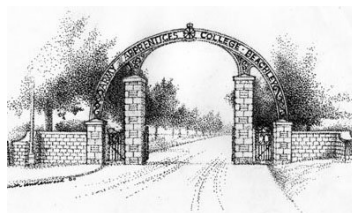




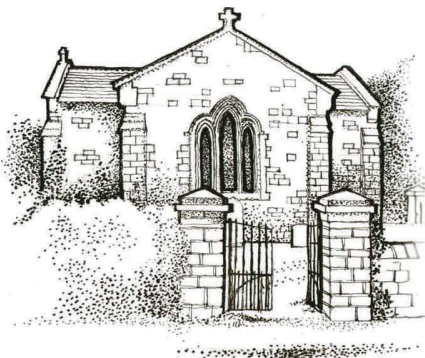
Beachley



Echoes

Edition No. 14 ~ April 2008

Update on St John's & the OSH Project by: The President



Copyright Mr K Underwood

St. John's at Beachley & The Old School House

It only seems to be a short while since the last AGM to the publication of this 'Beachley Echoes' edition. Sadly there has been very little real progress in the situation as you know it to be. Two factors have had an influence, John Furley has undergone a serious operation and been away in Spain convalescing and I have had a spell of restricted activity with an ulcerated leg. Neither of these factors have totally inactivated progress – just slowed it down, but I can assure you all the work required has been done and continues.

We are now at the stage, after seeking professional advice, of being able to submit a case to Gloucester Land Registry for 'Adverse Possession' of the OSH. I argued for a logical progression, to my mind, initially submitting a case to Register the OSH and then apply for Adverse Possession after Registration. Both John and our solicitor have advised the direct approach of 'in for a penny', therefore we are now preparing the necessary paperwork to be submitted to the Land Registry by the 1st March. It is not, like most things, as straightforward as it seems. We needed to gather a complete 'case history' from the closure date of the College and BOBA taking over the OSH, until today's date. Most of this work is complete, we now progress by approaching those involved during that period to collate the necessary required evidence.

Once submitted, we are completely in the hands of the authorities, none of us will have any say in the time it takes to obtain a result. If any of you have any experience of this type of procedure, you will know it can be a long and drawn out affair, much I think does depend on the reaction of the MOD!

The position of St. Johns is very simple – we are now in a position to purchase – if the membership gives the go ahead, BUT as I have stressed before, we need to know the final position on the OSH before committing ourselves. Both projects are indisputably inter-linked.

Now here is something for you all to consider: If you will bear with me I will outline our thinking of the future home for BOBA. First let me stress very clearly, we have absolutely no intention of leading BOBA into the property market – our actions are nothing more than a means to an end. FACT: both buildings will cost a great deal to renovate to the required standard and we wish to achieve this 'WITHOUT' the need for BOBA to 'dig deep' to fund the project. We have evolved an idea to acquire both buildings and at a very low cost; the OSH by adverse possession, and St Johns for £5000.00. St. Johns is not a very saleable prospect, but the OSH could well be! The income from a sale of the OSH could more than cover all the costs involved in the renovation and entirely maintaining St. Johns.

I must firmly stress that it is no more than an idea at this moment, both John and I will continue to work to investigate every possibility until the point where we can present a clear cut case for your consideration.

In my opinion, the final result will be some time away – the more I become acquainted with the speed at which MOD property work, coupled with Land Registry the more I realise it could be a slow process. Despite my past optimism, I now feel it could take a considerable time! However I have no doubts the end result, should well justify the wait, and the means.



The President's thoughts.

Little has changed since last putting pen to paper for the Echoes - The Old School House and St. Johns Church, still very much ongoing and foremost in my thoughts. We have made considerable progress BUT it is going to be a long drawn out affair to finalise both projects.

Legal matters now are the next step to enable us to gain Adverse Possession of the OSH and in this respect I need any information I can gather on EXACTLY how/when the OSH was handed/given to BOBA, not hearsay but remembered facts. Can you or anyone out there help 'with true facts'?

The London Cenotaph Parade

Last years London Cenotaph Parade was a complete 'sell out' I had to go to other organisations to obtain extra tickets - our biggest turnout with 45 attending. Once again my personal thanks to Baz Morgan - the transport provider and RSM.

Please mark the date of this years Parade in your Diary 9th November 2008.

It is extremely unlikely that I will be able to get more than 40 tickets (allocation has had to be reduced due to the very high cost of security/policing!)

Therefore if you want to go, please get your bids in early:

The usual notice will be displayed at the Reunion Weekend for you to sign up, or you can contact me giving your details at syd4hd@btopenworld.com or phone +44 (0)1656 661180 (I already have 2 bids).

Your committee, under the guidance of Brian Henderson, continue to beaver away with the many aspects of keeping the Association going and make the Re-Union a continuing success. We do urgently need a member replacement Treasurer – someone must be interested and willing to take the 'Money Bags' post.

This could be my last scribbling as your President – you will be requested to vote for someone at the AGM. If asked I would be honoured to serve again for a three year period but you must fully understand that we need to be mindful of getting new blood (someone younger) onto the management team.

Gaynor and I hope to see you in September!

The Ladies Page:



I had not anticipated to be writing the Ladies Column for the 2008 edition of the Beachley Echoes, however knowing Brian as I do I had half expected him to seek re-election as chairman of the association. He holds BOBA in great esteem and it is always a pleasure to support him in his role.

Without fail the writing of this article does not get any easier, I do not expect many BOBA members pass the Echoes to their wives, or partners, therefore I believe the target readers are very small. However; we ladies did get together for dinner in the Two Rivers Suite while the men dined upstairs in the ballroom, the dining room was nicely presented and the service provided by the waiting staff was excellent. For this our thanks go to Peter Burridge who organises the event on our behalf.

I believe the 2008 Reunion weekend will follow the same pattern as before (Brian say's 'if it isn't broke don't fix it'), but it is not too late to air your views and propose changes that might benefit our gathering and/or make them more enjoyable. If you do have any ideas not only for the ladies dinner, but for the weekend in general please do not hesitate to call me on 01437 781273.

It was very good to see Vera Gasser and Daphne Pickering at the reunion last year, again nothing has changed and the widows/partners of those members who have sadly passed away are still most welcome to come along and join in the weekend's proceedings. So please pass the word if you are aware of any one in this position.

Brian has already mentioned the parade and the Founders day service at Beachley Barracks, so far the weather has been very kind and the sight of members marching, their medals glinting in the morning sun is good to see. Likewise the service in St George's church should not be missed, as Joe's style of preaching is second to none.

Until September, best wishes to all, and see you at the 2008 Reunion. *Margaret Henderson.*



The Chairman's Jottings 2008:

I'd like to begin this year's 'jottings' by thanking those members who attended the AGM in 2007 and electing me once again as your chairman. I always believe it to be a great honour to serve the membership and look forward to the forthcoming years in post. At this point I am bound to thank all the Executive Committee for offering their time for a further twelve months, it is very comforting to know that they are as keen as ever and are very supportive of me and the Association. Having said that our Treasurer, Tony Waite, has been the Association's financial guru for quite a few years and as announced at the last AGM he will continue but would really prefer to hand the reins over to a willing volunteer. Due to pressures at work Tony wishes to stand down and also feels that we should have a fresh pair of hands on the financial tillers. So, if there is an Old Boy out there who would like to give it a go please contact Tony, or myself. Knowledge is desirable, but not an issue, training can be provided.

As all those steely eyed readers of the Echoes will be aware I always like to briefly look back at last years reunion, for me it was yet another enjoyable weekend. The Heritage display was most impressive, visitor attendance was excellent and our thanks must go to Malcolm Hay and his team who are up and about early on the Saturday morning setting up the books, photographs, etc for perusal. The archive collection is continually growing and thanks go to those members who already have or may contribute in the future.

One lasting memory of the 2007 Reunion weekend was the excellent timekeeping of those who attended the AGM, we rattled thro' the business of the day very efficiently, which in turn gave us all a little more time to prepare for the President's reception & the Reunion dinner. For this year the AGM will follow the usual format with the exception that all items for 'Any Other

Business' must be passed to the committee well in advance of the meeting, this is the usual practice and will allow us to provide a prepared response.

Feeding nearly 200 people, including our Ladies, at the Reunion dinner is not easy and thanks go to Peter Burrige who spends many hours with the hotel staff organising the meals, sorting out the accommodation and more importantly, negotiating prices. The hotel management and owners are constantly changing but thankfully Peter always provides that necessary element of continuity.

Not being part of the golfing fraternity competing within the Association, I only have sight of the prize giving ceremony' many thanks go to Fos Paterson who organised yet another successful event.

Moving on to our church parade and the Founders day service on the Sunday, my thanks go to our Padre, Joe Rooney and his team, never forgetting the bugler who is a member of the local Welsh TA Infantry Regiment. Attendance was very good but as they say "could always be better". Nevertheless we raised in excess of £300 during the offertory hymn, all of which was then donated to the Army Benevolent Fund.

Looking ahead to our Reunion weekend this year, planning is now well in hand and all the details you will require are contained within the pages of this publication. All we need is your support.

That's all for now, stay healthy and I hope to see you in September.

Brian Henderson.

Contents of Echoes No 14 ~ 2008

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Report from the President & Vice President | 1 |
| President and Ladies Page | 2 |
| Chairman's Jottings & Contents..... | 3 |
| 57A and 57B 50th Reunion | 4,5 |
| 47A and 47B 60th Reunion | 6 |
| As You Were..... | 7,8,9 |
| Welfare Report | 10 |
| In Memoriam..... | 11 |
| A Thoughtful page..... | 12 |
| 2007 AGM Minutes..... | 13, 14,15 |
| The Search for 58B..... | 16 |
| 2008 Reunion Booking Arrangements..... | 17 |
| 2008 Reunion Booking Form & Itinerary | 18,19 |
| BOBA Next of Kin Form | 20 |

| | |
|---|-------|
| Accommodation Listing 2008..... | 21,22 |
| Balance Sheet & General Purpose Fund | 23,24 |
| Membership Report..... | 25 |
| Membership Information & Article | 26 |
| Mum on Parade | 27 |
| Meetings & Ex Boy at Sea Articles | 28 |
| Editor Introduction..... | 29 |
| Humour and Interest..... | 30 |
| Heritage and Anonymous Article | 31 |
| Philosophy and Histories | 32 |
| Obituary with Poppy Day Poem | 33 |
| General Information, Veterans Badge Etc | 34 |
| Golf Report..... | 35 |
| 2008 Golf Application form..... | 36 |



The 57 Groups REUNION

Extracts from a letter to 57 Groups from Ant Kemp 57B

As usual, no apologies are made for "hesitation, repetition or deviation," (especially deviation, it's the only way I know how to write) and stress that these are my opinions only, which are not necessarily those shared by the rest of 57B. Or indeed any one else on the planet!

The Dinner

Group Members attending our second Reunion dinner, found Ken Grant standing in the crowded Chepstow Hotel bar like St Peter, ticking off names and taking money ... "£13 for the dinner and £4.50 for the transport. **Auch aye!**"

Walking into a crowded bar knowing there is a dozen people you should know, but not actually recognising a sole, is a daunting experience. I learn that for some the prospect is so bewildering, they do not attend. That is regrettable because once that first apparent stranger addresses you by your first name, or by some nickname that you haven't heard for 50 years, bewilderment is quickly replaced by a weird phenomenon. It not only allows you recognise the elderly man that is so desperately trying to penetrate your blank expression, but then almost immediately you start to see him as that much younger person that you knew so well, so long ago.

Then of course, the yarns start and soon you are embroiled in a tide of stories, coloured some what by 50 years of shameful exaggerations. Arguments break out over the identification of characters featured on curled up black and white photographs. Amazingly, those images have survived being stuffed inside MFO boxes on route to all corners of the globe, and then back again. Its a shock sometimes to be confronted with a picture of a young pale faced scruff-bag with shaved hair, wearing ill-fitting denims tied up like a bag of spuds and realise it's yourself. Of course, you deny any association, claiming that the offending object is in fact some one else, not present at the time.

And so it was that day, everyone chatting and passing over bottles of booze to donate to the raffle. Del Delaney sold tickets quickly before everyone ran out of money. The downside to his ploy of 2 for £1, and 3 for £5 (getting away with it too!), was that we quickly ran out of tickets and had to improvise, by using the counterfoils and scrap paper. No one seemed to care.

It dawned on me that the Manager of the Chepstow hotel must have been having a fit. There we were, right in the middle of his busy bar, throwing bottles of booze around, whilst 'St Peter' was taking cash at one end, and some shady character wandered around demanding money in lieu of bits of paper.

My mind was on other things. I was determined to get a Group Photograph, whilst they were still standing. My "cunning plan" was to tell them all I had Champagne in my car, and like the pied piper, lead them outside to where I had the camera ready. Well of course I had real champagne to give them! Have you seen the size of Keith Chadwick and Sandy McLeod?

We found The Huntsman, in a remote but peaceful countryside. We had 50's music blaring, which was all but drowned-out by the relentless banter. Chatter/decibel levels escalated further, for each bottle of wine added to the table. The food was excellent and the staff was too. A great choice of venue by Mike Goundry and Ken Grant, who made the welcoming speech before Jim Harper, said grace. Reunion dinners are a very serious business, so on discovering I had lost my reading glasses and would have to "cuff" the written speeches; a really long swig was necessary before rising to my feet. Incidentally, without those glasses I am now typing this with my face two inches from the screen, which is making my neck ache.

The Toasts

Best wishes received from those who could not attend were passed on. Including messages from Rab Leathers, Ray Cooper, Arthur and David Russell, Terry Lesley, John Rolison, Pete Riley, Mike Speed, Geoff Walmsley, Jim Woods and others. One was from Geoff Wright who had to fly back to Tajikistan. I keep asking where is it? No one seems to know. However, some one told me it's just outside Watford! What ever.... Another absentee was Ginge Davies, who sent an ominous last minute message that he could not attend because of an "unforeseen circumstance". That gave rise to all sorts of speculation around the table. "They've eventually caught up with him," and "He has had to escape the country," and " Sue has finally thrown him out!" Such was the concern of his comrades. As it 'appens, Michael, as he now prefers to be called on account of him losing his red top entirely, is an enthusiastic Dog Shower. "Not a lot of people know that!" Anyway, I can report that recent success in his hobby, led to an important showing, which clashed with the Reunion, and quite rightly in my view, he took it. End of speculation and concern!!

By the way talking about hobbies, none of you guys collect reading glasses do you??? My bloomin' neck is really aching now!



And So,

We paused to toast and remember our absent friends. That included Ken Standen and Ben Lean, Ron Cooper, Robbo Robinson, John Baker and Sid James. We pictured Lofty Sid, at the head of the Pipe Band swinging his kilt and throwing his dirty big mace about –what a sight? Toasts were also made to those who had had real impact on our lives 50 years ago. Names called out, echoed around the room, dutifully accompanied by an appropriate slurrp! “RSM Kirkham, Paddy Nolan, Daddy Dutson, Ted Aust, Hairy Hutton, Scottie, Cagney? Scholl Johnson, CSM Bull Morgan, CSM Cross, and that ‘orrible barber and his wife?” God Bless ‘em all!

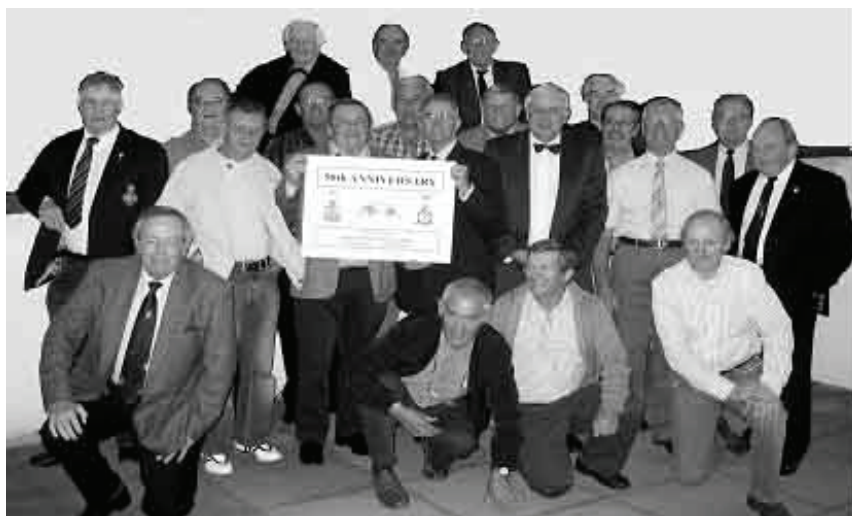
The Raffle

The raffle as usual, was highly entertaining, bordering on the chaotic. When we ran out of prizes we auctioned the 50th Anniversary Sign Board, Bill Reed generously out bid us all. A BOBA tie, which had been unceremoniously removed from Frank Warren’s neck, also did very well, many thanks Frank! Given that most were already wearing BOBA ties, it was a remarkable example of “selling coals to Newcastle” and illustrated the overwhelming desire by our Group for the second time this year, to raise money to help Army families in need. We raised £130 for the Army Benevolent Fund, which was sent latter to our respective Corps Benevolent Funds. Letters from all three have been received asking me to pass on their thanks and best wishes to members of the Beachley 57 Group.

The Huntsman eventually threw us out and closed up. Mike Goundry took on the job of stuffing the right number of bodies into the two taxis, and then did a classic Peter Sellers. “Back to the Chepstow Hotel” he ordered the driver of the first taxi. Then told the driver of the second, “Follow that cab!” Unfortunately before Mike could climb into the back, the driver obediently took off in cloud of dust, leaving Mike in pitch darkness, watching the taillights disappear into the distance. None of us knew Mike was missing until we were back at the bar, and it was his round! He joined us later and much later, we were thrown out of a bar, for the second time that night.

Heritage Trail and BOBA Dinner

The unremitting stream of anecdotes continued next day, throughout the Heritage Trail, (covered by a separate article), the BOBA dinner and into the bar afterwards. I mean... you’d think these guys hadn’t seen each other for 50 years! Some also met up with their ladies and danced to. Yeh! You got it! 50s music. Those of us that complained we had bad backs or wonky hips, had to sit it out... at the bar... confined again to slurping medicinal potions? At some point, seven of us discovered we had all been in Maralinga. That opened a completely different kettle of wombats and for a brief moment, we were at a different reunion, but that passed when the medication kicked-in and it was time for bed. I was very pleased to meet up



with Julie Standen again. Personally, it has been an ongoing frustration for me that Ken was not with us this year. He did so much over the years to encourage our Groups back to Chepstow. He should have been there!

The Church Parade, Beachley, Sunday 16 Sep 07

Attending the Church Parade and Service, was a rewarding experience, albeit charged with mixed emotions. Afterwards, I drove out, along that same avenue of trees as I had done in 1960. Then however, I was riding a Velocette 350 Mac, and feeling quiet elated about having survived 3 long years at Beachley. However, I was also overwhelmed by acute anxiety as to what would become of me, once I passed through those Beachley Gates for the last time. After all, I was only 17, not even old enough to drink!

Time & other constraints prevented us providing the traditional article on the reunion dinner. We are indebted to Tony Kemp for providing this copy of article he did for his own group at very short notice. I am sure there will be more than enough material for next year though. ~ Editor

**Diamond Geezers:**

At the 2007 Reunion 47A and 47B Groups celebrated the 60th anniversary of their joining the Army as Apprentice Tradesmen. Not all managed to attend: some were no longer with us, some couldn't come because of other commitments, some were living abroad; but there was a good gathering at the formal BOBA events and at the Sunday lunch. It was particularly pleasing that both A/T RSM's were there: Barry Southwell (47A) who, though many ex-boys have been commissioned, was probably our first graduate from RMA, Sandhurst, and Brian Cattle (47B) who ended his career as the Principal of the FE College in Radstock, Somerset.

We met

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Eric Cresswell | 47A '?' Coy |
| Tony Death | 47A/B 'A' Coy & Sarah Hains |
| Barry Southwell | 47A 'B' Coy |
| Syd Thomas - who he? | 47A 'C' Coy & friend Gaynor |
| Brian Cattle | 47B 'B' Coy & wife Margaret |
| Ian Dickens (Howie) | 47B 'D' Coy & wife Raija |
| Jim Glover | 47B 'A' Coy & wife Margaret |
| Ken Hamblen | 47B 'B' Coy & wife Betty |
| Ron Henn | 47B 'B' Coy & wife Joyce |
| Geoff Lelliott | 47B 'A' Coy & wife Joyce |
| John Moody | 47B 'A' Coy & wife Pauline |
| Dave Pott | 47B 'B' Coy & wife Joyce |
| Alan Savill | 47B 'A' Coy & wife Lin |
| George Wallis | 47B 'B' Coy |
| Joe Wilson | 47B 'A' Coy & wife Joan; |

and also:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Daphne, wife of Frank Pickering | 47B 'B' Coy |
| Kathleen, wife of Jim Wade | 47B 'A' Coy |
| Mavis, wife of Brian 'Lofty' | 47B 'D' Coy |
| accompanied by their 6' 6" son, Jeremy. | |

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Ken Ogley | 47B 'D' Coy |
| Tom 'Bunty' Winton | 47B 'C' Coy |
| Both said they hoped to make it, but didn't. | |
| Bill 'Geordie' Taylor | 47A '?' Coy |
| said the same, but sadly died just before the reunion. | |

There has been contact, mainly by:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Joe Wilson, with Dudley Blake | 47B 'A' Coy |
| David Gwynne | 47B 'A' Coy |
| Derek 'Twiggy' Hazelwood | 47B 'D' Coy |



Front Rank ~ Pauline Moody, Joan Wilson, Moira Braybrooke, Anne Wilby, Margaret Glover. Rear Rank ~ Mavis Wickens, Lin Savill, Kathleen Wade, Margaret Cattle.

Peter BurrIDGE gave the BOBA membership stats as 47A = 23 and 47B = 18, so it wasn't such a bad turn-out for middle-aged (!!!) people. We might do even better for our 70th! It's true that this year we competed with the very same anniversary of the BAFTA awards, but they're not much of a challenge. However, it was also the same anniversary of the wedding of HM The Queen to which we must give precedence, but we did start earlier than her marriage in the November!



Thanks to Alan Savill & Joe Wilson who we note ,already have the 70th Reunion firmly in sight! ~ Editor

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**Those that we know to have
become ex-pats are:**

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Eric Boggis 47A 'B' Coy - | South Africa |
| Mick Fricker 47B Coy - | Australia |
| Frank 'Tiny' Lewis 47B Coy - | Majorca |
| Mike Sullivan 47B Coy - | Australia |

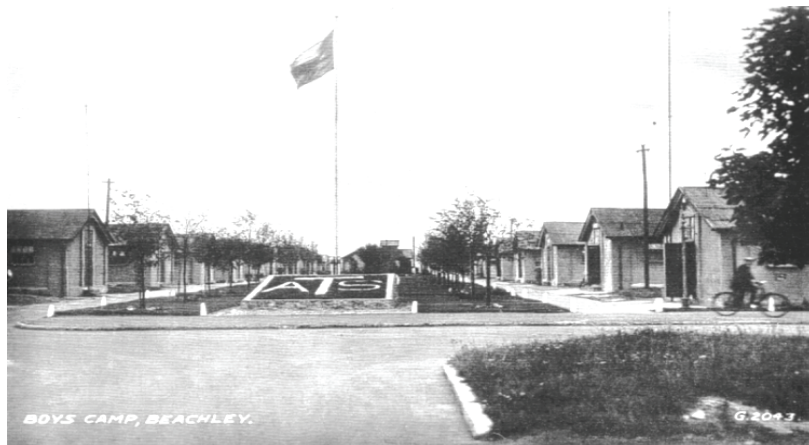
❧

Below: Left to Right ~ 'inset' Geoff Lelliott, Ian Dickens, John Moody, George Wallis, Dave Potts, Brian Cattle. Ken Hamblen, Eric Cresswell 47A, Ron Henne, Alan Savill, Tony Death & Joe Wilson.



Army Apprentice Tradesmen.

At the start of the 1939-45 War the Army stopped recruiting boy Apprentice tradesmen. However, in 1942 the practice was recommenced and, as a result, in April of that year approximately two hundred youths between the ages of 14 and 16 years arrived at the Army Technical School, Beachley Camp, near Chepstow. Some were orphans, several were in short trousers, and many had never left home before. The arrival at Chepstow station, after a wartime train



journey [from Paddington in my case] was a traumatic experience on its own – but worse was to come. Shouting NCO's herded all us new arrivals onto Army lorries and we were then driven off into what seemed the wilds, eventually delivering us to Beachley Camp, the WW1 wooden hutted camp built on a point of land at the confluence of the rivers Severn and the Wye. What a bleak place it was in April – and even bleaker in the following three winters that I spent there. The huts were in the form of a letter H. The two long legs divided to form a total of four rooms, each housing sixteen boys. In the corner of each room was a small separate

room occupied by the room's boy NCO. The connecting building was the toilets and washroom (cold water only for washing and shaving). Each boy had a bed space containing an iron bed, a mattress consisting of three, square, 'biscuits' (as hard as the iron of the bed), three very thin blankets, and a six foot tall metal locker. On the wall behind each bed were hooks on which we subsequently had to hang our webbing equipment in a very regimental fashion.

Having arrived at our new 'home' and been shown our bed space we were then ordered outside and marched to the cookhouse. Unfortunately, being wartime, our train had been late and our meal, consisting of a fried egg and mashed potatoes, was completely cold. Still, the one slice of bread with a scrape of margarine hadn't been spoiled and the accompanying mug of cold milk helped it down. The reason for the meal fiasco was that the Boys who had joined-up before the war were all away on leave, as were most of the cooks. This left a minimum of staff to run the cookhouse.

The next few days were really hectic, medical & dental checks, inoculations, issue of clothing (denim overalls, boots, etc). instructions as to what we could (or must) do and could not (or must not) do. Strict orders were given as to how beds were to be made up. We had to parcel all our civilian clothing up and it was sent home. Then there was the 'square-bashing'. Until we were considered to be sufficiently well trained, we were confined to the camp. This would take some weeks as a very high standard was demanded. Anyway, we couldn't be allowed out in public until we had been fitted out with 'Service Dress', a high collared tunic buttoned right up to the neck, and our peaked caps. This uniform, together with our white blanched waist belts, marked us out as 'Beachley Boys'.

A short time after our arrival the senior boys (aged 18-19) returned from their leave. We now had boy NCO's in each room to take charge, (known as Apprentice Tradesmen NCO's). This was not just a nominal duty, they were actually responsible for the room and drew up a weekly roster of duties, each boy in the room being allocated certain cleaning duties such as scrubbing the trestle table or benches, cleaning lampshades, polishing the coal-bin, cleaning the toilets and ablutions, etc.

The A/T NCO's duties also included getting us out on parade, properly dressed for parade, meals, duties, etc. In addition to the general duty of cleaning the room each boy was also responsible for his own bed-space, polishing the floor until it gleamed, dusting his locker and every ledge, ridge, shelf, cleaning the window behind his bed, as well as having all his clothing, webbing and kit in perfect order. Kit inspections were a regular feature. Everything had to be laid out on your bed in a very precise order, shirts and PT vests had to be folded exactly nine inches square. Socks were rolled in a particular way and if a hole was found in one, undarned, you could guarantee you were in trouble. Boots had to have thirteen studs on the sole and a complete and serviceable heel plate. If your kit wasn't laid out precisely as ordained (and sometimes even if it was) you would be ordered to lay it out again at six o'clock in the same evening. This generally meant that you would also have to lay it out again at seven o'clock and then perhaps, even again at eight o'clock. After each inspection it was swept into a heap to make sure you didn't just leave it as it was. As fourteen and fifteen year old boys we certainly didn't have a 'cushy' life.

At Reveille we were expected to be out of bed, or get tipped out. We then washed (and in my case shaved) in cold water in a draughty, unheated washroom, raced to prepared bed-space for inspection before falling-in outside to be marched off for breakfast. The A/T NCO would inspect us before marching us to the cookhouse, this included a thorough inspection of ourselves, our drinking mugs and our 'eating irons' (knife, fork & spoon).

Cont.



Another task for these A/T NCO's was to protect us from being bullied by the senior boys, but in practice this did not work. Frequently a room would be raided, beds tipped over. Sometimes a bit of a beating for some poor unfortunate, or some of us would be rounded up and made to go to the senior boys rooms. There you might have to clean their kit or boots, or carry out their room chores. On occasions you might have to sing or recite while standing with your arms outstretched with a boot in each hand while your unappreciative audience threw boots, gym shoes, etc at you. We didn't however, have to suffer this for too long as the boys in these earlier Groups would graduated to Man Service and were posted out to their Regiments or to the Military College of Science for further training.



42A 'C' Company ~ Early Days

By this time we were into a regular routine – Physical Training, Military Training, Drill, Weapon Training, Fieldcraft, etc. Education and our main purpose, TRADE TRAINING. For the first few months this consisted of standing at a bench with a chunk of metal in a vice and chiselling, filing and scraping it into various shapes which had to be close to given measurements. One Instructor was known as 'Two-Thou', he insisted on a tolerance of only +/- two thousandths of an inch and this had to be achieved using only callipers, a steel rule and the naked eye! Part of the training was theoretical and we also had to do Workshop Drawing (making our own working drawings). Later in our training we did basic vehicle mechanics, blacksmithing, electrical fitting, lathe and milling machining, etc.

Eventually, in the case of myself and the other apprentices destined for the Royal Artillery, we trained in Gun fitting. Time not spent on the above was NOT free time. For a start, unless you were a Boy NCO you could only have ONE pass a week to go out of Camp, and officially this was only to 9.30 pm (the time that the bus from Chepstow arrived at the Camp). I reached the dizzy heights of Boy Corporal, which put me in charge of a Barrack Room and entitled me to a further TWO passes each week. By now I was 16 and had met a lovely young girl aged 15, so I made full use of my three passes. Eventually I was hauled up on Company Orders in front of our Major. I was torn off a strip and told that I shouldn't go out of camp so often and that I should stay in and make sure my Barrack Room was to standard. As my room had won the shield for best room for several weeks, this seemed more than a little unfair. The following morning I paraded outside the Company Office with my two stripes in my hand (instead of sewn on my sleeve) and was immediately put on a charge for being improperly dressed (and lost my rank as corporal).

Boys were allocated to four Companies, generally by trade and Regiment or Corps. Each week one Company was the Duty Company and had to parade each evening to be detailed off for various duties as Passive Air Defence.

These duties were Fire Party, Ladder Party Rescue, Stretcher, etc. We managed to make a farce of the parade on winter evenings. Because of the blackout no lights were permitted and the Sergeant detailing the duties had to read the names out with the aid of a tiny slit of light from a torch. Boys would be quietly moving down the back of the ranks answering two or three names for mates who were away at the NAAFI canteen. His reward would be a cup of tea and a 'wad' from his pals after he escaped the parade.

We developed, getting into trouble, into a fine art, not that trouble was difficult to find. Any misdemeanour could result in an appearance on Company Orders and result in seven days 'confined to barracks' (colloquially known as CB). Those on CB had to report to the Guard Room each morning before the last note of Reveille, late attendance being viewed very seriously. Then in the evening, after our normal days duty there would be the



first of the bugle calls for defaulters. All those on CB would race to the guard room where they were inspected. The lucky few would be selected for various jobs such as cookhouse fatigues where you might be fortunate enough to be on cleaning tables and benches, or scrubbing the floors, or cleaning all the various pots, pans and other equipment. Or you might get the really filthy job of cleaning out the grease traps. Nevertheless there was always the possibility of scrounging extra food on cookhouse duty. Other defaulters would be allocated offices cleaning, or generally cleaning up the camp, cutting the grass, painting, etc. Finally there were the unfortunates who missed out in this gamble. They would be dismissed with orders to return in a certain time, perhaps in PT kit, next time it might be in 'Walking-out dress' and after that Field Service Marching Order, this carried on until Lights-out. Each time they reported a thorough inspection made and any faults resulted in a 'charge', meaning Company Orders the next day and could bring another seven days CB. These inspections were no a formality – every piece of kit was checked, including the back of cap badges and belt buckles. Every item carried on FSMO was turned out and had to be complete as laid down i.e. water bottles had to be filled with fresh water, and woe betide any apprentice with anything other than regulation respirator, anti-dim cream and anti-gas ointment in his respirator case.

Marching back to our barrack rooms from the workshops after a days work we had the pleasure of military marches being played over the camp loud-speakers, accompanied by our Boy NCO's calling out "Left, Right, Left". But we had developed a march where although there was no discernible file out of step nevertheless the rear of the column was on "Right" when the front was on "Left". This generally resulted in ten minutes 'square bashing' before we were dismissed. One hot summer afternoon we had been on an official visit to the swimming pool, which was a short distance out of the camp. As we were being marched back to camp we foolishly played up a bit and the heat must have frazzled tempers. When we got into camp we were ordered to get into our Field Service Marching Order and parade again. When we were on parade we were ordered to put on our respirators and then our gas-capes, a long oil-skin type coverall. After a quarter of an hour's drill in this dress in the hot sun we would have turned the swimming pool water into steam, if we could have only jumped into it then. When this punishment drill ended we had to race to our barrack rooms for a quick wash, then parade for our tea meal. As soon as I finished tea it was back to the room again, into 'walking-out' gear, i.e. Service Dress, then a two mile walk to Sedbury to meet my girl friend. We then spent the evening walking around until it was time for me to



Room 6 ~ 42A C Company

make the two mile trek back to camp. Getting a Pass to go out of camp was only a beginning to an ordeal. On arrival at the Guard Room, to book out, it was very common to undergo a very thorough inspection by the Provost Sergeant, or the Regimental Police. Back of cap badge and belt buckle inspected, chin strap of cap inspected to ensure that the back part of the strap, which couldn't be seen, was polished. Boots were inspected to ensure the requisite number of studs were on the soles. No shoes for us in those days, clothing coupons were needed for them. If anything was found out of place, you were sent back to your room to rectify the 'fault', which meant that you missed the bus into town and thereby you consequently lost about an hour of your pass.

So far I haven't mentioned the handsome remuneration we were paid. This was the enormous sum of 11d (the equivalent of four and a half pence now). On our first four pay parades we were paid 2s (ten pence) that left over being kept, after deductions for Barrack Damages, to pay us before going on leave; a form of compulsory saving. This 2s we spent riotously in the NAAFI, buying soap, toothpaste, blanco, boot polish, brasso and other exotic items, such as char and wads. Of course, after the four weeks things got better – we were paid 2/6d (twelve and a half pence) of our hard earned money. The bus fare into Chepstow was 4d (one and a half pence) it was as well that we were not allowed out of camp at that time.

The outcome of all this was in 1945 very shortly after joining man-service at the age of 18, I married that lovely young 15 year old I met in 1943, who was now an even lovelier 17 year old. We have been together for 61 years now and hope for many, many more.

Gordon 'Digger' Stanley 42A

Life had improved no end by 1958, pay 'in the hand' had increased to 10 bob! ~ Editor.



BOBA ~ WELFARE: can only supply an interim measure of help, sadly we do not have the resources of the Royal British Legion, or SSAFA. The small amount we can accomplish is now completed by Chalkie White 73A our Welfare Officer and the BOBA voluntary welfare team; the BOBA committee thank Chalkie for taking on this important task. The country continues to be divided into geographical areas and a welfare representatives are available in most areas, or will be allotted as someone volunteers (as below). Should any member feel they need assistance, please contact the area representative. The type of thing we maybe able to help with, possibly you may require a lift to the annual reunion, visiting you if you are ill, or similar minor assistance. If this is so contact your area representative, who will do his best to help you make contact with the necessary people, etc.

Please also contact the Area Representative if you have knowledge of a Beachley Old Boy's serious illness, his address change, or demise. Many comforting and appropriate specially made supporting BOBA cards have been and sent to members and families. Should you have any pressing case, or knowledge of any member who requires any assistance, as an interim measure, please contact one of the following:

Welfare area representatives:

| Location: | Rep's Name: | Group: | Tel. No: |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| Berks/Bucks/Oxon. | Tom Davitt | 54A | 01344 775787 |
| Dorset / Wilts. | Ron Durnall | 37 | 01202 763270 |
| Essex | VOLUNTEER REQUIRED. | | |
| Ditto | Noel Drew | 60A | 01708 556475 |
| Germany | VOLUNTEER REQUIRED. | | |
| Gloucester/ Bristol | VOLUNTEER REQUIRED. | | |
| Hampshire | Dave Stone | 49A | 02392 265554 |
| Herts./Beds/Northants. | John Smith | 44A | 01582 592432 |
| Kent | Charles Whitehead | 45A | 01634 361801 |
| Lancashire/Cheshire | Ray Armstrong | 55A | 01942 491140 |
| Lincs/Notts/Derby | Wally Green | 50B | 01522 595763 |
| London/Middx. | VOLUNTEER REQUIRED. | | |
| N. Wales | Ray Armstrong | 55A | 01942 491140 |
| S. Wales (West of) | John Stokes | 42A | 01570 421390 |
| S. Wales (East of) | Brian Henderson | 65A | 01633 838006 |
| Scotland East | Dave Lackie | 43B | 01313 362268 |
| Scotland West | VOLUNTEER REQUIRED. | | |
| Shropshire | Allan Ball | 46A | 01952 591060 |
| Som/Devon/Cornwall (East) | Tony Waite | 60C | 01823 669336 |
| Som/Devon/Cornwall (West) | Roy Currell | 46A | 01726 64799 |
| Staffordshire. | Andy Roulston | 46A | 01785 257410 |
| Suffolk/Norfolk/Cambs. | Dave Chapman | 60A | 01379 870084 |
| Surrey/Sussex | VOLUNTEER REQUIRED. | | |
| Worcs/Hereford/W Mid. | VOLUNTEER REQUIRED. | | |
| Warks./East Midlands | Chalkie White | 73A | 02476 404999 (Welfare Officer.) |
| | | (Mobile) | 07979 564129 |
| Yorkshire | Trevor Medcalf | 43A | 01904 644569 |

If you do have not have a BOBA welfare representative in your area, or the representative is not available, please don't forget being an ex serviceman / woman you can secure help from any Royal British Legion (RBL) Branch. It is unnecessary to be an RBL member, the RBL will help all ex service persons; there is only one qualifying point, you must have initially exhausted all Social Security channels!

If you can spare a little time to help with BOBA Welfare, even with a smaller area than is mentioned above, please do contact Chalkie White on the Warks./East Midlands numbers.

The BOBA Standard: maybe available to attend funerals of members should the family so desire; it will depend on Bearer availability. Please note owing to the heavy cost of travel these days, we must ask for a donation of 20p per mile towards fuel costs. The services of the Standard Bearer are otherwise entirely free of charge.

BOBA Standard Bearer ~ John Furley. Tel: 01291 630491. Email: boba@jogill.eu Text to Spain: 00 34 666 374728



IN MEMORIAM

REPORTED PASSINGS SINCE THE 2007 BEACHLEY ECHOES Issue No. 14.

BOBA Members:

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|------------|-------------------------|-------|------------|
| <i>Ifor Anthony</i> | 48A | C | 10/07/2007 | <i>Vic Gray</i> | 42 B | 21/12/2007 |
| <i>Bill Ashton</i> | 42A | C | 03/10/2007 | <i>Tom Hetherington</i> | 45B B | 10/05/2007 |
| <i>Graham Beards</i> | 53B | D | 23/11/2007 | <i>Tim Holt</i> | 53A D | 02/07/2007 |
| <i>Roy Brown</i> | 49A | A/B | 08/02/2008 | <i>Derek Knight</i> | 44A C | 03/03/2008 |
| <i>John Collier</i> | 45B | C | 19/02/2007 | <i>John Knox</i> | 61B C | 04/08/2007 |
| <i>Malcolm Dale</i> | 45A | D | Not Known | <i>Eric Meredith</i> | 45 B | 05/07/2007 |
| <i>John Ewen</i> | 72B | B | 05/11/2007 | <i>Nobby Scarff</i> | 43 D | 06/07/2007 |
| <i>Sam Fielon</i> | 40 | D | 09/02/2008 | | | |

Non BOBA Members

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|------------|-------------------------|-------|------------|
| <i>Neville Adams</i> | 44A | ??/2000 | <i>Les Hoffman</i> | 66C | ??/2006 |
| <i>Harry Beresford</i> | 54A | 29/08/2007 | <i>Bill Holmes</i> | ? | 4/05/2007 |
| <i>Dougie Braid</i> | 46B | 31/08/2007 | <i>Derek Hunsley</i> | 54B | ??/2007 |
| <i>Joe Brown</i> | 75A | 22/06/1989 | <i>Curly Hunt</i> | 43B | 08/02/08 |
| <i>Anthony Butcher</i> | 63B | ??/1972 | <i>JS Kerr</i> | 66C | NK |
| <i>John Cator</i> | 58B | NK | <i>Sidney Lacey</i> | 42 | 06/02/2007 |
| <i>John Chapman</i> | 42 | ??/01/2007 | <i>Malcolm Mallett</i> | 43B | 20/10/2006 |
| <i>Reg Clarke</i> | ? | 21/08/2007 | <i>Dougie Old</i> | 32 | 13/01/2007 |
| <i>Geoff Cole</i> | 44A | N/K | <i>J Pape</i> | 66C | NK |
| <i>Bob Conelly</i> | 66C | NK | <i>Ted Sands</i> | 54B | ??/2007 |
| <i>Harry Dipple</i> | 47A | 28-01-2008 | <i>Pete Simpson</i> | 46B | ??/03/2007 |
| <i>Bernard Elliott</i> | 44A | 06/06/1984 | <i>Phil Stubbins</i> | 66C | NK |
| <i>Peter Fletcher</i> | 48A | 19/02/2007 | <i>Ginge Taylor</i> | 55A | 14/01/2008 |
| <i>Keith Frost-Bridges</i> | 52B | 20/12/2006 | <i>Geordie Taylor</i> | 47A/B | ??/9/2007 |
| <i>Bill Gaskin</i> | 58B | NK | <i>Dennis G Watkins</i> | ? | NK |
| <i>W Gladstone</i> | 66C | Not Known | <i>James Wilkins</i> | 58A | NK |
| <i>Jock Hay</i> | 45A | NK | | | |

REST IN PEACE

BOBA CENOTAPH DETACHMENT 2007: On Sunday 11th November 2007 the lads listed below assembled at Horse Guards to march at Whitehall past the Cenotaph to remember and respect our War dead. It is always an extremely deeply nostalgic event. Please consider joining us this November and swell the ranks in saying "thank you to those who gave their tomorrows, for our today's".

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| Mr John Adams | 70B | Mr Mike Mathews | 50A |
| Mr Ray Armstrong | 55A | Mr John Moore | 73C |
| Mr Clive Bridgeman | 66C | Mr Baz Morgan | 73B |
| Mr Colin Bridgeman | 66C | Mr Moggsie Morris | 55A |
| Mr Peter Burridge | 43B | Mr Maurice Murtagh | 43B |
| Mr Norman Brummitt | 45A | Mr Bob Reid | 56A |
| Mr Keith Chadwick | 57B | Lt Col Ken Reader | 62C |
| Mr Gordon Culpin | 57B | Mr Ray Reader | 63C |
| Mr Ron Davies | 57A | Mr Reg Rider | 54B |
| Mr Del Delaney | 57B | Mr Dave Smith | 60C |
| Mr Ian Dickens | 47B | Mr John Smith | 44A |
| Mr Rocky Evershed | 61B | Mr Dave Stone | 49A |
| Mr John Furley | 56A | Mr Ken Stout | 53B |
| Mr Chris Gould | 71B | Mr John Symes | 47A |
| Mr Keith Gribben | 71B | Lt Col Syd Thomas | 47A |
| Maj. Malcolm Hay | 53A | Mr Bill Tudman | 57A |
| Mr Brian Irwin | 58B | Maj Derek Walker | 55A |
| Maj Tony Kemp | 57B | Mr Chalkie White | 73A |
| Mr Joe Kinson | 50A | Lt Col Nick Winder | 58A |



**Names of marchers for 2008
Remembrance Parade on
9th of Nov. 2008, to:
Syd Thomas, Tel : 01656 661180.
Email: syd4hd@btopenworld.com**



*The author of the poem below was indeed a special kind of man, a Beachley Boy of renown and dignity.
Ian Victor (Ginge) Taylor served his country well and resettled in Australia many years ago.
Raised his family, always straightforward and honest in his approach to life. God grant him in peace.*

The Door ~ Composed 17 March 2007

*By: The late Ian Taylor ~ 55A
16-05-38 to 14-01-08*

*Death is but an open door that we must all pass through,
Sometimes it can be painful, but there is nothing you can do,
Some say it's a tunnel, through which you rush so fast,
Others hear friendly voices and see a bright light that is cast.

Whatever the way it's clear to me we make on the other side,
Gone is pain, gone is earth and old friends meet us at end of ride,
But it isn't the same for everyone, where you go depends on you,
On your actions & thoughts to others through life, good & bad points accrue.

If you've sinned and you've cussed, been selfish and bad,
The door you will open will make you so sad,
No bright shining light, no welcoming friends, but to a dark place you arrive.
Created yourself by the bad points you scored, while earth side.

So go through your life and give all you can,
Stretch out to help your fellow man.
An example so clear Jesus gave to us all,
Follow the rules and you will not fall.*

~~~~~

Ginge Taylor did a great deal to bind the 55A 'Purple Circle' together by producing the 55A newsletter 'The Beachley Times'. From the outset of this editorial effort Ginge was suffering from 'Motor Neurons Disease' a dreadfully debilitating condition. He never once digressed from the task and was a stalwart man among men to the bitter end. A true Beachley Boy indeed.

**God Bless 'Ginge' ~ Rest in peace.**

**'ADDRESS' AND 'EMAIL ADDRESS' CHANGES:** Please notify the membership secretary of 'Address' and 'Email' address changes; we don't want to lose contact. ~ Please note the following important information.

**Address changes:** Last year we had about 15 Beachley Echoes returned because members had moved home and did not inform us of their new address, ~ please help us to give you the service you expect from the BOBA committee! Don't fold your tent and steal away, tell us where you will stay!

**Email addresses:** It was necessary to send an email to all members we hold email addresses for on the 30 Jan '08. On that date we held 393 email addresses for members. Exactly 80 of the 393 emails were returned as undeliverable, it took about two hours to wade through all the 80 rejects and delete them from my address book. I suspect some members have changed their email addresses and not informed the membership secretary of the change; or they have a block on their computer for incoming emails which originate from a multiple send. Please if you have changed your email or postal address, let us know. If you wish to receive emails sent by the BOBA committee, it would be more than helpful if you lift the block on BOBA emails to your computer.

**Notice:** ~ Please note that the views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise of either the Editor or of The Beachley Old Boy's Association and therefore no responsibility for the content can be accepted. All contributions and articles for inclusion in the Echoes are very welcome. It would be of assistance (but not essential), if Microsoft Word rich text format is used. JPEG or TIFF is preferable for photographs and images. Ed.



# BEACHLEY OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE, BEACHLEY, CHEPSTOW, MON., NP16 7YG

Chairman

B Henderson  
Walwyns  
5 Swanswell Close  
Broad Haven  
Haverfordwest  
SA62 3LW



Telephone

Home: 01437 781273  
Office: 01633 838006

email: brianhend@hotmail.com

MARCH 2008

## **MINUTES OF THE BEACHLEY OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT BEACHLEY BARRACKS ON SATURDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 2007**

Present Lt Col S Thomas

Maj B Henderson  
Mr J Furley  
Mr AM Waite  
Mr R Evershed  
Maj M Hay  
Mr P Burridge  
Mr B Morgan  
Mr G White  
Mr BA Obermaier

President

Chairman  
Vice Chairman  
Treasurer  
Membership Secretary  
Historian  
Reunion Organiser  
Elected Vice President  
Elected Vice President/Welfare  
Echoes Editor & Liaison

### **Opening.**

1. As is the Association's custom, the Annual General Meeting was held in St George's Church, Beachley Barracks and the meeting commenced shortly after 1500 hours with approximately 80+ members present. The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming those in attendance.

### **Item 1. Apologies.**

2. A fair number of apologies had been received prior to the meeting including that of our Secretary, Major D Walker, who was attending the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Army Air Corps.

### **Item 2. President's Welcoming Address.**

3. The President welcomed those present, he said it was comforting to see familiar faces plus a few that had not been present for a period of time. A special welcome was given to those members who were attending an AGM for the first time and to those who could not be present but would be attending the other events being held during the reunion weekend.
4. Before closing he welcomed those members of 57 Groups who were attending the reunion weekend and congratulated them on the celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, he also wished all members well wherever they may be and looked forward to meeting as many members as possible during the course of the reunion weekend.

### **Item 3. In Memoriam.**

5. Sadly, since the publication of the 2007 issue of The Beachley Echoes the Executive Committee had been notified of the deaths of fourteen members of the Beachley Old Boys Association and a further thirty four non members. Their names are listed on page 11.
6. The members present stood and observed a period of silent remembrance.



Cont.

**Item 4. Minutes of the 2006 Annual General Meeting.**

7. As the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2006 were included in the 2007 (Edition 13) issue of the Beachley Echoes, the Chairman was confident that the members present were aware of the contents of these minutes and asked if there were any comments or observations. There were none, so it was proposed by J Furley, seconded by R Reader, that the minutes were a true record of the proceedings. ~ Carried

**Item 5. Matters Arising.**

8. There were some matters arising and these would be discussed more fully under separate agenda items.

**Item 6. Executive Committee Individual Reports.**

**Item 6a. Chairman.**

9. The Chairman commented that much work had gone on during the previous twelve months, much effort had gone into the St Johns Project but progress on this project continued at a slow pace and said that more detail would be provided later in the meeting. Other areas had not been neglected and the sterling work by our Historian continued as did the digitisation of the BOBA records and the upkeep of the website. In addition to all this work, the Beachley Echoes being produced again to its usual high standard.

**Item 6b. Treasurer.**

10. The Treasurer said the Account had been audited (as at 31 Dec 06), a financial statement had been produced and again this had been included in the latest edition of the Echoes. The Treasurer then gave a brief summary of the accounts and answered questions as they arose. As there were no further questions, it was proposed by R Armstrong and seconded by P Burrige that the accounts as read be passed. ~ Carried

**Item 6c. Membership Secretary.**

11. The Membership Secretary said that since the last reunion 26 members had joined the association and the was awaiting a response from the issue of 23 information packs. He expressed his concerns regarding the loss of members through non-payment of subscriptions and advised the membership of the changes to the BOBA website. In closing, he asked that all members focus on recruitment

**Item 6d. Historian.**

12. Our Historian asked that members send in all memorabilia no matter how large or small, they may be the final piece of a historical jigsaw. He also suggested that the memories, experiences of times at Beachley should also be recorded and passed over, these could be used in the Echoes or again form a section of the previously mentioned jigsaw. In closing he thanked those who had assisted earlier in the day with the heritage display and also those who supported the event.

**Item 6e. Welfare.**

13. The new Welfare Officer advised the membership that a few gaps existed in our welfare footprint and asked that members should speak with him if they wished to join his team. Over the forthcoming months he intends to improve communications between the Welfare Representatives and asked that welfare cases be passed to himself or any of the Executive Committee.

**Item 7. Election of the Executive Committee.**

14. As the Chairman had come to the end of his term of office he handed the meeting over to the President who immediately proposed that the outgoing Chairman be elected for a further three years, this motion was seconded by D Chapman. ~ Carried





Cont.

15. With the exception of the Treasurer, the remainder of the Executive committee wished to remain in post for a further twelve months, the Treasurer was willing though, to continue until a replacement could be found. This was proposed by R Armstrong and seconded by John Thayer. ~ Carried

**Item 8. St Johns Project.**

16. As mentioned previously, progress on the project remained slow. This was mainly due to the MoD dragging its feet regarding the ownership of the Old School House (OSH) and registering the title of the OSH with the Land Registry. An inspection of OSH has been completed by Defence Estates property management and a report is awaiting issue. The good news is that the roof of the church is in good order which thankfully eliminates one of the major areas of concern. The President had very little additional information to offer and asked that the membership be patient for one more year when a full report would be presented at the 2008 AGM. Carried

**Item 8. Cenotaph Parade.**

17. The President asked the members to give their attendance at the Cenotaph some thought and place their names on the list in the hotel foyer.

**Item 9. Any Other Business.**

18. The Treasurer repeated his plea that a replacement be forthcoming as soon as possible.
19. Mr P Gilbey proposed that all AOB matters should be notified in writing to the Chairman/Committee well in advance of the meeting. If agreed this should be posted in the form of a notice in then next issue of the Beachley Echoes. ~ carried unanimously
20. It was proposed by J Bass that all members aged 80 years or over should be exempt from paying any subscriptions. After a period of discussion this proposal was rejected by the members.
21. A vote of thanks was given to the Executive Committee by the members present for all the work they have done for the good and benefit of the Association.

**Closure.**

22. Next years reunion will be held over the weekend of the 19 – 21 September 2008.
23. The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking those present for attending and also thanked them for their loyal and continuing support to the Association.

Secretary

Chairman

**23999190 Robert (Bob) Adams 54A B Coy, ~ REME**

A few years ago I was, at first most fortunate in entering the Army Apprentice School at Beachley and then most importantly meeting a lovely Chepstow girl, marrying and having children. I have had a wonderful service life with my family and also have any great memories of the camp, the local area and reunions. Unfortunately, following serious illness, I am no longer able to enjoy these any more. As a result of this I wish to express my thoughts and regrets to my friends at not being able to join them at a reunion again. To my friends my very sincere thanks for their company over the years, their conversation not to mention the "tall tales" we voiced at the fun reunions! I can not stress enough how much I have enjoyed it all. Should any of you wish to drop me a line (c/o the editor ~ see below ) no obligation of course, I would be most pleased to reply. Regardless of this, my wife and I do wish you all future health, wealth and happiness and that it continues for a good while yet.

**Bob Adams**

Mac Obermaier, 12 Wyebank Place, Tutshill, Chepstow, Monmouthshire NP16 7EU



## In The Beginning

Whilst attending the 2002 BOBA Weekend I met up with Alan Haywood, apart from myself the only other 58B member present on that weekend. We both felt that as our group had a larger than normal intake we should make some kind of effort to do better than to have only two at future BOBA weekends. Having taken early retirement I then took it upon myself to trace enough lads to fill at least a row of seats in the Beachley Church. The search began!

The first thing was to get the groups nominal roll from the BOBA Archives. I have to say that John Furley who was a committee member at the time, proved to be very helpful in quickly supplying the details required and a 2000 UK Info Disk (Electoral Roll) to assist in my quest. The Nominal Roll gives you the correct spelling of surname and more importantly all the chaps initials. It also gives you details of if they completed the Apprenticeship or not. No point in looking for those that purchased a discharge or got a Medical Discharge after 6 months. In the initial stages, the disc was invaluable and helped me to quickly trace those with a less common surname.

The search procedure is lengthy, time consuming and costly, you have to have spare time and the will to keep going. It involved searching the UK Info disc for all those with the correct initials to the surname we were looking for, noting the phone number and then ringing them all in sequence. If the individual was found to be ex- directory, I produced a flyer informing the persons of the search and was posted to all the applicable addresses. This was expensive due to the postage and not a very successful method. However, it did produce a couple of "finds". Later in the search the 192.com network was used which costs around £40 for 100 attempts. This again gives telephone numbers and / or addresses.

The final method was by contacting Army Pensions Records and to send them a list of all those not yet found. If the candidate on your list is in receipt of his pension, you get a helpful Civil Servant at Pensions Office to forward your pre-written letter to them. They will not give you any actual contact details.

The search has been going on for 5 years now and I am pleased to say we have traced 128 of the original 157 listed on the Nominal Roll. In addition to the UK there are some in Australia, Thailand, South Africa, Crete, Malta and Germany. Yes, some of those traced were deceased but that's one of the down sides of such a project. The other is "losing" a few that were traced and then sadly die before getting a chance to attend a reunion. We still have a few more to find..

Several things have come out of this project. Apart from keeping me occupied, we now have more chance 58B attending BOBA Weekends than in the past and

many have been reunited with mates they have not seen since passing out of Beachley.

This year is our groups 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year and the plan has gone beyond filling a row of seats in the Beachley Church. As well as some of us attending the 2008 BOBA Weekend, we are holding a never-to-be repeated 58B Reunion Dinner at the Chepstow Hotel on the evening of Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September.

This project would not have been quite as successful without the support, enthusiasm and help from many of 58B group for which I am very grateful.

**John Phillips**

\* \* \* \* \*

*We must congratulate John on his achievement, it's never been matched to my knowledge. I am most fortunately amongst those of 58B who are going to meet quite a lot of old acquaintances, thus benefiting from the five year long campaign.*

*The committee I am sure, would also support me in expressing their natural regret that some of the group will be unable to attend both the reunion and our own private function. A number of us will and anyone else who can get a further 72 hour pass granted, can count on being made welcome! One side-benefit that may result from all this is the very real possibility, that 58B attendance at future reunions will increase. As others may well be persuaded to join BOBA, I hope so, that's what it's all about.*

Editor



### REUNION NAME BADGES:

Once again we will be providing a reunion name badge for members attending the reunion this year. They are of a simple design with a full coloured badge and border on laminated card which is inserted into a clear plastic sleeve envelope. This has both a press frog clip and secure safety pin mounting, i.e. no risk of damage to clothing. Order yours when booking for the reunion please and pick it up when you arrive at the BOBA reception desk in the Chepstow Hotel. They are good quality and cheap at just £1.50 each and yours to keep!



**YOUR INVITATION TO THE BOBA REUNION  
AT THE CHEPSTOW HOTEL  
19th to 21st September 2008**

\*\*\*\*\*

**BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS**

\*\*\*\*\*

**TICKET PRICES**

|                                     |                   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| THE FRIDAY EVENING SUPPER AND DANCE | £14.00 PER PERSON |
| THE BOBA REUNION DINNER             | £26.00 PER PERSON |
| THE LADIES' DINNER                  | £26.00 PER PERSON |

THE REUNION BOOKING FORM IS LOCATED ON PAGE 19 OF THIS PUBLICATION, PLEASE REMOVE, OR PHOTOCOPY IT, ENTER YOUR REQUIREMENTS ON THE FORM AND SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS BELOW TOGETHER WITH YOUR FULL PAYMENT (CHEQUES TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO '**BOBA**'). PLEASE ENCLOSE A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR DELIVERY OF YOUR TICKETS.

**Send to:**  
**Mr. P. Burridge**  
**4 Southbrook**  
**1 Heron Close**  
**Preston**  
**Weymouth**  
**Dorset, DT3 6SX.**  
**Tel: 01305 835989.**

**PLEASE SEND YOUR BOOKING BEFORE 1<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2008.**





## **THE 2008 BOBA REUNION PROGRAMME**

### **FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

|                           |                                  |                |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| REGISTRATION              | The BOBA Desk in the Hotel Foyer | 14.00 onwards  |
| GOLF PRACTICE             | Dewstow Golf Club                | 13.30 onwards  |
| SUPPER                    | The Two Rivers Suite             | 19.00 to 21.00 |
| ENTERTAINMENT AND DANCING | The Ballroom                     | 20.30 to 00.30 |

### **SATURDAY 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

|                             |                                |                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| THE BOBS GOLF COMPETITION   | Park Course, Dewstow Golf Club | 08.30          |
| HERITAGE TRAIL & MUSEUM     | The Two Rivers Suite           | 10.00 to 13.00 |
| WELFARE AREA REPS MEETING   | The Larkfield Room             | 13.00          |
| EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING | The Larkfield Room             | 13.30          |
| THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  | The Chapel at Beachley         | 15.00          |
| THE PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION   | The Lounge Bar                 | 18.00          |
| GOLF PRIZE GIVING           | The Bistro Restaurant          | 18.00          |
| THE BOBA REUNION DINNER     | The Ballroom                   | 18.30          |
| THE LADIES' DINNER          | The Two Rivers Suite           | 19.00          |
| THE AFTER DINNER DANCE      | The Ballroom                   | 22.00 to 01.00 |

### **SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER**

|                             |                                          |       |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------|
| FORM UP FOR CHURCH PARADE   | Parade Square in Beachley Barracks       | 10.30 |
| FOUNDERS DAY CHURCH SERVICE | St Georges Chapel at Beachley            | 11.00 |
| SUNDAY LUNCHEON             | (To be booked privately where required.) |       |

**THE BOBA REUNION****BOOKING FORM****19th to 21st September 2008****THE REUNION DINNER:**

Name: ..... Group: ..... Company: ..... Membership No: .....

ADDRESS: .....

..... Post Code: .....

Telephone No: ..... DATE: .....

**THE NAME(S) OF ANY GUEST(S) INCLUDED IN THIS BOOKING:**

1. .... 2. ....

**TICKET REQUIREMENTS:**

|                         |       |         |   |        |
|-------------------------|-------|---------|---|--------|
| THE FRIDAY NIGHT SUPPER | ..... | TICKETS | @ | £14.00 |
| THE REUNION DINNER      | ..... | TICKETS | @ | £26.00 |
| THE LADIES' DINNER      | ..... | TICKETS | @ | £26.00 |

TOTAL VALUE OF CHEQUE ENCLOSED: £..... : .....

\*\*\*\*\*

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS - VEGETARIAN MEALS ETC.**

.....

\*\*\*\*\*

**SEATING ARRANGEMENTS ~ THE REUNION DINNER**

THE SEATING FOR THE REUNION DINNER WILL BE ARRANGED BY GROUPS. IF YOU WISH TO SIT WITH A PARTICULAR FRIEND PLEASE INDICATE HIS NAME AND GROUP BELOW:

NAME: ..... GROUP: .....

\*\*\*\*\*

**SEATING ARRANGEMENTS ~ THE LADIES DINNER**

THE TABLES AT THE LADIES DINNER WILL SEAT UP TO EIGHT PERSONS - SHOULD YOU WISH TO SIT WITH ANY PARTICULAR FRIEND(S) PLEASE INDICATE THE NAME(S) BELOW:

NAME: 1. .... 2. ....

\*\*\*\*\*

PLEASE ENTER YOUR REQUIREMENTS ON THIS FORM AND SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS BELOW TOGETHER WITH YOUR PAYMENT. (CHEQUES TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO '**BOBA**') PLEASE ALSO ENCLOSE A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR YOUR TICKETS.**TO:****P. Burrridge, 4 Southbrook, 1 Heron Close, Preston, Weymouth, Dorset, DT3 6SX****PLEASE SEND YOUR BOOKING BEFORE: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2008.**



This form is to allow an opportunity for members to complete, or resubmit an update.

# BEACHLEY OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

## THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE, BEACHLEY, CHEPSTOW, NP16 7YG.



**BOBA ~ Membership Secretary**

Rocky Evershed  
19 Sturdee Avenue  
Gillingham, Kent.  
ME7 2JL

**Tel: 01634 850043**

Mobile: 07873 248688

**email: bobachepstow@yahoo.co.uk**

Dear BOBA Member

### Re: Next of Kin (NOK)

This is a particularly difficult subject, however one that decidedly requires to be addressed. When a BOBA member 'passes on', the Executive Committee are left with a quandary as to whom, if they should contact in the family. If such a contact is desired, please be so kind as to complete the details below, and in doing so, assists the Executive Committee to help where they are able. The Data Protection Act will apply to all details given.

**(Please use block capitals throughout)**

NOK Name: ..... NOK Relationship: .....

NOK Address: .....

..... NOK Postcode: .....

NOK Tel. No: ..... NOK Email: .....

**Your Name:** ..... **Membership No:** .....

! This is more than an extremely sensitive subject, however, should any remaining partner wish to attend BOBA reunion weekends, they will be very welcome. Please contact Peter Burrridge.

Please return this information to the Membership Secretary using one of the following means:

Thank you in anticipation.  
Sincere Regards,

Rocky Evershed  
BOBA Membership Secretary.

### **NOK Returns:**

Please send to: Rocky Evershed  
the contacts given in the above  
BOBA Membership Secretary Box.  
*Thank you.*

### **Future reunion Attendance:**

*Peter Burrridge contacts:  
Details Page 19.*





## CHEPSTOW & AREA ACCOMMODATION LIST: CONFIRMED MARCH 2008

The accommodations published here have not been checked for standards. ~ These entries are subject to change without notice.  
 All Locations are in, or within, a twelve miles radius of Chepstow. ~ Please check prices before booking, some are expensive.  
 Accommodation marked thus \* after the telephone number, have not been confirmed for availability. ~ SC = Self Catering.

### HOTELS ~ CHEPSTOW & AREA:

Telephone No:

|                                              |                                            |                  |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|
| AFON GWY HOTEL                               | 28 BRIDGE STREET, CHEPSTOW                 | (01291) 620158   |
| BEAUFORT HOTEL                               | BEAUFORT SQUARE, CHEPSTOW                  | (01291) 622497   |
| CASTLE VIEW HOTEL                            | BRIDGE STREET, CHEPSTOW                    | (01291) 620349   |
| CHEPSTOW HOTEL ('Old Course' & 'Two Rivers') | NEWPORT ROAD, CHEPSTOW                     | (01291) 626261   |
| THE GEORGE HOTEL (New Owners Recently)       | MOOR STREET, CHEPSTOW                      | (01291) 625363 * |
| THE HUNTSMAN HOTEL                           | USK ROAD, SHIRENEWTON, Nr. CHEPSTOW        | (01291) 641521   |
| THE MARRIOT RESORT (ST. PIERRE ~ GOLF)       | PWLLMEYRIC, NR. CHEPSTOW (Note: Expensive) | (01291) 641521   |

### B & B, INNS, PUBS, etc ~ CHEPSTOW & AREA:

|                                          |                                 |                  |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| COACH & HORSES                           | WELSH STREET, CHEPSTOW          | (01291) 622626   |
| COACH & HORSES                           | CAERWENT, Nr. CALDICOT          | (01291) 420352   |
| THE FIRST HURDLE                         | 9/10 UPPER CHURCH ST., CHEPSTOW | (01291) 622189   |
| WHITE LION                               | WHITE LION SQUARE, CHEPSTOW     | (01291) 622854   |
| OLD FERRY INN, (Linda & Murray)          | BEACHLEY, Nr. CHEPSTOW          | (01291) 622474   |
| THE WHEATSHEAF INN                       | THE SQUARE, MAGOR               | (01633) 880608 * |
| THE TREDEGAR ARMS (NEW OWNERS APRIL '07) | SHIRENEWTON, NR. CHEPSTOW       | (01291) 641274   |

### B & B GUEST HOUSES ~ CHEPSTOW & AREA:

|                                              |                                              |                |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------|
| COURT FARM, (Mrs. ANSTEY)                    | ROGIET, Nr. CALDICOT                         | (01633) 880232 |
| PENYLAN FARM, (Mrs. ARTHUR)                  | St. BRIDES, MAGOR                            | (01633) 400267 |
| PRIVATE HOUSE (Mrs. BATCHELOR)               | 7 LANCASTER WAY, THE DANES, CHEPSTOW         | (01291) 626344 |
| PRIVATE HOUSE (Mrs. BROWN)                   | 6 BIGSTONE GROVE, TUTSHILL (Prefers doubles) | (01291) 620283 |
| BRICK HOUSE, (Mrs. PARK)                     | REDWICK, MAGOR                               | (01633) 880230 |
| UPPER SEDBURY HOUSE, (Mrs. POTTS) (Full '07) | LOWER SEDBURY LANE, OFF BEACHLEY ROAD        | (01291) 627173 |
| THE LYCHGATE, (Mrs. WELCH)                   | 47 CHURCH ROAD, CALDICOT                     | (01291) 422378 |
| CWRT ROBERT, (MRS. PAXTON)                   | BRYN GWYN, RAGLAN                            | (01291) 690709 |
| COALPITS FARM                                | SHIRENEWTON, NR. CHEPSTOW                    | (01291) 641820 |
| PARSON GROVE                                 | EARLSWOOD, (OFF USK ROAD), NR. CHEPSTOW      | (01291) 641382 |

### B & B GUEST HOUSES ~ EAST OF CHEPSTOW (GLOS):

|                                       |                                    |                |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| CHERRY ORCHARD FARM                   | NEWLAND, Nr. COLEFORD              | (01594) 832212 |
| DEANFIELD                             | FOLLY ROD, PARKEND, Nr. LYDNEY     | (01594) 562524 |
| LINDUM HOUSE                          | OAKWOOD ROAD, BREAM, Nr. LYDNEY    | (01594) 560378 |
| TAN HOUSE (10 ROOMS)                  | NEWLAND, Nr. COLEFORD              | (01594) 832222 |
| VINEY HILL, GUEST HOUSE               | VINEY HILL, Nr. BLAKENEY           | (01594) 516000 |
| WOOLASTON CARVERY INN (New last year) | WOOLASTON, Nr. LYDNEY (West of)    | (01594) 528300 |
| THE WHITE HOUSE                       | 2 SOUTH ROAD, BROADWELL, COLEFORD  | (01594) 837069 |
| BERRY HILL HOUSE                      | 44 PARK ROAD, BERRY HILL, COLEFORD | (01594) 832325 |

### B & B GUEST HOUSES ~ CALDICOT, MONMOUTHSHIRE:

|                          |                         |                |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| THE TIPPLING PHILOSOPHER | CHEPSTOW ROAD, CALDICOT | (01291) 420337 |
| THE CASTLE INN           | CHURCH ROAD, CALDICOT   | (01291) 420509 |
| FRANCESCA'S HOTEL        | NEWPORT ROAD, CALDICOT  | (01291) 425002 |
| IVY LODGE GUEST HOUSE    | CHEPSTOW ROAD, CALDICOT | (01291) 421504 |
| STOW GUEST HOUSE         | NEWPORT ROAD            | (01291) 421468 |
| BROOKLANDS MOTEL         | PILL ROW, CALDICOT      | (01291) 430500 |

**HOTEL GUEST HOUSES ~ EAST OF CHEPSTOW (GLOS):**

|                                  |                                              |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------|
| MILLINGBROOK LODGE (14 Bedrooms) | HIGH STREET. AYLBURTON, Nr. LYDNEY           | (01594) 845522 |
| THE WILLOWS                      | EAST OF LYDNEY (on A48 1 MILE PAST on right) | (01594) 843795 |
| OAKFIELDS                        | NR. WOOLASTON, (BETWEEN SEDBURY & AYLBURTON) | (01291) 689776 |

**HOTELS & INNS - WYE VALLEY & TIDENHAM CHASE:**

Telephone No:

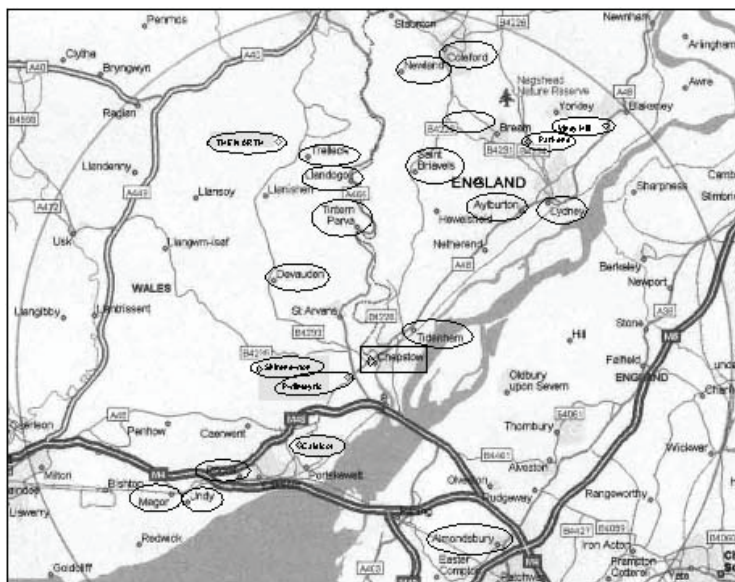
|                                          |                                      |                 |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| THE ABBEY HOTEL, (Formerly THE BEAUFORT) | TINTERN ABBEY, TINTERN, Nr. CHEPSTOW | (01291) 689777  |
| PARVA FARMHOUSE/HOTEL                    | TINTERN, Nr. CHEPSTOW                | (01291) 689411  |
| THE CROWN                                | WHITEBROOK, Nr. MONMOUTH             | (01600) 860 254 |
| THE ROYAL GEORGE                         | TINTERN, Nr. CHEPSTOW                | (01291) 689205  |
| THE WYE VALLEY HOTEL                     | TINTERN, Nr. CHEPSTOW                | (01291) 689441  |
| THE BUSH INN B&B                         | PENAUPT, Nr. TINTERN, MONMOUTH       | (01600) 772765  |
| THE FLORENCE COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL         | Nr. MONMOUTH, LOWER WYE VALLEY       | (01594) 530830  |
| THE GEORGE INN                           | ST. BRIAVELS, TIDENHAM CHASE         | (01594) 530288  |
| THE TUDOR FARMHOUSE HOTEL                | CLEARWELL, Nr. COLEFORD              | (01594) 833046  |
| THE BELL HOTEL                           | LORDS HILL, COLEFORD                 | (01594) 832583  |
| THE SLOOP INN                            | LLANDOGO, WYE VALLEY                 | (01594) 530291  |

**B&B GUEST HOUSES - WYE VALLEY & TIDENHAM CHASE:**

|                                             |                                               |                |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------|
| CYPRESS RISE, (Mrs. ALVIS)                  | LLANDOGO, WYE VALLEY                          | (01594) 530651 |
| HEATHER DEAN, (Mrs. BOYCOTT) (Self Cater'g) | MARYLAND, THE NARTH, NR. MONMOUTH             | (01600) 860566 |
| WYE VIEW, B&B (Mrs. EVANS)                  | RIVERSIDE, GUYS CLIFF, TINTERN                | (01291) 689779 |
| OFFA'S MEAD, (Mrs. LACEY)                   | THE FENCE, St. BRIAVELS                       | (01594) 530229 |
| BLUE BARNS, (Mrs. PARKER)                   | THE HUDNALS, St. BRIAVELS                     | (01594) 530252 |
| CINDERHILL HOUSE, (Mrs. PEACOCK )           | St. BRIAVELS, TIDENHAM CHASE, (Self Catering) | (01594) 530393 |
| LUGANO, (Mrs. TOWNSEND)                     | LLANDOGO, WYE VALLEY                          | (01594) 530496 |
| TROY VIEW FARM, (MRS. RICHES)               | LYNDART, MONMOUTH                             | (01600) 860283 |
| HONEYHILL FARM, (MRS. MURPHY)               | MILL HILL, BROCKWEIR                          | (01291) 689859 |
| MADGETS FARM                                | TIDENHAM CHASE. NR. CHEPSTOW                  | (01291) 689595 |
| THE LILACS (MRS. TOMLINS)                   | BAILEY HOUSE, HEWELSFIELD                     | (01291) 689386 |

**B&B GUEST HOUSES - SOUTH & EAST OF THE SEVERN (GLOS):**

|                              |                                               |                |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------|
| ABBOTS WAY GUESTHOUSE        | GLOUCESTER ROAD, (A38), ALMONDS BURY          | (01454) 613134 |
| TRAVEL LODGE (AUST SERVICES) | (SPECIAL RATES AT TIMES ~ PHONE 08700 850950) | (01454) 633199 |



**BEACHLEY OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION****BALANCE SHEET at 31st December 2007***(Un-Audited at time of issue 03 /03/2008)*

| Previous Period Figures |            |        | Item | Current Period Figures |            |        |
|-------------------------|------------|--------|------|------------------------|------------|--------|
| Totals                  | Sub Totals | Detail |      | Detail                 | Sub Totals | Totals |

**Assets**

|            |                     |              |            |
|------------|---------------------|--------------|------------|
|            | £0.00               | Cash in Hand | £0.00      |
|            | £11,661.64          | Cash in Bank | £3,740.66  |
| £11,661.64 | Total Cash          |              | £3,740.66  |
| £6860.72   | Deposit Account     |              | £16,185.75 |
| £0.00      | Sundry Debtors      |              | £0.00      |
| £18,522.36 | Total Liquid Assets |              | £19,926.41 |

**Shop Stock**

|            |                      |            |
|------------|----------------------|------------|
| £2,293.27  | BOBA / AAS Regalia   | £2,221.09  |
| £20,815.63 | Total Current Assets | £22,147.50 |

**Liabilities**

|           |                   |                     |           |
|-----------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------|
|           | £0.00             | Sundry Creditors    | £40.00    |
|           | £468.72           | BOBA Golf Fund      | £334.92   |
|           | £838.10           | Benevolent Fund     | £737.10   |
|           | £146.03           | BOBA St John's Fund | £146.03   |
| £1,452.85 | Total Liabilities |                     | £1,258.05 |

|            |                                                              |            |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| £19,362.78 | Net working Capital (being Current Assets minus Liabilities) | £20,889.45 |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|

**Fixed Assets**

|            |            |                  |            |            |
|------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------|
| £460.86    | £460.86    | Capital Property | £321.45    | £321.45    |
| £15,000.00 | £15,000.00 | Investments      | £15,000.00 | £15,000.00 |

**General Purpose Fund**

|            |                                                                                         |            |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| £25,482.77 | Balance Brought Forward                                                                 | £34,823.64 |
| £9,340.87  | Add Surplus Income                                                                      | £1,387.26  |
|            | Subtract Deficit of Expenditure                                                         |            |
| £34,823.64 | Accumulated General Purpose Fund<br>being the Net Working Capital & Total Fixed Assets. | £36,210.90 |

Audited by: David Tierney

Treasurer: Anthony M Waite

|         |                        |         |  |
|---------|------------------------|---------|--|
| Signed: | <b>NOT YET AUDITED</b> | Signed: |  |
| Date:   |                        | Date:   |  |

**General Purpose fund for the Period 1st January to 31st December 2007.**

| <b>Expenditure / Losses</b>                     | <b>This period</b> | <b>Previous Period</b> | <b>Income / Gains</b>                              | <b>This Period</b> | <b>Previous Period</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Membership Refunds                              | <b>£130.00</b>     | £0.00                  | Membership Subs                                    | <b>£4,685.00</b>   | £12,920.00             |
| Committee Expenses                              | <b>£1,506.58</b>   | £1,566.50              | Donations                                          | <b>£150.53</b>     | £329.30                |
| Computer Maintenance                            | <b>£0.00</b>       | £0.00                  | Deposit Acc't Interest                             | <b>£325.03</b>     | £114.47                |
| Insurance                                       | <b>£681.46</b>     | £557.48                | Current Acc't Interest                             | <b>£0.00</b>       | £0.00                  |
| Property Depreciation                           | <b>£139.41</b>     | £263.04                | Investment Dividends                               | <b>£1,719.46</b>   | £1,204.02              |
| Reunion Subsidy                                 | <b>£0.00</b>       | £898.04                | Reunion Surplus                                    | <b>£55.47</b>      | £0.00                  |
| HQ Maintenance                                  | <b>£36.36</b>      | £4.40                  | Shop Profits                                       | <b>£205.57</b>     | £190.33                |
| Printing                                        | <b>£1,220.50</b>   | £945.00                |                                                    |                    |                        |
| Donations (Charity)                             | <b>£0.00</b>       | £66.00                 |                                                    |                    |                        |
| Investment / Bank Chg's                         | <b>£907.40</b>     | £0.00                  |                                                    |                    |                        |
| BOBA Website                                    | <b>£115.71</b>     | £88.13                 |                                                    |                    |                        |
| Postage                                         | <b>£679.25</b>     | £553.21                |                                                    |                    |                        |
| Telephone                                       | <b>£14.65</b>      | £12.55                 |                                                    |                    |                        |
| Stationery                                      | <b>£122.48</b>     | £262.90                |                                                    |                    |                        |
| Honoraria - Treasurer /<br>Membership Secretary | <b>£200.00</b>     | £200.00                |                                                    |                    |                        |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>                        | <b>£5,753.80</b>   | £5,417.25              | <b>Total Income</b>                                | <b>£7,141.06</b>   | £14,758.12             |
| <b>Surplus of Income to<br/>Balance Sheet</b>   | <b>£1,387.26</b>   | £9,340.87              | <b>Deficit of Expenditure<br/>to Balance Sheet</b> |                    |                        |
| <b>Grand Totals</b>                             | <b>£7,141.06</b>   | £14,758.12             |                                                    | <b>£7,141.06</b>   | £14,758.12             |

**NOTES:**

HQ Maintenance – Purchase of Additional Heaters for Frost Protection of OSH made during year.

Capital Property consists of the following Items: - BOBA Badge Drawings, Display Stands, Golf Trophies, New Standards and minor miscellaneous items.

Previous Investments were Redeemed during July 2007. BOBA has had to re-apply as an "Approved" Investor in accordance with the Requirements of the Money Laundering Regulations. The redeemed sum was re-invested (not quite such good terms as previous but as good as was available at the time) and now consists of Government Stock as follows: - £12886.11 Nominal Stock in 8% Treasury 2013 Running Yield Approx 6% Gross.

If these stocks are held until July 2013, the Government will redeem at £12888.11. Therefore, unless the stock is sold before redemption, the GPF will see a loss of £15000.00 - £12886.11 = £2113.89. However, the potential loss is more than compensated for by the dividend income of £1030.88 per annum.

Balance of Deposit account has been boosted by £9000 transfer from Current Account, Interest rate on Deposit Account has stayed virtually constant overall during the year despite changes in Bank Rate.

Subscriptions: - Steady influx of subscriptions during the year but well down on projected target, Still some debtors and many members still paying by 5 x annual payments of £10 p.a. until 2010 - 2011.

Donations of £150.53 were made during the year. The Benevolent Fund also benefited from donations of £24.00.

Benevolent Grants totalling £125.00 have been made during the year.

Printing & Postage Costs incurred were slightly higher than previous year.

Committee Expenses includes all committee related travelling and general expenses. Slight decrease from previous year.

Postage, Telephone & Stationery costs have again been itemised separately for greater clarity. Prudent Management by Committee Members has kept costs under control and to a minimum.

Shop contributed a significant contribution during the year and additional stock has been purchased to replace dwindling quantities of faster moving items and to enhance range. Details will be available on Website.

BOBA Reunion 2007 actually returned a very small surplus this last year. However, now that we have reached a break even point, it is the Committee's intention continue to balance the event financially to avoid pressure on current assets.

Golf Fund has subsidised the 2007 event with the purchase of an additional Trophy.

Insurance costs have risen slightly during 2007 due to BOBA now carrying insurance for both the OSH and St John's. Depending on the outcome of decisions on the future of OSH and St Johns this situation will continue to be reviewed to meet current requirements.

Finally, My Thanks to all those people (and in particular the Committee), who have helped and supported me during my Nine Years tenure as BOBA Treasurer. 11 years ago, I started a new business from scratch and the last 3 years has seen it take off rapidly after a steady build up. Changes have had to be made to accommodate the successful trend which shows only signs of acceleration for the future, and my Work Exit Plan. I consider it is time for me to step down. However, I hope and would like to remain active within BOBA for many years to come. It is a great Organisation and as my Intake approaches its 50th Anniversary, I want to contribute to its continued success.

**Unaudited Copy  
(Audit arranged for  
Early April '08.)**

**Anthony M. Waite  
Honorary Treasurer  
BOBA**

**3rd March 2008.**



**BOBA Membership Secretary's Report ~ by: Rocky Evershed – 61B.**

**Foreword:** Over the last 12 months owing to a variety of commitments, I have not always been available to enroll new members immediately, keep the websites updated and answer your emails promptly etc. Although you can't promise anything in life I will endeavor to keep on top of everything this year.

**Membership Fees:** By the time you receive this newsletter I will be updating membership fees again from the standing orders that come in annually.

Talking about membership fees, in a rough calculation, 2009 is going to be a very sad year for BOBA in that we are going to lose approx 125 members who will have lapsed on paying their membership fees since they were reintroduced in 2006. I hope to try and avoid this exodus, by writing to each member personally with a gentle reminder. If you know of any member who has lapsed please give them a little reminder in a nice subtle way.

**New Members:** Recruiting new members this year, has been slightly up on last years figures. To date of writing this report, we have had 40 new members enrolled.

I spend quite a bit of time on the Army Apprentices College site, (formerly the Andy Yarrow site), and when I see a name appear on there that isn't a member of BOBA, I send then a special email inviting them to re/join. Which brings me to the point of the word 'Rejoin'?

As the majority of you will by now know life membership was withdrawn from BOBA when the College closed in 1994 and the present day BOBA was reformed. I get a few messages asking "Why should we now have to pay subscriptions, when we are supposed to be Life Members?" It is not really difficult to understand the reason for this change, the MOD BOBA was financially supported by the MOD, we are not, we must be self supporting.

**1958 Group ~ 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** This year sees the golden anniversary of the 1958 group, on joining Beachley. I know that steps are being taken by John Phillips DSC of 58B to organize a special reunion during September for all the ex boys he is in contact with. If you were in 58 groups, and have not made contact with John please contact me and I will forward your details to him. Have a good one guys!

**Websites:** From last year, we combined the Army Apprentice College site and the BOBA website together, to make it easier and more accessible to members. This has proved a success.

I have tried to keep on top of maintaining both sites and uploading your photos. However, for those of you who understand websites, and how they work you will know that we are allocated so much 'space' on the host's server to upload our details and news to. We are getting close to using up all our allotted space which means we have to buy more space, or 'mark time' on content.

Photos and pictures take up a lot of space; therefore, before you send me a photo to upload to the website, please help by checking to see that there isn't another one already on there that looks similar to the one you want uploaded.

At the moment the BOBA website is accessible by using 2 different website addresses. Namely:

[www.boba-beachley.org.uk](http://www.boba-beachley.org.uk) or [www.armyapprenticescollege.homestead.com](http://www.armyapprenticescollege.homestead.com)

At the end of this year we are hoping to phase out the boba-beachly.org address and only use the 'Homestead' address to access both our sites. Please in future use the latter address, so to get used to the new website address and you will be ready for the changeover and in December. (Log the new address in 'Favorites' folder!)

**My Contact Details:**

*You can contact me by any of the following methods:*

**Membership Secretary ~ Rocky Evershed (61B)**

**Home Address:** ~ 19 Sturdee Avenue, Gillingham,  
Kent, ME7 2JL.

**Home Tel No:** ~ +44 (0) 1634 850043

**Mobile Phone No:** ~ +44 (0) 7873 248688

**Email Addresses:** ~ [redex289@talktalk.net](mailto:redex289@talktalk.net)  
[rocky61b@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rocky61b@hotmail.co.uk)  
[bobachepw@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bobachepw@yahoo.co.uk)  
[redex289@gmail.com](mailto:redex289@gmail.com)

**Please note:** I no longer have a fax machine.

**NEW BOBA MEMBERS JOINING IN THE LAST YEAR:****NEW BOBA MEMBERS JOINING IN 2007/8**

|      |      |    |        |             |          |     |      |     |    |         |           |       |     |
|------|------|----|--------|-------------|----------|-----|------|-----|----|---------|-----------|-------|-----|
| 1157 | Mr   | SJ | Stan   | Emmett      | 42       | B   | 1177 | Mr  | K  | Keith   | Chadwick  | 57B   | D   |
| 1158 | Mr   | JS | John   | Potter      | 70B      | B   | 1178 | Mr  | JL | Jason   | Magner    | 86    |     |
| 1159 | Rev  | J  | Joe    | Rooney      | Honorary |     | 1179 | Mr. | C  | Colin   | Bridgeman | 66C   | A   |
| 1160 | Mr   | JA | James  | Woods       | 57B      | A   | 1180 | Mr  | D  | David   | Stanford  | 57A   | C   |
| 1161 | Mr   | BJ | Brin   | Morris      | 54B      | C   | 1181 | Mr  | C  | Clive   | Bridgeman | 66C   | A   |
| 1162 | Mr   | G  | Geoff  | Coyne       | 55A      | D   | 1182 | Mr  | M  | Merv    | Williams  | 61A   | A   |
| 1163 | Mr.  | BJ | Leo    | Lee         | 53A      | D   | 1183 | Mr  | DE | Derek   | Willcocks | 49A   | B   |
| 1164 | Maj. | PD | Peter  | Coe         | 75A      | B   | 1184 | Mr  | B  | Brian   | Wardle    | 58A   | B/C |
| 1165 | Mr   | A  | Alan   | Crawshaw    | 55A      | A   | 1185 | Mr  | P  | Paul    | Whiteside | 60C   | A   |
| 1166 | Mr.  | R  | Wally  | Carlile     | 60B      | C   | 1186 | Mr  | P  | Peter   | Rickard   | 53A   | C   |
| 1167 | Maj. | D  | David  | Greenaway   | 57B      | C   | 1187 | Mr  | PJ | Peter   | Veale     | 46A   | A   |
| 1168 | Mr   | RN | Norm.  | Foster      | 57B      | C   | 1188 | Maj | D  | David   | Chewins   | 59A   | A   |
| 1169 | Mr   | EC | Ted    | Wood        | 57B      | A   | 1189 | Mr  | ML | Michael | Nottage   | 67C   |     |
| 1170 | Mr   | FR | Dick   | Sidley      | 54A      | D   | 1190 | Mr  | B  | Barry   | Platt     | 54A   | D   |
| 1171 | Mr   | GH | Gordon | Culpin      | 57B      | B   | 1191 | Mr  | F  | Frank   | Hall      | 71A/B | C/B |
| 1172 | Mr   | KB | Ken    | Arm         | 59C      | A   | 1192 | Mr  | FD | Frank   | Wharton   | 56B   | C   |
| 1173 | Mr   | BA | Brian  | Philbrick   | 45A      | C   | 1193 | Mr  | PR | Peter   | Nicholas  | 60A   | A   |
| 1174 | Mr   | DJ | David  | Garrity     | 57B      | C   | 1194 | Mr  | V  | Vic     | Langabeer | 58A   | C   |
| 1175 | Mr   | G  | Geoff  | Culverhouse | 57B      | D/B | 1195 | Mr  | MB | Morph   | Bentley   | 58A   | C   |
| 1176 | Mr   | A  | Allan  | Rigby       | 69C      | 70A |      |     |    |         |           |       |     |

**Potential Members**

Normally I would publish the names of all ex boys I have sent BOBA info packs here. However this year I am going to omit these names. The reason: I get a lot of emails asking me to send out these packs to ex boys, who are 'interested' in joining BOBA. I send each person who enquires a pack valued approx £3 each (inc. P & P); 99% of these chaps do not even bother to reply. Take for instance the 52 packs I sent out and published in last years Echoes; from those 52 enquiries 3 ex-boys actually joined.

This is costing the Association a great deal of money, which could well be used on other BOBA matters. So as of this year I have asked potential members to download the application forms from the website, fill them in, and send them to me with their subscription fees first. On receipt of their subscription fee, I will then forward all the remaining info together with their membership book.

Should you need to contact me, my contact details are to be found at the foot of the previous page.

**Rocky Evershed 61B**

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***We owe a vote of thanks to Malcolm Hay, (he beavers away incessantly on Heritage matters on behalf of BOBA), also Roger Hart for getting to the bottom of the following articles, it wont need too much imagination to enjoy the humour following the background detail.***

**AT 51B's PASSING OUT PARADE IN JULY 1954**

I remembered an incident on a Passing out Parade long ago when a plush limousine pulled up at the square and assuming that this was the Reviewing Officer we were brought to attention, but out stepped a gentleman in civilian clothes accompanied by a lady; I later found out that the male was Noel Whitcomb a columnist with the Daily Mirror. I recently tried to get details of the event from the Daily Mirror, as I was sure that such a newspaper would have a record; unfortunately they were not forthcoming, but a further conversation with Roger Hart 52A gained more details. He remembered the event as it was the mother of one of their Group, Arthur (Pomp) Longhurst C Coy, who was the guest with whom Roger, as a member of the Corps of Drums, had been photographed for the media. Roger was also able to obtain from the national archives a copy of the article that was published in the Daily Mirror. The original has been reproduced on the next page as a typed copy for clarity.



## When Mum and I went on Parade

By L/Cpl Noel Whitcomb (Ret'd.)

The circumstance in which met A/T "Pomp" Longhurst were distinctly odd. As a Mirror columnist, I had received a letter from his Mum, wife of a War Department policeman in Woolwich Arsenal, saying:

"Dear Noel, We hear a lot about bad Army camps, but my son, Pomp, aged seventeen, has been two and a half years at Beachley Army Apprentice Training School, Chepstow - and enjoyed every minute. I enclose an invitation to their end-of-term Passing Out Parade, I have never been able to attend as I have three young children and the fare would cost too much. But if you could go instead of me, Pomp would be very pleased as he has never had anyone there." I turned it over in my mind and I had a better idea. "Dear Mrs Longhurst," I scribbled. "Sure I'll go. Why don't you come too as my guest?"

***She didn't need asking twice:*** Wearing a white hat bought specially for the occasion, Mum was waiting at Paddington Station with a smile as wide as platform 5. "We call our Arthur 'Pomp' because his father served twenty two years with the 'Pompadours' the Essex regiment" she explained as we travelled on the train. "Pomp will get the surprise of his life when he sees me." And so he did, he nearly passed out too early when he saw the parade of 800 boys leap to attention and the audience stand as his Mum rolled up in a "bloomin' great limousine".

I think they thought it was the Reviewing Officer, General Sir Ouvry L. Roberts GCB, KBC, DSO. However they very soon found out that it was L/Cpl Whitcomb (Ret'd) and guest.

Soon I was chatting with 'Tiny' Baker, Regimental Sergeant-Major of the school. 'Tiny' stands 6ft 5in in his socks and squashes the scales at nearly 19st. *He is reputed to have been made of elephant hide and piano wire.*

He retires today to a small holding in the hills looking down on the school "So I can still keep my eye on em". This after twenty-two years service! "Before I leave. I'm going to make young 'Pomp Longhurst' an Apprentice Corporal". he told us.

***For one horrible moment, I thought Mum was going to kiss him.***

"The boys don't do too badly," he said, that being a very considerable understatement. Pomp, who is getting top grade training to be an electrical engineer, told us he had just sat for his first-class education certificate. He gets 40s a week, & has saved £34 this term.

Pomp showed us the school common room, like a big hotel lounge with television. The billiards rooms, gardens and libraries were fine. The playing fields magnificent.

***"Even the food is alright". said Pomp. "I'm glad I went in for soldiering"***

We watched the prize-giving and the school play, had lunch in the dining hall and tea with the lads. And in the car going home Mrs Longhurst whispered to me: "Do you know, it's the first day in eighteen years, I've been out without the children?"



*A/T Cpl Hart with Mrs & A/T "Pomp" Longhurst*

*Mission accomplished by Mr Noel Whitcomb: Mum looked delighted with her son and a well deserved day off.*

**55A Minimeets Liverpool ~Colin Weir**

After our wonderful reunion in 2005 to celebrate 50 years since joining Beachley, it was decided that we would have mini meets. Unfortunately Alf Robbins and myself somehow got delegated to sort things out. After a couple of abortive trips to Chester where the hoteliers wanted an arm and a leg, well at least large non refundable deposits, we decided to take our business elsewhere. But where? Alf being a Kentish Man or maybe a Man of Kent, but residing on the Wirral Peninsula, suggested Liverpool! Being a Scouser and living on the coast just north of the city I had reservations, I didn't want to be called a "homer". But agreed to go along with my pal's suggestion. I hadn't been to Liverpool for many a long year and my memories of the city were of some battle scarred, run down ghetto. We started at the Albert Dock and we were nicely surprised at the amount of money that had been spent in the area and newly built hotels adjacent to all of the free facilities that are available. Decision taken. We would HQ at the Ibis Hotel. Now the work started. From thinking, find a meeting place where we could congregate. It developed into what about an itinerary etc. We sourced and visited a number of restaurants, giving them our requirements; we wanted to be sat together in a quiet area, preferably in a separate room. The latter we weren't able to accomplish as we didn't have a big enough party, however, we settled for Est Est Est restaurant on the Albert Dock. Boots Ammo, properly cobbled with studs etc. were now needed. I spent days searching the city for places of interest, then weeks learning about their history.

Two cathedrals, the mammoth St Georges Hall, recently refurbished at a cost of over 20 million quid, Walker Art Gallery, Tate Modern, all with no entry costs. Liverpool is second only to London for the amount of listed buildings it has. We discovered a mile of things to do at little or no cost. I, a Scouser was getting educated about my own environment, I'd always driven through the city, never looked up and seen the wonderful buildings with magnificent frontages, what would our friends of many a year make of it all. Well, we received glowing reports for some time after and requests for further meets, in April we will be having our third, followed by another in September on the Weds, Thurs, prior to making our way south to Chepstow for the BOBA weekend. Again, for 55A this is a special occasion, we will be celebrating 50 years since "graduating from Beachley", early indications are that we will have a good turn out. Going to Chepstow, has a few drawbacks, mainly accommodation, lack of space at the Chepstow Hotel, this in itself prevents large groups being able to sit together and chew the fifty odd years of fat. Gentlemen, especially those on the internet, you will do yourself an enormous favour if you click on to Liverpool, see what's going on and organise a visit, I'm sure you will not be disappointed. If you are looking for a tourist guide, look no further, but I will need paying, I want money to have my "boots ammo" cobbled after wearing them out for 55A.

*We did update the accommodation listings last year & continue to monitor the situation to improve choice. Ed.*

**Beachley Boys at Sea!!**

My name is Peter, and I've just come back into the fold, I'm ex 60A. notably Taff Nicholas, since leaving Beachley I did what every ex boy did, toured here there and every where, i.e. Singapore, Thailand and then finishing up in Germany. On demob I did a bit of this and a bit of that, as you tend to do, unable to settle I ended up as an engineering officer in the Merchant Navy, from where the following story arises. We were going through the dreaded Bermuda Triangle on the M.V. Gela,

I was on watch in the engine room, when all of a sudden the ship took a massive list to Port, all hell was let loose, every alarm was going off and we were down there not knowing what the hell was going on, anyway it came to light that corrosion to the water pipes in No3 hold had finally given into pressure and allowed the water to fill the hold, hence the sudden list to Port and the chaos that followed

We managed to seal off the hold, but were left with another problem, how to empty it!!, as luck would have it we had the calmest sea for weeks as one good swell would have had us up and over, we had a First Mate who was flying about 10,000 Ft, so was no good at all, so of course it was down to the Engineers, the Chief Engineer called us together for a discussion of ideas, while we were having this we were emptying the hold with a little submersible pump, it was going to be a long process to say the least.

Anyway during our discussion, I suggested aerating the water, a process I'd learned during my trade training, the Chief accepted the idea so an air feed was set up to funnel and fed into the fire water line into the hold, all systems go, air was fed in and after much holding of breath, Thar She Blows!!, up came the water, it took a long time to empty but empty it did, and repairs were carried out in port, once again Beachley Boy does good.

*I trust your shipmates paid due tribute when you got ashore! Ed .*





Editor: May I please introduce myself?

Briefly, I am Mac Obermaier, of 58B vintage, RE. (tired), spent some time in Germany, (*where else would they send me*)? Married to Christine a Chepstow girl, some might say ambushed, and yes we both have a sense of humour! My military career started at Beachley and was spectacularly undistinguished. The Army and I were not a match made in heaven, my most prized possession of that time was one AJS 350cc motorcycle secreted in the approved school at Sedbury. This 'Tardis' allowed me to abscond (visor down) via the Aust ferry. Things improved marginally for a couple of years in Germany when our mutual ambitions diverged, and the career wobbled; the Army tried everything (bar money!) therefore we parted company amicably at Chatham. To be fair much of what they taught me finally bore fruit in civilian life. Here my fortunes improved considerably and I settled into a post that I found equally interesting, required travel and pay was not an issue. More later perhaps.

It has been with no little trepidation that I have taken over the role of Echoes editor due to the need to keep up the high standard of work set by my predecessors and the committee in general. Gentlemen this is not a throw away remark, please indulge me by reading on.

Since joining 'them' a couple of years ago I have been fortunate to be able to observe first hand just how much work is put in by each one on a voluntary basis. If you are in any doubt, please take a look at the BOBA website at [www.boba-beachley.org.uk](http://www.boba-beachley.org.uk) and just consider what Rocky Evershed (Membership) has accomplished when taking it over from Andy Yarrow. This is not something that can be left to look after itself. It soaks up lots of time & requires expert advice (free!). Rocky is always trying to increase the membership and keep the strays on board. Our President (*erstwhile sage*), Syd Thomas is again accompanied by Vice Chairman John Furley, spending many hours and travel considerable distances, visiting various bodies and professionals, in resolving the many issues related to the future home of BOBA. The work they have done has not always been received well but they are taking this in their stride, they will I know, see the job through. Peter Burrige puts a great deal of time and effort into arranging the reunions. He is meticulous about the function; as is Derek Walker (our Secretary) about minuting everything accurately, (*if it moves it's recorded!*). Brian Henderson, busy man our Chairman keeps nudging everything forward and in line with BOBA interests. Tony Waite (*Bean counter extraordinary*) has long watched over the funds & investment, ever tempering many superb initiatives involving financial frivolity with caution. This naturally taxes his reservoir of energy and has, sadly, reduced him to begging for relief, now seriously - any accomplished spendthrifts out there?

I have mentioned Malcolm Hay elsewhere but I cannot omit Baz Morgan, who is your man for practical know how & getting 'it' done (*did someone mention ex RE?*) Some of the committee, like Chalkie White, who are still working and yet do other voluntary work such as welfare and helping those less fortunate than ourselves. And, most of them now have far to travel to meetings. BOBA has a committee worthy of support.

*I am now dismounting my soapbox good sirs.*

Therefore, buoyed by the many examples of assistance and having the extremely capable John Furley in the wings for reference, I am going to give it a try. Why? The Echoes is a vital tool in keeping our 'Association' well energised, amused and informed, it bridges the years for members so well especially when assisted by input from the membership itself. With this in mind, I hope many of you will help me sustain it by forwarding your comments, suggestions, (dare I say moans) photographs and also articles in future. You only have to attend a reunion (go on, indulge yourself for once), to see the interest they arouse. The debates that happen for example on the future home of the association are of the 'full & frank' genre, lively and reflecting the valid opinions of all those involved. Anyway, lets be having the digits extracted please gentlemen! We shouldn't rely solely on the BOBA committee who have to report to you all on other matters anyway. We all want the association to thrive and I am sure most of you have something of interest to offer. As regards this particular issue I have to express heartfelt gratitude to many people who put pen to paper so promptly in response to a plea for material. Many have contributed before and without their assistance this may have been a slim line version of an Echoes indeed.

Reunions ~ I did wonder if we published a list of those attending on our website, whether it might encourage a few of those who know them, but are undecided about attending, any thoughts on this? Yours truly is one of the converted and pleased to be so. This year 58A & B are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which is exceedingly well subscribed already (the more the merrier). Some will attend the main function, but the level of interest is such that another for 58B will now be held separately the weekend of the 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> September 2008. The large attendance is due in the main, to the efforts and sheer persistence of John Phillips (ex C Company). All thanks to him for doing a grand job, a fine example for those who follow. I look forward to the evenings very much. Just one other point, each reunion seems to generate a few articles for which we are genuinely grateful; please remember to provide some photographs to embellish the prose sent? You may need to prove where you are!

Another role given to me is that of liaising on matters that you might wish to bring to the attention of the BOBA committee, or need assistance with, if we can help, we do. As I am the rookie, sprog, jeep of the bunch, please allow a little time, I will reply to you.

Time moves on and places known to many of my era like 'The Bunnery', 'The Studio' (coffee shop) and the cinema have all changed ownership. For those of you having access to the Internet the following sites may bring back a few fond memories, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/southeast/sites/chepstow/>, or try this one, <http://www.francisfrith.com/search/wales/gwent/chepstow/> Everyone without a PC should bully the dolly bird at the local library to help you with theirs! Finally ~ You would not believe how many pubs have disappeared from Chepstow, (*Not that I frequented that many*). Suffice to say that in my humble opinion, examples exist where progress has been better served.

Mac Obermaier 58B. Editor. Contact Tel: 01291 626863  
email: [macobermaier@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:macobermaier@hotmail.co.uk)

**Bus Pass Brigade Entries**

The young 70 Year old Mrs. Jones went to the doctor for her annual check up. He told her she need more activity & he recommended sex three times a week. She insisted that this be explained to her husband who was in the waiting room which he did. Her 80 year old husband then enquired "Which days?". The doctor replied "How about Monday, Wednesday & then on Friday?" The husband took a moment to think deeply and then said, "I can manage the first two but Friday she will just have to catch the bus".



**The St. Tecla**, a fine old pub set right in the middle of the suburb known as Bulwark which many of you might remember. Now a Lidl mini market, not my idea of progress at all! *Ed.*

**Pearls of Wisdom**

Drivers – If a car breaks down in front of you or stalls, beep your horn & wave your arms frantically at the occupants. This will help the car start & send them on their way delighting in your initiative..

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*The only substitute for good manners is fast reflexes.*

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Women like silent men, they think they are listening.

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*If you help a relative in need he/she will remember you next time round.*

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The length of a marriage is often inversely proportional to the cost of the wedding.

\*\*\*\*\*

*A man needs a mistress just to break the monogamy.*

\*\*\*\*\*

An old cowboy sat next to a woman at a bar & ordered a beer. She turned to him and asked if he was a real cowboy and he replied "Well now, I've spent my whole life breaking colts, fixing fences, pulling calves, bailing hay & working on tractors so I guess I am a cowboy". She said "Well I am a lesbian. I spend my whole day thinking about other women". From the moment I get up, in the shower, eating & watching TV. Everything it seems makes me think of women. Later they were joined by another man who reopened the conversation by asking the cowboy if he was indeed the 'real thing'. The cowboy replied thoughtfully, "Well I always thought I was, but now I think I am a lesbian".



This gun a relic of WW1 sits quietly overlooking the Chepstow main street, thoughtful memories.

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*Bored? ~ Here is a way to kill a good half hour. 1) Put your car keys in your right hand. 2) With your left hand, call a friend with your mobile phone and arrange to meet for dinner. 3) Switch off your phone & put it away safely. 4) Now look for your car keys.*

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A perk of senior momentitis is when you can buy your own Christmas presents, wrap them well and not have a clue what they are when you open them.

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*Be fair to America, you cannot help but notice that they always get things right .....*  
*eventually.*

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The Senility Prayer ~ Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway; good fortune to run into those I do; and eyesight to tell the difference.



Anyone recall this lane? How many young sprog has regretted an excessive intake of "anaesthetic" after turning right from one part into the other I wonder? A clue ~ It is on the way back.



I am advised that a man has jumped from this very pylon at Beachley Point in recent years. Albeit with the aid of a parachute, landing in the river where a boat was waiting for him. What a wimp! I seem to recall others doing the climb without aid to hang bed sheets displaying their group I.D. Indeed I think one group managed to get a bike up there once. Anyone going to own up?



## **HERITAGE**

**Honours and Awards Book.** We have a book recording the honours and awards presented to ex-Beachley boys, GC, MM, OBE, MSM, MBE, BEM and MiD etc. It records the individual and his years of service at Beachley. Anyone having decorations please notify me with the details. Known additions are: TM Lord 54-57 MBE, R Kirby 55-58 BEM, NLR Lee 46-49 MBE and Royal Naval Reserve Decoration, JV Byrne 35-37 DCM, K Reader 62-65 OBE, RG Hart 52-55 MBE, P Fletcher 47-50 MBE, G Hobbs 63-66 MBE, A Spooner 56-59 Queens Police Medal, A Rice 42-45 Imperial Service Medal and R Barnett 50-53 Meritorious Service Medal and Royal Victorian Medal.

**Missing Passing out Parade Programmes.** Our earliest held programme is for 45B's Passing Out where Field Marshall Montgomery was the Reviewing Officer. We are still looking for any programmes prior to 45B and for 47A, 48A - 49B, 51A - 52A, 56A - 57A, 58A-67B, 68A, 68B, 69C, 70B - 81, 83 - 84 and 86-87.

**Missing Robots.** We are missing the Spring 1977 issue, the Summer issues for 1979 and 1980 and Spring 1981 issue. We have a "SPECTRUM" for Aug 1981 and Summer 1983. What was this magazine and were there any other issues?

**Photos and Memorabilia.** It is hoped that the members of 58A and 58B can search their attics and albums for items and send them to me for display at their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion.

### ***Malcolm Hay 53A Heritage Member***

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## **The Guard Room Bell (Up and down the Chimney)**

Memories of the bell on the chimney episode seem to have faded somewhat, consider this. Sometime in the middle of a night, Spring/Summer 1955 I believe, I was woken by someone shaking me and to feel something heavy on my bed. "What do you think?" or words to that effect were uttered, I stretched out and felt the object, unmistakable, no light needed, it was the guardroom bell. Frank Smith (22821326) and Pete Gray left the room as quickly as they had entered, taking the bell with them.

It became clear the following morning that 'Big Mac' was not happy (was he ever?), a search was mounted but the bell was not found. It had been put under one of the upturned (for the summer) coal bunkers in a barrack room. The following morning Big Mac was clearly even more distressed as lashed to the lightning conductor at the top of the workshop's chimney was the bell. The chimney was not a simple chimney on top of one of the workshops, it was a full blown factory chimney but with no outside ladder. To get to the rungs built into the inside one needed to get into the boiler and clamber over the fan blades to get to the base, no mean feat in the dark.

The bell stayed at the top of the chimney all day, no one could prove who had put it up there, but some bright sparks of 53A decided they would get it down. Needless to say they were caught, as much as anything by announcing themselves by letting the bell descend the final few feet courtesy of Isaac Newton (they dropped it). They were punished, not too severely, Frank lived to create mischief another day. Big Mac was re-united with his bell.

Later in the same year, a few days before passing out parade, a sheet appeared where the bell had been bearing the identifier 52B. It was close to passing out parade, the authorities discussed; everyone knew who had put it there (but there was no proof) he was asked to remove it and in broad daylight Frank and Pete ascended again, posing for pictures while sat on the top of the chimney. The pictures didn't come out too well, telephoto lenses weren't common in those days.

Who were the "bright sparks" of 53A who recovered the bell?

Anon

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### Two Lessons in One

A philosophy professor stood before his class with various items in front of him. He took a large empty jar and filled it with rocks of 2" in diameter & asked the class if they thought the jar was full and they agreed it was. Next he used a small box of pebbles and poured these into the jar and of course these rolled into the jar filling the spaces between the rocks. He then asked again if the jar was full. The class agreed it was, but they were surprised when he proceeded to fill all the remaining spaces by using sand. Now, said the professor, I want you to see the similarity of this exercise to life. The rocks are the important things, your family, your children, your health, things that if all else were lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the things that are important and matter like your job, house & car. The sand represents the rest. Now, if you put the sand into the jar first, there is no room for rocks and pebbles. The same goes for life. Spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, & you will never have room for the important things. It is critical to your happiness that you take your partner out dancing, or for a meal, to have that medical & play with your children. There will always be time to go to work, clean the house & fix the car. Take care of the rocks & pebbles first, the things that really matter. Set your priorities, the rest is just sand. Suddenly a member of the class took the supposedly full jar and poured in a glass of beer. Of course the beer soaked into the jar filling all the air spaces and making it truly full. This proves the theory that no matter how full your life is, there is always room for a beer!!!! Ed.

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### 'The Incurrigibles' ( My description, Ed) from John Bass 44A

We were told, many times, that we were the worst shower-of-a- group Beachley Camp had ever had. The first time of telling coming after only a few day of having been in residence. A later group of Boys recall that they were told the opposite, theirs was the best group and it made them walk tall. The latter statement must have been attributable to mandatory changes in teaching methods over a decade & a half, or so, yet I can believe the statement to be true, even though many of our 44A A Coy lads have proved themselves in Beachley and in later service. The reasons why we could have been as bad as some NCOs said, even in that first six weeks come to mind quickly. We had John F. from Liverpool who refused to join in with making himself smart and presentable and he was frequently caught smoking. The war was on and at "Blackout-board time" he opted out of the proper procedure of standing by the window frame, holding the board. That, and in his manner of his squatting on top of his 'Possessions Personal' locker to take his corner of the board from above, whilst making monkey like noises. Our A/T room Corporal was completely stressed out because "Flannagan" would respond to any of his commands or requests with, "Wherrrs me shurt?" Much like 'Old Mother Riley' of that era. It was obvious John F. had no wish to stay when he wheeled a barrow up to 'A Coy' office to collect his 3 shillings pay. He told us, if he could have afforded it, he'd have gone home after the first day. He only stayed to get the travel warrant and that he'd not be coming back after first leave. He did not return, we all thought he'd be shot as a deserter because of the war being on. Then there was Bunny E. who suffered from a grimace that looked like a grin. The number of times he was punished for 'Dumb Insolence' could not be counted and he totalled 360 days jankers in the 3 years spent at Beachley. In the last of his Draft months NCO's refused to charge him knowing that Bunny E. wanted to make it a record: a full year of jankers. Our first year as regulars was served together at St Neots, compared with the numerous conscripts, in our workshops, Bunny E. was all of a skilled artisan, a good comrade and a smart soldier.

Go well and keep well

John Bass C.Eng., C.Auto Eng., IMechE ~ No prizes for guessing who is who in this tale. Ed.

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### Hi this is Tony Spooner 56A with a Brief Life History.

After completing my apprenticeship the next stop was Fallingbostel Germany and then to Soltau until I was posted to Aden for a year term. Demobilisation arrived on the 9/1/68 and back to civvy street. A short time was spent in the steelworks on quality control in the pipe mill. Soon I successfully applied for a Government Plant Inspector position in Papua New Guinea & within 3 Months my family and I were out in rural PNG with a 30 mile drive to work across the bush each day; this contract lasted 3 years. A follow on contract saw me working and running an apprentice college combined with teaching courses throughout the Country. I then took the post of Superintendent Transport Co-ordinator for the entire Police transport throughout the country, including 600 hired vehicles, 200 city vehicles, 400 boats & outboard motors with a budget of 3.5 million. Finally the contract came to a end on May 1998 and I returned to UK where I worked as a caretaker for a school until age 65. Then, out of the blue I had a letter from HM Government to say I was to receive a Queens Police Medal in Buck House for my services to Papua New Guinea. So strange things do happen, even to Beachley Boys?

Never a dull moment from the sounds of it! Ed.





### Jack Byrne

Jack Byrne, who has died aged 85, was one of the SAS "Originals" and won the Distinguished Conduct Medal for a daring escape from a German PoW camp in 1943. After being recruited by Captain David Stirling, Byrne joined "L" Detachment, 1st Special Service Brigade, the unit which subsequently became 1st SAS Regiment. After intensive training, in November 1941 he took part in a paratrooper raid on enemy fighter bases in the Gazala-Tmimi area, Libya. In the high winds the sticks of the unit became separated, weapons and equipment were lost, and of the 64 men who set out, only 22 returned.

A month later the survivors left their base at the Jalo Oasis for a night raid on the Agedabia airfield. Each man carried eight Lewes bombs, which they placed high up on the wings of the bombers and on the noses of the fighters; they destroyed all 37 aircraft. After helping to blow up ammunition dumps at Berka airstrip, Byrne missed a rendezvous with his patrol. He set off alone across the desert in an attempt to reach the Allied lines and was captured. Told to surrender his arms, he pulled his revolver out from its holster, intending to throw it on the ground. The gesture was misinterpreted and he was shot in the face, but was not badly wounded. Byrne was sent to Stalag Luft III, Sagan, in Poland.

He made two unsuccessful escape attempts before crawling under the perimeter wire directly below a watch tower and walking to Königsberg station. French workmen provided him with civilian clothes, food and money. He then stole a bicycle and made his way to Danzig, evading several road blocks on the way. Having bluffed his way into the docks, Byrne put on a sailor's cap, which he had picked up earlier. When he was challenged by a sentry, he sparred playfully with the man, who then waved him up the companionway and on to a Swedish ship. Byrne concealed himself under one of the boilers, and, when the vessel was searched before sailing, he raised himself off the floor by clinging to a pipe to escape detection. A friendly sailor hid him in the hold and brought him food. After disembarking at Gothenburg, he took the train to Stockholm and flew to Leuchars in a Mosquito. He was awarded the DCM.

A brief full history shows John Vincent Byrne was born on April 1 1921 in Preston, Lancashire, and educated at Army Technical School Chepstow. He enlisted in the Gordon Highlanders and was wounded in France in 1940 while serving with the 1st Battalion. After the evacuation from Dunkirk, he was transferred to the 11 (Scottish) Commando and took part in the landings north of the Litani river during the campaign in Syria against the Vichy French. After his escape from the PoW camp Byrne retained his rank of corporal and moved to the Commando Depot at Achnacarry, Inverness-shire, for rigorous re-training before being posted to 6 Commando. Shortly after landing in Normandy, Byrne was wounded in the knee and evacuated, following recuperation he then rejoined 6 Commando in Holland for the final phase of the campaign in north-west Europe. After the war Byrne was posted to Greece with 4th Battalion the Royal Norfolk Regiment and was seconded to HQ 179 Infantry Brigade. He was demobilised early in 1947 and served with the Kenya Police for a spell before moving to Kulai Police District Johor on internal security duties, this at the outset of the Malaya Emergency. In 1953 a terrorist fired his revolver into Byrne's stomach at point-blank range. After being discharged from hospital he returned to Kenya working in the prison service prior to retiring in 1958. He settled in Shropshire, and built up a drapery business in 1986. Jack Byrne died on January 10. He married, in 1955 (dissolved), Mary Hayes, who predeceased him; he is survived by their three daughters.



*A hard act to follow, and although somewhat late our condolences and best wishes go out to his daughters.*

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***I was quite touched by this poem composed by the grand daughter of Bob Reid 56A. Ed.***

### Please Remember

I don't have to rhyme, but I will do.  
Though it won't take a rhyme to get my message through.  
I died, in the battlefield, but no one there began to Cry.

With sweat and tears dripping down my face,  
I was left there, to lie,  
In the dirt and the rain, where the war souls slept,  
While their bodies' families lives,  
were dull and they constantly wept.

Another body fell next to my cold one,  
He had been shot, when he decided to run. ~

That's when I felt it, in the marrow of my bone,  
My poor, bedraggled body, wouldn't die alone.

I don't want to be pitied, or cause sorrow,  
It's just a bit of your memory, I want to borrow.  
On the 11<sup>th</sup> November, All of the souls that cried.  
If you keep that in your heart,  
A new happiness will start.

And wear your poppy with pride.

By Hannah Sinton, age 11



**THIS NOTICE IS 'IMPORTANT' FOR ALL THOSE PROPOSING MOTIONS AT FUTURE AGM's:**

At 2007 AGM Peter Gilbey 53B, in item 9, para 19, proposed 'any other business' to be considered at an AGM, proposals should be submitted well in advance and in writing to the Secretary. This proposal was voted in favour unanimously by the membership. Since the BOBA committee holds quarterly meetings, it is considered any proposals should be received by the secretary by 1st June each year. Should important subjects come to the attention of members after the 1st June, they must be submitted in writing 28 days prior to the reunion weekend and will be considered at the committee meeting on reunion Saturday.

**SUBSCRIPTION ~ REMINDER!**

**PLEASE DON'T FORGET ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS WERE RE-INTRODUCED FOR ANOTHER FIVE YEARS AT THE BOBA AGM IN 2004 AND CONFIRMED AT 2005 AGM & IN BOTH ECHOES.**

For those members who have not yet paid, or do not yet have a standing order in force, a new standing order was included with the 2005 Beachley Echoes. If you have not already done so, please complete all areas of the standing order which are indicated with a black arrow on the S.O. form.

When complete '**send the standing order to your bank**', **do not send it to BOBA.**

➡ **Subs Payments were re-introduced commencing again on 01/04/2006.** ⬅

Note: if you are already paid up to i.e. 2008, you can start a new standing order, set it to run for five years, e.g. first payment on the next 1st April, you can tick the box on the new standing order which will automatically cancel any existing standing order.

Naturally, should you wish to present your annual subscription in different way, for example by paying the total £50 by cheque, or postal order, that is acceptable. Please send these payments to the BOBA Membership Secretary, Rocky Evershed.

If you need another Standing Order form, please ask Rocky for one!  
Should you have any question, please contact Rocky Evershed (Membership Secretary)  
Rocky's full contacts on page 20, he will be happy to help where he is able.



**UK Armed Forces Veteran Lapel Badge:**

**Members of HM Forces who served up to 31st December 1994.**

You are now entitled to a Veterans Badge. An application form can be downloaded from: [http://www.veteransagency.mod.uk/vets\\_badge/vets\\_badge.htm](http://www.veteransagency.mod.uk/vets_badge/vets_badge.htm)

If you require application assistance, or require a form posted to you, please contact::

**Postal address:** Veterans Agency, Thornton-Cleveleys, Lancashire, FY5 3WP

**Email:** [help@veteransagency.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:help@veteransagency.gsi.gov.uk) **Freephone Helpline:** 0800 169 2277 (UK only)

**VETERANS AGENCY INFORMATION: Formerly 'War Pensions' to all ex forces personnel.**

If you think you have a claim for a War Pension, there is good information to be found from the Veterans Agency in Blackpool. Here are some contacts:

Write to: Customer Services Manager: Veterans Agency, Norcross, Black pool, UK, FY5 3WP

**# Vets Agency Free phone from UK - Telephone No: 0800 169 22 77**

Telephone from overseas: ## 44 1253 866043

Minicom: 0800 169 34 58 Email: [help@veteransagency.mod.uk](mailto:help@veteransagency.mod.uk)

Warm front: (Energy saving help) 0800 952 0600 Energy Savings Trust: 0800 512 012

**Were you a Japanese POW, if so you may be able to claim £10,000, call # Vets Free-phone line.**



## from the Fairway : BOBA Golfing Society

The determination shown by BOBA golfers was once again reflected in the attendance for the 2007 competition, with 12 players on the Friday and 30 on the Saturday for The Ken Standen Trophy, which included 3 lady members. Thank you all for your support, without you our society would not flourish as it is. A special welcome to our first timers Joe & Lyn Beavis.

As a change from previous years The Park Course (Flatter) was chosen to allow the possibility of may be better scores and to give us old'uns a bit of a chance. As it happens the opposite applied albeit it did allow a high handicap to win. Actually a good average of approx 28 points was achieved. Look out next year we are back on The Valley Course.

Another year passes and we enjoyed good weather on both days and we can only hope that this carries on in 2008 as we are playing a week later.

On a light note the winner of 'Nearest the Pin' stole the tape measure to make sure of his win. Well done BGLG and apologies to the winner of the absent Handicap Cup. Post presentation President Syd admitted he could be holding it for the future.

The results of the 2007 Ken Standen Trophy are as follows:-

|                                       |           |                                        |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------|
| Longest Drive 4 <sup>th</sup> hole    | 200yds+   | Jimmy Hough 73A                        |
| Nearest the Pin 16 <sup>th</sup> hole | 12ft      | Geoff Winter 66C                       |
| Best Par 3's aggregate                | 14 points | Peter Lawther 74C                      |
| Drawn Pairs (George Murray Trophy)    | 69 pts    | Alan Haywood 58B<br>& Chris Jarvis 67B |

Drawn by: Alf Chrascina 67B & Chris Jarvis 67B

|              |           |                 |
|--------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Handicap Cup | 35 points | Alan Duncan 67B |
| Best Lady    | 18 points | Lyn Beavis      |

**The winner of the Ken Standen Trophy with 39 points Alf Chrascina 67B**



President Syd presenting the Ken Standen Trophy to Alf Chrascina

**Many thanks to President Syd, Glen Chalmers, Tony Battle, Peter & Pat Saunders for your able assistance and to Dewstow Golf Club for the hospitality.**

**See you all in September 2008**

**Foster Pattison.**



**The 2008 BOBA Open Golf Championships**

The B.O.B.A. Open is in the form of an 18 hole Stableford competition open to all members of the B.O.B.A. Golfing Society who **must** be members and/or their spouses/partners.

It will be held at Dewstow Golf Club Caerwent on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

All golfers are required to meet in the clubhouse at 0815 on Saturday morning.

Those entering should complete the form below and return it, as indicated, with a cheque for £25.00 made payable to B.O.B.A, **TO REACH ME BEFORE SATURDAY 1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008**

Start times will be allocated on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2008 and all golfers informed by email, or letter, **so please ensure your entry is received on time.**

In the event of too many entries being received, a "first come" system will be applied.

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**PLEASE RETURN TO:**

**Foster Pattison, Flat 1, 12 Marine Parade, Clevedon, North Somerset BS21 7QS**

Please complete **FULLY** and in **BLOCK CAPITALS**

RANK/TITLE: ..... SURNAME: ..... FORENAME: .....

ADDRESS.....

.....

..... POSTCODE: .....

TEL: ..... EMAIL: .....

CHEPSTOW GROUP/INTAKE: ..... COMPANY: .....

GOLF MEMBER AT: .....(GOLF CLUB) HANDICAP: .....

I WOULD LIKE TO PLAY WITH:.....

I WISH TO PLAY FRIDAY AFTERNOON \* YES/NO (\*DELETE AS APPLICABLE)

**I ENCLOSE CHEQUE MADE PAYABLE TO BOBA TO THE VALUE OF £25.00**

**SIGNED:**.....

**DATE:**.....