



# Beachley



# Echoes

Edition No. 18 ~ April 2012



## The Army Apprentice National Memorial

See page 4 for report



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### CHAIRMAN'S JOTTINGS

I'd like to begin by hoping all is well with ex Beachley Boys everywhere and in particular to BOBA members who are reading, for the first time, this issue of The Echoes online.

As always I'd like to draw your attention to matters and events that have occurred since the previous and last issue of The Echoes was posted through your letter box.

**BOBA Reunion 2011**, most will remember that 1 Rifles based at Beachley had agreed to host the association's reunion in 2011. Planning was well in hand when we had a call from the battalion that with regrets and for operational reasons they could no longer provide the facilities we required. This put us on the back foot for a short while but the committee soon recovered and we eventually entered into a contractual arrangement with Chepstow Racecourse. More of the 2011 reunion later!

**Army Apprentice National Memorial**, again most will remember this project has been ongoing for 2 – 3 years and culminated in the dedication ceremony at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffs in early September 2011. The President and I had the honour of representing BOBA at the dedication ceremony. Without doubt the memorial is an extremely fine piece of work and Dave Chapman (60 Gp) and his team are to be congratulated on producing an everlasting memorial to all army apprentices. If you are in the area of the NMA please call in and have a look, you will not be disappointed, alternatively go online and browse the AANM website.

**Membership**, Derek Fox does an excellent job as the BOBA membership secretary and I think it fair to say that numbers are holding steady but not increasing. Elsewhere in these Echoes the president has mentioned the need to recruit new BOBA members especially from the later groups. There is no silver bullet with regards recruiting and I would suggest we should all be involved in this important activity. In addition to his normal duties the membership secretary holds and maintains a database that contains personal details of all BOBA members. This database is only as good as the information it contains, therefore can I request that if your details do change e.g. contact address, e-mail address, etc, you contact Derek and pass on the changes.

**BOBA Reunion 2011**, as mentioned earlier was held at Chepstow Racecourse, the facilities there are clean, warm and spacious. As usual the reception desk was manned by our two stalwarts, Peter Burridge and Maurice Murtagh, likewise Malcolm Hay and his team of helpers put on another excellent Heritage Trail. Malcolm is always trawling for artefacts such as passing out parade programmes, copies of the Robot, etc, etc. If you have any items that would be suitable for the trail please contact Malcolm direct. The AGM was routine but also lively in places, we did discuss the future location of BOBA reunions but the majority of those present favoured Chepstow. Tony Battle put on another superb golf day and the prize giving was held in advance of the President's reception. The reunion dinner in 2011 saw the ladies dine with the BOBA members in the Silks restaurant, this I believe was a first and again was welcomed by the majority who sat down to an excellent meal that was served in a timely manner by an efficient waiting staff. The evening was rounded off with dancing and socialising before carriages at 0015hrs. Sunday dawned grey and gloomy with light rain, but just as the church parade commenced the clouds parted and the sun shone through while the president took the salute and we all marched off the square to church. St George's was quite full and thanks go to Padre Joe Rooney for the pastoral care he provides to the association. In summary I believe the reunion weekend went well; we had a new venue, we changed with tradition and the attendance figures were higher than in previous years.

**Subscriptions**, are the main source of income for the association and for the last two to three years we have received less than our anticipated income. The treasurer and the membership secretary have monitored this situation for a number of years and there has been a steady decline in those not paying the annual subscription of £10 per year (note: this sum has not changed since new BOBA was formed in 1994). Many months ago Derek sent out a number of letters in order to claw back outstanding subscriptions, the response was patchy. Some members paid up, some ignored the reminders, some had changed address and sadly some responded in an unsavoury manner. I believe there remains some confusion amongst members regarding subscriptions and I must admit this could have been caused by; a.) having a payment break, and b.) introducing a supposed single payment of £50. Can I be clear on this subject; subscriptions are £10 per year. Without this main source of income our reserves will decline and the association will find itself financially constrained. Therefore should you be unsure as to whether you are fully paid up please do not hesitate to contact the membership secretary or the treasurer.

Looking ahead, the **BOBA Reunion 2012**, will again be held in the Chepstow area and include all the usual activities e.g. golf, AGM, etc. This year however we will be using two different locations to meet, greet and socialise. The RSM, 1 Rifles has kindly offered the use of the WO's and Sgt's Mess for our Friday evening social, this we feel is an invitation that should not be refused as it may open up other opportunities for the





association. Discussions are well in hand with the mess manager and we intend to provide entertainment and a traditional sergeants mess curry buffet. Saturday's programme will be tweaked slightly and again we will be inviting the ladies to join us at the reunion dinner. Full details of the reunion weekend including application forms are contained elsewhere in this publication, but please contact any of the committee if you have a query.

I'd like to close by reminding members that much effort will be expended by the executive committee in the next few weeks to ensure the reunion is a success and ask that you join us in September and celebrate that success.

Yours Aye,

**Brian Henderson**



**The President's Thoughts** ~ Despite all the trials, tribulations and difficulties encountered your committee managed to provide us with a very enjoyable weekend reunion. Numbers were down a little and it will be some time before we know why, whatever the reason they need your full support if we are to continue as a vibrant organisation. BOBA needs YOUR SUPPORT.

**The Annual Reunion 2012** ~ It will be much the 'same again' this year with perhaps some of the loose ends tidied up a little, timings modified but with the weekend principles remaining. We also have to cope with the fact that our normal third weekend in September clashes with RE Association Centenary, we must cede and give them pride of place this year and go for a week later. This will tax the pockets of the RE members but I feel sure they can and will rise to the challenge. We cannot be sure that the residents of Beachley Barracks can be certain that we could use their facilities, discussions are on-going and I am sure that the final arrangements will be in place ready for this newsletter. Whatever plans are finally made I ask you to give them your full support, turn up and enjoy the comradeship of old friends.

**The Dedication of The Army Apprentice National Memorial** ~ On your behalf I give very sincere thanks to Dave Chapman and his hard working committee for the excellent way they managed the planning leading up to the actual dedication day and the day itself. The Memorial is very striking and if you have not seen it then please do so, it is the shining beacon in the Arboretum. Arrangements are on-going to provide for the long term maintenance but I am sure there will be more on this subject elsewhere in the Echoes.

**The Cenotaph Parade** ~ Once again a good turnout but we were rather unfortunate to lose a few from colds, flu etc. I managed to get a few extra tickets from friends at Arborfield Old Boys and the REME Association. Our normal allocation is 30 if you want join us this year please contact me soonest – email is [syd4hd@bopenworld.com](mailto:syd4hd@bopenworld.com) phone 01656 661180 or text 07785 282266. (I already have 6 bids!). For the first time I was able to repay my normal Taxi driver by giving Baz a lift, good to see he was able to make the parade.

**Recruiting** ~ As I pointed out at the reunion we very much need new members from the post 66 groups, how about a few volunteers for new blood on the committee for starters. I make no bones about repeating that - The destiny of the Association is in the hands of the present members – recruiting is your responsibility.

**Gaynor** ~The news was not good and she has had to start a completely new course of Chemotherapy treatment 12 weekly doses starting January this year, the main effect is that she will once again lose her hair; she remains cheerful and determined to live life as full as she can. She wishes to thank all those who sent 'good wishes' and will see you in September.

**Awards** - I was honoured by The Royal Yachting Association when their President, HRH Princess Ann presented me with a Medal and Citation at their AGM in recognition of over 30 years of voluntary service to the sport of Yacht Racing.

**Finally** ~ If I upset any of the Ladies with my remarks at the Reunion Dinner then I unreservedly apologise, it was never my intention to give the impression that I was unhappy having the Ladies join us. Over the years I have been an ardent supporter of a 'mixed' reunion and voiced my views against a member's only reunion such as the Arborfield Old Boys have.

Your committee have worked tirelessly for you – show your appreciation by supporting them and make a special effort to attend the reunion. I fully realize that there are other competing events but ask that you give the Reunion precedence, I look forward to seeing you all in September, particularly 62 Groups.

Fair winds.

**Syd Thomas**





**THE ARMY APPRENTICE NATIONAL MEMORIAL  
(Reg Charity 1137924)**

**Wonderful Success of the Memorial Project**

The memorial was dedicated at a moving ceremony attended by some 500 guests, ex-apprentices and families at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011. The memorial recognises and remembers the Army Apprentice Scheme and the 70,000 soldier-tradesmen it trained during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The project was sponsored by the four old boys' associations of Arborfield, Carlisle, Chepstow and Harrogate, all of whom lent support to the project and made significant monetary donations. The various Corps Associations in which ex-apprentices served and local councils also made generous grants.

A polished black inscribed granite monolith stands on a 10 metre circular granite base with an inscribed raised granite dome at the centre. Four granite benches stand around the circumference in front of three rings of inscribed commemorative tablets, which record the names of more than 500 ex-apprentices. It was the purchase of these tablets by hundreds of generous donors which raised the major proportion of the money needed to bring the project to a successful fulfilment.

The Trustees have contracted the stonemason to provide an explanatory granite lectern in front of the memorial, which will carry further information about the Army Apprentice story.

Looking ahead, the Trustees are negotiating with the Arboretum with a view to setting up a long-term maintenance contract. Currently, the memorial fund will require further donations to do this but significant grants are being negotiated so that the Trustees believe it will not be necessary to raise further money from the old boys' associations or ex-apprentice members.

The Memorial Trustees wish to thank all the bodies and individuals who contributed to the Army Apprentice National Memorial. It has been a great success and the memorial will provide a reference and meeting point for all army ex-apprentices in the years to come. It has already become the focus of the annual Arborfield reunion.

**DEDICATION CEREMONY AT THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM, ALREWAS, STAFFS**

There will be a short and informal ceremony at the AANM, at **12.00h on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2012** to inter and dedicate **Army Apprentice Rolls of Honour**. These will be provided by the four old boys' associations representing the former apprentice schools at Arborfield, Carlisle, Chepstow and Harrogate.

The final 30 commemorative tablets and a new explanatory lectern will be in place by this date.

All ex-army apprentices and their families are welcome to attend.

For more information go to the memorial website at [www.armyapprenticememorial.org.uk](http://www.armyapprenticememorial.org.uk) or contact **David Chapman** (60A) at [dc.chapman@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dc.chapman@tiscali.co.uk) or phone 01291 628178.

David Chapman  
Chairman of AANM Trustees

**Photographs**

This page—the complete memorial

Front page—clockwise from top left:

- Unveiling by the Patron
- Memorial and Standard Bearers
- Commemorative Tablets
- The Chepstow Bench (to the right of the memorial)





### Fight, Dig and Live

Since the unveiling of the Memorial last September, A significant book has been published by Penn & Sword Books Ltd. This is entitled "Fight, Dig and Live" The story of the Royal Engineers in the Korean War" by General Sir George Cooper GCB MC DL (published by Pen & Sword).

Sir George, then as a Captain, Commanded 1 Troop, 55 Field Squadron RE, and my period of service there overlapped with his during my tour in Korea 1952/53. when as a section corporal, I served in his Troop. I am very proud to have been invited to recount some of my reminiscences to the author, some details of which have been included in the publication. Half a dozen or so of the lads of my Group 47B, served as Sappers in 55 and 12 Field Squadrons at the time. Alas two did not return and remain buried at the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Pusan. However, they are not forgotten; as I was pleased and proud to have sponsored their stone memorial tablets in the all embracing circle of remembrance at the National Arboretum Site. These lads are the late Sappers James Beck and Ronald Bootle, both 47B. Sapper Beck is mentioned in Chapter 17 headed "Rip Van Winkle"

I gifted a copy of the book to a very great friend of mine, Peter Henry. an Arborfield Apprentice Group 49A He like me, was very taken by the poem in appreciation of "The Royal Engineer" included in the book and written by D.W.Hall, a soldier in the Black Watch. This poem as is all the material in the book, is subject to copyright and the approval of the author has been sought on this occasion.

The author has written a most interesting and readable story which includes many authentic reminiscences collected from Sappers who served in Korea at the time. I strongly recommend the book as an excellent read. Don't miss it!

**Terry Hawton** (47B Taunton and Harrogate)

#### The Royal Engineer

To all you men assembled here,  
My toast tonight is to the engineer,  
Here's a man we know little about  
For the sapper doesn't boast and shout.

The slave of the infantry, this silent one,  
Who carries a shovel as well as a gun,  
During the war he'll work and fight,  
He's the silent worker of the night.

There's mines to lift, a field to breach  
Before the enemy we can reach.  
He lifts each one with calm and care,  
Suddenly an explosion rents the air.

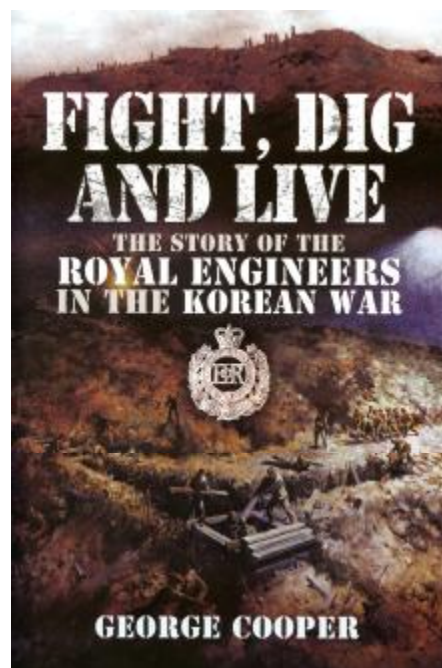
Some wounded moan, some lives are lost,  
The ones that are left say, 'that's the cost',  
And carry on with double care,  
But can be sure each says a prayer.

A road to lay, this is the test  
But this is a team that will do its best.  
The road complete, supplies roll past,  
The sapper thinks of rest at last.

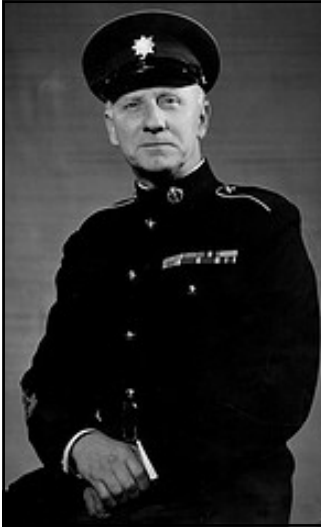
Ready to answer that urgent call,  
Ready to fight or ready to fall,  
They'll destroy or they will build  
Though oft it means they will be killed.

He's no hero, nor yet very brave,  
Though his work might mean the grave.  
So I'll leave the sapper at his post  
And to him I'll give this toast.

'Let the infantry all be praised  
But the man to whom my glass is raised,  
And may he ever have good cheer  
The ever silent Royal Engineer'.



*Editor's Note: Having read the book I can thoroughly recommend it. It will appeal to anyone who has spent time in uniform and mean much to those who was there no matter what Regiment or Corps.*

**FROM BEACHLEY TO THE BERLIN PHILHARMONIC**

Sidney Ord-Hume has featured in these annals before, when he arrived in 1945 and took over the school band as it stood. He was 'instrumental in turning the motley group into a band capable of passing a BBC audition for a broadcast on the Welsh Home Service.

When Sid left and took three of our soloists (who changed trades) he was replaced by Nat Gould, another Kneller Hall man who put the icing on the cake and took the band even further.

By this time Sid had returned to what was left of his original band - the Northamptonshire's - after their return from the far East to the gem of a posting which at that time was BERLIN. His job, like so many other Bandmasters in the late 40s was to rebuild their Bands. The Northamptonshire's recruited more musicians, Sid built the band up to strength and as one would expect well up to standard.

In those days British Army Bands were encouraged to play concerts for the local population whenever possible to promote better relations and raise money for local charities - the German Red Cross were always well in evidence with collecting boxes.

At about this time the band I played with were stationed in Fallingbostal, a very large garrison but the small local town had no local German band so we went to Hanover and regularly supported the Hanover Police Band at the Hanover Opera House. There

was always a full house plus standing in the back stalls, The reason for this being the German love of band music and at that time anyway there wasn't much else happening.

Sidney Ord-Hume was asked to conduct a massed bands concert for a German charity in Berlin. Sid collected together the local bands that were in the process of re-forming plus a couple of Army bands stationed in Berlin and rehearsed the whole ensemble that played the concert to a packed house to great acclaim.

At this particular time the Berlin Philharmonic had re-formed as many of their fine musicians were Jewish and had spent the war in concentration camps. It naturally took time to get things back to something like normal. The orchestra, in common with all top flight orchestras, have on their staff a small team of conductors who specialise in sections of the orchestra - their job being to rehearse the various sections prior to the main celebrated conductor who would be booked to take the final rehearsal and the ultimate concert. Someone connected with the Berlin Philharmonic was so impressed with Sid's handling of the massed bands that he was asked to attend for an interview with the orchestra. In the event, Sid - an Army bandmaster - was offered a job with the Berlin Philharmonic as staff conductor.

At this time, he had served over 31 years which included 6 years war service in India where, being a non-combatant, he was put in charge of a very large ration stores. He appears to have run tills with his usual enthusiasm which was noticed and a QM appointment was on the cards. However, music being his all consuming passion, when the war ended he applied to return to England whence he came to Beachley!

Unfortunately, this story does not have a happy ending. The Korean War had just started and there was a block on Regular release. Although Sid had served for so many years, always with inspiring enthusiasm and commitment, the Army would not discharge him so that he could take up the opportunity of a lifetime. Think of the feather it would have been in the cap of the Kneller Hall powers that be if one of their former students had finished his career with one of the finest orchestras in the world.

As Sir Basil Liddel Hart reminded us "the only thing harder than getting a new idea into the military mind is getting an old one out".

**James Freeman B Coy (Band)**

Additional information supplied by James Ord-Hume - son and heir of Sidney Ord-Hume.

**BOBA Website**

Most of you reading this edition of the Echoes will be doing so on our website, however, we are aware that a minority of our number are not aware that the site exists.

You can access the site either directly (<http://armyapprenticecollege.homestead.com>) or through The Army Apprentice site which has a link to the BOBA site.

**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 (even hand written), it would be of assistance (though 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.

*Editor*





### Ladies Column

I've got to start this short article by thanking the committee for breaking with tradition and allowing the ladies to join the men at the 2011 reunion dinner. The surroundings and service were far superior to that we had been used to and this resulted in more ladies accompanying their husbands to the reunion weekend. Precedence has now been set and I would encourage you to attend the reunion this September if possible.

I'm sure we are all aware that the overall aim of the association is to 'foster friendships through reunions', the men folk do this very well during the course of the weekend as there is plenty for them to see, do and reminiscence on. Hopefully the programme of events gives you sufficient time to have a look around the area and remember past times together. However if there is anything you would like including in the reunion programme please do not hesitate to make contact, I'm sure the committee will discuss any worthwhile proposal.

Did you ladies know that BOBA has a very small benevolent fund, it has, and has been called upon in the past to assist when members are in difficulties. Small donations are normally made in conjunction with larger grants from SSAFA, RBL, etc. If you are aware of any ex-boy who you think would benefit please contact the committee and the matter will be investigated.

Last year the association had hoped to hold its functions at Beachley Camp but the deployment of 1 Rifles to Afghanistan meant that this was not possible. This caused some initial angst but in the end all was sorted and I would like to thank all of the committee for organising an excellent weekend at Chepstow racecourse.

The reunion this year will again be held in the Chepstow area and the all the details can be found elsewhere in these Echoes. The change of venue for the Friday night social looks interesting.

I'd like to close by inviting you all to join us in September; we have our regular attendees but would like to see more new faces. If it is not possible to join in all of the functions please feel free to select one and 'go for it'!

Until September I wish you all you would wish yourselves.

Margaret Henderson

### A Local Girl

*Editors note—This article came about due to a couple of email conversations between Gary 'Chalky' White and Gordon 'Digger' Stanley concerning his wife Kathie who recently passed away. My thanks to Gordon for sharing memories of his lovely lady..*



At the time that I first met Kathie there was a large marquee beside the Wye, close to the bridge. In it was a small fun fair, very tiny, and that was where I first saw her. At that time I was just sixteen and she was fifteen. I asked if anyone knew who she was and someone told me her name was Kathleen Sullivan and that she was living in Sedbury. I made it clear that I was going to ask her out and no one was to beat me to it. Remember, I was fifteen and a half when I joined and had been out to work since I was fourteen, whereas nearly all the others were just fourteen and had more or less come straight from school.

From then on we were inseparable and everyone knew us. A/T's were only allowed one pass a week in those days, L/Cpl's got two, Corporals three. These passes were the official Leave passes, signed by the C.O. I reached the dizzy height of Corporal for a very short time. Then I was up on Orders and given a B\*\*l\*\*ing for going out so often. Next day I paraded at the Company Office with my stripes in my hand, not on my sleeve. I think they must have heard our CSM's roar (Lofty Arnott, RE) in Sedbury

as he fell in two men, double marched me in to Maj Garland's office, charged with being improperly dressed. The result was that I lost my stripes. Lofty lived in Penn village, at Sedbury, and that evening he saw Kathie and laughed as he told her what had happened.

Even in town we were known and the usherette at the cinema always kept two seats in the back row for us.

On another occasion we were all confined to camp for some petty offence. In those days The Point was out of bounds unless on supervised military training. I met Kathie at the style that was there and, while we were having a bit of a snog, the Adjutant came along. I came smartly to attention and saluted. All he said was "Don't be too long Stanley".

For our wedding in 1945 (I was 18 and Kathie was still only 17 – with five days to go to her eighteenth birthday) Kathie, me, and our two witnesses all travelled together in the same taxi to the Registrar's Office in Hampstead. The witnesses were my mother and one of my uncles. There was no wedding cake or meal - we all went over to



the 'Old Bull and Bush' pub on Hampstead Heath for a drink - Kathie only able to have a soft drink as she was under eighteen. This was on the Saturday, on the Tuesday I was back at the School of Artillery where I was in front of the Colonel for getting married without obtaining his permission first.



Six months to the day after we got married I was sent to Palestine - I got one leave of a month in the three and a half years I was out there. When I got home my son was 14 months old when I first saw him. At the end of the war Kathleen was working at the HQ of the WVS and when Churchill called for a meeting of all the countries, to be held in Church House, Westminster, (this was the fore-runner of the United Nations), Kathie was one of the WVS present to act as ushers, receptionists, general helpers etc.

I had a second three and a half year tour in the Middle East and Kathie and the children were with me for only ten months of that tour because they were evacuated due to the Suez War. She never complained or whinged, just got on with it.

After she retired from work she again did voluntary work for the WRVS, delivering meals -on-wheels. She also took over the failing WI Market and built it up and was still doing voluntary work at it until she died. She took

over, and ran the local branch of the Hampshire Genealogical Society, and even completed the 2012 program of Speakers. She belonged to the monthly Gardening Club, the monthly Flower Club, a weekly Keep-Fit class, monthly Genealogy meetings, weekly Market meetings, weekly Craft Group and every week she visited an Old Peoples home to play Bingo with them to get them out of their rooms. Every Friday and Saturday evening we spent two hours at our local pub. There were always three or four women enjoying her company at a table in the corner, while we men were talking at the bar.

Our little town church was packed for the funeral service - I was told it was fuller than it had been for the Christmas services. Kathie was a wonderful lady; she has left a gap in many lives.



Gordon 'Digger' Stanley (42A)

## HERITAGE

**Photos and Memorabilia.** It is hoped that the members of **62A, 62B and 62C** 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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, 58C - 62A, 63A- 63B, 64A - 67B, 68A, 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, Summer 1979 issue, Summer 1980 issue and Spring 1981 issue. Any copies would be appreciated.

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





**Let's Join the Army**

Was there ever any doubt I would end up in the Army. I have two great uncles in graves from the 1<sup>st</sup> WW and one Uncle who died on the retreat to Dunkirk. My grandfather was a Major in the Suffolk Regt and an uncle a Captain in the Irish Guards. Even his two sons were boy soldiers one in the REME and his brother in the RE at Harrogate.

This is where my military history was to begin. Robert, my cousin , I'll call him Robert for that's his proper name but I've known him as Robin all my life since we were evacuated as one year olds. He went to Harrogate about 2 years before me; he was a draftsman and I followed on 13<sup>th</sup> January 1960 as a Painter and Decorator. I'll never forget it cold, snow and windy as we drove up Penny Pot Lane there were troops of boys running in little other then PT kit. Did we laugh yes we did but not the next day!! As with many I'm sure the next few days were a blur with kit issue, drill and BULL.

After a term we moved up to the main camp and got stuck into our Trade training. Our WO was a man called Mugatroid, a great big man who played hockey. I'll never forget, we came to the workshop one day and he was outside marking some work. "Good morning sir" and as he looked around you could see his right eye was completely closed up and all the colours of the rainbow. A hockey ball had hit him fair and square in the eye. He was just waiting to hear one of us laugh, needless to say there were none game.

I've never been the tidiest of people and if the truth be known uniform has never suited me. I was lucky however when I went to "C" Coy as my cousin Robert was a Boy Sergeant there so I always tried to line up so that I was in the line he was inspecting and I got in less trouble that way. It could not last though as he passed out way before me and then we RE boys moved to Chepstow.

Just before we moved we were given a talk on the school regulations. Bit late really, but there was one thing that came up. There was nothing to stop boys growing a moustache .Consequently quite a few of us sprouted a weedy brush under our nose. That was fine at Harrogate but you should have seen how quick we had to shave them off at Chepstow.

Chepstow, what a god forsaken place. Not only was it almost Wales and the pubs were dry on a Sunday but our billets cold brick built with outside toilets and heating was a coke fire in the centre of the room no central heating. I know we only had spiders at Harrogate but at least they were warm. We could see that the Sandhurst blocks were being built but they seemed to take forever.

We soon settled in to enjoy the bright lights of the town!!! I liked The Bush pub later to be knocked down to make way for Woolworths. There was always a dance in the Drill Hall by the town gate on a Saturday night. I did enjoy that and did so even more when I met Eileen who was to become my wife, and still is! There was always the cinema that changed the show three times a week.

One thing forgot to mention. When I joined I was 17years and 3 weeks old in fact too old but so what? The advantage I had was MANS PAY paid after I was 17 ½. I had 2 ½ years as a boy soldier on mans pay, a big bone of contention with some. It also meant when I passed out I was the only 20 year old boy soldier.

What did I do at Chepstow, not a lot you may say? I wasn't much of a sportsman, if I was made to play Rugby and I touched the ball every one hit me I didn't like that. I went to Towyn on outward bound and came back fitter then than I have ever been before or since. Also I passed my city and guilds in my trade.

Having left Chepstow and completing basic training at No 1 I was posted to 13 Field Survey at Hazelmere. I was with surveyors and an electrician, so when the SSM said to me "What's your trade" "Painter sir" His reply was "What the ----- are you here for" But never mind it was a very quaint little posting.

I won't go into the rest of my service as it was all average with postings to No 1, Tidworth and Hameln, Germany. I decided when my CO refused to send me on a Clerk of Works course that my time was up and on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1969 I became Mr. Drew. After a short time working at the Rugby Football Union, Twickenham I decided to join the Metropolitan Police, back in uniform again and you know what I have said about that. Any way that's another story so I think I'll finish here.

**Noel Drew (60A C Coy)**

**New Accommodation**

Notification of the following additional B&B accommodation in Chepstow arrived too late to be included in the main list:

Jan Howells  
45 Bridge Street, Chepstow

Tel: 01291 627191  
Email: [jhowells50@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jhowells50@yahoo.co.uk)

**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: Ken Reader, Carrick House, 8 Cross Lane, Little Downham, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB6 2TJ

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

**Lieutenant Colonel Iain Kinnear (58B B Coy) — A Tribute**

Lt Colonel Iain Kinnear died last week and was cremated today. He was a fine loyal and vital man possessed of an extraordinary enthusiasm for life and with a great laugh always near the surface however inhospitable the place or threatening the situation. Life was for living; time was for doing; negativity and pessimism were the enemy; as for naysayers forever pleading difficulties, Iain rammed them out of his way.

Imagine him watching from above today's pre-breakfast hunt for cufflinks, collar stud, black tie, lace for a black shoe not worn for a while. The hunt begins with the S word and progresses speedily to Where the F, followed by F it, F it, F it, with Iain up there watching and chuckling happily.

The long retired rugby player vainly struggling to button the top trouser button before discarding the suit in a rage, the broken finger nail as he tries to button his shirt collar round a neck that has gained an inch; leaving the collar undone, trousers bridged by a safety pin and the wife saying, "you can't go like that. You're a bloody disgrace, that's what you are."

Ah, well, that's life—or death.

And so we bid farewell to a man who has left us with treasured memories; husband, father, Scots engineer (always the best), cup-winning rugby coach, commanding officer and in retirement, Hanley Swan's rival to Halliburton—not bad for a single life and small wonder that mourners flew in from half way round the world, not in sadness but in celebration of what he was.

Meanwhile St Peter will give a sigh of relief; "Iain, we've been waiting for you. There's a few things we here need fixing...."

Iain with a single glance will recognise lack of maintenance as the sin. Imagine him humphing a couple of times while rolling up his sleeves. Miracles don't happen; they must be worked for. Such is the consolation for those Iain left behind; by the time it's our turn, heaven will be a much better place.



**Simon Gondolfi** 28<sup>th</sup> September 2011

During a long and interesting career Iain served in field regiments including a posting as RSM, he also served in 5 AB Brigade and at various roles in Hereford rising from Sapper to Lt. Col. After retirement Iain worked as the tactical fuel consultant for the United Nations for deployed operations as well as a business advisor to UK and European companies on military fuel systems as well as running his small farm. In his retirement he was a modest, cheerful and very humorous gentleman and will be sadly missed by his many friends amongst which I am honoured to count myself a minor friend. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, and two daughters.

This paragraph was posted on the British Army Rumour Service (ARRSE) web site

**Welfare Matters**

You will note from the AGM Minutes that the net of welfare representatives has been little used and so has been closed down. Any welfare matter should be addressed to the Welfare Officer who is Chalky White; alternatively contact any other committee member (their contact details are published in this document),

Contact details for Chalky White are: 9 Appledore Drive, Allesley Park, Coventry, West Midlands, CV5 7PQ Tel: 02476 404999 Mobile: 07788581775 Email: [garywhite404@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:garywhite404@hotmail.co.uk)

**Volunteer wanted:** Regrettably, for work reasons, Chalky is resigning as the Welfare Officer at this year's AGM. If you can give a little of your time fill this important role please put your name forward to the Secretary (Derek Walker) as soon as possible.

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 Chalky's personal thanks and undoubtedly the thanks of the families concerned.

**AGM Agenda**

If you have any point you want raised at the AGM in September please let the BOBA Secretary, Derek Walker, know as soon as possible. Derek's contact details are given at the head of the minutes on page 12.



## In Memoriam

### REPORTED DECEASED SINCE THE 2011 BEACHLEY ECHOES No. 17

Robin Arnold	60C	C	18/11/2011	Bob Kennison	42A	A&C	11/11/2011
Kenneth Baulf	NK	NK	26/02/2011	Iain Kinnear	58B	B	07/09/2011
Albert Beals	42A	A&C	30/10/2010	W J Kingsbury MBE	42B	B	29/11/2011
John Benyon	43B	B	Feb 2011	Bryan Laurence	54B	C	14/10/2010
GHR Biddles	61B	B	30/05/2011	Thomas A Lowe	47A	A	30/10/2011
John Chivers	44	C	01/04/2011	Keith N Morgan	42A	B	25/06/2011
M Couture	50B	B	06/10/2011	Pete Le Provost	53A	D	16/09/2011
H V Cox	No 40 Gp	D	NK	Alf Robbins	55A	D	28/10/2011
Peter Dandy GM	56A	C	21/10/2010	Wally Sedge	57B	B	27/07/2011
Victor Diment	53A	A	01/05/2009	Charles Spinks	55A	D	18/06/2011
Dave Dransfield	53A	B	14/09/2012	John Thayer	No 32 Gp	B	10/07/2011
Stan Emmett	42	B	11/10/2011	Robert Usherwood	48B	C&D	11/09/2010
Derek Fisher	51B	D	NK	Sam White	No 6 Gp	NK	23/04/2011
Ron M Freeman	62C&63A	A	Nov 2010	Eric Whitehead	42A	A	01/05/2011
Charles Harrison	43A	D	NK	Bill Withers	No 41 Gp	C	11/07/2011
Derek Hawkeswood	50B	B	Mar 2011	Col Peter Rosser OBE	Past President		1/02/2012
Chris Irish	53A	D	17/01/2012				

### *Rest In Peace*

The moon gives you light,  
And the bugles and the drums give you music;  
And my heart, O my soldiers, my veterans,  
My heart gives you love.

Extract from 'Dirge for Two Veterans' by Walt Whitman 1867

### BOBA CENOTAPH DETACHMENT 2011

On the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2011 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 11<sup>th</sup> 2012 and use the opportunity to say your thank you to those who gave everything for the future of others.

Mr Ray Armstrong	55A	Mr Moggsie Morris	55A
Mrs Gwen Armstrong	(carer)	Mr Dick Mullins	63C
Mr Bob Beeston	60C	Mr Maurice Murtagh	43B
Mr Clive Bridgeman	66C	Mr Mac Obermaier	58B
Mr Colin Bridgeman	66C	Mr Derek Pomeroy	62A
Mr Barry Buttenshaw	63A&B	Lt Col Ken Reader OBE	62C
Mr Mike Charlesworth BEM	62B	Mr Ray Reader	63C
Mr Ron Davies	57A	Mr Bob Reid	56A
Mr Ian Dickens	47B	Mr Dave Smith	60C
Mr John Goodall	74C	Mr Mike Stanford	74C
Mr Chris Gould	71B	Mr Dave Stone	49A
Mr Ian Harrower	74C	Mr Ken Stout	53B
Major Malcolm Hay	53A	Mr Maurice Taylor	58A
Mrs M Hodson	(carer)	Lt Col Syd Thomas	47A
Mr Joe Kinson	50A	Mr Tony Waite	60C
Mr Bill Liddle	73C	Mrs Gaynor West	(carer)
Mr Baz Morgan	73B	Mr Dave Youdle	58A



**Dave Clements** 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



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

Email [brianhend@hotmail.com](mailto:brianhend@hotmail.com)  
Tel. 01437 781273

Email: [dchunkywalker@talktalk.net](mailto:dchunkywalker@talktalk.net)  
Tel. 01373 825554

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BEACHLEY OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION  
HELD AT THE RACE COURSE LOUNGE, CHEPSTOW  
ON SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011**

Present:

Lt Col (Retd) S Thomas	President
Maj (Retd) B Henderson	Chairman
Mr G White	Vice President (Welfare)
Mr T Waite	Vice President (Elected)
Mr D Fox	Membership Secretary
Maj (Retd) M Hay	Heritage Member
Mr P Burridge	Reunion Organiser
Mr C Ricketts	Hon Treasurer
Mr BA Obermaier	BE Editor/ Chepstow Liaison
Maj (Retd) DRO Walker	Hon Secretary

Apologies: C. Irish 53A, N. Cawte 44Gp, A. Ball 46A, R. Jago, J. Symes 47A, F. Sidley 54A, B. Woodward 56B, W. Killen 58A, N. Drew 60A, B. Morgan 73A, K. Grieves 61B. (53 Members Present).

**Item 1. Opening:** The Chairman welcomed all members to the AGM.

**Item 2. Welcoming:** The President praised the Committee for arranging the 'new location' for the Reunion at such short notice (applause) and welcomed 61 Groups in particular on their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. He reminded the Group that Standard Bearers and collection gatherers would be required at the church service.

**Item 3. In Memoriam:** A two minute silence was held for those ex-Beachley Boys who had died since the last reunion and also for those members of the Armed Forces who had been killed in action while serving in Afghanistan. The names of twenty two ex-boys were read out.

No.	Title	Name	Group
24	Mr	K Fletcher (Ken)	43A
53	Mr	H V Cox (Harold)	40
114	Mr	E A Whitehead (Eric)	42
211	Mr	J R Thayer (John)	32
228	Mr	R Allen (Roy)	36
283	Mr	R Currell (Roy)	46A
409	Mr	P A Beals (Peter)	42A
762	Mr	J Benyon (John)	43B
970	Mr	V J Diment (Victor)	53A
1062	Mr	C A Spinks (Chas)	55A
1136	Mr	PH Dandy (Peter)	56A



1205	Mr	R Usherwood (Robert)	48A
34	Major	W J A Withers (Bill)	41C
949	Mr	P Le Provost (Pete)	53A
N-M	Mr	G H R Biddles	61B
N-M	Mr	E H Coggins(Ernie)	44A
N-M	Mr	C Harrison (Charles)	43A
N-M	Mr	D Hawkswood (Derek)	50B
N-M	Captain	S A H White (Sam)	6
N-M	Mr	D Dranfield (Dave)	53A
N-M	Mr	M Cannaby (Maurice (Mo))	48
N-M	Mr	D Morgan (Keith)	42A D

**Item 4. Minutes of AGM 2010:** Matters arising:

Item 11, p9 – Lease of OSH. (BH) nothing forthcoming as yet. Defence Infrastructure Organisation is restructuring at this time, however, OSH maintenance and building safety continues. (DC) Was the roof included? (BH) DIO, have been made aware of this.

Note: BE contained the 2010 AGM minutes. A vote was taken to confirm this reflected a true statement of events.

Proposed: R Armstrong 55A  
 Seconded: T Whitehouse 56A  
 Agreed: Unanimously

**Item 5. Executive Committee Report:**

a. Chairman (BH): He welcomed the first timers and introduced the Committee Members stating their undertakings. He gave a 'resume' of why the Reunion was being held at the 'Race Course'. The resident battalion was now in Afghanistan, the Chepstow Hotel had been demolished and a therefore a new venue was needed.

b. Treasurer (CR): The Treasurer gave a Statement of Account for the Association and indicated that it had been audited recently with only minor findings. (The Treasurers hand out is awaited at this time). Questions were raised on Standing Orders from Germany with the 20-30% of costs incurred on exchanges and the cancellation on death of members subscriptions. (ST) Annual £10 subs are in – no questioning.

A vote confirming the true reflection of the BOBA Fund was taken.

Proposer: K Reader 62C  
 Seconder: J Phillips 56B  
 Agreed: Unanimously

c. Membership (DF): My second year in office and gets no easier. Subscriptions – 136 letters were sent out to lapsed members, 7 renewed, 9 resigned, 2 have died, 7 have moved/lost, 111 no reply. The Lapsed members figure now stands at 218. Of the 407 (5 year'ers) contacted through BEs, 52 have paid. Current membership is 967 of which 433 have paid their subscriptions to date. There have been 34 new members since the last Reunion. Next year is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 62 Groups, should any assistance be required please contact me (Tel: 01760 338483). The Reunion is confined to 'BOBA Members' only – so join up! (email – [memsec.boba@homecall.co.uk](mailto:memsec.boba@homecall.co.uk)).

d. Heritage (MH): Very little to report, but we are still hoping, in association with The Chepstow Museum, to digitise some or all of our archives.

e. Welfare/Benevolence (GW): The Welfare net working has been little used in a very long time. Committee members are usually attending funerals, at long distances because of external information. Could members in the area concerned attend on behalf of BOBA? General feeling from the floor was affirmative. It is intended to 'shut-down' the Regional Representatives, the Committee will discuss. Currently there is no Avon Rep.

f. Chepstow Liaison/BE (MO): Thanks to all who have submitted articles for Beachley Echoes. I have now resigned as Editor (I will continue as caretaker) until relieved. I have enjoyed my time most thoroughly. The Echoes next year will be published on our website, members can download as required. Requests by members for paper copies currently stands at 29. The damaged painting by Lionel Morris taken from St Georges was considered too costly to repair (£600 +). It has now been handed back to the resident battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Rifles.



**Item 6. Election of Committee (Vice Presidents):** The President and Chairman were not due for re-election this year. Present Committee members wished to continue in their posts, it was proposed therefore to re-elect all members 'on-block'.

Proposed by: C Weir 55A  
Seconded by: D Chapman 60A  
Agreed: Unanimously

**Item 7. Army Apprentice National Memorial (DC):** Maj (Retd) Chapman outlined the unveiling of the AANM at Arlewas on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011. A representative group of guests were in attendance. He thanked all personnel that had donated towards the monument or bought 'bricklets' and BOBA in particular for their kind £5K donation. He emphasised the huge effort of all that had gone into this project to achieve the given target date within 2 years of inception. A DVD was to be made available through Mr Barry Hudson. He highlighted the need for a future maintenance fund of £15K to maintain the monument through the next 20 years. The AANM is organizing various funding initiatives and can be reached via their website, [aanm.org.uk](http://aanm.org.uk) should you wish to donate.

**Item 8. The Cenotaph Parade:** The President required more names on the attendance list in the foyer. Tickets were available for 30 members, but reserves were always needed. (Post meeting note: Parade was well attended and enjoyed).

**Item 9. Any Other Business:**

a. Brian Henderson: During the year the committee had received a request for a BOBA Flag/Standard to be hung in the BOBA Chapel in St Georges Church.

Ans: This has now been provided.

b. Ron Marie 46A: AANM initially stated that a time capsule with the BOBA 'Roll of Honour' would be placed underneath the monument.

Ans: (DC) There is a meeting in November to set a plan for interring the document in a 'Grant Box' with thermos arrangement to avoid deterioration.

c. Colin Weir 55A: Q1. Arborfield Old Boys are moving to Coventry for future Reunions, due to the 'Close Down' of Arborfield garrison. Is there any plan if Beachley Barracks, closes?

Ans: (BH) Will monitor but Beachley Barracks is not planned to close at present.

Ans: (ST) Reiterated the members feelings regarding the location of the reunion other than in the Chepstow area. (Loud round of applause).

Q2. Can we have a 'Notebook' area for 'communication purposes' on the BOBA 'Website'?

Ans: (BH) Will do during the update of the 'Website', also refreshing the site in the process. Assistance is needed though!

d. Peter Gilbey: Committee members should be aware that REA weekend next year is their Centenary and it clashes with BOBA weekend.

Ans: (BH) This will be considered by the Committee and reunion dates published when agreed. (Post meeting note: The weekend 21-23 Sep 2012 was agreed).

Proposed: A vote of thanks for the committee for all their efforts through the year on our behalf.

Agreed: Unanimously

**Item 10. Date of Next Reunion and Next Meeting:** The dates for the next reunion have yet to be agreed. The next AGM will be on the 22 Sep 12. The meeting closed at 1600hrs.

DRO WALKER  
Hon Sec

DRO WALKER  
Hon Sec BOBA

B HENDERSON  
Chairman BOBA





### RAEC Sergeant Instructor

I was very interested to see your memory corner on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2009 regarding Mike Goundry and intake 57B at AAS Chepstow.

I was a Sergeant Instructor in the Royal Army Education Corps at AAS Chepstow at that time attached to Headquarters Company which was the intake company where the whole new intake did their basic training during their first term.

At the time I was only a few years older than these lads and I was chosen to sleep in a small room at the end of one of their barrack rooms—to keep an eye on things and ensure that the Apprentice NCOs exercised proper control over their charges when they were off duty. There were, to my knowledge, no instances of bullying.

I was therefore very close to the lads in their first term and I hope helped them over this, for some, anxious time when home sickness and 'Oh my God what have I done getting into this?' sometimes happened. They were only 15 years old and most of them away from home and parents for the first time. The most resilient group were the former pupils of the Duke of York's Royal Military School at Dover who almost without exception came from military families and had been in this military type boarding school for a number of years already. They were the salt of the earth.

As RAEC instructors the Education Staff ran a full 3 year education programme helping these lads qualify for their Army Education Certificates and sometimes beyond this to take GCEs.

In addition to our teaching duties (I taught English, Map Reading, Military History and sometimes Current Affairs) we were encouraged to organise and participate in off-duty activities for the boys. With the dramatic society and sport.

I attach a photo and details of the HQ Coy 57B Group Rugby XV which I coached during that first term. They were a marvellous group and would have gone far as a team if they had been kept together.

I left the Army at the end of a 3 year engagement in September 1958 so I did not see 57B Pass Out in July 1960. (After just one year in civvy street I re-enlisted in November 1959 but this time into The Corps of Royal Military Police completing 22 years service in 1978)

I have always held 'The Beachley Boys' in the highest regard. They came into the Army with nothing and left AAS Chepstow after 3 years as soldiers with a trade and education.

I subsequently met a few of these lads during my own army career and in almost every case they were valued officers, warrant officers and senior NCOs.

I cannot recall Mike Goundry but I am sure he is in there somewhere in that memory bank of names gathered over 22 years in the army. Please pass my very best wishes to them all.

### Spence McLeod

*Editor's Note ; This was dragged from the archive of unused articles; unfortunately the photo could not be found. My recollection of the RAEC Sgt Instructors is that of one who called us cretins—it took me a while to discover the meaning of the word!*



### Rookie Meets Draft Member

After 66 years Ken (Nobby) Copeland (42A, A Coy Draft), who now lives in Sedbury, met up with rookie John Boy Bass (44A A Coy) at the BOBA Reunion Church Parade last year.

John, who was Ken's batman is being berated for the cleaning of Ken's Mean Machine which didn't come up to standard...

This tale is surely what our reunions are all about—and long may they continue to give old friends the chance to meet and catch up on life and swing the lamp a few times.

John's trendy tie was purchased from the BOBA shop run by Tony Waite. The name badge can be ordered on the Reunion booking form.



**Editor's First Hurrah**

Having edited a number of publications through my years in the service, and out of it, I knew that it was not going to be an easy task, given the high standard set by Mac Obermaier, to take over as editor of this august publication. Even when volunteering (what happened to 'never volunteer?') in a completely sober state there is always that post event moment when you think 'was that a good move'. Anyway having made the decision to step into Mac's shoes I suddenly found myself immersed in work—the type that pays the bills. This was not expected as I had, at my director's request, extended my working life by a year and a new retirement date in June 2012. The general idea was for me to run down while handing over my duties to others, needless to say the plan did not get past the first month, in fact the volume seemed to increase. My cocky approach to the task of producing this publication soon evaporated and I knew I would have my work cut out to get it to the printer by the Chairman's deadline.

However: (this is where the title comes in)

- I hadn't forgotten how to use Microsoft Publisher - hurrah.
- Thanks to many of you and the Committee there were sufficient articles to fill the usual 36 pages -

hurrah.

- There was lots of support and patience from the Committee and Mac in particular - hurrah.
- I will make the set deadline - hurrah.

Now here is the thing, I now have to do it all over again next year! That will not be possible if you guys out there do not let me have your contributions. My plea is for you to send me your:

- Tall tales / Stories / Reminiscences
- Anecdotes / Jokes / Cartoons
- Letters of complaint / praise

Or whatever takes your fancy. Without your efforts we will have a much slimmer, and therefore less interesting Echoes next year – no hurrahs.

I would also ask that you do not keep the Echoes to yourselves, show it to that mate who is not sure about joining BOBA or indeed returning after letting membership lapse. We Beachley Boys are a rare, and diminishing, breed that were moulded in the same foundry and no matter what we do today we do share a common bond. I for one would like to meet up with guys from my group, something that has happened at BOBA only twice. The second time was last year when I met a guy not seen since the day we left our man service training which immediately followed our Pass Out from Beachley. It was great to make his acquaintance again and we have been in touch since; another hurrah!

**Ken Reader (62C)**

**Another of Terry's Cartoons**

Some of you will recollect that Mac used one of Terry's cartoons last year. Here is another from the set; this one depicts an Apprentice Tradesman circa 1957.







### **BOBA REUNION 2012 – GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS**

As you can see from the front page we have again managed to obtain accommodation at the Hampton by Hilton Hotel, near Magor. The costs per room per night are the same as last year. Again, on the Saturday we will be based at Chepstow Racecourse, this includes the heritage trail, the annual general meeting and the reunion dinner. As in 2011 the reunion dinner (Dress: Jacket & tie) will be mixed and the costs remain the same. What will change this year is our Friday evening 'Get Together', this will be held in the WO's and Sjt's Mess at Beachley (Dress: Smart casual). We trust you will find all the facilities to your liking.

The hotel is about 9 miles from Chepstow therefore we have laid on return transport for both the Friday (including a pickup at Tesco Chepstow) and Saturday evenings to enable those requiring it to enjoy the festivities without jeopardising their driving licences. You will see from the reunion booking form that hotel and transport packages are very attractive but please note that in order to obtain BOBA concessions bookings must be made through our organiser in the usual manner.

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 to assist you? For those staying in Chepstow the walk back to town from the racecourse is roughly equidistant as with the now demolished 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**

**Booking** Book early and send a stamped, self addressed envelope with the correct postage please. Attention! There will be no reception desk open on the Friday for the collection of tickets so if you intend to join us in the mess at Beachley that evening please get them posted to your contact address. (The reception desk will be open as usual on Saturday.)

**Caravans** Parking is available at the racecourse for caravans and mobile homes, however services are limited in terms of electrical hook ups and you may be required to share. There is a water supply and separate toilets and showers are available in the 'Hostel'. Access to the racecourse can be made via the Lion Gate or off the new roundabout on the St Arvan's road. There will be signposts to guide motorists on site.

Those leaving on the Sunday are requested to do so by 2pm, this coincides with the closing time of the market. The Racecourse has offered to extend the booking period to include Sunday night, those leaving on Monday are requested to do so by midday.

**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.



The Hampton Hotel



The Silks Restaurant—Chepstow Race Course



**THE 2012 BOBA REUNION PROGRAMME****FRIDAY 21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER****DEWSTOW GOLF CLUB – The Park Course**

Golf Practice 13.00

**BEACHLEY BARRACKS****WO's & Sjt's Mess 1 Rifles**

Entrance to barracks via the main gate (ticket holders for 'Get Together' only) 19.00 onwards

Coach(es) leave Hampton Hotel for barracks 18.30

Coach pickup at Tesco Chepstow 19.00

BOBA Get Together 19.00 to 23.59

Buffet Supper (beef/chicken curry with trimmings or lasagne) 20.30 to 21.30

Bar closes 23.59

Coach(es) leave barracks for the Hampton Hotel 23.59

**SATURDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER****DEWSTOW GOLF CLUB – The Park Course**

The BOBs Golf Competition 08.15

**CHEPSTOW RACECOURSE****The Premier Foyer**

Members Reception Desk (closed during AGM) 09.30 to 16.30

Heritage Trail &amp; Chepstow Museum (including BOBA Shop) 10.00 to 13.00

**The Premier Bar**

Bar open for tea/coffee/alcohol and light lunches until demand ceases 09.30 onwards

Annual General Meeting 14.30 to 15.00

Coach leaves the Hampton Hotel for the Chepstow Racecourse 18.00

**The Premier Foyer**

Members Reception Desk 18.30 to 19.00

**The Premier Bar**

The Presidents Reception 18.30 to 19.30

Golf Prize Giving 18.30

**The Silks Restaurant**

The BOBA Reunion Dinner 19.30

After Dinner Dance 21.30 to 23.59

Bar closes 01.00 Sunday

Coach(es) leave the Chepstow Racecourse for the Hampton Hotel 00.15 Sunday

**SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER****BEACHLEY BARRACKS**

Entrance to Beachley Barracks is via the Old Beachley Gate (Pass Required) 10.00 onwards

**Parade Square**

'Get on Parade' 10.30

**St George's Chapel**

Founders Day Church Service 11.00

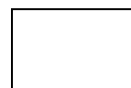
**The Hub**

Lunch available 12.00 onwards



**BOOKING FORM FOR THE BOBA REUNION**

**21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> September 2012**



**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 'Get Together' (Buffett & Dance)	Tickets @ £14.00	No. ....	Total Cost	£.....
Friday 'Get Together' (Dance Only)	Tickets @ £5.00	No. ....	Total Cost	£.....
Saturday Reunion (Dinner & Dance)	Tickets @ £32.00	No. ....	Total Cost	£.....
Saturday Reunion (Dance Only)	Tickets @ £5.00	No. ....	Total Cost	£.....
Accommodation (B&B) at the Hampton Hotel (price shown is for single or double occupancy)				
Two nights - Friday & Saturday	Tickets @ £100.00	No. ....	Total Cost	£.....
One night - Saturday	Tickets @ £50.00	No. ....	Total Cost	£.....
Caravan (at Chepstow Racecourse)	Per Night @ £7.50	No. ....	Total Cost	£.....
Coach Seats (Per Return Trip)				
Hampton Hotel to/from Beachley	Per seat @ £5.00	No. ....	Total Cost	£.....
Tesco Chepstow to/from Beachley	Per seat @ £3.00	No. ....	Total Cost	£.....
Hampton Hotel to/from Racecourse	Per seat @ £5.00	No. ....	Total Cost	£.....
Name Badge Holder	Each @ £ 1.50	No. ....	Total Cost	£.....

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

**Any Special Requirements** (e.g. dietary/disabled).....

**N.B. Entry to Beachley Barracks is Restricted - entry will be by ticket (21<sup>st</sup>) or gate pass (23<sup>rd</sup>).**

Please indicate if you require a gate pass to attend the Church Parade on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> **Yes / No**

Please indicate if you are interested in lunch (approximately £5 payable on the day) in the Beachley Barracks 'Hub' after Church **Yes / No**

**SEATING ARRANGEMENTS ~ THE REUNION DINNER**

Seating at the dinner is mixed, the tables will seat up to 8 persons and can be arranged by groups. Should you (and your partner) wish to be seated with friends 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 stamped self addressed C5 or C6 envelope.

Cheques are to be made payable to "**Beachley Old Boys Association**", not "**BOBA**".

**Mr. P. Burridge, 4 Southbrook, 1 Heron Close, Preston,  
Weymouth, Dorset, DT3 6SX**

(Tel: 01305 835989 Email: [bobareunion@btinternet.com](mailto:bobareunion@btinternet.com))

**PLEASE SEND YOUR BOOKING BEFORE 1<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2012**



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

# BEACHLEY OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

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



**BOBA ~ Membership Secretary**  
Derek Fox  
51 Church Close, Pentney,  
King's Lynn, Norfolk.  
PE32 1JJ

Dear BOBA Member

**Re: Next of Kin (NOK)**

**Tel. 01760 338483**  
Mobile: 07842 555110  
[memsecboba@sky.com](mailto:memsecboba@sky.com)

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:** [memsecboba@sky.com](mailto:memsecboba@sky.com)

**Telephone:** +44 (0) 1760 338483

**Mobile:** +44 (0)7842 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 2012

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	(1633) 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 TIPLING 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	PENAULT, 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. BRAIVELS (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](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 at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011

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

#### Assets

	£0.00	Cash in Hand	£0.00
	3,960.02	Cash in Bank	£7,540.65
£3,960.20	Total Cash		£7,540.65
£2,216.95	Deposit Account		£0.00
£11,000	Building Society Account		£11,154.61
£0.00	Sundry Debtors		£0.00
£17,176.97	<b>Total Liquid Assets</b>		£18,695.26

#### Shop Stock

£3,149.43	BOBA / AAS Regalia		£3,343.77
£20,326.40	<b>Total Current Assets</b>		£22,039.03

#### Liabilities

	£0.00	Sundry Creditors	£0.00
	£216.40	BOBA Golf Fund	£185.11
	£626.90	Benevolent Fund	£626.90
	£350.00	BOBA NMA Fund	£0.00
£1,193.30	<b>Total Liabilities</b>		£812.01

£19,133.10	<b>Net working Capital</b> (being Current Assets minus Liabilities)			£21,227.02
------------	---	--	--	------------

#### Fixed Assets

£155.02	£155.02	Capital Property	£0.00	£0.00
£15,000.00	£15,000.00	Investments	£15,000.00	£15,000.00

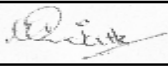
#### General Purpose Fund

£38,044.07	Balance Brought Forward		£34,288.12	
	Add Surplus Income		£1,938.90	
£3,755.95	Subtract Deficit of Expenditure			
<b>£34,288.12</b>	<b>Accumulated General Purpose Fund</b> being the Net Working Capital & Total Fixed Assets			<b>£36,227.02</b>

Not Yet Audited

Treasurer

Christopher Ricketts

Signed		Signed	
Date		Date	4/03/2012



Expenditure/Loss	2011	2010	Income	2011	2010
Refunds	£20.00	£0.00	Membership Subs	£4220.00	£3550.00
Committee Expenses	£2011.87	£2313.49	Donations	£595.50	£274.00
Insurance	£85.00	£178.69	Deposit A/C Interest	£0.64	£5.46
Property Depreciation	£155.02	£47.00	Investment Div.	£1030.88	£1030.88
Wreaths	£37.00	£41.00	Shop Profit	£203.39	£164.55
Web Site Fees	£150.04	£158.85	Building Soc. Interest	£154.61	£0.00
Postage	£586.65	£754.58	Shop Postage	£110.72	£43.44
Stationery	£337.59	£228.97	Church Collection	£350.00	£405.00
Honorarium Treasurer	£0.00	£0.00	Addl. Misc. Sales	£54.50	£64.89
Honorarium Mem. Sec	£0.00	£0.00	Refund Solicitor	£0.00	£104.00
Donations	£350.00	£5605.00	Sales to AOBA	£0.00	£300.00
Write Off	£0.00	£68.11	Reunion	£0.00	£0.00
Reunion Subsidy	£832.84	£0.00	St Johns Interest	£0.00	£0.00
AOBA Purchase	£0.00	£300.00	Dep. A/C Closing Int.	£0.07	£0.00
Misc Purchases	£215.40	£0.00			
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£4781.41</b>	<b>£9695.69</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£6720.31</b>	<b>£5942.22</b>
<b>Surplus to Bal. Sheet</b>	<b>£1938.90</b>		<b>Deficit to Bal. Sheet</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£3753.47</b>
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>£6720.31</b>	<b>£9695.69</b>		<b>£6720.31</b>	<b>£9695.69</b>

**NOTES:**

**Subscriptions:** 2011 showed an increase in Subscriptions as many renewed their 5 year payment and new Members joined the Association.

**Echoes:** The Echoes remains our costliest item but with the change to "On Line Access" and only a limited number requesting a printed copy this should reduce.

**Printing and Postage:** Again with the advent of the "On Line" facility we should see a substantial fall in these costs.

**Committee Expenses:** The decision to reduce the number of meetings and continued prudence will see these costs reduce further.

**Donations:** An increase in this area came from Members leaving bequests and Families making donations to BOBA.

**Deposit Account:** This account is now closed and the balance transferred to the Monmouthshire Building Society paying a much higher interest rate.

**BOBA Shop:** The shop continues to flourish and this year has increased profits.

**Golf Society:** Once again well supported and still self-funding.

**Reunion:** The enforced decision to move venues resulted in the need for a subsidy as shown above.

**Conclusion:** The Association remains solvent and able to meet all it's commitments for the foreseeable future.

**Please note:** Would all Members that pay their Membership Subscriptions by Standing Order please check with their Bank to ensure that they have entered a reference on their payment authority, i.e Group Details, initials and/or Membership Number. There have been several payments received that cannot be traced back to a Member because they have no reference details or simply BOBA and no name or other details. This not only causes difficulty in accounting for the money and crediting it to the correct person but may also lead to you not being able to get tickets for the Annual Reunion because you will be shown as a Non-Member on the records.

**C Ricketts, Hon Treasurer BOBA**





## **BOBA Membership Secretary's Report**

### **Foreword:**

This is my second full year as your Membership Secretary and I can say in all honesty that writing these reports doesn't get any easier.

### **Membership Fees:**

As requested by the members at the AGM last year I wrote to all Lapsed Members. The results are as follows.

- 136 letters were sent. ( £62.56p in postage )
- 7 Members renewed their membership.
- 9 Members resigned.
- 2 Members had died.
- 7 Members had moved house and had become lost to us.
- 111 Members didn't respond.

The number of Lapsed Members now stands at 185.

Of the 407 5 Yearers (as they are known) contacted through the Beachley Echoes, 52 paid this year.

The current Membership on paper now stands at 910.

To date this year (2011) 456 members have paid their subscriptions.

I would ask all members, if they know any of the lapsed members, to ask them to restart paying their subs.

### **New Members:**

Recruitment of new members this year has been slightly better than last years' figures. To date of writing this report, we have had 43 new members enrolled or been brought from the lapsed members' database. Every visitor to the website now gets an email with joining applications attached. A little success has been achieved by this method of recruitment.

### **New Members that have joined since 1 January 2011**

Mr. T R	Terry	Lane-Smith	58A	Mr. A G	Drew	Vernon	68A
Mr. M	Martin	Tucker	72C/73A	Mr. R A W	Rex	Smith	50A
Mr. J C	Jim	Grieve	51B	Mr. D J	David	Cumming	59C
Mr. R	Robin	Arnold	60C	Mr. M C	Tommy	Steele	61A
Mr. C G	Colin	Emsley	66A	Mr. M G	Geoff	Jelley	58B
Mr. RA	Roy	Eyers	58A	Mr. T P	Tom	Bebbington	62C
Mr. W	Wallace	Jones	56B	Mr. J	Jim	Robertson	58B
Mr. J W	Joe	Hasnip	Staff	Mr. F A J	John	Blissett	62A
Mr. G	Glyn	Dale	61A	Mr. J M	John	Jowett	50B
Mr. DKL	Don	Felton	64B	Mr. W D	Dave	Clement	71C
Mr. JH	John	Ashford	63C	Mr. R	Bob	Hudson	63B
Mr. P	Paul	Sinclair	73A	Col D M	Douglas	Stobie	55B
Mr. G	Gaz	Cross	73A	Mr. J	John	Barlow	62C
Mr. J C	John	Antins	73A	Mr. M J	Mike	Suggitt	61C
Mr. I L	Gramps	Parr	64B	Mr. B	Baz	Hipwell	75C
Mr. K	Kegs	Kelly	71B	Mr. DW	Bill	Nichol	61A
Mr. S J	Steve	Stone	55B	Mr. J	Jim	Brown	71B
Mr. I	Yan	Parmley	73A	Mr. M	Mel	Hinchcliffe	69A
Mr. J	Jim	Hyslop	63C	Mr. E A	Eddie	Hillier	62C
Mr. S A	Alec	Leigh	73C	Mr. BJ	John	Hughes	62B
Mr. R J	John	Eckton	55A	Mr. A	Alan	Rowlands	69C

**We welcome them into the Association**

### **1962 Groups ~ 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

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

### **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 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:**

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 (Please note this is a new mobile number)

Email Address: ~ [memsecboba@sky.com](mailto:memsecboba@sky.com) (Please note this is a new email address)

**Derek Fox (58B)**



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

Your full Name or name of business	Branch name	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Your contact telephone number	Sort Code	Account number
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

All sections must be completed

## 2 Standing Order details

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

Yes	No	Weekly	4 Weekly	Monthly
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Quarterly	Half yearly	Yearly
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

First payment amount (if different to usual amount)	First payment date (Month & Year)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Usual amount	Usual payment amount in words
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Second payment amount (if different to usual amount)	Second payment date (Fill in year)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Until further notice (X)

How often do you want payments made?

### 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. Humberdnk.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

- 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.

ID confirmed (for bank use only)

Your signature

Date

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

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

Registered in Scotland  
No 95237  
Signatories to the Banking Codes

From branch name	Sort Code	Contact name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>



### Last Lament



Having handed over the duties of editor into the capable hands of Ken Reader it would be remiss of me not to express my gratitude for all the help I received from members and your committee over the last four years in compiling the Echoes during my tenure of the role. The work can consume quite a bit of time but is very rewarding bringing you into

contact with people of all persuasions, civilians now but each with a good tale to relate whether during or after military service. The problem for Ken now as it was for me will be in winking it out of them! I do hope many of you will think about this and help him with a contribution to keep the Echoes interesting and wish him every success.

If anyone needs information or guidance related to the Chepstow area or at reunions please contact me as before, I will be continuing in the post of Chepstow Liaison.

A hidden benefit of editing has been rubbing shoulders with all your committee members who dedicate a considerable amount of time and effort to the cause of BOBA. Whatever the role from balancing books, fielding enquiries or attending functions or ceremonials on behalf of the association matters not. It takes special people to put in the work year after year for the benefit of others and not to count the cost, it's good to be amongst them. Reports following such work are just a summary.

I was grateful for the opportunity to take part in the Remembrance Day Parade again last year meeting old friends, it never fails to impress and the weather was also better. If there is another place where so many people of different nationality congregate, many in their unique uniform, others of all ages wearing the decorations of relatives to pay their respects to the fallen I am unaware of it.

Attached are thumbnail photographs to give you a flavour of the occasion, a mixture from the hail fellow well met to reflective and sombre. I snapped one lady who looked like Margaret Thatcher but sadly was unable use my camera during the "eyes right" whilst passing the podium supporting Prince Charles; wasn't his best profile anyway. As usual Syd Thomas and Baz Morgan did a grand job of shepherding us around the event without actually nipping at our heels.

I will miss editing but in case you preferred the humour page here is a final offering ~

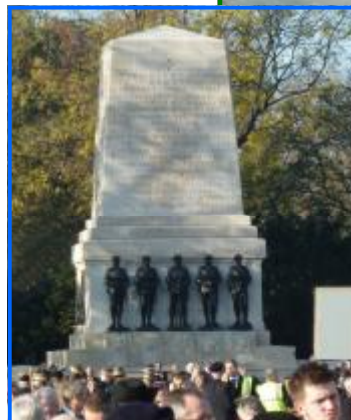
A prosperous looking man ate a fine meal at a fancy restaurant and topped it off with an exclusive if expensive brandy. He summoned the head waiter. "Do you recall," he asked pleasantly, "how a year ago, I

partook of such a repast here and then, simply because I couldn't pay for it you had me thrown in the gutter like a common bum?"

"I'm very sorry sir" began the head waiter contritely. "Oh it's quite all right" said the guest, "but I'm afraid I'll have to trouble you again".

Here's hoping to see you and perhaps your "better half" at the reunion, if unavailable why not persuade an old mate from Beachley to come?

**Mac Obermaier (58B)**





### An Apprentice's Salty Tale

WO1 (later Major) Chips Rafferty, ASM of the Fitter's Shop in my pimply youth, somehow arranged to have me shanghaied as a Marine Engineer from Beachley. Guess I must have liked it, because I'm STILL a Marine Engineer, Merchant Navy, that is, although I work ashore now. Here's a taste of what it was like.

My first ship with Whitco Marine, of London, England, was a reefer, and I had to go to Tokyo in December '73 to join her. Christmas that year would be spent at sea, somewhere in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, no snow, no family or friends to gather around the tree, no holiday, no carols, not even a day off to relax. It's just another day when the ship is at sea.

I left London aboard the crowded British Airways Australia immigrant flight, bound for Sydney, to Hong Kong, where I would connect with a Cathay Pacific flight to Tokyo. The BA flight stopped at Tehran (8 hours, 1 hour layover) and New Dehli (6 hours, 1 hour layover) then Hong Kong (another 6 hours). A bunch of rug rats took it in turns to fret, cry, scream and otherwise be obnoxious during the eternity that flight lasted. Even as a parent, there are times I think that children should be sedated and kept in the hold of an aircraft on a long haul flight. My seat got harder and harder and more uncomfortable, the knee room smaller and smaller, and the cabin air hotter and hotter. My flesh crawled when we landed in Hong Kong, that dirty, itchy feeling you get when you badly need a shower. My eyes prickling, gritty, feeling full of sand, muscles and bones aching, every joint weary, the carry on baggage weighing a ton, and backside dragging as I plodded along the jetway. It was daylight, but my body told me it's the middle of the night, and I should be asleep. And there's another 4 hour flight to catch! I was glad to leave the BA plane in Hong Kong to catch my connection to Tokyo, where I was to join the Cardiff Clipper, as Fourth Engineer. I had been told that the new Captain was also flying out to join her, and I was to look for him at Hong Kong. He, of course, flew First Class from London, but the Cathay Pacific flight to Tokyo was a single class flight, so he was stuck with the common herd. Nowadays, all boat people, Captains included, fly "cattle class" to keep costs to a minimum for crew changes. In fact, if Boeings carried deck passengers, we'd be sitting on the wings! Only office people fly first class and stay in 5 star hotels. Boat people are regarded as sub human, so anything will do for them.

A Junior Engineer talking to a Captain! Unheard of! My previous ship had been the Clan MacInnes, affectionately known as "Clan MacPorridge", and I had served about a year aboard her as Sixth Engineer. Near the end of my time aboard, the Captain spoke to me for the first time! He said "Good morning, Fiver". (didn't get my rank right, but he did speak directly to me!) Clan Line, my previous employer, was an old, established shipping firm which had been around for years, sending ships to various parts of the British Empire. The Clan MacInnes ran from UK to South Africa, with general cargo. You joined as a Cadet or Junior Officer and retired as Captain or Chief Engineer in those days. That's the way it was, you were "Company" right to your bones. But that's another story.

Times were a changing' when a Junior Engineer Officer could socialise with a Captain, even in an airport lounge. We met in the bar (where else) and knocked back a Scotch or two while we waited for the flight to Tokyo. Once aboard the Cathay Pacific plane, I was delighted to read in the flight magazine that "beverages are Complimentary", which meant drinks were free! I confirmed this with the stewardess, and the Captain and I proceeded to sample all the cocktails on the menu. The flight to Tokyo was very pleasant, and we arrived in the evening to be met at the airport by the ship's Agent. This guy was very organised, he took us through immigration and Customs with very little of the racial slurs and disdainful treatment of Gai jin for which Japan was notorious. Once aboard the ship, I was ensconced temporarily in the ship's Hospital, the only spare bunk available, and slept like I was dead for twelve hours.

I spent a hectic couple of days getting to know the ship and my new duties before the Engineer I relieved went home. It's a big jump from Sixth, the junior Engine room watch keeper on the 8 to 12 watch to Fourth Engineer, the sole watch keeper on the 8 to 12 watch. It's scary being responsible for all that machinery. It's an even greater leap from a ship where a pressure gauge is considered "Hi Tech" and everything is "manu-matic", to a modern, computerised wonder reminiscent of something out of "Star Trek". The Clan MacPorridge had been built on the Clyde in the 50s, and had no automation whatever, like her sisters from that era. Cardiff Clipper was completely automated, with three banks of computer cabinets, (which would probably fit into a desktop PC now) bridge control of the main engine, remote alarms for all the machinery measuring points, self synchronising alternators, all amazingly advanced for the early 70s. This was the first time I had seen a ship with an engine room designed to run at sea with no people in it. There were four people to an engine room watch on the Clan MacPorridge, now there were only four Engineers aboard the Clipper! The Clan MacP did 12 knots downhill with a fair wind, but the Clipper cruised at 25 knots.

When I had a chance to go ashore, my first impression of Japan was of burnt chicken. The taxi dropped me





off in the evening at a shopping centre, right by a restaurant, and I could smell burnt chicken.

Walking through the pedestrian precinct, I could smell that burnt chicken wherever I went. I noticed that some people had paper dust masks over their noses and mouths, and that visibility was restricted by a grey brown fog to about 50 yards. Street lights at that distance were obscured, just a dim glow in the murk. The "burnt chicken" smell was constant, and it took a while until I realised that what I saw and smelled was air pollution. The Japanese economic miracle had its cost. Wandering around the downtown streets, I was struck by the total lack of anything to do with Christmas. There were no strings of lights, no silver bells, no decorations of any kind, just grey, grim sidewalks, flashing neon billboards and that brownish air. I found things very expensive, it was the only place I had been until that time where I had gone ashore with a month's wages in my pocket and felt poor.

We sailed with a cargo of cars from Nagoya for Acajutla, Central America, on the 18th December. By the time we were two days out, the Officer's bar, the dining room and the crew's mess were festooned with coloured streamers. Artificial fir trees stood in the corner of the bar and the mess, flickering with lights, glistening with tinsel and glass balls. One tree was topped by a star, the other by an angel. I could hear snatches of Christmas carols from the all British 28 man crew as I went about the ship, the anticipation increased with each passing day. As far as I knew, Christmas Day would bring turkey and the trimmings, maybe some wine at the table, and not much else. The ship would still be at sea, it was 19 days from Nagoya to Acajutla, and life would go on much the same, 4 hours on watch, 8 hours off, sea routine wouldn't change just because it was Christmas.

The Third Mate, Bernie, and his wife, Elizabeth, had their daughter, Claire, aboard. Claire was a 4 year old precocious poppet who had all the crew in her pocket. She was a perky, happy kid, friends with the world, and her unconscious feminine wiles had every man aboard jumping through hoops for her. She had the run of the ship and was as welcome in the crew's mess as she was in the Officer's bar or the Captain's cabin. The Chief Engineer, a 50-something dour Welshman, doted on the girl, she had him wrapped around her little finger and could make even him smile! The child was spoiled rotten, of course, but she took it all as her due and never acted like a spoiled brat. She was a delight to have aboard, and we became "best friends" very quickly.

At that time, I was in my 20s and had a way with women under five and over fifty; unfortunately, relations with women between these ages were a disaster!

I had the eight to twelve watch, so Claire and I were buddy buddy after dinner each evening, before her bedtime at seven thirty. She would have me read to her from her storybooks, and we would discuss the antics of Ratty and friends in "Wind in the Willows" (There is nothing, absolutely nothing, more important than messing about in boats) Enid Blyton's Noddy and Big Ears along with others I can't remember. However, I became quite expert at discussing various children's books. Usually, she climbed on to my knee in the Officer's Saloon, and we held deep discussions on the books we read. She could be very serious about things at times. I learned from her that one can't "talk down" to kids; one must meet little people on their own level, as equals.

On Christmas Eve, I was reading the Christmas story to her just before bedtime. Her huge brown eyes looked deep into mine and she said, "This is a very big ocean, isn't it?"

"Yes Claire", I told her. "The Pacific is the biggest ocean in the whole world. We've been sailing for six days and haven't sighted land. We won't see land again for another thirteen days".

She looked pensive, and said "This ship is really very small, isn't it?"

"Yup, compared to the size of the ocean, the ship is pretty small, just a wee small speck in the middle of nowhere."

"How is Santa going to find us?"

The question floored me! Quick! Think of something! My brain went into overdrive and I had an inspiration.....

"Well Claire, Peter Popple ties his Morse key down on the international calling frequency, 2182 kilohertz, before he goes to bed, and Rudolph's red nose picks up the signal like a Radio Direction Finder. He homes in on that, and Santa comes down the funnel."

She seemed to be well satisfied with that, a hi tech kid in a hi tech environment listening to a hi tech explanation.

When Elizabeth said it was bedtime, Claire kissed everyone in the saloon and headed for the door. Just then,



Peter entered, having just finished his watch as Radio Officer in the Radio Room. She allowed him to pick her up for a goodnight kiss, then, when he put her down, she stood, feet apart, left hand on hip and right forefinger wagging at Peter. Tilting her head, she said "Don't forget to tie down your Morse key on 2182 kilohertz tonight Peter Popple!"

He was taken aback, and could only say "OK Claire, I won't" before she marched off to her cabin and bed. "What was that all about?" he asked me. I told him about Rudolph's red nose and he smiled.

He must have tied down the key that night after all, because next morning, Christmas Day, the Officers' bar was wall to wall with toys! Santa did most of his shopping in Japan that year, all Claire's toys were Japanese. No doubt the crew assisted him, every man aboard had something for Claire.

Before I went on watch at 8am, I peeked into the bar when I heard the squeals of delight. Claire was excited, flitting from parcel to parcel, tearing wrapping paper off, opening her presents. What compares to the delight of a child on Christmas morning? Even the Chief, he of the dour Welsh countenance, got into it, crawling around on the deck smiling broadly, playing with Claire and her toys. One by one, the ship's crew looked in to see Claire's unbounded joy and she had a hug and a kiss and a high-pitched "merry Christmas!" for every one of us. Claire became the family missed by us all at Christmas, every man's child for that day. The isolation we all felt, the seafarer's loneliness, was dispelled by a child's exuberance, her delight in the day and her sharing of it with everyone.

In the years since, there have been many Christmas Days spent at sea, but none were quite so special as that Christmas Day in '73 when Claire was aboard the Cardiff Clipper.

**Ginge Millar** (62B, C Coy Fitter, IC & P)

*Editor's Note: This article is much longer than those we usually use, however, as this is the 50<sup>th</sup> year for the 1962 Groups I thought it appropriate to include it.*

### Graduation Day

It was a day like no other, today was Graduation Day. This was a day I had dreamed about since I arrived as a scared kid from Liverpool three years earlier. I was now a man, No more than that, I was a "Tradesman". I could march, bull boots, polish brasses and even cut grass with a knife and fork. Yes Sir! This day was a long time coming, but now it was here. The final parade, the fully pressed battledress complete with REME flashes and badges. Our families and friends were present, well; those that had them were, as we proudly strutted our stuff on the parade square. This was followed by an "Olympic" standard gymnastic display. All boyhood memories a distant past as we faced the prospect of being real soldiers as men, but not just men REME and RE "Tradesmen". The white glove inspections, the dry scrubbing and bumpering and the buchshee's stampede were hopefully a thing of the past. We were men now, skilled and educated men, ready to face everyday life as a soldier in the British Army. The future was uncertain, but we all knew that after Beachley we could face just about anything. The experience was something none of us would ever forget.

Graduation day for us was fifty years ago. We attended the coming BOBA reunion with joy in our hearts at the prospect of seeing our old mates once more; perhaps for the last time in some cases. We shall arrive from various parts of the world to reminisce about the "Good Old Days" and the times were shared together. From Col's to Cfn's they will come to relive the days of their youth and to celebrate the glorious opportunity of becoming a Beachley Boy 50 years earlier. We come from all walks of life now, from peasants to millionaires, but we all share a common heritage and a friendship that surmounts all obstacles and the passage of time. Battle hardened veterans, decorated heroes and now beloved grandfathers. All of whom have stories to tell, (some of them actually true) but all worthy of listening to. They are coming together once more to celebrate the times we shared back in the fifties when as young boys we first encountered Beachley. We all shared something at Beachley, it's hard to define, but it was ever present. Regardless of what group you were in the comradeship was always there and those reading this will recognise it and remember it well. After all, that is why you are members of BOBA. Once a year we gather to swing the lampshade, have a few beers and tell it like it never was, but amongst friends of irreplaceable value. Men I am proud to have served with and privileged to have as friends. Pals I shall remember until the day I die (Alzheimer's permitting of course).

**Ian Macdonald** (55A A Coy)

### The Spelling of Sergeant

The eagled will have spotted that in parts of this edition the word 'sergeant' has been spelt as 'serjeant' or abbreviated as 'Sjt'. This is because the Rifles spell it that way and reference to the rank in that Regiment complies with that tradition. The spelling was, I believe used up to the end of WWI.

*Editor*



## Help for Heroes BIG BATTLEFIELD BIKE RIDE 2012

I have decided to celebrate and dedicate my 70th birthday in January of this year to raising money for the Help for Heroes Charity. In so doing I have become a member of a 30 man 'Team Sapper' which has registered for the H4H Big Battlefield Bike Ride in May of this year. Briefly it comprises a 6 day, 350 mile bike ride between Le Havre and Dunkirk taking in a number of important visits to battlefields of both WW1 and WW11 and their associated cemeteries and memorials. My preparations are now well under way from the accumulation of 'biking paraphernalia' to the more serious daily grind of time on the bike - currently around 20/25 miles. There is still some way to go but it remains a very enjoyable challenge for an important cause.

Any contribution would be welcome as I seek to raise £2300 to fulfill my commitment to H4H, all of which goes to the Charity. The simplest way of making a donation is through the <http://www.bmycharity.com/agrh70> website which will take you to my designated page although contributions by any other means are welcomed. Cheques should be made payable to 'Help for Heroes' and sent to me at our home address.

Limmer Pond Cottage  
Nyton Road, Aldingbourne  
West Sussex  
PO20 3TX

Thank you for your support  
Alan Holman (Past President)

## Help for Heroes

### The Demise of a Good Friend – Common Sense

It is with heavy heart I inform you of the passing away of a beloved old friend by the name of Common Sense. Common Sense was around for hundreds of years. No one knows exactly how old he was, as over the last three decades, his records were long ago lost in bureaucratic tape.

He will always be remembered by us, as having cultivated such valued lessons as "Knowing when to come in out of the rain", why "The early bird always caught the worm", "Knowing when the wife say's she's got a headache – she means NO", and that life "Isn't always fair".

Common sense always lived by simple, sound policies. "Don't spend more than you earn", "Adults, and not kids are in charge" However, his health began to deteriorate rapidly when well intentioned, but overbearing regulations were put in place.

For example: Reports of a six year old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a girl, a teacher that was suspended for reprimanding an unruly student, which was claimed only worsened his condition.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer an aspirin to a student, BUT they were not allowed to inform the parents when a student became pregnant and wanted an abortion!

A case of severe trauma was caused when small businesses wanted to employ people to work. But allowing for Maternity leave, Paternity leave, Pre-planned sickies, the odd unapplied for holiday, the payment above the minimum wage, despite reduction in profits, increased the Employers weekly expenditure. All this, because the owner wanted to be a good employer, and benefit the community and the economy, was told, in not so many words, that they didn't have a leg to stand on.

Finally, Common Sense gave up the will to live, when even the 10 most sacred Commandments, handed to Moses on tablets of stone, were cast aside. Now you CAN covet your neighbour's wife, providing it's done discreetly. You CAN steal, providing you don't get caught.

The ghost of Common Sense was finally surrendered when a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled some on her lap, and was awarded huge damages against the provider for not telling her that hot coffee was supposed to be served hot.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents. Truth and Trust, who was his Mother: Discretion, his daughter: Responsibility, his son: and Reason, his Father. Today he is survived by his two stepbrothers, - 'My Rights' and 'Iminit4woticanget'

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

If you knew Common Sense, pass this message on to others who appreciated him. If you didn't know him, join the majority and do NOTHING!





### What had he done?

What had he done, his head had doubt,  
Startled by a sergeants shout,  
He'd arrived at Beachley in the wintry rain,  
His heart was heavy and felt the pain.

His worn out shoes and tatty clothes,  
Were passed to the QM for him to dispose,  
Drawers and shirt and woollen vest,  
Made him itch on his hairless chest.

An eleven fifty seven he'd signed that morn,  
For clothes with strange names about to be worn,  
They were far too big and he was now enveloped,  
In denims that might fit as he developed.

He grappled with brushes and boots ammunition,  
He polished them hard it was army tradition,  
With candle and spoon he flattened the pimple,  
If we'd had smooth leather life would've been simple.

His mentor showed him how to make up his bed,  
Then take it apart and make a bed block instead,  
With hospital corners the mattress was done,  
Now buffing and polishing the floor was to come.

With kit and webbing he was now encumbered,  
All waiting for stamping with his last four numbers,  
Knife, fork and spoon, and mess tins shiny,  
His thoughts turned to woman and the girl left "behind me."

Our uniforms designed many years before,  
Used by our troops in the first war,  
Now given to A.T.s to use up the surplus,  
They'd have not gone amiss in Fred Karnos circus.

Armed with Brasso and Blanco and some cleaning pads,  
He enjoyed all the friendship as one of the lads,  
He went in as a boy and learnt to clean, march and shout,  
Then three years later it was a man who came out.

It was on to the square in ranks of three,  
Keep your arms straight and just bend the knee,  
Hold your dressing to the left or the right,  
Anything less is a horrible sight.

Soon practice and time brought precision and style,  
The sound of us marching travelled many a mile,  
Toecaps and heels shining like glass,  
T'was the studs that stopped us from falling flat on our ass.

But enough of fitness training in the gym,  
Now the nuts and bolts held with a pin,  
What about pumps all tied up with torque,  
Not marching to the cookhouse with knife, spoon and fork.

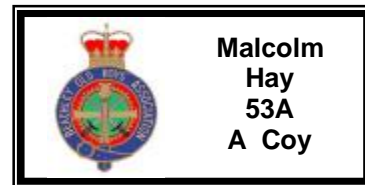
Our nostrils flared to the scent of fresh oil,  
And interesting things, like a spark from a coil,  
Verniers, mikes and callipers gave measure,  
Stripping a gearbox was a source of great pleasure.

Slow and main jets to keep pristine clean,  
And increase the airflow to get it quite lean,  
Whilst others made drawings complex and sure,  
And welders and blacksmiths shaped metals galore.

The fitters worked slavishly on dozers and pumps,  
But others were trained for big ammo dumps,  
Together we worked, some tears and some glee,  
Then into the Corps, we had done years three.

**Alf Robins, Ian 'Dizzie' MacDonald & Colin Weir  
(55A)**

### 2012 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.

### 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. Please contact the Welfare Officer or any committee member.

The BOBA standard can be seen on the front page; it was paraded at the opening of the Army Apprentice Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum



### My First Term at Beachley

My arrival at Beachley Camp in September 1960 was somewhat of a shock to the system. My friend David, I and another lad, Len from our local area, had travelled by train from Lincolnshire to start a new life as Army Apprentices.

None of us had much idea of what to expect! At Chepstow Railway Station, we were met by a reception committee of Training NCO's and guided onto some very "comfortable" Bedford QL Trucks, Yuk.

After a short drive to the Camp we were checked in and made to queue up to pick up a Bedding Pack and allocated to a room in a rather antiquated spider hut. Amazingly, it had "Central Heating" a small coke stove in the centre of the room and one bucket of coke to last us all week!, The attached washrooms / toilets were open plan, in fact, sort of "open air".

David and I found ourselves in 24 South along with another 18 new faces from all over the country. Len, being a different trade was allocated to another room.

We soon met our Platoon Sergeant "Tankie" Roberts from the Royal Tank Regiment who appeared friendly one minute but shouted at us the next, this situation continued for the next year. We also met our Company Commander Major Machin and the Company Sergeant Major "Polly" Perkins who was to be our Father Figure and Mentor for our first three terms at Beachley.

Our first evening was spent getting to know our compatriots. The next day was spent in endless queues getting kitted out with all sorts of weird and wonderful items such as Drawers Cellular, a Button Stick and most importantly a Housewife.

Now we had clothes, Army ones of course, our civvies were packed up and posted home; it was another four terms before we were able to wear civvies again on camp, except for the "Mufti" available from term 3. It's funny really that someone in a later group (6 - 7 years) than ours asked me what Mufti was, something that only pre 63 groups had the opportunity to wear.

Our next trip was to the camp "Barbers", a very skilled artisan who had obviously earned his apprenticeship credentials in the use of hedge trimmers and chainsaws and other weapons of hair destruction. He certainly had some effect on one or two of our more long haired new entrants.

Our first three weeks were mainly spent in learning how to walk together in step, how to turn, left or right and how to stop at the polite request of our friend "Tankie".

Kit inspections became the norm, along with lots of other skills to be acquired, Blanco was a new term along with burning boots with a spoon prior to bulling them, I realise now where the phrase "Burning the Candle at both ends" came from.

It wasn't just kit inspections, but personal cleanliness also became an issue, with several spotty faced new boys being picked up on parade for having a "dirty neck", made a change from "haircut", I suppose. Luckily I escaped most of the adverse reminders. Lots of Physical Training and Sports to be endured and enjoyed as one sees fit. Three weeks into the term saw us all off on a weekend "holiday" to Monnow Bridge at Monmouth in luxury accommodation of two man bivvies, probably to make way for Beachley Old Boys on their annual pilgrimage. Little did we ever think we would be BOB's one day!

Team spirit driven by collective punishment (and a couple of 'Regimental Baths' as winter approached) became an incentive to reduce incidences of anti-social behaviour, a lesson for today perhaps. However, we were offered a couple of opportunities to back out and go home, but only a couple of wimps opted for it.

We soon started education and trade training, more new experiences to mould us into Beachley Boys. Weeks and weeks of learning to file a flat surface!

I and many others must have thought, what good will this ever be to us, but as I have been involved in engineering most of my working career, I value very much the lessons, disciplines and techniques taught to us by Mr Hodgson and his co-instructors.

Learning to exist on 5 shillings a week was something of a hardship, especially when 4 shillings went on boot polish, blanco, brasso and dusters. However, it paid dividends on our first leave when I went home with over £30 of "Credits and Ration Allowance" for three weeks holiday. Even my old headmaster was impressed by the change in me when I called into my old school to see my school pals on my first days leave. Continued.....



End of term exams saw the Army Certificate of Education Intermediate Test under my belt, a good lead in to obtaining the Senior Test in 6 subjects by 4<sup>th</sup> term.

The last week of term was somewhat of an eye opener with the Senior Group having a bit of a wild night about 3 days before we went on leave. After suffering numerous broken windows and being turfed out of bed several times by various members of 58A group, we were all ordered onto the Parade Square at about 0100 hrs in Boots, Pyjamas and Greatcoats to find a full blown rehearsal of "Gammys" Parade in full flow with all the bands playing.

The only difference being that the smallest guys were picked out as Wing Commanders, and the smallest guy in the school selected to take the salute on parade. Although small in stature, I managed to avoid being selected for command duties at that time. It was extremely cold and we were very thankful when we finally got back to bed about 5.30 am after marching off the square and going all round the camp.

Going down to breakfast that morning was a bit of a shock seeing many more broken windows, beds hanging all over the place, and then getting a stern "talking to" from CSM "Polly" Perkins with the realisation that 5 shillings was being deducted from everyone for Barrack Room Damages, and on top of that we had to fix it all ourselves before we went on leave. I quickly added to my skills by learning glazing techniques, with a knife and some very stinky putty and some white paint.

Most importantly, we had survived a term; three weeks leave and we came back refreshed ready for whatever Beachley could throw at us. That first term was a trial but I can honestly say that it laid the foundation on which I have had a successful life and career, something I will always be grateful to Beachley for.

I know many others found it a hard and somewhat traumatic experience, but it developed in all of us a clear and sensible approach to life.

Anthony M Waite (60C)

March 2012

**Some Call it Humour**

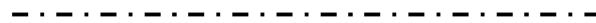
With acknowledgement to Max Bygraves, "I wanna tell you a story"

Whilst serving as a Craftsman I attended a course at the REME Technical Training School BAOR in Duisburg. I was on guard when one night the RSM turned up at the guard room and started quizzing us on our trades. He was dismissive until he found a Vehicle Electrician who he directed to his battered Ford Consul outside because one of his lights wasn't working. Not too long after the keen lad rushed in with "Found the problem Sir, the bulb is not working" to which the RSM responded "Don't baffle me wiv science, **fix it!**"



Three patients are sitting in a psychiatrists waiting room and one asks another why he was there. He answered, "I'm Napoleon but no one believes me". "You think you are Napoleon, whatever gave you that idea?" asks the first.

The second responds with "I have it on good authority, God told me" The third throws down his newspaper and shouts "For the last time, no I did not".



A lobbyist on his way home from Parliament is stuck in traffic. Noticing a police officer, he winds down his window and asks: 'What's the hold-up?' The policeman replies: 'The Prime Minister is so depressed he's stopped his motorcade and is threatening to douse himself with petrol and set himself on fire. He says no one believes he can get us through the credit crunch. So we're taking up a collection for him.' The lobbyist asks: 'How much have you got so far?' The officer replies: 'About 40 gallons, but a lot of people are still siphoning.'





## from the Fairway : BOBA Golfing Society

Once again it is with great sadness that I report the passing of one of our long standing members Ady Picken 66A; he was a great supporter of the Golfing Society. I reported last year that Ady had presented the society with two excellent trophies for the Drawn Pairs; these will serve to always keep him in our memories. Our condolences go out to Ady's family.

This year we were not in the sun gods favour and we had very strong winds and heavy showers added to which, unfortunately, the course was not at its best.

Due to these adverse conditions the scoring was quite low compared to last year. Yours truly won the Ken Standen Trophy after seventeen attempts! To receive the trophy that was named after my late brother in law for his contribution to starting up the society was the highlight of my year. Our President, Syd Thomas, also had a good day winning the Drawn Pairs with Alf Chrascina.

We had a dramatic drop in the numbers playing in 2011, down a third on 2010 to only 15 members. Let us hope that this year the recession will ease and more members will be able to attend.

### Winning Results for 2011

Longest Drive	Jimmy Hough 73A
Nearest the pin	Peter Hayward 65C
Best Par 3's aggregate	Alan Duncan 67B (on countback from Dave Smith)
Handicap Cup	Syd Thomas 47A (on countback from Joe Hallam)
Drawn Pairs	Syd Thomas 47A and Alf Chrascina 67B

**The Ken Standen Trophy**                      **Tony Battle with 33 points** (2<sup>nd</sup> Alf Chrascina 30 points)

Many thanks to all those who helped to make the tournament a success and also Dewstow Golf Club for their hospitality.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next reunion in September 2012

**Tony Battle (57B) (Telephone No. 01291422403)**

### Golfing Quotes

Golf is a game who's aim is to hit a very small ball into an even smaller hole with weapons singularly ill-designed for the purpose.

Winston Churchill

Golf is a game that needlessly prolongs the lives of some of our most useless citizens. If you watch a game, it's fun. If you play it, it's recreation. If you work at it, it's golf.

Bob Hope

You don't know what pressure is until you've played for five dollars a hole with only two in your pocket. I'm not saying my golf game went bad, but if I grew tomatoes they would have come up sliced.

Lee Trevino





**The 2012 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 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2012. 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 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012** please.

Start times will be allocated on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2012 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 a cheque made payable to the **Beachley Old Boys Association** to the value of **£30.00**

**SIGNED:**.....

**DATE**.....