

**BFES/SCEA ASSOCIATION**  
**British Families Education Service/Service Children's**  
**Education Authority Association**



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2020**  
**AT 11AM**  
**(THE YEAR OF THE CORONAVIRUS)**

**HELD VIA ZOOM BY THE COMMITTEE**



**Dharan Primary School, Nepal 1976**

## Chairman's Report

There is not the slightest doubt that the Corona Virus pandemic has had a huge negative impact on the lives of all of us. The most immediate effect was the need for us to cancel our planned committee meeting in Bristol at the end of April. As a consequence this placed an additional burden on all of us by way of maintaining contact with emails and I have been so appreciative of how members of the committee have responded to this situation. I am delighted that all members of the committee have agreed to be re-elected for the coming year. Notwithstanding this, there is a real need to try and involve other younger members of the Association in the work of the committee to prepare for the time when current members of the committee will wish to step down. In this respect there is a need to find a younger Chairman to take over in October 2021. The social limitations placed on all of us has meant we have had to cancel the planned curry lunch in Winchester and the meeting at the Defence Sixth Form College Welbeck in October. This has left me worried that these cancellations may lead to an increasing number of our members losing interest in the Association and not renewing their membership in January. For this reason I feel it is very important that we try and look forward positively to next year and let our members know that we are planning events for 2021. Added to this I wish to emphasize the importance of both the Newsletter and the Website and the planned questionnaire survey. The work that Tom does as the editor of the Newsletter is truly outstanding and this has led to the production of a series of very interesting newsletters often highlighting to all of us the historical background to the Service schools organisation, a Service we all so enjoyed. These newsletters most certainly mean that our members are regularly reminded of the fact that there is real value in subscribing to the BFES/SCEA Association.

The work that Mike has done with the website is also something which we need to value and the hours that he has put into this task has meant there's been a growing interest in the website. Added to this Mike has kindly offered to steer us into the world of Zoom, assistance which I personally really value. The questionnaire survey which Hugh and Christine kindly offered to organise has meant them spending many hours compiling and evaluating the various suggestions that have come forward from the committee. The end result has been excellent and I do hope that all members of the Association participate especially as we have adopted Jane's suggestion that we offer a prize to one lucky winner. More than anything else I want our members to realise that as a committee we are wanting to do our very best to meet their aspirations and wishes.

Finally I would like to finish on the positive note of looking forward to 2021 with the hope that life will return to normal and that it will be free of the constraints placed on us by the dreadful Corona Virus.

**Ken Jones**

## Treasurer's Report Jan-Dec 2019

### BFES/SCEA Association

Income and Expenditure Account 1<sup>st</sup>. January – 31<sup>st</sup>. December 2019

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Winchester	1440.00	Winchester	1185.49
Cambridge	1512.00	Cambridge	1771.60
Sandhurst	<u>5455.00</u>	Sandhurst	<u>5590.55</u>
	<b><u>£8407.00</u></b>		<b><u>£8547.64</u></b>

### Running the Association

Subscriptions	3297.00	Newsletters	1676.86
Interest	17.02	Insurance	225.00
		Audit	65.00
		Committee M.	539.10
		Archives	287.10
		Postage/Stationery	248.16
		Website	
	<b><u>£3314.02</u></b>		<b><u>£3041.22</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£11721.02</u></b>		<b><u>£11588.86</u></b>
Expenditure	<u>£11588.86</u>		
<b>Balance</b>	<b><u>£ 132.16</u></b>		

### Account Balances as at 31<sup>st</sup>. December 2019

Lloyds Treasurer's Account	767.90
Lloyds BUS Bank Instant	53.18
NatWest Current	370.00
NatWest Business Reserve	<u>8045.76</u>
	<b><u>£9236.84</u></b>

Prepared by Janet Bradley June 2020

The above account is in accordance with the vouchers and documentation examined by me, and in my opinion gives a true and fair view of the income and expenditure for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup>. December 2019 and of the financial affairs of the Association at that time.

Account Examiner M E Kinder

Date 27 - July - 2020

The Association accounts detailing the income and expenditure for the year ending 31st December 2019 are as shown on the balance sheet. They show a total income of £11,721.02 from subscriptions, bank interest and functions. There was a total expenditure in running the Association of £11,588.86, leaving a credit balance of £132.16. We raised the annual subscription by £5 in 2019 to cover the deficits of several preceding years, so the Association, therefore, was in credit at the end of the financial year for the first time since 2014. At the end of the year the bank balance was £9236.84. There was a small deficit on events which was met from Association funds.

**Janet Bradley**

### Secretary's Report

As stated by other members of the committee 2020 has been an interesting and also very difficult year for the committee of the Association. It has been my job to attempt to keep everyone on track, which has been very easy as everyone is so keen to keep the Association going. They are determined to show you, our members, that we are a thriving organisation, albeit a fairly small one, with a main aim of operating in the best way possible to ensure we are ready to host events when the situation improves.

**Lynn Marshal**



**Above**  
**Alexandra Grammar**  
**School, Singapore 1959**



**Right**  
**Bagnoli Primary School,**  
**Naples, 1971"**

## Webmaster Report

For those who have not yet been tempted to visit our website, this is the address  
<https://www.bfes-scea-association.org>

News, events, photo-galleries, archive material, newsletters and links to other sites of interest can be found under the buttons on the main (landing) page.

Some material (latest newsletters and membership maps) are password-protected, for members access only. Otherwise the site is open to the public.

### Latest Numbers of visits

Lockdown resulted (or coincided with) an increased use of the web-site and we logged about 130 'unique visits' in March. This was 25% more than February. A 'unique visit' (UV) is when someone looks at the site and visits some pages. The UV has settled back to around 120 per month in September. Between lock-down commencing on the 16 March and 28th September, there were 842 UVs.

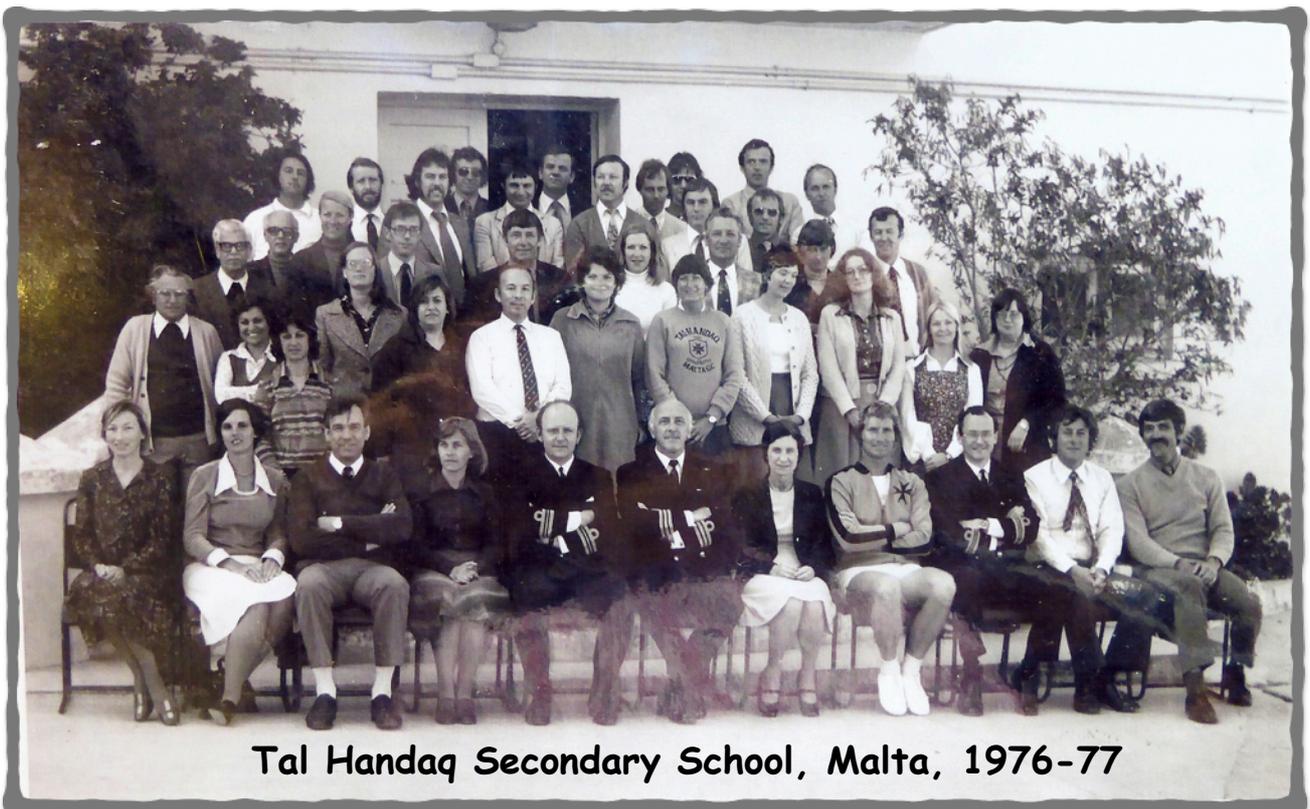
### Challenges:

Material for inclusion is always welcome - photographs and documents are straightforward, but videos and sound clips can be uploaded as well.

### Accessibility

This is a 'shoe-string' website and the result is a little 'clunky' in terms of text, fonts, colours and layout. We do not conform to current accessibility standards and the site could not be read by software for the visually impaired. If any member has the enthusiasm and skills to assist with a make-over - please let me know.

**Mike Chislett**



**Tal Handaq Secondary School, Malta, 1976-77**

## Newsletter Editor Report

Mike Chislett recently summed up the contribution that the newsletter/journal makes - " the newsletters are significant historical documents in their own right - so the more contributions we can get in, the better".

Contributions have been somewhat more readily forthcoming recently, thus augmenting the Editor's own records, memories, photos and archive materials. That said, contributions from members of such records, memories, photos and archive materials are vital if the newsletters are to prove Mike correct. The 16 to 20-page format is just sustainable - but longer term it really does need regular inputs from members. It would be especially good to receive photos of schools/barracks/locations which have yet to feature: such a focus, on a particular school or garrison, in each issue has the potential to add significant interest and historical value.

The winter 2020 issue will carry on with that focus.

**Tom Nielsen-Marsh**

## Archive Report for AGM: October 2020

There are two ways of assessing the effects on the Association's archive collection by the present Covid-19 pandemic.

Firstly, it has not been possible to deposit any archives at the Institute of Education, UCL, since October 2019. This is caused by the limitations placed on travel and by the fact that our professional archivist colleagues have been working from home since March 2020.

More positively is the suspicion that more Association members and other ex-colleagues have spent some of their lockdown time trawling through their memorabilia and forwarding to me a relatively large amount of material relating to their experiences in BFES/SCEA.

These items have sometimes been copied, then forwarded to Tom Nielsen-Marsh, for our Newsletter, and to Mike Chislett, for use on the web-site. The majority, however, are placed on shelves in my garage, awaiting documenting and packing for my next visit to the IoE, which will not be before Spring 2021.

I have been able to maintain good communication with the IoE archivists who have continued to assist with enquiries from a variety of sources who have made contact with me via my BFES/SCEA archivist email.

**Walter Lewis      Archivist**

## Membership Report, September 2020

In presenting the statistics for the membership report, please be aware that the previous three years' numbers are given in parenthesis.

**Membership numbers:** The current membership stands at 220 (243, 245, 245); we have had 8 new members join this year and 19 (10, 13, 12) members who did not renew their membership.

**Renewing Membership:** Following initial annual notice of membership in November up to 3 reminders were sent to members who had not responded. The majority responded at the first reminder and then every effort was made to contact those who did not respond. Reasons for not renewing membership are not always clear, but the most likely cause seems to be age or ill-health. Sadly, some members died over the course of the year; the committee noted their passing and contributions to Service Children's Education within the Newsletter and sent condolence messages where possible.

**Increasing membership:** The committee continues to look at ways to reach potential new members. Covid19 has prevented events taking place so distribution of membership forms at events has not been possible. However, despite this, eight new members joined the Association this year.

**Subscription payments:** 137 (142, 129; 124) members pay by standing order, 82 (99, 114, 119) pay by cheque, and there is one honorary member. We have 52 (65, 75, 69) members who pay by cheque who are due to renew on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. Reminders to renew membership will be sent out in November. A return address is placed on the back of the envelope in case the reminder to renew is undeliverable.

**Personal details:** Members' permission to hold their personal details as required by the GDPR legislation continues to be held securely. Details are not shared with any other organisation or individual outside of the committee.

### Hugh and Christine Ritchie



A reminder  
of those  
wonderful  
German  
Christmas  
Markets!

## Events Co-ordinator's Report

2020 has not been the most cheerful of years as we have all adapted in many ways to the outbreak of the Corona 19 virus.

The impact for all of us has been a reduction in social events but an increase in social distancing!

However, just before total lockdown was advised, Paul McArdle arranged a reunion lunch at Corpus Christie College in March which was enjoyed by all those who attended.

The pandemic of course has caused the other planned functions for this year to be cancelled. In particular the reunion at Welbeck College which is very disappointing.

Although we are still in uncertain times, the committee has decided to plan ahead for 2021 in the hope that new regulations might allow for future reunions to take place.

In particular, we hope to arrange a curry lunch at the Gurkha museum in Winchester, possibly in April and also to revive the plans for Welbeck College in June.

I am currently negotiating a reunion/AGM to be held at the tank museum in Bovington. This is not yet confirmed but a possible date is October 9<sup>th</sup> 2021.

My thanks go to Paul McArdle for his support in organising the reunion in Cambridge and also to Jane Tull for her ongoing organising of the Curry lunches in Winchester. In particular, I should like to thank Ken Jones for all the preparatory work and planning he had put in place for the Welbeck college reunion.

As always, my thanks to you for supporting the reunions and also to all members of the Association committee who offer support at all times.

My hope is that we will meet again in safer times.

**Sue Adams**



**Barnes Wallis First School, RAF Bruggen 1977**