

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

**NOVEMBER 2009**

[www.yretired.co.uk](http://www.yretired.co.uk)



## Greetings from our President



There is no doubt that the 'highlight' since the last publication of our Newsletter is for sure the Reunion of the Y's Retired of the UK held 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

Whilst 17 attended, 2 more colleagues joined us for the visit to the YMCA Archives, 3 serving colleagues gave stimulating talks and our newest member of the Y's Retired Rev Tony Malcolm (past Christian Education Officer YMCA England) conducted stirring devotions and Eucharist (Holy Communion).

Suffice it for me to share that it was a pleasure to preside over such a 'gathering' and direct you to the fine 'report' written by Alex Cloke in this Newsletter. It was not without significance that one of our speakers (a serving colleague) on recognising the 'ancients' with long YMCA service in our meeting stated "**You have done your share now let us carry the torch!**"

It is always sad when one of our Y's Retired members 'passes on' leaving those of us with valuable memories of a true Christian gentleman for of such was our friend **Jim Grey** who quietly served the YMCA well after retirement into his 90<sup>th</sup> year! He was a stalwart supporter of the Anglia Y's Retired until health prevented his attendance.

I am pleased to share with you that an anonymous donor has made a donation of £550 to the Y's Retired of the UK to start a Discretionary Fund and £48 to our 'retiring collection' at the Reunion for Secours Speciaux of £127, this together with the credit balance from the Reunion account of £43.25 makes a creditable £218.25 to this important YMCA Charity.

Your attention is drawn to the Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting held at the Reunion in this Newsletter noting the important business confirmed in the interests of Y's Retired. Also should a member desire to receive a copy of the Reunion 'report' then those attending have full permission to photocopy theirs for your perusal!

Keep well and in good spirits.

Jim

*A belated "Thank you" in relation to the Reunion.*

*Firstly - for the lovely card I received, signed by the participants, which was probably instigated by you. A lovely surprise.*

*Next - for the excellent report which arrived this morning. Bet and I both read it with interest and it really helped one appreciate the experience. The content and speed of production indicates that there is life in some of the 'old dogs' yet! It demonstrated the many skills used by Y people during their careers.*

*Last, but certainly not least - for the enormous amount of effort you must have put into the preparation and operation of the event. How very pleasing that the Reunion was such a success. Your 'nominal' costs were probably that - and thank you also for your 'additional' contribution! Congratulations!*

*With warm regards, Colin Mawby.*

## Y Care International launches emergency appeal

On 26 September, Typhoon Ketsana hit the Philippines, leading to flash floods and landslides. The Typhoon also affected the wider region, including Vietnam. Early October, a major earthquake hit western Sumatra, claiming the lives of over 1,000 people and destroying homes, roads, schools and hospitals. It is thought that more than four million people have been affected by these disasters.

Y Care International has been in contact with YMCAs in the region who are currently doing emergency assessments of the situation. Funds raised by the appeal will go to our partners in the region to help the most vulnerable groups of people, not only by providing emergency relief, but also to support long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction in the coming weeks and months.

For more information or to donate, please go to: [www.ycareinternational.org](http://www.ycareinternational.org)

### WELCOME INTO MEMBERSHIP

We warmly welcome Reverend Tony Malcolm into membership who gladly accepted an invitation extended to him during his powerful contribution to the recent reunion. Tony served as Christian Education Officer (albeit for a relatively short time) as successor to our friend Ron Ingamells.

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**This is a tribute to all grandmas and grandpas  
Who have been fearless and learnt to use the  
computer.**

**We do not stop playing because we grow old;  
We grow old because we stop playing**

The computer swallowed grandpa  
Yes, honestly it's true!!!  
He pressed 'control and enter'  
And disappeared from view.

It devoured him completely  
The thought just makes me squirm,  
He must have caught a 'virus'  
or been eaten by a 'worm.'

I've search through the re-cycle bin?  
And files of every kind;  
I've even used the internet  
But nothing did I find.

In desperation, I asked Jeeves  
My researches to refine,  
The reply from him was negative  
Not a thing was found 'online'

So if inside your 'inbox'  
My grandpa you should see,  
Please 'copy, scan' and 'paste' him,  
And send him back to me.

### **IT'S ONLY A JOKE!!!**

Sometimes, when I look at my children, I say to myself,  
Lillian, you should have remained a virgin.'  
- Lillian Carter (mother of Jimmy Carter)

Last week, I stated this woman was the ugliest woman I  
had ever seen. I have since been visited by her sister,  
and now wish to withdraw that statement.

Mark Twain

Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a  
year.

Victor Borge

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of  
a misprint.

Mark Twain

By all means, marry. If you get a good wife, you'll  
become happy, if you get a bad one, you'll become a  
philosopher.

Socrates

I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury.

Groucho Marx

My wife has a slight impediment in her speech. Every  
now and then she stops to breathe.

Jimmy Durante

I have never hated a man enough to give his diamonds  
back.

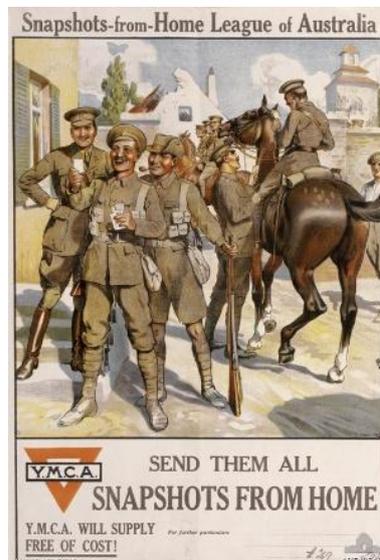
Zsa Zsa Gabor

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS/DONATIONS** **PLEASE NOTE**

Our Treasurer is now ready to resume receipt of  
payments. Cheques should be made payable to  
"Y's Retired A/c." and sent direct to:  
Ray C. Allen, 13 Hibaldstow Road, Lincoln. LN6  
3PX.

**Note: Widely supported Resolutions agreed:**

- a) That annual membership subscriptions,  
payable at 1st January 2010, to be £10.00 with  
£5.00 as subscription and £5.00 (or any greater  
optional addition) as donation to Secours  
Speciaux.
- b) That members have the option of payment by  
Bankers Standing Order. (a pro forma for  
instruction to personal bank manager to be  
made available)



Enamelled brass badge produced to promote the  
YMCA's 'Snapshots from Home League' of Australia,  
aimed to encourage amateur (and professional)  
photographers to provide images of soldier's loved ones  
at home. The YMCA, which accompanied Australian  
troops close to the front line, produced forms on which  
troops could request an image of their family. Amateur  
photographers were then contacted in the relevant local  
regions in Australia who arranged to meet families, take  
portraits and were encouraged to provide free  
processing of the images and free prints.

The programme was advertised in newspapers, early  
photographic magazines and photographic shops as  
well as YMCA depots; above is an example of one of  
the posters which were produced to promote the  
League's activities. The scheme was initiated in  
England and soon spread throughout the British Empire.  
It was so successful that it was repeated during the  
Second World War.

*Researched by the editor – David H Smith*



## THE FOVANT BADGES

When the 1914-1918 war broke out, there was a need to find accommodation for the New Army. In many areas, training and transit camps were established for troops leaving for, and returning from, the battlefields in northern France. One of these areas was the village of Fovant, in Wiltshire and its neighbours Compton Chamberlayne and Sutton Mandeville. The villages and the fields in the shadow of the chalk downs became a military camp, complete with barracks, a hospital, parade areas, shooting practice ranges, a camp cinema and YMCA huts. A military railway was constructed to serve the camp, branching off the main line railway from London to the southwest

Thousands of men from all parts of Britain and overseas lived for a while in the area, passed on to the Western Front and returned from it. Many never returned but gave their lives on the battlefields in France. Others died of their wounds in the hospital or from disease. Rows of silent War Graves in Fovant and other nearby churchyards are testimony to their presence. In remembrance of their colleagues, many of the regiments carved into the hillside replicas of their cap badges. Many of these no longer survive, but by the end of WW1 there were some twenty discernible badges.



Local workers from Fovant and the surrounding villages, supported by Regimental Associations maintained the Badges after WWI. During WWII, the badges became overgrown in order to disguise landmarks, which might assist enemy aircraft. Weather and time, as well as the effects of grazing cattle, caused decay. After the end of WWII, the Fovant Home Guard platoons formed themselves into an Old Comrades Association and undertook the task of restoration. It was in the period of 1948/51 that the two Wiltshire regimental badges were cut and in 1970 the Royal Signals badge was added.

In 1961, the Old Comrades Association was reformed as 'The Fovant Badges Society' with redefined, more positive objectives related to the maintenance and preservation of the Badges and the holding of the annual Drumhead Service.

By 2000, there were only twelve discernible badges on the downs. A new management structure was put in place and, in consultation with professional civil engineers, a survey of the condition of the badges was made. It appeared that the Fovant Badges were unique in their detail and posed difficult restoration problems relating to the slope of the hill, the complexity of design, and their sizes. These vary; the Australian Badge, the largest, measures 51m x 32m, which is just under half the area of a football pitch.

The Trustees, faced with a potential bill of £350,000 upwards for restoration and large annual sums for increased maintenance thereafter, realised that the task facing them had to be brought to realistic proportions. They decided, with much sadness, that the objective should be the restoration and maintenance of the military crests on Fovant Down. These are clearly visible from a lay-by in Fovant whilst passing along the A30 road between Shaftesbury and Wilton. There is also a public footpath from the road to the village of Broad Chalke, which passes by the area of the Badges. This inevitably meant that the Map of Australia on Compton Down and the crests of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and the 7th Battalion, City of London Regiment on Sutton Down would continue their decline. These badges would, in addition, have posed intractable problems because of the nature of the ground and their more advanced state of decay. Also, the YMCA badge on Fovant Down would be allowed to fade away.

Since the badges lay on open private farmland, with the movement of cattle unrestricted, it was clearly essential that large expenditure had to be used with good effect. A crucial first step was, therefore, to ensure the long lasting protection of the Badges. In co-operation with the farm owners, application was made to English Heritage to have the Badges scheduled as Ancient Monuments. Scheduling was granted in 2001 by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport placing all twelve badges, including those not being restored, under the protection of the government.

The estimated cost of the more limited objective was £220,000 and a national appeal was formally launched at the annual Drumhead Service in July 2001. The response to this was very positive and sufficient sums were assured by the end of 2001 to allow work to commence in 2002. Work experience by contractors, Dean and Dyball Construction Ltd, Ringwood, and favourable weather in 2002 allowed more work than anticipated to be done. This led to five badges being restored in 2002 and the remaining three (including the Royal Signals Badge who undertake their own maintenance and restoration) were completed in 2003.

Further info from [http://www.fovantbadges.com/his\\_det.htm](http://www.fovantbadges.com/his_det.htm)  
Or <http://www.hows.org.uk/personal/hillfigs/fovant/fovant.htm>

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA VESSEY



On 19 June 09, Barbara Vessey, of Frydd Road, Knighton, died after a short struggle with cancer. She was in her early seventies. (seen above with husband Norman)

Since she first came to the town, Barbara made herself indispensable serving on numerous committees. At one time she was Vice Chair and Publications Officer to the Offa's Dyke Association, and more recently Chair of the Knighton and District Concert Society and Knighton's representative on the Heart of Wales Line Travellers' Association (HoWLTA).

Barbara did voluntary work for the National Trust and the Wildlife Trust Wales. She sang in a Ludlow choir, and was a regular contributor to the Book Club and the Poetry Group in Knighton. Gregarious, Barbara rarely talked about her own life. It is not, for instance, widely known that she was an author.

Her book 'British Boys for British Farms: the story of the YMCA farm training scheme (1932-66) was published in 1995.

Barbara will be best remembered for her great kindness. She did voluntary work in a community care home and was always ready to help those in need, be it shopping and dog walking for sick friends or ferrying people about in her car.

She had an irrepressible, matter of fact attitude to life, one that stood her in good stead during her final illness. She spoke openly and calmly to friends about her impending death, undoubtedly an example to us all. She will be greatly missed.

George Learmonth, 3 Market Street, Knighton.  
LD7 1EY

[agricola@supanet.com](mailto:agricola@supanet.com)

Dear David,

Thanks for forwarding (Barbara's daughter) Helen Knott's email. I went to see her at Barbara's house and she agreed that it was a good idea to send copies of the BBBF book to the Legal Deposit Libraries, if somewhat belatedly. She gave me enough copies to do this, which I will. I appreciate your help in this matter.

George Learmonth.

Dear Stephen (Milner),

A word of appreciation for the interest you have taken with the BBBF in general. It is important that this part of YMCA history is not forgotten and who knows the future may well hold the feasibility of resurrecting as a new scheme, such a fine piece of work relevant to the present day employment problems among young people despite the changing face of farming. There is little doubt that the 'Apprenticeship' schemes of the past together with their tutor/trainers produced many people who became leaders in their own right contributing to Society in no uncertain way.

I retain happy memories of enjoying collegueship with Frank Peebles after his BBBF involvement.

Look forward to meeting with you at the Reunion in September.  
Jim lamb

**To Editor David. A letter from Gordon Wickens regarding the badges in the September Newsletter: "The only one I recognise is the last. ... during the war, as 'Uncle Albert' used to say, there were more flag days for Military Work and the building and equipment of YMCA Canteens. The illustration appears to be one of the flags sold on YMCA Flag Days "**

**This confirms my earlier response to your enquiry although I still have a notion that the plain white flag (maybe stick-on instead of pin) were still in use post WW2! Reg**

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From David and Ann Allen

Dear Reg, I would be delighted and willing to pay a minimum of £10 per January towards Y's Retired and Secours Spexiaux!

I enjoy the Newsletter. Ann and I have been busy this year. We began the year in Tenerife soaking up some winter sun and some winter rain. In May we trekked up 10,000 ft to Gorang in Nepal and then also immediately spent three weeks in our camper van in Pembrokeshire. In September we are off to Kefalonia – busy times. We are very involved in our parish life; running Bible Study, lay Reading, and occasionally preaching.

I am still the Chairman of our local parish community shop which has been going 17 years now and contributes about £20,000 each year to the village life around here.

Also on retirement, I established with two friends a business called Canllaw – which is Welsh for 'Guide.' We have established 120 cyber centres throughout Wales. Funding from the EU has ceased, but we are negotiating an 80 centre cybercafé network throughout Wales with a total spend of £8 million.

Thanks again for the Newsletter – yours sincerely  
David Allen

# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

I will keep you updated regarding those requesting one of World Fellowship of Y's Retired 50 allocated slots for the Hong Kong WFYR meeting at the World Council.

Target allocation is:

Africa: 5    Asia: 13    Europe: 13    Middle East: 1  
Latin America-Caribbean: 5    North America: 13

It is hoped that we eventually get some additional spaces either directly or through National Movements.

Here are those indicating attendance:

Lames Gomez - Gambia\*  
Sam Nyame - Ghana\*  
Jonathan Quayefio-Mexico - Ghana\*  
Francis Asiema - Kenya\*  
John Knox - Scotland\*  
Don Anderson - USA\*  
Prescott Johnson - USA\*  
Julius Jones - USA  
Bonnie Mairs - USA  
Jerry Prado Shaw - USA  
Harold Smith - USA

\* indicates registration form has been received

Note: We already have requests for \$7,960 USD in travel and registration assistance. To date we have about \$14,000 in the WFYR travel fund. We really need everyone's help to raise additional funds.

**Don Anderson**

## Indian Fellowship of YMCA Retirees [UK Chapter] IFYR Reunion- Yellagiri 2009

36 delegates, including escorts, attended the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion of the IFYR. It was held from July 22 – 24, 2009 at the picturesque Yellagiri YMCA Campsite. Very modern comfortable rooms were allotted to the delegates. Though Tamil Nadu was boiling, Yellagiri offered salubrious climate providing a perfect venue for the proceedings. The theme selected for the Conference was **"Be ye kind one to another."**

Delegates arrived either by train or car to the campsite. Excellent arrangements were made to transport the participants from the close-by railway station.

On the first day, as a mark of respect to the forerunners of the campsite, Mr David Livingstone, Chairman of the Camp, unveiled a plaque at a prime location in the site. Names of Norman F Ford, Frank C. Brown, J D Martin, M G Dharmaraj and R J Solomon were inscribed in a stone.



A very fitting ceremony followed. Soon after that Egbert Samraj, President of the IFYR inaugurated the historic conference and welcomed in his unique style and charmed all the delegates. Among the delegates was Don Anderson, Chair, WYFR.

John Newton, Beulah and I were privileged to be there. Children from the YMCA Boy's Division, Tirupattur entertained all with a variety of cultural dances in their colourful costumes. John Newton concluded the day with vespers in the Chapel.

On 23<sup>rd</sup>, Don Anderson conveyed greetings from WYFR and shared the recent happenings at the world level. He extended an invitation to all to the forthcoming WFYR Conference in 2010 at Hong Kong. In the business session that followed, Samuel Patro Secretary/Treasurer submitted the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts. He acknowledged the contributions made by the IFYR (UK Chapter) to subsidise the travel expenses of secretaries and thanked us all. I took advantage of the opportunity given to share news of the UK Chapter and your greetings. I conveyed the fraternal greetings of Y's Retired, UK as well.

Something very special happened that afternoon. More than 35 former "boys" of the Boy's Division and Boys' Home, Tirupattur (now dads and grand dads!) -some with their wives- joined the delegates over lunch. They were very generous in presenting each one of the delegates a gift as a token of gratitude to the YMCA for its share in their lives. It was very touching. While the other delegates spent the afternoon sightseeing, John, Beulah and I were with the "boys" reminiscing the past and sharing notes. Most of them have progressed very well. Children of a few of them are abroad including the UK! The day was brought to an end with a campfire led by Eric Sahayam, Vice- President of IFYR. We enjoyed ourselves thoroughly!

At the final session, new office bearers were appointed :  
K Jacob as President, P Chandra Bose-Vice-President  
Rajasekaran- Secretary/Treasurer

Everybody agreed that the outgoing team had done a marvellous job. Most of the delegates departed the same day, though a few opted to stay an extra night enjoying the facilities and nature. In many respects it was a very memorable reunion with record attendance and wonderful fellowship. I am glad that some of us from the UK made it!  
*Rupert George*



## Report of the Reunion of the Y's Retired of the UK - 2009

All of us would remember those days when on returning from the AOS/APS or National Assembly, we were enthused and invigorated for all things YMCA. The times of praying together, meeting up with colleagues from across the land and even further afield, those meaningful conversations in the bar where the exchange of stories of being with our backs to the wall when God intervened and the impending risk became a roaring certainty, the driving imperative that what we were engaged in was all about lives being changed. All this sent us back to work with a renewed vigour and an enthusiasm that we were a people called to a particular work – God's work.

### **And then came retirement.....**

And so it was that Y's Retired President, Jim Lamb brought us together once more to perhaps reminisce and enjoy each other's company. Yet there was so much more to experience during our time together at the Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, Birmingham, (an inspired choice). It reminded us that once called, always called. An experience that was further enhanced by ministry from the Rev Tony Malcolm, formerly Christian Education Director and now qualifying as a Y's retired.

The opportunity to meet with today's young executives Jim Jenkinson, Region Executive Officer, Clive Yates, CEO from Sutton Coldfield and Alan Fraser, CEO of Birmingham who were driven by the same motives and the same creative energies as we were. They face the same challenges of either taking the money or retaining their YMCA integrity, rising to the challenge and taking the gamble or playing it safe. What was particularly encouraging was that these men were all for facing the challenge and staying true to their calling.

This led the assembled group neatly into the discussion **"would we recommend the YMCA to a young person as a career"** and of course the answer had to be an overwhelming yes. The meeting with current staff was a delight to delegates and I like to think it served to encourage them to know they were maintaining the mission that had inspired generations of YMCA staff. The question the encounter left us with was, **is our role finished at the point of retirement, is there a further contribution we can make in retirement?**(without getting in the way of course)

In the session on **"what are we doing in our retirement"** it was illuminating to see how many of the retired were still making a contribution to the local YMCA or serving the church and local community in some way or other. On the first night the epilogue concluded with the text **"let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.** It would seem that the light still shines in the Y's Retired because once called always called. Our renewed enthusiasm was further enhanced by a visit to the YMCA Archives arranged by Sam Johnston and Roger Hunt. To look at photographs and hear again the stories of self sacrifice that marked out so much of YMCA history, was for some a very moving experience and a further visit is recommended.

Birmingham University staff were able to show us the new air condition temperature controlled environment where all this history will be kept in future. They obviously value it and so should we, after all, our pictures and our history were part of the collection.

Of course we could not meet without considering the future of the Y's Retired, but it is evident that through the Newsletter and the various regional meetings it had an important role to play, not least in supporting Secours Speciaux working on behalf of our poorer colleagues throughout the world who struggle without proper pension provision. And the only way we could secure the future was to have the right systems in place.

As a result time was found to conduct some formal business. Ray Allen was confirmed as Honorary Treasurer and the annual fee increased to £10 with £5 going to Secours Speciaux. In future the accounts will be with the National Westminster Bank with the Treasurer and Secretary, Reg Wake being the two cheque signatories. In future there will be opportunity for members to pay by Standing Order and details will appear in the Newsletter.

The retiring collection for Secours Speciaux amounted to £127 which when added to the balance left over from the conference of £43.25 amounted to £170.25 so thank you one and all.

### **In closing**

Over the four days much of our thinking had been with those we served with and who had inspired us to reach out to do great things. Numbered among them was Fredrik Franklin Secretary General at the World Alliance. In our closing devotions Jim Thompson who during this period served with Fredrik for four years, was able to quote from a speech the great man gave to a British Secretaries conference in 1964.

***"We are called to be fellow workmen with the best that is in others. Ours is the opportunity to learn from Jesus the art of seeing not only what is, but what could be. Ours is the function to look for, discover and develop the gifts of leadership, capacity for friendship, ability to win a game or lose it gracefully. Ours is the function to help discover the enjoyment of the simple things in life as well as the horrors of injustice, deprivation, oppression."***

***"Incomprehensively but in all truth, and in all this, and in so much more, we are called to be fellow workmen with Him who is the source of all that is good and right and strong."***

The capacity to inspire others lives on in each of us. If you missed the conference this year and someone agrees to take it on next year, don't miss it, it might just make you feel young again.

[alex.cloke@sky.com](mailto:alex.cloke@sky.com)

*(Friend and Treasurer Ray Allen has asked for our thoughts and prayers as he attends Leeds Hospital for medical treatment for prostate cancer)*

*Editor*

## PHOTO OF REUNION 2009 AND BUSINESS MINUTES



The names of those who attended the reunion are from left to right; Pat Haworth, Paul Harper, Ted Milburn, Eddie Brady, Brian Rowcliffe, Alex Cloke, Jim Lamb, Fred Daldry, Ray Allen, Jim Thomson, Mary Thomson, Gilbert Dickson, Hannah Milner, Leila Evenden, Peter Brookes, Reg Wake, Tony Malcolm, Stephen Milner.

### MINUTES

#### Extraordinary meeting of the Y's Retired of the UK Held at the Quaker Study Centre, Selly Oak Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2009.

##### 1. Present:

Jim Lamb (Presiding) Reg Wake (Secretary) Ray Allen (Hon.Treasurer) Eddie Brady, Peter Brookes, Alex Cloke, Fred Daldry, Gilbert Dickson, Paul Harper, Pat Haworth (Mrs), Ted Milburn, Stephen and Hanna Milner, Brian Rowcliffe, Leslie Evenden (Mrs), Jim and Mary Thomson.

##### 2. Purpose:

The President explained the need for formal Resolutions to facilitate revised banking arrangements required following the death of former Treasurer, the late Geoffrey Harris, and sought ratification of action taken by the Executive officers.

##### 3. Accounts:

a) "That the appointment of Mr. Ray Allen as Honorary Treasurer of the Y's Retired of the UK be ratified."

b) "That the Y's Retired of the UK bank account be transferred from the Halifax Building Society (Watford Branch) to the National Westminster Bank (Lincoln Branch).

c) "That the two signatories, either one of whom to act in transactions with the National Westminster Account, be those of Ray Allen, and Reg Wake, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary respectively.

Having been duly proposed and seconded, the Resolutions as defined were warmly endorsed.

##### 4. Subscriptions and Donations:

Following the suggestion of Arthur Bennett as published in the Newsletter of September 2009 and invited responses from the wider membership, the following Resolution was proposed, seconded and agreed.

"That the annual subscription, payable as at 1<sup>st</sup> January, be increased to £10 with £5. recorded as membership subscription and £5.00 (or optional addition) recorded as a donation to Secours Speciaux."

A related suggestion was considered, supported and agreed. Viz.

"An optional method of payment of subscriptions and donations through Standing Order in favour of the Y's Retired of the UK may be made. David Smith to prepare and publish through the Newsletter a pro-forma 'Instruction to personal Bank Manager of members."

##### 6. Current Assets:

Pending final closure of the Halifax Building Society account, Reg Wake reported a provisional credit balance of approximately £4,000 with standing subventions payable in 2009 of £100.00 to WFYR and £100.00 to Secours Speciaux plus notional office expenses for 2009 of say £100.00. Member donations to Secours Speciaux reserved £180. Noted.

During discussion, it was suggested that executive officers consider an increase in the current subvention in favour of Scours Speciaux. The suggestion was favourably supported and referred for attention.

##### 7. Discretionary Fund:

The President reported an anonymous donation of some £500.00 intended to further the interests of the Y's Retired.

In wide discussion, no immediate and specific usage was identified but note taken of possible avenues such as assistance with travel and/or relief of acute financial difficulties faced by a member or his/her dependents. It was accepted that the fund would need substantial addition to be effective as a Trust Fund rather as a Discretionary Fund.

It was agreed that the donation be held as a Discretionary Fund and that the President and Secretary would develop criteria for use of the fund to be administered at their discretion.

##### 8. Secours Speciaux:

It had been reported that voluntary donations received in the financial year to date were substantially in excess of previous years and seen to be very encouraging. It was agreed that opportunity be taken for a retiring collection at close of the Reunion.

Dear David

So sad to hear of the passing our funny friend of whom we have many happy memories.

Early in our married life Jim and Margaret Grey were fellow youth club leaders of two of the satellite branches of Leeds Central YMCA.

Jim ran Beeston, (and always referred to them as 'the little darlings!') Margaret was like a sister to me, newly married and away from home.

Ultimately they had baby Edward around the same time as I had baby Ruth, to add to their existing children, Robert and Jane. Mervyn was godfather to Edward, who sadly died in young adulthood, and they were later saddened to lose Jane in her forties.

We visited them in Bridgwater once and Jim came to meet us on his bike, pushed it back, puffing and panting up the hill. On arriving home he threw himself on top of his garden wall in the prone position to recoup from his exertions. Each morning, from our blow up mattress on the floor we could hear Jim's exertions with his Yoga exercises, accompanied by deep throated exhalations from somewhere deep within his gut, sounded like a bass trombone or Tubby the tuba!

Once Mervyn met a flustered Jim who, being somewhat accident prone, had succeeded in leaving Margaret's best new suitcase in the taxi rank parking plot, where an unsuspecting taxi driver had reversed over it! 'Some mothers do have' em!

I wonder what escapades he's going to get into in heaven?

Best wishes

Beryl and Mervyn Moorehead

### **JOHN STUBBS**

Aged 78, John passed away on 1st August 2009 at St John's Moggerhanger. He leaves behind his beloved wife Mary, son Richard and daughter Alison. He was grandfather to Thomas.

Following a private cremation, a service of thanksgiving was held at 12 noon on Friday 14th August 2009 at St Mark's Church, Brickhill, Bedford. John served the YMCA as a staff member in Chelmsford, as Chair of Bedford YMCA and as an active YMCA National Board member. He never stopped volunteering himself for a variety of Christian causes. His strong Methodist faith supported local churches in Bedford.

Donations in memory of John may be made for either The YMCA or Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF) and may be sent c/o Arnolds Funeral Service 48 Roff Avenue, Bedford, MK41 7TE. Telephone 01234 359529.

Editor

*Very sorry to learn of the death of John Stubbs. He much valued his YMCA experience whilst being employed and continued in a different vein as a layman. His was a 'service above self'.  
President Jim.*

### **JIM GREY**

Thoughts of 90 year old Jim Grey brings back most happy memories of a true Christian Gentleman whose smile lightened many a personal conversation and eased pressure on any over formal YMCA meetings.

His contribution to the YMCA measured of the best in service and devotion to his work as many a young person (now old!) would testify due to Jim's influence in their lives. No task was too great, no problem whether human or business was unsolvable as his many colleagues and friends would testify.

There was an endearing human quality touched with humour as I recall two incidents when a group of young YMCA Secretaries gathered at the entrance to the old City of Leeds YMCA in Albion Place before embarking on an educational visit to an International Conference at the world renowned YMCA Centre at Castle Mainau in Switzerland. The group having supposedly deposited their luggage in the boots of two taxis, one taxi reversed to the sound of a bang and grating which when checked there was found Jim's suitcase absent-mindedly left at the rear of the taxi, burst open and belongings scattered everywhere – we roared with laughter! The second occasion was on the same journey arriving at Heathrow Airport and passing through automatic opening doors (They had just been installed and were a new phenomenon of modern electronics!). We lost Jim later found walking in and out for some 10/12 times of the ever opening doors with a somewhat battered suitcase disbelieving such miracles! Our time at Castle Mainau was much enhanced by Jim's presence.

Jim and Margaret were firm supporters of the Y's Retired of the UK not least the Anglia Y's Retired two meetings a year for lunch and socialising in different venues whilst health allowed. In his long retirement he remained the same Jim – a friend, a fine conversationalist, one who would always go the extra mile, and one whose anecdotes shared about his life in the YMCA brought merriment. Letters received during his later years spoke highly of his family and their support at that time.

Jim Grey was indeed a fine person and I repeat again a TRUE CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN who will long be remembered by his many friends and colleagues.

Jim Lamb

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