
From: Membership Secretary
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First thoughts:

We are very much looking forward to the Curry Lunch event at Winchester on 2nd April and hoping that the weather will be a bit more Spring-like by that time so we can enjoy looking around the lovely city as well as meeting up with members. The response from members for this reunion event has been really fantastic, so, with the event officially full, no more bookings can be accepted.

If you have any queries, please contact Jane Tull (02392 258056) who is organising this event.



Update on Schools in Cyprus:

Sarah Baillie, head teacher of Ayios Nikolaos Primary School has written to update us on changes to primary schooling in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area (ESBA). Both Ayios Nikolaos and Dhekelia Primary Schools will close in December 2022 and the children from ESBA families will attend Queen Berengaria School (QBS) which will open in January 2023. QBS is due to be completed at the end of September and then be fitted out ready to welcome families from the start of the spring term 2023. This is part of Project Apollo, so the new school will be Seismically compliant. Project Apollo is a nine-year rebuild of MoD homes and schools in Cyprus.



Ayios Nikolaos will hold a special open day and party for both current and ex pupils and staff – Friday 11th of November 2022. The school will be advertising this on as many different platforms as possible, in due course. Sarah has written to us to say that ex pupils & former staff, including HQ staff, are welcome and asks that people email her any photos or memories of their time at the school. Sarah would like to show the history of the school through the decades.

If folk are unable to come out to Cyprus on the weekend of 11th November then Sarah would be delighted if they wish to send her messages/video clips etc. which can be displayed for others who are able to come.

Sarah's email is: ayn.head@modschoools.org



Changes to this year's Reunion Lunch & Annual General Meeting:



Advance Notice:

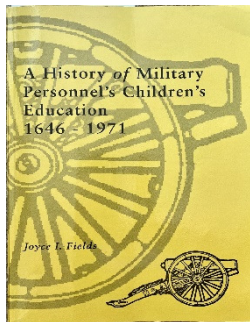
Due to circumstances beyond our control, the proposed arrangements in Oxford for the AGM and Annual Reunion Lunch in September have had to be cancelled. However, we do have a back-up plan and the AGM and Annual Reunion Lunch will now take place on

Friday September 9th at The Abbey Hotel, Great Malvern, Worcestershire. 11am-4pm

The events will take place between the hours of 11.00am and 4.00pm. Please make a note of this new date and venue in your diaries. More details will be available in next month's bulletin of the many attractions of this venue, which is set in the heart of The Malvern Hills - an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. You can check out this venue yourself at the hotel website: www.sarova-abbeyhotel.com



Lost publication?



Tom, our Journal/Newsletter editor, is seeking help in locating a copy of the book "A History of Military Personnel's Children's Education 1646-1971" written by Joyce Fields. Joyce's book was printed by Printing Press – Hull University in celebration of the Golden Jubilee (1946 to 1996) of BFES. The copyright "belongs" to British Families Education Service Association 1996 and it was sponsored by HQ 2 Division, with royalties going to the British Families Education Service Association.

Tom would be interested to know how many members are aware of this publication, how many were printed and sold, if it is still available (doubtful) for sale somewhere and who was (and what became of) Joyce Fields in the ensuing 26 years.

Tom currently has a copy of the book on loan, but hopes that someone, somewhere can solve the mystery that will perhaps lead him to a copy of the book. Just email us if you know anything!



Missing Schools:

It may seem strange, but there are several service schools for which there is little or no information and this has proved to be a challenge to Malcolm Brooke, who played a major part in setting up the Association's website. The website team wanted to compile a full and accurate list of schools and identify the location where they were based. At first they managed to come up with a list of 190 schools, although knowledge about some of the schools was sketchy they thought it would be a relatively easy task to locate information. However, the more Malcolm searched, the more schools were found and existing gaps were not so easily filled. He has turned detective and is on the hunt to fill in those missing gaps. It may seem impossible that there are schools that are known only by a name, but as our website expands with details about the service schools across the world, some remain stubbornly empty of facts and details.

Malcolm hopes that members will look on the website for their schools and come forward with information so he can fill in some of the gaps. Like a detective story, piecing the snippets of 'evidence' together that

different people hold could ‘crack’ the case! So, if you know anything, even if it is just a small piece of information about any missing school, do let us know.

Here are the names of some of the schools that Malcolm is trying to find out about...

NWE	NWE	Rest of World
Bad Oeynhausen	Liège (Charlemagne)	Brunei: Berakas Muara
Bad Salzuflen	Lippstadt	Malta: Luqa Safi
Bad Zwischenahn	Nienburg	Mauritius: Vacoas
Birgelen	Nordhorn	Nepal: Dharan
Borgentreich	Oldenburg	Norway: St George’s
Degerndorf	Scharfoldendorf	Sardinia: Cagliari
Düren	Schleswig	Iraq Habbanyia
Essen	Spandau	Singapore: Clementi
Geilenkirchen	St Barbara’s, Wulfen	
Hilden	St Peter’s, Lübbecke	
Hook of Holland	Sümmern	
Jerboa, Soltau	Wavell, Bergen	
Jever	Wetter	
Kiel	Wunsdorf	
	Wuppertal	

The story doesn’t end here of course, as new members joining the Association have named other schools that haven’t even been put on the missing list yet!

More about this search will be in the Journal and in later email Bulletins.



Progress Update on the project “British Forces in Germany”

Bettina Blum has contacted the Association with an update on the “British Forces in Germany” project and a ‘thank you’ for those who gave her support. Bettina reported that although she had not been able to come to the UK as planned in 2021, she spent time researching the German archives and found some worthwhile and interesting material. She found the information within the archives fascinating and was able to focus upon the material that she has already collected and presumes that some specialized questions will emerge that may make it necessary to visit archives in the UK provided that restrictions on travel have lifted.

Her studies enabled her to take part in some online conferences and workshops, which she also found beneficial particularly the chance to meet ‘real people’ and take part in ‘real’ discussion after such a long time.

Bettina is now developing the structure and main narrative for the book, focussing upon Anglo-German relations, where and when people met each other, what impact that had on a personal and administrative level, and how far the British military and German civilian community influenced each other throughout the decades. She hopes that the draft manuscript will be finished in early 2023, when the project funding ends.

More information about Bettina’s research will be in the Journal later in the year.



Spotlight on Members:

Katie Cutt (née Dallas) – reminisces on walking the dog and life!



This photograph was taken last year during the lockdown. I am climbing a gate on my early morning dog walking trek - usually 3 plus miles. I usually take our dog Tilly on the morning walk and John goes out in the afternoon. We are lucky to live in a village in the middle of the countryside in East Yorkshire. The riverbank (River Ouse) walk is a public bridleway although we get cattle grazing on it for 6 months of the year but the heifers are OK, and do not worry us at all. The field behind was growing peas but they were lifted last June! It is a big business around here and from harvesting to the factory in Grimsby has to be done in less than 2.5 hours. The contractors from the factory arrive with 2 viners (like combines), usually 3 covered lorries, tractors and trailers, their own mobile canteen and water tank, etc. it is quite a sight. They work 24 hours a day and when peas are finished they go on to harvest the broad beans.

We have had our house here in East Yorkshire for 26 years - now in our 27th. However, during a period about 16 years ago we lived in Rome for 6 months (John was at the NATO College) which was a wonderful experience especially for those wives that went along to keep the men company. After that, his last job in the Royal Navy was in Lisbon for 3 years. We liked the Lisbon area so much we stayed on and rented a property for 6 years and during that time John worked in Brussels and so commuted – it was easier to commute from Lisbon than from Yorkshire. I came back about every 6-8 weeks to check on the house, my mother and my mother's best friend for whom I was next of kin and then had the bonus of a night in London with our daughter Sarah en route back to Portugal. We decided to come back completely about 7 years ago and, at the same time, John was able to leave his consultancy work so it all worked out well. Retirement in Yorkshire -great! Then we got our dog Tilly, a Fox Red Labrador, 5 years ago which brings me back to thinking about walking!

However, now we are getting older and being only the 3 (including Sarah) of us we are thinking of moving South next year. Maybe the Dorset/Somerset area. We love our house and garden but the time has come to move so decluttering is happening!!! Having had 21 moves in our married life we haven't got as much as some people but having inherited bits which Sarah doesn't want so it is going to be difficult!

Another one of the changes in my life, apart from moving house, is my changing name! When I was in Malta everyone knew me as 'Kath', in Australia I am called 'Kathy', but my UK friends call me 'Katie'! I do however, answer to almost any name!



Quiz Answers:

We hope that you enjoyed February's quiz based upon famous names and places used for schools – just in case you need the answers, here they are:

1. Oxford & Cambridge, 2. Pegasus, 3. Highgate Hill, 4. Bourne, 5. Barnes Wallis,
6. Attenborough, 7. William Wordsworth, 8. King Richard 9. (Douglas) Bader, 10. Shackleton

And so, goodbye: As always, we hope that you are well and stay well. We are enjoying the lovely daffodils that are blooming at this time of year, and hope that you too are enjoying the onset of some Spring weather. Best wishes, Hugh and Christine Ritchie (Membership Secretaries)
