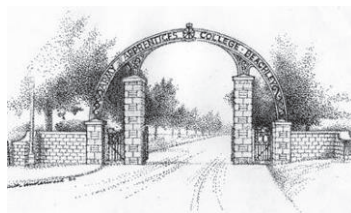




The Beachley Old Boys Association Newsletter



Beachley

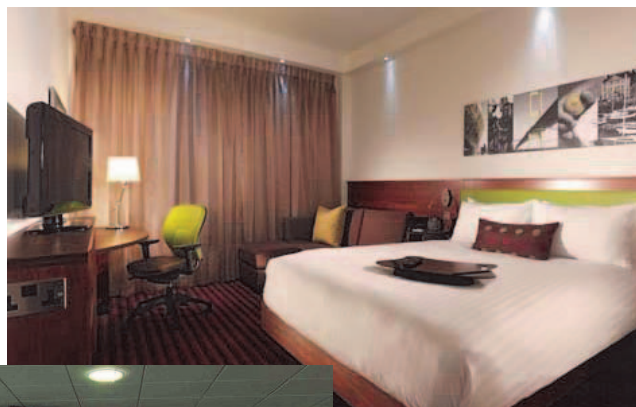


Echoes

Edition No. 17 ~ April 2011



The New



Hampton by Hilton
Hotel and



Racecourse Banqueting
Facility



For the 2011 Reunion



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**CHAIRMAN'S JOTTINGS**

WOW!! What a year it has been for the association and even more so for your executive committee since I last penned a few words for the Echoes.

THE BEACHLEY ECHOES - Last years Echoes was published and despatched on time, and also at a lower cost to the association. Thanks must go to the Editor, Mac Obermaier for all his work in producing another excellent publication. Thanks go also to his helpers, Chris (his wife) and Chris (our Treasurer), who carried out the necessary collation, packaging and labelling in order to get the document to the members in a timely manner. *Warning:* The

2011 edition of the Echoes will be the last to be issued in paper format unless specifically requested. In order to reduce costs even further next years edition will be posted on to the AAC/BOBA website within a few weeks of its release. You can still have a paper copy posted to you if you wish and the details of how to achieve this are contained elsewhere in this document.

REUNION WEEKEND 2010 - Was well organised, thank you Peter, but attendance numbers were slightly down on the previous year. It was a case of touch and go as to whether the reunion would take place because the hotel had been up for sale for some months. It wasn't until mid August that we received confirmation from the hotel that they would be open in the September and be able to host the association. With the sale of the hotel imminent it was understandable that staff morale was low and we did not receive the standard of service we expected. The hotel has now been sold and a pub is expected to be built on the site.

HERITAGE TRAIL - This activity is put together by Maj. Malcolm Hay and is held on the Saturday morning of our reunion weekend. Most of the items on display are held by the association but we also get to see items of interest held by the Chepstow Museum. As always the event is extremely popular and well attended, therefore thanks must go to Malcolm and his team and Anne Rainsbury from the Museum. Malcolm is always keen to receive items that may enhance his display so please contact him if you should find something of interest when you clear out the attic or garage.

AGM 2010 - Thanks go to all those members who attended the meeting and very graciously elected me as your Chairman for another three period. It's an honour. You also elected the President, Lt Col Syd Thomas for another term of office and the executive committee for a further twelve months. I also thank you for voting through a proposal to donate the sum of £5000 to the Army Apprentice National Memorial fund. This project is at a very advanced stage and the dedication ceremony is later this year, again more details can be found within the pages of this document.

BOBA SHOP - Yes! the association has a shop that sells a number of AAS/AAC/BOBA related items e.g. plaques, mugs, etc. The latest addition to the shop stock is the current (and last) edition of our official history. The book is titled The Story of the Army Apprentices at Beachley 1924 – 1994, and includes the final four chapters thereby bringing the history up to the point when the college closed in 1994. Along with our Heritage member, Maj Malcolm Hay, I have been heavily involved in the book's production. It is a fascinating read and I would suggest that you contact our shop manager, Tony Waite and purchase a copy soonest. Tony's details are in this copy of the Echoes and also on the website.

MONEY - Is a subject dear to all our hearts and the association is not immune from the vagrancies of low interest rates and rising costs. The Treasurer, Chris Ricketts has warned us that we are currently spending more than we receive thro' subscriptions or thro' interest earned on the association's investments. We cannot sustain this situation and I ask that you all pay your subscriptions when they become due. You might find included in this pack a letter from the Membership Secretary, Derek Fox advising you that your subscriptions are now due, also included should be Standing Order form. It is requested you complete the form and send it direct to your bank, doing this will make life simpler for all, thank you. Should you have any queries on this matter please do not hesitate to contact Derek, he will be more than willing to assist.

FOUNDERS DAY SERVICE - Once again the weather held fair for the church parade and was quickly followed by our period of worship in St George's church. The standard of marching was a little rusty but as usual the parade RSM, Baz Morgan kept us all in step and got us to the church in one piece! Thanks again go to Padre Joe Rooney for all he does for us on matters relating to the college chapel.

BOBA HQ - A number of months ago I thought our days of using the Old School House would come to an end. This is now not the case and we have agreed with Defence Estates to take out a licence with the MOD and formalise our occupancy. The cost to the association will be negligible as all maintenance costs for the property will be covered by the ministry.



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REUNION 2011 – Soon after we all went our separate ways in 2010 I was asked to make an office call on the RSM of 1 Rifles. The meeting duly took place and the outcome was that the regiment agreed to host our reunion weekend. They offered the use of The Hub, Sgts Mess, etc for our various activities including the reunion dinner. Back to Beachley at last! and euphoria reigned within the committee. This was not to last and early in 2011 we learned that due to operational commitments the regiment had to withdraw its support. (By the time you read this the regiment will have been deployed to Afghanistan, they have indicated they would be happy to host us in 2012 but meanwhile we wish them luck and a safe return.) Remembering the old saying, 'keep calm and carry on' we had to move extremely quickly and find an alternate location. This we did and the committee have agreed to hold the reunion activities in the banqueting suites of Chepstow Racecourse. The Sunday parade and church service will of course continue to be held at Beachley Camp. The Racecourse is a totally new venue for BOBA and all the visits indicate it will be super place to gather, dine and socialise. The weekend package also includes preferential rates at a nearby hotel; the rate for B & B is excellent value for money and includes return transport to the racecourse. Again, more details can be found on our website and inside this edition of the Echoes. All I ask is that you come along, enjoy yourselves and support the work put in by your committee. In closing, I wish you all that you wish yourselves, and look forward to seeing you in September.



The President's thoughts ~ Just where does time go, I think it is part of the saying "Old Age does not come on its own" as I get older the time goes faster. So many things have happened since the last edition of The Echoes that have taxed your Committee and given them much extra work. I am sure you will join with me in thanking them very, very much. The best way of doing this is to give them your FULL SUPPORT.

The Annual Reunion – The closure of The Chepstow Hotel for proposed rebuilding as a Pub/Restaurant (subject to planning approval) caused the first problem, and was followed by the Rifles being away during the reunion and unable to cater for us, after indicating they may be able to. This resulted in some committee members spending a vast amount of effort and time into researching/negotiating/arranging for a replacement venue. There were so many options investigated but after careful consideration it was decided to opt for the Race Course.

It will be different – a little more expensive, we will have the Ladies join us for Dinner (I have to say at this stage that I would prefer that the ladies dined separately – I can assure you that it is not a sexist view but the Reunion, is in book, for BOBA members - we are of course always thrilled that the Ladies join us for the weekend). Some groups/members have said that they don't attend because they can't sit with their partners at the dinner – come on, you have your chance this year. Maybe after the weekend we will get a feedback on this aspect as a guide for future years. All events this year will take place at the Race Course less the Church Parade/Service.

The Dedication of The Army Apprentice National Memorial – As a result of some long hours, hard work and dedication the AANM Committee have advised that the Dedication Day will be 7th September 2011 at The National Memorial & Arboretum. I'm sure that their Chairman, Major David Chapman and committee member Colin Weir, as the BOBA representatives, will have more info for you elsewhere in the Echoes.

I earnestly ask you all to make a note of the date and give your support to make this a day to be remembered. If you know of any ex apprentice who is not a BOBA member then contact them with the details.



The Cenotaph Parade - We had the honour of having an American Naval Officer, Joseph Hunt, join us. Joseph was a member of the North Atlantic Convoys and their sole representative on parade. He and his son thanked us all for our hospitality in accepting him. A good turn out again and we were able to remain 'in step' throughout the march thanks Baz says, due to Chalky not being present! I have tried but without success, to get extra tickets for this year so anyone who wishes to attend should contact me soonest.

Phone 01656 661180 or email or even text 07785 282266.

Recruiting – Not only are we crying out for new members from the later groups we also hope that all present members will rise to the challenges that will confront us during

the next few years, how about a few volunteers for new blood on the committee for starters. The destiny of your Association is in the hands of the present members – recruiting is your responsibility.

Syd Thomas



The Army Apprentice National Memorial (AANM)

In 2009 the four main old boys' associations of Chepstow, Arborfield, Harrogate & Carlisle, came together to form a steering committee to design, install and dedicate a memorial to the Army Apprentice Scheme at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) at Alrewas, Staffordshire. The memorial was to be paid for entirely by the personal donations of ex-apprentices, their families or organisations such as Corps Associations and local town councils.

The project has been remarkably successful; £60,000 has been raised so far: a sum sufficient to install the memorial, hold a dedication ceremony and provide for ongoing maintenance. Much of the money was raised by the sale of commemorative tablets carrying the donor's name, intake and college details and which will be laid around the memorial base.

Generous donations have been made by several regimental associations as well as the donations made by the old boys' associations themselves. BOBA and Arborfield OBA both donated £5,000.

Some notable dates which chart progress so far:

10/2009 - AANM Steering Committee formed with representatives from all four old boys' associations.
12/2009 - H L Perfitt of Diss, Norfolk appointed as stonemasons for the project.
01/2010 - The memorial design approved by the NMA Trustees and a site allocated.
03/2010 - Approved by HMRC (the taxman) and so able to claim Gift Aid on personal donations.
09/2010 - AANM recognised by the Charity Commissioners (Reg. Charity 1137924).

The memorial is to be dedicated at the NMA on 7th September 2011 attended by a limited number of invited guests and dignitaries. The AANM Patron Major General G B Berragan CB (Arborfield 48B) will be the guest of honour.

Many other ex-boys and families are expected to visit the site after the dedication ceremony is over when it will be possible to lay wreaths or plant miniature crosses.

COMMEMORATIVE TABLETS

The number of commemorative tablets available is limited to a maximum of 531 (3 rings of 177). The minimum donation per tablet is £75 or £50 for family / friends applications. At the time of writing, (Jan 2011), 476 tablets have been applied for. However, In order to allow time for manufacture the latest date for a commemorative tablet application to be received by the Trustees is **30th June 2011**. If you are interested in donating by way of a commemorative tablet please contact David Chapman on **01291 628178** or email dc.chapman@tiscali.co.uk to find out if any tablets are still available.

The Army Apprentice National Memorial Dedication Day, 7th September 2011 at 11.00 hours

There is free access to all areas of the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) during daily opening hours. All are welcome. For all ex-army apprentices, relations and friends wishing to attend the NMA, tickets are not required.

A small charge is levied for car parking (currently £2). Should the car park be insufficient, a park and ride facility may be necessary at increased cost. Stewards will be posted at the main building who will direct people to the memorial site.

If you want to be in place for the ceremony, please allow sufficient time as it takes at least **15 minutes** to walk to the AANM site from the main building. For the ceremony you may have to stand in the trees around the site

Cont



and some way from the memorial.

The dedication ceremony will begin at **11.00** with a lone piper playing from **10.45** as invited guests assemble at the memorial.

The Army Apprentice Memorial is located in a secluded but small clearing among trees and shrubs. **There is very limited space for visitors.** During the Dedication Ceremony, which is expected to last between **30 to 40 minutes**, there will be a temporary rope & post cordon around the **immediate area of the Memorial**. For safety reasons there will only be physical space for approximately 120 ticketed people to stand within this enclosed area. These tickets will be allocated to the participating clergy, official guests, association representatives and the musicians.

Once the ceremony is over, the enclosure will be set aside to allow full access to all.

The Trustees have booked marquee space to be available after the ceremony. Part will be used to offer the invited guests refreshments while a further part will be available for other attendees to make use of the licensed bar. The restaurant in the main building will also be open for lunch.

Please note that there is little cover from the elements at the NMA. Therefore, you may need a combination of waterproofs, stout shoes, wellingtons and carry an umbrella!

If you have any questions about the Dedication Day please contact :

David Chapman on 01291 628178 or email dc.chapman@tiscali.co.uk
Colin Weir on 01704 875653 or email col.chep@btinternet.com.

Eve of Dedication Dinner.

The Memorial Dedication will be a big event in the Ex Apprentices calendar this year and we anticipate a large turnout. Many will stay overnight and all are invited to join the Trustees for an Eve of Dedication Dinner on the 6th of Sept at the Cedar Tree Hotel, Rugeley. Tel. 01889 584241 for accommodation. The hotel is approximately 20 minutes drive from the Arboretum.

Premier Inns have a hotel about five minutes drive from the Cedar Tree and they also have another at Lichfield. Other hotels are also available locally. Please and use the form below to make a booking. Colin Weir

Dinner tickets Cost £27.00 Per person (first come first served basis).

Main course options: Roast Beef [1] Chicken Supreme [2] Vegetarian Roast Vegetable Wellington [3]. Mushroom Tagliatelli [4]

Please indicate any group seating preference.....

Name/s.....

Group.....School.....

Address.....

Email address..... Phone No..... Meal choice/s.....

Kindly send cheques payable to myself, Colin Weir 20 Graburn Rd, Formby, Liverpool L37 3PB c/w an S.A.E.
Tel. 01704 875653



Inscriptions for the Army Apprentice National Memorial

Position	Text
Above the AAS Queen's Crown badge	The Army Apprentice
On the face of the monolith :	The AAS Queen's Crown badge
On the monolith below the AAS Queen's Crown badge	<u>This memorial is dedicated to all Army Apprentices</u> who trained as soldier-tradesmen and served worldwide in peace and war
At the base of the monolith	Remember with Pride
On the centre circle	They will always be here, laughing, young and full of fun, With all their pals around them, true friends every one. The things we've done together bind us closer still, Friendships from our youth endure, and they always will. But when country called, some paid the highest price, Let this memorial stand proud, to honour their sacrifice. Remembered in this haven far from the sounds of war, They are foremost in our hearts, companions evermore.
Around the circumference of the centre circle	Army Apprentice training was conducted at various locations including Aldershot, Arborfield, Ashvale, Bramley, Carlisle, Catterick, Chatham, Chepstow, Church Crookham, Deepcut, Harrogate, Hilsea, Jersey, Taunton, Woolwich and Worthy Down.
Left side of the approach to the memorial	Donations by ex-apprentices, their families or friends are commemorated by the granite stones showing details of apprentice experience.
Right side of the approach to the memorial	This memorial was dedicated on 7 th September 2011 and unveiled by Major General G B Berragan CB.
On the front of the four granite benches	The words Chepstow, Arborfield, Harrogate or Carlisle with the association's logo / badge e.g. BOBA.



AANM Trustees at Beachley Old School House.

Standing L to R. Mike Davis (Treasurer, Arborfield), Max Warwick (Website, Arborfield), Colin Weir (Chepstow), Ted Cooper (Carlisle), Mo Hope (Design / Dedication Day, Arborfield), Keith Thrower (Deputy Chair / Comtabs, Arborfield). **Sitting L to R.** Maj Gen Gerry Berragan (Patron, Arborfield), Dave Chapman (Chair, Chepstow), Gordon Bonner (Secretary / Fundraising, Arborfield). **Not shown** – Johnny McGahan (Harrogate / Dedication Day /NMA Liaison).

The Trustees thank BOBA and its members for their support in making the memorial appeal so successful.

David Chapman
Chairman of AANM Trustees



Ladies Columns

Once Again the Echoes editor has requested a few words for the ladies column. Year on year the provision of this article is never easy but Brian insists that tradition is observed so off we go.

Unbeknown to most of us the 2010 reunion was the last to be held in the Chepstow Hotel, our thanks go to Peter Burrige for liaising with the hotel staff to ensure that all went as well as could be expected. I believe it is fair to say that over the years the service provided by the hotel had degraded by a substantial amount and it is no surprise that the building has now been sold and is due for demolition. A pub is expected to be built on the site.

It was pleasing to see many of the regular faces at the reunion but it would be nice to have more ladies attending. I wonder why the men are reluctant to bring their partners along, perhaps this year Brian and I will carry out a straw poll of the men who are on their own and politely ask why their partners are not in attendance.

I'd like to thank all those who attended the Founders Day service at St George's church on the Sunday morning. I think we all enjoy the sight of the men marching prior to the service and I also believe we enjoy Padre Joe Rooney's style of preaching. The collection this year raised in excess of £400, all of which was donated to the ABF the Soldiers' Charity.

Following last years reunion Brian was extremely excited with the prospect of holding all of the 2011 reunion activities at Beachley Camp, just like the old days he said! Sadly due to operational commitments this is not to be and we will now be holding the Friday night social and the reunion dinner in the banqueting suites at the Chepstow Racecourse. The big change from tradition this year is that the reunion dinner will not be 'a men only do'. Yes! The dinner will be mixed so there is no longer any excuse for the BOBA members not to bring their partners along and join in the activities.

All the details of this years reunion can be found elsewhere in this edition of the Echoes. Can I ask that you have a read and if you think you might enjoy a weekend in the Chepstow area please persuade your partner to bring you along.

Best regards until September

Margaret Henderson



BOBA Memories

It seems like only yesterday that I attended the very first BOBA Reunion as a young single woman, yet it was 64 years ago in 1946 just after the end of WW11. It was held in the Sedbury Social Club, a small hut with very few facilities. There were only a handful of people there but we had a great time, dancing and meeting friends from faraway. Since then I have attended all but four of these annual reunion weekends, all of them remembered with such happiness. The venues have changed, far more people have attended but the essential elements of having fun and meeting old friends have remained at the core of these events. Friday evening is the dance where we mix with everyone. Saturday are usually spent at various sports events followed by dinners in the evening when the ladies and gentlemen separate for their own event. We all meet up afterwards to continue the festivities into the early hours of Sunday. But nobody would miss Sunday's church service after the March Past, followed by a get together at the Sergeants Mess before we headed home.

1948 will always be the most special reunion for me as it was where I renewed my friendship with a man who was to become the love of my life and later my husband George Gasser. It was also the first reunion where we used the gymnasium at the barracks in Beachley as we needed larger premises having more attendees.

In 1953 I attended the reunion on my own again as my husband had sailed for Singapore on the SS Win-drush which later caught fire and sank in 1954. I joined him at Christmas with our three lovely children John, Patricia and Marion sailing on the SS Chusan and we both missed three reunions while there.



We settled in Chertsey on our return and attended the 1957 reunion together, hardly missing a year after that. The numbers attending Saturday evening dinners at the barracks had increased to the point that

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 Boys Association and therefore no responsibility for these will be accepted. While all contributions and articles for inclusion in the Echoes are very welcome, it would be of assistance (not essential), if Microsoft Word is used (Rich Text Format). JPEG or TIFF is preferable for photographs with images at or over 200 dpi where possible.



Cont.

the men were squashed together and joked that they had to raise their arms in unison to make room to eat or drink.

Each year the numbers attending would grow and changes were made to accommodate the expanding guest list. One year the Ladies dinner was held in the Officers Mess on the Saturday evening. I remember it well and it still makes me smile. We had enjoyed the meal (especially the wine), and were making our way to the Sergeants Mess as arranged to meet the men. This involved a long road walk to a gate leading into the camp, I don't know who's idea it was but we decided to take a short cut. This involved climbing a fence, then negotiating a hedge and walking across the grass in the pitch dark. All this while dressed in high heels and party frocks, giggling like school girls with our hair in a mess!

When the camp closed we used the Two Rivers Hotel in Chepstow. It's name has changed a few times but the tried and tested formula for meeting wonderful friends was still successful. I look forward to many more reunions in the years ahead.

Vera Gasser



2011 REUNION ID NAME HOLDERS

Once again we will be producing a reunion name holder for all members attending the reunion this year. They are of a simple design on laminated card, which will be inserted into the clear plastic sleeve envelope with a press frog clip and secure safety pin mounting. At £1.50 each they are good quality with a coloured badge and border. Order yours on the reunion booking form please and pick it up when you arrive for registration at the Racecourse.

Footnote The SS Empire Windrush was built in 1930 in Germany and originally called the "Monte Rosa". She was used by Nazi party supporters as part of the "Strength Through Joy" programme, a troopship, a recreational ship attached to the Tirpitz and also to carry prisoners. Captured by us in Kiel in 1945.

HERITAGE

Photos and Memorabilia. It is hoped that the members of **61A, 61B and 61C** can search their attics and albums for items relating to their time at Beachley and can lend or copy them to me for display at their 50th anniversary reunion in September. Photos, Certificates etc from any other groups are always welcome but only if they relate to Beachley.

Missing Passing out Parade Programmes. These programmes whilst being a record of a Group's Passing Out or Passing In as they were later called are also very useful in providing other information on prize winners etc and this is why I appeal each year for you to search your "nostalgia box" tucked away in the garage or attic for missing programmes for us to copy. 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, 56B - 57A, 58C - 62A, 63A- 63B, 64A - 67B, 68A, 68B, 69C, 70B - 81, 83 - 84 and 86-87.

Honours and Awards Book. The honours and awards book lists those awards presented to ex-Beachley boys, GC, OBE, MBE, DSC, MC, DCM, CGM, GM, MM, BEM, MSM, and MiD etc recording the individual and his years of service at Beachley. Anyone having a decoration please notify me with the details. At the 2008 Reunion an Ivor Beany asked me to add his award but I cannot find the detail or any record of Ivor!

Missing Robots. We are missing the Spring 1977 issue, the Summer issues for 1979 and 1980 and Spring 1981 issue.

Malcolm (Hector) Hay. 53A. Heritage Member. Contact: 01980 591132 or malcolm.hay148@ntlworld.com

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1960 Groups enjoy their 50th anniversary of joining Beachley

Forty five ex-boys from 60A, 60B & 60C gathered at Chepstow for the reunion weekend last September. Everyone who came received a School tie with their group embroidered on it – a first for Beachley. About half who came were not BOBA members so the dinner night on the Friday with wives and partners was held at the Beaufort Hotel in Chepstow. Even non-members took in the rest of the BOBA weekend culminating in the Sunday morning church parade and service.

Following are some thoughts on the weekend and photos.

"I thought the weekend was a huge success. The highlight of the weekend was the 60s Group Dinner on the Friday evening, although I must admit it was quite a challenge trying to put names to faces after 50 years! The Beaufort Hotel was an excellent venue for a reunion of that size and the staff certainly did us proud. The venue, food and the company were superb!!" **Bryan Stafford (60A)**

"After searching for nearly two years 16 members of 60B were run to ground and all, managed to attend the reunion with their wives. The reunion dinner in the Beaufort Hotel followed an afternoon get-together in the bar. This was the first time in 46 years that most had seen each other. What a sight to behold, on walking into that bar at first glance - I didn't recognise anyone but George Bennett!"

60B - Back row: Bob Blamire, John Laughton, Jim Hetherington, Dave Carr **Middle row:** Steve Harmon, Dave Chard, Mike Gray, William Brown, Malcolm Parr **Front row:** Trevor Sheppard, Tom Dickie, Mike Latham.



"Steve Harmon came up and introduced himself, said he recognised me immediately. He was chatting with Bob Blamire and Jim Hetherington. Then Tom Dickie arrived followed by Mike Latham and then Trevor Sheppard. I had no chance of recognising Trevor - what a shock! We soon got over this and there followed lots of good humoured banter. I can truly say that it was great to see everyone again."

"This get-together in the afternoon was a great idea; it broke the ice for what was to follow later, an excellent three course dinner with wives. All too soon the night was over, there was lots of talk of doing it all again sometime, either 60 years (if there is anyone of us still around) or maybe in three years to celebrate 50 years of leaving the place". **Dave Chard (60B)**

"Great to meet up with the old gang and relive the experiences we had 50yrs ago and remember those that could not be with us. I was impressed to see that the original apprentice's school gateway was still in situ - poignant memories!" **Dave Threadingham (60C).**



60C- back row L to R Bill Ward (C), Barry Hunter (C) **Next 3** Joe Brennan (A), David Smith (C), Frank Wilde (C) **2nd row** - Bill Gillespie (B), Bill Minford (A), Alan Carter (B), Allan White (C), Bill Heslop (C) **Front row** - Bob Beeston (A), Dave Threadingham (A), Paul Ripley (A), Tony Armitage (A), Nick Stephenson (C), Cliff Castree (A) **Front** - Tony Waite (C)

"The roll of honour at church was very moving. Perhaps at some time some research may look at the sacrifices Beachley Boys have made and the way in which they made them. BOBA and the spirit of comradeship we have will eventually die, but we might put our minds to perpetuating it. Perhaps a living monument, some form of

scholarship or award which may survive for many years." **Paul Ripley (60C)**

Dave Chapman



Re. Graeme R Watson 68C

Whilst on a Thomson cruise in October you can imagine my surprise when the Chief Engineer featured in the Daily news sheet turned out to be Graeme. In his column he mentions that at the age of fifteen he went to the Army Apprentices College Chepstow moving to the Royal Engineers. Ten years later he decided to go to see some of the world and joined the British Merchant Navy Establishment sailing in his first ship as a junior Engineer Officer. After a year or two he realised that life at sea suited him and he studied at college for his promotion exams whilst on leave breaks at home. He has experience on Reefer Ships, Container Ships and Cargo including RMS St Helena although he much prefers passenger ships. He also previously served for six years as Chief on a Passenger Expedition Ship sailing in the southern summer months around the Antarctic Peninsula and he can confirm that his ship did not hit an iceberg. Graeme is happily married to his wife, Sally who occasionally accompanies him and that he has a grown son, Stuart and a Stepson Joseph. His hobbies at home are riding his Suzuki Vstorm 650 motorcycle quite proficiently or playing the bagpipes quite badly. I met Graeme later at the Captain's Reception and he had been round Wales and at the barracks on his Motor bike in September of 2010.

Jack Duke 51A

Thanks are due to Jack for taking the time to send in this interesting snippet, it's the second one to my knowledge relating to an ex boy going to sea after his stint in the Army, obviously in this case an assault boat with a Perkins 310 had its limitations! Editor.



Canada

Some of the readers of the Beachley Echoes have been to Canada – either with the forces or to visit. I, along with several other Beachley Old Boys, have to good fortune to reside here. I came here originally on an exchange visit in 1963 to Camp Gagetown in New Brunswick to a RCME detachment. I fell in love with the place on the spot. The cleanliness of the place and the clarity of the St. John River together with the overall beauty of the place made me realize that this was where I wanted to live. It took me another twelve years to accomplish – but I made it and this now is my home.

Canada is one of the largest countries in the world, but its population is small in comparison, having half as many people as the UK and only 10% of the population of the U.S. However, it is a very beautiful country and if you are ever stuck for somewhere to go on vacation for that special occasion – try here. It caters to every taste – from the fishing villages on the Atlantic coast – through Historic Quebec City and on to the lakes and forests of Ontario. Here you will also find Niagara Falls, Canada's Wonderland (a sort of Disneyland) and the spectacular view from the CN Tower, one of the tallest in the world. A boat trip around the "Thousand Islands" is something not to be missed. Spectacular is an understatement.

Manitoba is rich in native culture and by native I mean Indian. Manitoba and Saskatchewan are farming provinces and not exactly tourist spots. Alberta on the other hand has lots to offer including the world famous Calgary Stampede. It also has the Rocky Mountaineer train ride through the Rocky Mountains, one of the world's most beautiful trips – this is absolutely fantastic. In addition it has Banff National Park, Lake Louise (another world famous sight) and plenty of "Dude Ranches" and riding trails if you want to try being a cowboy. The wild life out there has to be seen to be believed and your cameras will certainly get a good workout.

British Columbia has it all, the mountains, whale watching, skiing, river rafting, hiking trails and some of the most beautiful views you could ever wish to see. The ferry trip to Vancouver Island and a visit to Bchart Gardens would round out your trip. Of course an Alaskan Cruise might be to your liking – they sail out of Vancouver and are very popular. Sadly fitting in all there is to do here would take quite some time – and a lottery win would be needed to pay for it all. The country itself is breathtakingly beautiful and most tastes can be accommodated. Toronto, where I reside has the culture. Vancouver has Whistler and The Rockies along with Calgary and sides trips to the U.S. are possible. Seattle is only a few hours drive south from Vancouver and crossing the border is relatively easy at that point – well for white British Passport holders it is. You would not be bored. Direct flights leave from London, Manchester and occasionally one or two smaller airports in the tourist season. Arrival points are mainly in the larger cities of Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver, but other cities are served also at times.

If you enjoy the beauty of nature – Canada is the place to visit – it just doesn't get any better. You certainly won't regret it.

Ian Macdonald 55A



IN MEMORIAM

REPORTED DECEASED SINCE THE 2010 BEACHLEY ECHOES No. 16.

WF Andrews	No42	Gp A	09/12/2010
Fred Aldred	44A	D	05/03/2011
Paddy Alexander	51B	C	22/10/2010
Bill Barratt	53A	A	30/05/2010
Joe Beeston	62B	J	NK
Colin Billett	61A	J	07/09/2010
Nobby Clarke	No35	Gp	30/04/2010
Roy Currell	46A	C	-- /03/2011
Tony Gardiner	No19	Gp	01/12/2010
RB Gibson	No42	Gp C	06/12/2010
Peter Gruncell	45B	A	05/09/2010
Eric. Kennett	49B	C	25/07/2010
Tony Meats	43A	C	21/11/2010
Ray Marritt	59C	A	03/01/2010
Dick Mullinger	51B	D	NK

John Overs	No39	Gp	26/05/2010
Mick Parker	46B	D	12/06/2010
Fos Pattison	56B	D/B	02/06/2010
Reg Perry	46B	NK	NK
Alan Picken	66A	B	18/02/2011
Revs Ramsey	47A	A/D	27/11/2010
Dick Robinson	42A	C	11/01/2011
Danny Rogers	43A	NK	01/02/2011
Dave Teasedale	46B	B	17/03/2003
Norman Tree	42A	A	30/07/2010
Ray Wilson	53A	D	10/09/2010
Ean Wood	50A	A	10/07/2010

Rest In Peace

Near the band shell are Elms planted
for heroes of a forgotten war.
The trees create a thick canopy.
It's cool. No grass grows.
A narrow path is pounded out by joggers
who pass never noticing the plaques
filled with names.

A child might say this place is haunted.
I only feel its sadness.
Young men who fought and died
never knowing what it is to live.
I walk here each day.
My pace quickens at its dark centre.

Anti War Poem by Karen Karpowich

BOBA CENOTAPH DETACHMENT 2010:

On the 14th November 2010 those listed below assembled at Horse Guards Parade to march at Whitehall past the Cenotaph to remember and pay respect to our War dead. It is always an extremely moving event. Please consider joining us on November 13th 2011 and use this opportunity to say your thank you to those who gave everything for the future of others.

Mr Ray Armstrong	55A	Mrs M. Hodson	with MM
Mr Bob Beeston	60C	Mr Alan Pickin	66A
Mr Joe Beeston	62B	Mr Derek Pomeroy	62A
Mr Clive Bridgeman	66C	Mr Bob Reid	56A
Mr Colin Bridgeman	66C	Mr Dave Stone	49A
Mr Ron Davies	57A	Mr Ken Stout	53B
Mr Ian Dickins	47B	Lt Col Syd Thomas	47A
Mr David Fowle	66C	Mrs Gaynor West	with ST
Mr Chris Gould	71B	Mr Roy Wells	50A
Major Malcolm Hay	53A	Lt Col Nick Winder	58A
Major Tony Kemp	57A	Mr Geoff Winter	66C
Mr Joe Kinson	50A	Mr Dave Youdle	58A
Mr Bill Liddle	63B	Mr John Goodall	74C
Mr Mike Mathews	50A	Mr Ian Harrower	RE
Mr John Moore	73C	Mr David Barber	RE
Mr Baz Morgan	73B	Mr Richard Poole	RE
Mr Dick Mullins	63C	Mr Steve Woods	RAMC
Mr Maurice Murtagh	43B	Mr Joseph Hunt	USN Rtd.



Gaynor West and Baz Morgan at Horseguards carrying the BOBA wreath despite the poor weather conditions this year.

Wally Davidson No 43 Gp D Coy again represented BOBA in attending the local service at Chepstow on this day, laying a wreath on our behalf.



BEACHLEY OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION

THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE, BEACHLEY, CHEPSTOW, MONS NP16 7YG

Chairman
Maj.(Retd) Brian Henderson
Walwyns
5 Swanswell Close
Broad Haven
Haverfordwest
Pembs SA62 3LW

Email brianhend@hotmail.com
Tel. 01437 781273



Secretary
Maj. (Retd) Derek Walker
17 Somerset Drive
Westbury
Wilts
BA13 3XA

Email: dchunkywalker@talktalk.net
Tel. 01373 825554

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SATURDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2010

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, BEACHLEY BARRACKS

Present:

Lt Col S Thomas
Maj (Retd) B Henderson TD
Mr B Morgan
Mr G White
Mr T Waite
Mr D Fox
Maj (Retd) M Hay
Mr P Burrige
Mr C Ricketts
Mr BA Obermaier
Maj (Retd) DRO Walker

President
Chairman
Vice President (Elected)
Vice President (Elected) Welfare
Vice President (Elected)
Membership Secretary
Heritage Member
Reunion Organiser
Honorary Treasurer
Echoes Editor / Chepstow Liaison
Honorary Secretary

Item 1. Opening The Chairman opened the meeting shortly after 1500 hours with 64 members in attendance.

Item 2. Welcoming The President bade a warm welcome to all, noting that around Chepstow he had seen many BOBA members, but felt the numbers were somewhat reduced at this meeting.

Item 3. In Memoriam The Membership Secretary read out the names of those members and non-members who had died since the last AGM, this was followed by a period of silence. The Chairman then requested that the Membership Secretary or Heritage Member be informed of the 'passing away' of Association members.

Item 4. Minutes of AGM 2009 As the Beachley Echoes had been received by all Members and contained the 2009 AGM Minutes they were taken as read. There were no comments from the floor. Proposed by: A Waite 60C, Seconded by: R Armstrong 55A. Carried

Item 5. Executive Committee Reports

- 1
 - a Committee and Vice Presidents for their efforts over the past year, in particular for the number of funerals they had attended in adverse conditions, especially Rocky Evershed's in early January. He also gave a personal thanks to Peter Burrige for his organisation of this Reunion Weekend.
 - b Treasurer (CR) He explained how and where monies are collected and spent. "Complete Audited Financial Breakdown" will be in next years issue of the 'Beachley Echoes' after the Financial Year's End in December.
 - c The Association Accounts were externally audited earlier this year with a few very minor procedural issues. He holds the certificate should any member wish to examine it. External audits of the accounts will continue as a matter of course.



d The majority of the Association's income comes from annual membership fees, supplemented by investment returns, until a few weeks ago this was 60 pence per month with Lloyds Banking Group. Market investigation resulted in a transfer of £11,000.00 to a "Community Group Account" with the Monmouthshire Building Society. We will earn 2.45% gross per year about £132.00 net of tax annually. £7,000.00 is retained in the Lloyds Investment account to cover any donation to the Army Apprentices National Memorial Fund, if approved by the Membership, and the stock purchase of Beachley History Books. Any surplus will be transferred to the new account and the Lloyds account closed. We have a Fixed Rate Investment of £15,000.00 in HM Government Gilt which ends in 2013. A decision on what to invest in will be needed then. We will need to safeguard and gain the maximum return on your money. We earn £1100.00 per year from this investment and Tax exemption has been taken up with HMRC.

Association liabilities for ongoing running costs amounted to some £2,500.00 including website maintenance for worldwide exposure, insurance premiums, for our standard printing and postage costs of the Beachley Echoes and committee costs. These costs have been met from our general account.

Our major expenses are the publication and posting of the Beachley Echoes. This year we saved more than £100.00 on postage. More members need to receive this publication via the internet in order to reduce the costs even further.

The membership is applauded for the Founders Day Service Collection last year of £464.00 all of which was donated to "Troop Aid".

The Current Account stands at £9,914.69 as of yesterday morning, our Building Society account at £11,000.00 and our Investment at £15,000.00. A balance of £7,000.00 is in the Savings Account. The shop stock holding is £2,000.00. Bills for settlement after the Reunion will inevitably reduce the balance in the current account.

To maintain our healthy financial position income and costs are reviewed regularly throughout the financial year.

The Association remains financially sound and can meet its commitments this year and beyond.

Secretary (DW)

Non attendance apologies: Geoff Watkins, Alan Ball, Barry Southwell, Chris Irish, T Meluish, L Watkins, D Tierney, E Carroll, A Meates, R Jago, J Symes, W Green, J Woods, B Saunders, Col P Polly.

A cheque to 'The Association' was also received from Mrs Stacey in respect of BOBA representation at Fos Patterson's (56A) funeral.

Membership Secretary (DF)

Membership Fees: We have written to every member whose last payment was in 2007 (60 members), 22 re-commenced payments, 3 members resigned, 35 ignored me. A member is not considered lapsed until three years of non-payment have passed.

We re-contacted the (35) members and 2 re-commenced payments, one had been paying but we were not aware of it and 32 ignored me. Given 187 members have not paid for over three years, does the Committee wish to pursue these or assume they have resigned? The members asked the membership secretary to continue.

The "Lapsed" member rule at present loses the Association money or gains only one years payment. The Committee intends to reconsider this rule for possible amendment.

New members are slightly up on last years' figures. To date 30 lapsed members have enrolled. In an attempt to entice ex-boys to become members contact is made with every ex-boy that leaves a message on the website guest-book. It's slow. We have tried the networking sites of Facebook, and explored Twitter without success. Of course many ex-boys do not join BOBA until they are 65, which at present would be 1960 Groups. Where are they?



Abuse of the 'BOBA Guest Book' by non-members to organise their own reunions, detracts from the BOBA appeal, the 'Webmaster' intends to investigate this matter.

Current Membership is 730, Resigned 4, Deceased (M)6, (NM) 6.

e. Heritage Member (MH) The transfer of data from the Enlistment Books to disc has now been completed, thanks go to Jim Windsor 55B for doing the last few groups. We must now arrange scanning of the books before we hand them over to the National Archives.

There are regular requests from relatives requiring information for their submission for a named tablet for the Army Apprentice National Memorial.

The Chepstow Museum is hopeful of a Lottery grant to enable them to extend. We would hope to then have a permanent joint display. A financial contribution from us would be expected.

The updated history of the Army Apprentices incorporating the final years titled "The Story of the Army Apprentices at Beachley Camp Chepstow 1924-1994" has just been published but there is confusion amongst some with Brian Elks' book "The Beachley Apprentices Story 1923-1994". Our earlier history had a red cover and was titled "The Story of The Army Apprentices' College Chepstow 1923-1983". Brian's book is a compilation of reminiscences submitted by ex-boys.

Finally thanks to Peter Gilbey, Ken Stout and Mac Obermaier for their assistance in transporting and laying out our archives for the Heritage Display and to Anne Rainsbury of the Chepstow Museum for providing additional display materiel.

Welfare Member (GW) Thank you to all the Area Reps. We are still relatively quiet. My contact details can be found in the Beachley Echoes.

g. Chepstow Liaison/Beachley Echoes (MO) We still require more material for the Echoes, please consider your experiences during your time at Beachley and commit them to paper! We have tried a new format this year which appears more suitable. (general appreciation from the floor). Thank you to the 97 members who have supplied e-mail addresses for electronic receipt of the Echoes, this will save postage costs. Future issues of the Echoes will be put on our website for members to download thereby overcoming envisaged e-mail address changes. This allows those with access to the internet, to enlarge, copy and print (colour or black & white) as you wish. Printed copies will still be available. Inside the next issue of the Beachley Echoes will be a slip to be returned only if you want a PRINTED COPY. Printing costs are also being reviewed.

Item 6. Election of President Lt Col (Retd) S Thomas would continue, subject to election, given no other nominee was put forward. Proposed by: B Henderson 65A – Seconded by: J Thayer 32 Carried.

Item 7. Election of Chairman Maj (Retd) B Henderson TD would continue subject to election, given no other nominee was put forward. Proposed by: S Thomas 47A – Seconded by: D Chapman 60A. Carried.

Item 8. Election of Committee and Vice Presidents All Committee Members would continue to serve subject to election, there being no other nominees. Proposed by: S Walker 55A – Seconded by: C Weir 55A Carried.

Item 9. Army Apprentice National Memorial

2.

a. Maj (Retd) D Chapman (DC) gave the following progress report to the members on the AANM project. A Committee was formed in Oct 09, Chepstow, Harrogate, Arborfield and Carlisle are all represented. Matters have progressed quickly, the memorial designed, funds raised (need 60K), a request for 'Charity Status' for tax purposes has also been applied for. In Feb 10 a location was agreed with the AFM and work started. Donations are anticipated from each school, organisations and the sale of individual commemorative tablets at £75 each (500 required) 350 sold to date. Further details and pictures are on www.armyapprenticememorial.co.uk A dedication ceremony (selected guests 30, Association VIPs, etc 30, Association Apprentices 40) will be held on 7 Sep 11 at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffs. (Costs £4/5K). All ex-boys are welcome to attend on the day A number of VIP tickets will be included as prizes in tonight's AANM raffle.



b. The President raised his concern about the amount of money being spent on the dedication ceremony especially as it more or less matched the proposed BOBA donation? In response; DC said that a ceremony to dedicate the memorial was necessary and that costs would be kept to a minimum (the REME dedication ceremony cost £20K).

c. Maj M Hay asked why wives were being invited? DC responded by saying that this was normal etiquette, but again numbers have been kept to a minimum.

Proposals: (i) That BOBA buy a tablet in memory of Rocky Evershed.
Proposed by: D Chapman 60A, Seconded by: C Ricketts 65A, Carried

(ii) That BOBA donates £5K to the AANM project.
Proposed by : D Chapman 60A, Seconded by: S Thomas 47A, Carried

Item 10. The Cenotaph Parade

3. The President advised the meeting that places were still available for the parade this year. Names should be placed on the notice board in the hotel foyer.

Item 11. Any Other Business

4. The President mentioned that Subscription Fees were re-introduced in 2004 as 'on going', the payment of £50 was misinterpreted. As Expenditure is slowly starting to exceed Income the £10 subscription fee per year remains. It was proposed that the committee investigate the possibility of converting all future subscription payments to Direct Debit, these being collected on the 1st April each year.

Proposed by : D Chapman 60A, Seconded by: R Marie 46A
6 against (stay on SO), (Noted - BH)

5. The 'BOBA Guest Book' is Group oriented and is not used to record new members and inform members of what's on.

6. A member who had attended for the last three years thanked the committee for all their efforts but said he still had difficulty hearing the proceedings. Can acoustics be sorted? (Noted - MO)

7. Peter Gilbey pointed out that a Mr Brian Gill, REA, (son of an instructor) had asked the Committee to refurbish the commemorative stone outside St George's Church. This work had been completed and a thank you letter had been received.

8. The Chairman stated The Chepstow Hotel was up for sale and this may affect the location of next years reunion activities. Many options are being investigated including discussions with 1 Rifles to see if they can do more for BOBA.

9. The Old School House is now on the building asset register of 1 Rifles. Its future is being discussed next week with representatives of 1 Rifles, 160 Bde Defence Estates, 5 Div Defence Estates and BOBA. (post meeting note: meeting took place).

Item 12. Closure

10. The President asked members to get out there and encourage ex Beachley Boys to join 'The Association', he also requested a show of appreciation for The Committee's many out of hours work they do. He reminded the membership that the next reunion weekend will be 16 – 18 Sep 11 (the AGM will be held on Sat 17th at 1500hrs). The meeting closed at 1645hrs.

Chairman

Secretary

Dated 20th September 2010

**WELFARE MATTERS****BOBA Welfare Representatives**

Area	Rep's Name:	Group:	Tel. No:
England			
Berks/Bucks/Oxon.	Tom Davitt	54A	01344 775787
Dorset / Wilts.	Ron Durnall	37	01202 763270
Essex	Joe Finerty	43A	01702 554362
Ditto	Noel Drew	60A	01708 556475
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 595963
Som / Devon/ Cornwall	Tony Waite	60C	01823 669336
Suffolk/Norfolk/Cambs.			
Worcs/Hereford/W Mid.	George Waite	42B	01217 449117
Warks./East Midlands	Chalkie White	73A	02476 404999
Yorkshire	Trevor Medcalf	43A	01904 644569
Scotland			
Scotland	Dave Lackie	43B	01313 362268
Wales			
N. Wales	Ray Armstrong	55A	01942 491140
S. Wales (West of)	John Stokes	42A	01974 821697
S. Wales (East of)	Brian Henderson	65A	01437 781273

Welfare Report

2010 has been a year where yet again a number of our members sadly have passed away.

We have been able on several occasions to have a BOBA presence at the funerals with Standard Bearers which was much appreciated by the families and a fitting send off for our friends.

We have also been informed during the year of members who have either suffered ill health or personal difficulties, the various welfare representatives across the country have either visited (where requested and appropriate), or have spoken to the members concerned to offer support or just simply to chat, the specially printed get well cards i send to them featuring the Beachley Gate have brought a smile and memories to many.

Myself and all of the volunteer reps across the country are here to help, either in the ways mentioned above, or maybe to get other organisations such as SSAFA involved, please get in touch, either for yourself or on behalf of a Beachley Old Boy whether a current member or not.

If anyone feels able to offer their services as a rep for the area you live in please contact me on the same numbers.

Finally, to all of the area representatives, all of those who have performed the duties of Standard Bearer, all those who have represented BOBA at funerals and those who have been there for a friend when needed during the past year you have my personal thanks and undoubtedly the thanks of the families concerned.

Chalky White
Welfare Officer

Pension Chasing AFPG v EfVA Update

The *EfVA* is a breakaway organisation formed by splitting from the AFPG although both purport to have the same objectives. I had hoped to be able to report progress but the split seems acrimonious and they are squabbling about members with the dust yet to settle. If I receive anything worth your attention I will try to use our website to inform you.

Editor



Reunion, General Arrangements

As you can see from the front page we have managed to obtain both the Hampton by Hilton hotel and a fresh base at the Racecourse in which to hold our reunion. We trust you will find both facilities a distinct improvement. The hotel is about 9 miles from the Racecourse therefore we have laid on return transport for both the Friday and Saturday evenings to enable those requiring it to enjoy the festivities without jeopardising their driving licences. You will see from the booking form that hotel and transport packages are very attractive but please note that to obtain BOBA terms bookings must be made through our organiser in the usual manner. Next year who knows? It would be marvellous to have a reunion dinner back on the camp but in fact we could be spoilt for choice with three possible venues. Watch this space.

That apart folks it is *almost* business as usual, by this I mean that it would be of real benefit to the committee if your reunion bookings were made early this year to give us an indication of how many will attend. The catering will not be an issue but extra transport might be and there is also a need to advise the hotel if we need a larger allocation of rooms. Neither element is going to be best served by last minute requests so please help us assist you? For those staying in Chepstow the walk back to town is roughly equidistant as with the Chepstow hotel, admittedly it isn't downhill all the way but its not arduous, taxis will cost a little more than before.

Points To Note

Book Early Sending an SAE with the correct postage please.

Caravans ~ There is parking for those wishing to take their tin tents or mobile homes however services are limited in terms of electrical hook ups and you may be required to share. There is a water supply available with separate M/F toilets and showers which are normally used by jockeys. A key point here is that people using their own accommodation must ensure they use the entrance on the roundabout called the Lion Gate and referred to by the map on Page 22. There will be signposts to guide motorists on site.

The Racecourse has offered to extend the booking period to include Sunday but those leaving that day are requested to do so by 2pm. Going a little earlier would of benefit to you as there is a Sunday market close by which closes at the same time. NB Those leaving Monday must exit the site by noon.

Coaches ~ **NB.** Departure times are printed clearly on your itinerary overleaf and you are requested to ensure that those involved board coaches on time. This does mean leaving the Racecourse at the same time as the bar closes (**no time for last orders**) for your return trip, however the Hampton Hotel has promised to keep their bar open for those liking a nightcap or three to welcome you back.

Taxis If you have the misfortune to miss the coach a taxi to the hotel will cost approximately £22.00. However I would not be surprised to see fares increase in line with fuel premiums by September.

STRESS MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUE

Just in case you are having a rough day, here is a stress management technique recommended in all the latest psychological journals. The funny thing is that it really does work and will make you smile...

1. Picture yourself lying on your belly on a warm rock that hangs out over a crystal clear stream..
2. Picture yourself with both your hands dangling in the cool running water.
3. Birds are sweetly singing in the cool mountain air.
4. No one knows your secret place.
5. You are in total seclusion from that hectic place called the world.
6. The soothing sound of a gentle water fall fills the air with a cascade of serenity.
7. The water is so clear that you can easily make out the face of the person you are holding underwater.

There!! See? It really does work... You're smiling already.

**THE 2011 BOBA REUNION PROGRAMME****FRIDAY 16th SEPTEMBER****Chepstow Racecourse.**

Members Reception Desk and Sales.	Premier Foyer	12.00 to 15.00
Dewstow Golf Club		
Golf Practice	Park Course	13.00 onwards
Chepstow Racecourse		
Members Reception Desk and Sales	The Premier Foyer	18.00 to 19.30
Coach leaves the Hampton Hotel for the Racecourse		18.45
Supper	The Premier Bar	19.30 to 21.00
Entertainment	Premier Bar closes 00.15 Sat.	20.30 to 23.59
Coach leaves the Racecourse for the Hampton Hotel		00.15

SATURDAY 17th SEPTEMBER**Dewstow Golf Club**

The BOBs Golf Competition	Dewstow Park Course	08.15
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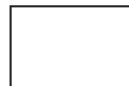
Chepstow Racecourse

Members Reception Desk and Sales	Premier Foyer	10.00 to 12.30
Heritage Trail & Museum	Off Premier Foyer	10.00 to 13.00
The Annual General Meeting	The Premier Bar	14.30
Coach leaves the Hampton Hotel for the Racecourse		18.15
The Presidents Reception	The Premier Foyer	18.30
Golf Prize Giving	The Premier	18.30
The BOBA Reunion Dinner	Silks Restaurant	19.30
The After Dinner Dance	Silks Bar closes 00.45 Sun.	21.30 to 00.30
Coach leaves the Racecourse for the Hampton Hotel		00.45

SUNDAY 18th SEPTEMBER**Beachley Barracks**

Entrance to Beachley Barracks is via the Old Beachley Gate ~ Pass Required

Form Up for Church Parade	Parade Square, Beachley Barracks	10.30
St Georges Chapel at Beachley	Founders Day Church Service	11.00

**BOOKING FORM FOR THE BOBA REUNION****16th to 18th September 2011**

NAME:GROUP:.....COMPANY.....MEMBERSHIP No.....

ADDRESS:.....

.....POSTCODE:

TELEPHONE :.....EMAIL..... DATE:

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

1 2

TICKET REQUIREMENTS:

Friday Supper and Dance	Tickets @ £17.00	No.	Total Cost	£.....
Friday Dance Only	Tickets @ £ 4.00	No.	Total Cost	£.....
Friday Hotel Room*	Tickets @ £50.00	No.	Total Cost	£.....
Coach Seats (Per Return Trip)	Price @ £ 2.50	No.	Total Cost	£.....
Saturday Reunion Dinner	Tickets @ £32.00	No.	Total Cost	£.....
Saturday Dance Only	Tickets @ £ 4.00	No.	Total Cost	£.....
Saturday Hotel Room *	Tickets @ £50.00	No.	Total Cost	£.....
Coach Seats (Per Return Trip)	Price @ £ 2.50	No.	Total Cost	£.....
Name Holder	Badge @ £ 1.50	No.	Total Cost	£.....
Caravan (Per Night)	Price @ £ 7.50	No.	Total Cost	£.....

*NB. Room price is the same for single or double occupancy & includes breakfast.

CHEQUE ENCLOSED (non refundable) to the value of; £

ANY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

NB ~ For security purposes please tick the box if you are going to attend the church service as you will require a pass to enter Beachley Camp. ☐

SEATING ARRANGEMENTS ~ THE REUNION DINNER

The dinner this year is mixed, the tables will seat up to 8 persons and can be arranged by groups. If you wish to sit with your partner or friend/s please indicate below:

Name: Group: Name:.....Group:

PLEASE ENTER YOUR REQUIREMENTS ON THIS FORM AND SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS SHOWN BELOW TOGETHER WITH YOUR PAYMENT AND A C5 OR 6 SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE. CHEQUES TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO THE "Beachley Old Boys Association", AND NOT "BOBA." WHERE NO SAE OR INSUFFICIENT POSTAGE (UK £0.36) IS RECEIVED TICKETS ETC. WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FROM BOBA RECEPTION DESK AT THE RACECOURSE.

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

PLEASE SEND YOUR BOOKING BEFORE 1st AUGUST 2011



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.



Dear BOBA Member

Re: Next of Kin (NOK)

BOBA ~ Membership Secretary

Derek Fox
51 Church Close, Pentney,.
King's Lynn, Norfolk.
PE32 1JJ

Tel. 01760 338483

Mobile: 0784 555110

email: memsec.boba@homecall.co.uk

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 if and whom 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, assist 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:**

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

Email: memsec.boba@homecall.co.uk

Telephone: +44 (0) 1760 338483

Mobile: +44 (0)784 555110

By Royal Mail: Send to the address above.

Thank you in anticipation.

Sincere Regards,

Derek Fox ~ BOBA Membership Secretary.



CHEPSTOW & AREA ACCOMMODATION LIST: APRIL 2011

The accommodation published has not been checked for quality ~ These entries may be changed without notice ~ All Locations are in, or within, a twelve miles radius of Chepstow ~ Please check prices before booking, some are expensive. ~ Any marked * after the telephone number have not confirmed availability ~ **Bold entries are new** ~ SC = Self Catering.

HOTELS ~ CHEPSTOW & AREA:

		Tel. Number.
WILLOWBROOK GUEST HOUSE	PWLLMEYRIC, CHEPSTOW	0844 774 3475
BEAUFORT HOTEL	BEAUFORT SQUARE, CHEPSTOW	(01291) 622497
CASTLE VIEW HOTEL	BRIDGE STREET, CHEPSTOW	(01291) 620349
THE GEORGE HOTEL	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) 625261

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
ST ANNES HOUSE	27 BRIDGE ST CHEPSTOW	(0843 2245142)
OLD FERRY INN, (Linda & Murray)	BEACHLEY, Nr. CHEPSTOW	(01291) 622474
THE WHEATSHEAF INN	THE SQUARE, MAGOR	(01633) 880608
THE OLD BARN	LLANMARTIN	(01633) 413382

B & B GUEST HOUSES ETC ~ CHEPSTOW & AREA:

COURT FARM, (Mrs. ANSTEY)	ROGIET, Nr. CALDICOT	(01633) 880232
PENYLAN FARM, (Mrs. ARTHUR)	St. BRIDES, MAGOR	(01633) 400267
PARKFIELD	ST ARVANS	(01291) 621860
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)	LOWER SEDBURY LANE, OFF BEACHLEY ROAD	(01291) 627173
PRIVATE HOUSE (Josie or Pete Warren)	1 TOWN GATE MEWS (1 Twin)	(01291) 626643
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
HAMPTON BY HILTON	NEWPORT RD, MAGOR	(01633) 749999

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

CHERRY ORCHARD FARM	NEWLAND, Nr. COLEFORD	(01594) 832212
DEANFIELD	FOLLY ROD, PARKEND, Nr. LYDNEY	0845 347 0029
LINDUM HOUSE	OAKWOOD ROAD, BREAM, Nr. LYDNEY	(01594) 560378
TAN HOUSE (10 ROOMS)	NEWLAND, Nr. COLEFORD	(01594) 832222
FAIRVIEW BUNGALOW	PARKHILL, WHITECROFT	(01594) 564133
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
ROSE COTTAGE	SANDY LANE CALDICOT	(01291) 420030
THE LYCHGATE, (Mrs. WELCH)	47 CHURCH ROAD CALDICOT	(01291) 422378
IVY LODGE GUEST HOUSE	CHEPSTOW ROAD, CALDICOT	(01291) 421504
WILLOW BROOK HOUSE	NEWPORT ROAD	(07967) 144164
BROOKLANDS MOTEL	PILL ROW, CALDICOT	(01291) 430500

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

MILLINGBROOK LODGE (14 Bedrooms)	HIGH STREET. AYLBURTON, Nr. LYDNEY	Tel. Number: (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:

THE ABBEY HOTEL, (Formerly THE BEAUFORT)	TINTERN ABBEY, TINTERN, Nr. CHEPSTOW	0871 288 7550
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	PENALT, 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
PROSPECT COTTAGE	ST. BRIAVELS (GL15 6RR)	(01594) 530566
MINERS ARMS HOLIDAY COTTAGE	WHITECROFT (Self Catering but evening meals avail.)	(01594) 482683
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
HOLMLEIGH	TINTERN	(01291) 689521
TINTERN OLD RECTORY	TINTERN	(01291) 689920
MADGETS FARM	TIDENHAM CHASE. NR. CHEPSTOW	(01291) 689595
PARSONS GROVE	EARLESWOOD NR. CHEPSTOW	(01291) 642381

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



The Hampton by Hilton Hotel is off J23a of the M4 on the B4245 Magor Road. On leaving the M4 by the 1st exit, take the 1st left leading to a roundabout, go left to pass under a bridge. The hotel is soon signposted on your right. Tel. No 01633 749999. Postcode NP26 3DG. Website <http://www.hiltonhotelfinder.co.uk/magor-hilton-hotels>

The Racecourse is sited on the A466. There is an icon (jockey on racing horse) below the word "Woodcroft" giving the location. The Lion Gate entrance is on the roundabout where this road crosses the B4293. Tel. No. 01291 622260. Postcode NP16 6BE. Website <http://www.chepstow-racecourse.co.uk/>



General Purpose Fund @ 31st December 2010

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

Assets

£0.00	Cash in Hand	£0.00
£5,027.20	Cash in Bank	£3,960.20
£5,027.20	Total Cash	£3,960.20
£18,201.49	Deposit Account	£2,216.95
£0.00	Building Society Account	£11,000
£0.00	Sundry Debtors	£0.00
£23,238.69	Total Liquid Assets	£17,176.97

Shop Stock

£1,909.66	BOBA / AAS Regalia	£3,149.43
£25,148.35	Total Current Assets	£20,326.40

Liabilities

£0.00	Sundry Creditors	£0.00
£201.40	BOBA Golf Fund	£216.40
£621.90	Benevolent Fund	£626.90
£1,483.00	BOBA NMA Fund	£350.00
£2,306.30	Total Liabilities	£1,193.30

£22,842.05	Net working Capital (being Current Assets minus Liabilities)	£19,133.10
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Fixed Assets

£202.02	£202.02	Capital Property	£155.02	£155.02
£15,000.00	£15,000.00	Investments	£15,000.00	£15,000.00

General Purpose Fund

£36,603.50	Balance Brought Forward	£38,044.07
£1,440.57	Add Surplus Income	
£0.00	Subtract Deficit of Expenditure	£3,755.95
£38,044.07	Accumulated General Purpose Fund being the Net Working Capital & Total Fixed Assets.	£34,288.12

Not Yet Audited

Treasurer

Christopher Ricketts

Signed		Signed	
Date		Date	27/03/2010



Expenditure/Losses	2010	2009	Income	2010	2009
Refunds	£0.00	£124.00	Membership Subs	£3,550.00	£5,728.50
Committee Expenses	£2,313.49	£3,636.02	Donations	£274.00	£20.00
Insurance	£178.69	£214.62	Deposit A/C Interest	£5.46	£10.15
Property Depreciation	£47.00	£168.01	Investment Dividend	£1,030.88	£1,030.88
Wreaths	£41.00	£18.00	Shop Profit	£164.55	£192.07
Web Site Fee	£158.85	£64.13	Building Society A/C	see note below	£0.00
Postage	£754.58	£641.40	Refund from Solicitor	£104.00	£0.00
Stationery	£228.97	£58.83	Shop Postage	£43.44	£69.40
Honorarium Treasurer	£0.00	£0.00	Church Collection	£405.00	£464.17
Honorarium Mem Sec	£0.00	£0.00	Additional Misc Sales	£64.89	£0.00
Donations	£5,605.00	£464.17	Sales to AOBA	£300.00	£0.00
Purchase for AOBA	£300.00	£0.00	Reunion	£0.00	£183.58
Write Off	£68.11	£0.27	St Johns Interest	£0.00	£0.09
Legal fees re St Johns	£0.00	£868.82			
Total Expenditure	£9,695.69	£6,258.27	Total Income	£5,942.22	£7,698.84
Surplus to Balance		£1,440.57	Deficit to Balance	£3,753.47	
Sheet			Sheet		
Grand Totals	£9,956.58	£7,698.84		£9,695.69	£7,698.84

NOTES:**Subscriptions:**

A substantial fall in Subs was created by many paying for 5 years in 2009 and this has continued in 2010.

Echoes The Echoes continues to be our most expensive item but the introduction of "on-line" availability should help.

Printing & Postage: This also represents a large sum but may be reduced albeit dependent on the uptake of the above method:

Committee Expenses:

Committee Members have exercised extreme prudence in 2010 to enable a substantial reduction in costs.

Donations:

A sum of £5000.00 was donated to the AANM project along with other approved donations.

Deposit Account:

This was reduced significantly when a new account giving a better return was opened. Interest in 2010 was £5.64.

New Account:

A new account with a Building Society was opened and the interest is paid Annually, this return will show next year.

Shop:

The Shop continues to show a reasonable return and now has an increased range and additional stock.

Golf Society:

The Society continues to flourish and remains fully self funding.

Investment Account:

This investment will run until 2013 but shows a return of £1030.88 fixed until then.

Account Audit:

Last year the accounts were audited by the RAO, R Mon RE(M), and found to be in good order.

Ricketts, Hon Treasurer BOBA



BOBA Membership Secretary's Report ~ by Derek Fox 58B Group

Foreword:

Well my first full year has passed very quickly; I hope that I haven't made a complete pig's ear of it, if I have no doubt you'll tell me.

Membership Fees:

I have had a mini purge on unpaid membership. I wrote to every member whose last payment was in 2007 (60 Members). Of that number 22 re-commenced payments, 3 members resigned and the balance totally ignored me.

NB. Members will be aware that a member is not considered lapsed until three years have passed, (back subs are not always paid). Bowed but not broken I tackled a specimen number (35) of members that had not paid subscriptions for over three years. Of those number 2 re-commenced payments the rest ignored me. Given that a total of 187 members have not paid for over three years, do you the membership want me to carry on, or call it a day and assume that they have resigned? (Am I even allowed to make that assumption?)

Update:

Under instruction from the members attending the 2010 A.G.M. I wrote to all Lapsed Members, at the time of going to print it is too early to give significant feedback on the results of this exercise but will at the next A.G.M.

New Members:

Recruiting new members this year has been similar to last years' figures. To date of writing this report, we have had 12 new members enrolled or been brought from the lapsed members' database since the A.G.M. and 30 (total) in the last 12 months. In an attempt to entice ex-boys to become members I have made a point of emailing every ex-boy that leaves a message in the guest-book or signs into the visitor's book. I can tell you that my inbox is not overflowing with replies. I had high hopes for the networking site Facebook, but that would appear to be a closed book. I shall explore Twitter next but hold out no great hopes of any return. I realize of course that a lot of ex-boys do not join BOBA until they are 65, but a group is 65 every year so where are they?

New Members Joining In The Last 12 Months

Mr. AC	Adrian Owen	57A	Mr. WDB	Wayne Smith	72B
Mr. AW	Alan Chatt	59A	Mr. M I	Ian Smith	60A
Mr. JA	Jim Welshman	69B	Mr. N P	Mac McNulty	79A
Mr. AC	Allan / Chalkie White	60C	Mr. J	Jimmy Leddy	51A
Mr. DD	Dave Threadingham	60C	Mr. T O	Tom Whitley	72A
Mr. W	Bill Heslop	60C	Mr. T	Timothy Denman	70A
Mr. J H	John Vinson	58A	Mr. P	Peter Mills	63A
Mr. N P	Nick Stephenson	60C	Mr. J	John Eveleigh	42A
Mr. G A	Alan Baker (was Ford)	55A	Mr. A C	Tony Pitt	72C/73A
Mr. J A	Jim Wells	57B	Mr. T R	Terry Lane-Smith	58A
Mr. J R	Jim Breewood	6A/B	Mr. M	Martin Tucker	72C/73A
Mr. D J	Dave Chard	60B	Mr. J C	Jim Grieve	51B
Mr. W A	Bill Gillespie	60C	Mr. R	Robin Arnold	60C
Mr. M J	Mike Deane	55B	Mr. C G	Colin Emsley	66A
Mr. W P	Paul Rogers	65B	Mr. RA	Roy Eyers	58A

1962 Groups ~ 50th Anniversary:

Next year sees the golden anniversary of the 1962 groups of Beachley Boys. If I can assist those organizing the reunion (without falling foul of the Data Protection Act) just let me know. Any non-members thinking of attending should understand that any activity within the auspices of BOBA is confined to members only.

Current Membership (As at 16/2/2011)

736 No. Resigned Members 7 No.

Membership subs now due.

May I take this opportunity of informing all the members that answered the call to pay 5 years (£50) subs in 2005/2006 that their renewal date is/was 01/04/2011. A Standing Order Mandate is included in this edition of the Echoes for your use. Many thanks in anticipation.

My Contact Details: Membership Secretary ~ Derek Fox (58B)

Home Address: ~ 51 Church Close, Pentney, King's Lynn, Norfolk. PE32 1JJ

Home Tel No: ~ +44 (0) 1760 338483 Mobile Phone No: ~ +44 (0) 7842555110

Email Address: ~ memsec.boba@homecall.co.uk (



Your instruction to set up anew, amend or cancel a,

Standing Order

The easy way to make regular payments from your account

1 Your Details

Please write clearly in the white spaces with capital letters or Tick boxes

All sections must be completed

Your full Name or name of business

Branch name

Your contact telephone number

Sort Code

Account number

2 Standing Order details

Does this instruction replace any existing standing order or direct debit instructions?

Yes

No

How often do you want payments made?

Weekly

4 Weekly

Monthly

If 'YES' please complete section overleaf or detail in special instructions opposite.

Quarterly

Half yearly

Yearly

If 'NO' please complete all remaining boxes.

Recipient's name:

Beachley Old Boys' Association

Recipient's bank & branch name:

Lloyds TSB, CHEPSTOW, 7 Manor Way

Recipient's sort code

Recipient's Account number

First payment amount
(if different to usual amount)

First payment date
(Month & Year)

Usual amount

£ 1 0

Usual payment amount in words

TEN POUNDS STERLING

Second payment amount
(if different to usual amount)

Second payment date
(Fill in year)

Until further notice (X)

Special instructions

1. Ensure you fill in all dates where asked.
2. Make sure you sign and date this form.
3. When complete, send to your bank not BOBA.

To Bank

Please note that the second payment and all consequent payments are to be made on

01 April of each year.

Your payment reference (max 18 characters)
(Surname, initials & Group)

(e.g. Humperdink,E,27A)

Please allow up to three working days for the funds to reach the recipient's account

3 Your agreement with us

Lloyds TSB Bank plc
Registered office
25 Gresham St
London EC2V 7HN
Registered in England & Wales No 2065

Lloyds TSB Scotland plc
Registered office
Henry Duncan House
120 George St
Edinburgh EH2 4LH

Registered in Scotland
No 95237

Signatories to the Banking Codes

Please note that we will not;

1. Make any reference to VAT or any other indeterminate element.
2. Advise your address to the person/organisation you are paying.
3. Tell the person/organisation you are not able to pay.
4. Ask the bank of the person/organisation you are paying to tell this person/organisation when payments are received.

I authorise you to debit my/our account, in accordance with the details shown in Section 2.

This request is addressed to the bank which holds my/our account.

For bank use only

From branch name

Sort Code

Contact name

ID confirmed
(for bank use only)

Your signature

Date



Editor's Lament

Well I don't know where to begin, there is just so much scope on the political front this year that I confess to being a tad bemused by it. The phrase "You can bank on it" now seems to be a contradiction in terms and I now believe Oscar Ameringer got it right when he said that, "Politics is the gentle art of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich, by promising to protect each from the other. I can't really fault him thus far but won't hold my breath on the latter. The only positive I can draw from our situation is that it could be worse, just! I feel a medicinal beer or two is required. Do you think "they" will put prices down to match the concept of old when gin used to be very cheap in difficult times? Ah well, no harm in a pipe dream.

This year will be the last time the Echoes is printed in large numbers to reduce cost. We are as discussed at the last AGM going to publish our newsletter on the net annually every May 15th. For those unfamiliar with our web site we have compiled an explanation of the steps to follow. Those who prefer to have paper copies need not worry, just complete the form at the foot of the page, forward it and the usual service will be continued. Your help in assisting our economy drive and will be much appreciated.

As ever I am grateful to those who have taken the time to send me articles and I was delighted to meet and talk to Vera Gasser who is amongst them at the last reunion. What a girl and holder of the Women's Land Army and Logging Corps Badge no less!. Also my thanks to Margaret Henderson who has often soldiered on alone for the ladies until now. There were others who regaled me with their experiences which were fascinating (no names no pack drill), but I hope for all our sakes they take it a stage further and put pen to paper. In addition everyone managed to get their articles to me in time for the deadline and I thank them all. No mean feat in the circumstances especially for our reunion organiser Peter Burrige and Dave Chapman.

A last word on this subject to ease workload all round. I am happy in most cases to accept a simple word, works document or even an email or letter for the text and have the photographs attached or sent by post separately? I can then juggle everything to my hearts content. If in doubt please contact me.

The adjacent cartoon reminds me that BOBA has been presented with some amusing cartoons sketched by Terry Lesley of 57B. As there is no point in being editor if you can't exercise a bit of self interest, I have selected the one that appealed most to my somewhat warped sense of humour for entry. Although the content refers to one "Rabbit Leathers" of Lesley's group it transported me back to my own intake and two lads from the Channel Islands. They were known to me then as Mick Leroy and Flash Machon. I



was not present when their troop sergeant first clapped eyes on them in their finery but his reaction could not have been much different. No doubt there were others. Any bets on who the lucky sergeant was? A slim line version of "Busty Clamp" perhaps.

Where space permits we will try to get more included in the future. Thank you Terry.



Now then, the guide I mentioned previously follows and to start with I have assumed that your computer is "fired up" and that you have logged on to the internet. **1/** At the top of screen is an address bar which contains your internet service provider's detail. This might be TalkTalk or BT, Virgin etc. Delete it and replace it with this :

<http://armyapprenticescollege.homestead.com/BOBABeachleyEchoes.html>

and click the small green arrow to the right or enter.

2/ Scroll down using the control slide to the right of your screen and click on **Edition 17 2011** button.

3/ You have arrived on page 1, if you look to the top left corner of the border you will see the means to save a copy to your computer. To it's right is the printer icon and right again the mailing icon. Smack in the middle is a minus or plus sign either side of a small window so you can make the page as large or small as you wish. Use the side slider to "turn" pages. If you get stuck (with no young whiz kid about to help) give me a call. Enjoy the new format.

Finally, a call for more support. I hope to see many new faces at the reunion dinner this year because your committee has acted to try to fulfil the wishes of many who openly disliked separate dining arrangements. Lets make it an occasion worth repeating!

Mac Obermaier

Echoes In Print Confirmation

Would those who require paper copies of the Echoes to be posted to them as in previous years please complete this slip and return it to me at the following address: Mac Obermaier, 12 Wyebank Place, Tutshill, Chepstow, Glos. NP16 7EU

Name & Initials.....Group.....

Signature.....Date.....



Age ~ Pros with Cons An old man was awakened by the doorbell and shuffled across the room to answer it. On opening the front door he was confronted by a beautiful young woman. "Oh dear!" she said "I am at the wrong house," "Sweetheart, you are at the right house," the old man admonished her, "but you are forty years too late!"

Your secrets are safe with friends, they won't remember them either.

There is no need to worry about losing your looks.

In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.

You know your clothes aren't going to wear out

Those extortionate dental fees are a thing of the past.

Drunk ~ An old drunk was wandering around an airport with tears streaming down his face. "What's the problem?" asked an airline employee. "I've lost all my luggage" sobbed the drunk. "Well how did that happen?" he was asked. "The cork fell out" came the reply.

A drunk walked into a bar and started staring at the barmaid's cleavage. Next he leant over the bar and started kissing her. She was stunned by his behaviour but pulling herself together, she slapped him hard across the face and obtained an immediate apology. "I'm so sorry" he said "but I really thought you were my wife ~ you look just like her." "You worthless, wretched no good drunk!" she exclaimed, "don't you ever lay your grubby hands on me again." "Well I'll be damned" said the drunk, "You even sound like her too".

There is nothing wrong with sobriety in moderation.

Relationships ~ I do like being single, I'm always there when I'm needed.

Remember the mantra "Aisle altar hymn?"

"It's too hot for clothes today" said the husband stepping out of the shower. "What do you think the neighbours will say if I mowed the lawn in the nude?" "Probably that I married you for money" she replied.

A wife posed in front of the bedroom mirror naked. "Tell me darling, she said. "What turns you on the most ~ my pretty face or this beautiful body?" Her husband replied drily, "Your sense of humour."

Marriage resembles a pair of shears, joined so that they can't be separated and often moving in opposite directions. Yet capable of punishing anyone who comes between them.

Two girlfriends ~ Jenny and Jo were chatting about their love lives over coffee. Jenny said "I have to be really careful not to get pregnant" Jo said "But I thought Tony recently had a vasectomy" "He did" said Jenny, "that's why!"

A bride said to her mother "I've got something new and something borrowed, but I need something old and blue." "Don't worry said the mother, "Your grandmother's coming and she can't afford to pay her heating bills."

Irreverence ~ A priest approached a small boy and asked him for directions to the post office. The young

lad helped him and the priest said "Thank you and in return if you come to my sermon tonight I will tell you how to get to heaven. "I don't think so said the boy, you don't even know the way to the post office."

A woman met a preacher in the street and asked "Does your church accept all denominations?" "Yes" he replied "but we prefer 10's and 20's.

Three good reasons why Jesus was Jewish ~
He went into his father's business.

He didn't leave home until he was thirty three.

He was sure his mother was a virgin and his mother was sure he was God.

Consider ~ *I think*, therefore I am. It's a shame the reverse doesn't always apply.

Have you noticed that those in favour of birth control have already been born?

Why not start healing your character defects by blaming your parents?

Waste no time, when you discover the meaning of life they will change it.

Misers are no fun to live with but can make wonderful ancestors.

A *fine* is a tax for doing wrong, whereas tax is a fine for doing well.

Life; The brief interlude between nothing and eternity
Pride is what we have, vanity is what others have.

Always and *never* are two words you should always remember never to use

Definitions ~ A bargain: Something you can't use at a price you can't resist.

Committee: A cul-de-sac down which good ideas are lured then strangled.

Cynic: Word invented by optimists to describe a realist.

Desk: A square dustbin with drawers.

Diet: A system of starving yourself to death thinking it will help you live longer.

Laziness: Resting before you get tired.

Middle age: When work is a lot less fun and fun is much more work.

The BOBA Standard

Readers may like to know that should the family wish it, the BOBA Standard can be present at the funeral of members who have passed on. This is of course subject to the availability of a standard bearer. Please note that where we can assist a donation of £0.30 per mile may be requested to offset the standard bearer's motor vehicle expenses, other than this their services are entirely free of charge. Alternatively a BOBA flag can be sent directly to the nominated undertaker for use as a coffin drape through any local welfare representatives as listed on page 16.



Jack Stratford 29 Group, C Coy

Tank Fixer Extraordinary

It was at the 1991 BOBA reunion (or 1992, I cannot remember which?) that I first met Jack Stratford to discover that we had been born at about 8 miles from each other, as the crow flies, and 12 years apart, with him the elder. He enlisted into No 29 Group, C Coy, in 1932 and I in February 1944 into 44A A Coy. In those days we had our reunion digs inside the camp and there was free tea/ coffee and biscuits at reception time with a friendly Guards Sergeant booking us

in. Jack heard me getting into a muddle with this friendly NCO and put me right with, "Your 44A Group was the first intake for the year 1944 and No44 Group was an intake during a year before the war." Having thanked him I joined Jack in a cup of cha during which time I found out his home before Beachley had been Pilgrim's Hatch near Brentwood with mine, of course, at Stanford Rivers, near Ongar in Essex.

It was the start of a friendship that still exists and survived my spending a week, at his home, critically reviewing his two biographical manuscripts. These M.S.s are Father & Son-Jack's army careers and experiences. Later, some time after my visit to Jack's home, he went off to France to live and returned to Essex only recently, Jack now lives in Bocking, Braintree.

Jack's story was of leaving 'Chep' as a fitter-turner to be retrained, in the mid thirties, as a vehicle-mechanic specialising in tank repair in the newly formed, 'First, Royal Tank Regiment'. The RTR probably got the 'Royal' added to its title when the King suggested tank-fitters should wear berets instead of normal (service) peaked caps which were not very sensible or suitable headwear when working upside down in the cramped bowels of a tank. Berets caused a bit of a stir at the first ceremonial parade where a contingent of 1RTR were present. Much to the chagrin of the parade's RSM the 'New 1.RTR' contingent appeared wearing their berets at various angles – as well as horizontal – and with insufficient time to determine what the correct tilt should be he apparently breathed a sigh of relief when they all paraded with the berets pulled down on the same side – albeit to the left. Later this proved to be purposely the wrong way yet it never got a mention by any of the visiting VIPs.

Jack's service abroad, before & during the war was full of exciting incident – as depicted in the following text accompanying the picture here – and, of course, too much for here. In 1938 he was posted to Egypt to protect the Suez Canal from the Italians &, of course, later the Germans. He went on from victory with Monty in North Africa to Italy and then back to Blighty during preparations for the D-Day invasion. Because of the extensive security there was no leave. One could imagine his feelings when he found himself incarcerated under canvas in South Weald Park no more than a stone's throw from his home. The whole of the park was fenced in and patrolled by armed Military Police – any indiscreet word of D-Day preparations could have presented unnecessary extra difficulties for the invading Allies and armed M.P.s were apparently necessary – YET Jack Stratford got out at night and visited his home at Pilgrim's Hatch.

What more would you have expected of an ex Beachley Boy!

One thing we could assume for sure is that if General Erwin Rommel could have got his hands on Jack he would have surely been happy to be rid of such opposing expertise and Jack would have been similarly happy to give Erwin a piece of his mind – and perhaps a good kicking – over the ruination of Jack's French exercise book, which Jack carried everywhere with him.

Text from the back of the photo:

The Siege of Tobruk, April-Dec 1941, 242 days. J.Stratford, W/Sgt... 1st R. Tank Regt... assigned a job some miles away in a 15cwt truck with driver. Returning to camp our trailing dust cloud made us a good target for the feared 88mm guns. Shells fell in front, behind, short and over our heads. Our miles to 'home' flew as fast as our aged and desperately worn out truck was capable of. Close shaves were numerous. Safely arrived at our leaguer the driver ran to his dugout. I ran for the Hagfat – the spacious cave which housed the cookhouse and messroom – the route taking me past our fitter's 3ton lorry which although only a few short feet of the Hagfat tunnel entrance seemed an endless distance. Panting, shaking and obviously white as a ghost, I gasped out loud, 'Made it!' . A chorus of laughs broke out from a small alcove in the tunnel wall -- an officer's recluse.

Our 15cwt wagon was a write off from the shell that dropped just a few feet behind me. It was riddled with shell splinters, also our belongings – including my French textbook. Everything was smothered in glittering phosphorus from the destroyed ammo of my Hurricane machine gun

John Bass



HITLER'S ENGLISHMAN

I was recently sent an email reference an ex boy who served in the Waffen-SS and obtained the mentioned book from the library. The following is a brief resume.

Douglas Bernville Webster Claye was born in 1917 and entered the ATS (Boys) Chepstow in 1932 as a member of No 32 Group. He was discharged in Aug 34 as "Services no longer required as an A/T" with a Military Character of "Very Good"

Before 1940 he was married but then split up from his pregnant wife. On the outbreak of war he enlisted in the RAF but when he found his girlfriend was pregnant went AWOL and bigamously married her. The RAF discharged him and he worked in an aircraft factory and joined the Home Guard. He then bought an Officer's service dress and whilst in this uniform had a car accident where after treatment he was sent to an Officer's convalescent home. Whilst there he stole cheques and was fined £7 by Magistrates for representing himself as an officer and committed for trial for theft. where by paying back the money he was bound over for 2 years.

In 1941 he enlisted in the West Yorkshire Regt as a Private under the name Douglas Bernville-Claye and despite his record was commissioned in Oct 41 and sent with his Battalion to the Middle East. In the latter half of 1942 he volunteered for the SAS where he called himself "Lord Charlesworth" but did not have any respect in his Squadron.

Captured by the Afrika Korps in Dec 42 he ended up in Oflag 79 in Brunswick via an Italian POW camp. By the time he arrived at the Oflag he was working as an informer for the Germans and in Dec 44 they removed him for his own safety.

In Mar 45 he turned up in Berlin at the British Free Corps (BFC) location in the black uniform of a SS Tank Unit wearing the rank of Hauptsturmführer (Captain) explaining to the motley crew of renegades that he had come to lead them in battle against the Russians.

The men were not enthusiastic and he left taking another BFC member as his driver where after a few days he changed into a British uniform with camouflage jacket with SAS markings, split up from his driver and they separately handed themselves over to the advancing Allies. Whilst the only known recorded traitor in the history of the SAS was getting out of the Waffen –SS his colleagues in the BFC were moving into Berlin to take part in the battle for the capital!

When interrogated later Bernville-Claye denied any involvement either as a camp informer or SS Officer and was let go for lack of untainted evidence. Within a year he was cashiered from the Army and imprisoned for stealing a typewriter and quantity of coal!

Malcolm (Hector) Hay 53A

BEACHLEY- THE REME CONNECTION 1942-1961 - THE END OF AN ERA

Yet another period of apprentices trained at Beachley came to an end with the Passing Out, nearly 50 years ago, in December 1961 of the Vehicle Mechanics of 59A. The trade can trace its roots back to the early 1930s at Beachley when on the formation of Mechanised Cavalry Regiments (11th Hussars and 12th Lancers) a short MT Course was introduced for Fitters in their senior term and quite a few ex apprentices joined these regiments. Later, as the Army's demand for Fitters grew due to the increased use of motor transport, a revised MT Course was introduced in the late 1930s and a new MT Shop was provided.

Dispersal of the REME trades to the Army Apprentice School at Arborfield and the new School at Carlisle had been phased over the previous couple of years and with the departure of 59A Department 8 closed down.

Apprentice trades of the Royal Engineers then came from the Army Apprentice School Harrogate, in particular the Building trades, who had left Beachley in 1947 for the then new, but short lived, Army Apprentice School Taunton.

Allan Ball 46A



Congratulations to John Bass who sent in the following;

Re Page 9 of 2010 Beachley Echoes -- the School Boxing team. Just realized who the 4th boy from the right was -- that's the one with slicked down black hair sitting in front of Captain Webb. I am quite sure it is, Derek William Cooper of 44a A Coy Group who was with me in Room 1 during our first year in Beachley Camp. Derek was an ex-Queen Victoria Schoolboy who went into the RAC and later (according to my information) became WO1 or WO2 in the REME.

Painting

We have a picture of St Georges Chapel at Beachley (inset) that was painted and kindly presented to BOBA by Mr Lionel Morris of C.Coy 29 Group. The clouds depicted on the left side are visibly like a profile of the Falklands seen from above. It was passed to the Chapel for display years ago but after the last AGM, Pat Jordinson with Ron Marie pointed out to me that it had suffered slight damage. This probably took place during the ongoing renovations taking place there. After failing to find someone locally to repair the painting and also asking my daughter to try through her contacts from university, I was forced down the "professional" route. This was not as expensive as it might have been but according to Messrs. Bush Berry (I kid you not), nonetheless they quoted £360 to restore it. Apparently the repair would only be noticeable to the trained eye but if we wanted the "full service" the price would virtually double.



Money is tight so the question is, does anyone know for example of a person or a studio with the appropriate skills available and who would be willing to do the work as a project? If they do would they please contact me, (Mac Obermaier) and I can forward digital close ups of the actual damage. Alternatively If anyone can suggest another means of getting the work done we would like to know, my contact details are at the base of page 8.

The Winter of 1947

This winter apparently boasted the coldest December for a hundred years (my fuel bill agrees), however here in Chepstow there was little snow to be seen really. The photograph inset and taken then is pretty typical. Still the subject prompted James Freeman 45B to relate that he had recently received a reminder from Alec Nesbitt 45A that back in 1947 they and Chepstow had a snowfall to remember. Alec had written about the school workshops which had virtually closed down and most other units had been sent home on leave ~ but not them. They were pretty well cut off from Chepstow and supplies, food and fuel etc were getting scarce, the post war years were quite austere anyway. It was decided that they should set to and dig their way out, part of the intention was probably to keep minds occupied and bodies warm. Alec as A/T RSM was in charge of marching boys to and from the 2 - 3 hour stints of shovelling which each Company undertook on rotation. The locals were highly appreciative regularly producing hot drinks, no doubt glad to be able to get their children back to school. There are photographs showing scenes of the event in the Robot Vol. X111 No 51. one of which is entitled "Work or Want"



James added two more snippets of information. The first was that at the time it was quite cold but that no extra blankets had been issued despite there being plenty available in the RQMS until a senior warrant officer intervened. The second was that his mother worked with an organisation at the time who amongst other things carried out visits to penal establishments. If memory serves me correctly James was somewhat put out to find out from her, that this organisation were instrumental in having borstal boys sent home for the period in question due to the lack of heating facilities!

My thanks to both Alec Nesbitt and James Freeman for providing the anecdotes above at short notice. Editor



Detailed information reached me about the passing of two of our own namely Peter Russell and Leonard Kemp but regretfully arriving late even for inclusion last year, blessed be the Royal Mail. The extracts are below. Editor.

Leonard Kemp (42A)

Len was Beachley boy and started his training in 1938 at the ripe old age of 14. His first posting was to Burscough in 1941 during which two significant events occurred; he was enlisted into the newly formed REME in 1942 and as he would argue far more importantly he met Doreen who was 15 at the time. They married in Portsmouth three years later and Doreen remained at his side throughout. They were two wonderful people devoted to each other and had two sons, Alan and Peter. Len served in Gibraltar and interrupted a later posting to India to attend an Artificer Armament course and taking promotion to staff sergeant. He enjoyed most sports and playing hockey and football in particular for the unit. 1957-1960 saw Len by now a WO11 and the family in Malaya before further promotion and moving to Delmenhorst as ASM in 12 Regt. RA workshops.

After some 26 years exemplary service Doreen and Len decided to raise their children in North Island Zealand where Len finally passed away aged 85 on the 1st of July 2009. He is survived by his wife, sons and many grandchildren to whom we offer our condolences for their loss.

Peter Russell (42A)

One of seven siblings Peter enlisted at age 15 as a driver mechanic and saw wartime service with The Royal Tank Regiment. In 1945 he transferred into the REME and went on to serve in many airborne units in conflicts which included Palestine, Malaya, Singapore, Egypt and Suez. His career also took him to Libya Germany, France, USA, Holland, Belgium and Hong Kong. During this time he was involved with the Berlin Airlift, the Suez Crisis, the Hearts and Minds campaign in the Far East and was project officer for fitting the Malkara missile to the Hornet armoured car. He had been commissioned in 1954 and eventually retired as a captain in 1964. On leaving the Army Peter had a very fruitful second career for 29 years within the power industry working abroad for significant periods. In 2008 Peter moved from his home in Kingsteignton, Devon to become a proud member of the Chelsea Pensioners. Active as ever he remained involved with the tank museum at Bovington, led many representative visits there and was also a force to be reckoned with at BOBA meetings. Peter is fondly remembered by his comrades and six children.

**John Overs (39 Gp)**

John was born 22nd February 1921 to parents who for some time had the tenancy of the Ship Inn in Llandogo in the Wye Valley. He entered the Army Technical School (Boys) in 1937 and went on to be one of the founding members of REME rising to the rank of WO11. On retiring from the service he took on a number of motor industry associated jobs to augment his pension. One of these involved looking after Billy Cotton's Rolls which he parked outside of his house in Slough and impressed the neighbours! John was married to Violet and after her death he had a partner Gladys who also predeceased him. He had two children Gregory and Vivienne with whom he spent time with in Australia. There was also a granddaughter with whom John owned a motorboat aptly named as the "Beachley Apprentice," this was usually parked in the front garden prompting a passer by (Ex Beachley chap) to call and they became good friends. John was also a keen photographer, family historian and gardener when not in Australia. He also enthusiastically supported BOBA And REME associations and acted as a standard bearer at funerals and attended Cenotaph Parades. Finding that his cousin Lt Col Brian Hilton was chief educator at Beachley when he attended a reunion surprised him but he persuaded Brian to accompany him to a subsequent event. His funeral in Slough was both a family and military affair, with four Standards lowered at the Last Post. John would have liked that.

Tony Gardiner (No 19 Gp.)

Born "Walter Percy" Gardiner but known to his friends as Tony, he enlisted in 1929 as a military carpenter. He rose through the NCO ranks during the 1930's spending some time in Palestine clearing the roads of mines and laying in water supplies. Sent to France as part of the BEF Tony was commissioned in the field and made responsible during the Dunkirk retreat for the supply of water on the beach heads. He also found time rowing back and forth to help the evacuation and later oversaw the construction of coastal defences along our southern coast. 1943 found him with his Company on a vessel that was torpedoed en route for North Africa, they managed to stay afloat until rescued through trimming the boat by moving men around the deck. Monte Cassino was next where he was providing close support to combat operations including bridge building. Tony received the MC here, his citation noting his gallantry and coolness under fire. Promoted Lt Col he left the Army to become a landlord at Bridge in Kent.

In 1952 Tony Gardiner rejoined the Army and in 1954, was posted to Malaysia as the Garrison Engineer at Selangor and Penang. At the end of the decade he moved with his family to Jordan to help organise the engineering units of the Hashemite Kingdom's own Armed Forces. He was involved in the clearing operation after an assassination attempt on King Hussein. This led to the king meeting his daughter and they married in 1961 after

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which Tony left the British Army to take over responsibility for water within the country's Natural Resources Authority. He set to work laying down supply pipes for towns and villages across Jordan and over the next 15 years conditions in Irbid improved until by 1977, 98 per cent of its villages were able to enjoy fresh, drinkable water. In due course he was promoted to Maj Gen in the Jordanian Armed Forces and later enjoyed an active retirement in the Jordanian capital, Amman. Tony Gardiner married, in 1938, Doris Sutton, who predeceased him. His daughter, Princess Muna, survives him, as does King Abdullah and three other grandchildren: Faisal, Aisha and Zein.

There follows a few excerpts from the "Opus" of Phillip Bomford 42A sent to me in 2008, it was too large to include in the Echoes and was forwarded to Rocky Evershed who became too ill to include in the book he was planning to pull together. Sadly Phillip died shortly after this. His memories of home and barrack life at the time are quite frank, often humorous and should anyone require copies I will forward them all 16 pages. *Editor*

On Enlistment

I had wanted to join the RAF Halton apprentices (known as Lord Trenchard's Brats), but they did not accept entrants until age 16 so that was out! Then my Mother heard of an Army apprentice scheme, so we wrote off for details & a long list of trades was returned with an application form! At her urging (there being 5th member of the family in the pram) I filled it in and back came a letter selecting me for my final choice-report to Oxford Recruiting. So starts the great adventure on the 8th April 1942. On arrival at Gloucester, there was a swarm of similar likely lads waiting for the Chepstow train.



Arrival as per Digger Stanley's writings.

After tea back to our rooms, where the beds had already been made (with sheets, Digger) to be allotted our bedspaces. Then it was getting to know one another & where from till 'Lights Out'. All night we had welcoming gale and the annexe door kept banging. One thing we were shown was making our beds 'shelter fashion in case of an air raid so we could take them to the shelters and sure enough the camp siren wailed its warning & we found the concrete shelters with bed irons of steel piping fixed to the floor, with chain link fencing laid over. We laid our (thin) blankets as best we could, but it was b.... uncomfortable, especially if the wire fencing had a broken bit sticking up and it was c.c.c.cold & no lighting; if anyone went out for a leak all the length of fencing would jerk as he clambered out. This only happened twice as Jerry gave Avonmouth a going over. That was quite enough & never happened again.

The Cookhouse

Most of the cookhouse staff were ATS girls and I recall the corporal was a really good looking lass in her mid-20s and the A/Ts were always trying to date her, but no joy! (I don't remember Len Wilby's ATS Sgt, she might have replaced 'Good Looking!') The Cook S/Sgt could often be seen as bold as brass walking home to his M/Q with a parcel under his arm.

On Subriquets

Of course we had to be scalped by "Bing" the Barber ~ Old "Twitch Stanley" ~ 3 S/Sgt Artificers RA "Nuffer" Goode-nough, "Chunky" Bradford & "Busty" Clements ~ Deputy Comd. Major "Tanky" Hastings Wells ~ Major "Judy" Garland RA ~ Capt "Trotsky" Taylor RE ~ Sgt "Smoky" Stoves.

The Mutiny!

It happened on Whit Monday 1944?-normally a sports afternoon, but we (42A) were ordered out for a rehearsal for Salute the Soldier Week rehearsal for a parade in Chepstow, but feelings ran high and all refused (Inc. A/T NCO's) to budge. The NCOs were told not to take part & the rest of us disappeared round to the Point. It then came rather too close to teatime and we returned as a disorganised rabble past the Water Tower towards the Guardroom, to be met by Sgt Smoky Stoves, who demanded to know what this was all about and he was informed why. He told us to fall in, we did not and he marched one vociferous boy (it might have been Nobby Cope-land, or am I maligning your fair, unsullied name! if so accept my apologies. Whoever it was, he was released by 3 or 4 burly A/Ts and we dispersed in time for tea and the Press never got to hear of it!

Phillip Bomford 42A

PS Included in the package Phillip sent me is a group photograph taken at the 1954 Reunion if anyone is inter-ested.



A Couple Of Queries For You

I wonder how many remember the first BOBA meeting in Egypt in I believe 1947, it was held in Fayid although I am sure we paid a visit to Tel El Kabir to see the ex boys there. The one thing that sticks in my mind was the fact that we were nearly all Senior NCO's or Warrant Officers just over two years after leaving the school. We said it was a BOBA meeting but I am fairly sure it was mainly 42 A Group.

I joined something else while at the school which I think was "the Knights of St John" or " Malta " I wondered if it is still in existence.

Since retiring I have become a "Speaker "and have a repertoire of six talks one of which is the story of a Boy Soldier in the Second World War. This being the story of my life at Beachely. What surprised me was the interest shown in this subject by the audience.

Finally a short true story of an event at the school.

THE LONGEST WORDED CHARGE?"

As a Group ,42 A had been the DRAFT for probably longer than any other group ,due to our being the first intake after the declaration of War. We ,in the tradition handed down to us from the DRAFT before us ,stood no nonsense from the Junior Groups .However there was a problem which one of the Companies had and that was D Company where the Junior Groups outnumbered the DRAFT. As a farewell present to those Junior Groups it was decided that the DRAFT in all the Companies would make a swoop on D Company Juniors and tip them all out of bed. This was arranged and duly took place with dramatic results. Unfortunately I and five others ,all from A Company ,were caught by Loftly Sheene the Provost Sergeant .He informed us we would be charged under Section 40 of the Army Act with" Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, that is ,conduct liable to render a member of his Majesties Forces unfit for further Service". We duly lined up outside A Company Office the next morning under the watchful eye of "Jimmy Ough" the CSM. Having stood there for some time Jimmy went into the office and when he came out said "Charge is dismissed" and we were told to double away to join our Group. We found out later that nearly all the boys who had taken part in the raid had told their Wing Sergeants of this and asked to be charged as well. This loyalty that existed amongst us had saved myself and the other five from being punished. I had done my fair share of Jankers but I really believe this was the longest worded charge I'd ever had.

J.Eveleigh

Hello Folks,

I am keen to promote shopforces.com, which is a shopping portal I am championing both as a member of the Royal British Legion and a volunteer with SSAFA. I am hoping you can help me raise wider awareness with your family, friends and colleagues at work. The more people who shop through using the website the more will be raised for these Forces charities.

Shopforces.com offers a simple and secure way to shop online at a vast range of retailers whilst raising money for two Service-related charities – SSAFA Forces Help and The Royal British Legion. Find your desired retailer at www.shopforces.com they're all there (e.g. Amazon, Boots, M&S, PC World, John Lewis, etc) – then click on the link provided, make your purchase as normal and job done! It doesn't cost a penny extra to shop and raise funds using shopforces.com. Commissions of between 2% and 10% are paid to the charities involved.

Please spread the word about this great website www.shopforces.com to as many people as possible. Thank you for your support and happy shopping!

Best wishes,

Graham

***The entry above** was sent by a friend to **Colin Weir** who thoughtfully passed it on to me and I think it deserving of your attention and support. Shopforces in conjunction with nearly all of the big high street outlets are there to help service personnel in need, why not take a look if you have a computer? Editor .*



from the Fairway : BOBA Golfing Society

It is with great sadness that I found myself looking after the golfing event following the demise of our good friend Foster Pattison. Foster who had organised it so well for many years passed away suddenly last June, he will be sorely missed by all of our members and our condolences go out to his family.

Following in a fine tradition the sun Gods were again benevolent in permitting it to shine down upon us again for both days of our event, in addition we found the course to be in superb condition which added to the enjoyment.

This year Alan Hayward 58B would have won a staggering four prizes including the longest drive, best par threes and the drawn pairs. He also won the Ken Standen Trophy for the best score with a massive 42 points. However as we have a policy of players only being permitted to win one prize (apart from the drawn pairs) his haul was reduced. That aside Alan's superb performance did win him two trophies this year and he is most deserving of our congratulations.

Our society has been presented with two new trophies by Ady Picken 66A replacing the George Murray Drawn Pairs. The former was thought to have been lost but somehow turned up on the table at the presentation albeit damaged. This trophy will now be repaired and allocated to another part of the competition. Many thanks to Ady for two wonderful trophies.

Winning Results for 2010

Longest Drive 4th hole	Jimmy Hough 73A
Nearest the pin 16th hole	John Green 73B
Best Par 3's aggregate	Alf Chrascina 67B
Handicap Cup	Dave Fowle 66C
Best Lady	Vivien Middlemas
George Murray Trophy (Drawn Pairs)	Dave Potton 69C and Alan Hayward 58B

The Ken Standen Trophy

Alan Hayward 58B with 42 points

Many thanks to all who helped me organise the event this year notably Glen Chambers who was always at the end of a phone when I needed guidance. I hope he is fully recovered from his operation and joins us this year. My thanks to Pete North and Brian Woodward both of 56B for their assistance, not forgetting. President Syd and also Dewstow Golf Club for their hospitality.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next reunion in September 2011

Tony Battle 57B (Telephone No. 01291422403)



The 2011 BOBA Open Golf Championships

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

It will be held at **The Park Course, Dewstow Golf Club, Caerwent** on Saturday 17th September 2011. All golfers are required to meet outside the café there at 0815 on Saturday morning.

Those entering should complete the form below and return it, as indicated, with a cheque for £30.00 made payable to **Beachley Old Boys Association** (not BOBA), to reach me **BEFORE SATURDAY 4th SEPTEMBER 2010** please.

Start times will be allocated on Saturday 7th September 2011 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.

PLEASE RETURN TO:

Tony Battle, The Martins, Lawrence Crescent, Caerwent, Monmouthshire, NP26 5NS

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 THE **Beachley Old Boys Association** TO THE VALUE OF **£30.00**

SIGNED:.....

DATE:.....