



**MAY 2013**

[www.yretired.co.uk](http://www.yretired.co.uk)

**GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT**



**Dear colleagues and friends - greetings**

On this occasion I wish to concentrate my letter in a somewhat different style than previously - an 'article' including a brief 'book review' for recently I have become more aware of the tremendous tragedy which engulfed the city of Christchurch New Zealand in 2010 due to two major earthquakes and many earth tremors.

There is some truth in the saying "Doesn't time fly", whether daily, weekly, monthly or whatever. In such periods we are inclined to add, "Gosh you here again?" or "Is it only a year since we celebrated your birthday?!" Of course the one that hits below the belt is, "You don't look a day older than when we last met 10, 20, or 30 years ago!" It is then you know the truth of the lie!! The passage of time changes everything.

Arising from the above thoughts is the realisation that time does not stand still. Natural disasters occur in the world at the time of which we openly express the depth of our feelings then time takes over our awakened emotions and eventually it has become the past! Or has it? Not least when colleagues and friends you know are caught up in the devastation caused and you become aware their lives have been changed forever due to no fault or action of their own. Such was my predicament on reading a book gifted to me by my eldest daughter at Christmas, she lives in New Zealand. The book is aptly titled 'RIPPED APART - a city in chaos'. The book is written by Bob Parker, Mayor of Christchurch who lived through the whole experience together with the residents of a fine city.

It is a book I highly commend to you not because it is a literary giant, for that it is not! The factual contents however of the devastation through the two major earthquakes of February and September 2010 and succeeding tremors experienced by the residents of Christchurch is a salutary lesson to the whole of humanity. At the time of the earthquakes I was in communication with our New Zealand colleague Terry Hill retired CEO of the Christchurch YMCA to share concerns for his family and his well-being. Among his stories was how he and his wife were still living in their comparatively new house but only in one room as the rest of the house was inhabitable without amenities.

His story is echoed time and time again in the book, how deprived of normality in everyday life many residents in Christchurch and the surrounding district awaited the final results of insurance claims two years after the event and now with optimism look forward to their new city rising from the ashes.

Problems have emerged between the Local Authorities and their masters at the Government of New Zealand based in Wellington causing much pain emotionally as to who controls the rebuilding of a modern city.

At this point I share with you that shining through the whole process of devastation has been the spirit of the elderly people of Christchurch, those who over the years of their lives made Christchurch what it was and even now want to be involved in its future development not necessarily to create a replica of the old but certainly an amalgamation of old and new! It is a book about the strengths and weaknesses of society in chaos! To close:-

Due to copyright restrictions I cannot include quotes from the book but urge you to purchase a copy for which I add the website address [www.rippedapart.co](http://www.rippedapart.co) A book to be read and digested!

Jim Lamb

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# Members correspondence

## YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

Dear Colleagues - prayers are requested for dear friends and colleagues whose names I bring to your attention - those that are suffering with specific illnesses and ailments. Please also remember in your prayers, their families and carers - **Rodney Stone - Eddy Brady - Roy Weaver - Colin Mawby** - (Editor)

## MEMBERSHIP

An overview indicates a largely static position with year end numbers showing a slight decrease with total registered membership at 131 plus spouses as compared with 142 plus spouses as for 2011.

The decrease is in part the outcome of further judicial 'pruning' of the register and losses by death with only limited compensation via new registrations. The number of new entries from retiring staff persons declined to virtually nil, the exception arising from a redundancy.

The report for the previous AGM suggested that changed conditions of employment, especially short term contracts related to ad hoc funding might influence non interest in membership of Y's Retired. This appears to be a possible contributory factor in declining applications for membership. Reality suggests that interest in continued association with YMCA post retirement is not as strongly felt as perhaps it was in earlier times?

A more positive note derives from a slight increase in the number of Lay member registrations, as at date numbering 7 with several more nominations being processed. In this connection, experience indicates the importance of prior contact with the candidate to be nominated. In several cases, letters of invitation to membership have met with either no response or enquiries about the nature or purposes of Y's Retired and implications of membership.

While the criteria calling for seven or more years of voluntary service in leadership roles may be met, it is clearly not appropriate for the nominator to merely submit a name and contact address without the knowledge of the candidate. Letters of invitation to membership include a brief historical background, purposes and organisational detail but this does not pre-empt the pre-nomination conversation and expression of possible interest on the part of the candidate.

The problem of identifying pending retirements remains – in part because there are now fewer of them! The Pensions Administrator kindly sends information about Y's Retired to pending retirees but this applies only to members of the YMCA Pension Plan and the Data Protection Act prevents the passing of personal data, including contact addresses. Our internal "Grapevine" remains the main source of information regarding pending or actual retirements and the importance of such information reaching the Secretary cannot be overstated.

Reg Wake

Dear David,  
Today (9th February) I was at Coventry. You may recall that I invited Andy Winter to accompany me to Jerusalem last June. I was therefore very pleased that he took the initiative to host the chief Executive of E. Jerusalem YMCA Andre Batarseh at a meeting at Coventry Cathedral (St. Michael's House to be precise). Over 40 people attended – many who know the situation of the Palestinian People very well and others who probably learn much. I was very pleased to meet old friends who have such an interest in the Palestinian cause – Ken Holmes, John Drake and Ann Lindsay, Director of Y Training and also Jim Jenkinson from YMCA England.

John Drake, as you will know, goes many times to Jerusalem and acts as a kind of 'Ambassador' for the East Jerusalem YMCA. I have felt for some years that there ought to be a loose organisation or a central point for sharing news – a 'YMCA Friends of the Palestinian YMCA'.

Andre gave a very comprehensive talk about the work of East Jerusalem including all the activities throughout the West Bank and Gaza. Their work is wide ranging and is not limited to youth work but includes Vocational Training, Advocacy work and Rehabilitation. For those interested it is worth looking at their website – especially the Olive Tree Planting and Picking Programmes which are very international.

One problem I have met recently is the inability of Christians to understand the Old Testament 'Promise' which God made that the Land is theirs – those who believe this are so orientated towards supporting the State of Israel that it blinds them to the reality of the situation today. Christian Zionists are the biggest problem but many ordinary Christians interpret this 'promise' to justify the extension of Israel into all the Land called Holy. Sorry, I think I am being carried away!!

I hope that all is well with you and the family. Don't forget that if you travel on the A1 we are just two minutes away near Huntingdon!

I have organised a Lent Course on 'The Power of Poetry' and it has created quite a lot of interest! Starts on Monday lunchtime.

I cannot remember if you mentioned my 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday sermon – not very important but it is on 'google' under 'Rev. Ron Ingamells 80th birthday Sermon'!

Best wishes

Ron

## **Your prayers for Margaret**

News via Stephen Milner that MARGARET PEEBLES, wife of the late Frank Peebles has had a bad fall, breaking her hip plus minor injuries and is currently in a re-hab centre. A neighbour is keeping a watching role. Margaret is one of the many ex BBBF folk with whom Stephen keeps in contact. How good when the 'grapevine' works! Reg

## SECOURS SPECIAUX

First some quick facts about Secours Speciaux, the World YMCAs Emergency Fund from Bonnie Mairs, committee chair:

THANK YOU – to all chapters (Retiree organisations) and individuals who have donated this year!

WHO BENEFITS? YMCA retirees and staff around the world who are facing emergencies or unsecured retirement. Most recipients are in countries where YMCA salaries are low and retirement pensions are small or nonexistent, The Secours Speciaux fund recently made grants to these two emergency cases:

1. A West African retiree who has a brain tumour that is affecting his sight. He needs a operation or he will become blind. He does not have sufficient funds to pay for the operation.
2. A South American young staff member who very suddenly fell into a coma from which she has not recovered. Her family faces huge medical bills and some re-modelling costs to their house in order for her to be cared for at home.

WHO SUPPORTS THE FUND? Most donations come from larger National YMCA movements. Each one decides how it will raise funds. Retirees in Canada hold online auctions (a bushel of lobsters, anyone?) German and Japanese retirees pass the hat at their meetings. UK retirees elected to add a surcharge or levy onto their retiree organisation dues. Filipino retirees sell candy, caps and tee shirts at YMCA meetings. In the USA, we ask chapters to contribute. Individual donors send checks or earmark part of their World Service gift to Secours Speciaux.

WHAT ABOUT ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS? No overhead! 100% of all donations go to those in need. Committee members cover their own expenses and the World Alliance of YMCAs covers telephone conference calls (we mostly work via email), bank charges and accounting costs.

WHO IS ON THE COMMITTEE? The committee works as an advisory committee to the Secretary General of the World Alliance of YMCAs. It has ten members who are dedicated and hardworking, Don Anderson – USA, Laurie Bourne – Canada, Ekhart Geisler – Germany, Mireille Gilles – Uruguay, P.M. John – India, Bonnie Mairs – USA, Jerry Prado Shaw – USA, James Rhule – Ghana, Reg Wake – UK, and Yukio Yamasaki – Japan.

WHY SUPPORT SECOURS SPECIAUX? The need is real. We are lucky with our own Retirement Fund that allows us to live in comfort and dignity, We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers. It feels good to help.

**YMCAs in Scotland have just transferred £803.75 to Secours Speciaux. This largely due to John Knox initiative and independent of Y's Retired members contributions vv membership subs. (You will recall Y's Retired contribution for 2012 amounted to £1,228.90.)**

## ON THE HOME FRONT

Those of us now longer in the tooth may remember BSA/AOS gatherings at which the claims and purposes of Secours Speciaux were invariably advanced and collections taken up (remember "The Box"?) There was a general feeling that it was a "good thing" to do and many of us still do! Although vaguely familiar, not everybody is acquainted with the history and development of the fund so it may be of interest to rehearse them?

Secours Speciaux had its' origins in the 1950's, a time when YMCAs in Eastern Europe were forced to close down in the wake of communist regimes. Many staff and volunteers were left with little of no means by which to meet pressing needs,

*"The first initiatives were taken by Anna Limbert, the wife of the then Secretary General of the World Alliance. Anna started an aid programme based on her personal commitment to assist YMCA people who had served the organisation with dedication, This inspired further action at the organisational level and the World Alliance decided to lend more active support to the initiative while still retaining the voluntary nature and scope of the "Secours Speciaux" Fund. (French for 'Special Aid')*

*Until the 1980's the fund exclusively supported YMCA persons in Eastern Europe. It was only in 1983 that new dimensions were added to include a broader group of people, victimised in other parts of the world. In 1990, support was extended to victims of injustice or human rights violation. In 1991, a group was set up to review how support could also be provided to the growing number of YMCA staff around the world who were retiring with minimal or no pension benefits at all. As a result of their initiatives Staff Security Fund (USA) and Secours Speciaux Funds were combined". (Extracted from SS promotion brochure)*

In 1997 Secours Speciaux was designated a priority project by the World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees and its' regional affiliates, eg 'Y's Retired of the UK. In the intervening years, certainly from late 50's onward, promotion and financial support of SS has been included on Y's Retired agendas and a more recent decision taken to allocate 50% of membership subscriptions to SS.

The year end (2012) financial statement of accounts will show the product of such levy and which, together with the approved subvention on general funds (£200 for 2012) is due for transfer to World Alliance for SS. No grounds for complacency but modest satisfaction. Well done all!

Thanks to the initiatives of John Knox, YMCAs in Scotland are generating their own responses to financial support for SS and results to date are very encouraging. The product will be independent of contributions already made by Y's Retired members resident in Scotland via their membership subscriptions.

Later report reveals approved grants of US\$ 1,000 to eight long serving staff in the Philippines where the YMCA Movement has experienced financial difficulties and staff have retired or made redundant without the benefit of adequate financial support.

PS Our Treasurer Ray reports completed transfer to World Alliance for Secours Speciaux amounting to £1,228.90 being our total contribution for 2012. This sum includes the approved subvention of £200 from general funds and the balance via the 'levy' on membership subscriptions. Very encouraging.

Reg Wake

To all members,  
thank you all for your  
subscriptions for 2012,  
your subscriptions are  
now due for 2013. All  
those using the Standing  
Orders have been received  
into our bank account.

However, if there are  
members who still pay  
annually, they may wish to  
contact me so I can send  
them a Standing Orders  
form, which means the  
annual payment will be  
made automatically.

My contact details are  
clearly stated on the front  
page - thanks (Treasurer  
Ray Allen.)

A senior citizen said to his  
eighty-year old buddy:

'So I hear you're getting  
married?'

'Yep!'

'Do I know her?'

'Nope!'

'This woman, is she good  
looking?'

'Not really.'

'Is she a good cook?'

'Naw, she can't cook too  
well.'

'Does she have lots of  
money?'

'Nope! Poor as a church  
mouse.'

'Well, then, is she good in  
bed?'

'I don't know.'

'Why in the world do you  
want to marry her then?'

'Because she can still drive!'

Three old guys are out  
walking.

First one says, 'Windy, isn't  
it?'

Second one says, 'No, it's  
Thursday!'

Third one says, 'So am I.  
Let's go get a beer.'

A man was telling his  
neighbour, 'I just bought a  
new hearing aid. It cost me  
four thousand pounds, but  
it's state of the art. It's  
perfect.'

'Really,' answered the  
neighbour. 'What kind is it?'

'Twelve thirty.'

**Ys Retired of the UK**  
**Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2012**  
(figures in brackets are negative)

	2012 £	2011 £
Receipts		
<b>Member Subscriptions</b>	<b>445.00</b>	<b>305.00</b>
<b>Donations</b>	<b>100.00</b>	-
<b>Donations (Trust Fund)</b>	<b>380.00</b>	<b>115.00</b>
<b>Secours Spéciaux</b>	<b>1013.90</b>	<b>515.00</b>
<b>Bank Interest</b>	-	-
Total	1938.90	935.00
Payments		
<b>Grants</b>	-	<b>500.00</b>
<b>Secours Spéciaux</b>	<b>1228.90</b>	<b>1982.25</b>
<b>Trust Fund Payments</b>	-	<b>378.60</b>
<b>World Fellowship of Ys Retired (WFYR)</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>200.00</b>
<b>Secretary Expenses</b>	-	<b>47.25</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>154.44</b>	<b>251.93</b>
Total	1483.34	3360.03
Surplus for the Year	455.56	(2425.03)
<b>Previous Year balance</b>	<b>2218.94</b>	4643.97
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>455.56</b>	(2425.03)
Current Year Balance	2674.50	2218.94
Movement of Funds		
General		
Balance at 1 January 2012	1797.54	2491.72
Receipts	545.00	305.00
Payments	254.44	999.18
Transfer to Secours Spéciaux	100.00	
Transfer to Discretionary Trust Fund	500.00	
Balance at 31 December 2012	1488.10	1797.54
Secours Spéciaux		
Balance at 1 January 2012	115.00	1582.25
Receipts	1013.90	515.00
Payments	1228.90	1982.25
Transfer from General Fund	100.00	
Balance at 31 December 2012	-	115.00
Discretionary Trust Fund		
Balance at 1 January 2012	306.40	570.00
Receipts	380.00	115.00
Payments	-	378.60
Transfer from General Fund	500.00	
Balance at 31 December 2012	1186.40	306.40
Total Funds at 31 December 2012	2674.50	2218.94
represented by:		
Bank Balance	2674.50	2218.94
Cash in Hand	-	-
Total assets	2674.50	2218.94

Ray Allen  
Hon Treasurer  
19/02/2013

David Bennison  
Independent Examiner  
19/02/2013

**EXTRACTS FROM AUDITED ACCOUNTS**  
**Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012**

**RECEIPTS**

Member Subscriptions.....	445.00		
Donations (General Fund) .....	100.00		
Donations (Trust Fund) .....	380.00		
Donations (Secours Speciaux) .....	1,013.90	...	1,938.90

**PAYMENTS**

Secours Speciaux .....	1228.90		
World Fellowship of Y's Retired (WFYR) ....	100.00		
Administration .....	154.44	...	1,483.34

Surplus for the year ..... 455.56

**BALANCE**

Previous Year balance b/fd.....	2,218.94
Surplus .....	455.56

Current Year Balance..... 2,674.50 \*\*\*

\*\*\* Includes Trust Fund reserved.. 1,186.40

Bank Balance ... 2,674.50

**Recruitment of Chief Executive and National Secretary of YMCA England**

After consulting widely, recruitment of a new Chief Executive and National Secretary of YMCA England is now underway. This key role acts as the figurehead and prime contact with Central and Local Government and is responsible for leading the YMCA England staff team.

We are being assisted in the recruitment of this role by [Warren Partners](#). For further details about the role, please visit the [YMCA England website](#).

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE Y's RETIRED OF THE UK - MARCH 2013**

**1. Participants**

Jim Lamb (President), Ray Allen (Treasurer), Rupert George, Sam Johnston, John Knox, Colin Mawby, David Smith (Editor) and Reg Wake (Secretary).

**2. Process**

Relevant documents had been circulated to all participants for comment and/or approval and received unanimous support.

**3. Minutes**

Minutes of the AGM of March 2011 as circulated and approved had been affixed to the official Minute Book.

**4. Matters Arising**

As agenda and covered in the following minutes.

**5. President's Annual Report**

As published in the March 2013 Newsletter was warmly received for attachment to the Minutes.



Dear Kerry,

I am still moved after receiving the news about the election of Mons. Jorge Mario Bergoglio as Pope.

I met with him last October in Buenos Aires in my way to the GST meeting in Sao Paulo hosted by YMCA Argentina. 30 minutes of an unforgettable conversation. I told Cardinal Bergoglio about our 2013 Festival and for a few minutes we were talking about it and he wished us all the best as we involve young people from all over the world in this event !!!

When we said good bye he said : "Pray for me". I will never forget his deep eyes and smile...!

See photo attached and article below at YMCA Argentina web. Francisco I is an outstanding, deeply spiritual, humble, sensitive man. A Jesuit from Latin America. Someone needed in today's Church and World.

He is definitely a friend of the YMCA. He spoke very highly about our movement and the Argentinian YMCA. It should not be difficult to ask for an Audience. Johan Vilhelm also met him last Spring in his visit to Argentina.

May the Lord bless Him, Juan

## 6. Business

### 6.1 Committee & Lay Membership

- a) Lay Membership The introduction of Lay Membership during the year under review was ratified.
- b) Agreed - "That retired Lay persons of the Y's Retired of the UK may be elected to the committee as non-executive consultants".
- c) Agreed - "That having been duly nominated by Colin Mawby and seconded by Sam Johnston, Professor David Miller be warmly welcomed as a non-executive consultant member of the committee".
- d) Resignation The resignation from committee membership of Colin Mawby due to ill health was received. The President had conveyed by letter deep appreciation of Colin's positive service to the Y's Retired of the UK. The tribute had been reflected in the Newsletter. Confirmed that Colin continued in general membership.

### 6.2 Accounts 2012

- a) Received - The Treasurer's unaudited Statement of Accounts together with his annual report.
- b) Noted - Provisional credit balance of funds c/fd. to 2013 accounts £2,674.50 of which £880.00 held in reserve as Trust Fund.
- c) Reported - Audited accounts (in preparation) to be circulated on completion.

7. Budget 2013 Following careful consideration of the overall financial situation, allocations/subventions for 2013 as under were approved:

- a) Administration - The N/L Editor having confirmed no anticipated exceptional expenditure for PC maintenance and likewise Secretary and Treasurer for their expenses - £150 allocated.
- b) Secours Speciaux - To be maintained at £200.00.
- c) WFYR The token subvention to be maintained at £100.00.
- d) Trust Fund (Discretionary) - Subject to current satisfactory financial position being maintained, subvention to continue at £250.00.

## 8. Membership Register

Membership Report as circulated – received. Numbers remained largely static with year-end total @ 131 plus spouses, a slight decrease from 2011 figure @ 142 plus spouses due mainly to judicious pruning of non-active members but including additions in lay membership registrations.

## 9. Newsletter

The Editor's Report as circulated was received. The majority circulation now made via e.mail greatly facilitated delivery. Circulation now included complimentary copies to officers of World Alliance, WFYR including area vice-chairs and Editors of 'Bridges' thus bringing Y's Retired affairs to their notice. The number of 'hits' on the web-site has increased. The Editor is thanked for the high standard of production maintained.

## 10. Secours Speciaux

A Report, including an informative message of thanks for Y's Retired support and current operations from SS Committee Chair Bonnie Mairs, as circulated was received.

Noted Funds transferred to World Alliance for SS amounted to £1,228.90 being our total contribution for 2012.

## 11. World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees

A Report, including a contribution from John Knox as WFYR vice-chair for Europe, as circulated was received. Contacts with 'Retiree' groups in Europe were being maintained.

Noted. Thanks to the initiative of John Knox, YMCA Scotland had undertaken a special and independent appeal for support of Secours Speciaux.

## 12. Recording

Copies of all referenced reports and/or documents to be appended in the official Minute Book

## 13. Any other business Nil. Chair: President: James W. Lamb



I was honoured and privileged to meet with the newly appointed Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby on his recent visit to Truro, before his enthronement a week later in Canterbury Cathedral. I was able to share with him the work I undertaken as Missioner for Churches Together in Cornwall, the Street Pastors, Food Banks and daily Breakfast Projects and other activities which the churches undertake in the Truro Diocese. I also spoke with him about the work of the YMCA in UK of which he had knowledge.  
Picture :- Rev'd Steve White, Chairman of Cornwall Methodists, Archbishop Justin Welby, Rt Rev Tim Thornton, Bishop of Truro.

David H Smith