



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



NOVEMBER 2010

www.yretired.co.uk

Greetings from our President



**Dear colleagues
and friends,**

Greetings!

One of the highlights for YMCA retirees world-wide has been the holding of the World Federation of YMCA Retirees (WFYR) Conference in Hong Kong this July. Y's Retired of the UK was most ably represented by David Smith who returned enthused by what many other retired colleagues from the five main continents of the world referred to as a 'fantastic' experience!

I have been privy to receive varied reports for the conference, not least the omnibus 'reports' of the Y's Retired groups around the world. It is not without significance that 'report – wise' we fared very well with the other retired groups, the North American YMCA retired groups revealing very full activity based national and regional gatherings.

With the above in mind I am prompted to follow up earlier appeals for all who are privileged to receive our much acclaimed Newsletter to seriously consider taking out membership of the Y's Retired of the UK. Increased membership enables increased finance and the springboard already established gives opportunity for us together to build for the future. Applications for membership should be made through our Executive Secretary Reg Wake, contact details printed in the Newsletter.

Our Reunion held 20th-23rd September 2010 offered the opportunity for David Smith to report more fully on the WFYR conference, not least on the progress of Secours Speciaux and the fine service rendered to our less fortunate colleagues experiencing extreme hardship due to no pensions and often health expenses beyond their means. We were able to view the 'statements of finance' covering previous years and the dispersing of financial aid emphasising yet again that our giving through the Y's Retired of the UK is fully justified. There will be a further report of the Reunion in the next issue of the Newsletter.

You would wish to be aware that in September some 40 German YMCA Retirees visited London and were admirably entertained by London Central YMCA, we thank the CEO and her staff for hosting this group. Perhaps we might arrange similar visits in the future!?

Keep well and in good spirits, enjoy your retirement and to those colleagues recently retired – welcome aboard!

Clear dates for your diary for the national Ys Retired of UK reunion at Woodbrooke for 2011 has been booked for 3rd to 6th October 2011 with reserved places for some 20 persons.

Warm regards, *Jim*

In ancient Greece (469 - 399 BC), Socrates was widely lauded for his wisdom.

One day the great philosopher came upon an acquaintance who ran up to him excitedly and said, "Socrates, do you know what I just heard about one of your students?"
Wait a moment," Socrates replied. "Before you tell me I'd like you to pass a little test. It's called the Triple Filter Test."
"Triple filter?"

"That's right," Socrates continued. "Before you talk to me about my student let's take a moment to filter what you're going to say. The first filter is Truth.

Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?"

"No," the man said, "actually I just heard about it and..."

"All right," said Socrates. "So you don't really know if it's true or not.

Now let's try the second filter, the filter of Goodness. Is what you are about to tell me about my student something good?"

"No, on the contrary..."

"So," Socrates continued, "you want to tell me something bad about him, even though you're not certain it's true?"

The man shrugged, a little embarrassed.

Socrates continued. "You may still pass the test though, because there is a third filter - the filter of Usefulness. Is what you want to tell me about my student going to be useful to me?"

"No, not really..."

"Well," concluded Socrates, "if what you want to tell me is neither True nor Good nor even Useful, why tell it to me at all?"
The man was defeated and ashamed.

This is the reason Socrates was a great philosopher and held in such high esteem.

*It also explains why he never found out that Plato (his student) was having an affair with his wife.

Moral: It's good to gossip sometimes!!!*

PRESIDENT : Jim Lamb T 01223 440228 E: j.lamb22@btinternet.com
TREASURER: Ray Allen T 01522 683920 E: rayc.allen@btinternet.com

SECRETARY: Reg Wake T 01372 275402 E: regwake@aol.com
N/EDITOR: David H Smith T 01736 719432 E: ses.dhs@hotmail.co.uk

Dear David

Very many thanks for the most recent newsletter for Y's Retired. I have already given it a good read, and enjoyed it very much - but will return to savour it on another occasion!

You kindly asked for a response, and I have wanted for some time to write to you to send my warmest thanks for your efforts with the Newsletter. I think it is splendid and produced to a very high standard - always interesting and thought provoking.

My warmest congratulations to you - and thanks again for the time you take to make it such a first class contribution to our fellowship.

I note that some of our brethren send you little jokes and snippets from time to time. I wondered if you might like to quote the saying I read recently which is attributed to the late Tommy Cooper the comedian:-

"I dreamed that I ate a ten pound marshmallow last night, and when I woke up my pillow was missing!!!

Best wishes **Ted (Milburn)**

From: David H Smith <ses.dhs@hotmail.co.uk>
To: Jim Thomson <jcbthomson@aol.com>
CC: duncan Chowdhury@yahoo.com
Sent: Mon, 9 Aug 2010 22:13
Subject: History of YMCA Bangladesh

Dear Jim - whilst in Hong Kong I met up with Duncan Chowdhury, National Secretary of Bangladesh. Over breakfast together Duncan told me that the Bangladesh YMCA was coming up to its 100 years celebrations and that he was looking for as much Bangladesh YMCA history as he could find - we talked about Fraternal secretaries and your name was mentioned. He had heard your name and I told him that you and Mary and your son were very much part of that history. Duncan asked me to contact you, pass on his regards, and for me to put you in touch with each other. He is keen to get as much historical knowledge of Bangladesh YMCA from you as he can.

Duncan's email address is above - I have fulfilled my promise - best wishes to you both - from David

Dear David,

I went into my email about ten minutes ago and there was an excellent letter from Duncan as well as your own. I will email him immediately to say that I will gather my thoughts together about Bangladesh and pass them on. Actually, my association with Bangladesh goes back to when it was East Bengal and I was stationed there (or slightly to the East in the Arakan Sector of the Burma Campaign). I was in the Indian Army and OC of a workshops company.

Chittagong was railhead and I found it very convenient to be a member of the Chittagong Club. Reminded Bart Shaha of that when I went to Chittagong from the World Alliance and he was No.2 on the Chittagong staff. Didn't he do well !!!

See you in Birmingham. **Jim (Thomson)**

Dear Reg,

As yours is the only address I can see to write to in the Y's Retired of UK September 2010 newsletter, I hope you will be kind enough to forward this note to David.

It's just to say how delighted I was to read Alan Avery's contribution re - his start in a horticultural career at Wilderwick House in 1964.

My wife and I were warden and matron, at Wilderwick House from 1959 - 1961. So did not actually meet Alan, however the YMCA Horticultural Training Scheme commenced during my time at Wilderwick House. I remember how proud Mr A. Naylor was when the scheme got off the ground as an addition to the excellent Farm Training Scheme that had been in existence since the early 1930's.

His mention of Sunday Family Circle brought back such happy memories, such hard work, low pay, and economical diet, but my wife and daughter and myself would not have missed our short stay at Wilderwick House. It was such a great scheme for young men to see if they really wanted to work on a farm or in horticulture. So many thanks to Alan and congratulations on the success he has obviously made with his life.

Peter Parfitt, 20 Up The Quadrangle
Morden College, Blackheath. London
SE3 0PW Tel: 0181 2931534

Dear David,

It was heart-warming to read a letter in our latest Y's Retired letter of a BBBF boy especially as he was at Wilderwick House. I have happy memories of my time working there as Ralph Elsdon's Secretary and, of course, of meeting Walter when he came as Assistant Warden!

Alan Avery sounds to have had a happy time at Wilderwick and it is rewarding to hear that he has done so well and praises the start he had as a BBBF boy.

I am sure he will remember going to St. John's church on a Sunday morning at the nearby village of Dormansland - at least they did in the 40's and 50's and hopefully still did in 1964 when he was there.

I wonder if he knows there is a BBBF booklet available - I only have one and it is precious to me - but I believe there are some that can be bought - he might like to have one.

I was watching Countryfile a few weeks ago and they were bemoaning the fact that there is no apprenticeship scheme for young people to get into farming - perhaps the YMCA ought to start it up again. It was certainly a good scheme in its day.

Kind regards, - **Jean Saunders**

PS I was so sorry to hear of the death of Bill Leyland. Walter and I knew him when we were at Rochdale YM and he was at St. Helens in the 50's, and then he was greatly involved with Walter and John Holmes in the rebuilding sorties at Wimbledon - a good friend.

Pip Wisdom

By Pip Wilson Ian Long

☆☆☆☆☆ This item has not been rated yet

Paperback, 109 pages



Pip Wisdom
Pip Wilson and Ian Long



[Preview](#)

Price: **£10.00**

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Packed with reflections, stories, observations, ideas, graphic illustrations and exercises for the soul. Dip in anywhere, journey through as an inspirational daily reading, copy and use in magazines, newsletters, presentations and also to scribble your own reflections? Ideal as a present. Pip Wilson has worked with people in need most of his life. He reflects daily on the internet as he stumbles through the challenge of living to love. Here we have a collection of his reflections - sure to inspire and invigorate.

Pip Wisdom by Pip Wilson

A veteran of the YMCA, Pip Wilson has worked with vulnerable young people throughout his life. His new book, Pip Wisdom, is packed with reflections, stories, observations, ideas, graphic illustrations and exercises for the soul. On the left we have access to a collection of his reflections - sure to inspire and invigorate.

Hi Dave

Enjoyed reading this – brought back memories of working in BAOR amongst other things.

I should love to send on to friends some of the stories.

Any chance of sending them to me separately?

Love to you and Sue – **Mary (McGinty)**

(No problem – sent on in WORD to Mary)

Hi David

On Monday next I shall be away to Sri Lanka flying with Emirates from Birmingham on flight EK40/EK650 arriving on Tuesday morning. My cell phone there is 0094 779901338 and e-mail is as usual. Not sure where I shall be staying but could well be in my former house although I am still negotiating the rent! We are hoping to get the Montessori in Central Camp finished and opened in January so I shall need to be near there for the first few months.

John (Newton)

Hi

You may already have heard of the death of Bob King's wife. I received an email 18th August from Jillian in the YMCA Scotland office to inform me that Bob King's wife Dianne passed away on Friday 13th August after a long and courageous battle with cancer. The funeral was held 19th August in Australia yesterday. Dianne's husband is Bob King, who was the Scottish National Secretary in the 80's. If anyone wants to contact Bob his email address is bob_king38@hotmail.com

John (Knox)

A Real Man

A real man is a woman's best friend. He will never stand her up and never let her down. He will reassure her when she feels insecure and comfort her after a bad day.

He will inspire her to do things she never thought she could do; to live without fear and forget regret. He will enable her to express her deepest emotions and give in to her most intimate desires. He will make sure she always feels as though she's the most beautiful woman in the room and will enable her to be the most confident, sexy, seductive, and invincible.

No wait... sorry... I'm thinking of wine.

It's wine that does all that.....

Never mind.

A brief history in time

Pip Wilson was initially trained as an engineer until leaving behind Pilkington Research Laboratories, at aged 26, to work in Moberley Boys' Approved School in Knutsford, Cheshire, with Joan so fresh in their marriage, to become Houseparents of 15-30 young offenders.

The Y Club in St Helens became the next challenge, leading Youth Work with leather jacketed young women and men. Along the way "The Sheilas", Joy and Ann, completed the family in the next move to become Director of Programmes and Hostel at St Helens YMCA.

Mayflower Family Centre called when Joy was eight and Ann two. Pip became Senior Youth Worker with a team of up to forty Youth Workers in inner city Canning Town, East London. After ten years of giving learning, the whole family went to live and have their being in Romford YMCA on the boundaries of London Boroughs of Havering, Barking and Dagenham.

Eighteen years later, Pip left the work as CEO to return to his youth work roots working face to face with young people who were going through tough times.

In his spare time, books were published about Inner City Youth Work Games, Development Exercises, Blob Tree Tools and also creating the Rolling Magazine Show. This has a wild music/games base which was also a deeply spiritual experience. He has hosted it in many European countries and at the Greenbelt Festival for fifteen years, along with The Very Stinking Late Show co-hosted with Martin Wroe.

Now Pip is a freelance Group Worker, Trainer, Facilitator and Writer, working with young humans on the edge.





Reported in the September Newsletter was the sad passing of W.W. 'BILL' LEYLAND on Saturday 24th July 2010 after a long illness.

I asked Bill's wife, Jean to help me fill in the gaps as a completed "Careers Form" had never been submitted to Secretary Reg. She very kindly agreed and with assistance from Reg and Roy Weaver herewith an attempted reconstruct of Bill's career. Jean was able to give us the accuracy we required.

Bill was born 26th November 1921 and very sadly died 24th July 2010 at the age of 89. He was a boy in Associate membership of Bolton YMCA. Bill went to Chester YMCA in 1937 as a young cadet under the watchful eye of Bill Chivers and went into full-time service with the YMCA in 1937.

Then in 1940 he went into the RAF where he served in the Western Desert. Back from the war he was offered a post of General Secretary at Hoylake YMCA and accepted. Five years later in 1950 Bill moved on again to take on the larger General Secretary's position at St. Helens YMCA.

For many of us he will be remembered as a determined force building up the prestigious Metropolitan Region as Regional Secretary taking up the post in 1967. Bill approached many young promising YMCA Secretaries being keen to strengthen the work and to have the most vibrant Region.

From 1967 Bill's great achievement was to see 10 new YMCAs emerge with the help of Sir Brett Cloatman V.C. who was President of the Met. Sir Brett was followed by Lord Grimthorpe. Bill was a shrewd and successful fund raiser and recruiter of quality lay leadership.

Jean recalls many sleepless nights over the future direction of London Central YMCA. Bill was headhunted for a senior post with Sainsbury's. He negotiated the Kingston upon Thames YMCA site. He was AOS President in 1981.

Bill was known as "the Guvnor" even before and after his early retirement in 1984. He became the driving force behind the Union Church, which was a doddle after working in the Met for seventeen years.

Bill married Jean in 1956 - a stalwart partner for 54 years. They had three children, Susan Martin and Jane. The grandchildren soon followed - James and Sophie (Susan), Jonathon and Christopher (Martin) in the USA and Bethany and Anna (Jane). Great grandchildren followed with Emily and Chloe (Sophie) Whitaker (Jonathon) all listed in the order of appearance.

Bill was proud to be Captain of the South Herts Golf Club in 1982, a game which he much loved. He was a 'dye' in the wool' YMCA stalwart, much respected by all who knew him.

At his funeral, a gathering of YM folk including Sam Johnston, Tony Miles, Ray Allen, George Reynolds, Louis Lewis and many leading Laymen.

So as Jean ends "Herewith the bare bones of a vocation dedicated to serving Christ through the Young Men's Christian Association, 'that they all may be one!' Amen to that.' Thank you so much Jean - Editor David



Surprise, surprise, I was doing some honey-work in my "factory" (garage) and listening to the radio when I, without any warning, suddenly came to think of you. What a morning!! Honestly I can quite often, when I happen to meet some friend who has a relation to England, be thinking of you and other friends in GB. It's absolutely only nice thoughts.

So many things were on the agenda when England was involved. Tony (Miles), Pip (Wilson), Bill (Sargison), Geoffrey (Palmer), Ian (Green) and of course you David (Smith). This was a gang to meet and laugh together with. Prague festival and all the secretary meetings we had good memories.

But life goes on and this month is the month of retirement. Both for me and Elisabeth. She is mad of all new and unnecessary changes of the organisation as district nurse.

So we are now both working in our own "bee and honey factory". We have 25 beehives and this year I think we will have about 1,5 tonnes honey. Quite a lot to take care of but it is possible to handle even if it is in our garage.

It might be a good business - next year. This year is more like spending money and hope to have it back sometime.

To be a bee-keeper means also that it is not much time for us to use our boat. We have been out just 2-3 times and I think this is our last summer with our Otilia - an Alvin 232 model.

Of course the life includes our Marcus and Daniel and our 4 grand-terrorists. 15, 14, 3 and 1 years old. Absolutely fine.

It would be nice to hear how you live your days today. If you have time - I mean you are of course a busy person Now. I mean a retired man but young.....

I saw your face in one picture and I will show you how I look today. I have bought 648 kg sugar for my bees as winter food. That's what you see.

Take care David and send regards to Sue

Lars Rooth - My e-mail today is lars@vonrooth.se

A PERSONAL LIFE STORY BY PETER PARFITT



I was born in Letchworth, the first Garden City, on 1st December 1922, my Mother a farmer's daughter and my Father an Engineer.

My Father and Mother were great parents, who brought up my brother and me as practising Christians, helped by being third generation members of the Church Lads' Brigade.

We were not studiously endowed and left Grammar School at 16 (2 years longer than most children had in the 30's) with no paper qualifications. My brother became an instrument maker and as all I ever wanted to do was 'to go farming' that is what I did for 20 years from January 1939 to 1959.

I was exempt from call up, so worked on the farms throughout the War. In 1945 I obtained my first farm bailiff's position, with a house, which meant that my fiancée Eileen and I could get married. We lived in tied accommodation through all our lives together. In 1950 we offered ourselves to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel for service overseas. We were sent to the Holy Cross Mission, in the Transkei, in the Eastern Cape, South Africa.

Later, we moved to St John's College Umtata, before returning home with a baby daughter. I was fortunate enough to obtain a farm bailiff's job at a senior approved school and so began my work with young men as we had 12 to 15 working on the farm. We had to go into the dormitories at 6.30am to get the boys up for work and in the summer we were often working with them to 9pm. I would probably have stayed in that position until the Government closed us down but for a visit to St Albans Cathedral for Evensong to find a Priest/Doctor friend from South Africa preaching the Sermon. He said, 'We need a farm manager at St Matthew's Mission in the Ciskai'. So off we went again for another 3 years. This proved to be a very fulfilling time for Eileen and myself.

In 1959 I was wondering what to do on our return to England. A YWCA Conference was taking place at St Matthew's and a member suggested contacting the YMCA, so I did. We landed off a Union Castle Liner at Tilbury on a Sunday, were interviewed on the following Friday by Arthur Naylor who had recently moved from Newcastle to take over Community Services and we were appointed Warden and Matron at Wilderwick House, joint income £300 per year plus board and lodgings. And so started out 33 years' service with the YMCA. Mr Naylor was a very keen boss so it was 'all go' at Wilderwick House. Three appearances on TV, newspaper articles, the start of the horticultural course, visits of VIPs, plus getting the boys up in the morning, seeing them to bed at night, one weekend off a month, Church every Sunday go, go, go! My wife and I thoroughly enjoyed it all.



However, in less than 2 years, Mr Naylor, so well supported by Arthur Handy, wanted us to move to Bristol, to open Barnwell Hall of Residence in the ex RAF Officers Mess on Filton Airfield. This catered for up to 140 apprentices from craft to undergraduate, away from home for the first time, working for the BAC and RR.

We opened Barnwell Hall and closed it 15 years later due to reductions in apprentice intakes. However, there was quite a lot of activity in between. I concentrated on as many physical activities for our young men as possible – annual sports day attended by many parents, football, cricket and rugby teams (we had our own pitch), annual 25 mile night walk, 40 mile walk to Weston super Mare and back, YMCA Divisional Swimming and Athletic meetings, National Cross Country. There was a one off YMCA 50 mile walk to Weston super Mare, a 6 mile National walking event from Chippenham to Calne (some of us earned a 6 miles in 1 hour badge). I could go on and on.

However, I cannot miss out the take-off of Britain's first Concorde and the return of the crew to Barnwell Hall for debriefing by Worldwide press. Raymond Baxter did the TV and radio commentaries from my office. We had a weekly Sunday service for several years run by the residents, often with a visiting speaker.

In 1976 we moved to Halings House, Denham with the co-operation of Ernie Carroll who moved to Bletchley Park, here, there were only about 40 MOD apprentices, activities were not so easily organised. However, a table tennis team was entered into a local league. The most important event was the annual initiation of the new intake, which I was totally against, but it took a couple of years to get the agreement of the MOD training staff for it to be discontinued. Unlike Barnwell Hall where maintaining kitchen staff was a nightmare, Teo and his wife, both Polish, were a fixture in the kitchen until closure after 7 years, when we were all made redundant by the YMCA. So at the age of 60 I had to look for another job. Unfortunately, my wife died at this time in 1983, I was fortunate at attaining work and accommodation with the London and Quadrant Housing Trust in Rotherhithe, as the caretaker of a recently converted flour mill on the Thames set up for young single people. During my 7 years in Rotherhithe (3 years retired) I was very busily engaged with the local Parish Church which was heavily in debt so I ran a market stall for 5 years selling what anyone would give me every Saturday morning raising some £27,000.

I was a Governor at the two Church Schools, Victim Support Volunteer and Christian Aid representative and listened to children read which I am still doing 2 days a week in Rotherhithe. In 1991 I had the chance of a place in Morden College, Blackheath which I could not refuse. The cost of the flat and all found was less than the cost of my flat in Rotherhithe. I was introduced to Morden College by Ralph Elsdon of BBBF fame who was a resident. I have now been retired 22 years which could be another story. I have enjoyed visits to Ted Ewin recently and am in Christmas touch with Ernie Carroll, Les Yeates and Eileen Kitts and nearly a dozen ex Barnwell Hall retirees.



Y's retired of the UK Reunion 20 – 23 September 2010

Eleven retirees met in Woodbrooke College, Selly Oak, Birmingham for four days in mid-September, joined by six others who took part for a few hours on different days.

The whole reunion was a time of rich fellowship, reflection, reminiscence and hilarious laughter, an experience which I can only describe as heart-warming. There seemed to be endless memories to share, as well as news of what each of us is doing now.

What a joy it was to see how much the YMCA spirit of service in Christ's name still inspires and drives so many to such an amazing variety of voluntary service activities. This spirit was also reflected in the devotions and in the Communion service. The only downside to the whole event is that of those who spent four days at the reunion, there were only seven from England, four from Scotland – and none from either Wales or Ireland.

Woodbrooke is a comfortable Conference Centre run by the Society of Friends. It has spacious gardens and in September the vibrant red of the early autumn was beginning to show in some of the trees. The weather was warm and sunny, which made any breaks in the garden all the more enjoyable.

As well as personal memories shared we also looked back with some sense of pride at past work as we visited the excellent YMCA England archives in Birmingham University. Sam Johnston and Jim Thomson also led us in a session focussing on the YMCA in times of war and the work of the YMCA with civilians at times of disaster and conflict.

Throughout the four days, however, there was a major focus on what is currently happening in the YMCA as we heard about the challenges and opportunities being faced by the YMCA and the new directions in which things are moving. We had significant inputs about new perspectives and developments with YMCA England National Secretary Ian Green, Tony Malcolm past Christian Education Officer and Jim Jenkinson, Midlands Region Executive Officer.

We visited the new building of Birmingham YMCA at Erdington, the scale of which was rather mind blowing for some of us. We also considered current challenges and developments in Scotland and the ideas being developed there about how the experience and knowledge of retirees can best serve the YMCA today.

On the international front David Smith shared with us his experience of attending a very successful World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees Conference and World Council meeting in Hong Kong. David also conveyed to the reunion the greetings of Jerry Prado-Shaw, the new President of WFYR.

It was the hard work and leadership of Jim Lamb that made the reunion possible and this was acknowledged by all who attended as he was warmly thanked.

There was also a strong desire expressed at the end of the four days that we meet again in 2011 and preliminary steps are already being taken to make that happen. While recognising various factors that prevent some from taking part, it is hoped that many more retirees will appreciate the unique opportunity this reunion provides and try to be there next year.

John (Knox)



left to right are:- Ted Milburn, Jim Lamb, Gilbert Dickson, Jim Thomson, John Knox, Pat Haworth, Brian Rowcliffe, Reg Wake, Alan Mason (Chief Executive Of Erdington YMCA), Leila Evenden, Paul Harper, David Smith. Ray Allen is behind the camera!!



left to right are:- Sam Johnston, Ted Milburn, John Knox, Leila Evenden, Brian Rowcliffe, Reg Wake, Tony Miles, Jim Lamb, Gilbert Dickson, Jim Thomson, Ron Ingamells, Paul Harper, Pat Haworth.



REVEREND TONY MALCOLM
GUEST SPEAKER



RAY ALLAN, OUR TREASURER
AND PHOTOGRAPHER

Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2009

	2009	2008
	£	£
Receipts		
Member Subscriptions	245.00	-
Donations	0.00	-
Donations (Trust Fund)	550.00	-
Secours Spéciaux	663.25	-
Bank Interest	56.90	-
<i>Total</i>	1,515.15	-
Payments		
Grants	0.00	-
Secours Spéciaux	0.00	-
Secretary Expenses	57.87	-
Administration	202.94	-
<i>Total</i>	260.81	-
Surplus for the Year	1,254.34	-
Balances		
Balance at 1 January 2009	3,545.38	-
Surplus for the Year	1,254.34	-
Balance at 31 December 2009	4,799.72	-
<i>represented by:</i>		
Bank Balance	4,799.82	3,545.38
Cash in Hand	0.00	0.00
Total assets	4,799.82	3,545.38
<i>held as Funds</i>		
General	3486.57	-
Secours Spéciaux	763.25	-
Discretionary Trust Fund	550.00	-
Total Funds	4799.82	-

Note: Financial records for years prior to 2009 are no longer available, and prior year comparisons cannot therefore be provided.

Ray Allen
Hon Treasurer

I certify that I have examined these accounts and the associated financial records.

In my opinion, the accounts are an accurate record of the financial transactions of Ys Retired in the UK during 2009, and of its balances on 31st December 2009.

David Bennison
16 Sep 2010

Dear Jim and Reg

Having re-read David's impressive and informative Y's Retired of UK September newsletter, the theme of "fellowship" is very evident in the reports by Bart Shaha, Don Anderson and in particular Bonnie Mairs in her report under the heading Secours Speciaux Fund – for crisis situations.

As one who is in receipt of a YMCA pension, the state pension, the extra payment for winter heating and the benefits of a national health service there is no compassion with the situation of our YMCA retired colleagues in the developing world who have none of these financial payments or medical services.

The only thing (but none the less of supreme importance) is the fellowship of a great Christian movement and that word "fellowship" needs to be emphasised.

Fellowship is a shared conviction, a shared commitment and a shared compassion and compassion is love in action.

In her report Bonnie Mairs asks the question, "Can we not ask our national YMCA Movements in the developing world to support the Secours Speciaux Fund?"

I do not know the present financial status of National Councils' of YMCAs in the UK but such is the urgency to relieve the desperate need of our retired YMCA colleagues in the overseas areas, that it would be a denial of our fellowship not to pursue the suggestion of Bonnie.

It would also be a tremendous help if the respective national councils could seek the financial assistance of the staff and boards of management of local associations.

I would be very grateful if you could kindly share my comments (and greetings) with your committee. Trusting that you are well and with all good wishes.

Arthur (Bennett)

Many thanks for sending me a copy of your letter addressed to Reg dated 22nd September 2010 and not least your personal handwritten message, both appreciated!

In light of the core of your letter 'Secours Speciaux' and your concern I thought you would like to know that the Executive Committee of the Y's Retired of the UK is very aware of the need for our unmitigated support for this important fund.

Through correspondence, the Newsletter, individual communication together with the advent of Standing Orders and our annual donation of £100 (since 1985) the Y's Retired have increased giving quite dramatically! Indeed the amount raised in 2009 was £663.25 held over to 2010 due to the delayed changeover of the account on the death of the treasurer.

As at September 23rd 2010 as reported at the Business meeting held at the Reunion it amounted to £763.25 plus £100 budgeted, £130 raised in a retiring collection at the meeting, a £28 credit balance on the Reunion expenses resulting in a standing amount held of £1444 E&OE!

This may be increased before the financial year end 31st December 2010 when the Treasurer transfers the final total to Bonnie Mairs Chair of Secours Speciaux. No doubt you will agree this is an amazing amount considering members individual contributions in the past, a special appeal some years ago raised £7,000.

Between 1995 and January 2010 the total amount given by England (not UK) was £29,366.73 (including the £7,000). I make it clear that these are figures I have obtained!!

Yes you are right, it would be helpful if Local Associations gave to the Fund and the National Councils make a decent contribution given the present financial climate. I suspect there have been special appeals in the past.

I would wish to thank you for your support of the Y's Retired of the UK and the meaningful manner you continue to give for it is valued.

Trust that you and yours keep in good health.

Warm regards, **Jim Lamb (President)**

GREETINGS FROM "MEXICO" IN GHANA

My dear David,
Greetings and best wishes from Ghana - The land of Gold.
How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity – This is great!
Now let me apologise for keeping so long to acknowledge the precious work you did by sending my gifts onto Norman Owen, Derek Sheppard and Reg Wake. I have already received Kudos from Derek Sheppard. I also appreciate reading copy of your newsletter. It has become an eye opener.
Please convey my deepest sympathy to the family of Jim Lamb for their daughter husband and grandchild escaped virtually unscathed from a serious road accident.
I join them to praise the Lord! I also wish to state that if I had the means, I would have joined you at Y's Retired of the UK Reunion September 20th to 22nd, 2010. I pray for a successful meeting.
I conclude by thanking the Almighty God for granting me the opportunity to meet up with you at WFYR meeting in Hong Kong and hope that by HIS GRACE we shall meet again in Jesus Name.
Please keep communication open.
With warm regards. Your fraternal brother.
Jonathan Quayefio – Mexico.
Y Retiree - Ghana

The Fortune Teller

The fortune teller looked up at her customer, sitting across the table. 'There's no easy way to say this, so I'll just be blunt. Prepare yourself to be a widow. Your husband will die a violent and horrible death this year.'

Visibly shaken, the woman stared at the psychic's lined face, then at the single flickering candle, then down at her hands. She took a few deep breaths to compose herself. She simply had to know. She met the fortune teller's gaze, steadied her voice, and asked:

Will I get away with it?

YMCA COLLEAGUES FROM WAY BACK WHEN?



TRIBUTE TO BILL COLLIER

An Inspirational man who improved the lives of thousands of homeless men has passed away. William Collier, known as Bill took over the Brighton YMCA as Chief Executive in 1967 and saved the charity from closure.
After retiring in 1990, Bill stayed on the charity's Board of Management until this year when he gave up the post due to his deteriorating health.
Mr Collier passed away at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, on Thursday 9th September. He is thought to have suffered a fall a couple of weeks ago and his health had deteriorated since.
He is survived by his wife Amy but the couple had no children.
Mr Collier was Chief Executive of the charity from 1967 to 1989.
Paying tribute, current Brighton Chief Executive John Osborne said "After he retired he was asked to join the Board and served up until very recently. That was nearly 20 years since he retired".
"He was inspirational. Brighton YMCA owes a big debt to William. Without him there probably wouldn't be a Brighton YMCA".
"When he arrived in 1967 it really was close to closing and he built it up and encouraged people to get interested in it".
"He was truly inspirational and so important to the YMCA."
The YMCA hostel in North Road was named after Mr Collier and opened by the Princess Royal.
The Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, Peter Field, described Mr Collier as a marvellous man."
Mr Field said "Bill was totally committed to any youngster or homeless person. He held the YMCA together".

David

Thanks for passing on this sad news. Many years ago I was next-but-one to Bill as Gen. Sec. at Aberaman YMCA in mid Glamorgan. There was an occasion for him to visit for some event, and found members of the Women's Auxiliary busily buttering bread for whatever was going to pass for refreshments. Bill was horrified to see the ladies using butter knives and said the quickest way to deal with sandwiches was to melt the butter and apply with a small brush.

That just goes to show how he got to where he did get.

The last time I saw him in action was when my group had an early reunion in Brighton, and whilst I stayed with Ted Milburn and his wife in Hove, some of the gang stayed at the YMCA. Where have all the years gone.

Best wishes to you both, and tell Sue I still have the YMCA baseball cap she persuaded me to buy at some conference or other.

Peter (Brookes)