



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

March 2023

www.yretired.co.uk



President's ponderings

As you read this edition of 'Ponderings' I am conscious that we will be in the season of Lent, that season in which we remember Jesus withdrawing into the desert for forty days and forty nights and being challenged by the temptations to embrace personal power and authority put to him by the Devil.

Lent can be something of a challenging time for us as we are encouraged to give something up and to reflect on our lives and the state of the world

This Lent we are only too aware of the challenges being faced by those suffering through the war in Ukraine, those affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria and those facing the pressures of the cost of living and industrial unrest in the UK. Within our own families we may also be aware of those facing personal problems and issues.

For those directly involved in these situations, giving something up for Lent is not a voluntary challenge. It has been forced upon by them by circumstances beyond their control. For so many, what they had once had has been taken away. Our thoughts, prayers and support go to them and the agencies seeking to bring peace, aid and comfort, helping them to rebuild their lives.

However, Lent does not last forever. It leads us on into the Easter celebration of triumph over suffering and evil through the death and resurrection of Jesus. It is a reminder that out of darkness comes light and the gift of new life.

As a Christian Organisation, the YMCA has and continues to stand alongside with those who might be feeling the darkness of Lent, carrying the message of hope. It is a responsibility that we all continue to share both for the world and for one another through Y's Retired.

So, as we face the challenges of our own 'Lent' may we also remember the challenges faced by others and pray that both we and they may be encouraged by the hope that is shown to us by the empty tomb.

Happy 100th Birthday Jim!



**Our congratulations go to Jim Thomson
celebrating his 100th Birthday
on 26th February.**

After a military career Jim served with the World YMCA Refugee Service in the aftermath of World War 2 and went on to work with YMCA General Services in England before becoming National Secretary of YMCA Scotland and Overseas Director of the Ockenden Venture and later the consultant for the Oxford University Refugees Studies Programme,

Y's Retired Website:- 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.

SCOTLAND Y'S RETIRED REP:- Keith Rennie
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Court News (Basketball that is!)

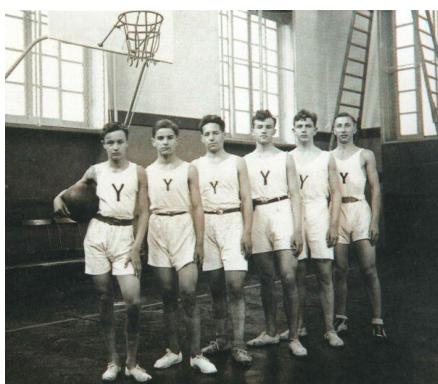
Basketball began at YMCA Springfield, Massachusetts, USA over 130 years ago. In 1891, James Naismith was challenged to come up with an indoor winter game. He hung two peach baskets about 10 feet off the ground - and the rest is history.

Now the World YMCA and FIBA Foundation (the philanthropic arm of the International Basketball Federation) have officially joined forces. Based on the two organisations' common cultural heritage of basketball, they will collaborate on programmes to empower young people to initiate positive change in their communities.

“This is such a natural partnership because our organisations are aligned in so many ways”, said Carlos Sanvee, Secretary General of the World YMCA. *“We are both committed to empowering young people, and of course, we share the heritage of basketball”.*

Over the next few months, the two organisations will work together to:

- Explore opportunities to partner with like-minded organizations to contribute knowledge, expertise, resources and visibility.
- Begin digitizing basketball-related historical memorabilia to create an online archive, thereby preserving basketball's cultural heritage and values.
- Activate grassroots basketball and youth-led solutions by strengthening the relationship between YMCA National bodies and National Basketball Federations.



Ron Ingamells has been in the Med!

During our holiday in Malta last October, I was delighted to meet up with Tom Cusens and to introduce Ann to him.

Many of you will remember Tom as the very active President of the Malta YMCA. We first met when I visited Malta to facilitate the development of the Association. My next meeting with Tom was at a YMCA conference (European?) and then when on holiday about 20 (25?) years ago when I was delighted to meet some of his family, including his lovely wife Doris.

Tom's brother-in-law, Albert Degiorgio, had started the YMCA caring for many young people who were vulnerable and many homeless. He asked Tom to organize the Board and get the Association as a properly recognized Association both within Malta and with the European YMCA which he did brilliantly. I learnt that Albert had recently died

Tom and I had kept in touch over the years and last October Ann and I were on holiday in Malta - we arranged to meet – and it was a delight to see him again. He told me how the YMCA involvement had changed his life! Having built up a business, he was wondering what he could do which would be different from business. The opportunity to help young people through the Y was exactly what he wanted. As some of you will recall he became very much an important part of the YMCA not just in Malta but also in the European YMCA. YMCA Malta has come a long way from its humble beginnings and is now operating 2 homeless shelters with another in the making, mainly sponsored by state funding. Moreover YMCA Malta have a very active Youth Empowerment programme, which attracts many local and European interns to participate and gain experience in in-house training and outreach sessions in schools. It also undertook research in the local homeless situation and produced the first comprehensive National report on this subject.

The Maltese YMCA has recently been asked to help with setting up a YMCA in Cyprus, specifically in the Paphos area. *(Y's retired member Paul Smillie is involved in this on behalf of YMCA Europe (ED))*

Sadly Doris now has dementia. She is in a residential home with good care and Tom has an apartment close by which enables him to visit and help the carers every day. I was privileged to see a video of Tom using the power of music to encourage Doris to move out of her wheelchair to dance with him. It was very moving.

Remembering Mervyn Morehead



We were very saddened to hear the news of Mervyn Morehead's passing. It was a blessing to be able to view Mervyn's funeral service of thanksgiving online. My wife Linda worked with Ruth (Mervyn's daughter) while running the Bangor YMCA's pre-school playgroup where Mervyn was General Secretary.

We identified with the comments so many made at the service regarding Mervyn's humility, kindness in approach to others, and gentleness when dealing with the day-to-day life within a YMCA. He was always approachable and willing to give of himself. Mervyn was a very faithful person, and I can't remember him ever having a bad word to say about others.

It was good to hear again the story of Mervyn's early connection in life with the YMCA in Derry through his Boy's Brigade leader. It always amazes me how these encounters early in life can make a major impact in adulthood.

Mervyn served the YMCA faithfully through the years and interpreted its aims in a very practical and loving way by treating others with respect, warmth, and love. He will always be fondly remembered by those who had the pleasure of knowing and working with him. I had the privilege to continue the YMCA work that Mervyn started in Bangor. He was their first general secretary. Our thoughts are with Beryl and the wider family.

John & Linda McMurray

The sad passing of Arthur Bennett, David Smith, Jim Lamb and Mervyn Moorhead made me realise that I should not take for granted the valued friendship of colleagues, whose example of YMCA Service is an inspiration.

It also raises the question "Does the ecumenical movement still exist, and if so has the YMCA a role within it?"

Whilst at Taunton I was keen that the YMCA supported local ecumenical initiatives, which resulted in chairing Taunton Christians Together (Twice, now defunct, enough said) it was a strict learning curve in my seventies!

Mention of Mervyn brought back memories of attending a European YMCA Secretaries Conference in Bonn. We were accommodated in a Roman Catholic Monastery, the nuns, dressed in black glided about meeting our needs.

On the first morning devotions were held in a highly baroque Roman Catholic chapel. And there, at the front, was Mervyn expounding the scriptures, with enthusiasm and conviction for which Mervyn was well known, all in his strong Irish accent.

An example of YMCA ecumenism?"

Paul Harper

The event itself was before my time! However, I remember Roy Holgate talking fondly of Mervyn and the time that He and Mervyn were (I think) at a Youth Event at Stavanger – must have been in the early 60's and they were out for a walk together along the shoreline. As they walked they talked about why they were at the event and their work back in England. The bit I remember clearly is Mervyn saying he was there to introduce young people to Christ. In later years when I met Mervyn personally, in various venues and events, it was clear that in his lilting Irish brogue sharing the good news continued to be his mission throughout his life. I remember Alex Cloke saying "I preach the Good News and use words when I have to". Listening to those who knew Mervyn well who spoke at his service and reading some of the tributes it is clear to me that Mervyn used his life and his words to share his Love of God.

Vic Hills.

LUNCH RE-UNION GIRTON GOLF CLUB CAMBRIDGE

If you enjoyed our lunch last year, gave your apologies, haven't been yet and want to enjoy a lunch with "Old" colleagues, please join us this year? Contact Vic Hills who will organise the event which is tentatively booked for Wednesday July 5th.

in Loving Memory

It is with sadness and thanksgiving that we remember friends who have died recently.

Barbara Macdonald

Barbara worked at the National Council at Forest Road, Walthamstow from approximately 1979 to 1995 (when she retired). She was a PA to a number of people, Her daughter Laura remembers mention Ron Harkness, Roy Weaver, John Naylor and Gordon Wickens.. She thoroughly loved her job and was an extremely valued member of the YMCA family. She spent her retirement years volunteering in a hospice and also raising funds for Marie Curie. She passed away on 30th December 2022 five years after being diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She leaves her husband Robert MacDonald, daughter Laura, brother Ian and three wonderful grandchildren.

Ken Cordeiro

Was also a memorable figure in the Walthamstow offices, serving as Finance Director for a number of years. Always ready to help the less numerically literate, Ken was always a smiling and encouraging colleague.

From Ron Ingamells

I have been privileged to know the lovely colleagues, who became friends, who have died recently. They all gave wonderful service in the YMCA and also were powerful witnesses for their faith. Sadly, I was unable to attend the recent funerals of Jim, David and now Mervyn but I have been heartened by the generous and understanding letters I received from their widows. David had played such an important part in helping the retired to stay together and continue the family feeling through the Newsletter – as well as all the wide range of service to the Y and to the ecumenical movement. I agree with everything that Graham wrote about Jim Lamb – he came with me when I took a group to Romania and I especially appreciated his initiative to ensure that we in the East could meet each year and enjoy each other's company and Jim's. I always think of Mervyn as a wonderful distinctive and character who earned respect through his character and another person who earned respect through his YMCA commitment and faith. I give thanks that I knew these and others (like Des Wilcox) whose friendships I valued and who enriched my life as well as the lives of many others.

Congratulations to Ian Green OBE



Many congratulations to Ian Green who was awarded the OBE in the New Years Honours. Ian worked at Ealing YMCA and as Metropolitan Region Secretary and National Secretary of YMCA England. He has just stepped down as CEO of the Terrence Higgins Trust. Ian has also had a distinguished career as a local councillor and in NHS Trusts and Housing Associations. He is now Chair of the Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust.



Zoom, zoom, zoom!!!

A number of members had a get together over zoom in January, sharing news of each other's busy activities in churches, food banks, schools and even police cells (Mike Wilkinson is a police Chaplain!) David Standing spoke about the YMCA Heritage Project that he is heading up, Stephen Milner told us of a recent British Boys for British Farms Reunion and we celebrated Jan Cooper's pink hair! Also taking part were Paul Harper, Vic Hills, Andrew Jenkins, and Graham Clarke.

The next Zoom gathering (apart from the AGM) will be on May 16th Watch for details

AGM

2.15pm 20th March 2023

On Zoom!

This is a FIRST for Y's Retired!
An opportunity for participation
from where ever you are!!

Meeting ID 838 2103 8035
Passcode YMCA

Papers will be circulated in advance



Welcome to Martyn Handley,
Joy Madeiros and Andy Winter who have recently
joined us. Please let other friends and
colleagues know about Y's Retired!

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 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.

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 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 or telephoning 0118 918 5750 and ask for Balbir Sandhu.



YMCA Heritage Project

YMCA England and Wales are establishing a Heritage Project to celebrate and use the history of the YMCA to inform current developments through the establishment of events and Resources. In conjunction with the YMCA Archives group it is hoped to develop a video library of 'Digital Snapshots' - interviews with staff and members who can speak about the various developments and programmes offered by the movement over the years. If you have suggestions for topics and possible speakers please contact David Standing who would be pleased to hear from you David.Standing@ymca.org.uk

We are delighted to introduce and welcome new members.

Joy Madeiros arrived at YMCA England in 1992 as The Director of HR, which Joy explains in her application “morphed into a range of governance and movement responsibilities”. In 2001 Joy started to work part time for YMCA and Steve Chalke at Oasis Faithworks, eventually leaving in 2003 to work for Faithworks.

From 2004 to 2009 Joy Chaired YMCA Romford YMCA.

Joy was “captured” celebrating her son’s birthday and her own wedding anniversary



And Welcome to Martyn Handley



Martyn joined YMCA England and Wales Finance Department as a Bookkeeper 2009. Retiring in 2021. He started his employment in the Walthamstow offices, moving first to The Barbican and then on to Farringdon Road, and finally at Charterhouse Square in the Accounts Payable and Receivable section.

A somewhat belated but no less warm welcome to Andy Winter, who responded positively to join in July 2022, but introducing him was inadvertently missed from the September and November Newsletters.

Sack the Secretary!!



Andy’s first contact with the YMCA was as a resident at Coventry YMCA in 1978 while working as a teacher in a local school. He became CEO of Coventry YMCA in December 1979.

Moving 4 years later to become CEO at Portsmouth YMCA. Wimbledon YMCA CEO followed. In October 1994 Andy was Operations Director for YMCA England, becoming Director of Learning and Consultancy until March 2007. 4 years as Managing Director of Andy Winter Associates saw him return to Coventry as CEO of Coventry and Warwickshire YMCA for 6.5 years. His final role until retirement in 2022 was as Parish Director of Holy Trinity Church Stratford Upon Avon.

His various other YMCA involvements included.

- European Youth Committee
- AOS Committee member
- European Youth Committee conference contributor
- European Youth Exchange Co-ordinator
- European Alliance of YMCAs
- European Youth Training Co Trainer

This is the proposed **Agenda for the ZOOM AGM**. We do hope that you will attend. The various Reports follow the AGENDA . Should you wish to raise questions before the meeting, seek clarification or submit items for inclusion please do this in writing to the Secretary before mid-day on March 12th?

Y's Retired AGM Agenda
to be held on ZOOM at 14.30 on March 20th 2023
Meeting ID 838 2103 8035 Passcode YMCA

OPENING THOUGHT and PRAYERS In MEMORIAM
of the 10 colleagues and 2 Wives who passed in 2022.

MINUTES OF THE 2022 AGM:- To approve the minutes – (circulated as part of the 2022 report to Members in May 2022).

1. **MATTERS ARISING:-** if any notified to the Secretary before mid-day on March 12th.
2. **PRESIDENT'S REPORTS:-**
3. **TREASURER'S REPORT for the year 2022:-**
4. **BUDGET 2023**
 - a. *Secours Speciaux proposed to be - £500 plus Member's Donations.*
 - b. *World Fellowship of Y's Retired - £200 was paid in advance with the 2022 payment.*
 - c. *Administration - £400*
 - d. *Trust Fund - £250*

5. **APPOINTMENT of OFFICERS:-**

EXECUTIVE

President	Rev. Graham Clarke
Hon. Treasurer.	Andrew Jenkins
Executive Secretary.	Vic Hills
Newsletter/Website Editor.	
Scottish Rep.	Keith Rennie
Secours Speciaux	John Naylor

CONSULTANTS

Prof. David Miller
Rupert George
Ray Allen

6. **MEMBERSHIP Secretary's Report:-**
7. **NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE - Vacancy**
8. **SCOTTISH GROUP REPORT :-**
9. **INTERNATIONAL REPORTS**
 - a. **SECOURS SPECIAUX Report:-**
 - b. **WFYR REPORT:-** see Bridges.
10. **WORLD CONFERENCE – Aarhus –**
11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS – arising from Committee Comment or Member's Items if notified to the Secretary before mid-day on March 12th. :-**

Y's Retired of the UK - President's Report to the AGM 2023

As I write this report I am mindful of the sadness that has been felt due to events around the world and at nearer to home in the past year. Just as we came out of Covid, in February 2022 we were hearing of the suffering and pain of YMCA colleagues in Ukraine following the Russian Invasion. Later in the year we found ourselves mourning the death of a number of members and friends :- Arthur Bennett, Barbara Kent, Jim Lamb, Ron Lane, Barbara McDonald, Mervyn Moorehead, Margery Naylor, Nick Nightingale, Terry Radcliffe, Lord "Jimmy" Remnant, David Smith and Des' Wilcox. Each of these were faithful servants of God and the YMCA movement in their particular spheres of work and we give thanks for them.

We must however make special mention of David Smith our Newsletter Editor and Jim Lamb our President Emeritus.

David worked tirelessly keeping the newsletter in production and enabling the continuing sense of togetherness that we value so highly. He is proving a difficult person to replace in practical terms and it will never be possible to replace his sense of fun and humour and love for the movement. Our love goes out to Sue, Matthew and Michelle and all of the family.

Jim was of course a stalwart of the movement and was highly committed to Ys Retired, taking up the Presidential Baton from Reg Wake. It was his tenacity that has kept Ys Retired going and in particular the annual lunch in Cambridge which has been a main feature of life together. It was with trepidation that I took on the role from him (it was a ceremonial hand over of files in John Lewis Café in Cambridge!) but with a great sense of privilege that I was able to pay tribute to him at the Service of Thanksgiving for his life.

Amidst this sadness we have been able to celebrate the arrival of new members Andy Winter, David Standing, Peter Posner, Martyn Handley and Joy Madeiros and also to make the most of opportunities that Zoom has brought with on line gatherings, literally bringing together friends from around the country, which has given us the chance to share, reminisce and assure ourselves that we have not aged too much! It is my hope that we will continue these meetings a few times a year.

We have been active in maintaining our links internationally with representation at the World Federation of YMCA Retirees at the World Council in Aarhus and through our support of Secours Specieux which is referred to elsewhere.

My special thanks go to Vic Hills and to Andrew Jenkins as they have supported Y's Retired in what has been a rocky year, requiring a lot of communication between ourselves and the whole membership.

We are still in need of a new Newsletter Editor and I would just ask members to think about anyone who might (even with assistance) take this on and to contact myself or Vic to explore this further.

In closing, I am drawn to the YMCA Motto from John 17:21 'That all may be one'. In context, here Jesus is praying that the world may be at one with him as he himself is as at one with The Father. But it is also a prayer that each of us will be in an equally close relationship with one another which is surely what Y's retired seeks to do. Thank you for being part of it.

Graham Clarke President
February 2023

Y's Retired of the UK – Treasurer's Report for 2022

In addition to the notes on the annual accounts, this report is to explain the organisation's income and expenditure for the period 1st January to 31st December 2022 inclusive.

Our income for the year was £4,452.50. This was made up of membership subscriptions of £1,150 from 76 members, donations of £3,244 for Secours Speciaux, and £53.50 donated to the trust fund. Grateful thanks must go to a number of members who generously donated additional amounts in 2022. These included those in memory of David Smith amounting to £879 during 2022 with additional amounts being added in the 2023 financial year.

Our total expenditure for 2022 was £6,445.90.

The main item was for Secours Speciaux at £5,849. This is made up of £2,000 in memory of Reg Wake carried over from 2021; £500 from reserves agreed at the last AGM; £1,000 legacy from Jim Lamb; £879 in memory of David Smith and the balance being the membership donations received during the year. The cost of international transfer was £23.50. The need to pay this was queried with our bank and remonstrations made, but to no avail.

The other main item of expenditure was £400, this being two years of annual subscription to the World Federation of Y's Retired for 2022 and 2023. Again, the transfer cost was £23.50.

The rest of the expenditure was £68.29 for website costs, £31.61 for postage and a £50 thank you gift token to Lorraine Stocken for her help with the newsletter.

Thus, the 2022 accounts show a deficit of income / expenditure of £1,993.40 with the balance at the end of the year (cash in the bank) standing at £3,797.39.

Regarding the budget for 2023 it is proposed that we donate £500 to Secours Speciaux, together with the members' donations at the time of the payment being made in December (probably around £1,000). There is no need to include payment to the WFYR as we paid for 2023 in 2022 to save on transfer fees. The estimated need for all other running costs is expected to remain within £300.

My grateful thanks go to David Bennison again for his support and in particular for examining and verifying the final accounts for 2022.

Andrew Jenkins

Honorary Treasurer

23rd February 2023

Ys Retired of the UK
Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022
 (figures in brackets are negative)

	2022	2021
	£	£
Receipts		
Member Subscriptions (Note 1)	1155.00	1220.00
Donations	-	-
Donations (Trust Fund) (Note 2)	53.50	220.00
Other	-	-
Secours Spéciaux (Note 3)	3244.00	2775.00
Total	4452.50	4215.00
Payments		
Grants	-	-
Secours Spéciaux (Note 4)	5849.00	3120.00
Trust Fund Payments	-	-
World Fellowship of Ys Retired (WFYR) (Note 5)	400.00	1400.00
WA website expenses (Note 6)	68.29	-
Secretary Expenses (Note 6)	31.61	-
Administration (Note 6)	97.00	147.00
Total	6445.90	4667.00
Surplus for the year	(1993.40)	(452.00)
Previous Year balance	5790.79	6242.79
Surplus/Deficit	(1993.40)	(452.00)
Current Year Balance	3797.39	5790.79
Funds Balances		
Unrestricted Funds	2177.99	1619.89
Restricted Funds	1619.40	4170.90
Total	3797.39	5790.79
<i>represented by:</i>		
Bank Balance	3797.39	5790.79
Cash in Hand	-	-
Total assets	3797.39	5790.79



Andrew Jenkins
 Hon Treasurer
 23 February 2023



David Bennison
 Independent Examiner
 23 February 2023

Notes to the Accounts:

Income -

1. 77 Membership Subscriptions at £15 (inc one in advance for 2023).
2. Donations received other than for Secours Speciaux.
3. Secours Speciaux donations including those in memory of David Smith & of Jim Lamb.

Expenditure -

4. Secours Speciaux inc. £2k from 2021 in memory of Reg Wake; the above donations; £500 as agreed from budget; & remainder in lieu of awaited cheques from postal delays
5. Two years of annual subscription to WFYR
6. Website hosting cost; Secretary's expenses for postage; thank you token for volunteer.
 2 X £23.50 international payments bank costs (SS & WFYR).

Secours Speciaux 2022 Report for Y's Retired AGM March 2023

In 2022 Secours Speciaux gave two main types of support.

The first was responding to direct individual requests. These are largely from colleagues who have lifetime YMCA service, little or no pensions, and suffer from life threatening illnesses ranging from cancer to heart disease. Twelve grants were made amounting to approximately 47,500 Swiss Francs. This was covered by total income of the year of 48,000 Swiss Francs.

The second type, which had to be funded from reserves, was our wider response to the impact on retired colleagues (with little or no pension) of covid, rampant inflation and in some countries, like Sri Lanka, to massive political unrest. 78 grants of \$300 per person were made totaling 23,500 Swiss Francs.

Altogether 85 individuals in 15 countries were supported in 2022.

The total overspend for the year was more than £21,000 which came out of reserves built up over the years and which amount to about four times our annual 2022 spend. While there is no immediate crisis, we live in volatile times where major events may result in big spends. Also, there are countries which do not request funding even though there is great need.

Long term we cannot afford to overspend. We need to increase our income. In 2022 income came from only four countries – USA, Germany, Canada, and UK. The Secours Committee aim to increase the number of donor countries and encourage existing givers, where possible to increase support.

UK Y's Retired £5,849 contribution was 13.2% of the total raised and was very dependent on past officers' memorial collections, broken down as follows:

£1,000 - additionally from Jim Lamb

£2,000 - in memory of Reg Wake - brought forward from 2021

£879 - in memory of David Smith

£1,470 - donated by members / others

£500 - as agreed at the Y's Retired AGM - from our reserves _

£5,849 Total

Finally Bonnie Mairs after many years of committed chairing for which she was heartily thanked at Aarhus has been succeeded by Phil Dwyer.

John Naylor 15/2/23

Y's Retired of the UK – Secretaries Report for the 2023 ZOOM AGM

For just the second time the AGM will be an on-line meeting; this time you the members are invited and I hope will attend.

Since the last AGM and the 4th and 5th jab regime, Covid had subsided and managed. The Ukraine atrocity and “disaster” with its rising concerns for world peace, energy alarmists with rising prices and inflation has caused declining living conditions for some folk in the UK. Pales in comparison to the victims being invaded, bombarded, murdered in Ukraine. The last 4 or 5 months particularly, from a Y's Retired perspective were salutary and at times very very sad. Reg' Wake told me when I was taking over the Secretary role the only time you will be busy is when members die or preparing for the AGM. David Smith had “protected me” by dealing with the news and families of those who had died. The last few months have certainly kept me busy.

During the year we lost an unprecedented 12 members and wives:- Arthur Bennett, Barbara Kent, Jim Lamb, Ron Lane, Barbara McDonald, Mervyn Moorehead, Margery Naylor, Nick Nightingale, Terry Radcliffe, Lord “Jimmy” Remnant, David Smith and Des' Wilcox. Our prayers for them, their husbands/wives and their families as they live with their loss.

In amongst the sadness it was a delight to welcome Andy Winter, David Standing, Peter Posner, Martyn Handley and Joy Madeiros into Membership.

RECORDS – we continue to try to make sure our records are “up to date”. However that can be difficult, when emails are not responded to or people move home or die and letters are not returned to us. So despite our best efforts we do not know whether some folk are still with us.

CARDS – Graham sent Easter and Christmas cards to members and their spouses who receive printed Newsletters. Cards and letters include a return label on the envelope so that if the intended recipient does not receive it, it can be returned to me.

YMCA ENGLAND PENSION TEAM - Gwynne Jarvis Pension Company Secretary at YMCA England and Caroline Evans the pension Administrator continue to help in promoting Y's Retired to staff at YMCA England & Wales, to the Superannuation Trustees and Members at their AGM notices and newsletters Gwynne honoured us with her presence and addressed the group at the 2022 Cambridge re-union.

MEMBER'S REGISTER;- Deaths of Member's & Wives notified: 10. New Members: 5.
Partners/wives of deceased members: 29.
Current Members: 93. Guests (who receive communications): 9. Total on the Register: 131

NEWSLETTER EDITER. – David's sudden passing was a “shocking” loss and he and his substantial contribution to our fellowship has left a large hole. We can't replace David but hopefully we can find an Editor. Graham has temporarily taken on the role for which we are grateful for keeping us “in touch”.

CAMBRIDGE LUNCH GATHERING:- I was delighted with the support that colleagues provided in supporting the Lunch - my first organising since Jim stood down and sadly the last time that we saw him. There were 20 attending in 2022, can we make 24 (The Maximum) in 2023?

APS BENEVOLENT FUND – Despite inviting folk in The Newsletter to request Grants of up to £500 – we have had no applications.

My appreciation to my Exec' colleagues for their work and contributions to Y's Retired during the year. I do hope and pray that the devastations of 2022 and early 2023 are in the past by the time we report next year. I look forward to “seeing” you in March at Zoom meetings during the year and if you can make it, in Cambridge in July for lunch.

Vic Hills Executive Secretary February 2023.