



The Beachley Old Boys' Association Newsletter



Beachley



Echoes

Edition No. 24 ~ April 2018



Beachley Old Boys Attending The Cenotaph 2017

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**The President's thoughts for 2018 - 19**

I greet you well and hope that you will read what follows !!!!!

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT or a 23 YEAR STEP BACKWARDS

(I first became Chairman in 1995)

The Chairman's ravings for 2018 - 19**VERY MANY CHANGES – (and more to come)**

Some of the major changes made during the past year –

We now have a dedicated team organising/running the Reunion.

The Friday Night 'Get Together' function was held in Chepstow at the Beaufort Hotel rather than at Beachley (Camp) Barracks.

Full Committee meetings were reduced to just two a year, much work was done by phone/internet but individual branches still met up where/when necessary. This measure eased the time any committee member was away from home. I am pleased to say it seems to be working well.

Vacancies on the Committee –

Chairman – I will carry on for another year.

Secretary – Chalkie White has now taken over from Derek Walker but NEEDS a standby to be able to divide the work load.

Shop – Tony Waite has asked to stand down so we NEED a replacement and a stand by.

(our aim is to have all posts covered by a second member who could take over in case of illness).

If we are to maintain the very high standard we have set for administration

WE NEED YOUNGER MEMBERS TO VOLUNTEER for the Committee.

Please look to see if you could help – names to me before the AGM

The Cenotaph Parade – This is a special year – 100 years since the end of the first Great War! The British Legion has already indicated that there is a heavy demand for tickets and the Government/Police have placed a limit of 10,000 on parade! I hope that more attend this year or we will find our allocation of tickets reduced – I have asked for 36 but expect this to be reduced to 30. Already the following have asked to be put on the list -

Barry Allen	56B	Ray Armstrong	55A	Chatty Chatt	59A
Pete Coe	75A	Alan Combe	78C	Robert Donaldson	70A/B
Ross Drean	74C	Ray Fiels	58A	John Goodall	74C
Mick Harley	74C	John Hatchett	83C	Brian Henderson	65A
Tony Waite	60C	Geoff Watkins	53A	Wayne Willitts	75A
Nick Wilder	58A	Dave Youdle	58A	David Smith	60A



If I can get tickets the following have asked to attend as 'Carers' –

Mrs Chatt	Mrs Goodall	Mrs Henderson	Mrs Watkins
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It is likely to be the last time I will be able to attend – the legs are beginning to show my

Age. Tony Waite has agreed to act as my deputy in all admin matters for the parade – many thanks.

I HOPE we can get more members to come and join the parade, contact me by email sydney1931@btinternet, 01656 661180 or 07785 282266.

Please be aware that as added security I need:-

Your full Christian name,

Date of Birth,

Place of Birth,

Present Address including Post Code,

Regimental number,

Medals you will be wearing.

It helps if you let me have your mobile number.

As I have to submit the final list of names of those wishing to attend on the 18th August **I NEED YOUR BIDS BY 15th AUGUST** – LATEST or you will not get a ticket.

BOBA Open Golf – Like the Cenotaph Parade, last year's attendance was the lowest recorded – COME ON WE NEED PLAYERS, Ladies are very welcome, if the golf is to continue. I know that there are lots more that could turn out – it's not all that serious (or I would not be playing !!) Please note that the "BOBA OPEN" will be on the Friday afternoon this year.

Membership – I make no bones – This is very much your responsibility, if every member managed to recruit just one ex BRAT to join we would have very few problems over the next 10 years or so. We look forward to seeing a big turnout from the 68 groups.

The Committee has debated, long and hard, the vexed question of Non Members attending the reunion paying the same as members. All were very clear that this could not be the case as it would be grossly unfair to ask present members to, in fact, subsidise non-members. I shall be asking at the AGM for this to be part of our rules.

YOUR COMMITTEE. They have put in many hours of work on your behalf and deserve everyone's vote of thanks. Without their understanding, help and good will I would have to have stood down for long periods of the past year, Chris, as Vice Chairman has undertaken so many aspects of the Chairmanship to relieve me – I am most grateful to him. I have recovered enough to carry on for the coming year – if that is what the membership wishes

AGM. This is where we make the rules and take decisions regarding the future of our Association – it is VITAL that you make every effort to attend.

Fair winds, see you in September.

Syd



Two photographs of The 1967 Groups' Table









Two photographs that highlight the difference that the years have made to the Beachley Barracks.

Our older members will only remember the lower picture from their visits during one of the Beachley Old Boys' Reunions.

Younger members will most probably have no recollection of the huts depicted in the upper photograph.





The New AAC & BOBA Memorial

About this time last year after plans for the closure of the Beachley Barracks, which is still uncertain but will be before 2027 I decided that in order to maintain our links with Beachley and to preserve the heritage of the College thought should be given to relocating the Memorial Stone that was erected adjacent to St Georges Church to a more lasting place which is unlikely to be disposed of within the lifetime of the youngest Apprentice. Accordingly following consultation with the MoD, 1st Battalion Rifles, the Battalion Padre and the CWGC approval was given for this to be carried out.

The obvious location was within the confines of the War Grave Cemetery behind the Old School House and a suitable area was found. Ironically this area overlooked the College Parade Ground, where many a boy endured the wrath of the College RSM and his "considerate" subordinates. Take his name put him in the book and where do you think you are, being just a couple of quotes from those adoring Fathers we had. Not only was it appropriate but it is "outside the wire" and open each and every day without the need to seek permission to wander.

A plan was agreed and just before the last Reunion it came to fruition. A Combat Engineer, Geoff Warren, and a Plant Fitter, Chris Ricketts, both under the command of a retired MPF Dave Clement, accompanied by a Telehandler, loaned for the day by a generous local firm, work commenced. Within a couple of hours with no beer and butties and the odd burst of hilarity the task was completed. The flagpole was erected and a new flag raised for all to see. As many of you know interments of remains has taken place at the former site and a sod of earth from there was taken and placed at the new site as a symbolic gesture to our colleagues.

We already had a request for ashes to be laid and so with all due dignity and respect our Padre, Rev. Joe Rooney accompanied by the Battalion Chaplain rededicated the Memorial and conducted a Service of Interment for Peter Burrridge who passed away earlier in 2017.

This is OUR Memorial and any Ex Boy who wishes for some or all of their remains to be placed there it, simply advise next of kin to contact the BOBA Committee. The Memorial will be maintained appropriately and provide us with a resting place forever.

There have already been many visitors to the Memorial and I would suggest a short visit there will bring a little reflection.

Chris Ricketts





A/T Desmond McGregor and Wallasey War Memorial.

In April last year, Bill Morrow 63A posted on the Beachley web site and Face Book a query concerning a grave he had come across in his local cemetery in Wallasey, Cheshire. As part of the Heritage Committee I contacted Bill and offered some help in finding out why an apprentice was listed on the War Memorial and why his grave was in this cemetery. He was also listed as attending the Army Technical School, so he was one of ours!

After some investigation I found that his date of death was 21/12/1940, the time when Desmond McGregor would have been on Christmas leave from the school. On the date mentioned there was a Blitz on Wallasey which, as you can imagine, caused devastation in the local community. More info can be found on the history of Wallasey.co.uk website. A plaque commemorating 325 non-combatant residents can be found on this site.

Interestingly, this also lists the dates of these casualties, and we find the following deaths on the same date:-

McGregor Annie age 48 Widow of C McGregor 37 Serpentine Road 21/12/40

McGregor Eileen age 17 Daughter of above 37 Serpentine Road 21/12/40

McGregor Brian age 14 Son of the above 37 Serpentine Road 21/12/40

This is too much of a coincidence not to be all in the same family.

Strangely enough, on the same War Memorial, the name above Desmond is a Brian McGregor, and when I checked through the Forces War Records site I found him.

He was listed as a civilian, killed on the 21/12/1940, and his recorded age was 14. Place of death, wait for it, 37 Serpentine Road!! His name is also on the memorial to civilians killed in the war in Westminster Abbey. Why his name is on the Forces War Memorial remains a mystery.

Bill Morrow had also done some digging after I had sent him this info. He agreed that Desmond was probably on Christmas leave. His sister Eileen had the same birthday as Desmond and according to birth records was his twin.

At this time there were many raids on Liverpool, all centred around the docks, which was only a mile in a straight line across the river. So as a consequence many "misses" landed in this area of Wallasey resulting in hundreds of casualties.

One last coincidence was that Bill had lived in 10 Serpentine Road when he was younger, just down the road from where number 37 was. The houses are of large Edwardian construction, but where 37 should be is a pair of post war 1950's semis slotted onto the site of the former large 37.

As Bill rightly says, "it's a small world"

Alan Chatt 59A (Corps of Drums")

Heritage Committee Member(1 of three) .

At the height of the gale, the harbourmaster radioed a coastguard and asked him to estimate the wind speed.

He replied he was sorry, but he didn't have a gauge. However, if it was any help, the wind had just blown his Land Rover off the cliff.

(Aberdeen Evening Express)

Irish police are being handicapped in a search for a stolen van, because they cannot issue a description. It's a Special Branch vehicle and they don't want the public to know what it looks like.

(The Guardian)



After last years Founder's Day Service BOBA members were invited to an Open Day that The Rifles were holding alongside the platform remains of the now long defunct Beachley Railway Station. Here is the report that was published the following week in The Forest of Dean and Wye Valley Review.

Beachley 100 years on

A COMMUNITY event marked the 100th anniversary of the most traumatic episode in the history of Beachley.

On September 14 1917 more than 100 people were evacuated from the peninsula to make way for the construction of a massive shipyard.

The event on Sunday, organised by the Tidenham Historical Group and 1 Rifles, was prompted by the publication of a book by group members Carol and Richard Clammer on the events of September 1917 and the industrial development that followed.

The day included the display of the original Beachley steam locomotives, the launch of Mr and Mrs Clammer's book, buglers and the Fijian community choir of 1 Rifles, displays by local groups including the Severn Area Rescue Association, the Severn Princess Restoration Group and the Chepstow Coastguard. Tidenham Church arranged games for the children.



Sales of the book, *Beachley and the First World War: The Story of a Shipyard, a Railway and the Transformation of a Rural Parish* were brisk.

Mr Clammer said: "The day has been very well supported and we are particularly grateful to Bill Parker of the Flour Mill in Bream for bringing one of the original Beachley engines and to 1 Rifles for their help in making the day possible."

Chairman of the Tidenham Historical Group, Keith Underwood, said Mr and Mrs Clammer had worked "tirelessly and with incredible energy" on the book. He said: "I was brought up with the Apprentices' School, or college as it became, but it was the Army Technical School (Boys) when my father, a Royal Engineer, brought me and my mother here in 1937.

"When, sadly, the army finally leaves Beachley (in 2027), a new era will open and new generations will see the peninsula develop in a new light.

"I hope its history and heritage will not evaporate in an increasingly materialistic age.

"My thanks and those of all the members of Tidenham Historical Group, are due to Carol and Richard Clammer who have worked tirelessly and with incredible energy to ensure the publication of this magnificent book and for the organisation of this event.

"Thanks are also due to Liz McBride, Coral Blandford and other members of the group who helped make the day a success and thanks, too, to the officers, NCOs and men of the Rifles who made the event possible."

by **Mark Elson** - Editor

mark.elson@theforestreview.co.uk

Forest of Dean and Wye Valley Review

Wednesday, 20 September 2017





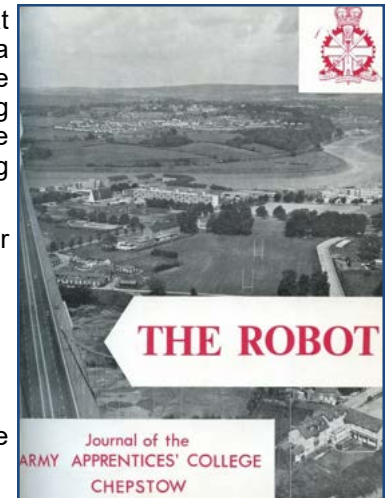
New Robots for Old

Do you ever wish that you had held onto The Robots covering your time at Beachley? Well you can now get them in PDF (Portable Document Format) on a disc. As the result of a request there is now an ongoing project to scan all of the issues of The Robot from the first edition in 1924. The scanned copies covering your time will be put on a CD along with the first three years worth of issues. The cost of the CD including P&P is £5.00, an element of which will go towards repairing the books holding the original copies.

To obtain a CD with the issues covering your time at Beachley please send your cheque for £5.00 (made Payable to 'Beachley Old Boys' Association') with

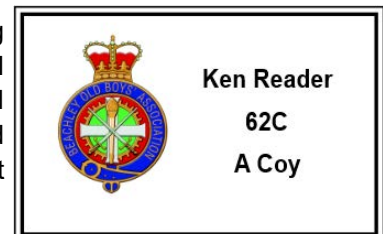
- ◆ Your name and group
- ◆ Address
- ◆ Month and year of arrival—month and year of departure

to Ken Reader (contact details below). Please note that there may be a delay if the editions covering your time have not yet been scanned.



2018 Reunion ID Badge and Holder

Once again we will be producing a reunion name holder for 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 application form please and pick it up when you arrive for registration at the Racecourse.



Lt Col (Retd) Ken Reader OBE BEM Minst RE
Carrick House, 8 Cross Lane, Little Downham, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB6 2TJ
Telephone 01353 699096
email ~ kenreader@msn.com

Photos and Memorabilia. It is hoped that the members of **68 Groups** can search their attics and albums for items and send them to Alan Chatt for display at their 50th anniversary reunion in September 2019.

Honours and Awards Book. We maintain a record of the Honours and Awards presented to ex-Beachley boys, GC, MM, OBE, MSM, MBE, BEM and MiD etc. It records the individual and his years of service at Beachley. Anyone having decorations please notify a Committee member with the details.

Missing Passing out Parade Programmes. Our earliest held programme is for 45B's Passing Out where **Field Marshall Montgomery** was the Reviewing Officer. **We are still looking for** any programmes prior to 45B and for 47A, 48A – 49A, 51A, 52A, 59A – 62C, 63A, 64A, 64B, 64C, 65B, 65C, 66A, 66B, 68A, 69C, 70B - 81, 83 - 84 and 86-87. We are happy to copy any that you might have so that you can retain the original.

Missing Robots. We are missing the Spring 1977 issue, Summer 1979 issue, Summer 1980 issue and Spring 1981 issue. Any copies would be appreciated.

Alan Chatt
8 The Chase, Washington, Tyne & Wear, NE38 9DX
Telephone 01914 175960
email ~ a.w.chatt.121@btinternet.com



Bill Welch 55A D Company Founding Member of the Purple Circle Group

I first met Billy as a boy in 1955 in Beachley and over the next three years he excelled as a rugby player at the Army Apprentices School. He later graduated into the Royal Engineers in the spring of 1958 and I lost touch with him at that point. I know that he married the love of his life, Kathie around that time and, as he told me later, that was the best thing he ever did. They travelled the world together in and out of the military, finally settling in Australia. Bill was a family man, first, last and foremost and he just adored Kathie and his children. He was just one of those men who liked bringing people together and he had a heart as big as Australia. Almost fifty years after first walking through the gates of Beachley I received an e-mail from Bill; as did numerous other members of 55A. He had gone on line and tracked us all down by fair means or foul in order to bring us together for our 50th reunion as a group once more.

It was a lot of work, and he scoured the globe, searching all known records and social media outlets, but he did it lovingly knowing the joy it would bring to the rest of us. That was who Billy was, a kind and caring man with a heart of gold and a passion for life. With Kathie beside him no task was too daunting and he inspired many others by simply being Billy. The reunion we had in September 2005 brought tears to our eyes as we said our farewells to our long lost friends', all reunited again thanks to Billy. He even persuaded Kathie to go shopping with my wife in Liverpool one day before the reunion; I'm still paying off my visa from that excursion. A more loving and caring couple one would be hard pressed to find.

He was a man's man, a great father and a loving and caring husband. Having him as a friend was a real privilege and a memory, I, along with many others in our group, will cherish forever. His passing came as a tremendous shock to us all and it was completely unexpected. They do say that "Only the Good Die Young" and sadly Billy was amongst that select group. Although small in stature, Billy was a giant of a man loved and respected by all of his peers and especially by his brothers in 55A. He left behind a grieving family and a large group of friends who held him close to their hearts. He was a product of Beachley and those of us who knew Billy were all the better for it. The world could never have too many Billy Welch's in it. He would brighten the room just by his presence in it. Perhaps that is why the Good Lord chose to take him early. I am quite sure Bill's presence there will brighten their rooms too, just as he did ours down here. It was our loss perhaps but hopefully we shall meet up again, God Willing. God Bless you Billy, it was an honour to have known you and a distinct pleasure having you as my friend. You will always be in our hearts and never ever forgotten. All families should have such a father they can justly be proud of and know in their hearts that he was loved and respected and missed by many others too.

Ian McDonald 55A

During the run up to our 50th Reunion at Chepstow Bill and Kathie came to the UK for a holiday. One evening a few of us met up at a Chinese Restaurant outside Southport and this started our standard Reunion Friday Get Together in Chepstow. A few days after that Reunion I received a telephone call from Billy, they'd had an overnight in Chester and were driving towards Blackpool for a few days. The reason for the call was to ask if they could break the journey at ours for a cuppa. The brew lasted nearly a week and they only left when it was time for me to take them to the airport for their return to Australia. Unfortunately this was their last trip to the UK. A few months after Bill passing, Kathie also departed after heart surgery. She did succumb to a broken heart. I can only hope that they are back together as the loving couple we knew.

Ray Armstrong 55A





Reunion 2018 Booking Etc.

Our observant readers will have spotted that the usual booking forms and information on the Reunion weekend are missing from this year's edition of the Beachley Echoes. However, all is not lost as you will be able to view the Reunion booklet which is on the website; those receiving a printed copy of the Echoes will have received the booklet also in printed format.

Make sure to book your place at the event of the year!

BOBA Reunion—21st to 23rd September 2018



BEACHLEY OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNIONS

For many years, BOBA members, many with their Ladies, have met annually, usually on the third weekend in September, in the Chepstow area.

The reunion Friday evening get-together for 2017 was held at The Beaufort Hotel in Chepstow and was deemed to be a success. This year will see a continuation of this. The other main actions apart from Sunday's Founders' Day Church parade will take place at Chepstow Race Course Hospitality Suite.

In order that you can attend any of the BOBA activities held during the reunion weekend i.e. Golf, Reunion Dinner, etc., you must be a Member of The Association. The forms for Membership are in the Beachley Echoes Newsletter and should be returned to the Membership Secretary, Derek Fox, his details are on the Committee page.

Reunion Friday

Friday is a social evening, including supper, where Members can enjoy each others company, chat or swing the lamp over a drink or two.

Reunion Saturday

Friday and Saturday allows members who have previously registered, to take part in 'The BOBA Golf Open'. An 18 hole Stableford tournament held at the Golf Club at nearby Coleford.

Saturday the BOBA Heritage Display takes place in the main venue.

The BOBA AGM is held in the afternoon, where BOBA business from the previous and coming year, is discussed and voted upon.

In the evening the **BOBA ANNUAL DINNER** takes place when approximately 200 (pre-booked) members, including Ladies, Guests and Families sit down for a pleasant three course meal, followed by an evenings entertainment with a live group or a disco in the function room. Many dance into the early hours, whilst others have a great time just chatting, reminiscing and enjoying a social drink.

Reunion Sunday

Sunday rounds off the weekend with a mini 'Parade and March Past' on the parade ground in Beachley Barracks (weather permitting).

The parade is followed by our Founders Day church service in St George's Church.

For further information on the Reunion weekend, please contact Chris Ricketts (details on the Committee Contact details Page 18)



TERRY AIRE 57A GROUP A COMPANY

Following a relatively short illness Terry sadly passed away on 3rd February 2018, this followed several months of treatment for thyroid and lung cancer.

Terry was very proud to be a member of the Beachley Old Boys Association and regularly attended the re-union weekends and fully supported the Army Apprentice National Memorial at the Alrewas Arboretum National Memorial. He attended the opening service ceremony September 2011 and his last visit was the AGM held in May 2017 followed by the Sunday Memorial Service.

Terry served in R.E.M.E as a vehicle mechanic and saw service in Germany at Künsebeck near Bielefeld with frequent trips to Christiansand in Norway.

His civilian career until he retired was at Devon Port dock yard on the maintenance of nuclear submarines, not bad for a R.E.M.E v/m.

He was a keen and talented football player who represented A company and Beachley football teams and was awarded school colours for football. He played for his unit and R.E.M.E. team in Germany. He was a lifelong supporter of Plymouth Argyle football team.

His other claim to fame was photography, always happy to be taking photo's and videos at the re-union weekend and the apprentice memorial site.

Terry was one of a number of 57A group boys who joined Beachley in February 1957 who travelled up from Devon and Cornwall. An amusing incident occurred on one occasion when they were returning to Beachley after a period of leave, a paperboy got on the train at Exeter and proceeded to give the Beachley boys a lot of cheek and aggro, so one of the group kidnapped him and kept him on the train until they reached Severn Tunnel Junction station when they released him. The instigator of this incident shall remain anonymous, no names no pack drill, but he did go on to be a Major.

A lasting memory of Terry was during the inter company boxing event at Beachley, he was selected to box for A company, his 5' 4" frame was up against a 6' blond guy from C company. We thought Terry would be massacred or lose his tongue, which he constantly stuck out in front of his lips, he survived by wearing out his opponent by prancing around the ring until he lost on points.

To his friends, he was considered a typical Cornishman in that for some reason he would always return from leave with the same amount of money that he originally went home with.

I was reminded of when we first arrived at Beachley and paraded to be kitted out, we will never forget Terry standing in front of us with his greatcoat hanging down to his ankles and his sleeves hanging halfway down his legs looking like Dopey in the 7 dwarfs. He looked at us and said with a deadpan face "I want to go home" there was an uproar of laughter, that characterised him for the rest of his career.

There were many more happy moments spent with Terry on the frequent occasions that we met up over the last 58 years, our good friend will be sadly missed and can never be replaced.

Terry was a dedicated family man and leaves behind his wife Dorothy two daughters and his grandchildren.

His good friend Tony Deasey 57A on his last visit to see Terry in hospital was told by Terry "see you in heaven Buddy". We hope so Terry – God Bless

Bill Blackman 57A

Please note that all arrangements for this year's BOBA Reunion will be organised by

Chris Rickets

35 Bigstone Grove

Tutshill

Chepstow

Monmouthshire

NP16 7EN



Why did I do it, continued?

Same as last year but this time I am on my own with this and after almost twelve months of planning I am at the "pen to paper" point. Finding it difficult to stop the pen producing an unreadable scrawl across the page because of my lack of shake control. Come on you clever electronics bods; invent me a feedback setup to stop my dithering.

Here we are another year gone by, some sadness, some glee, shame that the one does not improve the other. Fortunately maybe, depends on one's personal viewpoint, life does go on and all we can do is carry on the good fight and hopefully make the best of it.

Now for my annual "beat you all up" section. I am desperately short of material for what is fast becoming Ray's Newsletter. This missive is The Echoes, it is your journal, and it is for your tales, memories and plans. Come on, tell us all of the time your dog tripped you up in the kitchen and you were carted off to hospital with a broken wrist. And what about that blonde nurse you met whilst being x-rayed? Yes I know, stupidly inane gibberish, but heck with nothing else from you lot what else can I do.

We did not have a Ladies Page last year and I am still sadly missing a volunteer to remedy that. I have tried heroically to second my good lady into that position but due to her ongoing health problems I think that this will not result in a good outcome. So please, pretty please, could one or more of you beautiful female readers try putting your thoughts on paper? I know that you realise we do not want tips on how to apply lipstick but you all have had adventures during your military life even if it is only as a civvy attached. Then perhaps some of your younger activities could raise a laugh or three, I promise to keep your ID secret.

As I look back over the years I realise that an awful large

number of Beachley Boys married local girls from the Chepstow area. I was one of them because I wed a Garden City girl in 1958. On leaving the Army I did not settle in Chepstow whereas many others did, and in fact still live there. Very handy for attending the Reunions. Could we have some input from the people that have managed to settle and continue to live in this rather nice area of our country. I have received some sad news this year about a Chepstow family of five daughters, all about my age. Only one of them left now and she is suffering with the dreaded dementia.



After the 2017 Reunion St Georges Church Parade I was able to attend an open air function organised by The Rifles. There was a very good turnout by the local citizenship that seemed to enjoy the Rifles hospitality. Interesting stalls to wander around and even a steam locomotive on show, unfortunately sitting on the back of a lorry and not in steam.

After leaving the Rifles shindig I spotted that The Old Schoolhouse was open with a large contingent of civilians milling in and out. So once again forgetting Rule One went and assisted with the visitors. Found it very interesting after a couple of hours talking to various residents from the Beachley area. Sad that most of them moved to Beachley after I had departed for the big wide world of REME which led to a large gap in our combined history of the locale.

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Paper Copy of the Beachley Echoes

If you require a paper copy of the newsletter please drop the Editor a line stating name, group and address.

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 are not aware that the site exists. The site can be accessed through The Army Apprentice site which has a link to the BOBA site or directly (<http://armyapprenticecollege.homestead.com>).

**IN MEMORIAM****REPORTED DECEASED SINCE THE 2017 BEACHLEY ECHOES (No. 23)**

Bill Welch	55A	D	25/04/2016	Eddie Laird	69C		25/12/2017
John Singleton	63A	A	02/05/2017	Barry Snook	53B	A	20/01/2018
Kenneth Brown	39 Group	D	08/07/2017	Julian Johnson	45 Group	B	15/10/2017
Graham Hughes	58B	C	06/08/2017	Terry Aire	57A	A	03/03/2018
Greg Auld	58B	A	29/06/2017	Kevin Manley	67B/68B	B/C	05/03/2018
Peter Smith	43A	C	04/08/2017	Carl Parker	58B	C	27/12/2016
MW (Curly) Hunt	43B		Not Known	Neville Lee MBE	46A	C	Not Known
TR (Tig) Wheeler	58B	C	1974	Dave Stone	49A	C	18/12/2017
Tony Marpole	51B	D	Not Known	Rudolf Hale	Perm Staff	RAEC	04/02/2018
Clive Pammer	51A	D	17/09/2017	John Smith	44A	B	18/03/2018
Geoff Richardson	47A	D	14/09/2017	James Freeman	45B	A/B	18/03/2018

*Rest in Peace***BOBA CENOTAPH DETACHMENT 2017**

On Remembrance Sunday 2017 those listed below assembled at Horse Guards Parade to march along 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 11th 2018 and use the opportunity to say your thank you to those who gave their everything for the future of others.

Mr Barry Allen
Mr Ray Armstrong
Mr Bob Beeston
Mr Phil Calladine
Mr Chatty Chatt
Miss Laura Chatt
Mr Pete Coe
Mr Alan Coome
Mr Ray Field
Mr Nige Furness

Mr John Goodall
Mr Chris Gould
Mr Michael Harley
Mr Ian Harrower
Mr Paul Hatchett
M Paul Higham
Mr Derek Pomeroy
Mr Ricky Poole
Lt Col Dave Smith
Mr Tony Stamford

Mr Ken Stout
Mr Maurice Taylor
Lt Col Syd Thomas
Mr Tony Waite
Mr Geoff Watkins
Lt Col Nick Winder MBE
Mr Robert Wise
Mr Dave Youdle

"When I was a little kid, I was really scared of the dark. But then I came to understand, dark just means the absence of photons in the visible wavelength -- 400 to 700 nanometers. Then I thought, well, it's really silly to be afraid of a lack of photons. Then I wasn't afraid of the dark anymore after that."

-- Elon Musk

Commenting on a complaint from a Mr. Arthur Purdey about a large gas bill, a spokesman for North West Gas said, "We agree it was rather high for the time of year. It's possible Mr. Purdey has been charged for the gas used up during the explosion that destroyed his house."

(The Daily Telegraph)



AFRICA'S BEST KEPT SECRET

The title is not mine but a direct steal from the Ethiopian Airways brochure, but I make no apologies for that because it says it all about that wonderful country. Two visits in a year and both to make preparations for the Beschillo and Blue Nile expedition. Many years ago I had taken part in the first expedition to traverse the Blue Nile, or as it is known locally, the Great Abbai. A series of ferocious rapids with crocodiles populating parts of the river. Along the banks were the ever present Shifta armed with their ancient rifles looking for whatever we had.

This time, my second recce, I had with me a slightly stronger team allowing us to separate into two parts so we could cover more ground. In particular there was a need to have a look at the area close to the Sudan border. That was to be the tougher assignment so with my usual sneaky manipulation I sent the other group down there. Well! It's no use being in charge if, just occasionally, you cannot pull rank. Anyway I am incredibly old, or so they kept telling me!

On arrival in Addis Ababa we did the cultural thing and attended an evening of music and dance put on by some very energetic Tigreans. Wonderful show it was too. It was extra special for me in particular as during the evening a very beautiful young lady came over to me and I thought that she asked me to pull the draped curtain toggle to close them. Being an obliging gentleman I reached behind me and tugged on the said toggle only to find that it was a set of bare electric wires. For several seconds I out danced anyone on stage, much to the delight of the ageist rat bags who reckon they are my comrades. Will I ever live it down?

So our happy teams, of Steve Bridle and John Teague, the hard men! on the one hand, and Fiona Pace, Graham Catchpole (Jaws) and I on the other, prepared for our separate, but similar tasks. Checking on the possible supply points along the Beschillo and Blue Nile Rivers.

Feeling somewhat charged up we left town for the north towards Lake Tana, via towns such as Dessie and Tenta to view the country to be covered. One of the aims was to have a look at some community projects such as well digging, provision of school equipment and a visit to a clinic. It was quite amazing to meet very small children who think nothing of walking 16km to get to school or 2 hours to collect the day's water supply for the family. When I say small I am referring to kids no older than 6 years of age! I over heard someone say, "What is the use of doing things here, it's all wasted". "Oh no it is not!" In my travels about the world I have never come across people who work as hard as they do for so little. They deserve our help.

The school at Adbijar was an eye opener. Short of everything, and terribly rundown, but with a dedicated staff who handle classes 60 to 100 strong. The pupils know that if they work hard there may be a chance for them in life. It does take great sacrifices by their families, though, to find the money to buy the reference books and writing materials. The

standard of reading in English was extremely high but the textbooks were invariably tatty. We soon discovered that it was better to hand out pens and pencils than money.

The Ethiopian mountain scenery is awesome, the bird life wonderful and there were the red heart baboons doing their best to help the local farmers with the gathering in of the crops. Both seemed to be content to give way to the other and to live in some sort of harmony. Everyone became totally engrossed in the birds, except me! Oh I like them too but not to the point where I feel the need to rush out, buy an anorak and binoculars so that I look the part. My interests are more towards all things electrical!

The real fun was meeting the children everywhere we stopped to take in a view. In spite of having a very tough life they always had a ready smile and wanted to try out their English on the "Ferengies". Fiona was the best at getting them in line for yet another pen and pencil issue. It reminded me a bit of my army days. One minute they were a bustling, pushy mob and suddenly she would bawl, "Get in line"; and they did! Then she strode down it grandly handing out the goods with that set of the jaw that brooked no arguments. At such times she scared me too. Matronly, is the word that comes to mind!

My biggest moment of the visit came when I met "Tilly" Mekonnen in our hotel in Addis. "Tilly" had been a young naval Lt attached to us during the 68 expedition. He has not changed a bit. Still young looking and fit but now a retired commodore working as a legal advisor to one of the international teams charged with rebuilding the Ethiopian road system. It was a huge thrill hearing of his adventures over the years. Arrested and imprisoned for being in the services in the days of Haile Sellasi. Released, with no explanations, so he crossed into Somalia and went into hiding until a new government came into power. Then eventually he was able to return home to his family.

All too soon we had to return to Addis Ababa for the return flight to London. But "merciful heavens!" there was no queues for checking in, the in flight meals were good and everything was on time. They may have difficulties in Ethiopia but they certainly know how to run an airline.

Awaiting me at home was more of the same. Reed boat trips along the rivers of South America and delivering a grand piano to the Wai Wai Indians of Guyana. A grand piano? Yes! But that's another story.

We had all enjoyed a tremendous experience. I cannot wait to go back. Long may it be said that Ethiopia is "Africa's best kept secret", but let it not be so where helping the people is concerned. They are striving, in the face of truly daunting problems, to make a better future for their children.

Ask yourself "What can I do to help"?

Jim Masters (43A D Coy)

BOBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONTACT LIST AS AT 1st APRIL 2018

NAME	GP	ROLE	E-MAIL	ADDRESS	TEL NO
Alan Chatt	59A	Heritage	a.w.chatt.121@btinternet.com	8 The Chase, Washington Tyne & Wear NE38 9DX	01914 175960 07462 538613
Alf Chrascina	43B	Golf Organiser Reunion	alf.chrascina@gmail.com	April Cottage, Silver Street, Curry Mallet Somerset, TA3 6SR	07484 842355
Brian Henderson	65A	Hon Treasurer	brianhend@hotmail.com	21 Hartland View Road, Morteheoe, Woodacombe North Devon EX34 7HB	01271 871716 07970 951259
Chalky White	73A	Secretary	garywhite404@hotmail.co.uk	9 Appledore Drive, Allesley Park, Coventry West Midlands CV5 7PQ	02476 404999 07979 564129
Chris Ricketts	65A	Vice Chairman Reunion	chris.ricketts@talktalk.net	35 Bigstone Grove, Tutshill, Chepstow Monmouthshire NP16 7EN	01291 626730 07779 719422
Denis Woodward	58A	Heritage	denis.woody@gmail.com	8 Farmington Road, Benhall, Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL51 6AQ	01242 526284
Derek Fox	58B	Membership	memsecboba@sky.com	51 Church Close, Pentney, Kings Lynn Norfolk PE32 1JJ	01760 788159 07842 555110
Derek Walker	55A	Co-opted	dchunkwalker@talktalk.net	17 Somerset Drive, Westbury Wiltshire BA13 3XA	01373 825554 07787 557435
Geoff Warren	67C	Co-opted Local Facilitator	sapper0519@hotmail.co.uk	1 Priory Close, Chepstow Monmouthshire NP16 5ND	01291 620374 07392 494761
Geoff Watkins	53A	Heritage Reunion	geoff@cedarsedge.co.uk	Cedars Edge, Bristol Road, Thornbury Bristol BS35 3JA	01454 412508 07780 916227
Ken Reader	62C	Co-opted Ad Hoc assistance	kenreader@msn.com	Carrick House, 8 Cross Lanelittle Downham, Ely Cambridgeshire CB6 2TJ	01353 699096 07752 209941
Ray Armstrong	55A	Echoes Editor	r.armstrong@virgin.net	125 Baker Street, Wigan Greater Manchester WN3 5HG	01942 491140 07941 432306
Syd Thomas	47A	President Interim Chairman	sydney1931@btinternet.com	4 Hawthorn Drive, Coychurch, Bridgend Glamorgan CF35 5ER	01656 661180 07785 282266
Tony Waite	60C	Merchandising	anthony.waite22ss@btinternet.com	Sutton Lodge, 22 Seymour Street, Wellington Somerset TA21 8JU	01823 669336 07788 581775



BEACHLEY OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

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



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Coychurch
Bridgend
Glamorgan
CF35 5ER

Email sydney1931@btinternet.com
Tel. 01656 661180

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

Email: dchunkywalker@talktalk.net
Tel. 01373 825554

24th September 2017

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BOBA

HELD AT THE RACE COURSE LOUNGE, CHEPSTOW

ON SATURDAY, 16th SEPTEMBER 2017.

Present:

Lt Col S Thomas	President/Interim Chairman
Mr. C Ricketts	Vice Chairman
Mr. T Waite	Shop/Memorabilia
Mr. D Fox	Membership Secretary
Mr. A Chatt	Heritage Member
Mr. D Woodward	Reunion Organiser
Mr. R Armstrong	BE Editor
Maj (Retd) DRO Walker	Hon Secretary

Apologies: Mr. Henderson 65A, Mr. Allsopp 55A, Mr. MacDonald 55A, Mr. Platt 55A, Mr. Warner 55A, Mr. Davison 55A, Mr. Burns 54A, Mr. Finnermore 50B, Mr. Withall 45A, Mr. Gilbey 53B, Mr. Brice 54A, Mr. Ball 46A, Mr Freeman 45B, Mr. Wodehouse 56B. (The meeting started at 1425hrs, 49 Members were Present).

Item 1. Opening:

The Chairman welcomed all members to the AGM and thanked them for making the effort to attend.

Item 2- Welcoming:

The President welcomed all present and hoped they had all enjoyed the previous evening's entertainment at The Beaufort Hotel. He thought the attendance (49) at the AGM today was poor. He commended those that had travelled from afar, Australia, Canada and other foreign climes. He reiterated the importance of attending the AGM as those attending represented the voting membership, and was only ten percent of that membership.



Item 3 –In Memorium:

A two minute silence was held for the departed members, a list of 5 names was read out of members and non-members, departed since the publication of the Beachley Echoes. This is appended at the back. Members were reminded that they were 'the eyes and ears' of the Association and should ensure occurrences were reported to the Welfare Member or Chairman.

Item 4 – Minutes of AGM 2016:

As the minutes for the 2016 AGM were contained in the published Beachley Echoes, it was assumed members were conversant with the contents.

A vote was taken to confirm this reflected a true statement of events.

Proposed: K Reader 62C

Seconded: A Chatt 53A

Agreed: Unanimously

Item 5 Matters Arising (CR):

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Item 6 – Executive Committee Report (ST):

The Chairman stated that he would remain as Interim Chair for the present, with Chris Ricketts being Vice Chair.

The Committee operates on your behalf and has, since the last AGM, reorganized into groups which can operate independently, seeking advice and guidance from the Chair/President as necessary, and informing other committee members as required. This has resulted in the full committee meeting once a year besides the AGM, reducing travel costs and domestic upheaval, utilizing electronic media to carry out their business. We are still awaiting a replacement secretary for Derek Walker, who has now completed 13 years in the appointment. Volunteers please!

Chairman (CR):

He stated that he was pleased that yesterday evening at The Beaufort Hotel, had gone so well, and that we were so fortunate to find a number of 86A group there too. They are now considering joining BOBA. The move there from the camp at Beachley, was for economic reasons. Plenty of tables and chairs were available, and members mingled easily together. Mr. Alf Chracina and Geoff Warren are to be thanked for arranging the function. (a round of applause from the members present).

In reference to the Camp closure, having spoken to HQ Brecon and a Defence Land Sales colleague, apart from the year given by the government, nothing is in the pipeline.

The memorial stone by the church has been moved to inside the local church cemetery, fully in line with regulations and CWGC/CO's agreement. On Sunday there will be a small service to intern Peter Burrige's, ashes, and to sanctify the new location of the memorial. Sod has also been moved to ensure previous internees are reburied here too. Members wishing to have their ashes interred here should enquire initially with the committee.

Members were reminded of the FACE-Book page for the association, and not to abuse its use.

ST Thanked Chris for all the work he had put in on these matters on our behalf.

Treasurer (CR):

In the absence of the new treasurer BH, CR stood in. He stated the GPF breakdown was in this years BE's, and no activity had taken place in the interim, so wished members to support him with a vote of approval for the same. The Current Account stood at £2049.75. Investments of £15K, undertaken by D Chapman and T Waite,



were reinvested last time and annual interest had been earned, however on 'buy back', the gilts were only worth £13K. The price to repurchase fewer gilt units at 8.5% did not represent good value, especially with the work involved for the Treasurer. Hence the money has been invested in a Monmouthshire Bank Savings account, with an annual interest rate of 8%. So in future there will be no 'gilts interest' shown in the accounts. Membership fees remain unchanged.

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

Proposer: J Phillips 58B

Seconded: R Marie 46A

Agreed: Unanimously

Membership (DF):

15 new members (listed at the rear) have joined since the last reunion. We have at this time 468 paid up members. The membership database now gives a much clearer picture of member's payments. 67 Group's reunion this year has drawn 5 new members to add to the existing 10. The Sympathy and Get well cards have been obtained for distribution as necessary. There is a need to get old boys from many of the later groups of the school to join, as they are the future of the association. It was pleasing to note the 86A ex-boys, whom wished to join! Next year is the 50th Anniversary of the 68 Groups, should any assistance be required please contact the Membership Secretary – 51 Church Close, Pentney, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE32 1JJ - Tel: 01760 788159 - email – memsec.boba@skyl.com.

Note: **ST** stated that the RE set up, of Squadron and Regimental reunions, was a possible cause for reducing the number of ex-boys wishing to attend BOBA. *From the floor:* **Howard Curley?** 86A: Stated, using 'Face Book', to gain members, is probably the best way of reaching younger ex-boys, across the full media board! **John Phillips.** 58B. Stated, merging these 'wild cards groupings' may only produce a further 30 or 40 members.

The General consensus of the 'Reunion' members was, possibly amending the rule for 'BOBA members' only attendance, and allow for the dinner function only attendance by any ex-boy purchaser? CR. Subject to the numbers wishing to pay for the dinner only, this may be possible. **KR62C.** Stated, He agreed with the 86A input for Friday's solely, and indicated that the BE's Application Form, proffered the whole weekend itinerary for the individual's own choice.

Heritage (AC):

Many changes have been carried out at the OSH, following the demise of Malcolm Hay. And some Leopard and Tiger skin protective drummers wear has been uncovered, which was on display this morning in the foyer, along with three Drum Major's Sashes, encased. The condition of the OSH was of concern to the heritage members, with the amount of damage they have unearthed. If this situation is not rectified, the result would be 'total storage' with the high costs involved. It is proposed therefore that a 'drawdown' amount of £5K, be made available separately, set aside in BOBA Accounts for the maintenance of the OSH, for the 'Group Members', informing the Treasurer/Chairman of the situation and outcomes as they arise. **Proposer: Geoff Watkins, 53A. Seconder: Dennis Woodward, 53A. Vote: Agreed unanimously.**

Beachley Echoes (RA):

Thank you for your wishes for a speedy recovery for Gwen. May I thank Ken Reader for handing over such a good Beachley Echoes setup. This year, 81 hard copies were sent out. Printing costs have reduced to £94/100 copies, through a local printer in Wigan, and I have managed to obtain a box of C4 envelopes for £10.55 which is excellent value. Postage overseas remains very costly, up to £5.60, against the UK average cost of £1.27 each. We had considered having a coloured copy of BE's, but the cost would be six times that of Black and White! Also reverting to hard copy for all would prove very expensive too. (Original BE costs, hard copy £3K!). A vote of thanks was proposed for Ray. **CW:** Suggested that those without a PC, go to the local library and use theirs!



The Shop. (TW):

Thank you all for utilizing the shop, your support is much appreciated. Today was a good day and the 10% profit we make, although small, does help BOBA funds. Please keep it up, and if there are any items you feel we should stock, that we don't, contact me and I will pursue the matter. 'On-Line' ordering is available.

CR. Please enjoy the Dinner and dance this evening. We will endeavour to keep the noise level from the music down!.

Item 7 Election of the Committee:

The present Committee Members wish to continue in their posts and there were no new nominees, it was proposed therefore to re-elect all members 'on-block'.

Proposed by: Ken Reader 62C

Seconded by: Stuart Walker 55A

Agreed: Unanimously

ST. Tony Waite wishes to hand on the shop duties, a volunteer to understudy and relieve him would be appreciated.

The Secretary, Derek Walker, still awaits a volunteer for hand over, having raised the matter two years ago. Volunteers please.

Item 8 – On-Going Matters (CR):

In relation to the Barracks close down, and BOBA/Related Items within the camp, a request through appropriate channel has been made for 'Listed Status'. Acknowledgment of our request has been received, but it was considered that items were not 'under threat' at this time and another application should be made at that point. The QM of the Regiment is unaware of which items are encompassed in the request, so a short list is being produced to keep all involved up to date, should any sudden actions arise on this situation. The Committee and members will be kept abreast of matters as they occur.

Item 9 Tidenham Historical Group (ST):

The earlier presentation by this group was excellent, and uncovered much pre camp history, including the Government acquisition of Beachley for ship building purposes, under the 1917 WO compulsory evacuation order, for the local population. A fine publication has resulted, with many photographs and maps of the time it will be available for sale from tomorrow. Sunday at 1400hrs, along with The Rifles, on the Beachley sports fields, a ceremony, celebrating the centenary of that event will be held, members are encouraged to attend if possible.

The group has completed two phases of their work, and wish to proceed with a third phase. Being self-financing, donations are always welcome. **TW** With this in mind, I wish to propose that a onetime final donation of £1K, be donated by BOBA, to assist in completing phase three, for what is a fascinating background of the school.

Proposer: Tony Waite,

Second: Ray Armstrong,

Vote Carried Unanimously.

Item 10 Committee Matters (DW):

Proposed that the committee fund of £250 be raised to £1K to enable members to undertake necessary committee financial requirements in their work without recourse each time to the next AGM, subject to chair approval.

Proposer, Geoff Warren 53A,

Second, Stuart Walker, 55A,

Vote: Carried (CR, Initially the Welfare vote, then assists for possible care. Only to be used by Committee authority).

**Item 11 The Cenotaph Parade:**

Last year new security arrangements came into use, resulting in earlier listing of all individual attendees, with full details of medals, service etc. being required. If you intend going this year please ensure you enter all these details on the attendance list in the foyer after the meeting. At present there are 23 names down, we have a ticket allowance for 36. Photograph identity for entry is required on the day.

Item 12 Any Other Business:

Chris Blunden 55A

1. The strip of land behind the OSH, who owns it?

Ans: CR. MOD. The graves are maintained by the CWGC. No further alterations are intended

2. Could the committee members not use Skype to communicate?

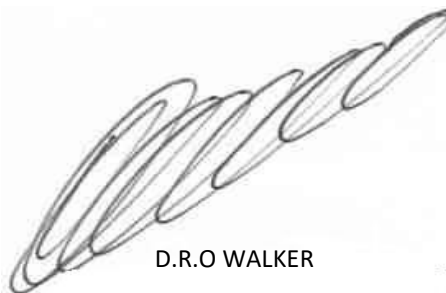
Ans: CR. That is the intention between small groups, reporting back to the Chair.

3. Have any other postage methods been evaluated to reduce costs?

Ans: RA. Other avenues still being pursued

Item 13: Date of Next Reunion:

Please be on parade tomorrow by 1030hrs, gates will open at 1000hrs. 67Group require to provide a Standard Bearer and four sidemen for the church collection. The next reunion weekend will be the 14 - 16th Sep 2018, and the AGM the 15th Sep 18. The REA weekend dates will be taken into consideration Note (This has required the dates to be changed, now 21st to 23rd September 2018). The meeting closed at 1555hrs



D.R.O WALKER

Hon Sec BOBA

Syd Thomas

S Thomas

Chairman BOBA

**Deaths Advised since last Reunion:****In Memorium.****Lest we forget.**

Title	Name	Group .	Coy	
Mr. G	Greg Auld	58B	A	29/06/2017
Mr. G	Graham Hughes	58B	C	06/08/2017
Mr. CA	Carl Parker	58B	C	27/09/2017
Mr. J	John Singleton	63A	A	02/05/2012
Mr. P	Peter Smith	43A		04/08/2017

**New Members.**

1438	Mr	G	Geoffrey	Moore	67C	C
1439	Mr	K D	Carl	Edmondson	77C/78A	C
1440	Mr	R	Roy	Buller	77C	B
1441	Mr	G D	Graham	Collis	66B	B
1442	Mr	C R	Carl	Mawdsley	77C	A
1443	Mr	AB	Sandy(Alexander Brian)	Macdonald	67C	B
1444	Mr	HP	Harry (Harold Paul)	Suddell	67C	C
1445	Mr	K	Kevin (Kev)	Manley	67B/68B	B/C
1446	Mr	J D	John	Douglas	Mil Staff	
1447	Mr	L W	Leonard/Len	Arneil	69B	C
1448	Mr	L A	Lachlan/Lachie	MacPherson	74C	B
1449	Mr	R L	Richard/Rich	Acland	Military Staff	
1450	Mr	J R T	John	Balding	74C	B
1451	Mr	MW	Michael William/Mick	Hull	64B	C
1452	Mr	PA	Percy Anthony/Tony	Hull	67C/68A	C

A couple of actual announcements that London Tube drivers have made to their passengers...

"Ladies and Gentlemen, I do apologise for the delay to your service. I know you're all dying to get home, unless, of course, you happen to be married to my ex-wife, in which case you'll want to cross over to the Westbound and go in the opposite direction."

"Your delay this evening is caused by the line controller suffering from E & B syndrome: not knowing his elbow from his backside. I'll let you know any further information as soon as I'm given any."



BEACHLEY OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET at 31st December 2017

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

ASSETS

	£0.00	Cash in Hand	£0.00
	£10,838.50	Cash in Bank	£23,595.69
£10,838.50		Total Cash	£23,595.69
£26,401.22		Monmouth-shire Building Society Account	£26,907.30
£0.00		Sundry Debtors	£0.00
£37,239.72		Total Liquid Assets	£50,502.99

SHOP STOCK

£1,844.55	BOBA/AAS Regalia	£1,465.14
£39,084.27	Total Current Assets	£51,968.13

LIABILITIES

£2.00	Reunion	£341.93
£182.91	BOBA Golf Fund	£272.81
£539.40	Benevolent Fund	£289.40

£724.31	Total Liabilities	£904.14
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£38,359.96	Net Working Capital	£51,063.99
	being Current Assets minus Liabilities	

FIXED ASSETS

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

GENERAL PURPOSES FUND

	£50,619.47	Balance as per last Balance sheet	£53,359.96	
	£2,740.49	Add surplus of Income	£0.00	
£53,359.96		Subtract deficit of Expenditure	£2,295.97	£51,063.99
£53,359.96		Accumulated General Purposes Fund		£51,063.99
		being Net Working Capital and Total Fixed Assets		

Audited By:

Name	
Signed	
Date	

Treasurer:

Name	B Henderson
Signed	Signed on original
Date	04 January 2018



GENERAL PURPOSE FUND SUMMARY

EXPENDITURE	2016	2017	INCOME	2016	2017
Expenses	£ 1,950.61	£ 1,435.30	Subscriptions	£ 4,022.50	£ 3,547.50
Refunds	£ -	£ -	Shop Postage	£ 115.12	£ 105.14
Fees	£ 300.00	£ -	Bldg Society Interest	£ -	£ 506.08
Stationery	£ 187.54	£ 117.05	Investment Dividends	£ 867.04	£ 867.04
Postage	£ 42.00	£ 163.53	Transfers	£ -	£ -
Website Fee	£ 183.74	£ 210.11	Donations	£ 55.00	£ 215.65
Insurance	£ -	£ -	Church Collection	£ 295.00	£ 315.00
Donations	£ 100.00	£ 469.00	Shop Profit	£ 111.01	£ 168.59
Wreaths	£ 37.00	£ 40.00	Refunds	£ -	£ -
Misc Expenditure	£ 374.79	£ 281.03	CD Sales	£ 30.00	£ 51.00
Reunion Subsidy	£ -	£ -	Name Badges	£ 25.50	£ 18.00
Transfers	£ -	£ -	Reunion Surplus	£ -	£ -
Write Offs	£ -	£ 5,138.95	Misc Income	£ 155.00	£ -
CD/DVD's		£ 28.00	Echoes	£ -	£ 5.00
Name Badges		£ 12.00			
Echoes		£ 200.00			
Total Expenditure	£ 3,175.68	£ 8,094.97	Total Income	£ 5,676.17	£ 5,799.00
Surplus				£ 2,500.49	
Deficit		£ 2,295.97			
Grand Totals	£ 3,175.68	£ 5,799.00		£ 3,175.68	£ 5,799.00

Comments (FY 2016 v 2017):

1. Income from Subscriptions down by approx 15%, all registered BOBA members are requested to pay their dues annually.
2. Committee expenses down due to generosity of its members and reduced attendance at meetings.
3. Building Society interest includes income from FY 2016.
4. Shop performed well and showed a marked increase in profit.
5. Postage costs rose as we are now sending out more Echoes to members/widows who cannot view the document online.

AGM Agenda

Any point you want raised at the AGM in September please let the BOBA Secretary know as soon as possible.

Gary (Chalky) White

9 Appledore Drive

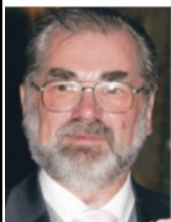
Allesley Park

Coventry

West Midlands

CV5 7PQ

garywhite404@hotmail.co.uk



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

10/04/2018 (All information is correct at this date)

Membership / New Members:

There have been 5 new members join since the last reunion (2017). .

New Members.

Mr	P J	Philip/Phil	Calladine	77C	C
Mr	P J	Peter / Taff	Edwards	72C	C
Mr	N E	Norman Edward/Norman	Stedman	62B	C
Mr	D T	Derek Thomas/Derek	Bellamy	62B	C
Mr	L	Leslie/Les	Wright	68C/69B	C/B

Chris Angell is paying subs but has not registered with the association. I have tried contacting him on Facebook but he appears to be ignoring me. If he reads this perhaps he will make contact with me in due course enclosing his registration forms.

Membership Database

There are currently 832 members registered. The Hon Treasurer will have the definitive paid up member list.

Beachley Old Boys Association (Objectives and rules) i.e. the BOBA Member Booklet.

This booklet has been updated but not yet in my possession.

1968 Groups ~ 50th Anniversary

This year sees the golden anniversary of the 1968 groups of Beachley Boys. If I can assist those organizing the reunion (without falling foul of the Data Protection Act) just let me know. Any non-members thinking of attending should understand that any activity within the auspices of BOBA is confined to association members only.

Subscriptions

Cheques sent to me in regard to annual subscriptions may take some time to be debited from members accounts. This is on account of my having to travel to towns other than that which is nearest in order to access Lloyds Bank. I would ask for your forbearance in this matter.

MY CONTACT DETAILS:

Membership Secretary ~ Derek Fox (58B)

You can contact me by any of the following methods:

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

Home Tel No: ~ +44 (0) 1760 788159

Mobile Phone No: ~ +44 (0) 7842 555110

Email Address: ~ memsecboba@sky.com (Please note this email address should be used for all Membership business)



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

Standing Order

The easy way to make regular payments from your account

1 Your Details

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

All sections must be completed

Your full Name or name of business

Branch name

Your contact telephone number

Sort Code

Account number

2 Standing Order details

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

Yes

No

☒

How often do you want payments made?

Weekly

4 Weekly

Monthly

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

Quarterly

Half yearly

Yearly

☒

If 'NO' please complete all remaining boxes.

Special instructions

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

3 0 9 1 8 9

0 0 0 9 8 8 5 2

First payment amount
(if different to usual amount)

First payment date
(Month & Year)

0 1 2 0

Usual amount

£ 1 0

Usual payment amount in words

TEN POUNDS STERLING

Second payment amount
(if different to usual amount)

Second payment date
(Fill in year)

0 1 0 4 2 0

Until further notice (X)

1. Ensure you fill in all dates where asked.

2. Make sure you sign and date this form.

3. When complete, send to your bank not BOBA.

To Bank

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

01 April of each year.

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

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

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

3 Your agreement with us

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

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

Registered in Scotland
No 95237

Signatories to the Banking Codes

Please note that we will not;

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

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

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

For bank use only

From branch name

Sort Code

Contact name

ID confirmed
(for bank use only)

☐

Your signature

Date



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

BEACHLEY OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE, BEACHLEY



Dear BOBA Member

Re: Next of Kin (NOK)

BOBA ~ Membership Secretary

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

Tel. 01760788159

Mobile: 07842 555110

email: 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

Telephone: +44 (0) 1760788159

Mobile: +44 (0)7842 555110

By Royal Mail: Send to the address above.

Thank you in anticipation.

Sincere Regards,

Derek Fox ~ BOBA Membership Secretary



The Army Technical School Scheme

This article is not the result of new research but an amalgam of the information gathered from a number of sources.

I thought it might be a good thing to remind ourselves why the School was required and how it came to be at Beachley without going into too much detail.

The training of boys for the Army was a well-established practice for example the Royal Artillery were training boys at Woolwich in 1741 and there were other small establishments operating during and after WWI.

Our story began in 1919 when the Army Council decided to set up a War Office Committee to "examine the necessity for, and practicability of, establishing a School for training boys as tradesmen for the Army in order to supply the deficiency consequent upon the impossibility of recruiting tradesmen in sufficient number from civil life." Not surprising that tradesmen were in short supply; vast numbers of skilled men were killed or invalided during the war which also took or injured young men who would have been the apprentices of the day. Add to that the shortage of skilled men to the advancement in mechanisation and other fields and it was obvious that the Army had to take steps to address the situation. The decision to go ahead with a scheme to train their own tradesmen would also have the additional benefit of offering employment to some of the country's youth during difficult times.

The idea was to have 1000 boys at any one time undergoing 3 years training as apprentices followed by 8 years colour service and 4 years with the reserve. After much deliberation sixteen trades were identified but the School started with four i.e. blacksmiths, carpenters and joiners, electricians and fitters.

The staff, numbering 250 which would be a quarter of the strength of apprentices, were to be split into administrative and instructional who were drawn from the Infantry and technical corps respectively.

No 1 Group totalling 105 boys reported to Buller Barracks, Aldershot on 25th September 1923, they were accommodated at No 1 Corps Depot RASC. In January 1924 No 2 Group arrived and on 28th February the School (approximately 250 all ranks) left their temporary quarters and moved to Beachley. The newly painted huts were barely dry and there were no workshops, admin offices, gym, Sgts Mess and no roads! Initially there was only one Company, A Coy but with the arrival of No 7 Group in September 1925 B Coy was formed. The School strength was now 860. And so, the School / College continued to thrive until it closed in 1994.

The site originally chosen for the School was at Blandford Forum in Dorset but this was changed to Beachley which already had quite a bit of history attached to it and is the subject of a very interesting book. The site had been requisitioned by the government in 1915 for the construction of the National Shipyard No 2 complete with everything required to build ships, however none were ever built there. The site was also a prisoner of war camp and the government decided to sell of the equipment etcetera; sales were still in progress when the School arrived on the site in 1924.

Much of the School / College history that has been published was gleaned from the 'Robot' magazines produced over the years. The standard of the magazine varied considerably but there was much effort put into the production of the first edition. So much so that the then Secretary of State for War wrote some words to express his interest in the School. Also, for that first edition the great Rudyard Kipling chose one of his poems as his message to the School.

If you want to learn more about the history of the School / College I would recommend that you purchase a copy of Source 1B which is advertised elsewhere in this edition of the Beachley Echoes.

Ken Reader OBE BEM

BOBA Committee Member.

Sources:

A—Robot No. 1 Vol 1 (can be purchased on CD)

B—The Story of the Army Apprentices at Beachley Camp Chepstow 1924 – 1994 (can be purchased from BOBA)

Beachley and the First World War.

Mary's Son



ARMY BEDS I HAVE KNOWN

Reminiscing one day my mind started to dwell on beds, I don't know why, but probably because beds were very important to us and could be associated with times and places during our service. My first Army bed was of course the one at Beachley. Now our beds, at least in my time at the school, were the only thing we had apart from our kit and a locker, that we could call our own. It was that little island in the room that was ours, the only place where we could relax in comfort and where others did not intrude. It was therefore something special. It was both a comfort and a frustration. A comfort as a place of rest and a frustration due to its construction. The spring part of the bed was made up of springs round the edges of the frame, joined across the bed by a series of short (4inches?) metal links, the bed itself being designed in two sections which allowed the foot portion to slide into the head portion, but as the links between the springs had a habit of disconnecting and falling onto the lower section this often prevented it from being pulled out again.

Moving on to Mans Service I met up with the "Board Bed", this consisted of two metal supports, one for each end of the bed, made of 1/2inch rod which was shaped into a horizontal bar with a vertical triangular support at each end. You also had three wooden boards each approximately 10 inches wide which you laid on top of the supports; this gave you a bed about 6 inches off the ground. The only snag was the boards varied quite a lot in strength, some bending much easier than others. If you had one board weaker than the others the problem was where to put it. In the middle it sagged with your weight and you rested on the edges of the other two boards, if you had it on one edge then you really only had the width of the other two boards to sleep on. The only way to solve the problem was to ask if anyone else in the room had the same problem and then swap boards until they nearly all matched each other in strength.

Then I became acquainted with the palliasse, this was a canvas bag shaped like a mattress, but without the shaped side or end panels. You were handed this and directed to a building where there were piles of straw and left to fill the palliasse. There was a technique to this, too much straw resulted in a hard unshapeable Mattress and too little left you with a thin mattress that gave no support at all.

On being posted abroad we had our first experiences with a Hammock. The Troop Ships in my early travels all supplied hammocks for the troops, which we had to sling every night over the mess tables in the troop decks. They were in very close proximity to each other. Not too bad really, you could get a night's sleep apart from the disturbance of someone getting up to visit the toilet when if he wasn't careful he would have several hammocks rocking when he knocked into them.

When we got to Egypt at times, as we were RASC, the convoy leaguered up at night in the desert where we had to sleep on the sand, this was not too bad as long as you remembered to scoop out a depression for your hip.

There were nights in our early days in Egypt when we had Gippy Tummy and it was impossible to leave the latrines, which were not situated near the tents. Many of us slept on the latrine seat all night wrapped in a blanket. I don't recommend this.

I only ever slept on one Camp bed, and that was one "borrowed" from a lorry I was travelling in. It was that or the sand, the comfort didn't last long however as I woke up itching all over. The bed was full of Bed Bugs.

There was a period in Palestine where we had good beds in our tents. There were metal fixings on the tent poles which were there for the purpose of securing our weapons at night. Despite this some weapons had still been stolen, so were told to sleep with our weapons in our beds, I had a Thompson Sub Machine Gun and I'm sure I can still see impressions of this on my body.

When you were really tired you could sleep anywhere, and one of our favourite beds when I was with a Tank Regiment was to lay a tarpaulin on the ground, lay on it, and then pull the rest of the tarpaulin over you to keep out any rain. Only one main point here, you always had to lay on a slope to let any water run off the cover and away from you.

Then there was the "DDT bed. This could apply to any bed that you had in a Malaria infected country. You were given a DDT Bomb and after getting into bed you tucked in the Mosquito net under the mattress and then broke the seal on the bomb releasing the DDT into the area under the net. This killed any Mosquito's and you were able to lie down to sleep and breath in all the DDT.

Then there were beds on Trains. On the Mombassa to Nairobi railway we travelled First Class, four to a compartment. In the evening an attendant came and raised the back rest of each seat and turned it and the seat itself into beds, very comfortable. A much more uncomfortable Train bed was on the MEDLOC route across France to the Mediterranean. There we were 6 to a compartment and we slept two on the floor, two on the seats, and two in the luggage racks, we decided on our positions by tossing a coin.

One last memory. On the Kenya-Mombassa-Nairobi Trains, there was a card listing the names of the occupants on the outside of each compartment, so that you knew where to go. At the time my companion and I were both Mechanist Staff Sergeants (M.S.S.) in the RASC. We entered our compartment only to be told by two RAF types already there, that we were in the wrong compartment as there were two women joining them there, yes they had mistaken (M.S.S.) on the card for (Miss).



Looking back to the 40's, 50's, 60's & 70's

Looking back, in comparison to modern times, it's hard to believe that we have lived as long as we have. When we were children, we would ride in cars, if we had one, with no seat belts or air bags. Riding in the back of a lorry on a warm day was always a really exciting treat for those who had the opportunity.

Our baby cots were covered with lead-based paint. Childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors, or cabinets did not exist. When we rode our bikes, we had no helmets. We drank water from the garden hose and not from a sterile bottle. Not to mention hitch hiking four miles to the local cinema as a young kid!

We would spend hours building go-carts out of scraps and then rode it down the steepest hill; only to find out we forgot to include any brakes in the design of our master pieces. After running into the bushes a few times we learned to solve the problem without too much of a 'to do'!

No one was able to reach us all day, no cell phones! We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back before the streetlights came on, unthinkable today! We played cricket and sometimes the ball really hurt. We got cuts and broke bones and some of us broke teeth, yet there were no law suits from these accidents! They were just accidents; no one was to blame but us. Remember accidents?

We had fights and punched each other and got black and blue but learned to get over it. We ate windfall fruit, grubs and all, and we all drank lemonade, sharing our drinks with our friends, from one bottle and to my knowledge no one died from germs! We were never overweight, we were always outside in the fresh air playing and expending our energy. We did not have PlayStations, Nintendo 64, X-Boxes, video games, nor 99 channels on cable TV, video tape movies, surround sound, personal cell phones, personal computers, internet chat rooms, we had lots of friends and we just went to school, or out socially to find them.

If Dad was a bit better off than most, we rode a bike. If not we walked to a friend's home and knocked on the door, or rung the bell if you were posh, or just walked in and talked to them. Imagine such a thing!!! Without asking parents, by ourselves, out there, in the cold cruel world, without a guardian!!! How did we do it?

We made up games with sticks and tennis balls and bit and bobs, although we were told it would happen, we did not put any eyes out, nor did the worms inside eaten grubby fruit live inside us forever.

The Children's sports leagues had tryouts and not everyone made the school teams, those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Some school kids weren't as smart as others so they failed an exam and maybe didn't make grammar, or technical school; these exam tests were not adjusted for any reason. Some of us lucky lads, who didn't fare so well at school, managed to catch up later at Beachley!

Our actions were of our own making, consequences were expected if we were caught stepping out of line, we could not hide from our wrongs; in majority there was no one to hide behind. The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke a law was ludicrous and unheard of! They actually sided with the law; just imagine that!

These generations have produced some of the best risk-takers and problem solvers and inventors ever. The past 50 years has been an explosion of innovation and new ideas. We had freedom, success, some failure, and responsibility and we learned how to deal with it all! Well almost!!!

Please pass this on to others who may have had the luck to grow up as kids, before governments regulated our lives, lost all form of discipline, and made the young one's grow up way before their childhood could be lived.

I still profess those who were born and brought up during the war years and post to them had the best young times and by and large we were very happy. Even in civilian life most of us didn't have much in the way of material possessions, but we did have integrity, honesty and true friendships and we cared about our fellow man, the community spirit of what we could do for others, rather than what could get out of a situation!

Editor's Note: This was sent in to Mac, an earlier Editor, by an ex Beachley Boy. Unfortunately there is no reference to who it was. The words are true and show how much more difficult and stressful life has become. Stay safe out there.

Editor's Contact Details ~

Ray Armstrong

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email ~ r.armstrong@virgin.net



From Somebody At A Higher Level Than Us Boys.

I started my time at Beachley on 1st June 1970., Alf Jeffs was the HIO for the plumbers, blacksmiths, and welders. In 1973 as chairman I asked and obtained permission to get the department to build a slide for the Woodcroft Playing Field Association which was on display when Princess Ann visited the college.

1981 and 1982 I attended two summer camps where my "job" was to take any of the apprentices who could play to various golf courses. The first camp was on the Isle Of Man and the second was to Penally, West Wales. Robin Thomas another instructor also came on these camps, his "job" was to instruct on surf boarding. One incident was that one of the PTI sergeants insisted that he was going to "have a go" at surfboarding never having done it before, he was a "natural" and took off very well. Unfortunately he had no idea how to change direction but luckily was later rescued by a passing vessel part way across the Bristol channel.

In 1983 Terry (Dolly) Grey another plumbing instructor and I took a group of Apprentices to St Kilda on the HMAV Ardenes to do various plumbing jobs as required. A wonderful experience.

The next year, a welding instructor and I took another group of lads for more maintenance work, this time on the HMAV Aracans.

In 1985 the college undertook to restore and convert the old farm house on Flat Holmes Island and convert it into a study centre, once again I was lucky enough to take my group to do much of the plumbing.

Apart from the time that our particular building was closed down due to asbestos contamination life was quiet for most of the time mainly because we all knew that the place was closing down and we were moving to Chatham.

I'm sorry that I didn't keep records of the lads I instructed except for the intake of 1990. They were McKormick, Miller, Mabey, Larner, Metcalf, Foster and Blackburn.

In early 1990 or there about I went twice to Dent where an army unit had an outward bound facility. Our job was to install a new toilet in pink for the convenience of Princess Ann (this girl got around). My fellow instructor was a sergeant whose name escapes me. The second visit was with an Alan Collinson to do some maintenance work.

Whilst there we were invited to try a bit of potholing which we did. A fortnight or so later a group of school children were trapped in the same pothole for some time due to rising water covering the entrance. It made the national headlines at the time.

Well so much for my recollections of my time at Beachley.

Robert Civil Permanent Staff

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. All contributions and articles for inclusion in the Echoes are very welcome and gratefully received. When submitting items 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

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 any committee member.

The BOBA standard can be seen on the left of this page ; it was paraded at the opening of the Army Apprentice Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum by Ex WO2 (AQMS), Lou Walker, REME, 55A Group.

Paper Copy of the Beachley Echoes

If you require a paper copy of the newsletter please drop the Editor a line stating name, group and address. His contact details are above.



SECOND CHANCE FOR A BEACHLEY BOY

While most Beachley Boys, having left Boys Service, have gone on to develop successful careers and in many cases, distinguishing themselves in their particular fields of expertise, there are a handful who, through adverse circumstances, have fallen on hard times and needed help and support to recover and make a positive return to life.

One such soul is Keith Bailey whose case I happened to come across late in 2017, through my local REA Branch, involving Keith with a local **Veterans** support project in Taunton, Somerset.



A local Public House in the town had been empty for some time, and it had come to the notice of our REA Branch Secretary, who with local contacts and support, raised the idea for a Veterans Centre to help rehabilitate a number of Homeless Veterans in the local area.

The notion developed into a project with **Taunton Association for the Homeless (TAH)** who were faced with helping those veterans needing help and accommodation.

With significant support from local organisations including the Royal British Legion and others, sufficient funding was raised to refurbish the property to form a hostel with 8 self-contained

accommodation units, two of which are specifically for disabled veterans.

In conjunction with a West Country based Renovation Company formed by another Ex Sapper, the disused public house was completely refurbished and opened in February 2018.

The Opening Ceremony was conducted by Lt Col Paul Maynard, the CO of 40 Commando RM. The Mayor of Taunton Deane District Council and other notable guests were also in attendance. My Wife and I were fortunate enough to be invited along with local Military residents, as between us we had raised a donation for the project from our local Dance Club.

After the official opening, , we were all invited to inspect the facilities of the new venture, and meet Keith, who had had the privilege of being the first veteran to move into the property a week before, and had settle into his new home there.

During a brief conversation with Keith, he revealed that, a) he was an ex Sapper, and b) had undertaken his Boys Service in the last Group to Pass Out at Beachley, in 1994, having initially enlisted in the RE Junior Leaders Squadron which had by that time been absorbed into the Beachley Training facility following closure of its former Dover Base.666+

After undertaking his Junior Leader training and leaving Beachley, Keith completed his Sapper (Combat Engineer) Training at 3TRRE at Farnborough before joining 38 Engineer Regiment based at Ripon in North Yorkshire. He undertook RE Driver Training at a nearby base and returned to Ripon, Shortly thereafter he suffered a traumatic event which significantly affected his whole outlook on life. Despite some supposed remedial actions, which did little to help him recover at the time, he eventually left the Army and tried to make a new life.



Left to Right:

Justin Roxburgh (CEO Taunton Association for the Homeless)
Keith Bailey

Sam Smalldom (Hon. Sec. Taunton Royal Engineers Association)

Lt. Col. Paul Maynard (CO 40 Commando our local Military Unit)



However, significant depression had set in by this time and he found it difficult to re-adjust to relationships and to civilian life. He had numerous jobs, but these did not always help with his situation.

After spiralling further and further down into depression, and basically suffering a breakdown, his situation was eventually diagnosed as PTSD and from there on, he was suitably counselled and offered positive help.



Keith Bailey in his new home.

His case was referred to TAH, who, with the renovation project well in progress, were in a position to support Keith by providing protective temporary accommodation and help him get his life back on track.

Keith, now 42 years of age, is settling down in his new home, and is currently undertaking voluntary work to repay in some small way, the help he has received from TAH. which hopefully in time will expand into full time employment.

His confidence is growing slowly, he has fully accepted his situation and is optimistic, although still suffering from flashbacks, but with the current support, (he has a dedicated Case Worker), the future looks considerably brighter. Since the venue opening in February, a further 4 veterans have been able to take up residence in the Centre, which is aimed as an interim stepping stone in their return to an active role within the community. Keith has indicated an interested in joining our local REA branch and BOBA in due course and I will be assisting him in achieving those small goals.

Anthony Waite 60C

A Salute to The Engineers

Now the Lord of the Realm has glorified the Charge of the
Light Brigade,
And the thin red line of the infantry, when will their glory
fade?

There are robust rhymes on the British Tar and classics on
Musketeers'
But I shall sing, till your ears ring, of the Muddy Old Engi-
neers,
Of the routing, pouting, tearing swearing Muddy Old Engi-
neers.

Now it's all very well to fly through the air, or humour a
heavy gun,
Or ride in tanks through the broken ranks of the crushed and
shattered foe,
And its nice to think when the U-Boats sink of the glory that
outlives the years,
But whoever heard one haunting word for the Muddy Old
Engineers?
For the roaring, goring, fighting, smiting Muddy Old Engi-
neers.

Now you mustn't feel, when you read this spiel, that the SAP-
PER is a jealous knave,
That he joined the ranks for a vote of thanks in search of a
hero's grave,

No, your mechanised cavalry's quite alright and your Tommy
has darn few peers

But where in hell would the lot of them be, if it weren't for
the Engineers,

For the damming, slamming, toiling, boiling Muddy Old Engi-
neers.

Oh they look like tramps but they build your camps and
sometimes lead the advance,
And they sweat red blood to bridge the flood to give you a
fighting chance
Who stays behind when it's getting hot, to blow up the roads
in the rear?
Some dusty, crusty, croaking joking Muddy Old Engineers.

No fancy crest is pinned to their chest, if you read what their
cap badge says,
Why 'Honi Soit Mal Y Pense' is a queersome sort of praise,
But their modest claim to immortal fame has probably
reached your ears,
The first to arrive, the last to leave, the Muddy Old Engineers,
The sweating, go getting, uproarious, glorious Muddy Old
Engineers.

Anonymous

**The BOBA Shop**

The following items are available from our shop.

Item	Notes	Price
Fleece Jackets	Sizes M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL	£40.00
"The Beachley Boys" Book	A story written by Brian Elks	£12.00
The Beachley Apprentices Story	Anecdotes by Apprentices compiled by Brian Elks	£12.00
The Story of the Army Apprentices at Beachley Camp 1924-1994	Official College History	£12.00
Tidenham Parish Churches Book *	Edited by Carol Clammer & Keith Underwood (£3.00 P&P)	£15.00
Mugs	Single Badge AAS / BOBA , Dual Badge	£6.00
Embroidered BOBA Blazer Badges		£10.00
Embroidered BOBA Blazer Badges	(Patch Pocket)	£10.00
BOBA Lapel Badges		£5.00
Cap Badge GSC		£5.00
Cap Badge KC		£5.00
Cap Badge QC		£5.00
Cap Badge QC. Anodised		£10.00
Wall Plaques	AAS or AAC	£20.00
Wall Plaques	BOBA	£20.00
BOBA Car Sticker		£2.00
BOBA Wire Wound Blazer Badge		£10.00
AAS Wire Wound Blazer Badge		£10.00
AAC Wire Wound Blazer Badge		£10.00
BOBA Ties		£5.00
BOBA Bow Ties		£5.00

* Covers all Beachley Churches.

All items can be viewed on the BOBA website and are available from the BOBA Shop Manager. Payment must be made with the order and can be:

- Cash
- Cheque (payable to "Beachley Old boys' Association")
- PayPal transfer

Extra fees apply for packing & postage and PayPal use.

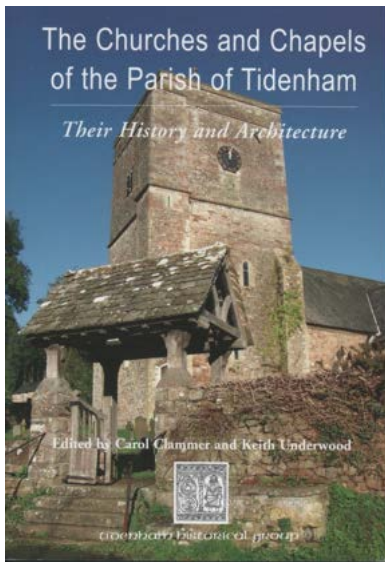
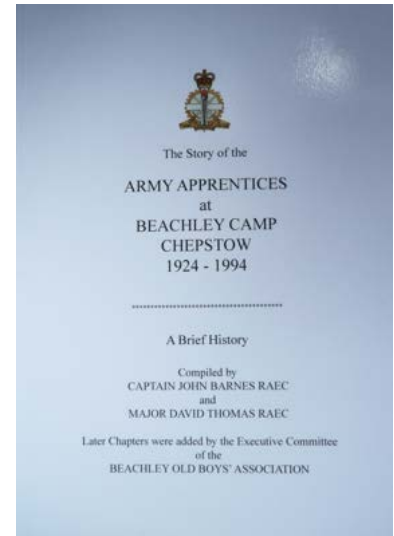
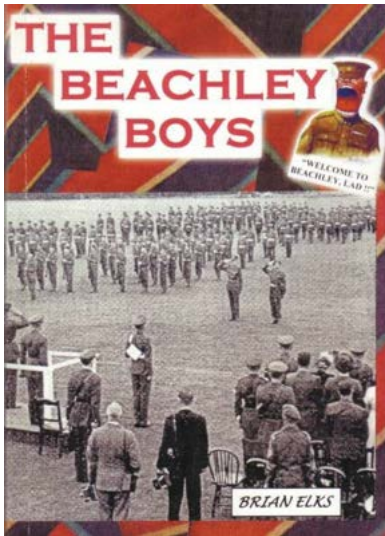
Contact:

Anthony Waite
Sutton Lodge, 22 Seymour Street, Wellington, Somerset, TA21 8JU
anthonywaite22ss@hotmail.com

Additional items
illustrated on page 37

Details of Robot CDs on
page 11





Latest additions to the Shop List are as follows, all to order + £3.00 p&p (Small quantity of some items in stock)

- BOBA T Shirts @ £10.00 each in Navy & other Colours, S,M,L, XL, XXL
- BOBA Polo Shirts @ £12.00 each in Navy & other Colours, S,M,L, XL, XXL
- BOBA Sweat Shirts @ £15.00 each in Navy & other Colours, S,M,L, XL, XXL
- The New Car Stickers @ £2.00 + £1.00 p&p (8.7cm/2.5inch dia—see photo on right)





from the Fairway : BOBA Golfing Society

2017 BOBA Annual Reunion Golf Competition

Another year has passed again so quickly, it seems to these days as we get older.

It felt strange not playing at our home ground Dewstow after experiencing and enjoying the two maturing courses over some 20 years or so.

I would like to thank Geoff Warren for co-ordinating with the people from The Bells Country Club for last year's competition. The feedback from those partaking was very positive about, both the course and our host's hospitality. They endured some of our hackers for three consecutive days and presumably we behaved ourselves well enough for TBCC to have welcomed us back again this coming September.

It was good to see some returning members joining the "same old faces" and hopefully a few more might join us this year. Sadly Kev Manley will be playing his golf where the weather is always fine and we will undoubtedly be remembering him and other dear friends in the 19th hole in September.

On a lighter note, last year's other prizes were won by Syd Thomas, John Green and Stu Burton, and for the second year running the Ken Standen Trophy was scooped up by yours truly Alf Chrascina. So by popular demand (mainly from Syd) Alf will be penalised by 4 strokes off his official club handicap this year.

For those wishing to also play on the Saturday, the tee times will be arranged at a more civilised time, to allow for the recovery of those that have enjoyed the Friday evening "Get Together" at the Beaufort Hotel a little too much.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in September.

Alf Chrascina, Golf Organiser. alf.chrascina@gmail.com

Mark of respect

Two golfers are ready to play on the 11th tee as a funeral cortege passes by. The first player stops, doffs his cap, and bows his head as the cortege passes.

"That was a really nice thing to do," the second golfer says. "It's good to see there is still some respect in the world."

"Well, it's only right," the first golfer replies. "I was married to her for 35 years."

A word of advice

If you drink, don't drive. And don't even putt.

The fisherman

What is the difference between a golfer and a fisherman?

When a golfer lies, he doesn't have to bring anything home to prove it.



Golfing Society Members



Syd Thomas and Alf Chrascina



Syd Thomas and John Green



Syd Thomas and Stu Burton



Presentation of the Ken Standen Trophy
Syd Thomas to Alf Chrascina



The 2018 BOBA Open Golf Championships

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

It will be held at **THE BELLS CLUB, COLEFORD, GLOS** on Friday 21st September 2018.

All golfers are required to meet in the main restaurant at midday for an early afternoon Tee time. By majority consensus this competition has been moved to Friday to enable members to attend the AGM on the Saturday afternoon, and avoid the undesired early Tee times previously endured

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 1st SEPTEMBER 2018.**

Start times will be allocated on Saturday 8th September 2018 and all golfers informed by email, or text, **so please ensure your entry is received on time and that the address details are written clearly.**

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

PLEASE RETURN TO:

Alf Chrascina, April Cottage, Silver Street, Curry Mallet, Somerset, TA3 6SR(Tel: 07484842355)

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 ON SATURDAY (late morning/early 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:.....