoughts are with his family at this time.
Warm regards **Jim (Lamb)**

Hi David,
I was sad to hear about Arthur. I kept in touch reasonably well with a phone call every few weeks. Always a delight to talk to him and he never complained and was always so positive.
I'm looking forward to seeing old friends on 13th July in Cambridge - **Ron (Ingamells)**

Hi David,
Am devastated that one of our YMCA colleagues should die in such circumstances. Nick was held in much respect by all who knew him best. He made a valued contribution to the YMCA and will be remembered as a fine Christian gentleman. Our love, condolences and prayerful thoughts are with his family at this sad time. **Jim (Lamb)**

Hi David,
So sorry to hear the news of the passing of Nicholas Nightingale. He was a lovely man and a great figurehead to the YMCA.
My sincere condolences – **Ray (Allen)**

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.

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 (underscore between Vic & Hills) or 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.

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](#) |
[LinkedIn](#)



ARTHUR BENNETT
28th May 1923 - 13 June 2022

I first had the great pleasure of meeting my long-time friend and colleague when I started fulltime work at Ipswich YMCA in September 1964 at the age of 16. Arthur was my first Line Manager and with great wit and laughter, very soon made me feel at home.

I lived in the YMCA Hostel in Park Road, Arthur was Hostel Secretary and I was Assistant Youth Secretary (Trainee) with John Cockett. Our CEO at the time was Ray Onions.

Over the next few years Arthur taught and showed me his many talents which I took on board. He taught me that the job was a vocation, and that a vocation was like a gift from God, 9am to 5pm was immaterial.

So, regular work started at 7.30am and finished at 11pm six days a week, with some time off in the afternoons. Arthur was always rushing around fulfilling jobs and tasks that needed to be done and always with a big smile on his face and time for all his staff whatever their designation.

He was full of integrity and was grounded in a strong value base given by his parents which, in turn, rubbed off on all those close to him. He was a joy to be with and nothing was too much for him. He recognised that his important YMCA work for which he had trained, consisted of guiding, nurturing, assisting Ipswich young people alongside many varied overseas British Council students, all male, who lived in the hostel, often coming from warring countries.

All were made at home in Arthur's hostel; even regular entertainment was organised for them, but not on Friday's because Friday was always the day Arthur left Park Road early to travelled to Lowestoft to be with his beloved Rosemary.

Arthur was known as "Arthur Rank" because of his love of cinema; so much that every Wednesday through the Autumn, Winter and Spring seasons there would be a variety of classic films released, all 16mm films, shown in the Ipswich YMCA Main Hall. When one reel finished the 6 second dots on projector 1 reel showed and seamlessly the second 16mm started on projector 2 showing the next reel. The Ipswich Gaumont had nothing on "Arthur Rank."

And when CinemaScope arrived it took the whole of Wednesday afternoon to unfold and erect the massive screen, such was the attention to detail given by this wonderful servant to musicals and classic films.

And when he was caught 'short' he often used a turn of phrase that I have borrowed all my life from him, "I'm just off to visit the Pope."

From those early impressionable days at Ipswich, I left for Lincoln YMCA and Arthur left with family to Stockton YMCA. From Lincoln I travelled 4 years later to become CEO of Barnard Castle YMCA, County Durham and Arthur was appointed CEO of Nottingham YMCA, where he and his family stayed until his retirement around 1997.

By this stage I had travelled out to Hong Kong YMCA and 7 years later returned to rebuild Waltham Forest YMCA, become Regional Secretary, then Area Secretary of some 53 YMCAs in the Central Region of England, one of which was Nottingham YMCA.

So happily, I was linked up again with my dear friend Arthur and his dutiful and supportive wife Rosemary. Matthew and Suzanne were starting their high-powered professional careers having both excelled in truly grounded knowledge given to them by Arthur and Rosemary. They were so very proud of each of their children and their partners which each went onto love and marry, resulting in grandchildren that Arthur and Rosemary so loved and were besotted with, regularly sharing with my Sue and I, who was doing what, which, how and when.

This humble, honest Christian gentle-man never stopped his service to others. He had so many strong political views of the day, and if they affect the everyday man or woman, he would make a clear thoughtful reference to them and their plight.

Arthur loved people and folk loved him back – just as Rosemary left a big hole in many hearts, so Arthur will surely do the same. Not quite the 100 years man, but Arthur with his great humility, surpasses so many other milestones, his remarkable journey through life resulting in a life so well lived.

So Arthur taught me that:-

"Humility is the ability to be without pride or arrogance and it is a principal character that should be seen in those who follow Jesus Christ. Jesus is the best example of someone who humbly followed God's plan for His life."

David (Smith) Editor

Dear David & Sue

Thank you so much for kindly informing us of the sad passing of our mutual friend. A few reminiscences.....

I first met Arthur in July 1960, having just completed my National Service in the Royal Army Pay Corps, otherwise known as the Civilian Light Infantry. I was planning a holiday, but the YMCA intervened. Having been accepted for a place on the Residential Training Course for YMCA Secretaries, I left the Army on the Thursday, and went to Ipswich as a Supernumerary, on the Monday.

At that time Ipswich YMCA was in two parts, one a traditional local association, the other an Armed Services Center for USAF services personal based nearby at Bentwaters and Lakenheath.

Arthur's first words to me were, with characteristically impeccable politeness "May I call you Paul, or do you prefer Mr. Harper?" On the first Monday in October we set-off for London and the Training Course, (having lunch at my parent's home in Chelmsford en-route).

One of Arthur's great interest was films and he ran a very successful Film Club at Ipswich YMCA, complete with music by Robert Farnon, dimmed lighting and ice creams available during the interval!!

Whilst on the "Course" Arthur would visit what were then known as "Classic" cinemas, and inevitably emerge with free tickets. He was a wonderful support during the course, and although 16 years older than most of us, still fully participated in all the Physical Education, under the leadership of Commander Chick Thomson.

Following the course Arthur went to Ipswich, and I was with him when England won the World Football Cup, Arthur's interest in football could be summed up in what he said to me "Why don't they give them a ball each, instead of them all chasing after just one"

After a period at Stockton-on Tees YMCA, Arthur became General Secretary at Nottingham YMCA, having been there as Asst. to Ray Collins some years earlier. I used to visit and always received a most hospitable welcome from Rosemary and Arthur. It was a privilege to say a few words at his retirement, alongside Dr Clyde Binfield. Following retirement Arthur helped at Derby YMCA.

He was Churchwarden at All Saints Nottingham for many years, and cared deeply for the Church of England, indeed most of our recent telephone conversations related to Arthur's concerns regarding C of E!

He was involved ecumenically in Nottingham and also served with Christian Aid. Along with Rosemary he attended the Reunions of our Training Course, the last one was held in Nottingham in 2001.

I am one of so many who have enjoyed Arthur's friendship' such privilege, his kindness, humour will never be forgotten. As someone once said "Arthur didn't talk about Christianity....he lived it!

Paul (Harper)



TRIBUTE TO NICHOLAS NIGHTINGALE 1942 – 2022

PAST YMCA ENGLAND NATIONAL SECRETARY AND EX INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY OF THE WORLD ALLIANCE OF YMCAs

<https://nicknightingale.muchloved.com>

(The above address will allow you to leave condolence comments - leave a donation to Christian Aid or YMCA)

It is with a heavy heart that we have set up this website to let you know that Nick Nightingale died on 12 July during a sailing holiday in Finland. The photo above was taken during this holiday. He had been having a great time with his friend Graham Child, enjoying the sailing and weather. Early on 12 July, he set out for a swim and never came back. The coast guard was alerted, and his body was found later on that day.

It is a profound shock and loss for us as his family. And if you knew him, we expect you feel the same too. He touched a lot of lives and his life will have impacted so many others.

We don't yet know what the next steps will be. We can be sure of a few things, though. There will be a funeral and a proper send-off, befitting a man who loved a party and chatting to new people.

He was deeply committed to both Christian Aid and the YMCA. One of his many enthusiasms was encouraging young people to get into business and be entrepreneurial. If you would like to, you can donate to Christian Aid or the YMCA via this website.

For now, the best way to help us to give us some time and space to work through the practicalities of Nick's rather dramatic death. It feels fitting that a man who lived life to the full, determined to make the most of things, should die on a holiday doing one of the many things he loved. We will be in touch when we have more to tell you.

Photos - if you would like to upload photos to this site but are having difficulty doing so, please use the contact tab to send Liz your details and we'll do our best to help.

With love and gratitude for all the kind messages and support we have already received,

**Reverend Sue Nightingale,
daughters Becky and Lizzie and son, Tom**

“he was so much more than 'a Boss”

When Nick joined YMCA England as National Secretary, we did not know what to expect, this being the first time this post had been occupied by someone who had not previously served as a YMCA Staff Member.

It was not long before we got to know an endearing and challenging colleague, committed to making the world a better and more just place, encouraging everyone to use their gifts and skills within the YMCA. He was always interested in new ideas and fitted well into the atmosphere of the Blair years of government.

His methods were not always orthodox! Staff meetings were held at the Farm in Sherriff Hutton, work appraisals held over coffee in the members room of the Law Society- he liked to do things differently! A man of ideas and plans, through personal experience he was committed to the development of Parenting work in YMCA England, raising the funds for it himself. Sometimes as a staff team we would try to pull him back just a little so that we could have time to respond to his next idea!

Always generous with his time and encouragement, he was so much more than 'a Boss' he was very much a friend over the years.

It was with mixed feelings of loss and pride that we saw him move on to Geneva to be Secretary General of the World Alliance of YMCAs, a post he held in his inimitable style along with Sue's support. Julia and I were welcomed to their flat in Geneva and enjoyed being shown around and enjoying forays into France and long lunches in Annecy!!

It was through a typical Nick error that Julia and I and our church became involved in the YMCA in Albania! I received a misdirected email intended for someone else about YMCA Skhodra. However, it was timely as our church in St Albans was seeking a mission partner. Nick came and spoke to a meeting at the church about the YMCA work with Roma families and so began a fruitful relationship between our church and YMCA Skhodra and participation in the Albanian Field group.

An 'always to be remembered' moment was waiting for Nick to join our group at Tirana airport for the flight home. With little time to spare he emerged battered and bloodied from a taxi after getting lost in the shrubs and hills around Tirana and wandering into a restricted military zone. He managed to persuade the military to take him to the taxi waiting for him at the bottom of the hill to catch the flight.

Having been patched up by the airport manager, Nick joined the flight telling us not to tell Sue of his escapade!

Nick's commitment to his faith is evident in his support of Sue as she entered the priesthood and through his love of his family, his parish work and involvement in Christian Aid.

It was a delight to spend the day with Nick and Sue at Fountains Abbey a couple of years ago.

We thank God for all that he achieved, for all that he gave to us and in our hearts and memories continues to do so.

**Rev Graham Clarke –
President of Y's Retired UK**

The passing of

NICK NIGHTINGALE Secretary General of the World YMCA from 1998 to 2002



As secretary-general, he acted on his vision set out in his 1998 acceptance speech:

"I think the YMCA is about helping people pull themselves together. At the heart of our task is bringing transformation to individuals, their relationship with God, their sense of self-worth, the opportunity to be fully realized. The YMCA has changed me and I'm sure it has changed many of you. Our work with individuals, I suggest, is the foundation on which everything else is built. Our calling is to work first with individuals and then through them with their communities.

I developed a vision of a world bridge called the YMCA. It's a bridge that spans all of our activities and aspirations, and our many different versions and images of what the YMCA is and does. A bridge that allows us to recognize that difference, that each YMCA is unique."

He was a unifying Secretary General as he completed a mission and organizational review and led the adoption of a Governance Policy Agreement and an overall operational plan for strengthening the Movement. He also worked closely with then President Martin Vogler to ensure unity around a range of difficult political issues.

A commercial lawyer by training, before being World Secretary General of the YMCA, he was National Secretary General of YMCA England.

Since stepping down in 2002, he has continued to serve causes he passionately believed in. He has served on the boards of several non-profit organizations, promoted Fairtrade products and volunteered for Oxfam.

He supported the ministry of his wife, an Anglican priest, and belatedly converted to the possibilities presented by doing business online. He enjoyed the day in London in June 2019, when he joined current Secretary General Carlos Sanvee and former General Secretary Johan Vilhelm Eltvik and Bart Shaha to mark the YMCA's 175th anniversary in a special service at St Martin's in the Field, followed by a reception at the Houses of Parliament of the United Kingdom.

Carlos Sanvee writes:

"Nick hired me in 1998, while I was still a young YMCA officer from my hometown of Togo. He saw in me something I didn't even know I had. He believed me. He invited me to work at the YMCA world headquarters in Geneva and gave me the Finance portfolio. He told me that I didn't need an academic background for the role – he simply said that I had done well in Togo, and I could do it at a headquarters, where people would help me when I needed it.

All the while, he insisted that I was equipped to be a leader, and when I was named secretary-general, he smiled and said, "I'm not surprised." He was my mentor and confidant, and he and his family became my friends. I remember going to see him in 2007 in York, when I was considering applying for the post of Secretary General of the African Alliance of YMCAs, and he advised me to accept the post.

He dies the week after the 20th World YMCA Council, when the global YMCA Movement set a clear course for the future. It reminds me that as we move forward to serve the youth, we are standing on the shoulders of many great people, like Nick, who are gone. We are eternally grateful for everything he has brought us.

My sincere condolences to his beloved wife Sue and their children Becky, Liz and Tom. The Sanvee family was proud to feel part of the Nightingale family, and the YMCA family mourns one of their best."

The Brazilian YMCA movement also shows solidarity with the posthumous tributes to the dear friend of Brazil, Nick Nightingale.

<https://www.ymca.int/in-memoriam-former-world-ymca-secretary-general-nick-nightingale-1942-2022/>

**UPDATE RECEIVED ON
26TH JULY 2022**

Dear friends

It is two weeks today since Nick died whilst swimming beside the yacht where he, Graham and his sailing friends were moored near Noto an island north of Helsinki in the Baltic Sea. The autopsy suggests he had heart problems, although the water was warm.

We are overwhelmed by the generosity of you all and for the many letters, cards messages and prayers we have received. Thank you. The website which Liz set up is a great comfort

nicknightingale.muchloved.com

Nick died doing what he loved. He had a strong faith in a God of love.

Blessings – Sue (Nightingale)

THE YMCA – BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES IN CANADA

Whilst trawling through youtube memorabilia Stephen Milner came across this site which explains the historic connection between the Canadian railways and the Canadian YMCAs and their beginning in 1894. It's a good watch – just tap on the link below:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uDslyyW1iJY>

BRITISH BOYS FOR BRITISH FARMS

The BBBF Reunions had to be postponed since 2019 due to Covid.

I am delighted that the 7th BBBF Reunion will be held at the Royal Agricultural University (RAU) (formally College) at Cirencester from Tuesday evening 23 August and all day Wednesday 24 August 2022, which incidentally, will be within the 90th year of the founding of the YMCA British boys for British Farms Training Scheme in 1932.

We will have a Dinner with Lord Bathurst on the Tuesday evening in the Lord Bathurst Suite at the University.

Overnight accommodation with Breakfast is also available. On the Wednesday there will be a talk and a tour of Lord Bathurst's large Estate next to the RAU with Lunch at the Polo Club. About 30 people including partners / guests will be attending.

Stephen and Hanna Milner

GRATEFUL THANKS

Sincere thanks for a sizable donation towards Y's Retired of UK from Professor David Miller who was a Board member of London Central YMCA and a regular attendee of the Cambridge (Girton Golf Club) annual gathering.

Professor David is now reaching his 92nd birthday and living near Burgess Hill, East Sussex.

NICHOLAS NIGHTINGALE'S FUNERAL

Nick's funeral was held at St Chad's Church, Campleshon Road, South Bank, York, YO23 1EY at 12 noon on Friday 12 August 2022.

Those attending were encouraged to wear colourful clothes, particularly ties or socks for men.

YMCA folk present and representing Y's Retired of UK were Julia and Graham Clarke, Joy Madeiros, David Pendle, Clyde and Noreen Binfield, and Peter and Gill Posner- Peter ex World President now Vice President of YMCA England and Wales.

One of the readings was read by the current Secretary General of the World Alliance, Carlos Sanvee who Nick had nurtured during his time in Geneva.

The service had been planned by Nick and included music from Iona, times of reflection and the singing of the camp fire song 'You will never get to heaven in a baked bean tin, cos a baked bean tin got baked beans in!' The coffin was carried out accompanied by a recording of the Radetzky March with the congregation clapping along. It was very memorable and moving!!

World YMCA Newsletter



To all those who shared with us at World Council – thank you. To all who couldn't be with us – we missed you. We broke records - and we broke with convention - by bringing together 1200 people in-person in Aarhus, Denmark and 1200 people online, in a first ever hybrid event.

After four long and hard years, we needed to come together as the global YMCA Movement – to look back, to take stock, and to look forward. We have done so in the form of Vision 2030, our shared roadmap for the next decade.

We have flooded you with communications about World Council, but there is still more. Below, please allow us just one more message rounding up all the information. Stand by for our digested versions of the results of the two evaluation surveys (in-person, online), and of the Co-Lab groups which put flesh on the 12 goals of Vision 2030. And treat yourself to another look at the highlights video of a spectacular week.



I have been energised by what we shared together, and I hope you have too. Let me just quote one young American volunteer, Sophia, who wrote to say: 'The sessions I attended taught me a lot and inspired me, and actually gave me hope that there are truly good people in this world. Thank you so much for making me a part of YMCA World Council 2022'.

My profound thanks to all who made it happen, and to all who gave so much of themselves so that we, in turn, can continue to give so much of ourselves to young people and to communities. Our world is suffering. It needs us more than ever. This is our moment, this is our time. Let's ignite change.

Carlos Sanvee, World YMCA Secretary General