



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

JULY 2012

www.yretired.co.uk



GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear colleagues and friends - greetings

I very much hope that all readers are enjoying the best of health possible as related to your general health, age and wealth!

My lead subjects hover round finance and youth much in season as we encounter a further 'recession'.

No doubt wealth by reason of our retirement is dictated to some extent by personal work pensions, state pensions, savings and inheritances. Some of us received adequate work pensions due to the pension schemes pertaining at the time of our retirement others not so in recent years.

We are aware however that 'we' are well provided for compared with colleagues' world-wide who live at or below recognisable poverty levels with no YMCA or 'State' pensions.

Hence support for our YMCA Charity Secours Speciaux continues to be important both now and into the immediate future whilst recognising the other Charities demanding our personal support.

With Secours Speciaux and the basic financial requirements of Y's Retired of the UK in mind, our Executive Secretary Reg Wake and I in consultation with Col Mawby (Qualified Accountant), examined the three previous years accounts revealing the cash flow necessary to build on the firm structures now in place.

To this end encouraging responses to the recent 'Letter of Appeal' sent out to all members are being received. Your support both now and ongoing is deeply appreciated and augers well for future development of the Y's Retired of the UK.

The use of the Standing Order forms is most helpful as experienced over the last financial year.

I turn to a different but non-the-less important subject. Of late I have been taxed by the plight of many young people living in an age so different from that of our youth and experience.

Certainly we read or view through the media images of a younger generation growing up in a social climate where 'state' handouts have become the 'norm' and youth unemployment rife (1.2 million), both leading to often stated comments from the 'street', "We are bored – there is nowhere for us to go".

It is gratifying however to learn of high quality youth work throughout the UK not least through the YMCA as those present at the last two Reunions were reminded by speakers from the Birmingham YMCAs.

Call me a dinosaur if you wish but I have always argued that a well led traditional youth club with table tennis, snooker, darts, coffee bar, football/netball, disco, juke box, camping and informal discussion groups meets the needs of many young people!

This was raised recently during a visit by two old friends. We met through such a youth club some 60 years ago. We reminisced of course, coloured the scene somewhat but agreed on the value of those years in our lives as life forming experiences. Indeed for my old friends it is where they met and got married!

If you have thoughts on this subject please send David (Editor) a brief article!

Have to go – my grandson has just called in on his way home from school shouting "Grand-dad I'm hungry"!

A cry echoed by countless starving children throughout the world!!

Keep well and in good spirits.
Warm regards,

Jim Lamb

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NEWS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR DEAR COLLEAGUES IN YOUR PRAYERS

Rosamund Weaver
Hilary Page and family
Bill Ayers from Bath
Gareth Williams (Ex APS Treasurer).

Brian Barratt
Janet Ingamells
Eve Lamb

Pleased to report that Roy Weaver is now more mobile and recently visited his local church.
If there are other Y's Retired colleagues that you have knowledge of who need our prayers, please communicate these to the editor.

Attention all members receiving the Newsletter through the post:

If you receive the bi-monthly Y's Retired of UK Newsletter or Inter-Com messages by post we would like you to consider the following proposal.

Do you have a relative, neighbour or friend with an email address who might be willing to serve as link person on your behalf, by receiving and passing to you circulated material? The N/L is issued say 5/6 time a year maximum and Inter-Com messages less frequently - not a particularly onerous undertaking - but with the substantial increase in postage costs and general administrative time costs, such an alternative arrangement would be truly invaluable.

Please will you try and if successful, let editor (or secretary) know the email address which can be put down under your name? Thanks for your help and consideration.

MONUMENT UNVEILING CEREMONY

**Tuesday 11th
Sept at 12 noon**



Picture shows Sam Johnston and Colin Williams checking on the carving of the YMCA Monument in readiness for it's unveiling on Tuesday 11th September 12 noon, at the National Memorial Arboretum
Croxall Road
Alrewas, Staffordshire
DE13 7AR
Tel: 01283 792333
E: info@thenma.org.uk

Dear Reg

We did miss you at Treloyhan. It was a truly blessed occasion and one which we all enjoyed very much.

We had an amazing talk from Sam about the 'Y' memorial which is to be erected in the Arboretum in Staffordshire in Sept.

We also had an amazing day's outing to the most scenic beautiful spots on the Roseland Peninsula. The little harbour at Portloe where there is an annual service for the blessing of the fishing boats. The Anglican vicar arranged a short service in the Christian Church (which used to be the Lifeboat Station) under a Local Ecumenical Partnership between the Anglicans and the Methodists

Then on to Veyan to a spectacular church, named after St Symphorian (get your tongue around that!) and graveyard where there is the longest grave in the UK of 24 sailors, whose vessel, 'The Hara' foundered on rocks nearby in 1914.

Then on to St Mawes where the Cornish among us said the best pasties were to be had, and Sam got addicted! He bought pasties every day after that!

The Godrevy singers, who must average out at a couple of centuries between them, sang and had us in pleats with their jokes. A great quiz night enjoyed by all, again arranged by Liz Harper.

I forgot to mention the church of St Just in Roseland where there is luscious vegetation and beautiful flowers and water features. The vicar there made us very welcome and told us to help ourselves to the tea and coffee. Ray Allen and I thought we wouldn't mind being buried there, but Hilary pointed out it would be too expensive when you calculated the cost of crossing the boundaries, especially for Ray coming from his corner of the woods, Lincoln.

We did miss our dear friend Ray Onions. As your Peggie would say, 'he is waiting to be gathered'. Mervyn and I visited him recently and anointed him with oil, in the name of the Lord and stayed for a couple of hours holding his hand. He knew us and enjoyed our presence. Mervyn read him the psalms and I sang some of the hymns from his childhood at his local Anglican church. We both have a Lancashire ancestry in common. We were in a little private room.
All for now - Love **Beryl (Moorehead)**

Dear David, - Once again I was pleased to receive the Y's Retired of UK newsletter, though disappointed with its size although our Officers do their very best to provide materials, we members are not supporting them as we should.

Of course we are all getting older and probably not able to be involved in matters which we feel are of interest to others. Like myself. I moved into our new Nursing Home Wing some 2 months ago due to the active movement of cancer in my bones causing a lack of interest in food and so increasing weakness for walking although acute pain is under control.

Actually, after numerous hospital visits in and out of tunnels and the advice of three consultants, there is a beginning to bone deterioration and not cancer. Who knows?

I have recently received a Civic Award and the Freedom of the Borough of Southwark for work at a local school over the last 20 years, which is very pleasing as it was at the suggestion of a parent of 2 of the children I helped with their reading.

I shall not be upset if you do not feel this scrawl should be published. I also apologise for not following up our BBBF investigations.

Most sincerely - **Peter Parfitt**, 29 Callum Welsh Court, Marden College, Blackheath, LONDON, SE3 0PW



Ray Onions 1928-2012
A tribute and
thanksgiving for his life

By Arthur (Bennett)

55 Russet Avenue
 Carlton, Nottingham
 NG4 3BT

One of Ray's remarkable gifts was his ability to communicate with people whether they were strangers or long standing friends and consequently he touched the lives of many people. I also know from personal experience that he was a visionary whose concern for a person could change the direction of their life. And in fact, it was Ray that encouraged me to train and embark on my career in the YMCA, which led to a wonderful friendship which lasted 60 years.

Ray was a humble man, quick to see the goodness in other people, and he was full of praise for those who cared for him in the hospitals and care homes in Liskeard and Plymouth. On one occasion when I made an enquiry concerning his health I was told by a nurse he was comfortable and that he was a lovely man and we adore him.

Ray was appointed as General Secretary of Ipswich YMCA in 1952. I was then a member of the board of management and his dedication for the aims and purposes of the YMCA quickly became apparent. A glance at the handbook for 1953-54 not only revealed a balanced programme of activities for body, mind and spirit, but also for Ray's enthusiasm for the Association to be seen as an active partner with the town's clergy and churches in the promotion of Ecumenism.

In the Autumn of 1955 the Association moved to a larger premises which would be shared with the Armed Services Centre (a branch of the American YMCA) to provide facilities for American military personnel stationed at two large air bases (RAF Lakenheath and RAF Bentwaters) in the close vicinity of Ipswich. The venture proved a great success but few people would be aware of Ray's huge involvement to enable the partnership to take place.

Ray's wife Alice, a school teacher was most supportive of Ray in his work and their joint strong faith prompted him in 1965 to accept an invitation to establish a YMCA in Dar-es Salaam, Tanzania, East Africa, where Alice would continue teaching in a local junior school. The separate work of Ray and Alice attracted the attention of the then President Julius Nyerere who expressed his warm appreciation on behalf of the Da-es-Salaam community.

Ray was an inspirational man. He was a unique leader who inspired, encouraged and supported his colleagues in their areas of responsibility. Like many other people, I loved him to bits and without any doubt at all, Ray was a devoted servant of Christ.

I was saddened to hear of Ray's passing.

In '65, four of us went out as Fraternal Secretaries. Bill Harte to Nigeria, Ray and I to Africa and I forget the fourth. Ray went to Tanzania where he and Alice had an extremely difficult time. For weeks they stayed in a hotel in Dar es Salaam while the Tanzanian National Council made up its mind what to do with them. Eventually, Ray was given work to do and they literally lived in a mud hut. Alice got a job with better accommodation but Ray was still under-used and both were unhappy. Meantime, the Thomsons had been warmly welcomed by the Kenya Movement and living in excellent accommodation in Nairobi

Ray and I decided that he and Alice would come to us for a week and we would have our own little Fraternal. That we did and whenever we met or spoke by telephone, that Fraternal was always referred to. It was so important to both of us. He was a great and good man. **Jim (Thomson)**

Many thanks for the notification of Ray's death. I do recall that you had a close association with him in your earlier career. I knew Ray from a distance but enjoyed his company at conferences and similar, Ray was held in great esteem and respect by all who knew him. His family have my prayerful thoughts at this time. I await your further communication. Warm regards, **Jim (Lamb)**

So sorry to hear the sad news of Ray's passing. We all seemed so close to him last week at Treloyhan Manor through our prayers. It is obvious that God has called one of his most faithful servants to higher service, may he rest in peace and rise in Glory.

Regards **Ray (Allen)**

Thank you for letting me know. I'm so sad to learn that someone I have known for so long and admired so much has now been lost to us.

I have forwarded your message to Brenda at Ipswich as she too will be devastated by the news.

I await details once arrangements have been made.

Mike (Fisher)

Thank you for these messages – although sad ones.

I loved dear Ray – met him first, so many years ago, when I was in Norwich and he was in Ipswich and then many times at the Norwich Board meetings and later when I joined the National Council. Such a delight to know and so respected by everyone. RIP.

I am retired **but** preached on Maundy Thursday, led the Last Hour today and Preside on Sunday in our Parish Church at Buckden. It is quite unusual to be within the parish as most weeks I am taking services in various villages around here. I keep well and still enjoy (?) or should I say play golf and cycle etc. Sadly Janet's Parkinsons is progressive and mobility is very difficult.

Love to all - Ron (Ingamells)

Thanks David for very full and clear details. Regrettably we can't attend as it is one of our committed Grand parenting days. If I remember correctly Ray was your YM mentor from your Ipswich days. A link with our past is severed when one of our "anchors" passes on albeit to a better place. I'm sure the services will be fitting tributes to Ray's work and life.

Vic (Hills)

I was hoping that the funeral arrangements for Ray would not fall on Monday 16th April. As much as I would like to be there, I cannot be at the Thanksgiving Service, and then be in London in time to Chair a full Corporation meeting of Waltham Forest College, that evening. I'm so very sorry about this but will be with you all in Spirit.

I have very fond and appreciative memories of Ray. His quiet and yet inspirational influences still affects some of the decisions that I have had to make.

David (Pendle)



John Raleigh Mott
One of the great
Ambassadors of the YMCA.

(May 25, 1865-January 31, 1955) was born of pioneer stock in Livingston Manor, New York, the third child and only son among four children.

His parents, John and Elmira (Dodge) Mott, moved to Postville, Iowa, where his father became a lumber merchant and was elected the first mayor of the town.

At sixteen, Mott enrolled at Upper Iowa University, a small Methodist preparatory school and college in Fayette. He was an enthusiastic student of history and literature there and a prizewinner in debating and oratory, but transferred to Cornell University in 1885.

At this time he thought of his life's work as a choice between law and his father's lumber business, but he changed his mind upon hearing a lecture by J. Kynaston Studd on January 14, 1886. Three sentences in Studd's speech, he said, prompted his lifelong service of presenting Christ to students: "Seekest thou great things for thyself? Seek them not. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God."

In the summer of 1886, Mott represented Cornell University's YMCA at the first international, interdenominational student Christian conference ever held. At that conference, which gathered 251 men from eighty-nine colleges and universities, one hundred men - including Mott - pledged themselves to work in foreign missions. From this, two years later, sprang the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions.

During Mott's remaining two years at Cornell, as president of the YMCA he increased the membership threefold and raised the money for a university YMCA building. He was graduated in 1888, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and history.

In September of 1888 he began a service of twenty-seven years as National Secretary of the Intercollegiate YMCA of the USA and Canada, a position requiring visits to colleges to address students concerning Christian activities.

During this period, he was also chairman of the executive committee of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions, presiding officer of the World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh in 1910, chairman of the International Missionary Council. With Karl Fries of Sweden, he organized the World's Student Christian Federation in 1895 and as its general secretary went on a two-year world tour, during which he organized national student movements in India, China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, parts of Europe and the North East.

In 1912 and 1913, he toured the Far East, holding twenty-one regional missionary conferences in India, China, Japan, and Korea. From 1915 to 1928, Mott was general-secretary of the International Committee of the YMCA and from 1926 to 1937 president of the YMCA's World Committee.

During World War I, when the YMCA offered its services to [President Wilson](#), Mott became General Secretary of the National War Work Council, receiving the Distinguished Service Medal for his work.

For the YMCA he kept up international contacts as circumstances allowed and helped to conduct relief work for prisoners of war in various countries. He had already declined President Wilson's offer of the ambassadorship to China, but he served in 1916 as a member of the Mexican Commission, and in 1917 as a member of the Special Diplomatic Mission to Russia.

The sum of Mott's work makes an impressive record: he wrote sixteen books in his chosen field; crossed the Atlantic over one hundred times and the Pacific fourteen times, averaging thirty-four days on the ocean per year for fifty years; delivered thousands of speeches; chaired innumerable conferences.

Among the honorary awards which he received are: decorations from China, Czechoslovakia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Jerusalem, Poland, Portugal, Siam, Sweden, and the United States; six honorary degrees from the universities of Brown, Edinburgh, Princeton, Toronto, Yale, and Upper Iowa; and an honorary degree from the Russian Orthodox Church of Paris.

Dr. Mott married Leila Ada White of Wooster, Ohio, in 1891; they had four children, two sons and two daughters. He died at his home in Orlando, Florida, at the age of eighty-nine.

Acceptance Speech

Your Majesty, Your Royal Highnesses, Your Excellencies, Mr. Chairman and members of the Nobel Committee of the Storting and other friends: I do not trust myself to voice emotions which well-nigh master me in contemplation of the signal honor conferred on me in the granting of the Nobel Peace Award, and of the gracious and generous words of the President.

I appreciate deeply the high privilege of being bracketed in this presentation with Miss Emily Balch, in whose distinguished career of international helpfulness I take pride.

As the President has indicated, my life has been a life of travel - for 60 years constantly moving over the wide world on journeys which first and last have taken me to 83 countries, and, what is more significant, to most of them again and again.

In this world-wide effort I have concentrated on successive generations of youth. If I were to add a word it would be a word of abounding hope. The present new generation across the breadth of the world, and whose representatives are planning to assemble here in Norway in the coming summer to take counsel together, I can testify are responsive to the Nobel Peace ideal, and are planning, as no previous generation, for a great united advance in the furtherance of peace and good-will throughout the world.

MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER

As Treasurer of Y's Retired of the UK, I just want to make a statement about the 2011 accounts, as I fear they may be some confusion.

The payments and subventions to Secours Speciaux of £1982.25 were covering years, 2009; 2010 and 2011. The reason for that was, the fact that I had problems in making the transfer of funds to the appropriate account at the World Alliance. I am happy to report that all is well now, and payment was made. 2012 payments will be made later this year.

In my report, I also mentioned that a subvention of £250 to the Discretionary fund was made. This was not true and a mistake on my part. To rectify that, two amounts of £250 will be made in this year's accounts. They will be marked as 2011 and 2012 payments.

Hope this has cleared up any confusion and answered any questions about these matters that you may have had. May I also thank members who have responded to our President's appeal to increase our funds. We could still do with more response, so please think about it.

May I take this opportunity have reminding members what the membership currently is. It is £10 of which £5 goes to our funds and £5 to our charity, Secours Speciaux.

Anything over that, unless you state what it should go to, either Secours Speciaux, General Funds or the Discretionary Fund I apportion at my discretion, although I would really prefer that you tell me what it should go to.

Ray Allen - Hon Treasurer.

THOUGHTS OF THE MONTH

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.'

THINGS TO KNOW

In the 1400's a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence we have 'the rule of thumb'

Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled 'Gentlemen Only...Ladies Forbidden' and thus, the word GOLF entered into the English language.

The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV was Fred and Wilma Flintstone

THE DAYS KEEP PASSING !!!!!!!!!!!!!

An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen. The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, 'Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great. I would recommend it very highly.'
The other man said, 'What is the name of the restaurant?'
The first man thought and thought and finally said, 'What is the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know... The one that's red and has thorns.'
'Do you mean a rose?'
'Yes, that's the one,' replied the man. He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, 'Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?'

Hospital regulations require a wheel chair for patients being discharged. However, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he didn't need my help to leave the hospital.
After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator.
On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him. 'I don't know,' he said. 'She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown.'

ST IVES GATHERING 26TH – 30TH MARCH 2012



Back row:- Ray Allen, Sam Johnston, Liz Harper, Tom Libby, Mervyn Moorehead, Val Libby, Paul Harper, David Libby, Des Willcox, Steven Milner, David H Smith
Front Row: Maureen Johnston, Beryl Moorehead, Joyce Finnemore, Margaret Libby, Hillary Robins, Mary Jarman, Hanna Milner, Pearl Willcox, Sue Smith



My daughter asked me what we do on our Ys Retired reunions – I explained to her we go around graveyards finding the longest grave in the UK – best not to tell you her response!!



History will judge Rowan Williams to have been a great archbishop of Canterbury in all sorts of ways, many yet unsung.

As his biographer, I sometimes wonder whether more fractious members of his flock realise how lucky they have been to have him. Institutionally, though, his decade in office will probably end in honourable defeat.

The deepest issue facing him has not been over [gay clergy or women bishops](#), as many assume, but a question he sees as even more pressing – how the church makes up its mind on disputed questions. To its supporters, Anglicanism has long been renowned for toleration. Like the proverbial Australian farm, it has been a church with few fences but many wells. Elasticity over secondary matters of belief has applied at a structural level. Relations between the communion's different provinces around the world depended on trust and friendship, not on streamlined procedures or enforceable rules. But opposition to this style of government intensified as debate on women's ministry and sexuality grew more heated during the 80s and 90s. "What had once been like a gentlemanly game of tennis that needed no umpire had become more like a scrappy game of football calling out for the restraint of a referee," as one observer put it.

This is the background to Williams's plan for the so-called [covenant](#), under which the Anglican communion's various provinces would sign up to a structure preventing them from taking unilateral action in the absence of broader consensus across the Communion. The intention behind this is to prevent official approval of such practices as the blessing of same-sex unions in church, but also other innovations – including allowing laypeople to preside at the eucharist – that are deemed to lack a critical mass of support.

Williams's main motive is simple. He is a devoted ecumenist. It is his conviction that disunity within the body of Christ is the gravest wound of all in church life that led him, after much heartache, to row back on his earlier, more liberal instincts towards gay clergy.

Depending on your point of view, much credit or blame for this lies with the pope. Soon after his move to Lambeth Palace, the archbishop urged him to kick-start stalled talks on reunion between Rome and Canterbury. Benedict's condition for allowing this was that the Anglican communion should streamline its structures and start talking with a more united voice. Williams agreed; the covenant has formed a major element in his strategy.

Anglicans of a more liberal stripe have been outraged – not least because many of them had cast the archbishop in their own image, failing to realise that his aim was to be a good chairman, fair to all sides, rather than a campaigner. (This explains his efforts, also deplored by many liberals, to provide legal safeguards for traditionalists who cannot accept the ministrations of women bishops.)

But the argument against the covenant is nevertheless fair. Opponents describe it as an authoritarian measure at odds with traditional church polity. So far it has been supported in more conservative parts of the communion, especially Africa and Asia, but rejected elsewhere. If the Church of England itself refuses to endorse the covenant, the plan will probably be doomed.

I do not think that Williams is to blame for this. Perhaps the differences of view between liberals and conservatives are irreconcilable. Long before he [announced his intention to bow out](#), many were asking whether a man of such evident godliness and erudition had the stomach for so political a job. It is true that Cambridge will probably provide a better fit for Williams's many gifts. But leading the second-most international church on earth, yet with scarcely any executive power, is exceptionally onerous. Could anyone else have done better? I doubt it.

Rupert Shortt is author of Rowan's Rule

The ninth meeting of the Scottish retirees group took place in Aberdeen YMCA on Thursday, 26 April 2012. Before the meeting started the group had the opportunity to share in the Community Café of Aberdeen YMCA which gave us the opportunity to meet and talk with some of the café users.

A particularly warm welcome to the meeting was given to the first two lay retirees to attend, Tom McPherson, a past National Council Chairman and Walter Crosby, a past National Council Honorary Treasurer. Their presence gave added richness to the meeting and not least when it came to the usual practice of sharing personal information and news of YMCA developments known to members of the group.

Greetings had been sent to the meeting by Jerry Prado-Shaw, WFYR President and by Juan Simoes Iglesias, YMCA Europe General Secretary. The meeting was particularly pleased to receive these greetings.

After opening devotions Gavin Begg, Youth and Community Worker at Aberdeen YMCA, spoke about the work in Aberdeen. The major focus of the work is with young people including some who have the need of the special sort of care and attention the YMCA can give.

Mike Will, Chairman of both Aberdeen YMCA and of YMCA Scotland, and an Executive Committee member of the World Alliance, joined us for lunch and spoke about the developments in Aberdeen as well as of plans being developed for a Scottish YMCA National Award, recognising outstanding service given within the YMCA by individuals. Mike said that the standards being set for the award are going to be very high. He also spoke about the recent meeting of the World Alliance Executive in Nairobi and spoke especially warmly of the warmth of welcome from the African delegates and hosts. Juan Simoes Iglesias in his greetings to the retirees group had spoken of his meeting with Mike in Nairobi and their useful discussion about the work and future of YMCA Europe. Mike shared information and photographs of YMCA buildings in Nairobi which were recognised by Jim Thomson, who had been National General Secretary for Kenya YMCA from 1965 – 1967 and World Alliance Refugee Secretary for Africa, living in Nairobi, from 1967 – 1970.

John Knox opened discussion about Secours Speciaux and ways of encouraging greater support both by individuals and by local associations. It was agreed to seek opportunities for sharing information about Secours at both national and local level. He also reported that it had been agreed with Mike Will and Peter Crory (YMCA Scotland National General Secretary), as discussed at the last meeting of the group, that the next retirees meeting will link with the YMCA Scotland Annual General Meeting.

This idea had been generated following the 2011 AGM when there was such a useful input regarding YMCA developments in Scotland and the belief of those who attended that this would be of great interest and also encouragement to the retirees. This meeting will be on 22nd September 2012. The retirees group will meet on its own in the morning, share lunch with the National Council representatives, and then share in the AGM in the afternoon. It was also hoped that it may be possible to have some moments to share information about Secours Speciaux.

It was agreed that the attendance of two lay members who had contributed so much to work of the YMCA in Scotland, added immeasurably to the value of the meeting and it was hoped that they would continue to attend future meetings. The thanks of the group were expressed to Aberdeen YMCA and the meeting finished with brief devotions.

John Knox