



BFES SCEA Association

SPRING 2017

bfes_scea_newsletter@yahoo.co.uk

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 36

Chairman's Easter Message

Sadly I begin my message with the news that **Christine Ford**, successful events coordinator for many years & wife of Mike Ford, our previous Chairman, passed away on 27th February 2017. I am sure you will join with me in expressing condolences from the Association and that Mike has our thoughts and support at this very sad time.

The full version of Christine's BFES/SCEA Association obituary can be read on our website and will appear in the Summer Newsletter.

If, meanwhile, you would like to donate in Christine's memory, cheques should be made payable to:

"The Christie"

and sent to:- The Christie Charity, 2-4 Candleford Road, Withington, Manchester, M20 3JH

Members of the Committee have been working hard on your behalf and we shall gather again for a meeting on 16th May to continue looking at a number of issues as well as future re-unions. Our latest re-union was on April 1st at Corpus Christi College in

BFES SCEA Association Curry Lunch

The Gurkha Museum Winchester - Saturday 3rd June 2017

The Gurkha Museum commemorates the service of Gurkha soldiers to the British Crown, a relationship that has endured since 1815. The impressive McDonald Gallery is the venue for lunch: it contains a medal, badge and art collection.

The **Brigade of Gurkhas** is the collective term for units of the current **British Army** that are composed of **Nepalese** soldiers. The brigade, which is 3,640 strong, draws its heritage from Gurkha units that originally served in the Indian Army prior to Indian independence.

As usual there will be a cash bar open at 12:15 and the meal will include a starter, curry, dessert and tea and coffee.

The **approximate** cost for members will be £30 and for guests £33. A booking form is enclosed and the closing date for bookings will be **20th of May 2017**.

Blankenhagen School – Gütersloh

1978 to 2016

Blankenhagen School began life in the Spring of 1978 when Lady Humphrey, widow of **Marshall of the Royal Air Force Sir Andrew Humphrey** visited **RAF Gütersloh** in the then West Germany to open the newly built **Andrew Humphrey School** in the village of Blankenhagen: a primary school for the children of RAF personnel. [See also the side-bar overleaf "The Fall of the Berlin Wall" ...](#)



Cambridge. This was a very successful event and was well attended.

A report will appear in the Summer Newsletter.

Finally I would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter and hope you enjoy the opportunity to meet each other through the year.

Glyn Pascoe

The Fall of the Berlin Wall

The fall of the Berlin wall in **November 1989** triggered many outcomes throughout the world; not least among them was the change of status and role of **BAOR**.

Almost immediately smaller garrisons in Germany started to close as the Army redefined its formation into different Corps. This coincided with a decision that the Royal Air Force could operate from UK and there was no further need for air bases to be in Germany.

The **Andrew Humphrey School** had almost exclusively the children of RAF families in Gütersloh. With the decision to withdraw from Germany, the decision was made to close the school. However, the drawdown process was not as simple as it sounded. The formation of new Corps then led to the relocation of these new amalgamations. As the RAF had withdrawn from



Farewell celebrations

Farewell celebrations at **Blankenhagen School** started on June 24 2016, ahead of the school's closure at the end of the summer term. While the day-to-day running of the school continued to be very much "business as usual", for one day pupils, parents and staff, both past and present, gathered to celebrate the life of the school.

Evening celebrations saw past members of staff return to watch a film and live performances by current pupils. The first Headteacher of Blankenhagen School, (previously the Andrew Humphrey School), **Mr Martin Peacock** was presented with a plaque commemorating the opening of the **Andrew Humphrey School** in 1978.

The school also created a DVD (produced by Blankenhagen's Mr Taylor, comprising a mixture of cine-film footage showing the building of the school and interviews, & photos with staff and pupils; the result was both funny and emotional. It is hoped to include footage from the DVD on the BFES SCEA Association Website.

As the term drew to a close, familiarisation visits took place for those children moving across to Haig School and for those continuing their education at King's.

The Crowning Glory

By Ben Turner – Headteacher 2007 – 2016

"On this our final performance, we have experimented with yet another media -film. Conscious that we have such talent within the school, it was also extremely important that we included live acts; that was non-negotiable as far as the performing arts club were concerned.

*The film summarises our final year at Blankenhagen and reflects on its beginnings too. It all started as Andrew Humphrey School, serving a RAF community with Mr **Martin Peacock** present as the first Headteacher.*

*For just short of **40 years** many thousands of pupils have passed through the doors of the school, as well as many dedicated and enthusiastic staff. We take this time to reflect on the countless successes of the school and thank all those who have given such a service to our military community.*

***Blankenhagen** has been, and is, a very special and amazing place to work. I am sure that moving on there will always be a place in our hearts for this wonderful school. Best wishes and good luck to all who are moving on - and for those returning for our celebrations, I am sure that this is testament to the special memories that Blankenhagen or Andrew Humphrey School hold for you".*



Gütersloh it left a huge unoccupied site with buildings and ground space still suitable for military use.

The decision was made that newly formed Royal Logistics Corps would be stationed in Gütersloh. As families started to move into the garrison, it became apparent that all previous connections with the RAF were no longer appropriate. It was important that following the upheaval for families moving to a new location that they settled as quickly as possible into the new environment. One such change was the name of the primary school – it became known as

Blankenhagen School simply because that was the name of the village in which it stood.

What had been known as **RAF Gütersloh** became **Princess Royal Barracks**, former internal facilities of the garrison had face lifts as new RLC regiments moved in. It was an unsettling time for many personnel – not least for the teaching staff at the school as they managed the departures of RAF children and assimilating the new Army families. Trophies and ephemera of RAF activity were slowly packed away creating new space for future Army association.

Sue Adams



An Adventure Abroad in Germany (1965 - 1981)

The Memoirs of Peter Hall ACP- 2016

*"As a former **archivist to the Association** I was overwhelmed by the great quantity and variety of the hundreds of items donated by former teachers following an exhibition mounted during one of our reunions held at the Cafe Royal. A former School Meals Adviser, Arabella Kurdi, who was in Germany in the late 1940s had encouraged me to have our archives deposited at the **Institute of Education at the University of London**. Having received so many items over the years, I felt duty-bound to write my own memoirs, **excerpts of which you may now read in this and subsequent editions of the Newsletter**.*

Peter Hall – March 2017”.

1964

I was teaching in a large Primary school in suburban Southampton. I had a small class of children who, in those days, were classified as "Educationally Subnormal". The headteacher had offered me this Post of Special Responsibility for which the extra financial allowance was attractive and there would be only twelve children in the class! Even more attractive was fewer exercise books to mark and fewer bodies to deal with, especially when changing after PE lessons - 'Please sir, I've lost my pants!'

Teachers' salaries in the 1960s were still awaiting the boost which didn't come until the late 1970s. In 1964, with a growing family of two young children, my wife and I were struggling to make ends meet. So it wasn't long before a change was sought. I had always had the urge to travel abroad and, after a couple of failed attempts I happened to scan the Situations Vacant pages of the Daily Telegraph in August and saw **"Teachers required for service with the British Families' Education Service. Free Accommodation with Foreign Service Allowance and London Allowance"**.

This seemed interesting and financially attractive! I applied and, to my surprise, early in September, I was called for interview at the **War Office**, Northumberland Avenue, London – memories of the Monopoly Board!

I soon found the grim building with its surly door-keeper who showed me to the lift which took me to the correct floor. There I found a dismal corridor with a few uncomfortable-looking chairs occupied by a couple of other interviewees. Before long I was called into a sparsely furnished room with a lonely, armless chair in the centre facing a board of interviewers chaired by the Director of BFES himself- Mr. **Hugh Pacey**. Next to him sat a happy-faced man introduced as his Assistant Director. Then there was a grim-faced lady with her hair done up in a bun. As a schoolboy I remembered such ladies as being intimidating and overpowering but this one in front of me turned out to be very welcoming and interested in my description of my classroom and details of some of the pupils I was teaching. A uniformed officer completed the panel.

I well remember Mr. Pacey's opening remark - "Well, Mr. Hall, we have a lot very interesting teachers to interview and some who are less interesting. How do you see yourself?".

Diary Dates

Tuesday

16th May 2017
Committee meeting,
Double Trees Hotel,
Bristol

Saturday

03 June 2017
Curry Lunch at the
Ghurkha Museum
Winchester

Saturday

14 October 2017
Reunion Lunch at the
Royal Naval College
Dartmouth

Spring /Summer 2018

Germany Reunion –
Gütersloh / Bielefeld
date to be confirmed.

A warm welcome to new members

Liz Percival, who
lives in Loddon in
Norwich, taught in
Gibraltar, Cyprus,
Belgium and RAF
Brüggen between
1983 and 1996.

Arthur Maxfield,
who lives in
Germany, taught at
Kent School, Hostert
and Gloucester
School, Hohne,
between 1977 and
2013.

Karen Ledward,
who lives in
Redditch, taught at
Oerlinghausen
Primary School and
Maas First School,
RAF Laarbruch,
between 1983 and
1991.

Brenda Ellison, who
lives on the Isle of
Wight, taught at
Muensterlager
Primary School and
St George's First &
Middle School,
Gibraltar between
1969 and 1984.



This was when I had wished the chair to have had arms! I remember hesitating over this quite unexpected question but I must have made a satisfactory response for early in October I received a Ministry of Defence letter offering me a teaching post with the British Families' Education Service in Germany, with effect from 1st January 1965. This was so exciting I couldn't wait to reply, accepting this offer, knowing that I had just three months in which to prepare myself, my wife and family for - **"An Adventure Abroad"**.

Two weeks later I received a lengthy War Office letter giving full details of the necessary preparations for my family for the move to Germany regarding medical examinations, vaccinations, passports, Family Allowances, baby food and education. **I took so long in reading this** and, realizing that I had not yet told my headteacher that I had accepted the BFES post, was in a state of some excitement. I missed my bus into Southampton.

Arriving half-an-hour late I went to apologize to the head who was understandably abrupt, advising me to "be more punctual in future". "Well," I said, "I shall be leaving at the end of term" and showed him the first letter offering me the post in Germany. "That's a pity." said he, "I was thinking of recommending you for a Deputy Headship."

I was dumbfounded but the call to BFES was too strong to resist.

My initial application had listed, in order of preference, either the Far East, the Mediterranean Command or Germany. That third option turned out to be what, eventually, I was offered. In a way I was satisfied because, as a sixth-former, in 1948 I had travelled in a school party by train across Germany en-route for Copenhagen to stay with pen-friends, little knowing that BFES was already in existence. In those days many German cities were still largely in ruins. I remember seeing, and photographing, Cologne cathedral through the shattered glass roof of the railway station. Having left Ostend on Friday, mid-afternoon, we had reached Cologne early in the evening and had to wait for an hour or so for the connecting train, the Nord Express, to come from Paris. The German currency was being re-valued at that time and we had no Deutschmarks, so the teacher-in charge gave us some cigarettes to exchange for sweets at the kiosk. The seats on that train were wooden and we suffered the discomfort for the remainder of the journey until reaching Copenhagen late on the Saturday evening having had little sleep and a breakfast of Pumpnickel, Salami and Sauerkraut with scalding coffee.

That journey had taken us through the Ruhr industrial district with its many bomb-damaged factories, miles of twisted rail-tracks and wrecked rolling stock, through places whose names I remembered from wartime radio broadcasts, such as Duisburg, Essen and Hamm.

So, now, seventeen years later I was keen to see Germany recovered.

To be continued.

Do You Remember SCEA?

From 1945 to 1992 **Eltham Palace** was associated with education, principally in the Army, but also for the children of Services families across the world. It was the headquarters officers mess of the **Royal Army Education Corps (RAEC)** and first the Institute of Army Education and then latterly the Directorate, including the direction and support of Service Children's Schools. Therefore many teachers and administrators for BFES visited Eltham Palace, for recruitment, induction, CPD, and conferences.

Contd/

Departed Friends

John Ireland (Dec 2016) who served with BFES/SCEA from 1969 to 2003, in Malaysia, Berlin, Soest, Antwerp, Werl, Sennelager and at HQ SCEA

Laurian Field (Feb 2017) who served in Lubbecke and Minden from 1957 to 1960

Membership of the Association is currently £10 per year (£12 for those who live outside the UK and who do not have a BFPO address).

Membership is open to anyone who has served or is serving with BFES, SCS(NWE) or SCEA is still serving in one of the remaining MOD schools.

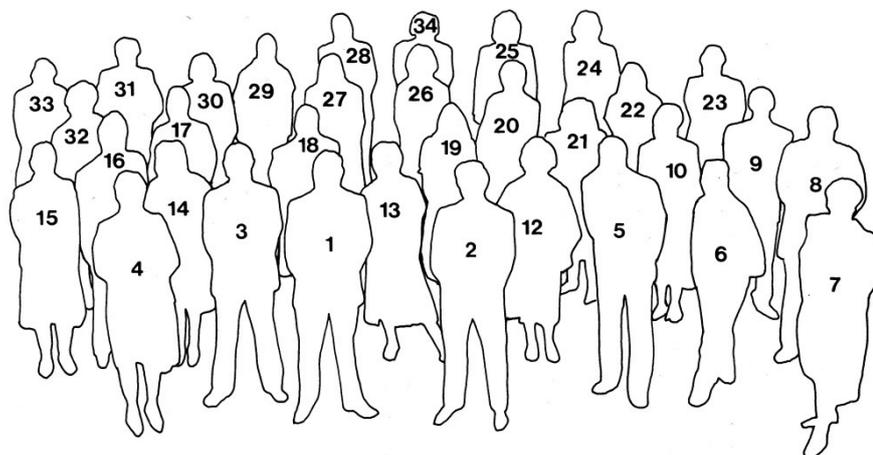
The membership year runs from 1st January to 31st December and payment can be made by Standing Order or cheque. Membership fees can be paid up to 3 years in advance.

A membership form is available to download from the Association website at

<http://www.bfes-scea-association.org/membership.html>

If you wish to pay for Association Lunches by **Electronic Transfer** please remember that your Booking Form – duly completed - will still be required by the event organizer. Please see the instruction on the Event Booking Form.

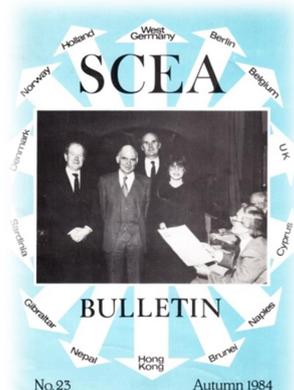
A 1990 SCEA Team Photograph in the Grounds of Eltham Palace



1. Major General Stuart Lee, DAEd. 2. Group Captain Keith Bradley, Controller SCEA. 3. Commander Alan York, DC1. 4. Mrs Sybil Coward, DC2. 5. Squadron Leader Les Ward, S02 1a. 6. Mr Ken Tagg, AO 3c (Personnel Management and Recruiting (PM & R)). 7. Captain Sue Aitken, S03 2a. 8. Squadron Leader Mike O'Sullivan, S02 2a. 9. Mr Chris Gennings, AO 3c (PM & R). 10. Miss Sue Pratt, EO 3c (PM & R). 12. Mrs Edna Holdsworth, AA 3d (Resources). 13. Mrs Pat Findlay, EO 1b (Special Needs). 14. Mrs Anne Bishop, AO 3a (Recruiting). 15. Major Bronwen Jones, S02 3b. 16. Major Mike Ranson, S02 3a. 17. Mrs Joan Martin AA 3a/b/c (Recruiting). 18. Mrs Sheila Clarke, AO (SCEA Registry). 19. Miss Jane Simpson, EO 1b (Special Needs). 20. Mrs Shirley Howard, AO (SCEA Registry). 21. Mrs Pat

Read, AO 3d (Resources). 22. Mrs Sue Doyle, EO 2a (Curriculum and Inspection). 23. Mrs Joan Wallace, AO 3c (Recruiting). 24. Mrs Phyllis Duignan, HEO 3d. 25. Mrs Phyllis Howard, AO 3d (Resources). 26. Mrs Brenda Sullivan, AA (SCEA Registry). 27. Mrs Juliet Webb, EO 3d (Resources). 28. Major Peter Lewis, S02 1b. 29. Mrs Beryl Seabrook, AO 1b (Special Needs). 30. Mrs Olga Wedgbury, AO 1b (Special Needs). 31. Mr Martyn Hill, AO 1b (Special Needs). 32. Mrs Doris Thorpe, AO 3b (Recruiting). 33. Mrs Doreen Kingston-Smith EO 1a (Schools Advice). 34. Mr Jim Walker, EO 3d (Resources).

The three missing members of staff were Mrs Josie Townsend, DC3; Mrs Shirley Newton, AO 3d (Recording Cell) and Mr George Howlett, EW 3d (Recording Cell).



The front cover of the Autumn 1984 **SCEA Bulletin** shows **King's School Gütersloh** receiving its Schools' Curriculum Award at the national Award Ceremony. The recipients are (left to right) Mr AO Jones HOD Modern Languages, Dr Windman Head of Kreis Gymnasium Gütersloh, Mr JK Jones Headteacher of King's School and Miss Jane Johns a King's School pupil.

Contact us

Chair

Glyn Pascoe
07813 643601
glyn@pascoe.co

Secretary

Lynn Marshall
0118 3274128
lynnmarsh6@aol.com

Membership Secretaries

Hugh and Christine Ritchie,
01227470763,
bfes.scememb@gmail.com

Archivist

Walter Lewis
01934 645759
wrtlewis@gmail.com

Treasurer

Janet Bradley
01788 891850

Events Coordinator

Sue Adams
01823 663195

Newsletter Editor

Tom Nielsen-Marsh
bfes_scea_newsletter@yahoo.co.uk

We're on the Web!

<http://www.bfes-scea-association.org/>

Your comments, articles, news items, photographs, and letters would be gratefully received in electronic or hard-copy format.

Contributors are encouraged to send photographs in support of text submissions.

Find us on Facebook

Log on to Facebook and type in "British families education service association".

Update

The 2017 AGM and Reunion Lunch

Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth – Saturday 14th October 2017

Founded in 1863, this is the initial officer training establishment of the British Royal Navy. **Dartmouth** is situated in the South Hams area of Devon and is registered as an area of outstanding beauty. Besides the college, there is much to see and do. It is rich in architecture, history and National Trust properties – in particular, "Greenway", the home of **Agatha Christie** and Coletton Fishacre, the home of the D'Oyley Carte family.

Plans have now been finalised for this occasion which will be hugely enjoyable. This update is to confirm the date as you may wish to plan a short break in the area as well. Unfortunately an organised tour of the college cannot be arranged as this date coincides with a family's weekend to which priority will be given. Alternative dates were not possible as the college is fully booked for other events such as weddings. However just walking through to the dining area and seeing the outside of the building and grounds will give you a wonderful insight.

The cost per head for the AGM/lunch is £40 per person and numbers are limited to 50 (a maximum of one guest per Association Member please). No refunds for cancellations will be given and booking should be made to Sue Adams by September 1st 2017. A Booking form is enclosed with this newsletter and a reserve list will be held. Coffee and tea will be available on arrival and the AGM will commence at 11.30 hrs. The AGM will be followed at 12.30 by Reception drinks and Luncheon at 13.00.



If you are fairly certain that you would like to attend this AGM/lunch, you are strongly advised to start booking accommodation now as it is highly likely that nearer the time, families will be booking also.

As an example – two nights' accommodation at the Best Western Hotel in Dartmouth (Fri/Sat or Sat/Sun B&B 2 persons sharing = £247. This also includes use of all spa/pool/gym facilities and a 25% discount on green fees for golf.

The Stuff of Memories (1)

Good Home Wanted for Memorabilia



Some memorabilia simply don't fit into the **Association Archive** in London so we are looking for a home for the three items shown above. If you think that you can help please get in touch with the Hon Archivist (address in the sidebar).

If you have a Facebook page please spread the word about the Association!!

Thank you.

If you would you prefer an electronic version of the Newsletter please get in touch.

Snippets

Schools remaining in Germany (Spring 2017)

Paderborn

Bishopspark First School
John Buchan Middle School
Attenborough School

Attenborough School was formed by the amalgamation of William Wordsworth and Robert Browning Schools in September 2016.

Gütersloh

Haig School
Kings School

Bielefeld

Bielefeld School

Ramstein

St David's School

Where are they now?

Steven (Steve) Wallace worked for a long time in **Headquarters SCE** and at one stage served as **Acting Deputy Chief Exec.** When HQ SCE (JHQ) closed in August 2013 Steve moved to Munich where his wife Jane works for the European Southern Observatory project. After a spell teaching English as a foreign

The Stuff of Memories (2)

The Days of the Cold War – Berlin Scrapbook

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VISITORS TO BERLIN

INTRODUCTION

1. We welcome you to BERLIN and hope you have an enjoyable visit. BERLIN is under a Military Government. There are, therefore, various regulations in force which should be brought to your notice.
2. BERLIN is divided into four Sectors, British, U.S., French and Soviet. The British, U.S. and French Sectors constitute WEST BERLIN and are cut off from the Soviet Sector by the "WALL".

RUSSIAN ZONE

3. (a) BERLIN is completely surrounded by the Russian Zone of Germany which is "OUT OF BOUNDS" to British Troops, their families and dependants. IF YOU ENTER THE RUSSIAN ZONE YOU WILL BE ARRESTED.
 - (i) In the British, French and American Sectors there are warning notices on all roads and tracks leading from these Sectors of BERLIN to the Russian Zone.
 - (ii) In the Russian Sector of BERLIN roads and tracks leading into the Russian Zone are NOT so marked and it is the responsibility of the visitor to ensure that entry is NOT made into the Russian Zone.
- (c) You must be extremely careful when using BERLIN transport, particularly the "S"Bahn, in order to ensure that you do not go in the wrong direction or carry on past your destination. The "S"Bahn runs between East and West BERLIN and is "OUT OF BOUNDS" to all military personnel from 1700 to 0600 daily.

SOVIET SECTOR OF BERLIN

4. You may perhaps wish to visit the Soviet Sector of BERLIN. You will appreciate for obvious reasons that comprehensive rules are laid down for your own safety.

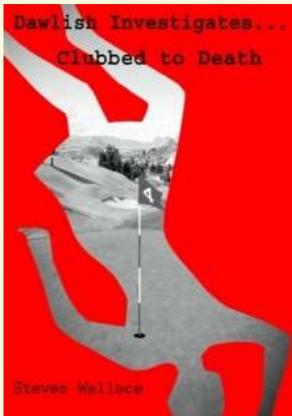
Before going, therefore, all personnel will please report in person for a detailed briefing to the:-

Royal Military Police
Control Room
BRITISH Sector HQ
(Oxfordshire Block)
Olympic Stadium.



Photos – Typical warning notice: Golden Eagle at HQ Berlin Infantry Brigade: HQ Building British Military Government: Berlin Middle School Third Year Class on a "Wire Trip with the RMP"; British Berlin Military Cemetery; The Railway Corridor leading to West Germany.

language and working with youth camps he has now published his first novel which is available on Amazon.



Dr Michele Blagg

is in the first phase of a project to document the history of **SHAPE** school at Mons and currently is identifying sources to be included in a timeline for the school's history.

What Michele would really like is any information or photographs linked to the evolution of the school.

She is in touch with David Turner, John Wilde and Howard Frost who are proving to be really helpful.

Do you have memories, photographs or experiences to share with her?

If so please get in touch with **Michele**

SHAPE.historian@modschoools.org

or with **Walter Lewis – our Archivist.**



Soviet War Memorial (Tiergarten) is one of several war memorials in Berlin; East Berlin (DDR) Soldiers; The Queen's Birthday Parade 1978; East Berlin (DDR) Soldiers; Berlin Middle School Christmas Display; the Olympiastadium.



The infamous Brandenburg Gate and the Philharmonie in West Berlin in 1979
All photos – Tom Nielsen-Marsh (1978/79)

In the Next Issue

Malta Memories by Sue Adams

"I was fortunate to be in Malta on two separate tours with my parents. The first was from 1951- 54. I was not at school initially and attended a morning session at a playgroup which was run by a kind lady known to all as "Auntie Beacon"."

**An Adventure Abroad in Germany (1965 - 1981) continued ... by Peter Hall
Reports from the Cambridge and Winchester Reunions**

Details of the Reunion in BFG – Gütersloh and Bielefeld

Your Committee will discuss the arrangements that are currently progressing well for the 2018 Reunion in British Forces Germany. Further details will be available in the Summer 2017 Newsletter. Expressions of interest in this Reunion can be made to

Sue Adams – telephone: 01823 663195 or e-mail: buckwell.adams@gmail.com

Do you have memories to share?

Photographs, memories, experiences, lost (or forgotten) friends: the Editor needs your contributions for the Winter Newsletter. Please e-mail your contributions to

bfes_scea_newsletter@yahoo.co.uk
or
bfesarchivist@gmail.com