



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

**May 2023**

**www.yretired.co.uk**



## President's ponderings

### A Question of Identity

We were once 'New Elizabethans' at the start of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, now we find ourselves as 'New Carolingians' as we enter into the reign of King Charles III. This is probably not a description of ourselves that we recognise! But it is a description that some historians and social commentators are ascribing to us as we live through this time of change. It is but one of a number of labels that have been used to identify particular generations. Within Y's Retired we have members of the Greatest Generation – born 1901-1924. The Silent Generation – born 1925-1945. The Baby Boomer Generation – born 1946-1964. Our children and grandchildren are Generation X – born 1965-1979. or Millennials – born 1980-1994. Those born 1995-2012 are Generation Z – and they are being followed by Gen Alpha.

It is said Each generation has views and attributes shaped by their particular life time experiences, whether war, prosperity, rapid technological change or even COVID. . . .

But where do we as individuals draw our sense of identity from? Our gender, race, our skills, gifts, relationships and experiences all play a part. As we grow older and our abilities and opportunities change, so we have to adjust our sense of identity. We can be tempted to define ourselves in terms of what we were and what we used to do. But that I think is a dangerous thing to do and think!

Whatever date is on our birth certificate, we all continue to be children of God, loved, blessed and cared by Him. We all continue to be able to be servants of God, sharing love and compassion in whatever ways we might be able to within our families and communities.

It is not what the sociologists claim that we are which matters, it is that God given sense of identity that we carry within us that matters and makes us who we are, my fellow Carolingians!

**Graham**

### Online AGM success!

17 Members and friends were able to join together for the first ever on line Y's Retired AGM.. The Gathering included Len Wilson Editor of the World Federation of Y's Retired Newsletter 'Bridges' zooming in from the USA with greetings and insights from around the world,.

It was a good mix of YMCA joviality and serious business as old friends and acquaintances joined in alongside the business discussions arising from an AGM, the minutes of which will be made available.

Particular mention and tribute was made in memory of those members and friends who had passed away in the past year.

Graham Clarke was reappointed as President, Vic Hills as Secretary; Andrew Jenkins as Treasurer, John Naylor as Secours Speciaux and Keith Rennie as Scottish Rep.

The officers were thanked for their work in the past year.

The search for a newsletter editor is continuing!

**Y's Retired Website:-** [www.yretired.co.uk](http://www.yretired.co.uk)

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**NEWSLETTER EDITOR & WEBSITE DESIGNER**:  
A Vacancy exists for an Editor to collect articles and correspondence to forward to someone who has volunteered to compile and publish the Newsletters. Could you help? Contact Graham or Vic.

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## Y's Retired AGM 2023 Who can you spot?



## Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Walter Crosby ~ 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023



Walter 3<sup>rd</sup> from the left with fellow  
Centenarian Jim Thomson

Birthday Congratulations to Walter Crosby who was Treasurer of YMCA Scotland for many years in the 1980s and 1990s and continued his interest and support for the YMCA.

He is a Vice President of YMCA Scotland and attended Y's Retired meetings in person pre-covid and on Zoom during covid.

A banker by profession, Walter has been an active Church of Scotland elder and trustee/active supporter of many charities.

Birthday Gifts will be given to Scottish Love in Action in support of girls in India at risk of dropping out of school to be married or to become child labourers.

## First Worldwide Zoom Meeting

### for YMCA Retirees May 24, 2023

The World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees (WFYR) is working at ways to strengthen the bonds between its members worldwide. As only a few of us can attend world meetings in person, the WFYR leadership is looking for other ways to help retirees make new friends and keep the old.

It has planned two worldwide Zoom gatherings in 2023, in May and October. The first, May 24, will focus on the YMCAs in Europe. **Juan Simoes**, YMCA Europe's executive, is the featured speaker. **Viktor Serbulov**, YMCA Ukraine, will discuss the current situation in his YMCA. There will be time for questions and answers.

The Zoom format means that you will see and hear from retirees in real time, the next best thing to meeting in person.

The idea for these Zooms came from WFYR leadership. The planning committee is very excited about bringing YMCA retirees together via Zoom. Members are **Franco Savoia**, Canada, **Guenther Ozdyk**, Germany, **Alicia Sanjurjo**, Argentina and **Bonnie Mairs**, USA. We promise you an hour you will enjoy. Put May 24 on your calendar NOW. You may want to get together with friends to participate as a group.

Please plan to attend the first-ever virtual meeting on Zoom for all YMCA retirees around the world May 24 at 7 p.m.

The Link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84337254452> The virtual waiting room 30 minutes prior to start of the gathering.

You can register for free on Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/world-federation-of-ymca-retirees-tickets-544916258197>

## Coming Up!

### Cambridge Lunch at Girton Golf Club Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023

A great way of meeting old Friends

Please book with Vic Hills

#### GRANTS FROM THE BENEVOLENT FUND

Grants of assistance are available for Y's Retired Members, through the Officers of Y's Retired of the UK.

Are you in a situation where you are about to make a significant expenditure on something that will help or improve your condition of life, i.e., stair-lift, mobility scooter, electric chairs, adjustable bed, or similar?

Do you personally know of a Y's Retired member who would benefit from a gift (of up to £500) towards such costs? If so, please make contact (by email or in writing) with brief details to our secretary, Vic Hills.

Vic Hills Email: [vic\\_hills@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:vic_hills@yahoo.co.uk) or at:- 5 Kernham Drive, Tilehurst, Reading, RG31 6GB

All applications will be quickly assessed by two independent panel members who may contact the applicant for any additional information required to assist consideration of the request.

#### YMCA NEWS

Lots of current news across the federation of YMCAs are on the Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn platforms and I have included the links to those platforms below.

For information, please tap on the links below.

[ymca.org.uk](http://ymca.org.uk) |

[Facebook](#) |

[Twitter](#) |



#### Can you be our next Editor?

The Y's Retired Newsletter is the key way in which we keep in touch with each other. Technical help can be available, we just need you to put the Newsletter together! Please contact Vic Hills if you could consider doing this.

#### Archive Project nearing completion

The project funded by the Wellcome Trust to digitise the Index of the YMCA and YHA Archives at The University of Birmingham is coming to an end in June.

To mark this there will be lunchtime show and tell sessions in the archive on Thursday 22 June 2023; and a short online project launch on Thursday 29 June 2023 17:15-17:45.

If you would like to be part of this contact Mark Eccleston  
[m.r.eccleston@bham.ac.uk](mailto:m.r.eccleston@bham.ac.uk)



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM



## Train buffs, did you know.....



In the 1890s a network of YMCAs developed designed to meet the needs of workers building the Canadian Railways across the country. Welfare and Education programmes began in railway stations followed by purpose designed buildings often in new remote communities providing accommodation and recreation facilities, many of which became local YMCA centres.

See the video on You Tube The Canadian Railway YMCA Story <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uDslyyW1iJY>

Thanks to Stephen Milner for pointing this out

### NOTICE FROM YMCA PENSION PLAN

Several members of Y's Retired of UK will be in receipt of a YMCA pension, either paid via the Plan's administrators, XPS, or via an annuity provider such as Legal & General or Aviva.

Information on the YMCA Pension Plan can be found on the website [www.pensions.ymca.org.uk](http://www.pensions.ymca.org.uk) which does not require any password to access it.

To help with the ongoing administration, it is important to let the YMCA Pensions Administrator know of any changes to your circumstances, such as change of address. You can do so by contacting XPS Administration by email: [YMCA@xpsgroup.com](mailto:YMCA@xpsgroup.com) or telephoning 0118 918 5750 and ask for Balbir Sandhu.

### Do come and join us for Lunch

*at Girton Golf Club Cambridge on Wednesday  
5<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Meet at 12 to 3.30 (ish).*

*Price & Menu will be emailed.*

*We already have interest from new folk as well as  
some of the "stalwarts".*

A great way of meeting new - old Friends  
Vic is taking bookings now.

## A Continuing Legacy....

Our Treasurer Andrew Jenkins was delighted to receive a gift of £5000 for Secours Speciaux from the family of our late President, Friend and Colleague Reg Wake. . Reg's daughter Jane Martin writes:

*I am only too pleased to have been able to help SS. Both my sister and I have benefitted from Dad's estate, the result of careful living over a long number of years. YM secretaries as you know were never well paid and even when "knocked up to London" he and Mother never altered their spending habits, so together with the rise in house prices we have been most fortunate. I guess our upbringing suggested that good things should be shared with others and what better way than with SS which is dedicated to helping other YM people*

We are grateful for this generous gift to a cause which supports retired YMCA colleagues around the world who are in need.

### **Wanted! Your News!**

*Ys Retired exists to maintain old friendships and contacts and sometimes make new ones! We are always delighted to have news, stories and memories to share. Just send them to Vic Hills or Graham Clarke as they come to you!!!*

### **Final word**

How good to feel you reached in adulthood, it's a sign that you've been healthy most of your life.

It's good that you are retired, as this is an unmistakable sign that you worked a lot during your working life

It's good that you can write or read this article, because even with glasses, your eyesight allows you to remain independent.

It's nice that you can still walk, although slow, and go wherever you want.

It's good that you go to meetings, because it's a sign that your friends are still alive and keep you alive, that a coffee means a thousand jokes and ten thousand smiles.

It's good that you still love someone, because it's a sign that you have a healthy heart and a thirst to keep living.

Thanks for the whiteness of your hair, as it is a sign that it has not fallen out and you can still decide on your haircut style.

Don't allow anyone to call you "old" with disregard, because you are not,

*Ys retired Latin America and Caribbean*

## We received the following responses to the Easter Greetings Card.

Many thanks and I wish you a happy Easter. - Kind regards, Martyn Handley

Many thanks and I hope you have a peaceful and rewarding Easter. Best wishes. David (Tipping).

.....And Easter Greetings to our Magnificent Five! Chandu (Christian).

May God's Blessing be on you and your families. Mike & Maggie (Wilkinson).

Thanks Vic et al and Easter Greetings to you all as well. Margaret & I have a busy time for the next few weeks as our Diamond Wedding is on the 20<sup>th</sup> and my 92<sup>nd</sup> Birthday is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May. We are celebrating in addition with a cruise on the Danube -almost certainly our last holiday abroad. Best Wishes, Geoff (Havers).

Many thanks for your greeting and message. I am doing a 1 hour reflection on G.F. and Easter Communion in the village. Pleased to say we have recovered from Covid! Blessing for the season and a Happy Easter celebration. Ron (Ingamells).

Thank you one and all. Easter Blessings to you! Best wishes. Roger and Elaine. (Hunt).

He is risen and so shall we. John Drake.

Thank you - we appreciate your responses to our endeavours.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

We recently heard from Paul Harper explaining that Derek Shepherd had had problems with his computer and lost many of his email addresses and hadn't had any communications from Y's Retired for several months. Through Paul we were able to get in touch with Derek and bring him up to date with Y's Retired News.

Derek responded - Many thanks for bringing me up to date with Y's retired affairs and now, hopefully, I will be able to keep in touch. I have a new computer and although it was the cheapest I spotted at Currys, it seems to be ok so far.

Your and Graham's willingness to take on the Y's retired newsletter, is much appreciated as it provides such an important link eg I was previously unaware of the passing of David, Jim and other former colleagues. I hope you are keeping in good health and still enjoying life. With every good wish. Derek

**We wonder if there are other folk who have lost touch through computer issues. If you know of anyone, please let us know?**

# Y's RETIRED of the UK AGM 2022

## Minutes for the Meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023

{DRAFT}

**PRESENT:-** President Graham Clarke (GC), Honorary Treasurer Andrew Jenkins (AJ), Executive Secretary Vic' Hills (VH). Len Wilson (LW) Bridges Editor, Brian Rowcliffe (BW), Ray Allen (RA), Stephen Milner (SM), Stan & Celia Wojcik (SW), Paul Harper (PH), Geoff Cooper (GC), Paul Smillie (PS), David Pendle (PD), Mike Wilkinson (MW), David Tipping (DT), Mary Maginty (MM), Val' Wallis (VW), Ron Ingamells (RI), Neil Sjoberg (NS).

**APOLOGIES:-** Secours Speciaux John Naylor (JN), Scottish Rep' Keith Rennie (KR), Barbara & Eric Moore, Paul Kerridge, David Standing, Andy Winter. Belated – Peter Brookes.

**OPENING PRAYERS:-** were conducted by GC reflecting on the sadness we had felt and remembering each of the 12, members and spouses, who had died since the last AGM. Prayers were offered for their families, those who loved them, friends. Graham reminded that death is not an end but a beginning with God.

**MINUTES OF THE 2022 AGM:-** were approved.

**All reports & papers referred to during the meeting had been widely circulated prior to the meeting.**

1. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:-** was received and adopted. Appreciation was expressed to Graham for both his Presidential ponderings and compiling the Newsletter (with VH) since David Smith's departure and successfully organising ZOOM meetings.
2. **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS for the year 2022:-** certified by David Bennison, with the addition of explanatory notes previously requested by some members, were approved.
3. **TREASURER'S REPORT:-** AJ noted particularly:- the generosity of donations to Secours Speciaux by Reg Wake's family (£2000), In honour of David Smith (£875), Jim Lamb's parting gift (£1000) and Y's Retired donor's and funds totalling (£5849) paid over for 2022. WFYR membership of £200 per year (for 2022 & 2023) totalling £400 to reduce international transfer costs to one tranche of £23.50p. Andrew was thanked for his work, accounts and report, which were adopted.
4. **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT:-** included
  - a. the update of the Members' Register and the caveats of "its total accuracy".
  - b. APS Benevolent Fund requests – none had been received.
  - c. Recruitment of New Members - Several members made suggestions to widen the network; re Irish National Council, Scottish National Council, YMCA Pension Newsletters, current members to contact folk they know who are not members, invite to join and advise the Secretary.  
Vic was thanked for his work and report, which was adopted.
5. **BUDGET 2023:-** following discussion for the proposed amounts and the reason for the £15 "subs" which included increasing administration costs incurred through postal distribution of Easter & Christmas cards & Newsletters. – (although not all incurred costs are being claimed). Plus building provision to support members attending European & World FYR Conferences - **the following were approved:-**
  - a. *Secours Speciaux - £500.*
  - b. *World Fellowship of Y's Retired - £200 (paid in 2022)*
  - c. *Administration - £300.*
  - d. *Trust Fund – £250.*

**6. APPOINTMENT of OFFICERS:- Were re-appointed as follows.**

Abbreviations – (Proposed = P. Seconded = S)

**EXECUTIVE**

President	Rev. Graham Clarke	P – RA. S – SW.
Hon. Treasurer.	Andrew Jenkins	P – RA. S - SM
Executive Secretary.	Vic Hills	P – SW. S - VW
Newsletter/Website Editor.	VACANT	
Scottish Rep.	Keith Rennie	P – RA. S – PH.
Secours Speciaux	John Naylor	P&S – Too many to note!!

**7. NEWSLETTER EDITER/WEBMASTERS Editor's Report:-** GC reminded that the Newsletter was "The Shop Window and Outward Expression of Y's Retired". Since David Smiths demise he and (VH) had compiled, published and distributed 3 copies to 100 email recipients and 30 postal copies per issue. So far no-one had offered to become Editor. There is an offer from a non Y's Retired person to do the technical publishing work in the background, however a collector of Y's interesting articles and acting as the contact person is required to receive and edit articles etc. Members suggested producing a brief Job Roll so that volunteers would be aware of what was entailed.

**8. SCOTTISH GROUP REPORT :-** In the absence of a report VH reported that Keith Rennie was suffering with his health and believed that there had not been any F2F meetings. Jim Thomson's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday had been celebrated at YMCA Scotland's AGM earlier in 2023. VH to communicate with John Naylor and Keith if possible to explore the future.

**9. INTERNATIONAL REPORTS:-**

**a. SECOURS SPECIAUX:-** JN's report with statistical information of the types of help provided caused by; a) illness/health; b) Covid, c) rampant inflation & d) political unrest and how these were funded i.e. i. from donations 47500 Swiss Francs (SF). ii. from reserves 23,500 SF, a total of 85 individuals from 15 countries. Income came from 4 countries USA, Germany, Canada & UK. Approved with appreciation to John for his work and representation on our behalf.

**b. WFYR World Conference Aarhus & BRIDGES -** Len Wilson (Bridges Editor) was welcomed. Len provided a brief report on Aarhus participation as he and many others with COVID were confined to their rooms for 6 days! Len provided an extensive and wide-ranging report of his and his wife's work in compiling BRIDGES to encourage Y's Retired to maintain contact and advised links to News from other countries i.e. Canada.

**10. MEMBERS' GATHERINGS:-**

**a. ORGANISING online Members' meetings.** GC would continue to organise "ZOOM" meetings, unless someone else would like to offer?

**b. CAMBRIDGE RE-UNION –** following the success of 2, 22 gathering VH organising Lunch on Wednesday July 5<sup>th</sup> 2023.

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:-** there had been no other business notified by 12<sup>th</sup> March.

Graham was thanked for convening and chairing and closed the meeting.