

Kingswood, UK - Chartered 1960

The Youngster



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This letter was received a couple of weeks ago by Alan. It is in recognition of the dedication that Alan has shown to the Y's Men's movement for years and years. Please read the award that is reproduced on the next page. - It says it all - and it's true.

Many, many congratulations Alan.



Y's MEN INTERNATIONAL

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Harry M. Ballantyne Award – 3th July 2021.

The Harry M. Ballantyne Award of Merit is the “highest honor awarded by Y's Men”. The award can be bestowed from time to time to some especially deserving friend of Y'sdom - an individual - “who over a long period has rendered service of special value and helpfulness to the Y's Men's Movement.

The recipient is:

Alan Wallington well known as “Wally” from Kingswood Y's Men's Club, Central South Region, Europe.

His contributions to our movement have been exceptional, never ending and growing year after year. Through nearly three decades we have learned from Wally what it means to be a YMI club member.

Thank you so much and congratulations, Wally! You are a most-deserving recipient of the highest award that can be awarded to any club member in our organisation.

Thank you.



HARRY M. BALLANTYNE AWARD

Gratefully bestowed upon

Alan Wallington

in recognition of his dedicated service to
Y's Men International and to the YMCA

It is a privilege for me to bestow the Harry M. Ballantyne Award upon Alan Wallington of the Y's Men's Club of Kingswood in Region Central Southern Europe.

To friends and those who know him in our organisation, Alan Wallington is simply «Wally», and there is no person more dedicated to Y's Men International than he. His contributions to our movement have been exceptional, never ending, and growing year by year. He has served in many leadership positions, but perhaps his biggest accomplishment is the 100% he gives to Y's Men in his daily life – selflessly with no thought to power or glory. Through nearly three decades we have learned from Wally what it means to be a YMI club member, that is someone who is humble, modest, service minded. While he could have easily been International President, Wally has chosen to be a quiet but constant supporter, part of our foundation rather than a crowning ornament.

Alan has been a driving force behind many successful Area Conventions and Area Councils, always kind and always available with good ideas, advice or just an ear to listen. The special waistcoat that he often wears showcasing the various pins of Y's Men is like a trademark for our organisation. He has been particularly instrumental in the planning of the Regional Conferences and Area Conventions held in his hometown of Bristol. (It was during one of these conferences, that he met his second wife, Olya, a member of a Russian affiliated club.)

Before joining Y's Men International Wally was part of the Scouts Movement. When he joined the Y's Men's Club of Kingswood in 1978 our gain was the Scout Movement's loss as he immediately threw himself into the club's activities, showing his prodigious commitment and energy from the very beginning. It wasn't long before he was joining various committees and occupying a seat on the Board of Governors. Wally has held most of the senior positions in his club. He has been president a number of times and is always a willing volunteer when secretarial duties are required. He has been responsible for the club bulletin, *The Youngster*, for many years. He has also held numerous international positions, including International Council Member. He is currently completing two years as Regional Director of Central Southern Europe where he has pursued extension in Italy, Greece and Portugal. He was instrumental in chartering the Zwolle club in 2019, effectively reactivating the Netherlands as country within YMI. He was editor of our international magazine for more than ten years. As the current editor for IP NEWS, he has managed to set a standard that keeps people looking forward to the next issue and successfully coordinates its translation into 11 languages. His work over the last four years as a member of the Manual Review Committee only further showcases him as a YMI powerhouse. From the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic he creatively organised weekly Zoom meetings mainly for the local club members, but also with regular contributors from Germany, France, Australia, Canada and Japan.

If anyone is due an award recognising contribution to YMI in all its forms, it is Alan Wallington. He has demonstrated the tenet that the only Y's Man is an active one in spades.

Awarded at the IP Installation on 3 July 2021
by Y's Men International

Jacob A. Kristensen
International President 2020/21

Jose Varghese
International Secretary General

A Diamond Wedding Celebration

If you are British you know that it is nonsense to organise an outdoor event at any time of year. It could be freezing cold, it could be blowing a gale or it will almost certainly be pouring with rain. Unfortunately Bob Gray is only 83 years old and hasn't realised this yet. Many would suggest that he is a very slow learner and this was proved by his inviting us to a garden party at his house to celebrate his and Sherry's Diamond Wedding Anniversary on the 18th July. All those who took the risk to attend prayed that they would be supplying some sort of cover against the elements. In the event you could be forgiven for thinking that Bob or Sherry had the gift of premonition. The only cover needed was to protect us from the sun which shone far more warmly than on a normal Summer's day.

There were about 30 of us there, everybody complaining



about the temperature (which showed how old we are) but delighted to be with old friends - and close to old friends - again.

If it was a Y's Men's 'do' it must involve food and on this occasion that meant tea or coffee, scones with jam and cream followed by strawberries and cream. Next came the bubbly with an

entertaining proposal of a toast to Robert and Anne given by daughter Samantha. (OK, Sam to you. But she was actually proposing a toast to the health of Robert and Sheridan. Not many of us knew her real name.

The refreshments were, inevitably, very good but the best thing was the company. It was a lovely gathering. Can you imagine what life will be like when that sort of thing is normal? Thanks Bob and Sherry for starting us back on a better road and we hope your next sixty years will be as good as the last sixty.



Ed and his wife Norma go to the county fair every year, And every year Ed would say " Norma, I'd like to ride in that helicopter " Norma always replied, " I know Ed , but that helicopter ride is fifty quid, And fifty quid is fifty quid! "

One year Ed and Norma went to the fair, and Ed said, " Norma, I'm 75 years old. If I don't ride that helicopter, I might never get another chance " To this, Norma replied, " Ed, that helicopter ride is fifty quid, and fifty quid is fifty quid " The pilot overheard the couple and said, " Folks I'll make you a deal. I'll take the both of you for a ride. If you can stay quiet for the entire ride and don't say a word I won't charge you a penny! but if you say one word it's fifty pounds. " Ed and Norma agreed and up they went The pilot did all kinds of fancy manoeuvres, but not a word was heard. He did his daredevil tricks over and over again, but still not a word When they landed, the pilot turned to Ed and said, " By golly, I did everything I could to get you to yell out, but you didn't. I'm impressed! "

Ed replied, " Well, to tell you the truth I almost said something when Norma fell out, but you know. Fifty quid is fifty quid! "



Programme for the next few months

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| August 19 | An indoor picnic - see details below |
| Sept 6 | Board of Governors meeting at Pete Sheppard's house. |
| Dinner Nights | Every third Thursday starting September 16 th - Speaker that night Graham Walker 'The Life and Music of Irving Berlin' |
| Oct 23 2021 | Quiz Night. - This date will probably be altered |
| Oct 9-10 2021 | London Weekend. |
| Feb19 2022. | Proposed date for Race Night |
| Feb 2022 | President's Lunch - actual date to be announced later. |

A New Beginning

Club Picnic - Thursday 19th August Indoors at The Barn - 7.30 pm

Let's start the 21/22 season early with a meeting that doesn't involve lots of negotiation with Hannah and the caterers. Bring you own drink if you fancy more than the tea or coffee that will be organised by the Club, and bring your own picnic food.



The entertainment will be another Desert Island Discs 'do'. But this will only work if about eight people (members and/or partners) let Alan know what they would like to hear and are happy to explain why they have chosen their particular piece. This will be an audio event - no video will be presented as the evening will still be too light for this.

To add to the excitement Bill will be running a raffle so if you have anything you can offer as a prize please bring it along.

Entry to the picnic will be only £2 per person. It would help a great deal if you could bring along a £1 coin if you have any.

Whilst it would be nice to know how many people are coming this isn't critical. The more people who come the more food or drink they will bring.



Now decide what you are going to ask Alan to play at the Picnic and give him a ring.