



Y's RETIRED OF THE UK

Affiliated to the World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees



MAY 2015

www.yretired.co.uk

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear friends and colleagues greetings

I am sure all members are aware from experience in working for or serving the YMCA as Laypersons over many years Annual Reports by nature of the occasion can be a little repetitive! That's my excuse anyway for the Y's Retired of the UK has experienced a rather uneventful year other than the points shared below!

Your elected committee has served the managerial needs of the Y's Retired of the UK admirably over the year under review including the major changeover in committee members due to retirement and loss by death. You will join me I am sure in expressing again our deep appreciation to Reg Wake for his outstanding and unstinting service to the 'Y's Retired of the UK' since its formation resulting in the appointment of a fine successor in Vic Hills as Executive Secretary. I am pleased to add that Vic has settled down extremely well following a smooth 'handover' with Reg and can report that Reg will continue as a consultant to the committee holding the 'brief' of overseeing Secours Speciaux and WFYR.

It was with deep sadness that we learned of the death of Rev John Knox who served as an exemplary leader with Scottish colleagues and as our 'rep' for Europe with the World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees, also as an executive member of the Y's Retired of the UK committee he represented us in attending the WFYR meeting in Estes Park, Colorado USA after which he gave a well prepared report through our Newsletter. Replacing John Knox is Keith Rennie, to be ratified by the Scottish Group at their meeting in May 2015, he was a strong member of the British YMCA Urban Group. The new appointments will be ratified and recorded at the pending AGM.

Losses by death - reported during 2014:- Louis Lewis, John Knox, Joe Renshaw, Fred Evans and Joyce Lamb, we record prayerful thoughts for their service to the YMCA and bereaved families.

The Finance Report being prepared by our treasurer Ray Allen together with the Auditor David Bennison will reveal a sound financial year with all budgeted requirements met. I share here that if we are to play our part with the WFYR and be represented at appropriate international events, only held occasionally, (!) we will need to strengthen the Trust Fund. Donations to the 'Y's Retired of the UK' through Ray Allen marked Trust Fund will be much appreciated.

The three Reunion Groups South West, Cambridge and Scottish have enjoyed their respective 'gatherings' during the year and report good attendances. If any member would like to arrange such a group say to meet for a lunch in a central

location Vic Hills will be pleased to share the names and contact details of retired colleagues living near to your home town who might well be pleased to receive an invitation - no you don't pay for their meals!!!

The Newsletter so ably edited by David Smith is a boon for all our communication needs and many are the compliments received not least to David for this fine publication. Other 'reports' relate to membership and the Scottish Group as referred to above will be reported through the Newsletter.

We must also bear in mind that the nature of our respective National Councils in their employment of staff and retirement procedures have changed over the years. The committee will review how the Y's Retired of the UK can benefit through improved negotiation with their respective departments and the welcome we extend to all professional (paid staff) nearing retirement and raising awareness that Lay Persons meeting the membership criteria are equally welcome to join.

Committee

President	Jim Lamb
Editor Newsletter	David Smith
Executive Secretary	Vic Hills
Scottish affairs	Keith Rennie
Honorary Treasurer	Ray Allen
Indian affairs (Con)	Rupert George

Consultants

David Miller (Lay), Sam Johnston & Reg Wake

All in all a satisfactory year is recorded with thanks to those who gave their services so freely in 2014!

Jim Lamb

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Y's Retired of the UK Treasurers Report for 2014

The financial year for 2014 has seen a slight operating loss of £315.86, maintaining a current year balance of £2787.94.

85 members have paid their subscription this year, with 75 paying by standing order. This has only increased by 6 from 2013.

Our donation to Secours Speciaux was boosted by a generous donation from the Nottingham YMCA's Women's Auxiliary of £550.00 and also of £85 from the sale of BBBF books kindly sold by Steve Milner. Unfortunately I omitted to include our subvention of £200 which I will make sure is paid in 2015 accounts. The total sent was £1371 which in actual fact was £21 more than it should have been, hence the deficit shown in the accounts under Secours Speciaux. I will rectify that in 2015 accounts.

We sent our regular donation of £100 to the World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees.

There was also a special appeal for the World Fellowship of Y's Retired members to attend their 5th World Conference held in Estes Park YMCA of the Rockies Colorado, USA. This amounted to £238s.00p including a £100 donation from our Trust Fund.

You will notice in the accounts that there is a new restricted fund for the Women's Auxiliary Website. Nottingham YMCA's WA were winding up and they wanted the funds of £10s0.00p to be placed somewhere. They gave £550 as a donation to Secours Speciaux and they wanted the remaining £500 to develop a WA Website, which David Smith is managing.

I think, during 2015 we need to think about increasing the numbers of paying members, and also encouraging new members, to join Y's Retired.

I would like to thank David Bennison for examining the accounts and I present these accounts to the Membership of Y's Retired of the UK.

**Hon. Treasurer - Ray Allan
February 2015**

Please find the actual audited accounts separately attached to the email to which this newsletter came to you - (Editor)



Enjoy the ride. There is no return ticket

George Carlin's Views on Aging

Do you realize that the only time in our lives when we like to get old is when we're kids? If you're less than 10 years old, you're so excited about aging that you think in fractions. 'How old are you?' 'I'm four **and a half!**' **You're never thirty-six and a half. You're four and a half, going on five! That's the key.**

You get into your teens, now they can't hold you back. You jump to the next number, or even a few ahead.

'How old are you?' 'I'm gonna be 16!' You could be 13, but hey, you're gonna be 16! And then the greatest day of your life ! You become 21. Even the words sound like a ceremony. **YOU BECOME 21. YESSSS!!!**

But then you **turn 30.** Oooohh, what happened there? Makes you sound like bad milk! He **TURNED**; we had to throw him out. There's no fun now, you're just a sour-dumpling. What's wrong? What's changed? You **BECOME 21**, you **TURN 30**, then you're **PUSHING 40.** Whoa! Put on the brakes, it's all slipping away. Before you know it, you **REACH 50** and your dreams are gone...

But! wait!! You **MAKE it** to 60. You didn't think you would! So you **BECOME 21, TURN 30, PUSH 40, REACH 50** and make **it** to 60. You've built up so much speed that you **HIT 70!** After that it's a day-by-day thing; you **HIT Wednesday!** You **get into** your 80's and every day is a complete cycle; you **HIT lunch**; you **TURN 4:30**; you **REACH** bedtime. And it doesn't end there. Into the 90s, you start going backwards; **'I Was JUST 92.'** Then a strange thing happens. If you make it over 100, you become a little kid again. **'I'm 100 and a half!'** May you all make it to a healthy 100 and a half!!

HOW TO STAY YOUNG

1. **Throw out non essential numbers.** This includes age, weight and height. Let the doctors worry about them. That is why you pay them.
2. **Keep only cheerful friends.** The grouches pull you down.
3. **Keep learning !** Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever, even ham radio. Never let the brain idle. 'An idle mind is the devil's workshop.' And the **devil's** family name is **Alzheimer's.**
4. **Enjoy the simple things.**
5. **Laugh** often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath.
6. **The tears happen. Endure, grieve and move on. The only person who is with us our entire life, is ourselves. Be ALIVE while you are alive.**
7. **Surround yourself with what you love, whether it's family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever. Your home is your refuge.**
8. **Cherish your health: If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.**
9. **Don't take guilt trips. Take a trip to the mall, even to the next county; to a foreign country but NOT to where the guilt is.**
10. **Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity.**

AND ALWAYS REMEMBER:

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

And if you don't send this to at least 8 people - who cares? But do share this with someone. We all need to live life to its fullest each day!!

Life's journey is not to arrive at the grave safely in a well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, totally worn out, shouting 'heck.....what a ride!'..?

Member's correspondence

BBBF Reunion: YMCA British Boys for British Farms Reunion Tuesday 23 June 2015 at Plumpton (Agricultural) College, Lewes, Sussex

The next BBBF Reunion will be held on Tuesday 23 June 2015 at Plumpton Agricultural College, Lewes, Sussex. I am grateful to Tony Crittenden, a former BBBF boy who went on to Plumpton, for suggesting the venue and visiting the College on my behalf.

The College Principal, Des Lambert, looks forward to welcoming us and he will give us a talk on changes in farming from 1950 to the end of 1960. The rooms are being provided free of charge.

We will pay the College for Morning Coffee and Biscuits, Lunch and Afternoon Tea. The Evening Meal could either be at the College or more likely at a local pub. I am in contact with a few former BBBF boys who went on to Plumpton College.

Arrangements are being made to visit the Wilderwick Estate where Wilderwick House, BBBF Training Centre from 1948 to 1966, once stood. The local press will be contacted in agreement with the College. It should be a very good day.

Further details from Stephen Milner. Email: stephenmilner222@btinternet.com or Tel: 01305 - 266197.



A Southern group, brought together by Sam Johnston, of Y's retired members, had the opportunity in early March, to meet together in Salisbury and enjoy a good lunch and share YMCA reminiscences. They were (from left to right) Margaret Sheppard, Brian Rowcliffe, Maureen Johnston, Janet Hopkins, David Bedford Sam Johnston, Derek Sheppard, Blair Crawford and Fred Daldry.

On this occasion there were three apologies, but next time (and there will be a next time in September organised by Derek) it is hoped all can be present.

SECOURS SPECIAUX

Good to be able to report that our financial support has been maintained over the past year. Together with our annual subvention, levy on membership subscriptions and donations, year end accounts show a transfer of £1,371 plus a pending transfer of £200 subvention. On behalf of retirees in Scotland, who have SS as their special project, YMCA Scotland have sent their contribution of £1,618 direct to the World Alliance for SS.

The provision of assistance to YMCA staff and/or their dependants who, in the absence of secured pension provision can meet financial hardship on retirement or for example, emergency medical expenses, has long and successfully been the prime objective of SS. Thankfully the needs in such cases are recognised by the majority of retiree organisations world wide including our own. Support for SS remains the WFYR priority project.

In one sense happily, the number of applications for assistance over the past year have been limited. It may be that for reasons of personal dignity there is a reluctance to apply for assistance or worse, that the potential source of assistance via SS is not as widely known as could be wished?

This has been a ongoing concern of the World Alliance sub committee for SS and every effort made to provide guidelines and promote awareness. WFYR regional chairs, national/regional officers and committee members (who are drawn from all continental areas) have prime responsibility to become aware of and to process cases of emergency need.

For obvious reasons, the scale of emergency cases arising in any one year cannot be anticipated and while care is taken to maintain appropriate reserve funds, demands have been such as to allow a substantial credit balance of funds.

This has prompted consideration of possibility to extend the mandate in the interest of secured retirement. The possibilities are under active consideration by an ad hoc WFYR/SS group and a further report is planned to appear under the WFYR head.

Meanwhile, thanks are due to all supporters of Secours Speciaux.

Reg Wake.

VALUABLE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CREATION YOU NEED TO KNOW

On the first day, God created the dog and said, *"Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years."*

The dog said, *"That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?"*

And God saw that it was good.

On the second day, God created the monkey and said, *"Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span."*

The monkey said, *"Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog did?"*

And God, again saw that it was good.

On the third day, God created the cow and said, *"You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years."*

The cow said, *"That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?"*

And God agreed that it was good.

On the fourth day, God created humans and said, *"Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years."*

But the human said, *"Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?"*

"Okay," said God, *"You asked for it."*

So that is why for our first twenty years, we eat, sleep, play, and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years, we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years, we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. And for the last ten years, we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

Life has now been explained to you.

There is no need to thank me for this valuable information. I'm doing it as a public service.

**If you are looking for me,
I will be on the front porch!**

WORLD FELLOWSHIP OF YMCA RETIREES

Earlier in the year, WFYR president launched an appeal to provide travel subsidies to enable wider attendance of retirees at the then upcoming World Council meetings in USA. On the home front, support solicited by our president Jim Lamb enabled a contribution of £2,385 to the travel fund (£1,085 from Y's Retired in general and £1,300 from Scotland.

In the event, a grant of £500 from our Trust Fund was made to John Knox toward his travel costs to World Council where, inter alia, he represented and reported on Y's Retired interests. He had the company and support of our Jim Thomson in this regard. All reports confirm that John made an outstanding contribution to proceedings!

Sessions on Secours Speciaux matters almost inevitably included the long standing concern and debate on the subject of unsecured retirement, included on WFYR agendas, virtually since its foundation in 1994. A series of special studies and discussion at World Alliance level over time forced the conclusion that problems in finding realistic solutions remained intractable.

Not discussed in detail, provisional notice was given of a fresh initiative proposed by a WFYR/SS/World Alliance study group. The study is ongoing but preliminary sight of the proposals, headed "Global Retirement Initiative" make interesting points:

"YMCAs in more than 76 countries have no pension or health benefit plans.

"It is estimated that hundreds of retirees are living in or at poverty level,

"The YMCA suffers the loss of many of its most promising young staff (and potential recruits?) to employment by government agencies or other NGOs. This loss of talent results from the need to insure a secure financial future not currently provided by the YMCA"

The GRI papers stress that its task was not to create universal retirement systems but possibly to use existing Secours Speciaux resources as "seed corn" for a scheme as being proposed under GRI/

A further report on progress of GRI is awaited.

Reg Wake

EDITOR'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE AGM REPORTS – 2015

Time travels so fast when you're enjoying yourself. Seven years now completed as editor of the Y's Retired of UK newsletter offering six bi monthly newsletters per year.

The role includes keeping the membership involved and informed about matters which might be assumed as relevant. Not always an easy task when the membership appears shy of sharing what may be happening in their lives.

Now 43 editions later, the newsletter still tries to keep the membership informed of current affairs affecting the YMCA Movement, comments from colleagues and friends, expressing where they are in their retirement, where they have been, what they have seen, family additions and occasionally, sharing the sadness of days gone by and detailed notices of members and friends who have passed over.

For those in membership or new to the Y's Retired of UK membership, my report request continues to be - 'please do share with us all the new adventures you have undertaken or experiences that have become part of your daily routine'; I would love to hear from you and perhaps have a jpeg picture so that others can remember the smiling face which is yours. Just send to: ses.dhs@hotmail.co.uk

As in previous reports, there has always been an emphasis on communication. Within each bi-monthly newsletter there are details of the website which continues to be regularly updated: www.yretired.co.uk All the past and present newsletters are featured on it, under the heading "Newsletter Archive." The Memorial pictures are featured there in all their glory, alongside albums of pictures sent in by colleagues throughout the year.

Other international colleagues who are part of the World Federation of Y's Retired (WFYR), receive our UK news and have voiced their gratitude, with some articles being highlighted in "Bridges," the WFYR quarterly Newsletter.

Our President Jim sends his regular bi-monthly 'front page' contribution, which he always completes in very good time, with interesting up to date worldly events and comments which often affect his personal life and that of others.

May I express my gratitude to our recently retired Secretary Reg, who kept us all in line and did such a sterling job for us, quietly working behind the scenes, keeping Y's Retired of UK alive. Good to know there are members willing and able to take up the baton like our present secretary, my college colleague Vic Hills, who is already making his presence count.

Thank you also to Ray Allen in his role as Treasurer and for supporting me in my role as editor. Thanks to my own personal "wordsmith" Sue, who continues to scan every edition to try to ensure it reads well and makes sense.

Thanks to those of you who have kindly emailed or written back to me, letting me know that you are enjoying the content, maybe finding it stimulating, even the saucy bits!!

Finally, we continue to be grateful and offer our heartfelt thanks to Herts YMCA, the CEO Guy Foxell, and his staff member Lorraine Stocken. Without their willingness, time and help, the printed version would not be distributed, and because Herts YMCA kindly fulfil this task as their donation to us, the Officers are able to allocate a higher annual proportion of funds to Secours Speciaux year on year. This is dramatically reflected in last years and this years amazing results.

But above all – thanks to you, the readership, without whom the purpose of the Newsletters would be meaningless.

Y's Retired of UK Editor – David H Smith

Dear David, - many thanks for the interesting Y's Retired Newsletter. It carries a lot of great information and news. I wonder, whether the passing of Fritz Pawelzik is something for your retirees, too?

Many greetings - Eckard
Eckard M. Geisler
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A Life with Christ, a Life with the YMCA Homecall of Fritz Pawelzik (1927 - 2015)



Picture by Eckard M. Geisler:
Fritz Pawelzik in his Düsseldorf home, together with Samuel Anim, the former National General Secretary of the Ghana YMCA

An exciting and fulfilling life has ended. And Fritz Pawelzik left marks of blessings in the worldwide YMCA and in the lives of many people. Was it his original and down-to-earth way of preaching and witnessing to Christ? Was it his skill of story telling and book writing? Being a young soldier during WW II, a POW, a Missionary to Miners in the Ruhr District, a Fraternal Secretary to the Ghana YMCA and working for the World Alliance of YMCA's in East Africa, all this was the background of his narrations and sermons.

He got his education at the YMCA Secretary Training College in Kassel and over all the years, his various assignments within the worldwide YMCA were financially supported by the Western Federation of YMCAs, Germany (CVJM-Westbund). The final ten years on the job he worked again with CVJM-Westbund as Secretary for World Service. Through this he got reconnected with the Ghana YMCA, where in 1959 he went as a Fraternal Secretary for seven years. During this time he established a large Vocational Training Centre with a workshop, classrooms, Hostel and accommodation for staff.

Having returned to CVJM-Westbund after all these many years he initiated numerous partnerships between local Ghanaian and Sierra Leonean YMCAs and local CVJMs in Germany, which until today are a strong base of the relationship between these movements.

His love for Ghana and his achievements for this intensive relationship were honoured by the traditional ruler of the Ghanaian town of Konongo in the Ashanti Region, the Konongo Hene, by appointing him as Chief for Development. Through this he became a lifetime member of the house of the traditional leaders of this town. And in this office he has helped in expanding the local hospital.

But after his retirement at 65 his life with the YMCA continued. Until his final days he was a popular preacher and story teller at children programmes, services, festivals and schools. He was popular and was listened to by young and old and with excitement he continued to tell everybody about his "Chief". Finally he called him home on the 29th January 2015.

Eckard M. Geisler