



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



MAY 2010

www.yretired.co.uk

## Greetings from our President



Warm greetings to all readers! Spring HAS arrived at last, back-breaking jobs in the garden and house confirm that retirement has truly arrived and in some mystical sense we work more hours now than when employed 40 plus hours a week in full time YMCA employment!

Of immediate importance is the Reunion 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2010 deadline for applications 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

I make no apology for using my letter on this occasion in sharing with you recent events of interest to all 'retirees' who appreciate their time of association with the YMCA continued through membership of the Y's Retired of the UK and shared through the Newsletter.

It is an educational exercise for YMCA personnel to learn from historical events shaping the modern YMCA, not least the service and sacrifice of YMCA colleagues in World War I (the Great War). We are more familiar with historical facts surrounding the founding of the YMCA and its early years '1844 and all that' but to learn of the heroic 'service and sacrifice' of YMCA staff in a war environment, enriches our knowledge of their courageous stand. We are indebted to Sam Johnston for the summary in this Newsletter of the meeting held in Birmingham on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2010 chaired by our own historian Professor Clyde Binfield – the theme 'YMCA Work in the Great War'.

My attention was drawn to an outstanding achievement by one of our members Ted Milburn. An article in 'Strathclyde People' a University of Strathclyde publication shares that Professor Ted Milburn's lifelong commitment to community education is to be recognised in the setting up of a 'Scholarship Fund' in his name! During his career Ted has held a variety of roles in youth and community work – both in the field and in an academic setting. From his early career in the YMCA to posts held including Assistant Director of Education in the former Strathclyde Region and Director of the Research Centre for Youth Work Studies. It is intended that the 'Ted Milburn Scholarship' will offer financial support for poorer students who have to struggle to get to and survive in university not least "older students without traditional qualifications for entry into university giving up work and placing greater financial pressure on them and their families". I draw your attention to the article on Ted in this Newsletter sharing his many honours not least the CBE awarded

for his service to community education and young people. He is presently the President of the Scottish National Council – not bad for a 'Geordie'! I recall in our early 20s Ted and I leading SYMCA camps at Lakeside and not least the singing round the proverbial 'camp fire' with Ted playing his guitar! Congratulations to Ted from all Y's Retired members who value his continued links with YMCA.

The two paragraphs above are linked in that Ted Milburn has produced a book of research he made into his own family history at the time of the Great War called 'Le Petit Champs de la Vigne', I highly commend!

I wish you all good health and a pleasant summer and thank our Editor David Smith and contributors for producing such a worthy Newsletter.

Warm regards,

**Jim Lamb**



Just to mention Neil and Gaye Sjoberg returned from completing the Monte Carlo Rally placed 262 out of 420 starters and 286 finishers. Neil and Gaye Sjoberg  
Tel: 01992572282  
Mobile: 07909 635549 email: neilsjoberg@hotmail.com  
website: [www.eppinggolfcourse.org.uk](http://www.eppinggolfcourse.org.uk)

Two other pictures on following pages.

### AN INVITATION TO APS CONFERENCE

Tuesday June 29th – Thursday July 1st  
High Leigh, Hoddesdon, Herts – entitled - **Life After May 6th?**

#### Key Note Contributors

**John Bird** - Founder of the Big Issue - **Ian Duncan Smith MP\*** – Fixing Broken Britain - **Charles Clarke MP** - Restoring Faith in Politics  
**Vince Cable MP\*** – Who Pays? - **Chris Roles** – Do We Care About Y Care?

For further information contact [www.ymcastaff.net](http://www.ymcastaff.net)

#### Workshops

**Life after Supporting People:** Maff Potts, until recently CLG, now new Director of Housing, Salvation Army - **Life after the Olympic's:** Sir Steve Redgrave\*/Mark Harrord Central YMCA - **Life after the YMCA:** Y's Retired + Team - **Life after Government Funding:** Bridgit Cass – Jerusalem Trust Paul Whitnall – YMCA Norfolk

\* Speakers Invited, confirmation pending election results.

#### Booking Info

All rooms ensuite (all singles) Discount for Members  
Great value @ £199 (3 days, 2 nights, full board) Reduced rate for twin rooms - Venue close to Luton Airport & M25

For reservations contact: [vicky.page@londonymca.org](mailto:vicky.page@londonymca.org)

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Apologies to Amy Collier as I omitted the MBE after Bill's name. Both Bill and Amy are virtually house bound and do not enjoy good health. Amy kindly sent a press cutting from the Guildford Diocesan Newsletter which showed over 40 people, young and old, sleeping overnight outside Guildford Cathedral as part of the YMCA raising homelessness awareness especially over the winter period.



## TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR TED MILBURN

In recognition of Professor Ted Milburn's lifelong commitment to community education, friend and colleagues are keen to set up a Scholarship Fund in his name.

Now retired, Professor Milburn's career spanned 43 years, and he held a variety of roles in youth and community work – both in the field and throughout the UK and in an academic setting.



He became Assistant Director of Education in the former Strathclyde Region, Head of the Department of Community Education and Course Director of Jordanhill College of Education, now Strathclyde's Faculty of Education, from 1987-95 until he was appointed Director of the Research Centre for Youth Work Studies.

Community education often attracts older students without traditional qualifications for entry to university and in order to study they have to give up work which places additional financial pressure on them and their families. It is intended that the Ted Milburn Scholarship will offer financial support to Strathclyde students, particularly to those from this kind of background.

Ted himself graduated in 1973 at the age of 35 with a First Class Honours degree in Sociology from the University of Sussex in the School of Cultural and Community Studies. In 2003 Ted was awarded the CBE for services to community education and young people. Since retiring he has been awarded the Honorary Life Fellowship and Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to youth work by YouthLink Scotland. He is still involved as the President of the Scottish National Council of YMCAs, and is currently an Emeritus Professor of Strathclyde. Ted was the guest speaker at the inaugural Ted Milburn Lecture 16<sup>th</sup> February 2010 in Rutherglen Town Hall.

Courtesy of Strathclyde PeopleAutumn 2009.  
Jim Lamb Mar 2010

Dear friends in the UK,  
Thank you so much for your collective generous support of Secours Speciaux in 2009. I read in your recent newsletter that the total amount of funds collected was £836.25.

Your gifts, and those of fellow retirees in other countries, are making it possible to extend help to international Y retirees in need. The most common request is for help with medical bills, though the Secours Speciaux fund has also assisted those facing political challenges and other crises outside the individual's control.

Only a minority of YMCA movements has a retirement fund for their staff. Many retirees live on the edge, and an illness or other emergency can create havoc. The Secours Speciaux fund, now over 50 years old, is ready to help, thanks to people like you.

Thank you, thank you. Keep up the good work in 2010!

**Bonnie Mairs, committee chair**

Delighted to report that David Bedford has accepted invitation to membership. I await his personal data for Membership Register (addition will go to Kerry). David has the email address and will doubtless add to regular N/L circulation. Not every day that we add a layman of high national and international standing to our company!

Best wishes. Reg

Hi David,  
Some of our brethren might be interested to apply to the Ministry of Defence for a "Veterans Badge". It's free of charge and can be applied for by phoning 0800 1692277.

You have to be prepared to state the branch of the forces you served in: Army, Royal Navy or RAF.  
your service number; dates of service; National Insurance Number; Date of Birth and name and address.

I am also enclosing as an attachment a letter to a bank manager from a customer.  
With good wishes

Brian Barrett

Dear David,

Of possible interest but not vital! The Roy Weaver photo has given rise to comment by several reader friends.

From Philip Cheal. Name error for Clifford SCAIFE. He was also at Leeds. Ron Boyle was at Egremont (not Whitehaven). Roy Weaver makes point that the group were in fact established secretaries at summer school

A glance at front row, all well known figures. were hardly novices! Maybe grist to your mill?  
Regards. Reg.

77 BBBF books available for purchase. If anyone would like a copy, please contact: Stephen J Milner, 22 Eilerslie Close, Charminster, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 9QQ.

Tel:01305-266197.

Email: [stephen@milner22600.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:stephen@milner22600.fsnet.co.uk)

## TRUE STORY

An elderly lady actually wrote this letter to her bank. The bank manager thought it amusing enough to have it published.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to thank you for bouncing my cheque with which I endeavoured to pay my plumber last month. By my calculations, three nanoseconds must have elapsed between his presenting the cheque and the arrival in my account of the funds needed to honour it. I refer, of course, to the automatic monthly deposit of my Pension. An arrangement which, I admit, has only been in place for only eight years. You are to be commended for seizing that brief window of opportunity, and also for debiting my account £30 by way of a penalty for the inconvenience caused to your bank.

My thankfulness springs from the manner in which this incident has caused me to rethink my errant ways. I noticed that whereas I personally attend to your telephone calls and letters when I try to contact you, I am confronted by the impersonal, overcharging, recorded, faceless entity which your bank has become.

From now on, like you, choose only to deal with a flesh-and-blood person. My mortgage and loan repayments will therefore and hereafter no longer be automatic, but will arrive at your bank by cheque, addressed personally and confidentially to an employee at your bank whom you must nominate.

Be aware that it is an offence under the Postal Act for any other person to open such an envelope.

Please find attached and Application Contact Status which I require your chosen employee to complete. I am sorry it runs to eight pages, but in order that I know as much about him or her as your bank knows about me, there is no alternative. Please note that all copies of his or her medical history must be countersigned by a solicitor, and the mandatory details of his/her financial situation (all income, debts, assets and liabilities) must be accompanied by documented proof.

In due course, I will issue your employee with a PIN number which he/she must quote in dealings with me. I regret that it cannot be shorter than 28 digits but, again I have modelled it on the number of button presses required of me to access my account balance on your phone bank service.

As they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Let me level the playing field even further. When you call me, press buttons as follows:

1 – To make an appointment to see me.

2 – To query a missing payment.

3 – To transfer the call to my living room in case I am there.

4 – To transfer the call to my bedroom in case I am sleeping.

5 – To transfer the call to my toilet in case I am attending to a call of nature.

6 – To transfer the call to my mobile phone if I am not at home.

7 – To leave a message on my computer (a password to access my computer is required. A password will be communicated to you at a later date to the Authorized Contact.)

8 – To return to the main menu and to listen again to options 1 through 8.

9 – To make a general complaint or enquiry, the contact will then be put on hold, pending the attention of my automated answering service. While this may, on occasion, involve a lengthy wait, uplifting music will play for the duration of the call.

Regrettably, but again following your example, I must also levy an establishment fee to cover the setting up of this new arrangement.

May I wish you a happy, if ever so slightly less prosperous New Year.

Your Humble Client

\*\*\*\*\*

**Addendum from the Editor.**

**IMPORTANT to REMEMBER that this letter was written by a lady aged 98 years:**

**DOESN'T SHE MAKE YOU PROUD?**

## How to Stay Young and Happy Always

1. Throw out non-essential numbers. This includes age, weight, and height.

Let the doctors worry about them. That is why you pay them.

2. Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down. (Keep this in mind if you are one of those grouches!)

3. Keep learning:  
Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever. Never let the brain get idle. 'An idle mind is the devil's workshop.' And the devil's name is Alzheimer's!

4. Enjoy the simple things.

5. Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath. And if you have a friend who makes you laugh, spend lots and lots of time with him or her!

6. The tears happen:  
Endure, grieve, and move on. The only person who is with us our entire life, is our self. LIVE while you are alive.

7. Surround yourself with what you love:  
Whether it's family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever.  
Your home is your refuge.

8. Cherish your health:  
If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it.  
If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.

9. Don't take guilt trips.  
Take a trip to the Mall, even to a foreign country, but NOT to where the guilt is

10. Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity.

And if you don't send this to at least four people - who cares? But do share this with someone.

### More of the answers from the questions which were set in last year's GCSE examination in Swindon, Wiltshire

These are genuine answers (from 16 year olds)

Q. What happens to your body as you age  
A. When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental

Q. What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty  
A. He says goodbye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery (So true)

Q. Name a major disease associated with cigarettes  
A. Premature death

Q. What is artificial insemination  
A. When the farmer does it to the bull instead of the cow

Q. How can you delay milk turning sour  
A. Keep it in the cow (Simple, but brilliant)

Q. How are the main 20 parts of the body categorised (e.g. The abdomen)  
A. The body is consisted into 3 parts - the brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels: A, E, I, O and U  
(What the blazes???)

## YMCA History (*Sam Johnston reports*)

**“A Day School titled “Service and Sacrifice; a Commemoration of YMCA Work in the Great War” was held in collaboration with YMCA England and Special Collections, University of Birmingham on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2010.**

There were 60 participants including 8 YMCA orientated persons, chaired by Professor Clyde Binfield whose written contributions to YMCA history are second to none. The speakers were quite outstanding;

- Dr John Browne (Centre for First World War Studies) His subject: “The British Working Man in Arms)
- Mr Tony Jeffs (University of Durham) His subject; “We did achieve the impossible; the YMCA and the Great War’.
- Dr Michael Snape (Centre for First World War Studies) His subject: “Barclay Baron and the YMCA on the Western Front”.

The YMCA (or Red Triangle as it was generally known) was the largest civilian welfare organisation to work with the British Army during the First World War. The conference surveyed and examined its wartime efforts in relation to its wider context with particular reference to the figure of Barclay Baron a senior YMCA worker in the bases and with the armies of the British Expeditionary Force.

On a personal note I was overwhelmed with a feeling of pride on learning of the work of the YMCA during this period and much impressed in three areas:

- The determination and success of Sir Arthur Yapp General Secretary of National Council of Young Men’s Christian Associations Incorporated (English, Irish and Welsh Associations)
- The bravery of the YMCA workers, some working from the ‘dug-outs’ on the front line of fighting!
- The positive effect the YMCA had on the welfare of hundreds of thousands of the ‘troops’.

There was a small matter of disappointment. Historians believe that this period of work was the climax of the YMCA since its founding in 1844, its impact and momentum has never really been the same since! – however this was countered by the fact that ‘society’ was never the same after 1919!

I can add that the YMCA Movement is one of which we can feel justly proud and with foresight add that future historians might well share similar praise in relation to ‘service and sacrifice’ albeit in a different society from that which the ‘Barclay Barons’ served in the First World War. Reference the work of the YMCA Women’s Auxiliary and YMCA in the Second World War!

**Note** The book referred to, ‘The Back Parts of War, YMCA Memoirs and Letters of Barclay Baron’ includes many quotations from the most senior Generals in the British Army praising the outstanding contribution of the YMCA and can be obtained from Jackie Walker at the YMCA England office.

**Sam Johnston**  
**March 2010**



The South West Y’s Retired reunion in St Ives Cornwall was a great success with all participants enjoy the late Spring sunshine along with each other’s company. What with Art galleries everywhere, cream teas and car boot sales, trips over to St Michaels Mount and visits to Garden Centres. Devotions and prayers morning and night culminating in having Communion together.

Back Row:- David Libby, Margaret Libby, Mervyn Moorehead, Liz Harper, Sarah Wood, Hilary Robins, Mary Batten, Beryl Moorehead, David Smith, Paul Harper, Chris Batten, Des Willcox, Hanna and Steven Milner  
Front Row:- Sue Smith, Joyce Finmore, Mary Jarman, Ray Onions, Phil Heath, Pearl Willcox, Ann Heath