

BFES/SCEA Association Email Bulletin

December 2023



From: Membership Secretary
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HAVE A
Merry Christmas
& HAPPY NEW YEAR

Sue Chislett and I have just returned from three weeks in Australia, where Adelaide Airport's Christmas decorations (above) reminded me of the giant inflatable snowmen and Santas which we used to see in Cyprus.

While many of our members will be used to spending the festive season far from the wintry stereotype of Christmas cards, a large number will also be nostalgic for the cold air and steamy scents of Glühwein stalls.

I shall be calling on my very-aged mum in Peterborough later in December and the city council there tries hard to promote a European-style food and drink market around the main square. My internal amateur anthropologist tries, every year, to work out why the result doesn't feel quite right. There are plenty of great food stalls and others selling quality Christmas knick-knacks, but the Breugelesque Glühwein crowd is missing – and I'm not sure the nearby well-known pub-chain fills the gap for me. The city centre's lights, on the other hand are a great enhancement to the market's cathedral gate-house location and I recommend the trip, if you are close enough.

There are more compensations of course – one of which, for members in Peterborough and adjoining counties, is a great panto at The Key Theatre. I suspect pantomime doesn't translate easily to our European neighbours. We have tickets for Bristol Hippodrome's pantomime for our soon-to-stay Swedish grandchildren and I will try and report their level of appreciation in a new-year bulletin.

Wherever you find yourselves this festive season, in UK or abroad, with mulled wine and/or panto, your BFES-SCE Committee wish you a happy and healthy occasion.

Mike Chislett – Chair 2023-24

Limerick Challenge:

Last month we issued a challenge to all members to write a Limerick, so thanks to those who sent in their offerings. Here are five to start us off – two from Sue and three from Bill. The challenge still stands, so do send us your Limericks for the New Year and beyond.



There was a young teacher in Soest
Who liked her eggs to be poached.
"Not scrambled or fried"
She frequently cried
And "no poaching of my jokes".
(Sue Adams)

There was a young teacher in Malta
Who was scared of being in sea water
One day a young sailor
Helped her be braver
And then led her up to an altar!

I applied for a Headship; and luckley
My interviewer was dear Frank Buckley.
He sent me to Bünde
Saying "No need to wünde,
You answered my questions so pluckley!"

I taught for a year at Hildesheim
(A city for which there's no rheim).
The six years before
I loved Singapore
But came for a more temperate cleim.

Heads remember the conference at Loccum
(Good meals? They weren't able to stockum);
One night of the three
Frank took them to see
A night club which ne'er failed to shockum.
(Bill Johnston)

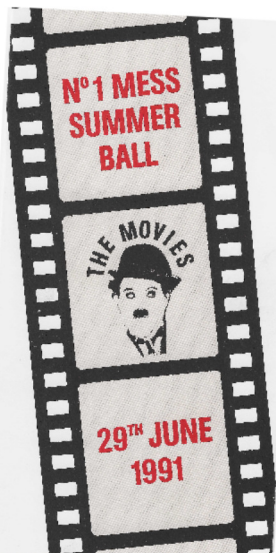


R is for Rheindahlen – Summer Ball and Party time!

Maureen Elliott was an Advisory Teacher for Special Education Needs in the Western area of BFES for 11 years (1983-94) based in the Teachers' Centre in Rheindahlen. Maureen has kindly sent in her invitations to the Summer Ball at the Number 1 Civilian Mess, which she had stored away and is now donating to the official archives. The events sound most exciting, with a theme for each year. Maureen remembers that the engine used for the Orient Express year caused quite a stir amongst guests. She believes that the engine was loaned to the Mess by the Corps of transport. All the Summer Balls were amazing events, with the catering by the Army or RAF resulting in fantastic food. Maureen reports that she always managed to last out at the Ball to enjoy the Champagne Breakfast at the end!

On the next page are just a few of the invitations to the Summer Ball that Maureen kept as souvenirs. Maureen hopes that they bring some happy memories back to members who might also have gone to similar events and that everyone enjoys looking at the themes designed for the events.





Important information

Baggage
Your free allowance may be limited by any combination of weight, number of pieces, and dimensions. Baggage in excess of the free allowance is subject to extra charge. Please check with your reservations or ticket office before starting your journey. Carry-on baggage must be placed under the seat or in the overhead locker for security reasons to limit weight.

Check-in
Do not overpack your bags. Do not pack all important papers, medicines, cash, jewellery, glass and liquids in cases on baggage. Do not pack dangerous goods. Detailed instructions are available in the Baggage Allowance section of the British Airways timetable.

No1 MESS SUMMER BALL 87
Concorde takes off at 20.30 hrs, Sat. 11th July 87
Calling at New York, Paris, Bahamas and Abu Dhabi
including Fish Bar
Wine with Buffet and
Champagne Breakfast.

No 254

London Heathrow Information
All Land on Heathrow Airport British Airways operates to and from:
Terminal 1
All British Airways UK, domestic and European flights.
(except Paris and Amsterdam)
Terminal 4

Reservations Information
To contact British Airways reservations:
In London phone (01) 887 4567
In USA phone 1-800-Airways

CONCORDE

No.1 MESS

ORIENT-EXPRESS

SUMMER BALL 86

Travel Information 28 June 1986

- 20:00 *LONDON-VICTORIA*, all passengers aboard No. 1 carriage on the *ORIENT-EXPRESS* for a journey of style, elegance and romance.
An intriguing Christie Cocktail will be served in the *AGATHA BAR* as the train pulls the pullmans with the passengers past the platforms and departs.
- 20:15 Take your seats, Le Chef du Train will be serving his very 'special' Hors d'oeuvres in the Ball Room.
- 20:30 For your entertainment, Aces, that talented, world famous in Holland, Danceband will be playing until 1:30 am.
- 21:00 On reaching *PARIS*, chanson down the Champs-Elysees, bogie on down the Barlow Boulevard and dance yourself in Seine to the sounds of le discoteque.
- 21:30 Le Chefs Cold Carvery will be cut from le Table d'hote, in the Dining Car, and will be available for the remainder of the journey.
Wine is included and will be served with your meal.
- 24:00 For those found dead on their feet, transport will be available to local accommodation until 03:30.
- 03:00 A sparkling 'champagne' breakfast will be served dead on time.

BON VOYAGE!!

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A Book for Christmas or the New Year?

Member Ron French writes: In retirement I have written a book describing the escape of my mother's bourgeois family from Lenin's dreaded Cheka secret police. My talks on the subject have been well received. This might interest some of your members. Here is the summary from Amazon:

"A true saga that tells of the flight of Paul, his wife Sophia and two young daughters, Tamara, and Isa from their beautiful Black Sea home in Odesa*. He is a wealthy farm-estate owner and holds the sole Mercedes agency for south Russia. The invasion of Russia by Germany in 1914, followed by the Russian revolution in 1919 means they lose everything. In spring 1919 Lenin announces the Red Terror. This aims at the extermination of all bourgeoisie. Paul and family must flee for their lives. They escape Odesa and, with other family members and refugees and trek from village to village, disguised as peasants, with the CheKa close behind. The CheKa, summarily executes Paul's older brother in his cellar as a 'capitalist and landowner.' Tamara and Isa, peeping through window shutters, witness the bloody murder of a Bolshevik requisitioning unit by frustrated villagers, angry at the thieving of their livestock and grain. Paul fights with those villagers in the subsequent battle against the Red reprisal forces sent to exact revenge, to kill and to destroy homes and farms. Both Paul, alone and the family, together face death many times. What subterfuges can they use? Can all escape and how? As the family runs and hides, there are nostalgic flashbacks by the girls of the happy, peaceful life they once knew.



Just point your smartphone



All Funds to the UKRANIAN HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

*Thirty-three maps and illustrations. *Odesa now spelled in Ukrainian with one's,' to honour the fight for survival of the soldiers and people of Ukraine, today."*



Lost contacts: Paul Cunningham and friends would love to get in touch with **John Healey** (ex Germany, Falklands, Hong Kong, Brunei, and Germany). If you could facilitate contact, please let us know!

Forthcoming Events:

Two dates for you to add to your diary for 2024!

Curry Lunch at the MacDonald Gallery, Gurkha Museum, Winchester

Saturday 20th April, 2024

There will be more details about this event and booking forms in the January Bulletin. If you haven't been to the curry lunch events before, then consider coming along this time. It is always enjoyable and Winchester is a great place to explore. The cost of the event will be £45.

Lunch and Annual General Meeting at the National Memorial Arboretum

Friday 20th September 2024

There will be more information about this event in future Bulletins, but you might want to note the date in your diary to keep the day free! This promises to be an interesting and exciting venue and, of course, an opportunity to meet fellow members and friends.



A Christmas Quiz:

These questions are based upon things that happened in 2023 – answers next month in 2024!

1. Which stone, not housed in Edinburgh, was used for the coronation of Charles III?
2. This city hosted the Eurovision Song Contest held in 2023.
3. April 2023 marked the 10th anniversary of this former Prime Minister's funeral.
4. December 16, 2023, is the 250th anniversary of which historic event?
5. Which charity event held annually in the UK on the first Thursday in March gives every child in the UK a voucher?
6. Opened by the HM Queen Elizabeth in October 1973, which iconic building celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2023?
7. What usually muddy event took place between 21 to 25th June?
8. Which celebration of arts and culture took place over three weeks, 4-28th August 2023?
9. Which country won the Rugby World Cup in 2023?
10. The second series of "Clarkson's Farm" was aired in early 2023 – but what is the name of the farm?

And so, goodbye – and wishing you all a very Happy Christmas!



Hugh and Christine Ritchie (Membership Secretaries)
