



BFES SCEA Association

WINTER 2017

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NEWSLETTER NUMBER 38

Incoming Chair

Ken Jones OBE

Having spent 22 wonderful years working in two Services comprehensive schools in Germany, I have very fond memories of this time. In September, 1968, having accepted the post of Head of Geography, in St George's School, Hong Kong, I ended up being sent to fill a similar post in Kent School, Hostert, near Rheindahlen Garrison!! This turned out to be a stroke of luck in my career, as two years later I was promoted to be the Deputy Head of Kent School, working alongside another man from North Wales the wonderful Glyn Williams. This promotion was then followed by my being appointed the Headmaster of King's School in September, 1972. After 18 enjoyable years in Gütersloh I was appointed the Principal of Welbeck College in September, 1990 from where I retired 9 years later.

Throughout the 1980's - during my Headship at King's -

Outgoing Chair – Glyn Pascoe

Glyn was elected web-manager to the Association on his first attendance at an AGM in 2011. He rapidly changed our web-site into a modern and attractive site which he up-dates most months, moving us into the 21st Century. Since then the site has progressed rapidly with monthly "hits" of many thousands compared to hundreds previously; his position was quickly moved from one of "co-opted" to a full Committee member.

By October 2015 the Association was at a crucial stage in planning for its future. Our Committee suffered the loss of almost 50% with the resignations of such long standing members as Michael & Christine Ford, Joan Hunt and Gareth Morgans.

However, the Committee worked hard at approaching appropriate replacements, so as to continue to move forward; looking to its future, actively. We were very fortunate that the Association was able to appoint new colleagues, some of whom had more recent experience of BFES/SCEA.

Importantly, Glyn Pascoe, agreed be put forward as the Association's new Chair; a position he has held for the past two years, seeing us through this period of great change and some uncertainty, successfully with his calm, under-stated approach.

Glyn worked in **Akrotiri Primary School**, Cyprus around the time of the Turkish invasion; a lover of his life in the heat of Cyprus he has an amazing knowledge of the island's history. He certainly made the most of his 4 years there. When Makarios eventually died, all the schools staffs were banned from leaving camps; however Glyn managed to use his charm to be allowed to leave the confines of **RAF Akrotiri** to pick up some recently arrived relatives who had landed in Larnaca! Says a lot for



his inbuilt Cornish charm, or bullshit! Glyn went on to teach at **Marlborough** and **Wellington First Schools**, Osnabrück.

He returned to a deputy headship in Suffolk and followed up with a number of successful headteacher positions in the

West Country. Having seen us through this time of uncertainty, due to family commitments and to further extend his vocal cords as a member of a very active **Cornish Male Voice Choir**, which had been initially established by his father many moons ago, he is now standing down as Chair and Web Manager. He will remain a committed member of the Association and will assist and support his successors. Photo – the **Three Chairs** – Mike Ford, Ken Jones and Glyn Pascoe.

I was the chairman of the Secondary Heads in Germany and the spokesman on their behalf in all dealings with HQ BFES. In addition to this role I was also the President of the NAHT in Germany for one year in the 1980's

This long association with Services schools has meant that I truly value the work done by the BFES/SCEA Association and it is for this reason I accepted the invitation to have my name put forward for election as the new Chairman. I am strongly of the opinion that the committee is there to serve the needs of all members of the association. To this end, if any of you have views as to what you would like the committee to organise do please let me or other members of the committee have your thoughts. With the remaining schools in Germany due to close by 2019, I do feel that the committee has an important part to play in preserving the shared memories of the life we led in Services schools in different parts of the world.

With this in mind, I would like to share with you a very useful suggestion, made at the recent AGM by Joan Hunt, that members be asked to share with

The 2017 AGM (and Reunion Lunch)

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



The AGM took place in a lecture theatre a bit like a Roman amphitheatre, except much smaller. It was difficult to ensure everyone could hear, but the meeting was successful with members being very interested in the updated information on the reunion lunch in Germany. The high quality of the newsletter was commented on as was the growing popularity of the website. The membership was informed that there were likely to be some changes to the newsletter in the form of producing something akin to the SCE Bulletin sometime in the next year.

There was some sadness at Glyn's decision to resign, but understanding of his situation that family come first. Ken, in his acceptance speech recognised Glyn's

others photographs they have which record their life, and that of fellow teachers, working overseas in Services schools. If you are prepared to share these photographs, I would be most grateful, as they would make a very useful addition to the Newsletter. If you have such photographs can you please forward them to Tom Nielsen-Marsh.

Ken Jones

Diary Dates 2018

Germany Reunion at Mansergh Station Officers' Mess – 5th to 7th June 2018

Curry Lunch at the Ghurkha Mess in Winchester on June 2nd 2018

AGM and Reunion Lunch at the Queen's Hotel. Leeds on October 6th 2018.

A warm welcome to new members

Welcome back to **Mike Johns**, who taught at King's School in Gütersloh from 1966 to 1992. Mike now lives in Norwich.

Ian Stoter taught at King's School in Gütersloh from 1973 to 1996. His wife Jo also taught there from 1974 to 1996. They now live in Suffolk.

Wil Andrews has also re-joined the Association. Wil taught in Antwerp, Münster, Herford and Sennelager from

significant contribution in heading the Committee and taking the Association in a new and different direction. Following Glyn's resignation, elections were held. The committee is as follows:

Ken Jones (Chair); Lynn Marshall (Secretary); Janet Bradley (Treasurer); Mike Chislett (Web-Manager); Sue Adams (Events); Walter Lewis (Archivist & Deputy Chair); Tom Nielsen-Marsh (Newsletter); Hugh & Christine Ritchie (Membership); Jane Tull; Paul McArdle (co-opted for the Germany reunion.)

Raising the membership fee was discussed and it was agreed the committee would discuss this issue and bring a proposal to the AGM in 2018. Future events were also outlined; Ghurkha Curry Lunch - 2nd June 2018; AGM and annual reunion lunch - Queen's Hotel, Leeds October 6th; A residential break at a Warner Hotel is being considered for some time in 2018; Sandhurst is being explored as a possible venue, as is Eltham.

The Cambridge lunch will take place in 2019 as the college kitchen is closed for refurbishment in 2018.

Following the AGM, drinks were served in the Senior Gun Room bar which had spectacular views of the River Dart and then lunch in the Senior Gun Room Gallery.



Fifty-one members and guests attended the AGM Lunch and everyone there appeared to thoroughly enjoy themselves appreciating the opportunity to return to a military venue. The success of the event was partly due to the atmosphere created by exceptionally pleasant and efficient staff and by the general environment in this magnificent building.

The "table plan" and the location worked very well and the food was equally delicious. Sue's attention to detail - many years of organising and being involved in military standard dinner night functions - really paid off a treat. Britannia College was a wonderful venue for a reunion and it is hoped to be able to visit other military centres in the future.

Many members stayed in Dartmouth for the weekend and took advantage of the lovely river and its views, the individual shops, the very quaint ferries, the trip to Agatha Christie's house on the steam train and the lovely restaurants. Certainly a town to re-visit.

1975 to 1991. He now lives in West Yorkshire.

Margaret Merrall who now lives in Hunton, North Yorkshire, taught at St Christopher's School in Gibraltar from 1974 to 1984.

John Lloyd Roberts who lives in Carmarthenshire with his wife Anita, taught in Bünde Primary briefly from 1971-72, and then Haig School in Gütersloh from 1972 to 1981.

David and Sheila Roberts both taught at King's School in Gütersloh between 1968 and 1997. They now live in Hampshire.

Rob Crow taught at King's School, Gütersloh from 1973 to 1978. Rob and his wife Kate now live in Wiltshire.

Keith Lowe now lives in France. He taught at King's School in Gütersloh, John Buchan School and the Gütersloh Music Centre from 1980 to 2006.

Paul Budge now lives in Swansea. Paul taught at King's School in Gütersloh and Windsor School, Rheindahlen between 1980 and 2000.

Bryn Banks now lives in France. He taught at King's School, Gütersloh and moved on to HQ SCE in Wegberg and then to the Area Education Office in Bielefeld. All this was between 1983 and 2009. **Bryn's wife Val** taught in Trenchard School and Haig School (both in Gütersloh)



An Adventure Abroad in Germany (1965 - 1981)

**From the Memoirs of Peter Hall ACP- 2016
School is Everywhere - Part 3**

*"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".

1968 – Departure from Hilden and the Delights of Berlin

The New Year brought news of the Regiment's departure from Hilden. There would be no replacement and the barracks would be handed over to the German Army.

During this, my last term at **Hilden School**, Donald Peters, the head, had the brilliant idea of male-staff-only weekend outing. The numbers on the school role were now far fewer as the regiment was preparing to move. So the ladies were left to look after the school for the Friday afternoon whilst we men drove to **Hannover** and a flight to the bright lights of Berlin.

The ladies and the men's wives were promised a Friday afternoon and Saturday for a shopping spree in **Düsseldorf** In recompense.

We stayed for two nights at **Edinburgh House**, a hotel used for accommodating married families in transit. Late Saturday evening, after a spell of window-shopping and sight-seeing, we strolled along the Kurfürstendamm and tasted the night life in just one typical night club in the company of voluptuous females who plied us with drinks and idle conversations whilst we listened to scantily-clad young ladies singing unintelligible songs.

On emerging we were aware of a disturbance in the street, police cars came screaming followed by a fire engine training its water cannon on a crowd of unruly youths. We thought better of going that way and went instead to see the **Berlin Wall** where there were platforms from which we could view the **Potsdamer Platz** and the deserted streets of East Berlin. A television screen was transmitting the reliable and truthful news of the West for the enlightenment of the East Berliners.

On the Sunday morning we joined a coach party heading for East Berlin, through Checkpoint Charlie and on to view the Russian Cemetery. On the return trip the coach broke down and the driver had to wait for and stop a passing British Military vehicle and ask the driver to take a message to the West for a replacement coach. Fortunately it came in time for us to have a quick meal before boarding our return flight.

The ladies on the staff had survived without us but they were promised a future Friday afternoon and Saturday for that shopping spree in Düsseldorf.

Before the end of term we took the few remaining children to watch the final parade of the regiment marching out of the barrack gate as the **Union Flag** was lowered. This was shortly followed by a contingent of German troops marching in as the German flag was raised – altogether an emotional occasion and the school closed for the last time leaving us with a somewhat empty feeling.

To be continued.

and St George's School at JHQ and Andrew Humphrey School at Wildenrath. This was between 1987 and 2003.

William Edwards taught in King's School Gütersloh from 1988 to 1992, whilst his wife Jill taught in Haig School from 1989 to 1992. They now live in Swansea.

Alison Thompson lives in Norwich. She taught in William Wordsworth School from 1986 to 1989, and then again from 2004 to 2013, with Robert Browning School from 1989 to 1992.

Departed Friends

Rev Trevor Oldroyd who was the Head of Religious studies at King's School in the late 1960's and early 1970's

Alan Logsdail Head of CDT at King's School in the late 1960's and early 1970's Both the above died in late September 2017.

Terry Diss former Head of Resources at King's School from 1979 to 1990 Terry also worked at Gloucester School, Hohne. Terry died in early October 2017.

Ron Taylor former **Headteacher of St Patrick's School** in Rheindahlen died on the evening of Monday 6th November 2017 after a long battle with cancer which he endured with great optimism and positivity. Ron

Berlin Travel Documents and the Berlin-Helmstedt Corridor

Whilst it was relatively straightforward to fly in to and out of Berlin (at one stage only flights by the "Flag" carriers were permitted) access to Berlin in the **cold war era** - by road or rail - along what was known as the Berlin-Helmstedt Corridor was strictly controlled for any military personnel and had to be authorised through the use of a **Berlin Travel Document (BTD)** B or C. A BTD/B was authorised by Commander BAOR and "signed" by him (with a facsimile stamp of course!); the BTD/C was authorised by Commander British Sector Berlin and "signed" by him. This authorised travel down the **Corridor**, through the Soviet Checkpoints Alpha and Bravo.

The BTD, with all the relevant information typed in (as shown below), was presented at the Soviet Checkpoints at Marienborn and at Dreilinden/Potsdam for

checking against the relevant ID documents (Service ID Card, Families and Civilian Component ID Card for Berlin Personnel and passports for others). BTDs had to be correct (that is they had to match the accompanying ID or Passport) to the last full stop or technically the traveller (for the British Military Train, the whole train) could be rejected. In practice, for the BMT, the Soviet Duty Officer, on discovering a (rare) error would merely request an assurance that the document be corrected on the train. More authority than that held by the Soviet Checkpoint Commander was needed to turn back a train! This or course was in the days before the ubiquitous PC and printers and everything had to be typed and if necessary re-typed by hand.

The British Military Train (The Berliner) ran every day from 1945 to 1990 but a commemorative final journey was made on 7 Feb 1991.

attended Brighton Teacher Training College in 1969 and began teaching in Leeds. In 1974 he gained a place with BFES in Germany at Lincoln School in Münster and remained teaching in BFES/SCS/SCE for thirty years, finally retiring in 2004.

Ron and Jane moved to Dorset and after a brief period of supply teaching he settled into the community enjoying tennis, bridge, sailing, Caribbean holidays and the delights of coastal Dorset.

Schools remaining in Germany (Autumn 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
King's School

Bielefeld

Bielefeld School

Ramstein

St David's School (this will remain open after the closure of BFG).

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).

If you have memories of using the corridor or the military train into and out of Berlin the Editor would love to hear from you. A future issue of the Newsletter will feature "The Berliner" and the memorable journey from Charlottenburg Station in Berlin to Braunschweig in what was West Germany.

BFES SCEA Association Committee Meeting

Held at the RAF Club - 128 Piccadilly on Saturday 18th November 2017

The first meeting of the new committee took place in the Hodges Room of the RAF Club in Piccadilly, London on 18th November in the afternoon.

Prior to the meeting the committee met in the Running Horse pub which is in the basement of the club. We enjoyed a casual lunch together in the relaxed atmosphere of the pub.

Absent from the meeting were:

Ken Jones OBE (chair) on holiday in Thailand (we were all most envious of his excuse) Tom Nielsen-Marsh - in Leipzig, Germany with his wife and daughter, Paul McArdle on a short break in Northumberland with his wife. Paul is a co-opted member for the duration of the planning of the Reunion event in Germany.

Walter Lewis acted as chair in the absence of Ken. He welcomed all to the meeting and commented on the splendour of the venue. Of all the service clubs the RAF Club offered the best deal for the meeting.



From left to right – Lynn Marshall (Secretary): Hugh Ritchie and Christine Ritchie (Membership Secretaries): Walter Lewis (Archivist and Deputy Chair): Sue Adams (Events Organiser): Janet Bradley (Treasurer) and Jane Tull. **Photo –Mike Chislett.**

The committee always has a wide ranging agenda and this meeting was no exception. The main item was of course the reunion in Germany. Our main aim was to check all the details, clarify points and make sure the information and booking form contained all the correct information. The event is already "overbooked" in terms of members showing interest, so it was felt it was essential that all committee members agreed the rules around making confirmed bookings.

Membership is open to anyone who has served, or is serving, with BFES, SCS(NWE) or SCE or 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.

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It should be said that the committee were all very impressed with the work Ken has undertaken to make this event happen and we feel proud of the quality of the event we are offering.

Other items of note were the agreement that the committee would propose a membership fee increase to £15 from January 2019. This proposal will be put to the AGM in Leeds in October 2018. The reason behind the request for an increase is that income has exceeded expenditure for the last two years and is likely to do so again in 2017.

The Ghurkha Curry lunch is to go ahead in June 2018. There was some discussion as to the best way to facilitate committee meetings and the dissemination of information between committee members. It was agreed that a committee meeting would be held following the annual reunion lunch in 2018 and that further discussion on this issue, under Ken's chairmanship, would take place at the next meeting.

A FLAVOUR OF CYPRUS: 1973.

By Brian T. Thornalley.

I taught in Berengaria School, near Limassol, from 1962 to 1968 and in St. John's School, RAF Episkopi, from 1968 to 1970. I returned to the Island in August 1973 to carry-out some research for a BEd degree study on "Aspects of Service Children's Education in Cyprus". Recently, I found this letter, written to my wife, squirreled away in the attic:

17 Michalakis Street, Mesayilonia, Limassol. 14/8/1973.

Dear Brenda, We were all up early this morning to send-off Joe and Jill, friends of John and Kay, who dropped-in via Mersin - Famagusta (£25.00 return) arriving the day before I did. They are doing the BP-Mocamp circuit of Turkey and by all accounts and the illustrative literature the camp-sites are much improved since our day. [1964-65]



It was only yesterday that I managed to get fixed-up with independent means of transport --- a colleague of John's, with wife and family in the UK offered his second car: a beat-up Mini estate. He offered it last week, but he wanted first to put 4 re-moulds on, which he didn't get done on Friday or Saturday on account of his "manyana" disease! In the meantime, last Thursday, I had a long, slow walk round

Limassol, where things look much the same generally. The town is expanding inland, as can be expected, but with the new harbour project in full swing, it is expanding seawards too. They are pushing-out the whole length of the sea-front about 30 yards as well.

On Friday we all went to Paphos and had a fish meze. There are more mosaics to see now and excavation work is progressing on the small amphitheatre.

While the others shopped at the NAAFI on Saturday, I called-in on the Barringtons. Doug is Deputy Head at Berengaria now (since September) and Jo is still working. Their son Stephen has gone to the UK to start work in an insurance office. Doug's brother and his wife are visiting and I am invited for a meal later this week. We took a ride to Troodos and the 'Golf Balls' [RAF radar installations] on Sunday, taking the

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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.

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Thank you.

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

Photo Credits – Mike Chislett, Mike Ford, Hugh and Christine Ritchie, Joan Hunt

kebab tray and the makings. After a kebab in the Turkish quarter, at Halji's, on Saturday night, John felt rough enough to ask me to takeover at the wheel halfway up the mountain! This left me with the job of negotiating through Platres, which is the only route at present--- packed with cars on both sides of every street --- and up the 'Seven Sisters' road [steep and sharp series of hair-pin bends], also semi-blocked with parked cars. Troodos village was stacked high with cars and people and the forest between there and the top had more cars and people than trees. Life ain't wot it used ter be! Apparently, it's a nose-to-tail crawl every day to and from Episkopi - at least to the villages out and from the villages inward.

Tony Cox called in on Sunday before we set-off and arranged to pick-up Joe, Jill and me for a meal in the evening. Chris was fit and lively. They had been camping at Nisi beach and intend to go again tomorrow for a few days. On Monday, Tony took me to St. John's, but there was no one else there who could be of help to me with the research. I saw Ron and Di Norster - due home next year, I think. It is already fixed that Terry Jenkins will be leaving. They get to know now in the Summer Term prior to their last year. From all accounts I hear. the present situation on the money stakes in Cyprus is approaching crisis proportions. With salaries paid in the UK and with the loss of value in the £ sterling, they are losing about £30 a month on the exchange rate. The FSA for single teachers is down to £190 and they are either in debt, short-touring or not coming out at all. It seems that MOD is finding it difficult to recruit teachers generally. Quite a few people here are hoping to transfer to Germany as and when they can.

I made a point of seeing Costas Alexandrou [a local accommodation agent] last Thursday and, after a good long chat, I worked into the conversation the notion of buying a house in a village. In Limassol, a small building plot costs £8,000 and putting a house on it around £15,000. Village property is cheaper, depending on area. Costas recommended four villages - including his own!! - up the road inland just before Moni Power Station. Limassol is spreading-out along the coast in that direction, most noticeably with huge blocks of holiday apartments a la Costa Brava. Anyway, he said that he'd take me round one late afternoon when he wasn't busy.

Yesterday was Kay's birthday, so we went out for a meat meze to a new place beyond the Avenida called Monistiraki Taverna. As it was Jill and Joe's last evening and in view of the need to rise early with clear heads, we didn't over-do the vino! However, I seem to have disposed of quite a large quantity of KEO. [the local beer] Laxative chocolate is the last item on my shopping list!

John's landlord and family just called-in-- 8.45 a.m. We are invited to their village next Tuesday --- it might prove a useful "adios".

As I have to go to the Bank and then to St. John's, I'd better get moving: it's a Saint's Day tomorrow and all will be shut down.

Love from Brian.

