

January 2024

From the Membership Secretaries

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First thoughts:

Welcome to the New Year! We would like to send you all best wishes for the whole of 2024 on behalf of the Committee and to thank you for your continued membership of the Association.



Winchester: Curry Lunch at the Gurkha Museum:



Yes, you have another opportunity to join in the Curry Lunch at the wonderful Gurkha Museum in Winchester this April! Attached to this Bulletin is the Booking Form with more details about the event.

Do consider joining with members and friends for this lovely occasion – it is always popular! The date is **Saturday 20th April** and the cost is £45 per person.



Jane Tull is organising this event as usual, and her contact details are on the booking form and once completed, the booking form should be returned to Jane. Jane will respond to any email or mobile text messages sent to her, but she requests that you are patient and give her time to respond to any queries. She will be on holiday during the last two weeks of February, so please do not try to contact her during that time – thank you.

From the Archives:

Walter Lewis, the Association's archivist and deputy Chair is steadfast in his determination to collect all sorts of memorabilia connected to Service Children's Education to forward to the archives held by the Institute of Education. Below is one such offering from David Aubin that was first published in the *Kowloon Knowledge* in 1977. It addresses a subject that all teachers and pupils may remember and know only too well...turbulence!

Mr Aubin catches **TURBULENCITUS**

Before I arrived in Hong Kong, to take up my first appointment in a Service Children's School, I was given a stern warning, "Beware of turbulence, this can have a terrible effect upon children." Since I had spent most of my teaching career working with children from foster homes, broken homes and sometimes no homes at all, I wondered what to expect from this turbulence. I asked my doctor for an inoculation against turbulencitus, along with the small pox and tetanus but he said you couldn't get it on the National Health, So I looked up turbulence in the dictionary where it said, "disturbed, insubordinate, and riotous". With considerable trepidation, I walked into Assembly on the first morning and was most surprised to find rows and rows of quiet, orderly children. I had expected to see turbulence, with boys and girls climbing up the walls, swinging on the lampshades or at least twitching. I have since come to realize that turbulence does not manifest itself openly, that the vast majority of children are well adjusted socially and educationally, and that TURBULENCITUS is comparatively rare.

True, there are a few children in St. Andrew's who have experienced too many changes of schools and teachers too quickly so that they lose all faith in education and retire into a shell. There are another small group who consistently perform below their capabilities, but in the space of a two year posting, most of their problems can be resolved. Unfortunately this is often followed by a return to U.K. including a month spent with Grandma, and a few weeks in temporary accommodation before settling down in a new school – and by then it is back to square one.

I have found that parents suffer more from TURBULENCITUS than children and that most of the burden falls upon Mum. There is the packing and the unpacking, the marching in and out, adjusting to the temperature, the heat, the smells and the cockroaches. Mr. Gilchrist used to talk about the "six month hump" which is a difficult period for everyone, but if we survive, Hong Kong has so much to offer. One thing is certain, that children will adjust much more quickly if their parents are happy and if that flat on the eleventh floor really is "Home Sweet Home."

We try very hard to help with the adjusting process at St. Andrew's. The teachers are well aware of the special needs of Service children and there are experts on hand to cope with difficulties. We also try to involve the children and parents in a number of different functions during the year so that a child can feel a sense of pride and belonging in the school.

Children are remarkably adaptable creatures and I never cease to wonder at the speed with which they settle happily in St/ Andrew's. They fly half way round the world, they arrive in a hot sticky climate, they live in a flat, they come to a noisy, overcrowded school and they still manage to smile.

Well done kids, I think you're great.

D.A.

As an additional comment, **Walter Lewis** adds: "Out of interest - in 1990 I accompanied the AEO, to Wiltshire to address that authority's head teachers on the subject of "Raising the Expectation of the Forces Children". During the question time one head was making a big issue of "turbulence", blaming standards on that!

An excellent contribution from an adviser (yes, they can occasionally have them!) at the back was "Let's face reality, here in Wiltshire, we could greatly benefit from a lot of turbulence ourselves, - amongst our staff!!!"

A Reunion and New Year Resolution: Sue Adams

We often share news of reunions in the Bulletin and Journal where members from a school or place get together to chat and reminisce, but **Sue Adams** highlights how members from different places come together to celebrate friendship, as in this New Year gathering:



“2024 for me was welcomed with a special reunion of former colleagues from Germany while I was staying with John Comer (ex HT Bielefeld School) and Jackii Crockett (ex Blankenhagen School) who live in Bourne , Lincolnshire. Jane Clarke (ex HT Naples) was also invited. It also happens that Sue Butt (ex Blankenhagen School) and her husband Graham (ex King's School) also live in Bourne and they too had guests staying over New Year. They were Lynne Williams (ex Blankenhagen School) and her husband Mark.

John and Jackii kindly arranged a very convivial evening to welcome in the New Year and whilst the rain may have dampened the fireworks at midnight, it did not dampen the happiness of a reunion of former colleagues. Despite a 20 year gap of seeing Sue and Lynne, memories were quickly rekindled and former colleagues remembered from Blankenhagen School.

In fact it turned out to be almost a worldwide tour as former commands of Hong Kong (John and Jackii), Naples and Cyprus (Jane) were remembered also. The number of different German garrisons where teaching had taken place was also quite varied. Sue Adams - *Sennelager, Osnabrück, Berlin and Gutersloh*, Jackii - *Herford and Fallingbostel*, Jane - *Berlin, Minden, Osnabrück and Fallingbostel*. Those were the days!

Recovering from the excitement of New Year's Eve, the next day was spent visiting nearby Peterborough Cathedral followed by afternoon tea in The George Hotel, Stamford. Now that's a resolution I could keep - afternoon tea served with aplomb - every week!”



From the Website/Archives: W is for Windsor School

CONCORDIA

The Windsor Schools, Hamm, 1953–83



Last September, the Bulletin carried a short article about Windsor School in Rheindahlen, but of course this was not the only “Windsor” School within BFBS! In Hamm, West Germany, the first Windsor School was a co-ed boarding school opened in 1953 in a former German Barracks built in 1936. By 1959 the school was split into two single-sex schools, which remained until remerging the pupils in 1981 just before final closure in 1983. The history of these schools, Windsor Boys School and Windsor Girls School, has been researched by a former pupil, Steve Green, and is now available as a free eBook downloadable from the Association’s website. It is a comprehensive and detailed account of the whole history of the school, but also offers the background to the build-up of schools in BOAR after 1945. If you were teaching or a pupil in Germany then you might well find connections to your experiences and much to interest you in this book.

Steve’s book takes its title from the school motto, Concordia, which was also the name of the school magazine. Over the years, the school song was sung by the pupils and staff – for those who remember, here is the first verse:

The book contains links to photographs, videos and a wealth of other material and resources.

The book is entitled, “Concordia: the Windsor Schools, Hamm 1953-83” and can be found at: [BFES-SCE Association - eBook: Documents : Archives : Home \(bfposchools.co.uk\)](#)

We carry as Ambassadors
Proud banners of our land
Which blazon wide our history
“As one, four kingdoms stand”
So here eight royal homes unite
In Windsor’s ancient name:
Their lives apart, their purpose one,
To win, through concord, fame,
Concordia.

More Turbulence!

Steve devotes a whole chapter to the issues raised by “turbulence” in his book, so again, you might want to check this out!



December Quiz Answers – questions were based on events during 2023:

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| (1) Stone of Scone OR Stone of Destiny | (2) Liverpool | (3) Margaret Thatcher |
| (4) Boston Tea Party | (5) World Book Day | (6) Sydney Opera House |
| (7) Glastonbury | (8) Edinburgh Festival Fringe | (9) South Africa |
| (10) Diddly Squat Farm | | |

And so, goodbye:

Past editions of the Bulletin and the Association’s Journal can be downloaded from the website, so if you missed any from last year, or want to read a particular issue again, visit: [bfposchools.co.uk](#) to get back copies

Best wishes to you all, Hugh and Christine (Membership Secretaries)