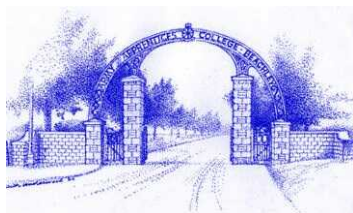




The Beachley Old Boys' Association Newsletter



Beachley



Echoes

Edition No. 31 ~ March 2025



CAKE MADE FOR OUR CENTENARY REUNION 2025

Contents

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Committee Members Details | 2 | H & J Company..... | 18, 19, 20, & 21 |
| Chairman's Jottings | 3, 4 | Cenotaph Form 2025 | 22 |
| Sydney Thomas | 5, 6 & 7 | Editor's Hurrah | 23 |
| Cenotaph | 8 | Centenary Reunion 2024 | 24 to 38 |
| Heritage Report..... | 9, 10 & 11 | Cenotaph Report | 39, 40, & 41 |
| Hon Secretary's Report | 12 | 80C Heritage Centre Visit | 42 |
| Membership Report | 13, & 14 | History or Nostalgia | 43 to 54 |
| Nostalgia | 15 | General Information | 55, 56 & 57 |
| Standing Order Form..... | 16 | BOBA Shop..... | 58 & 59 |
| NOK Form | 17 | Cenotaph Application | 60 |

**Beachley Old Boys' Association Executive****President Brian Henderson 65A****Vice President****BOBA Committee Officers**

| | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|--------------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------|
| Gary White | 65A | Chairman | garywhite404@hotmail.co.uk | 9 Appledore Drive, Allesley Park, Coventry, West Midlands CV5 7PO | 02476 404999 07576 844990 |
| | | Vice Chairman | | | |
| Stephen Barker | 66C | Hon Treasurer Reunion Coordinator | sebarker@peterloo-uk.com | 4 Antrobus Court, Hollins Lane, Antrobus, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 6NL | 01565 757845 07712 108078 |
| Alan Chatt | 59A | Hon Secretary | alanchatt70@gmail.com | 8 The Chase, Washington, Tyne & Wear NE38 9DX | 01914 175960 07462 538613 |
| Derek Fox | 58B | Membership | memsecboba@gmail.com | 51 Church Close, Pentney, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE32 1JJ | 01760 708372 |

Committee Members

| | | | | | |
|---------------|-----|------------------------------|--|---|------------------------------|
| Ray Armstrong | 55A | Echoes Editor Webpage Mod | r.armstrong@virgin.net | 125 Baker Street, Wigan, Greater Manchester WN3 5HG | 01942 491140 07941 432306 |
| David Bell | | Heritage Ex-officio | | Monmouthshire Engineers Museum Curator | |
| | | | | | |
| Matt Arlow | 73A | Cenotaph Organiser | mattarlow@hotmail.com | 77 Suffolk Road, Andover Hants SP10 2JU | 07474 447554 |
| Anthony Waite | 60C | Heritage Chairman | anthony.waite22ss@btinternet.com | Sutton Lodge, 22 Seymour Street, Wellington, Somerset TA21 8JU | 01823 669336 07788 581775 |



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2025

Your committee had anticipated that 2024 was going to be a very important year for our Association, after all it was to be the year that Beachley Camp had been training Army Apprentices for 100 years. We knew that we had to consider how to celebrate such a milestone. Meetings were convened, discussions and ideas were to become part of the "norm". We thought that we were the only group thinking about this, until I was contacted by a member of a team named The Army Apprentice 100 Group.

After 100 years the MoD had woken up and realised that despite ending all apprentice training as we knew it, they wanted to celebrate it too. They proposed a meeting of the minds, mainly BOBAs', and put on a show. It was to be a celebration of reward for those soldiers that were participating in apprenticeships during their service. Yes, they have stolen our unique life, messed with it, re-invented it and continued to use it, to me that shows just how successful and important we "mere boys", often seen as having little to offer to society, really became important. BOBA was asked to represent the old style of Army Apprentices at a large event at Imjin Barracks, Gloucester. As you would expect, BOBA represented by Beachley Old Boys, and also a former Commandant, Col (Rtd) Alan Holman OBE, (late RE) put on a fantastic display of attendance, memorabilia, knowledge and an ability to converse with everyone irrespective of rank. We were visited by more "Red Collar Officers", Senior officers and all other ranks than most of us saw throughout our service. The common denominator among the visitors including the New Style A.A.'s was that they were convinced that the ending of A.A. Training was a poor decision, that left a gap in regular service. Once again Beachley Boys shone out, WELL DONE!

The Heritage Centre continued to welcome Ex. A/T's to their former home in groups as well as individuals. It is interesting to note that whoever and whichever group visits they always regress to their youth and the same or similar stories are told, both good and sometimes not so good but always hilarious.

As the committee had agreed during their regular meetings, as mentioned above, each member would undertake a role in the arrangements for the forthcoming Centenary event. These tasks were undertaken willingly and with much gusto, until we eventually reached the plan for a special and memorable event for our 2024 Annual Reunion. Different and surprise was to be the mantra for 2024

For those attendees and those unable to attend there were so many photographs posted and viewed on social media, on the website and indeed in the local newspapers, that I think the global membership of BOBA knew about it. The whole event from Friday through to Sunday was very well received, but perhaps the most popular surprise was the attendance of a full Pipe Band on Sunday, which enabled the marching contingent to keep step, well, some of them anyway, as they Marched to St. Georges Church for our Founders Day Service, led once again by our Association Chaplain, Rev. Paul Green CF, himself a former Boy Entrant.



The Association was also pleased to invite the last two Commandants of the College to become Hon. Vice Presidents, an invitation that was warmly accepted by Col (Rtd) Alan Holman OBE (Late RE) and Col (Rtd) Chris Haskell (Late RE). Both gentlemen are staunch supporters of BOBA and its objectives and continue their support thereof.

As is becoming more frequent these days, every good intention is marred by unpleasant and sad news. BOBA is not exempt from these occurrences and just a few days before our reunion we were informed that our ever present and respected friend and more importantly PRESIDENT, Syd Thomas, Lt. Col (Ret) REME passed away after a long illness. Needless to say, BOBA offered the full support to his family and Syd's requests. Accordingly, his final parade was attended by many members and accompanied by the BOBA Standards on this sad last journey. Syd's family expressed their appreciation for this and told of the immense pride that Syd had in being a Beachley Boy, something we are aware of from his dedication in fulfilling virtually every role on the committee. Thank you, Syd. We will miss you.

After six years as your Chairman, I am sorry to inform you that due to ongoing health issues over the past nine or ten months I have had to resign my duties to both the Committee and the Heritage Centre. This has meant changes within the committee, which will be ratified at the 2025 AGM. I know that your committee will continue to drive the Association forward and encourage the Esprit de Corps that means so much to us all.

Finally, I would like to thank the Committee for their nomination and subsequent election, and also to all BOBA members for the support that you have given me during my term as Chairman and the other roles I have performed. I will remain a BOBA member and look forward to keeping in touch with you all. I send best wishes to for continued health and prosperity,

Chris

Ed's uttering.

Thank you Chris for this concise report about 2024 happenings.

May I on behalf of the committee and all BOBA members thank you for your service that has always been above and beyond what can possibly be expected of you.

We all hope that the easing of your extra curricular duties enable you to draw a second wind with the view to enjoying some personal time away from the hustle and bustle of BOBA work. We are missing you already.

You can still ring me when you need me to do something.



SYDNEY THOMAS 1931 - 2024

(Syd and I: how our paths crossed.)

When I passed out from Beachley I eventually started my regular army service in the latter months of 1968 with a posting to 30 Fd Sqn in Hameln as a fitter in its plant troop, following a long detachment on the Greven airfield project (now Munster airport), I returned to Hameln and was directed to the REME workshop rather than back to my old squadron. I was now on the held strength of the workshop working in the C shop as a sapper.

Most of us will agree that the Army is always in a state of flux and changes are inevitable, so it was in Hameln. 30 Sqn were on the move to Hohne to become part of 32 Armd Engr Regt, I was duly issued with a posting order and soon found myself knocking on the office door of the OC REME workshops.

You've guessed it, on the word of command "enter" I obeyed and there sat behind the desk wearing a rather fine handlebar moustache was none other than my new boss, Capt Syd Thomas. The date was mid 1970.

For a while I was the only sapper in the unit, wrong! I should say is the only LCpl RE in the unit. My previous OC in Hameln had been keen to promote me but due to a lack of vacancies could not, however my move to Hohne and a conversation between OC's soon sorted the problem.

I've been grateful to Syd ever since, other than the usual reports and a verbal recommendation from my OC in Hameln, Syd didn't have a clue who I was but obviously felt I was up to the job. Thank you Syd.

As time marched on the C shop was fully staffed (all six of us) but had little to do, we had plenty of tanks, APC's and B vehicles, but sadly very few diggers and dozers.

It was at this point that I became aware of Syd's two great passions, Golf and Rugby. While at Hohne, Syd must have held the position of president or captain of the garrison golf club, but I wasn't interested in either (my passion was motorbikes and still is). To fill in our time Syd used to send myself and a colleague up to the golf club in order to fix all manner of green keeping and grounds maintenance equipment that is needed for a golf club to function. All good stuff and dare I say it got me playing golf (very badly). Eventually my tour at Hohne came to an end, on reflection it was a tour I enjoyed, Syd ably assisted by his lovely wife Jo looked after all ranks, we were a happy workshop, he was an excellent boss and treated all fairly.



Moving ahead a few years, now a SSgt, I found myself on the permanent staff of a small training unit based in Weymouth. While I managed the first line repairs on site our second line repairs were carried out by the command workshop at Bovington camp, following the necessary protocol I found myself knocking on the office door of the head of production and planning. You've guessed it again! on the word of command "enter" I obeyed and there sat behind the desk was Syd Thomas. The date was late 1981. During my time in Dorset we shared the occasional 'cuppa' until we went our separate ways. Syd was always approachable and gave our small unit support when needed.

Our next encounter was at Beachley Camp when I attended a BOBA AGM where the management team explained clearly that the college was to close and that BOBA now had the choice of disbandment or forging ahead using its own resources. The meeting decided unanimously that a new BOBA would continue managed by volunteers from within its membership. A committee was duly formed with the new secretary being none other than Syd Thomas. I recognised Syd as soon as he stood up in order to put his name forward for the post, I was totally amazed and what a massive surprise, I had known Syd for more than twenty years, what I didn't know was that he was an ex Beachley Boy!! We'd rarely spoke about his service in the ranks, so I'd always assumed that he had always served with REME but obviously this was not the case.

So, it transpired that Syd was born in 1931 and started his military career at Beachley in 47A Gp as 19054276 A/T S Thomas in Feb 47, he passed out in Aug 50 with a posting to the Royal Artillery. This was not unusual at the time, and many went on to serve with the REME as this relatively new corps responsibilities and numbers increased.

So, Syd and I were now sort of kindred spirits especially when he asked if I would assist him with his secretary duties. I readily agreed and so began a long friendship via the workings of BOBA.

In 1994 new BOBA held its first and many other reunions at the Old Course Hotel (this establishment had various names but was eventually demolished and rebuilt by Marston's brewery). The reunions in those early days were simple affairs, the ladies dined separately downstairs and the men upstairs sometimes numbering in excess of 200, all were well organised with Syd giving them his total support.

Following the passing of new BOBA's first chairman, Syd was elected to the post in 1995 a position he held for nine years. (During the last two years of this period Syd was also our acting president.) I joined the committee as secretary around the same time.

When I became chairman in 2004 Syd was appointed as the president of the association a post he held until his passing in 2024, a staggering 20 years!



In total Syd had served on the BOBA committee in excess of 30 years, a record that will be hard to match. He gave his total support, attended all meetings and navigated us through the twists and turns that all associations encounter. His guiding hand was always on the tiller.

I could go on regaling you with many points of BOBA history and stories but enough is enough.

Syd and I met in 1970, so I reckon I have known him for most of my adult life, he has been my boss, a colleague and a friend, so it was sad that due to his failing health we did not see much of each other during the last few months of his life but I always felt his presence when it came to matters of BOBA. (My constant question will always be 'what would Syd think or do'.)

In reality Syd Thomas was very much the leading light of new BOBA, I shall miss him, and I believe many of our members will also miss his presence at the reunions.

God bless you Syd.

Brian Henderson

65A C Coy

Hon Vice President, BOBA

Editor's Comment

Syd was a gentleman, a friend, a very close friend, and a supreme mentor.

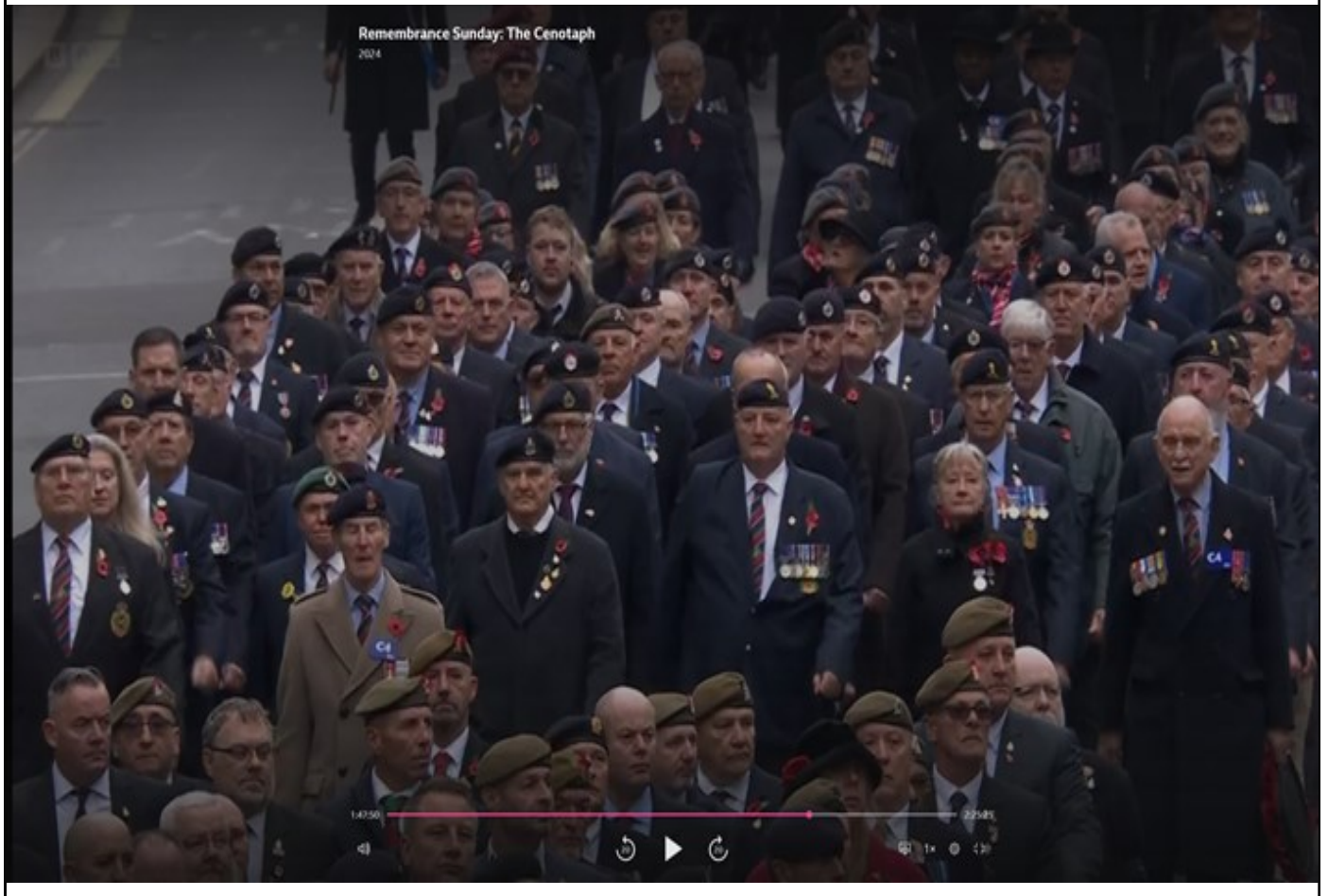
Over the last twenty years he guided me with a firm hand and I hope that he was happy with my meagre attempts to please.

There is one thing that really stands out in my memory. I had been to somewhere in South Wales during Covid, think it was a funeral. On my way homeward I took advantage to visit Syd, unplanned.

After knocking the doorbell lazy Syd appeared in a dressing gown with tousled hair. With his usual exuberance I was made welcome and he proceeded to produce fried egg rolls. Syd was so down to earth.

I will always see him with frying pan in hand assuring me that it was no problem to cater for me.

What a gent.





AAC HERITAGE CENTRE REPORT FOR 2024 – 2025

The 2024 season has seen a steady flow of visitors to the Heritage Centre, some weeks being busier than others.

During the 2023 and 2024 Operating Periods, 1st March – 31st October, our main Volunteers, our Former BOBA Chairman Chris Ricketts and his Wife Wendy have graciously given up much of their spare time to open the Heritage Centre (HC) on Wednesdays and Saturdays each week.

With a few exceptions when Chris and Wendy have not been available, my Wife Monica and I have attended the Centre as relief Volunteers. This does prove a little problematic as we live some 70 + miles away.

With the health issues suffered by Chris over the last few months, it has fallen on me as Chair of the Heritage Centre Sub-Committee to take a more active role to organise effective access arrangements for 2025 and beyond.

This does mean some changes will have to be made for the 2025 season. Unfortunately for the early part of 2025 this will incur reduced opening times and access.

To mitigate the effect, I have been looking for locally based volunteers to assist in facilitating keeping the Centre open and accessible to ex-boys, ex permanent staff and their families who wish to visit.

To date, (March 2025) I have identified a small number of Volunteers, who have indicated they are willing to assist, however at present, this does not provide sufficient flexibility to continue the same level of opening hours as we have had over the last two to three years.

I am continuing to search for BOBA members, preferably those living within a relatively close radius of Beachley, i.e. less than twenty five / thirty miles to come forward to provide additional support.

However, my major concern is that I can't expect the same level of commitment from any one of them to maintain the same high level of access as Chris and Wendy have provided.

In consultations with the Interim BOBA Chairman, Gary White, initially the Heritage Centre will only open one Saturday per Month, with effect from 1st May 2025 between 1100 and 1500 hrs as previous.

Actual dates will be posted in due course on the AAC HERITAGE CENTRE FACEBOOK PAGE.

If we are able to recruit a few more volunteers, it may be possible to open two Saturdays a month on a rostered basis.

Anyone who feels they would like to contribute to supporting the HC, please feel free to contact me by email or mobile, details at the end of this report.



I am continually looking to make improvements to ensure the HC continues to run smoothly and provide an excellent reference centre for Ex Apprentices and Permanent Staff and their families who make the effort to visit.

Any Apprentices who may have artifacts or photographs which they may like to donate or loan to the HC, these items will be gratefully received to help extend our displays.

One recent item which has been received over the winter period is a Precision Theodolite donated from the estate of a surveyor apprentice from my own group 60C.

We have also been able to source a tripod for it and it is hoped that this can be a prominent display item for this year and the future.

Another recently Donated item was the Commandant's Bugler's "Bugle" which was rescued from a skip, and the Drum Major's Mace which was returned last Autumn following extensive restoration.

The Heritage Centre also has a small amount of BOBA Memorabilia, for sale, such as Ties, Lapel Badges and Books which record some of the events, (and some hilarious escapades) of former Apprentices. Monies received from such sales and other donations are all gratefully accepted as they help to keep the centre financially viable

The Centre has a wide range of enlistment record books and other historical information (such as Issues of the Robot) for perusal by visitors.

We have a few missing issues of the Robot's, so if anyone has a copy on the missing list, we would be pleased if they would donate it to the HC to help complete the record.

The Heritage Centre Sub-Committee continue to work hard to maintain the Heritage Centre for your benefit.

Enquiries for information on Ex Apprentices should be directed to the following email address

beachleyhcenquiries@btinternet.com

VISITS

Details of days when the Heritage Centre is OPEN will be posted on the AAC Heritage Centre Facebook Page and the BOBA Website in the near future once arrangements have been confirmed.

Initially, it is hoped that with effect from May 1st the Heritage Centre will be open one Saturday each Month (probably the 2nd or 3rd Saturday) as at present there are only a small number of Volunteers available to facilitate more frequent opening. Once we are able to recruit more volunteers, I hope we will be able to open two Saturdays per month.



I would request that any Groups holding their Special Year Reunions, i.e. 30th, 40th, 50th etc, and who wish to incorporate a visit to the Heritage Centre, please ensure the Visit coincides with a normal Opening Day.

The Heritage Centre will of course be open on the Saturday Morning of the Annual BOBA Reunion (20th September 2025) between 10.30 and 1300 hours, and possibly later in the Afternoon if time permits after the BOBA AGM.

If there are opportunities to open more frequently, the Volunteers will do their best to accommodate additional openings, but please bear with us for this summer season.

Finally, I would like to, on behalf of the Heritage Centre Sub-Committee, express our sincere thanks to Chris and Wendy Ricketts for all their support and contributions both past and present, for the Heritage Centre. We wish Chris an effective and speedy recovery of his current health issues. Age does not come alone without health issues as I know only too well.

Any requests, help or queries can be addressed to me via the following email address, beachleyhcenquiries@btinternet.com and I will do my best to respond by return within one to two days.

Anthony M Waite 60C C Coy

Chair – AAC Heritage Centre Sub-Committee (BOBA)





Hon Secretary's Report 2025

Dear Members, as this is my first report as secretary, I think introductions are in order. Previously I was a member of the Heritage Committee until the sad passing of our President Syd Thomas. Since then, our chairman sadly resigned because of health reasons. Therefore, changes had to be made to ensure BOBA's future going forward.

2024 was also a memorable year for the Association, it being our Centenary year. Articles were published in the South Wales Argus and a two-page history of Beachley in the REME magazine. Probably, much to the disappointment of the Junior School (Aborfield). Commemoration ties were organised by Tony Waite and well received by all. This was followed by our reunion weekend; the best one I have ever attended due to the hard work of the organising committee. We then received a letter from His Majesty King Charles 3rd, congratulating us on reaching our Centenary Year. This is now on display in the Heritage Centre. This was quickly followed by Matt Arlows hard work organising our Annual Remembrance Sunday Parade in London. So, we come to the end of an exceptional and eventful year, with the planning of the 2025 reunion well in hand.

I would like to give my personal thanks to the committee who have helped and supported me to transition into the role of Secretary to the Association.

As regards to the AGM, you will be asked, at the door, to give your name and membership number to the Membership Secretary who will verify the information on his data base. You will also be asked to sign the attendee's book. Please note only fully paid-up members are permitted to attend, speak and vote. This will allow members of the Association to keep more precise records and keep the integrity of the Beachley Boys Association.

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 on our website.

I look forward to seeing you all in September

My Best Wishes and good health to all of you

Alan Chatt (REME) 59A, A Coy

Hon Secretary BOBA



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

Report Dated 23/02/2025

(All information is correct at this date)

There have been 20 new members since the last Echoes

Membership / New Members:

| | | | | |
|---------|----|--------------------|-----------|--------|
| Mr. | KI | Kenneth / Ian | Drake | 89Sqn |
| Mr. | J | John | Sabin | 60B |
| Mr. | KL | Keith Lawrence | Anderson | 48B |
| Mr. | JJ | John James | Gore | 62C |
| Mr. | RP | Roy | Phillips | 72A |
| Mr. | DM | David / Dave | Newman | 53A |
| Mr. | T | Thomas (Tom) | Gregg | 71C |
| Mr. | ND | Nigel David (Nige) | Roberts | 74C |
| Mr. | GA | George Alan (Brad) | Bradshaw | 71C |
| Mr. | GJ | Gary John | Payne | 75A |
| Mr. | AJ | Alan John | Walters | 69A |
| Mr. | JE | Jack Edwards | Crossley | 71C |
| Mr. | G | Graham | Westgate | 87Sqn |
| Mr. | SP | Sean Patrick | McDermott | 80C |
| Mr. | J | John / Geordie | Hambling | 75C |
| Colonel | CW | Christopher/Chris | Haskell | Comdnt |
| Mr. | JP | Jonathon / Paul | Howlett | 89Sqn |
| Mr. | MP | Michael Paul | James | 75C |
| Mr. | VR | Vince | Lock | 66A |
| Mr. | GJ | Gordon John | McGregor | 72C |

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.

New Member Booklets

I am now in receipt of the new Member Books.

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 10 deaths since the last copy of the Echoes.

| | | | | |
|----------|-----|--------------|------------|-----|
| Mr. | D | Darrel | Thomson | 52A |
| Lt Col. | J | John | Powell | 51B |
| Mr. | LA | Alan | Whitelock | 46A |
| Lt. Col. | S | Syd | Thomas | 47A |
| Mr. | PRF | Peter | Eccles | 52B |
| Mr. | R | Richard | Bellingham | 52B |
| Mr. | D | Daniel | Walton | 52B |
| Mr. | SC | Sydney | Badcock | 43B |
| Mr. | DD | David Duncan | Lackie | 43B |
| Mr. | D | Derek | Cantellow | 58B |
| Mr | J | John | Bass | 44A |

May they rest in peace.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions remain at GBP. £10.00 There being no change this year.

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@sky.com (Please note this address should be used for all Association Membership business)



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 3d.

Monmouthshire Police Athletic Association
(Affiliated to A.A.A.)

President—Major W. R. LUCAS, D.S.O., O.B.E.

Monmouthshire Constabulary
Sixteenth Annual

SPORTS
MEETING

(Under A.A.A. Rules and N.C.U. Laws)

TO BE HELD AT

THE PARK : : ABERTILLERY
On SATURDAY, JULY 27th, 1946

Commencing at 1 p.m.

Selections by the Beachley A.T.S. Military Band

Admission: 1/- ★ Grand Stand 2/6
(Including Tax)

Events announced by Loud Speakers placed around the Ground

J. R. Davies, Central Printing Works, Abertillery.



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)

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

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

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



Nick Winder 58A Group Looking Back at His Time at Beachley

Military Beachley

I have noted over the years that 50th Anniversary notes make little mention of the Headquarters Company military staff that were responsible for our welfare and military training during our first six months at Beachley. They made an everlasting impression on me and looking back I have much to thank them for. CSM (Bull) Morgan; the epitome of a Sergeant Major; a firm but fair disciplinarian who often had cause to rein-in an over-zealous A/T CSM. The team of training Sergeants, their chests adorned with campaign medals; Sgt Dutston, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, a quiet spoken Irishman, Sgt Barrett, Suffolk Regiment another Irishman who during early drill periods was often heard to say " Bend your knee lad or Ill cut off your Goolies", Sgt Kinson Sherwood Foresters a big tough man; when he was on cook-house duty nobody pushed to the front of the queue and last but certainly not least Sgt "Buster" Clamp, Royal Regiment of Artillery equipped with the loudest word of command at Beachley but who had a softer side when it came to looking after his Platoon of young men. These fine men without exception guided us through what was, without doubt a daunting six months at Beachley. During our first winter the huts were always cold and nearly everyone suffered from colds and chapped hands. The elixir commonly called "Stim and Gargle" was produced by the gallon in the MRS dispensary and administered by L/Cpl Catney the medical room orderly. He boasted that he was an expert at lancing boils although to my knowledge nobody was stupid enough to take up his invitation. During the first term everybody was inoculated not by the resident doctor ("Bickmore") but by medical orderlies. The routine was as follows, after lunch line up outside the MRS when the door opened file past the orderly giving your name and receive your inoculation from his mate, spend the rest of the afternoon on the sports field. Fitness played a large part in the life at Beachley either in the gymnasium under the watchful eye of "Hairy Hutton" or on the sports field, football and rugby in the winter, swimming, cricket and athletics in the summer, boxing and basketball throughout the year. Inter- company competitions were fiercely fought. Apprentices that represented the school were awarded half or full colours which brought privileges. The aim of every apprentice was to earn two stars one for completing education and the other for trade competence the stars were worn on the uniform and gave the wearer the privilege of wearing civilian clothing when leaving camp. Those who did not achieve this standard wore uniform or the dreaded mufti with its bell bottom trousers.

A tub of rough coal delivered on a Saturday morning didn't go far, in fact we had burned most of it by Monday. We soon discovered that the banks of River Wye were littered with firewood washed down the river from upstream; the net result was that our room made its first collective purchase; a bow saw from a Chepstow ironmongers. Throwing caution to the wind and totally ignoring Standing Order 6(e) (x) we built up a good stock of firewood which we fed to the stoves either side of the "Cenotaph". It gave off a good heat, better still if the fire bricks were removed. It not only warmed us but provided the heat to warm up our spoon handles when burning the pimples from our ammunition boots. Another way of supplementing our meagre ration of coal was to raid the coke yard with its many stacks of coke. Meticulously planned raids took place at the dead of night when the security guard was taking a crafty nap, armed with kit bags turned inside out the raid was a straight forward affair for fit young lads who saw the wall and gate no obstacle, another six bags of coke to be stored under the floor boards. Many years later I was speaking to a local farmer who had purchased one of the huts in the old D company lines close to the river. He informed me that he was surprised to find a large quantity of coke beneath the floor boards but not a surprise to me.



In the late fifties there were a number of changes which affected 58A Group in particular. The first was the establishment of "J Company" this according to the senior management of that was the way forward; try telling that to 58A Group, we finished up having three terms as junior group; all reading this article this will know what that entailed, not that it did us too much harm, just made us more street wise. The next was the Pylon on the point that overlooked Joe Monks Island; it was there, presented a challenge and therefore had to be climbed. Many 58A Group lads ventured to the top, an adventure for those who dared but termed foolhardy by the Commandant. Among the first to the top were Dave Youdle and Brian Wardle. Dave suffering rope burns during the descent. Next was the introduction of "Beachley" a Welsh cob pony where he came from god only knows; I expect that someone thought it a good idea for the school to have a mascot. Ray Field from the corps of drums was its first handler; on an early Gammy Saturday morning parade Ray and the bloody animal took up his position in front of the champion company, it often crapped on the square and out of boredom raked his right hoof across Ray's left toe cap. For further reading on this subject read my obituary to Ray field the first "Pony Major" in the 2024 edition of Beachley Echoes. Another god forsaken idea from the top was to form a pipe band; Jock Scot of 58A, who I might add was a fine Piper, was the first A/T Pipe Major. Once the band had got through the revving-up stage it was collectively quite good but when the players were practicing on their chanter the noise was diabolical. A plus point to come out of this time was that the hierarchy replaced Bing the sheep shearer in the barber's shop with Stan Childs who was a decent hairdresser. When Bing ran the shop a haircut was a two stage affair his partner in crime carried out stage one and then Bing made a less than token effort to sort out the mess. Having learned the clarinet whilst at secondary school I was recruited into the band by Len Gray the A/T Band Sergeant. At the end of initial training in HQ Company instead of moving from 2 Platoon to B Company I joined D company under CSM Nolan. The Band Master was Colour Sergeant Percy King who had been principle clarinet in the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Band. Under his guidance the band improved no end. As well as supporting parades playing at officer's mess dinners, local concerts and each year heading the Father Christmas procession from the railway station to Chepstow arch. Tackling the steep high street was a challenge to say the least even fit boys struggled to find sufficient breath to play their instruments; the band was at its best in the summer of 1959 prior to 56B Group passing out.

Education and Workshops

(Much on this subject is documented in various publications of the History of the Army Apprentice College Beachley)

On completion of initial military training in HQ Company and moving to the training company's education became the priority. Instruction was carried out in the main by Royal Army Education Corps national service SNCO's. The entrance examination taken at recruiting offices prior to enlistment deemed to be at the level of the army certificate of education class three so we were straight into class two under the supervision of the RAEC instructors. We were informed that without class two we could not start trade training, not strictly true but it provided an incentive to such a degree that we passed by the end of the first term and completed to Class one soon after.

My apprenticeship was to qualify as Fitter Internal Combustion and Pump (IC&P) and to join the Royal Engineers. My introduction to Department 6 consisted of the issue of a toolbox containing bench fitting tools. The basic training in Department 6 consisted of many hours of class work and bench fitting under the watchful eye of Messrs Underwood and Oxenbury the tasks to complete consisted of male/female test piece, 1/4x5/16 spanner and a hand vice. Assistance with tools not provided in the toolbox was pro-



vided by Bill Colley the department storekeeper. Having reached the standard required, us potential engine fitters were let loose on engines starting with single cylinder petrol engines under Mr Stead and then to four cylinder engines under Reg Bisson; next big step was diesel engines under Mr Cheyanne Body. In year two we started allied trade training which basically meant 6 weeks in each RE trade department gaining experience in welding, electrics, and blacksmiths I never did get the hang of fire welding. On returning to Department 6 our next phase of training was in the fitter machinist area firstly turning under Mr Probst and later machining under Henry Rumball who was an outstanding tradesman. Henry was an amateur photographer who was responsible for many of the photographs taken during our time at Beachley. The fitter machinist bible was "Chapmans"; Henry guarded his well-thumbed copy only allowing apprentices sticky fingers around it when he gave out a task. In my final year I wangled a further period in the machine shop, where Henry tasked me to make a side and face cutter reluctantly handing over his precious copy of "Chapmans" telling me it's all in there. Locating the information required was time consuming, working out the intricacies of a dividing head was taxing to say the least but with a bit of guidance from Henry I completed the job which he had case hardened in the Blacksmith shop. Henry liked to have a sly spit and drag and would disappear from the eye of the shop foreman into his den in the corner of the workshop for a fag, I never did work out how he got rid of the smoke? On completion of the allied trade's instruction the Plant and IC&P fitters moved into the Engine Fitters Workshop (WEF) to complete their apprenticeship. Plant Fitters had the complex mechanics of cranes and excavators and IC&P the theory of flow rates and the maintenance and overhaul of pumps. Final term was the trade test to qualify as class three tradesmen which entailed practical tests in all departments and a final bench fitting project.

Hobbies

Apart from sport there was ample opportunity to join one of the hobby clubs as well as the Military Band, Corps of Drums and Pipe Band. Cycling was popular as it got you out of camp and were not restricted to Chepstow, my mate Dicky Lipscombe was a member, he fixed me up with a bike so I could visit my girlfriend at Tidenham Chase. Scouts, photography, sailing and small bore shooting were popular but bible classes not so. The school choir was appealing to some as it provided a half term break and an extra day's leave.

Summary

Life at Beachley in the fifties and early sixties was hard but as the years progressed it became a little easier. Discipline was harsh an example of this was two apprentices had a motor cycle road accident at Tidenham Chase. Standing Order 63 forbade ownership of a motorcycle and despite the rider being killed the pillion passenger who was uninjured was jailed for twenty eight days. Young growing lads were always hungry a meal was rarely missed, although the food was filling it was basic, this changed for the better when the new Master Chef arrived, Snudge Lewin introduced self-service a very popular move, I met him again a few years later when he was the landlord of the Rose and Crown pub at Tintern. Beachley provided a sound military education and excellent apprentice training resulting in passing out as class three tradesmen. In my case it provided me with lifetime skills and a kick start to a full military career for which I am eternally grateful During three years I went from boy to man became educationally qualified for promotion and passed out having completed a craft apprenticeship and braking bounds on my bike provided me with a wife of 62 years.



Beachley enabled this -



To grow into this:-



Proof positive that it worked.

What a shame it all came to an end.



NOTE: - 2024 WAS THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMY APPRENTICE SCHEME

Name (in Full) including Title where relevant:

Postal Address including Postcode:

Group / Squadron No:

Dates attended (Starting & Leaving):

Date of Birth:

Place of Birth:

Contact Telephone Nos – Landline:

Mobile:

Email Address:

BOBA Membership No:

Military Service No:

Date of Leaving Service:

Rank on Leaving:

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).

DO YOU WISH TO PURCHASE A 100th ANNIVERSARY BOBA TIE AT A PRICE OF £12. YES / NO (Please circle)

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 No Photo ID = No Entry).

I will be requesting additional Tickets for 2024, 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 2024. Applicant Names of those who applied last year 2023, will be carried forward as a priority for the 2024 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. 2024 will be no exception. Your Details will need to be submitted to me no later than the end of June 2024, 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.

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

CENOTAPH PARADE CO-ORDINATOR 2024 – BEACHLEY OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION



Editors Hurrah

Hi All,

I must change from my usual drivel about that time has too quickly disappeared and form some thoughts that just might make sense to normal people from the mish mash that is all jumbled in my boots, well I do have to keep my two grey cells somewhere and sweaty socks is as good a place as anywhere else. So metaphorical pen to paper, here we go . . . big blank wall.

Well, that did not go very well, my grey cells do not even speak the same language.

Managed to make a start with this but my typing is much slower now and somehow the keyboard does not put all keypresses into the computer, and when it does it puts them in the wrong order. That was more difficult than pedalling up the Wye Valley and needs a cuppa to lubricate something internal. Sounds proper technical, to me anyway, after all who am I trying to entertain.

The main reason for my difficulties in this area are my personal health problems. Started in November when I fell and broke my ankle, which was then followed by a stroke. I am slowly recovering and have been extremely lucky to regain most of my capabilities but please read this very slowly because my typing is slower than usual.

The last twelve months have had more than their fair shares of ups and downs as well as my own.

I think the major upset was the fact that our long serving President Syd Thomas set off on his Final Route March. Unfortunately, he missed our Centenary Reunion for which he had put so much into...

The Centenary Reunion went very well thanks to the efforts of the organisers and I do thank them for an excellent job carried out.

During the weekend we had the services of an official photographer in the guise of Tyler O'Brien who has given me permission to publish some of her handiwork within these pages. In fact, the cake photograph on the front page is one of hers. I thank her for the time and effort she put into the weekend. Jaqueline, our usual photographer has also submitted some of her excellent work for publishing.

Before my accident I managed to construct a table around the railway room, more of a 50cm wide shelf and an 80cm wide protrusion, bit like a small handwritten "e" when viewed from above. I wanted the trains to turn around but 50cm is not wide enough for this. I made a hole through the wall into the empty hallway where the trains could complete the turn on another shelf built for this purpose. Had to make a second hole so they could come back into the railway room. It makes sense to me, I am a Beachley Boy.



This is the part where I do my annual plea for items that can be published in The Echoes. I have to include pleas for volunteers to assist your committee in their work. The difficulties I have discovered whilst penning this missive have made me realise that this is becoming imperative.

The really sad part is that at 85 years young I have come to the conclusion that I have to unload some of my responsibilities. Even a Beachley Boy has to succumb to the wear and tear of the years. The way that this will affect the membership is that I no longer have the energy to carry on as your Editor. (Head hitting requires a lot of the stamina that has now departed).

The Association needs a volunteer to replace me as Editor. I will assist anyone that is willing to give it a try into the ways and means (I have already purchased a new hammer to be passed onto the ~~foot~~, sorry, slip of the pen, that is foolhardy enough to take on the task. In all honesty, it is not a difficult job, but does take a little thought i.e., brain activity.

I have enjoyed my time as editor but realise that new thoughts are needed to keep The Echoes on stream.

There are two good points with my decision, The Echoes will cease to be The Ray Armstrong Annual Newsletter and my model railway might even have trains running.



The photographs in this section have been submitted by Tyler O'Brien and Jacqueline Flack.

All of Tyler's work is available on her website, instructions below.

Follow this link

<https://tylerobrienphotography.pixieset.com/boba-centenarycelebration/>

And then follow steps 1 - 5 shown below.

Step 1: Go to your Gallery and click on the photo you would like to order.

Step 2: Click on the Buy button on the top right of the page or on the bottom right of each photo when you hover over the smaller photo (look for the shopping cart icon)

Step 3: Choose the product, size(s) and quantities of your photo(s). You can add as many or as few as you'd like.

Step 4: When you have finished adding the images, you can either keep shopping for more, or view cart to head to check out

Step 5: Enter your Billing and Shipping information. Once completed, you will get an order confirmation!

Once you have done that Tyler will get a notification of your order and will get it sorted and posted to you.

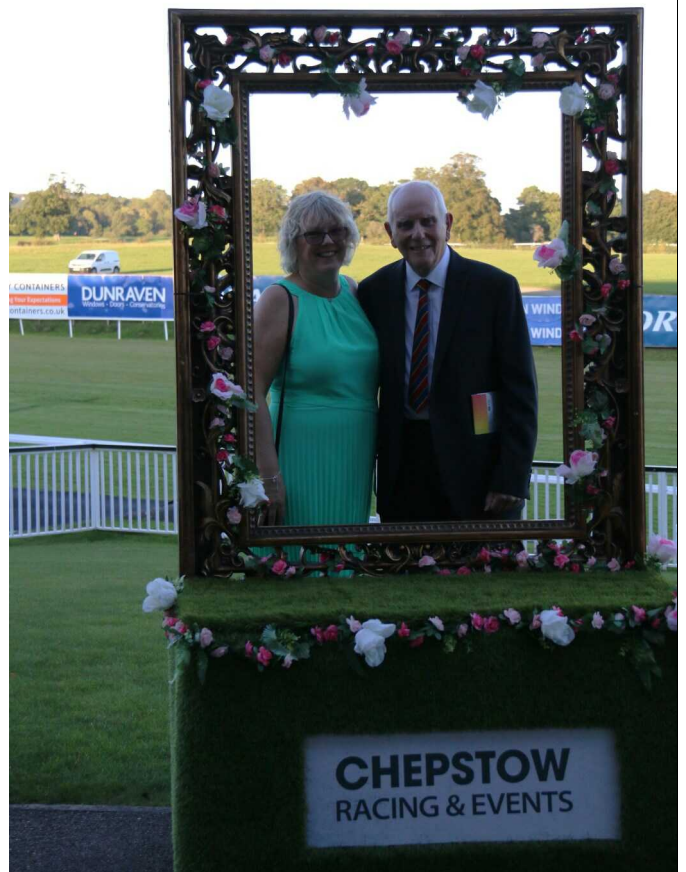
There are too many photographs that include your editor but I have warned you that The Echoes is becoming "My Life & Times".



The photographs in this section have been taken by Tyler and Jacqueline .
Tyler's photographs are available on her website to peruse and order copies

Tyler O'Brien Photography

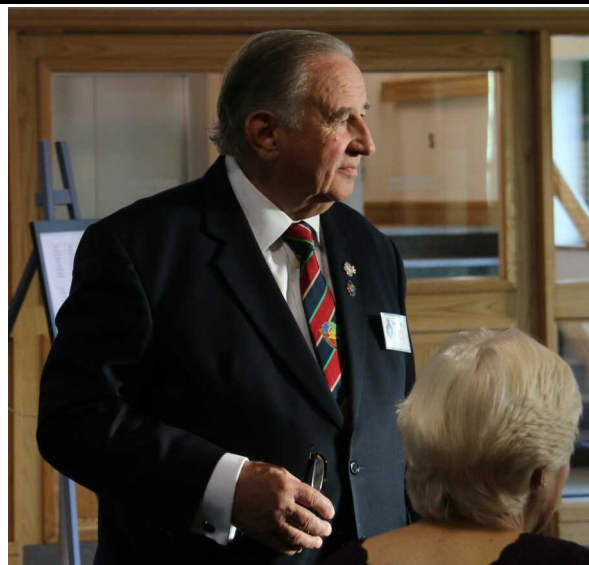












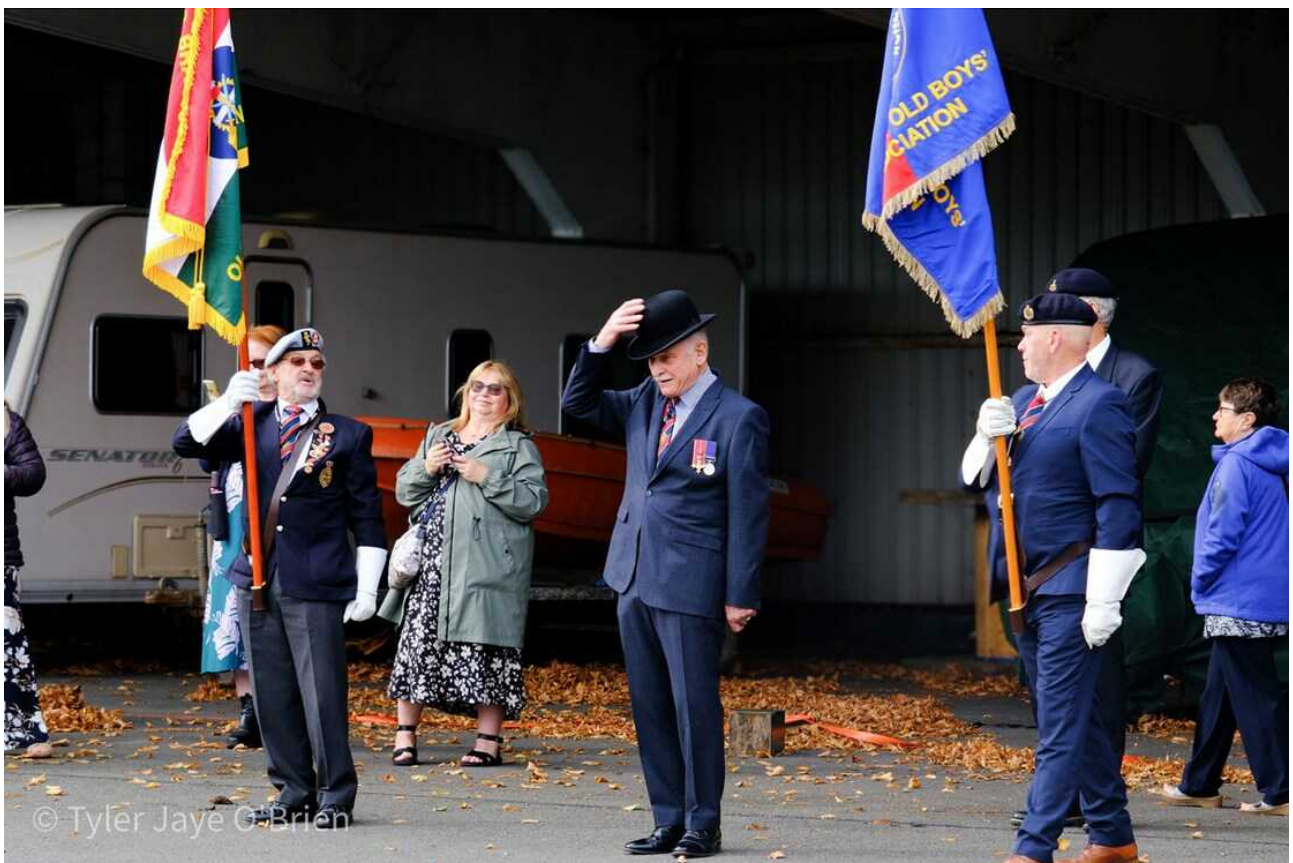
















CENOTAPH REPORT 2024

Matt Arlow

Cenotaph Organiser

Planning for this years parade started in early February. This being the 100th Anniversary of Army Apprentices, I had an aspiration to get 100 BOBA Members on parade. The application form was sent out early and within days we had received over 30 responses. Posting on various social media platforms helped us reach many Beachley Old Boys, some who had never marched with us before. With a few last-minute adjustments to our numbers the applications closed in July with a confirmed contingent of 95 individuals registered. Not quite our target but still a fantastic number.

As with all previous years, there was a few unfortunate cancellations due to personal reasons. So, as November approached, we had 91 BOBA Members making plans to get into London and ensuring their attire for the day was smartly prepared. This year for the 100th Anniversary the Association had produced an extremely smart Anniversary Tie along with a pin badge marking this historic occasion.

Sunday 9th November quickly arrived, and having travelled up on the Saturday afternoon, I enjoyed an evening social gathering with some old friends. As I'm sure many others attending for the weekend did. I set off bright and early to arrive at Horse Guards Parade ready for the 0830hrs opening of the entrance gates. On arrival I was met by some of our regular attendees who kindly agreed to assist with co-ordinating our members as they arrived. This year we were in Column C and Number 4. In no time at all I was joined by many familiar faces as Horse Guards started to fill up. Every BOBA Member in attendance was impeccably turned out, it's good to see those values and standards instilled in us all at Chepstow are still so strong today. As I have mentioned this year our numbers were greatly increased over previous years, to have so many Ex-Apprentices, Staff, Carers and Honourary Members formed up was a real sight to behold. Quite possibly the last time we will see so many BOBA Members in one location. A proud day for all.

This year we had Lt Col Nick Winder MBE (58A) leading us out on to Whitehall with Col Alan Holman OBE as left marker and carrying our Wreath of Remembrance. In our ranks we had many Beachley Old Boys attending their first Cenotaph Parade, With a wide spread of year groups represented between 1953-1992. As always it was great to see so many of our older gentlemen, but I do want to mention the fantastic number of younger members who attended this year.

After the usual wait, the service of Remembrance started and as with previous years the pride and sense of connection is clear to see. After a rousing rendition of God Save the King, we soon set off down towards the Cenotaph. The crowds clapping, bands playing and the drums beating out the step. Heads held high; the Beachley Old Boys proudly marched past the Cenotaph. This year we had set up our marching squad with those able to march unhindered at the front, with those less mobile or needing assistance at the rear. This made two big differences, firstly it certainly helped with keeping the



step, although not perfect. But secondly and just as importantly this set up allowed the less mobile members to march or walk in a more comfortable style. Although at times I will admit there was the usual concertina effect which effected some more than others.

I would like to thank all that marched with us, it has been a real pleasure to have organised this 100th Anniversary year and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible next year.

Finally, a call for anyone reading this article that would like to join us in 2025. We won't unfortunately get the same high number of places. But would love to see new faces as well as those returning alike. I am going to apply for 60 places for 2025, although I sense we may only get 50. Each year the RBL look to increase numbers for anniversary groups and other associations have events this year. I have said this previously, we may be the Beachley Old Boys by name, but I would urge those younger members to consider joining us. As time passes our numbers sadly reduce, all Ex Beachley-Boys are needed to keep our association strong. Whatever the year you passed through the gates of Beachley, you are part of the future of the Association, and we would love to grow our active membership.

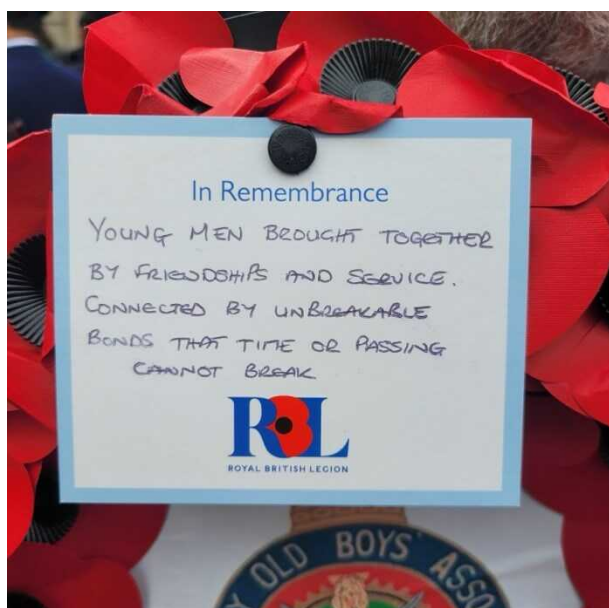
A list of Attendees is shown below together with a few photographs taken on the day.

Mr Matthew Arlow 92– Coordinator

Lt Col (Ret'd) Nicholas Winder MBE 58A – Leader

Col Alan Holman OBE– Left Marker Wreath Carrier

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mr Robert Wise 53A | Mr Jeremy Dykes 92 | Mr Alexander Spinks 87 |
| Mr Roderick Davis 57A | Mr Michael Kirkhan-Ingram 92 | Mr David Morgan 87 |
| Mr Maurice Taylor 58A | Mr Brian Paterson 92 | Mr John Hatchett 83C |
| Mr Alan Chatt 59A | Mr David Wakelin 92 | Mr David Head 87 |
| Mr Robert Beeston 60C | Mr Richard Pool - JLRE | Mr Anthony Hastings 83C |
| Mr Anthony Waite 60C | Mr Anthony Stamford - Guest | Mr Mark Cardon 83 |
| Mr David Smith 60C | Mrs Tina Crossley – Widow | Mr Graham Kerr 82C |
| Mr David Threadingham 60C | Mr Simon Edwards - Carer | Mr John Campbell 83 |
| Mr Raymond Armstrong 55A | Mrs Linda Hill - Carer | Mr Paul Higham 78C |
| Mr Gerald Francis 65C | Mrs Fiona Locke – Carer | Mr Mark Tonge 82C |
| Mr Alan Bell 66B | Mrs Monica Waite – Carer | Mr Alan Coome 78C |
| Mr Nigel Brickell 68A | Mr Phillip Tindle 90 | Mr Mark Williams 77B |
| Mr Thomas Whitely 72A | Mr Marcus Nicola 88 | Mr Richard Tyers 77C |
| Mr Howard Till 73C | Mr David Youdle 58A | Mr Michael Brown 82C |
| Mr Peter Coe 74C | Mr Nicholas Trood 71C | Mr Alistar Simpson 77B |
| Mr Philip Dickerson 74C | Mr Neil Coulthard 73B | Mr Terence Curran 62C |
| Mr John Goodall 74C | Mr Gary White 73A | Mr Nigel Furness 77C |
| Mr Duncan Lewen 74C | Mr Christopher Le Gallez 77B | Mr Anthony Washer 87 |
| Mr Gordon Taylor 74C | Mr Mark Pengelly 80C | Mr Richard Wheller 74C |





80C Group had a Group Reunion at the Heritage Centre and sent this thanks to Anthony Waite and his wife Monica for helping their visit.

Hiya Anthony.

On behalf of 80c Army Apprentices College 45 Year Reunion we would all like to send our sincere Thanks for opening up the Museum on the 22nd March for us.

The group of over 30 ex Apprentices had a fabulous couple of hours reminiscing of our time spent at Chepstow.

Some excellent memories of time gone by in the museum.

You made us all feel very welcome and I would highly recommend other groups to attend in the future.

The afternoon ended with a Camp Tour which brought back so many memories.

It was lovely to see you and your lovely better half later in the evening.

To give up your time was really appreciated by each and everyone of us.

Keep up the excellent work you do and I hope you find more volunteers.

I've attached a few photos of our weekend.

Kind Regards

Barry Hampson. 80C





HISTORY or NOSTALGIA

What's the difference between History and Nostalgia, History of course is anything that had happened prior to this moment in time, going to TESCO's yesterday is History, Nostalgia is association with something in History that you have actually witnessed, or some other fact acts as a trigger and you find yourself remembering an incident associated with that fact. There are times when you think back and nostalgia creeps in but not necessarily about the event you are thinking of, for instance in my mind the Falklands war doesn't just make me think of the war, but the fact that I was in Portsmouth Harbour on the Ferry to Jersey and watching the preparations for war on an aircraft carrier in the same harbour, so I link these two together. Another example is the Miners conflict with Maggie Thatcher. I moved to Edinburgh in 1984 and while searching for a house saw all the pickets at the various Mines, but my memory links that to searching for a house. If you asked me where I was when I received the news of George the 6th's death My mind immediately goes to Egypt So nostalgia can trigger memories of history and also provide a link to others events at the same time.

It was my original intention when first writing this to write about events that had taken place during my life time. I remember many of incidents myself but am not always quite sure when they happened. Some I hoped would spark a chain of remembrance for those readers who like me had forgotten when certain events took place. Obviously, a talk about the last (90 odd years would never end, so I decided to talk about events up to World War Two. And as it really is about events during my life time, I start the talk in 1927 the year of my birth. So, for anyone born after 1939 the talk is pure history, but for anyone born after that year there might be some nostalgia as well.

So, what was happening in 1927 only Nine years after the end of World War One.

Neville Chamberlin was the Minister of Health and had attended a British Medical Association meeting dealing with Cancer. His aim was to promote an Awareness Campaign to encourage the public to recognize the symptoms of cancer and to obtain Medical Aid. The need for this awareness was made apparent by the fivefold increase in Deaths from Cancer between 1850 and 1925. (Could this be due to better diagnosis of the disease?)

The Government was in trouble financially, nothing new, and as a means of reducing costs was considering reducing the pay of the Postman. At present they were being paid 1/3d an hour, the same as a Labourer. The Government considered this should be reduced to 1/2d per hour and thought they had a good chance to get away with it, as unemployment stood at 1.4 million.

Yehudi Menuhin hit the headlines with his effortless playing of the Symphonic Espanola. He was only ten years old at the time

Malcolm Campbell achieved the World land speed record of 174.224 miles per hour at Carmarthen, only to lose it again when shortly afterwards Seagrave attained a speed of 203.841 mph at Daytona.

May West caused a distraction when she was sentenced to ten days in jail with a \$500 fine. She was appearing in a stage show called SEX and was prosecuted for Indecent behaviour on stage. (I can't find out what she did)

Wireless was becoming something other than just a means of entertainment when the BBC started transmitting News and Cricket scores around the World. The transmission was made by BBC 2LO and then relayed round the world by Phillips of Holland.

Tragedy struck when Isadore Duncan the famous actress, known for her high life style, was killed when a scarf she was wearing became entangled in the rear wheels of her car and broke her neck.

Entertainment took a new turn with the production of the first Talking Movie, The Jazz Singer, with Al Jolson as the Star.



Traffic had increased to the point where there were 1,729,000 cars on the road. This finally exceeded the number of horse drawn vehicles which was now 127,248. The spread of motoring had been so great that there was now one vehicle for every 26 people.

A General in the British Army forecast that there would be another War with Germany in 20 years' time. He was Lieut General Montgomery Massingham and was only 8 years out in his estimate.

News Items

In the UK since the Great War, the trend was for people to drink more Tea or Coffee and less beer

Sir Harry Lauder was given the freedom of the City of Edinburgh.

20 Player Navy Cut now cost 11,1/2d

Eight people were killed and ten injured when a hurricane hit Glasgow.

Lindbergh flew solo across the Atlantic from Long Island New York to Le Bourget Paris 3,600 miles

1928

`Which was a momentous year for women and brought about the end of the Suffragette movement, when in April the House of Commons passed the equal franchise bill giving the vote to women over 21.

A bill was passed to allow the Bank of England to issue £1- and 10-shilling notes as well as £5 notes and above. The number to be issued however must not exceed the gold reserve figure.

The flying Scotsman set a record of over 70 miles per hour between Edinburgh and London. Two trains were travelling at the same time, One North, and One South, both arrived ahead of schedule, both the Drivers received a Silver Plate and a Tobacco Pouch as mementoes.

Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin by accident, when he left a plate of Bacteria in his laboratory for a few days and when he next saw it, he found evidence of a mold that was killing the bacteria.

Traffic was booming in Britain and this was leading to more deaths on the road, fatalities averaged out at 14 people a day with 148,575 injured in a year. In 1927 there had been 5329 deaths.

Walt Disney made his first sound film "Steamboat Willie" with the cartoon star Mickey Mouse

Claimed as the Quote of the year was one that said "An expert is someone who knows the worst mistakes in his subject, but knows how to avoid them "

News Items

(Fascinating headline) Only nine blacks were lynched in the USA The fewest in 40 years.

The first Elastoplast sticking Plasters were manufactured in Hull

The Prince of Wales opened the Royal Tweed Bridge.

466.000 people in the UK received their first state pension of ten shillings a week

**1929**

The Salvation Army rebelled against their Commander, General Bramwell Booth, who was the son of the founder. The Army council had voted him out by a vote of 55 to 8 but the Army lawyers took it to the High Court and had this overturned. As a bit of irony when he was reinstated the council sang, "When we cannot see our way let us trust and still obey. "

That great hero of the Wild West, Wyatt Earp, finally died, but peacefully asleep in his bed, not in a gun fight. While keeping law and order in Dodge City he had also run a successful brothel and cabaret.

America hit the news again with the Valentine's Day Massacre. 7 men were lined up against a wall and shot down with machine guns. It was thought the Al Capone gang were responsible and that the slain were members of the Bugsy Malone Gang. It was all to do with having a monopoly during the prohibition period. Some of the killers were wearing Police Uniforms and the Police Commissioner was livid, and said that this would be a war to the finish. At the time more than half of the police force were under investigation for alleged corruption.

In Italy the Vatican State came into existence following long term ill feeling between the church and Italy, Mussolini signed the document which also made Catholicism the official religion of Italy.

Al Capone went to Prison for a year for carrying a concealed deadly weapon. The authorities said he would not be given any privileges but must be allowed the odd beer and a day off to see football matches.

It was Black Thursday in America when an unprecedented panic took place in Wall Street resulting in the sale at very low prices of millions of shares. Intervention by the leading Banks improved the situation, and the afternoon saw prices recovering. Whatever the reason, dealings from then on were conducted with caution, and a lot of small investors lost everything. 11 Suicides were attributed to these losses.

Scotland Yard detectives were to get High Performance cars equipped with wireless, the Metropolitan Police Commander said this would stop villains escaping at speed.

In Britain it was decided that traffic lights, which are now in 21 British provincial towns, would be standardized, with red meaning stop, and green go, with amber denoting a change coming. It was thought that the new lights would not be appropriate in areas where horse drawn traffic abounds

Disaster struck in Paisley with 69 children dying in the Glen Cinema. A reel of film had caught fire in the projection room but the operator had thrown it out into the street, the children smelling the smoke panicked and tried to escape and were trampled or suffocated in the panic. A further 37 were injured. There had been 2,000 children in the building for a special Hogmanay film show.

News Items

Petrol was reduced to 1/7d per gallon.

The government intended to ban any new coaches that were capable of 60 mph

In London Britain's first 22 Public Telephone boxes came into service.

All busses in London were to be RED as red and yellow buses have proved unpopular.



Price of milk went up to 7d a quart.

Two thirds of the population would be middle aged and elderly by 1950 (Ministry of Health)

Again, to me pure History

So, we reach the end of the decade and move on to the **1930's**

1930

In 1930 Sport headlined when Donald Bradman set a record score of 452 in one innings, He achieved this against the England touring team in Sydney scoring at the rate of some 69 runs per hour and hitting 39 fours.

Astronomer Clyde Tombaugh made the first sighting of a planet beyond Neptune and it was decided to call it Pluto.

Film censorship was active in Britain with the British board of film censors refusing to accept 300 films on the grounds that there was either, coarse speech, women in a state of intoxication, Ministers of Religion in equivocal situations, marital infidelity, criminals shown in a position of affluence, and references to the Prince of Wales. Or a combination of these.

America once more hit the headlines this time with Frozen Peas. Frozen Meat and Fish had been available for some time but these were the first vegetables to be frozen. Clarence Birdseye was responsible; his success was due to a method of fast freezing which helped the peas to stay firm. Some people said he discovered this on a visit to Canada

In Cricket, Don Bradman once again set a record by scoring 334 runs at Leeds.

Unemployment in Britain soared to over 2,000,000 in September, the highest since 1921, elsewhere in Germany, Sweden, Denmark, and Italy employment had improved.

In Germany the National Socialist Party with Hitler at its head came second in the German elections

New Items

A line of defenses known as the Maginot Line was being built in France.

The British Government rejected a plan for a cross Channel Tunnel.

London, France, and Japan, at Geneva, blocked a move to ban Submarines.

Once again History

1931

In an attempt to rationalize traffic in London's Oxford Street, horse busses, and slow vehicles would be banned. With a prohibition on turning or waiting, and automatic signals would be installed

A lady made a quote that came out not quite as she had intended. It was on the subject of long skirts which were then coming back into fashion. She is quoted as saying "When our clothes get long again and our legs are tied up our minds will suffer".

In April there was a second reading of a Bill in Parliament to allow the Sunday opening of cinemas. This came about as the High Courts had recently ruled that Sunday cinemas were illegal it was estimated that approximately 500,000 people were illegally attending Sunday Cinemas



In June Financial disaster still loomed in the UK and the government were considering a reduction in the unemployment pay (Dole) the reduction was to be by two shillings a week. Down to 15/-for men and 13/- for women. It was also proposed that dole should not be paid for more than 26 weeks in one year. In July the crisis was getting worse and the government was proposing to reduce the pay of the police, teachers and the armed forces.

In August the government fell and Ramsay MacDonald formed an all-party Government of Cooperation. This situation was forced on the government when Sir Montague Norman, Governor of the Bank of England, informed the Prime Minister that national Bankruptcy was near.

Then came my first nostalgia, I remember being in Surbiton and seeing a strange bus on the road, asking my father what it was, he told me it was a Trolley bus. They were introduced to that part of London in the July although I found later, they had been in existence in Yorkshire for many years. Anyhow that was my first Nostalgia from the age of 4.

September brought on the devaluation of the pound and we were forced off the gold market.

Later in the month there were large scale clashes between the police and protesters, about the cuts in unemployment, and the Armed Forces were given a 25% pay cut which resulted in the famous Invergordon Mutiny by Naval ratings which involved some 12,000 ratings on 15 Ships.

News Items

The Commission on Transport recommended faster Trains and cheaper fares.

Raising the school leaving age from 14 to 15 was defeated in the Commons.

Al Capone was jailed for 11 years for tax evasion.

Rolls Royce bought out Bentley Motors.

1935

Started well with the abolishment of the whipping of children under the age of fourteen. However, one MP said this was a form of class distinction as why abolish for the children of the poor what was still given to children of the rich at public schools.

Television definition was improved from the existing 30-line definition to a much higher one.

Then we had the sad story of the kidnapping of Charles Lindbergh's son in March followed in June by the news of the discovery of the boy's body. A little twist here when Al Capone offered a \$10,000 dollar reward saying "I know how Mrs. Capone would have felt."

The British Airship R101 crashed in France with a loss of many lives.

The BBC opened its new headquarters in London, although it had actually started broadcasting two months previously, with a programme by Henry Hall and the BBC Dance Orchestra.

In Germany the Nazis were gradually increasing the number of seats they held in the Reichstag, to 250, the biggest party, but they still did not have a majority.

Shirley Temple at the age of four was on her way to fame,

But the big event for 1932 was the Olympic Games held in Los Angeles. Great Britain won 2 Gold and 4 Silver medals, not a good result.

Seven years after it was started the Mersey tunnel was finally completed although it would not



be opened until the next year. It will be the longest under water tunnel in the world and cost £7,000,000 to construct.

Violence once again became news when the unemployed fought battles over several days with the police, this was a continued protest about the level of unemployment pay

Gordon Richards rode another winning horse to make it his 188th winner this season. He had been the Champion Jockey five times in the last seven years, A little bit of Nostalgia here as during the war Gordon joined the Home Guard. My Father as an RAF Flight Sergeant had the task of teaching Gordons platoon the principles of rifle drill.

NEWS ITEMS

George 5th made his first Xmas Day broadcast to the Empire .

Hitler declared that providence had chosen him for a great mission.

Unemployment in the USA stood at 11.6 million

Slavery was abolished in Ethiopia

Hitler was granted German Citizenship

1933

Started with news of the unrest in Spain which was becoming more violent by the day.,

On January the 30th Hitler at last became the Chancellor of the German Reich, at the time there were only two other Nazis in the cabinet one of whom was Herman Goering.

Then in February the German Reichstag building burnt down, this was used as an excuse by Hitler to introduce many special laws to, so he said, protect the people and the State. A general election was to be held but the Interior Minister said that whatever the result of the election Hitler would remain in power.

Speed came into the news again when Sir Malcolm Campbell set a new land speed record of 272 mph at Daytona Beach. A bit of nostalgia here as I remember being given, as were many others boys, a model of his car Bluebird.

Following the boycott of Jewish businesses in Germany many acts of violence were committed against Jews.

In Britain Sir Oswald Moseley was raising his Fascist Party and violent protests against this was resulting in plenty of work for the Police. A little nostalgia. At this time, we were living in London and had a regular Policemen on the beat who would pass our house at approximately the same time each day and have a word with the housewives as he passed. One morning our policeman came by with bandages on his face. When asked what had happened, he explained that the local police had been recruited to support the local police at the Moseley rally and in the resulting riots he had been hurt.

New houses were being put on the market for £395 or 9/6p per week if on a mortgage.

Hitler was in the news again when he banned all opposition Parties, making Germany a one-Party State. At the same time, he banned the Boy Scouts and formed The Hitler Youth Organization.

Probably the happiest Xmas celebration was in the USA when Prohibition ended in December a



really happy ending to 1933

NEWS ITEMS

Hoover carpet cleaners were selling at £4/19/6d

Traffic lights were being installed in London at the rate of one set a day.

USA. A mob of 2000 Lynched a black man accused of attacking a white woman.

Mussolini denounced President Roosevelt as being a Dictator

1934

Sir Oswald Moseley started the year with a rally attended by approximately 10,000 people. He was calling for an end to democracy as it was known and the forming of a fascist Dictatorship.

America hit the headlines again with John Dillinger shooting his way out of a Police trap, and the infamous Bonny and Clyde were ambushed by the police while driving at speed in their car and were both killed. Later it was found they were riddled with over 50 bullets.

Pedestrian Crossings were introduced in central London. They were only at spots that had traffic lights or were controlled by the Police. The guidance given was, "Pedestrians must not obstruct a vehicle proceeding in the general line of Vehicle movement. i.e., straight ahead, but vehicle traffic turning at right angles must give way to pedestrians using the marked crossings. There was a fine of 5/- if a pedestrian breached the rules.

Hitler purged the Brown Shirts, supposedly as the result of information that there was a plot to attack him. But it was probably to rid him of any potential rivals.

Gresford Colliery near Wrexham experienced the loss of 262 Miners in an explosion. Many bodies could not be recovered due to the continuing fires and the mine was sealed off.

Nostalgia for me as I was stationed at Horsley Hall Gresford. Rumour had it that there were Tunnels under Camp containing the bodies of the miners.

Italy and Abyssinia were having border clashes and it was suspected Mussolini was intending to attack Abyssinia.

The year ended with the GPO introducing numbered postal districts, to aid in the sorting of mail to every provincial town in Britain, following the success of this scheme in London and other large towns.

The Prince of Wales opened Kingston Bridge, nostalgia for me as I remember being there, but what remains in my mind is the fact that he had red hair

NEWS ITEMS

Butter cost ten pence a pound. It cost 3/- a pound in France

The Prince of Wales said women should be allowed to wear shorts.

Egg prices dropped to between 6d and 9d a dozen.

In 5 days, 126 people died on the roads in the UK'



Mussolini decreed that Italians aged 8 to 55 must have military training. He then ordered that all children between 6 and eight have pre military training

1935

The BBC started the year off by announcing that it would be starting the World's first Television service this year.

Italy sent more troops to Somaliland as Mussolini abandoned all pretence of trying for a peaceful solution.

Germany reoccupied the Saar and Britain increased her expenditure for defense to counter any German threat.

On March the 18th a 30-mph speed limit came into force in built up areas. This was to be reviewed again in 1939. The areas affected were those streets with lighting, except some streets where the lamp posts were painted with Black and white stripes. It was said that offenders would be stopped by Police Cars sounding Gongs. One unusual item was that Hore Belisha the transport minister was calling on religious leaders to support this measure.

Tom Smith, an MP, introduced an amendment to the housing Bill, that "no new working-class flat should be without a bathroom. And he hoped the Commons would dismiss the old argument that the working class would keep coal in their bathrooms.

May the 6th was the silver jubilee of King George the Fifth and huge crowds lined the streets on his journey to St Paul's. Many street parties were held throughout the country. I remember attending one of these.

Comparing with what we know of today's cut back in the Defence Forces, there was to be an increase in the RAF to 1,500 aircraft, with 31 new air bases and 5 new training schools.

May 19 Lawrence of Arabia died after an accident on his motor bike when he swerved to avoid two boy cyclists. Nostalgia as my father had been on duty in the guardroom when Lawrence first reported for duty as an airman.

Sir Malcolm Campbell was in the news again when he averaged 301.337 mph on the Bonneville Salt Flats breaking his own record of 276.816 mph set up in Daytona Beach last year.

Mussolini at last began his march into Abyssinia. Causing quite a lot of problems for the League of Nations who were not sure what to do. Finally in November they agreed to impose economic sanctions and were considering an oil embargo.

At home it was announced that there was to be a new Airport at Gatwick. There was to be a railway station and the underground railway would link up to it. Air Traffic control said they would be able to handle six aircraft at a time.

The first mention of RADAR was in the news with a description of how it operated and its possible uses.

On May 24 Empire Day was celebrated, as it was each year. Nostalgia for me as when we had our parade at school and were walking past the Union Jack, we were told to raise our hands with clenched fist as a salute (fascist salute) The head master who had ordered this left the school soon afterwards

News Items

In Germany two women were beheaded for spying.



Cat's eyes were first used on British roads.

Dipped headlights were to be made compulsory in the UK.

The Hawker Hurricane fighter made its first flight

1936

King George 5th was laid to rest at Windsor on the 28 January. He had died at Sandringham and been taken on a Farm trolley across the fields to the Church. With a lone piper walking before him, playing the Skye Boat Song.

The first Spitfire was on show at Eastleigh Aerodrome and it was announced that this was undoubtedly the RAF's most powerful weapon.

The Queen Mary set sail from Southampton on her maiden voyage to America, some 1,840 passengers were on board. The cost of a Trans-Atlantic trip was advertised at £37-5s including meals and hotels.

Mussolini appeared on the balcony Palazzo Venezia to announce that Italy now had its Empire as the war in Abyssinia was won.

America was in the grip of a new board game known as Monopoly.

In Great Britain the Queen Mary won the Blue Riband for the fastest crossing to New York in three days 23 hours and 57 minutes.

The BBC added sound to its television pictures and a display of this was held at Olympia, there were several of the new sets on display and the cost was expected to be in the region of 100 Guineas

Spain became involved in civil war, with the Army rising against the republican Government.

General Franco, whose name went down in history, would not have achieved his notoriety if the original leader of the rebellion General Sanjurjo had not been killed in a plane crash just before the rebellion started.

The giver of pleasure to many young children, Frank Hornby the inventor of Meccano died in September.

In October one of the biggest demonstrations against the rise in unemployment started in Jarrow and became known as the Jarrow Protest March. 200 Unemployed men marched to London to hand in a petition to the Government signed by 11,572 petitioners. £800 had been raised by local subscription and this was used to buy leather and nails so that the marcher's boots could be repaired on the way to London.

Sir Oswald Moseley was in the news again when he attempted to march through London with 7,000 Black Shirts. A crowd estimated at a 100,000 attacked the march and the police had to divert the march away from working class areas. Eighty people were injured and 84 arrested.

In November the Crystal Palace, originally built for the Great Exhibition of 1851, was destroyed by fire. Nostalgia as I stood in the Garden watching the glow in sky.

In December King Edward the VIII abdicated the Throne rather than lose Mrs. Simpson the woman he loved, Mrs. Simpson. He sailed for France on board a Naval Destroyer and Prince Albert was proclaimed King. We had a game at the time Called Knock Knock who's there, this led to it being used to



say" Knock Knock" "Who's there?" "Hark," "Hark who?" "Hark the Herald Angels sing, Mrs. Simpson stole our King2"

NEWS ITEMS

The AGA KHAN was weighed, in Gold he was worth £25,000

The Queen Mary ran aground twice at Clydebank

Mass production of civilian Gas Masks began in the UK

The GPO's speaking Clock service began

1937

A good start was made in the Year with the introduction of the Public Order Act which prohibited Political Uniforms and gave the Police power to stop political processions if there was a risk of Public Disorder. This Act put a stop to Sir Oswald Mosely's processions in Uniform through areas where trouble would ensue.

The aircraft Carrier Ark Royal was launched she had cost £3,000,000 to build.

The airship Hindenburg exploded in New Jersey as she came in to land. Killing 33 of her passengers and crew. I had watched the Hindenburg fly above me in London

In May King George the 6th was crowned at Westminster Abbey. There was a slight hiccup in the ceremony when he was to take the Oath. The Bishop of Durham and the Bishop of Bath were supposed to hold the words in front of the King. But neither of them could find the words. So, the Archbishop Of Canterbury lowered his so that the king could read them.

The following month the Duke of Windsor married Mrs. Simpson at a Chateau near Tours.

Joe Louis won the World Heavy Weight Championship at the age of 23. His opponent James Braddock was so badly hurt he had to be carried from the ring.

Despite the Public Order Act Mosely held a rally and was ready to address a crowd of about 8,000 when opponents started to throw objects at him, one which hit him and knocked him unconscious.

In Scotland 34 people were killed and 92 injured at Castle Cary, when an express train from Edinburgh to Glasgow crashed into another train which was on the Dundee Edinburgh route during a blizzard,

NEWS ITEMS

Horse drawn traffic was banned from the West End of London.

A 12-sided three penny bit was to be introduced.

A Boeing flying fortress was shown for the first time.

1938

Walt Disney produced his first full length cartoon film, Snow White

In March Hitler drove into Austria to be greeted by tremendous enthusiasm, even though Austria is now a Province of Germany. It was said that as the result of plebiscite held in Germany and Austria



there was a 99.75 vote in favour of his actions.

At the inquest of a women who had committed suicide, a doctor said that there was a common complaint known as Suburban Neurosis amongst women in the Suburbs, where they were left on their own all day with not enough to do except dwell on their troubles.

The Queen Elizabeth the largest liner in the World was launched in September, almost before she was named. Timbers broke allowing the ship to start moving before the dignitaries were ready. Only quick action by Queen Elizabeth in releasing the champagne bottle allowed it to just smash against the bows.

Neville Chamberlin flew home from his meeting with Hitler and made his famous statement of Peace in our Time.

A new magazine called Picture Post was launched in October and cost 3d a copy.

Orson wells stunned his audience and caused panic when he announced on the Radio that strange beings that had landed in New Jersey were the vanguard of an Army from Mars. The Martians were as tall as skyscrapers and were felling crowds with deadly Gas. He was actually Broadcasting a dramatization of HG Wells "The War Of The Worlds" Police switchboards were jammed with people reporting they had seen the Martians.

NEWS ITEMS

The Police recommend that all Bicycles should be fitted with rear lamps I remember cycling along a country road and catching up with a Policeman. I started talking to him until he branched away from me and I could safely continue home as my rear light was not working

In London a committee said workers should get a week's paid holiday

Scotland Yard was to start using Police Dogs

The Bren Gun came into service with the British army

In the UK Oranges were two for a penny and peaches a penny each. I remember buying dates for a 1/4d on my way to School

1939

In January the RAF was taking delivery of 400 new planes a month. The aim was to have a total of 2,840 by next year even though Germany already has 4,500. Nostalgia. Living about two miles from an RAF aerodrome we saw plenty of activity by the planes from there.

February. The Home Office announced that Air Raid shelters would be provided for thousands of homes in areas that were likely to be bombed. Families earning less than £250 a year would get theirs free.

Wanted posters appeared asking for volunteers to be air raid wardens

In March it was announced that the Territorial Army was to be doubled in size making it 340,000 strong. There was also to be an increase in the building of War Weapons factories, more camps and vast supplies of boots and uniforms.

In April it was announced that conscription would take place for 20-year-old men. And Mussolini invaded Albania.



In May UK Farmers were urged to Dig For Victory and plough up grazing land to produce more food.

The public were also encouraged to produce and save food

In June the British Submarine Thetis sank in Liverpool Bay she settled with her Stern sticking out of the water and there was an all-out attempt to rescue the crew. First by cutting a hole in the hull. Four men escaped through a Hatch but the crew were unable to close it again and the submarine took on water. Salvage vessels then placed Hawasers under the hull and lifted it to the surface where six men jumped out of the hatches, the cables then snapped and the submarine slipped back below the surface. more than 70 men died.

In July the Germans were smuggling arms and military instructors into the free port of Danzig and it was feared that this might lead to a war'

In August Hitler tried to make Great Britain help in obtaining the Polish Corridor for Germany, Chamberlin declined to do this

Most European countries were now mobilising for War. The Admiralty banned British vessels from using the Mediterranean. Insurance rates doubled

Over one and a half million children were evacuated from towns and cities and art treasures were removed from galleries and museums and taken to safe areas.

In September Germany and Russia invaded Poland and by the end of the month Poland lay shattered. At eleven o'clock on September the third, Neville Chamberlin announced that we were now at War with Germany. I listened to Chamberlin announce we were at war, while I sat in a NAAFI in Farnborough eating a piece of Fruit cake

The French Government Declared War on Germany at 5 o'clock the same day.

Well, I said I would stop at the War, but just one further item, Between Sept 3 and Sept the 30th 1939, 50 ships had already been sunk by U Boats. You may remember that I wrote that in 1934 Britain voted against the banning of submarines.

Well, those are my memories during the first 12 years of my life.no television for us it was the wireless and sometimes news reels at the cinema that we learned of these events but I remember all of them from about the early 1930's

John Eveleigh 42A

**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
07941432306
email ~ r.armstrong@virgin.net



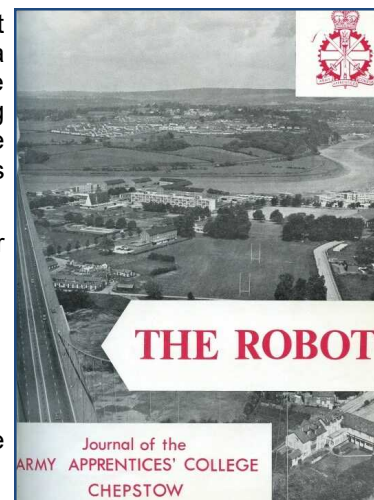
New Robots for Old

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 £6.00, 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 £6.00 (made Payable to 'Beachley Old Boys' Association') with

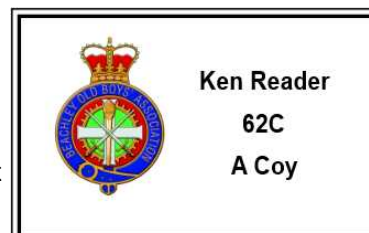
- ◆ Your name and group
- ◆ Address
- ◆ Month and year of arrival—month and year of departure

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.



2024 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 **74 Groups** can search their attics and albums for items and send them to Tony Waite for display at their 50th anniversary reunion in September 2024.

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 2025 Booklet

This is available 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—19th to 21st September 2025



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.

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 Army Apprentices College and Beachley Old Boys Association Webpage "<https://armyapprenticecollegechepstow.co.uk/>" 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 Heritage 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 at The Mounton Brook Lodge

. 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.



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.

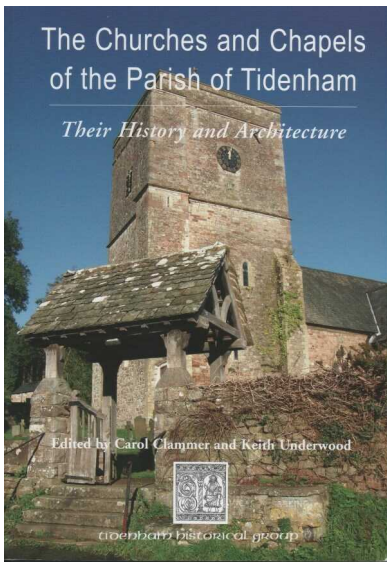
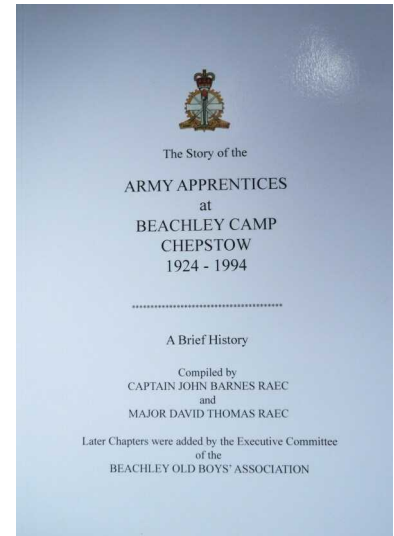
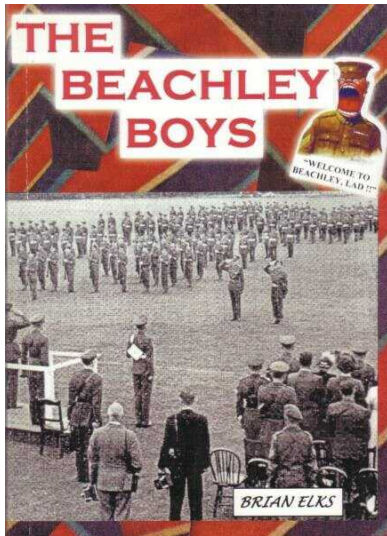
Place orders at admin@beachley.org

Additional items
illustrated on page 53

Details of Robot CDs on
page 48

Contact: Chris Rickets if you are unable to use the internet (details on Page 2).





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)





**INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR TICKETS FOR THE CENOTAPH PARADE –
SUNDAY 9^h NOVEMBER 2025**

Please return by email to mattarlow@hotmail.com or post to address below.

Name (in Full) including Title where relevant:

Postal Address including Postcode:

Group / Squadron No:

Dates attended (Starting & Leaving):

Date of Birth:

Place of Birth:

Contact Telephone Nos – Landline:

Mobile:

Email Address:

BOBA Membership No:

Military Service No:

Date of Leaving Service:

Rank on Leaving:

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 No Photo ID = No Entry).

I will be requesting 60 Tickets for 2024, 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 2025. Applicant Names of those who applied last year 2024, will be carried forward as a priority for the 2025 Parade. If you are not a BOBA Member and wish to attend, please request a BOBA 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. 2024 will be no exception. Your Details will need to be submitted to me no later than the end of June 2025, 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
Mobile: 07474 447554