

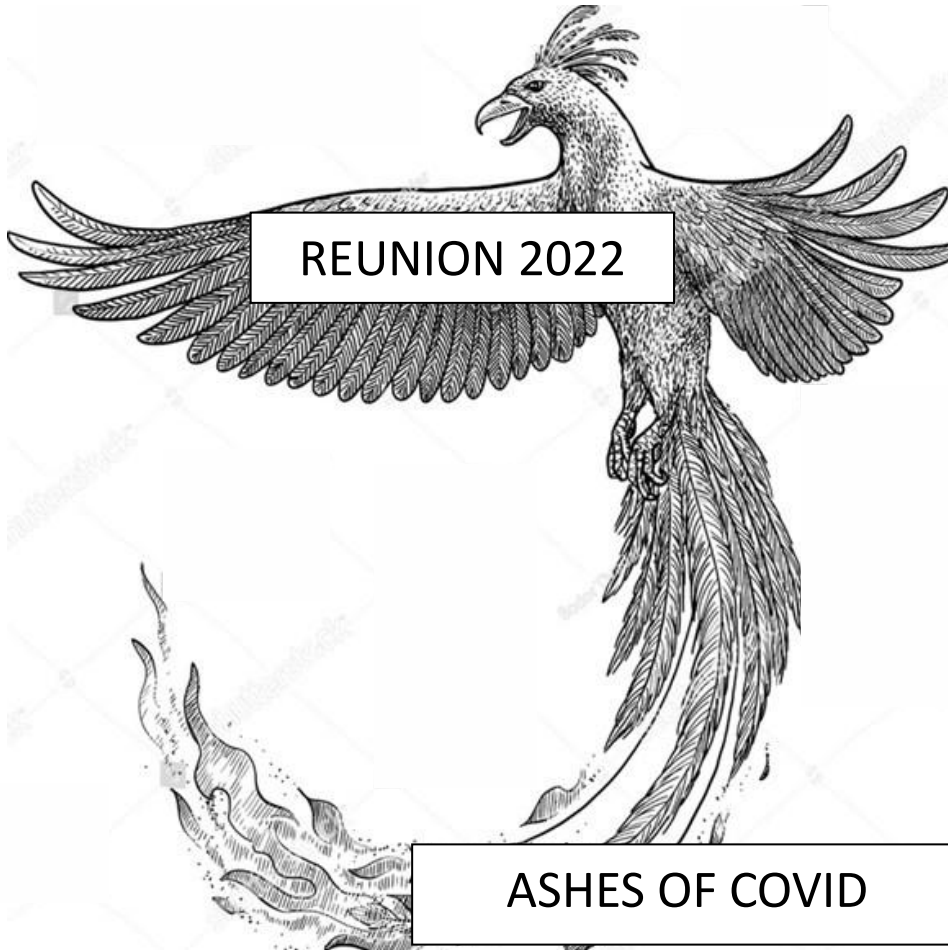


# Beachley



# Echoes

Edition No. 29 ~ March 2023



REUNION 2022

ASHES OF COVID

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The sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II marks the end of an era and a time for reflection. Her Majesty's reign defined service and her dedication from her early years until now to the nation was immense.

The Beachley Old Boys' Association would like to pay tribute to Her Majesty's unfailing sense of service, dignity and selflessness throughout the last seventy years and the stability she provided to the nation. Our sincere condolences to the Royal Family and all who knew and loved our Queen.

I just have to share the two poems below, some of you may have already seen them, but they are so pertinent and appropriate

Phillip came to me today,  
and said it was time to go.  
I looked at him and smiled,  
as I whispered that "I know"  
I then turned and looked behind me,  
and seen I was asleep.  
All my Family were around me,  
and I could hear them weep.  
I gently touched each shoulder,  
with Phillip by my side.  
Then I turned away and walked,  
with My Angel guide.  
Phillip held my hand,  
as he lead the way,  
to a world where King's and Queens,  
are Monarch's every day.  
I was given a crown to wear  
or a Halo known by some.  
The difference is up here,  
they are worn by everyone.  
I felt a sense of peace,  
my reign had seen its end.  
70 years I had served my Country,  
as the peoples friend.  
Thank you for the years,  
for all your time and love.  
Now I am one of two again,  
in our Palace up above.



From Philip to his Lilibet. By Pamela Dungey.

Today you heard him whisper,  
My Lilibet come to me,  
You've fulfilled your solemn promise,  
With devotion and loyalty.  
I went to prepare A home for us,  
Now It's time for you to rest,  
So place your hand in mine my love  
And your head upon my chest.  
For 70 years you've reigned with Grace,  
With courage and such dignity,  
But now my love you're weary,  
So come and follow me.  
A new life is now waiting,  
And your Lord sits on the throne,  
The burden that you took on so young,  
Is now lifted, it's now gone.  
Your kingdom needs to grieve now,  
And to honour their beautiful queen,  
They need to show their love for you,  
In ways that you've never seen.  
Come with me and look down from high,  
Gods kingdom is ready for you,  
Your devotion to him never wavered,  
Heavens doors are open, for you to walk-through.  
Your people they loved you, and you loved them back,  
But they knew that the end would soon come,  
You steered the ship straight for all of those years,  
Now give the wheel of the ship to our son.  
Come with me Lilibet, I'll never leave you again,  
We will walk, every day, in Gods land,  
We'll talk and we'll smile, walking mile after mile,  
And I'll never let go of your hand.  
God bless the Queen  
God save the King



Looking Back

In scanning the old copies of *The Robot* I have had a chance to read odd bits from lots of issues. However, as it is 100 years since the School was set up I thought it would be good to have a look back to the first issue of the journal. Some of the point will resonate with the readers, even this far down the road.

Lt Col (Retd) Ken Reader OBE BEM

*Ken (our Vice Chairman) has been studying The Robot for a few years now and we thank him for his extensive research and work with this onerous task.*

*On the next page you will see the Rudyard Kipling Poem that was published in Robot Issue 1.*

Extracts from The Robot No 1 Vol 1 November 1924 Editorial

So many and varied have been the events worthy of record since the School was formed just over a year ago, that to have a journal of our own to record our progress, and to keep green the memory of our early days has become a necessity; and now that the journal, so long talked of, has, with the appearance of this our first number, become a reality, we look forward to a run of many years, each number bettering its predecessor. Indeed, we cherish the thought that, fifty years hence, our present readers will pore over the issue of the day, and chuckle over the doings of their grandchildren at the (then) old school, cheerfully insisting that the School is not what it was in their day, and that the Army is going to the dogs (as it always has been since the earliest days of its formation).

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Our Great national poet, Mr Rudyard Kipling, has chosen from among his masterpieces a poem of especial interest to the boys, and a number of distinguished friends have sent messages which we shall publish with pride in our future issues.

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And so with this, our School journal, just as it has required the loyalty and enthusiasm of all, officers, staff and boys to bring the School itself into being, so it is necessary to have the coo-operation of everyone at the School to make the journal a success, and a success it is going to be.



# MARY'S SON

By RUDYARD KIPLING

*[Mr. Kipling has kindly chosen this poem from his works  
for publication as his message to the School.]*

**I**F you stop to find out what your wages will be  
And how they will clothe and feed you,  
Willie, my son, don't you go on the Sea,  
For the Sea will never need you.

---

If you ask for the reason of every command,  
And argue with people about you,  
Willie, my son, don't you go on the Land,  
For the Land will do better without you.

---

If you stop to consider the work you have done  
And to boast what your labour is worth, dear,  
Angels may come for you, Willie, my son,  
But you'll never be wanted on earth, dear!

*Rudyard Kipling*



### The President's Thoughts for 2023

Due to ill health Syd is unable to put pen to paper but plans on giving a full report at the AGM.

*Syd Thomas*

Welcome to the 2023 edition of the Beachley Echoes. Normally these notes would be penned by our long serving president Lt Col (Retd) Syd Thomas REME 47A, sadly Syd is quite unwell so our editor of the Echoes, Ray Armstrong 55A asked me as one of the association's Honorary Vice Presidents to provide a short article in lieu of Syd's input.

Regrettably I missed last year's reunion as I was away on holiday, this reunion was the first following all the dire effects that the Covid 19 virus placed upon us. The weekend followed the usual format with the reunion dinner being held in the banqueting suite at Chepstow Racecourse, numbers attending were below our usual level but the feedback from those present was good. Some said it was the best reunion they had attended. The committee hope this can be repeated this year.

For those of you who keep an eye on the RIP page on our website you will have noticed that we have lost many Beachley Boys over the last months/years, some to the virus and many to other health conditions. We lost Dave Chapman 60A, he was the very first Treasurer of new BOBA but notably he was the driving force behind the Army Apprentice National Memorial located at Alrewas. Fairly recently Maurice Murtagh 43B passed away, again he was one of the very first committee members of new BOBA and spent many years supporting the association and could always be seen on or around the Cenotaph parade in London. Joe Hasnip was not a Beachley Boy but served as the foreman in the carpenters shop and again was a very strong supporter of the association. Sadly, the list goes on but I could not close this paragraph without mentioning the Rev Joe Rooney, Joe was our padre for as long as I can remember and I believe every one of us who attended the Sunday church service thoroughly enjoyed his good humour and his sermons that followed.

In early March I handed over the BOBA accounts to our new treasurer, Stephen Barker 66C, we spent the day in the Heritage Centre as it was conveniently halfway between North Devon and Northwich. I must admit I've not spent a great deal of time in the HC recently mainly due to the virus and other commitments, so I was pleasantly surprised as to the standard and quality of the displays and artefacts. The interior and exterior of the building have had a good spring clean and some of the displays refreshed in readiness for the 2023 opening season. A visit to the HC is a must. Finally, I'd like to thank Capt David Bell who is a trustee of the regimental museum at Monmouth for passing on all matters to do with small military museums, his guidance is much appreciated.

I cannot compile this article without mentioning the work and time that the executive committee expends on behalf of the association, most of the committee members are long served and I would guess that their average age is in the 70's. It would appear to me that volunteering is something that younger generations are not in favour of, mainly due to the pressures of modern-day life. Having said that and if you feel you could spare some time to assist in the running of the association, please contact any member of the committee.

In closing, we have a reunion in place for September and we (the committee) look forward to renewing friendships and generally enjoying ourselves.

Best regards to all.

Brian Henderson 65A



## Chairmans Report for the Beachley Echoes 2023

Despite common belief Covid-19 seems to be lurking around still as do many of the other global pressures, but that has not deflected from the Association and its' Members resolve to remain strong. Once again we will be able to meet up again at Chepstow in September 2023 and there will be a lot to catch up on. 2023 will be a little different as our preferred venue, Chepstow Racecourse is unavailable due to an early four-day booking, very inconsiderate methinks, however we have secured the weekend at The Beaufort Hotel in the Town Centre, coincidentally the owner of the Hotel is the Son of a Sapper. All the details and booking forms are available on the Website as well as in the enclosed Reunion Booklet in the Beachley Echoes if received via snail mail, (if you would like a paper copy then please contact the Editor, Ray Armstrong who will ensure that you get one) and let's look forward to a great weekend with as many Members here as possible. The Association remains in good shape with new members joining, especially from the later groups which bodes well for the future. Your committee has continued to work hard throughout the year and have been able to hold a couple of face to face meetings plus a few via the Zoom Platform.

The AGM this year will be the opportunity to set the scene for 2024, which will be the centenary of the first intake of the newly created Army Apprentices in 1924, so my plea is for your attendance and don't forget, BOBA is **your** Association and will only continue to thrive with your support.

Unfortunately, during the latter stages of 2022, I was unwell, and I must express my gratitude to the many Members, and most importantly to those Committee Members that supported me and ensured that the Association continued its' business, thereby allowing me the time to recover and return to my duties.

All that remains is for me to wish you all well and I look forward to seeing many of you in September  
Chris

### BEACHLEY OLD BOY FINALLY RETIRES FROM ARMY IN 2022

I thought that you might like to know that Colin Whitworth, who joined Chepstow in September 1983 and completed his Ammunition Technician training in August 1985, finally retired from the Army in February 2022. He was the last serving Ammunition Technician to have been trained at Chepstow and retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He had earlier been appointed MBE. His retirement from the Army drew a close to the link between Chepstow and the Ammunition Technician trade which had trained at Chepstow since 1955.

J Balding (possibly one of the 80 Groups)



### Hon Secretary Report 2022/2023

Whilst as Hon Secretary I have fairly little to report it must be said that your committee has been maintaining close contact with me and between us we have got through another year and we all look forward to 2023/2024 with enthusiasm

The last year has proven to be a very upbeat year for BOBA, we have new faces on the Executive Committee, we have a new venue for the reunion in Chepstow town centre, and enthusiasm within the membership is gaining strength.

With regard to the AGM, you will be asked at the door to give your name and membership number to the Membership Secretary who will verify this on his database and you will be asked to sign the attendee's book, please note that only fully paid-up members are permitted to attend, speak and vote. This action, albeit different to normal will enable the Association to keep more precise records and maintain the integrity of BOBA.

Also, after various items of correspondence from the AANA we learned that Harrogate Old Boys (AOHA) were in the throes of winding up their association during 2022, however, they have since forged links with the Junior Soldier establishment in Harrogate, this not only stopped the association being wound up, but has lent itself to renewed interest in their association, clearly manifested by the fact that several new officials of AOHA are 80's groups.

I have requested contact details of their 80's group lads with a view to understanding what encouraged them to step up and become committee members, as this is something we have long wanted to happen within BOBA, younger members taking over is clearly the way for our association to thrive.

Finally, I would ask that any, and all correspondence relevant to BOBA comes via myself, whether it be email, telephone, or good old snail mail. My contact details are available on our website.

I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Gary White  
BOBA Hon Secretary

























## CENOTAPH REPORT—November 2022

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022 came around and my Wife, myself and two friends set off early to get to The Mall and the queue to enter Horse Guards. Despite our early start, we were staggered to find the queue extended back through Admiralty Arch and 200 yards into Whitehall. Having joined the queue, it wasn't long before it started moving and within 10 minutes or so we were on Horse Guards.

On finding our Group Post (B41) and a small number of our group members, I started checking off names. There was a better than average response this year and I had been able to obtain 60 tickets in total and on paper I had managed to fill 58 of them.

The online registration process seemed to go much smoother this year, after some of the adverse issues which cropped up in 2021.

Unfortunately, on the Sunday morning we were down to 43 attendees due to ill health and other issues causing people to have to drop out. However, our Oldest Member Bob Wise (53A) and his daughter were able to attend the Parade although our second Oldest, Ken Stout (53B) and his daughter had had to withdraw.

I became aware of a few cancellations in advance and one or two apologies on the Sunday Morning.

As our group was in the First Column, it wasn't too long before we moved off into Whitehall and formed up behind the WRAC Contingent.

While we were waiting for the event to start, we became privy to an interloper, (an Urban Fox) who found his escape route to safer environs was blocked in all directions. It was clear that as time went on, he became quite stressed, but I think eventually he found an escape route.

It wasn't too long before we moved off, a big change from last year where we were at the back of the queue and eventually, we arrived back at Horse Guards having passed a grinning Prince Edward as the secondary Salutation.

We did get a few shots on the TV amounting to about 10 seconds exposure in total.

I was able to give a vote of thanks to all for attending and in particular to Lt Col Nick Winder (58A) for leading us again and to Ray Armstrong (55A) for being Left Marker and carrying the Wreath. I was also very thankful to obtain a volunteer to take over from me to organize for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023 of the Army Apprentices scheme.

My sincere thanks to Matt Arlow for taking this on and I will do my utmost to assist him over the coming year.



CENOTAPH ATTENDEES NOVEMBER 2022 Column B41

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| Mr Raymond Armstrong – Marker               | Mr Nicholas Trood          |
| Mr Alan Chatt                               | Mrs Tina Crossley – Widow  |
| Mr Anthony Waite – Coordinator              | Mr Andrew Gogarty          |
| Mrs Monica Waite – Carer                    | Mr Michael Harley          |
| Mr David Smith                              | Mr John Goodall            |
| Mr Robert Wise                              | Mr Stephen Bell            |
| Mrs Suzanne Rigbye – Carer                  | Mr Ronald Bell – Guest     |
| Mr David Threadingham                       | Mr Richard Wheller         |
| Mr John Hatchett                            | Mr Mark Tonge              |
| Mr David Head                               | Mr Howard Till             |
| Mr Jeremy Dykes                             | Mr Keir Gilchrist          |
| Mr Matthew Arlow                            | Mr Peter Coe               |
| Mr Gerald Francis                           | Mr Roland Watmore          |
| Mr Neil Coultard                            | Mr Richard Tyers           |
| Mr Mark Cardon                              | Mr Cameron Steel           |
| Mr Paul Bedford                             | Mr Terence Curran          |
| Lt Col (Ret'd) Nicholas Winder MBE – Leader | Mr Richard Beckett – Guest |
| Mr Robert Beeston                           | Mr Michael Brown           |
| Mr Anthony Ward                             | Mr Gary Picken             |
| Mr Malcolm Ward – Guest                     |                            |
| Mr Barry Hipwell                            |                            |









## INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR CENOTAPH PARADE 2023 TICKETS

Remembrance Sunday 12th November 2023

Please return to Mathew via email or post, details below.

**NOTE: - 2023 IS THE 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMY APPRENTICE SCHEME**

Name (in Full) including Title where relevant.

Postal Address including Postcode.

Group / Squadron No + Dates attended (Starting &amp; Leaving) Beachley School / College.

Date of Birth.

Place of Birth.

Contact Telephone Nos – Landline.

Mobile.

Email Address.

BOBA Membership No

Military Service Nos.

Date of Leaving Service

Rank on Leaving

Passport Serial No or Driving Licence No.

Passport Issuing Authority (IPS or Other, please state).

Passport Start and Expiry Date.

(You will need to bring the relevant item as Photographic Identification Evidence on the day).

(Alternatively, Serving / Reservist ID Card is acceptable).

Details of Medals awarded.

Carer's Ticket Required – Yes / No.

(Note: - Carer's Details (as relevant above), will be required as above in addition to your own, on a separate form please).

Assuming we are allocated enough Tickets and you are allocated a Ticket, You will be issued with a NAMED Electronic "E" Ticket which you will need to bring with you for admission to Horse Guards Parade, (No Ticket and /or No ID = No Entry).

I will be requesting additional Tickets for 2023, but if I do not have enough to go round, the tickets will be issued on a first come, first served basis to BOBA Members and those who confirmed they wish to attend in 2023. Applicant Names of those who applied last year 2022, will be carried forward as a priority for the 2023 Parade. If you are not a BOBA Member and wish to attend, please request an application form from me.

Security has been tightened considerably over the last few years and will no doubt continue to be tightened further in the future. 2023 will be no exception. Your Details will need to be submitted to me no later than the end of June 2023, hence the defined date for closure of applications.

If you are initially allocated a ticket and then find you cannot attend, please let me know by Phone / Email as soon as possible, so that the place can possibly be allocated to the next person on the Reserve List. Likewise, if you find that you cannot attend during the last couple of weeks before the parade, and even on the day, as we need to have an accurate register on the day.

Matthew Arlow  
73 Suffolk Road  
Andover  
Hants SP10 2JU  
07474 447554

E mail Address

[mattarlow@hotmail.com](mailto:mattarlow@hotmail.com)

CENOTAPH PARADE CO-ORDINATOR 2023 – BEACHLEY OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION



## I Married a soldier, continued.

In my last entry I wrote about being married and dumped in Germany. This next bit is about what happened in the 4 months that he was away in Northern Ireland.

Out of all the wives only four of us were "single", no kids! We were in one bedroom flats but the pads were in bigger blocks with 2/3 bedrooms. Once a week the four of us would go across to the other blocks of flats and each of us would sit in a flat with all the kids from that block while the mothers got together in another flat for an hour or two. They had a good chat, moan and lots of coffee but this small act gave them a small amount of normality. They also knew if they needed help with a sick child or shopping we would be there for them. Except Saturday nights!! They were ours. Off we would go into the village for a few drinks and a brackwurst on the way home. This was okay for a few weeks until some squaddies came into a bar we were in. Just because our old men were away, they naturally tried it on. We even found a pub down a cobbled street with only old German men playing dominoes. Until one night some squaddies came in. Then we started having drinks at our flat as there was no enjoyment in going out anymore.

While out in Ireland a sergeant was blown up by a bed bomb in the barracks. It was a terrible time as we all thought it could have been one of our hubbies. It was only when he came home on R&R that I found out that said sergeant was a marked man from a previous time in Ireland and that the barracks were being painted by locals and that's how the IRA got in. On his R&R we were sat eating our tea when a car went past and backfired. One minute eating tea, next thrown under table with him lying on top. It just shows how tense they must be while out there for a car back firing to have that effect.

The biggest shock I had was the officer's wives!!!. Sundays the wives were picked up and driven to the camp for Sunday lunch. Great I thought, meet other wives, no way. I sat down at a table and was asked what rank my hubby was only to be told that other ranks were seated on separate tables and I couldn't sit on this table as he was a lower rank. After coming from Gibraltar where we all mixed at socials, this was an eye opener. This went on for the whole 4 months, it also happened at the daily coffee mornings in the week. I only managed to go when I took a week's holiday from working in the NAAFI.

The ironic thing was that it was the men who were in the army not their wives, but these women thought they were better than us. Cheques were in use then and a list of people to not accept cheques off was on each till. Yes, you guessed right! it was all high rankers wives not the good lower ranks wives.

Once the lads came back, we settled into a sort of normal life. Socialize when home, stay in when they were on exercise. One of the lads got promoted to sergeant. He had 2 children under 5 and we used to help his wife a bit. She went to coffee morning and sat with her friends, who she had been with for the four months. The "other" wives came across to her and told her she was sat on the wrong table and she should be on the "sergeants" table. She was a lovely lady and came from Glasgow. I cannot print where she told them to go but in the "FFFs" she said to them that the women she was sat with were her friends, had helped her with her children and kept her company for the four months. She then went on to ask where they were during this time as not once had they asked her if she was okay while her hubby was away. Her hubby was taken into the office at work and told to control his wife. She never went to coffee mornings again as she refused to sit with them and would rather stay at home.

Mal Thompson

"w/o" Richard Allen Thomson

65B Group



### **RORKE'S DRIFT MEMORIAL SERVICE**

January 1979 saw the involvement of group of Apprentices from AAC Beachley and a Contingent from the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers involved in the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the British Army's victory in the battle of Rorke's Drift in South Africa.

Unfortunately, the Victory on the 22<sup>nd</sup> / 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1879 was tempered by the significant defeat earlier in the day at nearby Isandlwana when Lord Chelmsford Troops lost some 1300 casualties from his command of 1700 men against an enemy assault by some Fifteen Thousand Zulu Warriors

In 2022, Taunton REA (Royal Engineers Association) hosted a service at St John's Church near Taunton, Somerset, in memory of Lt (Later Colonel) John Rouse Merriott Chard VC of 5 Field Company RE, who is buried in St John's Churchyard.

The defence of the Mission Outpost at Rorke's Drift was undertaken by Lt Chard RE and Lt Gonville Broomhead of the 24<sup>th</sup> Foot (now the Royal Regiment of Wales) with a total of 139 men defended the Mission against some 4000 well-armed Zulu Warriors with the loss of only 17 men and 10 wounded.

Lt Broomhead and Lt Chard were both awarded the VC along with 12 other soldiers, the largest award won in any single battle.

On January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023 Taunton REA held a further service to commemorate the battle, on the 144<sup>th</sup> anniversary and it is their intention to continue it at least until the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2029

We were pleased to see the Heritage Centre's Advisor Mr David Bell who came wearing two hats, one as Curator of the RMonRE Museum, but also his former role as a WO2 CSM and Drum Major in the Royal Regiment of Wales (successor to the 24<sup>th</sup> Foot). Mr Bell was accompanied by his wife Anne and by all accounts was pleased to attend.

Our group on the day comprised some 24 members, wives and friends of the Taunton Branch of the REA.



Anthony Waite 60C – Vice Chair Taunton REA





Alan Skidmore

'C' Company CSM 1973 –1975

Alan had reservations about being posted to the Army Apprentices College, Chepstow as he dearly wished to be Squadron Sergeant Major in a Sapper field regiment.

However, the upper echelons of power decided he was to be the first Royal Engineer Company Sgt Major at Chepstow. CSM postings there had always been exclusively in the domain of the Guards regiments. He was expected to make a success of it as the Royal Engineers wanted it to become permanently theirs. Alan of course made a resounding triumph. Having had initial doubts, he was to find his two years there extremely fulfilling – watching untried boys change and become confident young adults under his and the rest of the permanent Staff's firm, fair guidance. Our posting was to be a very happy one – I too have fond memories – one being a little hair raising – of our two year-old daughter's first visit to the swimming pool, she launched herself in to be promptly fished out by a quick -acting apprentice – of being a member of the Badminton team – playing regularly with the Apprentices, and both Alan and I very much appreciated our apprentice babysitters – who invariably spoil our young son and toddler daughter – who always looked forward to arrival as it meant that they would be allowed to stay up. Alan's success at Chepstow led to an RSM's appointment in Hameln and ultimately a commission. He retired as a Lt. Col. We served in many different places during Alan's career but Chepstow was a special place for him. He spoke often of his time there and to the end remained extremely proud of his "Beachley Boys".

Editor's Note

This was forwarded to me by our Secretary Gary White and was originally written in an email to him by Alan's widow Marla Skidmore.

I thank them both for allowing me to include this item.



### Col (Retd) Alan Skidmore RE

We all came across some characters at Beachley, both those we served with and the staff.

For us of 73A C Coy there was one character who would play a big part in our lives and shape the men we would become, he was CSM Skidmore, affectionately known to all as 'Skidders', a man that could scare the bejeezus out of us but always teach us why he was doing it.

Life at the 'nursery' (J wing) under the likes of Staff Harrison was great, he taught us everything from how to dress, how to march and how to become a team, unfortunately his easygoing style didn't teach us that when he said "get outside in three ranks" actually meant right now, or that "stand still" actually meant stand still!

Those harsh realities and the odd one or two others came to us from Skidders, in his own inimitable way he was beginning the process of making us grow up and become soldiers, a process that sometimes had us wishing we were somewhere else, but a process that also had us laughing our tits off. Skidders was able to make sure all the necessary skills were learnt by us and to ingrain in us their importance, but he was also able to form us into a tight knit band and show us what we could achieve.

When we were doing weapons drill on the square with him he expected high standards from us but was frequently disappointed, on one occasion with the weapon at order arms someone dropped it, he rightly stood still and left it on the floor, Skidders slowly came between the ranks towards the guy who was now sweating so much he was near to passing out, he quietly stood his 6' 6" frame behind the poor sap and whispered in his ear "cocked that up didn't we", yes sir, "not going to do it again are we", no sir, "because if you do I'll put this pace stick where your mother hasn't kissed you in a long time"!!

At C Company Christmas dinner in the cookhouse each group had to put on some form of entertainment, we in 73A opted for some wheelchair drill. Wanting to make it authentic we wanted the guy taking the drill to mimic Skidders, the whole thing was hilarious getting the whole place laughing, and Skidders himself didn't even mind when he realised that we had broken into his office during that morning and borrowed his No2 dress hat, his army raincoat, belt and pace stick.

That was the type of guy he was, he knew when to have a laugh and when to switch on, and that's what he taught us.

Myself, Roy Stitt, John Green and Jimmy Hough went to see Skidders in May of last year, we had a meal with him and his son Matt in Ripon where he lived after leaving the Army, actually becoming Mayor of Ripon for a few years. After not seeing him for 40 years it was really quite an emotional weekend, and as this year is our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we invited him to come to the reunion as our guest of honour, he was extremely pleased and humbled to be asked and of course said yes, unfortunately that was the last time we would see him as he passed away in October last year at the age of 82.

All of the guys named above, and I'm sure many more from Beachley would agree that we owe a great deal to Skidders, and judging by the amount of people that were at Ripon Cathedral for his funeral, his character, humour and leadership qualities affected far more than we realised. RIP

Chalky White

73A C Coy



## The Heritage Centre Subcommittee Report AGM 2021/22

As you may know, owing to issues concerning H & S and good governance, the BOBA Committee decided to set up a Subcommittee to oversee the completion of processes and systems, which will comply with legislation and provide a safe environment for all visitors and **volunteers**.

I was asked to set up this committee to oversee this task. I asked the committee permission to bring in one member outside of BOBA to give us advice and a different perspective on our Heritage Centre (HC).

Permission was given and Captain David Bell (Retd) , Curator of the Engineers Museum at the Castle in Monmouth, was contacted by Brian Henderson (Treasurer). He accepted, for which we are very grateful, and thank him for his advice, which is ongoing.

The next person to volunteer was Tony Waite, our Cenotaph organiser who just happened to be a qualified H & S Assessor. Not having to employ a H & S Consultant has saved us some expense. Our final member was Stephan Barker who has great experience with community and charity groups, and is an advisor. This is your Subcommittee. Please see the website for the management structure.

The decision was taken to close the HC until all systems were in place. The subcommittee convened two meetings in February to set the work in motion. In April the subcommittee and members of BOBA met at the HC to finalise our task and prepare for the reopening of the HC on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. This was achieved as planned.

The times of opening are as before the closure. Wednesday and Saturday 11am until 3am.

### What have we done since opening?

1. All systems have been reviewed, H&S has been complied with, and a code of ethics is in place for all staff within the H C .An inventory has been part completed.
2. A Mission statement and vision statement was submitted to BOBA and agreed. A mission statement tells all staff and visitors what we do and a vision statement tells us what our objectives are.
3. On the advice of David Bell we re-joined Wales and West Army Museums regional group. (WWAM). David is our HC representative. (It's free)



4. We joined the Association of Independent Museums (Membership number 4750) This and the membership of WWAM gives us access to training, grants if necessary, and importantly, in my opinion, a system of networking and contacts outside of BOBA. The AIM membership fee of £65 is paid by NAM

5. I attended a training course on the introduction of copyright. This is an important part of museum administration as museums are guilty of a lot of copyright infringement. This is caused mainly through lack of knowledge. The social media is also guilty of this infringement. This was organised through the Ogilby Trust (NAM)

6. I also attended a course on Good Governance for Curators. The course was provided by the National Army Museum (NAM) Both this course and the above was provided free. NAM have also provided us with a link to the U Tube training videos we may have missed.

7. This brought up the subject of "Terms of Reference ". As we had been just verbally given permission by BOBA to set up a subcommittee, I realised that good governance required written Terms of Reference for the subcommittee. Consequently the subcommittee put together our terms of reference which was accepted by the BOBA Committee. They also agreed to our Governance and Policies checklist. These two documents are live documents and can be changed as and when required.



Heritage Centre at Beachley



8. Terms of Reference, Management Structure and Mission/Vision Statements are all available on the Heritage Section of the BOBA website.

### Future Projects

We will continue to build on what has so far been achieved.

1. Continue with copyright checks
2. Continue with labelling and explaining the exhibits. This includes giving credit to those who donate to the HC
3. Continue with external training, if appropriate, by NAM, AIM.
4. Ray Armstrong attended a two day zoom course on Media Copyright in September
5. The recruitment of volunteers is ongoing.
6. An annual update on all H & S, and the Governance and Policies check list will take place in the New Year or when necessary.

This concludes the 2021/22 Heritage Report.

Since this report, owing to family health problems, I have had to hand over the chairman's role to Tony Waite. However I will still be available to support him in his new role, thank you.

Alan Chatt 59A, Corp of Drums, A Company

#### **Eggs..?**

Golf balls are like eggs.

They're white.

Sold by the dozen.

And a week later you have to buy some more.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.



Life as a "Wife Of" - HOLIDAY TRAVELS - Let Me Take You Back A Few Years

Trying not to look back through rose tinted spectacles, it is difficult not to mention how good the weather was when enjoying time off. As military personnel work 24/7 365 days a year leisure was never taken for granted, we all made the most of days off and annual leave come rain or shine. So let me take you back a few years.

**BLOCK LEAVE**

All military personnel were allocated a number of days per year to take as Annual Leave and like Civilians separate days off had to be applied for, but that's where the similarity ends. Longer break periods were stipulated by the Regiment and Squadrons as 'Block Leave Periods' to fit around active service, training courses and exercises in addition to work commitments. Booking a family package holiday with a travel agent was something we never did due to the considerable risk of losing the "deposit" as 'Block Leave' dates could be changed or cancelled altogether with very little or no notice at all. That is why caravanning for us was such a joy, we loved packing our van with all our holiday essentials rather than packing suitcases. We were completely self-contained, having complete independence with no timetable restrictions to hinder our travels. Living many years in Germany meant that all of Europe was on our doorstep for us to explore, so armed with a trusted copy of 'Camping Europa' the touring Caravaners bible, our 'Outfit' serviced by Tommy, hitched up we would head off for an adventure, our holiday always started as soon as we turned that key to lock our front door.

**IRON CURTAIN**

The Hartz Mountains were only a one-hour drive from Hameln, in West Germany as it was at the time. It was Springtime and for a weekend we pitched our caravan in a lovely quiet campsite it felt like we had the forest to ourselves the pine tree aroma heady in the air, such a peaceful serene place, however it held a sinister story. The East German Border was close by and could be easily observed by climbing up the steps to the top of a nearby ski-slope. Clearly in view were high sangers housing armed border guards with their gunsights focused on the vicious barbed wire and electric fences, scanning for escapees trying to defect to the West. This gave Tommy and I an educational opportunity to teach a political/social humanities lesson to our girls aside from them having fun running in the woods finding frogs and bird spotting.

**SNOW QUEENS**

In Winter the Hartz Mountain region became a popular ski resort, not quite the Swiss Alps more like the Sierra Nevada here in Spain, but all the same it gave folks of all ages experience to literally move higher up in the winter sport world if they so wished. Being in such close proximity to the Hartz Mountains, Hameln Garrison is the home of the Royal Engineers (RE) Ski Team with some of its members competing in the Winter Olympics. Our proficient Skiers decided it would be a great idea to plan a Squadron Family Ski Day, an opportunity to pass on their skills to hopefully inspire and nurture a new generation of young ski enthusiasts. It took place one freezing, but dry Saturday. A coach arrived at 9am outside the Squadron block and participating Sqn guys and their families set off for fun



in the snow. Tommy decided to drive us himself so we, our girls together with Gavin their school friend followed on a little later in our car. The Hartz mountains were beautiful with snow glistening in the midday sun, the slopes dotted with the colours of multiple ski jackets salopettes and bobble-hats. Meeting up with the rest of the guys we made our way to the nursery slopes, this was necessary as only Tommy and Gavin had skiing capability. All kitted out and ready for the off Tommy instructed me in the rudiments of the task in hand. Whilst Gavin schooled Helen (who was a natural) and they were soon gliding down the incline returning to repeat the process many times enjoying every minute. Me! On the other hand, was not doing well at all, I spent most of my time trying to push myself up into a vertical stance, I could not get the hang of this pleasurable pastime no matter how much I tried! Battered and bruised from falling on solid ice after much perseverance, realising this was not my cup of tea, I retired to the Gluhwein Cabin to toast myself next to the wood-burner to soothe my aching body! ..... Now my fun begun as through the window I had a grandstand view of the outside activities. Tommy was now guiding our little Monique wearing short bright yellow children's skis down the slope, she was managing well, so young and fearless hanging on to her fathers every word, was a joy to see. As her confidence grew, as she travelled further, and the incline increased a small problem appeared when one of her skis became dislodged and descended down the hill without its owner!!! Monique now sat in the snow with a single ski still attached found this hilarious, particularly as her dad had to ski down in pursuit to recover her other ski! This was how Tommy spent his afternoon, up and down the slope. However, it wasn't long before Monique rewarded his patient teaching efforts by making wave patterns in the snow, whilst I watched my family from my cosy viewpoint with the cockles of my heart being warmed with love and the occasional aromatic mulled beverage.

#### SPRACK EN ZEE DEUTSCH (Sprechen Sie Deutsch)

Sunny summer halcyon holidays were spent travelling further afield and we certainly turned a few heads as we sped along the Autobahns. Our 'Outfit' consisting of an Esterelle folding caravan and a very low Alfa Romeo sports car, was quite baffling for motorists following behind as our car was lower down than the caravan, making it impossible for them to see what was towing it, unless they were driving a truck. We found it quite amusing as curious overtaking drivers peered at us as they went past. With the map resting on my lap (no GPS in those days) keeping notice of the road signs as we cruised along, I would thumb through the pages of the 'Camping Europa' checking out the legend of symbols depicting the various facilities at the featured touring campsites, helping us to decide which site we would head towards for our stay. The first long distance trip was to Lake Garda and on crossing the Italian border we realised that we had forgotten to buy an Italian Phrase book. As it happened this wasn't to be a problem, even though the Italian Campsite Receptionist didn't speak any English, he and Tommy managed to converse in broken German! Next year we headed to the Costa Brava and a Spanish phrase book was packed well in advance.

#### ANN'S STORY

Like us and many other service families, Ann and Con and their two boys were also caravaners. They also had travelled to Italy with their caravan for their summer holiday and had luckily managed to book a lovely private beach campsite for three weeks. During their holiday Scott (their oldest son) spotted a girl he liked. He always had a talent of picking up languages easily. So, he tried his luck with this young girl. He tried English first with no joy, then tried French equally no joy. He only had one more language left German, still no joy. After all he was only 14 years old, so they both decided to go their separate



ways and said goodbye. About half an hour later when looking out of the caravan window, there was Carl Scott's younger brother (by 21 months) sitting chatting away merrily with this young girl, who was from Hungary. No words needed they were chatting just using hand signals and were getting on like a house on fire ..... Where-there's-a-will-there's-a-way !

#### MONKEY BUSINESS

There were many times when Tommy was away 'on Tour' with the Sqn during school holidays and so it would be the unpaid job of the Wives Club Committee to plan events to help families keep children occupied during the long school break. Usually, these organised trips would prove successful, but on one unfortunate excursion it was anything but fun particularly for the mothers! The brainwave of the committee was to visit a Safari Park, not a bad idea I hear you say! The journey began on a hot summer day, the 52-seater coach packed with excited children with their mums, me being one of them with our two girls aged 5 and 8 years. Settled into our seats with our bags containing packed lunches stowed safely away, the coach pulled out of camp, the soldiers on the gate waving us off. Having got stuck in traffic in town it was a while before we joined the Autobahn for a 2-hour journey to the Safari Park. In those days coaches didn't have seat belts and some mothers struggled to keep their exuberant charges in their seats, much to the annoyance of other mothers whose offspring wanted to follow suit with their peers! Temperatures began to rise further as the sun began streaming in through the windows, with no Air-Con, blinds or windows we could open, we occupants getting even hotter under the collar was an understatement. We trundled along clock watching and praying for clouds, until the children spied the entrance to the park, RELIEF!!! With Entry tickets validated we proceeded through the gates, now for some fresh air! We hoped! "Where's the Coach Park? When can we get off?" we ask the driver. "In and hours' time" came the reply "when we exit the animal enclosure" Oh no! please NO!!! fraught mothers exclaimed, but there was nothing to be done other than to keep calm and carry on! As the coach inched its way meandering along its route monkeys leapt all over the outside of the coach, provoking thrilled cooped-up children to respond with copy-cat behaviour on the inside, whilst others scared witless, in tears, buried their heads in their mother's laps. Eventually having moved past docile Lions, stately giraffes, elephants, and antelopes and more we arrived at the coach park. Alighting was rapid as many now needed a 'comfort' break and hurried off in search of a lavatory. Time was in short supply as the driver had stated everyone needed to be back on board in an hour. Nobody stopped for their packed lunch, children wanted ice-creams their parent a cup of tea! Then a rush to the Amusement Park. Now another disaster! as only a few rides were suitable for our children's ages. Taking the advantage to stretch our legs and for the youngsters to let off more steam we raced around the Funfair. At least the return journey was uneventful, as tired offspring were lulled off to sleep and we mothers enjoyed some respite.

#### GRANDPARENT TREATS

At other times when Tommy was away for several months, I would break up the time visiting our parents in England during the school holidays. The girls and I would travel from Germany to UK on the 'Eurolines Coach Service' which was very popular with Service Families. It was very convenient as their vehicles had designated stops in all British Forces Germany (BFG) British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) towns. We would journey early evening on a double decker coach from Osnabruck to UK through the night a minimum of 12 hours, the idea , to be an overnight journey to allow passengers to sleep, unfortunately the passengers were not all adults many were children travelling with their mothers, and





babies and children do not sleep readily when out of routine or excited!..... Luckily for me Osnabruck was the first pick up, I made sure the girls and I were at the bus stop early to ensure we were first in the queue to get on board, there were no seat allocations it was first-come-first-served. We always sat upstairs in the three front seats, two above the driver. I would carry two blankets with me one to place in the footwell as a makeshift bed for Helen if she wanted to sleep and the other for Monique to stretch out on the double seat (as she was not as tall as Helen) whilst I sat in the seat across the aisle. I was very organised taking on board picnic food and drinks for our supper and breakfast. We would meet my parents at the M20 Services near Maidstone in the morning or continue up country to be met in Nottingham by Tommy's parents' early afternoon. It was a mammoth journey, but it was worth it, being good value for money so much cheaper than flying in the days before Easy jet.

When Tommy was not away sometimes, we headed back to UK leaving our caravan at home, we would head by car to Zeebrugge. A five-hour drive would begin early evening followed by a three-hour late night channel crossing on a Townsend Thoreson Ferry to Dover with a subsequent onward drive to our parents' homes, another mega journey, but these times were accompanied by playing eye-spy and sing-a-longs, great fun!

On a few occasions when Tommy had returned home from being on tour, our girls would go on Holiday with Tommy's Parents without us. This had a two-fold advantage that our girls could get spoiled enjoying time with their Grandparents, they especially enjoyed trips to Blackpool and Lourdes in France. Whilst Tommy and I would have a well-earned, Rest and Recuperation (R&R) holiday alone together, which was wonderful especially after he had returned home from Active Service.

#### LOLLIPOP FLIGHTS

For children who attended Boarding School in UK the RAF provided a Service affectionately known as Lollipop Flights that chaperoned children home for the school holidays to Parents posted abroad all over the world. Can you imagine aeroplanes full of happy children of all ages eager to be home for the holidays, which were much longer than UK State School breaks? Our Helen although NOT away at boarding school was one of these youngsters. Due to her dad's next posting Helen would have had to endure changing schools in the middle of her GCSE's so instead she lived with her God Parent's in UK and attended a local State Church Secondary School for two years. This situation was not ideal for our family as the separation for the girls was not going to be easy, particularly for Monique being home without her elder sister. However, Monique soon settled in the new posting and made friends with our new next door neighbour's daughter who was the same age, the girls attended the same Middle School and walked to school together each day. Helen will tell you that her new school chums treated her like a celebrity knowing she was flying back and forth to Germany. On occasion she brought schoolfriends home too, but as they were not entitled to Lollipop flights, they flew with Helen with a civil airline safeguarded by stewards. So, a life lesson is learned, looking on the bright side of an unfortunate circumstance had the happy outcome of gaining new friends.

#### GAP IN THE MARKET

As the years rolled on and unaccompanied tours of duty became longer, now six months of separation instead of four every 18 months and, often sooner for some and also, depending where the deployment was on the planet often there was no four-day R&R break either! To offset these long periods apart from their families, Service Personal's post tour leave would be extended giving families the opportunity to enjoy a long Holiday. For the new generation of young 'Wives Of' (although not a



title in general use anymore, because of its non-pc connotation) many of whom had been raised in families where an annual two-week holiday in the sun was the norm and expected, the realisation that booking a holiday in advance was not that practical, unless you were prepared to risk being financially compromised, was a bit of a culture shock. But soon that was all about to change when 'a-gap-in-the-market' was spotted by 'Sandals' Travel Agents. Their premises began springing up in BAOR located next to NAAFI shops or Church Army Newsagent/Cafes, venues that were frequented daily by wives and Service Personal alike. These Travel Agent's unique selling point was that all monetary Deposits would be returned should the Holiday have to be cancelled by the military customer due to any military commitments regardless of whether it be for Active Duty, Training Exercises or Training courses. WINNER! Customers were also able to make interim payments to cover the full cost of the holiday as and when, effectively a 'lay-by' system enabling any Holiday to be considered affordable. I seem to remember that Cancun in Mexico became a popular post-tour destination! As for us, we continued to enjoy our Mediterranean caravan family holidays and some in UK Campsites now in an aerodynamic Dethleffs model. As our daughters grew up, they also experienced School and Church Holidays abroad with their friends until they flew-the-nest. Then we sold our caravan, for another young family to enjoy.

#### SPAIN

Spanish people are extremely family focused, and most enjoy days out. We see large multi-generational families enjoying picnics by riverbanks with their youngsters paddling and splashing in the streams. They gather in the evenings on the Beaches for BBQs and moonlight swims. Strolling arm in arm young and elderly together, enjoying the simple pleasures in life.

Numerous festivals are held throughout the year all over Spain and every Village and Town hosts an annual Feria which in our village lasts for three days, with the Malaga Feria lasting a full 10 days. Every factory and all shops close for the whole period with pop-up bars appearing in the streets and in designated Feria Grounds. From Spring until Autumn, it is possible to find a Feria happening every week somewhere in this Hispanic land. - And a good time is had by all!

Northern Europeans will often say that Spain's weather is too hot a country for them to retire to, as they think the weather is HOT all year, whereas the reality is that we only have high temperatures in July and Aug the rest of the time it is perfect. Wrapping up in woollies and boots in winter to enjoy country walks or ambling along a quayside without the need for a Macintosh and broly is heaven. Living in Andalucia there is no need for us to go find two weeks of sunshine as we are on holiday every day. Throughout their childhoods our two Grandchildren have spent their school summer breaks with us every year and now as adults they visit with their Partner and friends. Our daughters, with their great guys, are never far from our door not forgetting our Army Chums from yesteryear!

As Tommy says, "Here in Spain we have an average of 320 days sun each year!" shortly followed by ..... "The other 45 days we give to UK for their summer" so do enjoy!

Happy Holidays everyone

Best Wishes

Suzy (Susan) Tomiczek

Finally – A JOKE - What travels around the world, but always stays in one corner? - A Stamp.



### 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>).

### 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 below..

#### **Editor's Contact Details:**

**Ray Armstrong**  
**125 Baker Street, Wigan, WN3 5HG**  
**Tel: 01942 491140**  
**email ~ [r.armstrong@virgin.net](mailto:r.armstrong@virgin.net)**



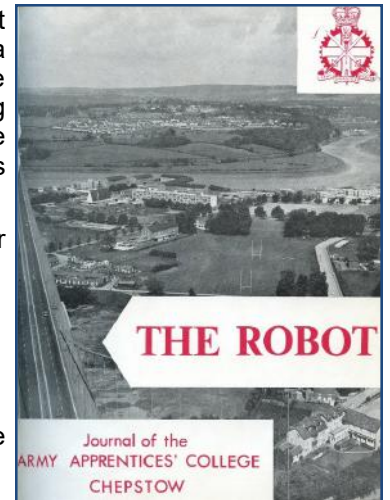
**New Robots for Old**

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.



**2023 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 Beaufort Hotel.



**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 **73 Groups** can search their attics and albums for items and send them to Tony Waite for display at their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion in September 2023.

**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.

**Anthony Waite**  
**Sutton Lodge, 22 Seymour Street, Wellington, Somerset TA21 8JU**  
**Telephone 01823 669336/07788 581775**  
**email ~ Anthony.waite22ss@btinternet.com**



### Reunion 2023 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 "armyapprenticecollegechepstow.co.uk" website ready to download. You will find it on the BOBA membership link. ; 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—15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023*



## **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 2022 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 also take place at The Beaufort Hotel in Chepstow. In order that you can attend any of the BOBA activities held during the reunion weekend 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

Saturday the BOBA Heritage Display takes place in the Herritage Centre which is just inside the old School Gate.

**Beachley Gate, Beachley Road, Beachley, Glos NP16 7YG**

The BOBA AGM will be held at the Beaufort Hotel at 13:30, where BOBA business from the previous and coming year, is discussed and voted upon.

In the evening the **BOBA ANNUAL DINNER** takes place when pre-booked members, including Ladies, Guests and Families sit down for a pleasant three course meal in the function room. Many 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.



It is that time again when I must put pen to paper and cobble together something that with a lot of luck might just encourage to at least read the pages of The Echoes. Not necessarily enjoy my words but find something of interests elsewhere in this issue.

We managed to have a 2022 Reunion after a few years without and in my mind a very successful one. Great to meet up with the old faces and some new ones. The usual problem though that as we older ones pass onto pastures new the younger groups are not keeping pace. New members from the later groups are in desperate demand which, if fulfilled, might hopefully realise some volunteers to firstly assist the current hard pushed committee and eventually replace us so that we could retire quietly into the mists. Personally, at my age, I do realise that replacement of my worn-out parts will soon be imperative, even I cannot live forever.

I have discovered that the hardest part of being an editor (sometimes I think a better name would be headhitter) is trying desperately to kick start the writing juices of possible and necessary contributors. Please help me to produce your newsletter. Please send me something to use.

The committee is very busy especially with the organisation involved in the 2023 Reunion arrangements. A number of problems have arisen this year amongst them being the rather large increase of prices for everything. I know that you will all be suffering with the increased costs of day to day supplies and products but we have discovered a draconian increase in quoted costs especially in the hospitality industry. We have used the Chepstow Racecourse for a number of years and have now been outpriced to the point where it would not be financially viable anymore. Hence the move to the Beaufort Hotel in Chepstow.

A rather large change in my personal setup, finally all the kids have flown the nest. They took their two dogs but left two cats with me but even they will join them in a few weeks. Now that I am on my own in the house I can start to construct the model railway that I have promised myself for many a year. Absolute bliss with the peace and quiet, no more complaints about my TV/radio being too loud. And a room for everything. Only had a week of freedom so it is still rather new and a little strange.



Odd request, does anyone have a phone number for an eighteen year old blonde?

I must try to be a serious editor but with a cat sat on my lap attempting to type with her paws whilst I am trying to stick words together that will make sense to my faithful, if bored, readers.

We have two articles from our erstwhile and long suffering ladies again this year. I would like a few more articles from our better halves because they certainly saw life in a different light.

Of course I need you blokes to "put pen to paper" as well. Even if the subject matter could be deemed controversial it still needs to be aired. As Editor I will not refuse an article just because I do not agree with the point of view. Usual methods may be used, even joined up or real writing will suffice, as long as I can read it I can type it in.

Please try to attend this year's reunion weekend. Come and speak to us, the committee members do not bite and most are house trained.

Better still why don't you volunteer to help us so that the miserable old ones like me can sit back and relax having handed over the reins to you our younger generations.

**Beachley Old Boys' Association Executive**

President Syd Thomas 47A

Vice President Brian Henderson 65A

**BOBA Committee Officers**

Chris Ricketts	65A	Chairman	<a href="mailto:chris.ricketts@talktalk.net">chris.ricketts@talktalk.net</a>	35 Bigstowe Grove, Tutshill, Chepstow, Monmouthshire NP16 7EN	01291 626730 07779 719422	
Ken Reader	62C	Vice Chairman	<a href="mailto:kenreader@msn.com">kenreader@msn.com</a>	Carrick House, 8 Cross Lane, Little Downham, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB6 2TJ	01353 699096 07752 209941	
Stephen Barker	66C	Hon Treasurer Reunion Coordinator	<a href="mailto:sebarker@peterloo-uk.com">sebarker@peterloo-uk.com</a>	4 Antrobus Court, Hollins Lane, Antrobus, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 6NL	01565 757845 07712 108078	
Gary White	73A	Hon Secretary	<a href="mailto:garywhite404@hotmail.co.uk">garywhite404@hotmail.co.uk</a>	9 Appleadore Drive, Allesley Park, Coventry, West Midlands CV5 7PO	02476 404999 07576 844990	
Derek Fox	58B	Membership	<a href="mailto:memsecboba@gmail.com">memsecboba@gmail.com</a>	51 Church Close, Pentney, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE32 1JJ		
<b>Committee Members</b>						
Ray Armstrong	55A	Echoes Editor Webpage Mod	<a href="mailto:r.armstrong@virgin.net">r.armstrong@virgin.net</a>	125 Baker Street, Wigan, Greater Manchester WN3 5HG	01942 491140 07941 432306	
David Bell		Heritage Ex-officio		Monmouthshire Engineers Museum Curator		
Alan Chatt	59A	Heritage	<a href="mailto:a.w.chatt.t21@btinternet.com">a.w.chatt.t21@btinternet.com</a>	8 The Chase, Washington, Tyne & Wear NE38 9DX	01914 175960 07462 538613	
Matt Arlow	73A	Cenotaph Organiser	<a href="mailto:mattarlow@hotmail.com">mattarlow@hotmail.com</a>	77 Suffolk Road, Andover Hants SP10 2JU	07474 447554	
Anthony Waite	60C	Heritage Chairman	<a href="mailto:anthony.waite22ss@btinternet.com">anthony.waite22ss@btinternet.com</a>	Sutton Lodge, 22 Seymour Street, Wellington, Somerset TA21 8JU	01823 669336 07788 581775	



**BEACHLEY OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION**

**BALANCE SHEET at 31st December 2022**

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

**ASSETS**

	£0.00	Cash in Hand	£0.00
	£13,302.03	Cash in Bank	£14,452.31
£13,302.03		Total Cash	£14,452.31
£43,470.48		Monmouthshire Building Society Account	£63,679.92
£0.00		Sundry Debtors	£0.00
£56,772.51		<b>Total Liquid Assets</b>	£78,132.23

**SHOP STOCK**

£1,637.36	BOBA/AAS Regalia	£1,333.84
£58,409.87	Total Current Assets	£79,466.07

**LIABILITIES**

£59.00	Reunion	£1,636.28
£237.11	BOBA Golf Fund	£237.11
£325.90	Benevolent Fund	£2,025.90
£1,447.40	Heritage Centre	£1,325.87
£2,069.41	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	£5,225.16

£56,340.46	<b>Net Working Capital</b>	£74,240.91
	being Current Assets minus Liabilities	

**FIXED ASSETS**

£0.00	£0.00	Capital Property	£0.00	£657.74
£0.00	£0.00	Investments	£0.00	£0.00

**GENERAL PURPOSES FUND**

	£55,427.04	Balance as per last Balance sheet	£56,340.46
	£913.42	Add surplus of Income	£18,558.19
£56,340.46	£0.00	Subtract deficit of Expenditure	£0.00
£56,340.46		<b>Accumulated General Purposes Fund</b>	£74,898.65
		being Net Working Capital and Total Fixed Assets	

Audited By:

Name	
Signed	
Date	

Treasurer:

Name	B Henderson
Signed	Signed on Original
Date	08-Feb-22



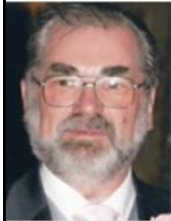


## GENERAL PURPOSE FUND SUMMARY (FY 2022)

EXPENDITURE	2021	2022	INCOME	2021	2022
Expenses	£ 198.15	£ 1,439.63	Subscriptions	£3,660.00	£ 4,012.50
Refunds	£ 800.00	£ 20.00	Refunds	£ -	£ -
Fees	£ -	£ -	Fees	£ -	£ -
Shop Postage	£ 91.22	£ 4.49	Shop Postage	£ 24.50	£ -
Stationery	£ 151.95	£ 113.30	Bldg Soc Interest	£ 194.74	£ 199.44
Postage	£ 156.94	£ 61.23	Church Collection	£ -	£ 194.75
Website	£ 990.00	£ 849.00	Shop Profit	£ 236.83	£ 94.98
Insurance	£ 88.24	£ 88.24	Investment Dividends		
Donations	£ 500.00	£ 300.00	Donations	£1,358.80	£20,730.34
Wreaths	£ 37.00	£ 37.00			
Misc Expenditure	£ 341.35	£ 148.88	Misc Income	£ 800.00	£ -
Reunion	£1,000.00	£ -	Reunion	£ -	£ -
Transfers	£ -	£ 3,200.00	Transfers	£ -	£ -
Write Offs	£ -	£ 204.50			
CD/DVD's	£ -	£ -	CD/DVD Sales	£ -	£ 5.00
Heritage	£ 796.60	£ -	Heritage	£ -	£ -
Name Badges	£ -	£ -	Name Badges	£ -	£ 6.00
Echoes	£ 210.00	£ 218.55	Echoes	£ -	£ -
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£5,361.45</b>	<b>£ 6,684.82</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£6,274.87</b>	<b>£25,243.01</b>
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>£ 913.42</b>	<b>£18,558.19</b>			
<b>Deficit</b>					
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>£6,274.87</b>	<b>£25,243.01</b>		<b>£6,274.87</b>	<b>£25,243.01</b>

## Comments (FY 2021 v 2022):

1. Income from subscriptions rose slightly.
2. Building Society interest very low, income slightly up.
3. Expenses rose due to more face to face meetings following the easing of Covid 19 restrictions. Zoom is still used in order to keep costs down.
4. Production costs of The Echoes remained steady but as more members request hard copies distribution costs are rising. To keep costs down members are requested to view online.
5. The association continues to receive generous donations.
6. The website is now fully functional, ongoing fees will be for maintenance only.
7. Account shows an income in excess of expenditure of £18,558.19 for FY 2022. This higher figure was due in part to an extremely generous bequeathment from one of our members.

**BOBA Membership Secretary's Report ~ by Derek Fox 58B Group****Report Dated 23/02/2023****Membership / New Members:**

There have been 12 new members join since the last Echoes (2022).

**New Members.**

Mr	AM	Andrew Martin/ Andy	Cobby	72B	C
Lt Col	FJ	Frederick John/ Fred	Hair	65C	B
Mr	K	Kevin	Robinson	77A	A
Mr	B	Bruce	Jones	62C	C
Mr	AB	Adrian Barrie	Gough	62A	C
Mr	G	George	Millard	70C	B
Mr	AM	Alan	Bell	66C	B
Mr	BW	Barry William	Rogers	64A	C
Mr	GB	Gary Bryn	Jones	72C	B
Mr	GM	Graeme Morrison	Kerr	82C	D
Mr	K	Keith	Carter	69C	A
Mr	AE	Antony/Edward/Tony	Hastings	83C	E

**Mr. 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. I seek him here, I seek him there.**

**Membership Numbers**

Paid up members total is currently unclear as 2023 subscriptions are not as yet paid for the new financial year. The total should be known for the A.G.M.

**New Member Booklets**

I am now in receipt of the BOBA Objectives and Rules Book. New members will be receiving the new copies wef the date above.



### Sympathy / Get Well Soon cards

As previously advised, I am now holding Sympathy and Get Well Soon cards. All I need now is your input as to who has passed away and who is sick. Members will slip through the net but it would be good to show to others that we are here and that we do care.

### In Memoriam

I have been advised of the following deaths since the last copy of the Echoes.

Mr.	K	Keith	Austin	58B	B
Mr.	SL	Stan	Cutter	51B	D
Mr	TLI	Tom	Ferguson	59A	C
Mr	R D	Robin	Ford	51A	C
Mr	DJ	Declan	Forde	57A	A
Mr	B	Brian	Garlick	65B	A
Mr	RJ	Raymond James /Ray	Hannan	61A	C
Mr	B	Brian	Lankford	64C	C
Mr.	RR	Ross	McKee	46B	B
Mr	K	Keith	Pascoe	62B	
Mr.	AJ	Alan	Reed	53B	B
Major (Retd)	J A	John Arthur	Richards	46B	B
Mr	S	Steve	Ridgeway	80C	C
Lt.Col (Retd)	A	Alan	Skidmore	72/73	B
Mr	AD	Arthur Donald	Turner	44A	
Mr	D	Derek	Vickerman	74C	
WO1	T	Timothy	Westlake	74C	
Mr.	KA	Keith	Wilde	46A	C
Mr	J S	Jonathan	Crosbie	66C	A
Mr	A	Allan	Ball	46A	D
Mr	R	Ray	Bird	55A	A
Mr	J	John	Davey	49B	A
Mr	B	Barry (Baz)	Green	60C	B
Mr	C	Colin	Wright	70C	
Mr	M	Michael	House	78C	

May they rest in peace.



**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:**

You can contact me by any of the following methods:

Membership Secretary ~ Derek Fox (58B)

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

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

Mobile Phone No: ~ +44 (0) 7842555110

Email Address: ~ [memsecboba@gmail.com](mailto:memsecboba@gmail.com) ( Please note this address should be used for all Association 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

Your full Name or name of business  Branch name

Your contact telephone number  Sort Code  Account number

All sections must be completed

## 2 Standing Order details

How often do you want payments made?

Does this instruction replace any existing standing order or direct debit instructions? Yes  No

If 'YES' please complete section overleaf or detail in special instructions opposite. Quarterly  Half yearly  Yearly

If 'NO' please complete all remaining boxes.

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

Recipient's name: Beachley Old Boys' Association

Recipient's bank & branch name: Lloyds TSB, CHEPSTOW, 7 Manor Way

Recipient's sort code  Recipient's Account number

First payment amount (if different to usual amount)  First payment date (Month & Year)

Usual amount  Usual payment amount in words

Second payment amount (if different to usual amount)  Second payment date (Fill in year)

Until further notice (X)

Special instructions

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

To Bank

Please note that the second payment and all consequent payments are to be made on 01 April of each year.

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

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

## 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

**AAC Heritage Centre**  
Beachley Gate,  
Beachley Road,  
Beachley  
Glos.  
NP16 7YG



**BOBA ~ Membership Secretary**  
Derek Fox  
51 Church Close, Pentney,  
King's Lynn, Norfolk.  
PE32 1JJ  
  
**Tel. 01760788159**  
Mobile: 07842 555110  
email: [memsecboba@sky.com](mailto:memsecboba@sky.com)

Dear BOBA Member

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

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

**(Please use block capitals throughout)**

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

NOK Address: .....

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

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

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

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

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

**Telephone:** +44 (0) 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 BOBA Shop

The following items are available from our shop.

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

Prices are published on the web page.

\* 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.

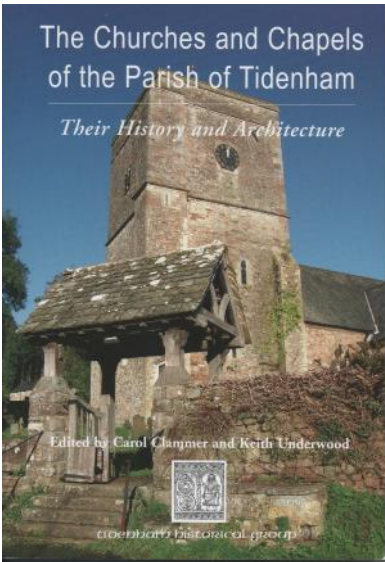
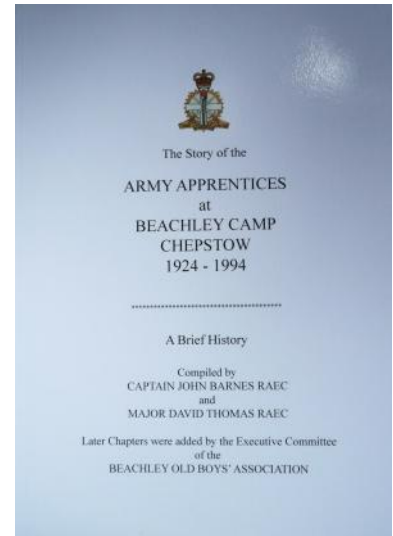
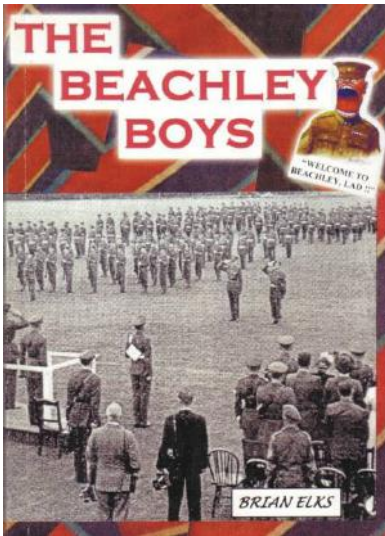
Place orders at [admin@beachley.org](mailto:admin@beachley.org)

Additional items  
illustrated on page 40

Details of Robot CDs on  
page 19

Contact: Chris Ricketts if you are unable to use the internet (details on Page 39).





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)

