



BFES SCEA Association

Newsletter No 40 August 2018

A Message from the Chair

As you will see from reports submitted by members of the association, the reunion visit to Germany proved to be a great success. I am delighted that the program I put together left everybody very happy with the three elements I included, which encompassed visiting schools, meeting up with the army and experiencing again German hospitality.

It is apparent that everybody really appreciated having three days to meet up with old friends and make new acquaintances and having a chance again to be hosted by the army and enjoy the unique experience of a Dinner Night in the Officers Mess. These observations have guided us in our decision regarding two particular reunion meetings we are planning for 2019. In the summer of 2019 we aim to organise a **three-night stay** in a Warner hotel and in the autumn have a reunion lunch in the **Royal Military Academy Sandhurst**.

The real trip down memory lane for nearly all of us was of course to be able to visit the schools where we spent many years of happy service. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Headteachers of all the six remaining schools for allowing us to visit and make us feel so very welcome. It was a sheer delight to be shown around in each case by delightful young pupils. Two individuals were of immense assistance in the planning of the school visits and in this respect, I would like to thank **Ben Turner, Head of Haig School**, for liaising on my behalf with all the schools which we visited. In addition, **Steve Watson**, Deputy Head at King's School, gave me great assistance not only in arranging for everybody to have lunch at Kings School on the second day and organising for a total of 36 people to visit the school on one afternoon. Further to this he also booked for 25 people to go for a dinner in a typical German restaurant.

Needless to say, I am very grateful that **Lt Col Kieran Sheldon RA**, the CO of 26 Regiment Royal Artillery, agreed to the regiment hosting the visit and for the efforts of the two young officers who were our hosts for the regimental visit.

Thanks go to **Carol Jones** who baked and iced both the Commemorative cake and the 96th birthday cake for Fred Rose who celebrated his birthday on the very day we had the Dinner Night, and to **Paul Budge** and **Hugh Ritchie** for their kind offers to record the reunion visit in a series of photographs which illustrate superbly the different elements of this unique reunion. Finally, my thanks go to those who agreed to contribute their personal accounts about this visit.

If you enjoyed the German reunion do please come and join us at the two events planned for 2019 to which there is further reference in this Newsletter.

Ken Jones—July 2018

Reunion 2018 - Germany

Former headteachers Gareth Morgans and Will Andrews reflect on their visit ...

Most of us remember the last glimpse of the school grounds and handing over the keys to our living accommodation before undertaking the long, often sad, journey back to the UK at the end of our contract with BFES/SCS. The advice many of us received was not to look back on our time in Germany but to embrace our new lives and the opportunities facing us in the UK. Most of us however, had too many happy memories and made too many friends to brush aside our recall of the past. The BFES/SCS Association magazine has kept us informed about recent changes in commands worldwide and the committee have given us many opportunities to keep in contact with former colleagues through well organised lunches - but the burning questions in everyone's minds has always been '**what is it like now in Germany, how much has it changed?**' Well, 70 of us grasped the opportunity offered by the Association to make that journey down memory lane and visit the last remaining schools before the military finally withdraw and all schools close in 2019, and what a journey it was!

The **BFES/SCS committee** has long thought about a final visit to schools in Germany before they close but organising such an event was no **easy** task. Issues to overcome were numerous – security when visiting barracks, liaising a programme of events

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Future Reunion

Following the recent reunion in Gütersloh, where it was very apparent that everyone valued the opportunity to come together for 2-3 days, the committee has been considering a suitable venue for a future UK based extended reunion in 2019.

One suggestion has been **Alvaston Hall, near Crewe, Cheshire**, which is a Warner Leisure Hotel.

Alvaston hall can be easily reached by road or rail and has many amenities to enjoy over the weekend - a 9 hole golf course,

a bowling green, indoor pool, spa and entertainment each evening.

The price for this which includes a drinks reception on Friday evening, dinner bed and breakfast for 3 nights is approximately £230 per person. (Prices for 2019 still have to be confirmed.)

The committee would like to gauge the interest there might be from the association for a three-day reunion. If you think you might be interested or have any questions or comments could I ask you to email me at buckwell.adams@gmail.com

Diary Note

The next AGM and Reunion Lunch will be held in the Queen's Hotel, Leeds on 6th October 2018. The cost is £45 per person. Booking form attached.



2019 AGM and Lunch at the RMA

2019 AGM and Reunion Lunch at the **Royal Military Academy Sandhurst** —5th October 2019 .

Look out for full details and booking form in the April 2019 Newsletter.



Association Curry Lunch—June 2019

Arrangements are now in place for the curry lunch to be held at **The Gurkha Museum – Winchester on Saturday June 15th 2019**. The cost will be £30 for both members and their guests.

The bar in the library will be open from 12 noon, and the lunch will be

served in The MacDonald Gallery at one pm. If there is sufficient interest there is the possibility of a tour of the museum itself.

Look out for full details and a booking form in the April 2019 Newsletter.



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with the military, language barriers, hotel arrangements etc. but all these were overcome through the hard work, determination and a network of contacts pursued by the committee, but in particular our Chairman, Ken Jones. Ken has worked tirelessly over the last year putting together a programme and travelling to Gütersloh, at his own expense, to meet with the military and tie up any loose ends. We also believe he had a hand in organising the weather which resulted in cloudless skies and temperatures reaching 30 degrees Celsius. The support Ken received from Ben Turner (head of Haig School) and the CO of 26 Field Regiment RA, also needs to be recognized.

Tuesday 5th June 2018

Former colleagues descended on Gütersloh from all points of the compass in UK and France, some arriving a few days before and many staying on to use the opportunity to incorporate the reunion with a short holiday. The two hotels were located adjacent to each other making meeting up with former colleagues and travel arrangements that much easier. The informal programme started with a meal at the La Flamme Restaurant at the Hotel Stadt and it was a wonderful opportunity to meet up with old friends and also to make new acquaintances. The restaurant served a variety of Flammekuchen which is traditionally served at German wine festivals, and both German wine and beer flowed – but not to excess! The conversations centered on old times, trying to remember names of former colleagues and recounting memorable events. Ken's plane had been delayed and consequently he arrived late but to a very warm welcome from everyone.

Wednesday 6th June 2018

Buses took colleagues to Mansergh barracks where security guards efficiently checked names against passport details and then directed us to the officer's mess. The walk to the mess in glorious sunshine brought back memories of formal mess functions we had all enjoyed over the years and on entering we felt comfortable amongst the military paintings, mess silver and those in military uniforms. Two officers spoke to us about why they joined the army and how their role differed from that of an officer some twenty years ago. Both presentations were interesting combining facts with humour. The workload of these officers had increased with decreases in military manpower, but despite this they enjoyed their roles and were going to be very sad to leave their posting in Germany. The year ahead was going to be a hectic one for soldiers and their families.

Lt Reed then took us on a guided tour of the barracks where we viewed the Abbot Self-Propelled Guns. Several soldiers talked to us about why they too had joined the army, their current role and the changes the new multi-rocket launcher would bring to the battery. They answered all our questions readily, and as with the officers, sprinkled with humour.

Lunch was served in **Kings School** and for most of us an opportunity to relax knowing we were not the one on dinner duty! Following lunch was the opportunity to visit schools. We had previously chosen the schools we would like to travel to and buses left on time to arrive at the schools where welcoming committees of children greeted us. Despite a year from closure the school buildings were extremely well maintained, classrooms were vibrant, the quality of the equipment was impressive and would be the envy of most schools in the UK. For me, the first thing I noticed was the rich multi-cultural diversity of the pupil population. I spoke to children from Nepal, Fiji and those with Indian and West Indian backgrounds. They all said how much they enjoyed being at school and how well they all got on with each other. Teachers were confident that they would find new positions when their school closed and they were adamant that standards would be maintained until the bitter end.





Special thanks go out to **Carol Jones** who baked and iced both the Commemorative cake and the 96th birthday cake for Fred Rose .

Carol was recruited to King's School in her maiden name of Carol Rowe as a scale one teacher of Home Economics in September 1972 . After a very successful period of two years in this post she was promoted to be the Head of Home Economics at **Edinburgh School, Munster**, in September 1974. She remained in this post until July 1976 after which she returned to the UK.

The formal evening in the **Mansergh Barracks Officers' mess** was a grand affair. **26 Regiment** had pulled out all the stops to ensure that we would dine in the style which, at one time, we had all been accustomed to. The table setting with the mess silver on display was a work of art and must have taken the mess staff a lengthy period of time. The C.O. warmly welcomed us and a splendid meal of Traditional Beef Wellington followed. We even had an impressive commemorative cake baked by **Carol Jones**, who was a member the Kings School home economics department in the 1970s, to celebrate the occasion. Ken thanked the regiment for accommodating us and in turn Ken was thanked for his sterling work in organising the event. A special birthday cake was baked for **Fred Rose** who celebrated his 96th birthday and all present signed a card for him. It would be a birthday he will long remember and a formal military meal those present will never forget.



Thursday 7th June

A prompt start to the day saw the final visits to schools in **Bielefeld, Gutersloh, Paderborn and Sennelager**. One pupil in Haig school was very excited that morning as his grandmother (Dawn Turner) was one of our party and plans had been made for her to visit his classroom and see his books.

The **Sennelager** visitors were to be shown around their old schools but housed under a different name – **Attenborough School**. William Wordsworth and Robert Browning had recently amalgamated and the new name had been chosen as the nearby Firing Ranges was home to an abundance of wildlife that flourished under the protection of the British Military. We were also able to inform the staff that the old disused huts alongside the school were used to house Polish prisoners of war and one of the well-used school buildings was a former morgue! They had no idea! The bus journey back to Mansergh barracks saw members deep in thought. Many of us shared a hint of sadness that the organisation which had provided the children of service personnel with a high quality of education whilst in Germany was coming to an end. However, we also shared many happy memories of time spent serving with BFES/SCS/SCE.

Later in the afternoon, a group of colleagues met with the **BFG Legacy Officer, Hugh Pierson** who had expressed a wish to record interviews with participants and requested any memorabilia we had of our time teaching in Germany.

And so the time came for us to go our separate ways. Some stayed on for a final meal together in Gutersloh, some returned home whilst others fulfilled plans to extend their stay in Germany and explore old haunts and new destinations.

Ken's hard work, meticulous planning and thorough organisation ensured everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable time at this unforgettable BFES/SCS /SCE reunion.

SCEA/BFES ASSOCIATION REUNION VISIT TO GERMANY 5th to 7th June, 2018



DINNER NIGHT WEDNESDAY, 6TH JUNE, 2018

OFFICERS' MESS, 26TH REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY
MANSERGH BARRACKS, GUTERSLOH
By the kind permission of the Commanding Officer
LIEUTENANT COLONEL K. SHELDON R.A.





Gütersloh Revisited June 2018

Rob Crow, Head of English, King's School, Gütersloh, January 1973 to December 1978 reflects on his return to Gütersloh after 40 years

The idea of returning to King's School *nearly forty years after we had left* was exciting but also gave rise to some concerns. Perhaps the visit might not live up to our expectations, perhaps people would have changed so much as to be unrecognizable, perhaps the weather would be foul, perhaps

Our return to Gütersloh was not just about us and our forty year old memories but it was about King's and Haig Schools as living entities. It was about **Mansergh Barracks** and the **Mess**. It was about Gütersloh and its surroundings and the "German experience." It was not just about the past but it was also very much about the realities that lay ahead. By this time next year there will effectively be no more King's or Haig Schools. Gütersloh will have lost an important component of its history.

By one of those coincidences that can so intensify an experience, the Stadt Museum in Gütersloh was hosting the touring component of a major exhibition, "Britten in Westfalen" (the British in Westfalia). The key theme concerned the changing relationships between the British forces and the local populations from the immediate post-war period onwards. Amongst the exhibits were stories of families and young children, items of King's School uniform, pictures of typical quarters, records of Royal visits and memorabilia relating to such events as Anglo-German Carol Services. All of these had a direct connexion to our own experiences in Gütersloh and set our own memories into the much wider historic context because we had, in our own way, been part of "**Britten in Westfalen.**"

Happily, our concerns as to whether Gütersloh 2018 would live up to expectations were unfounded. The weather was superb and we were warmly welcomed wherever we went. Our own travel arrangements, save for a cancelled flight and overcrowded trains, worked well. The programme gave plenty of opportunities to visit our old haunts and also to enjoy the current splendid activities. The logistics of manoeuvring nearly seventy teachers without compromising military security were managed with skill and understanding. A host of minor details were sorted without breaking step and the big events such as the Mess Dinner reminded us that being at Mansergh remained something very special.

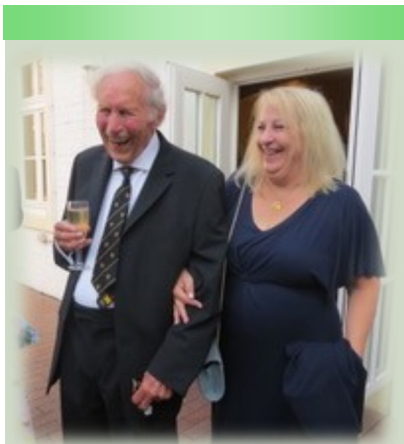
Our initial briefing by **Lt Jack Reed** and by **Capt Nigora Yuldasheva** provided us with important insights into their own army careers and elements of Regimental history and future plans. It was good to be in the Mess and look out over the Lake remembering how our children fished for newts while we enjoyed our Sunday lunch-time drinks. Our tour of the barracks gave us a good chance to hear from the men and women about the equipment and service opportunities. It was also the first time we had actually seen something of what Mansergh is all about.

Personal highlights included the tour of King's School and returning to the English Department in Block 15. Gone were the rifle racks down the corridor and the dull red tiles. The classrooms are now bright and light with plenty of evidence of excellent work. The students seemed to welcome the distraction of visitors but were clearly committed to their work. Our sixth-form guides directed us well and kept us "on task" when some of us were tempted to delay. The impact of the forthcoming changes was already apparent in the small class sizes but the overall sense of a lively and supportive learning environment was really impressive.

The tour of **Haig School** was equally rewarding with lots of exciting work to enjoy and a warm and constructive atmosphere to support the children. It was good to share the visit with a former deputy head of Haig, Fred Rose.

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The fact that he was also celebrating his 96th birthday added something really special to the visit. His daughter also relished her schoolgirl memories of living in Gütersloh and this gave a further dimension to our reminiscences. Our visit also allowed us to help the present staff record more of the history of Haig, particularly being able to add names of staff in past school photographs. And does anybody know where the Millennium Time Capsule is buried?

While it was important to visit the schools and we are very grateful to everybody who made this possible, it was also exciting to explore Gütersloh and in particular revisit the Stadt Park and wander round the Patch. Unlike our tours of the schools where we could feel a continuing connection between what we saw and what we could remember of our own time in the schools, the Patch seemed to be caught in a time warp with only a couple of workmen to remind us that this was a living world of which we were no longer part.



Walking back into the centre of Gütersloh reminded us what a flourishing town it is. Sitting in the sunshine enjoying our iced coffee gave us the chance to reflect on what we had seen and done in the hectic three days we had been there. Clearly the school visits provided the cornerstone of the experience and the Mess Dinner was an important reminder of the military connections. However, it was the chance to reminisce with old friends and to meet new people that helped us to gain so much from the visit.

For making the visit possible and so enjoyable, our chief thanks must go to Ken Jones. His indefatigable efforts and his unflappable response to difficulties meant we could really enjoy ourselves safe in the knowledge that all was under control. Our thanks go to **Lt. Col. Sheldon, CO of 26 Regiment and his colleagues** for entertaining us at Mansergh Barracks. Special thanks go to all those at the schools who allowed us to share the excitement of working with some wonderful children and students. We wish them all well in facing the momentous changes that lie ahead.



Above all, we want to share a big thank you to all our friends both old and new who made the visit so very special. After forty years there still remains something very special about having been part of "Briten in Westfalen.."



Officers' Mess Mansergh Barracks



Return to a "super city" - former British teachers visit Gütersloh ...

Gütersloh Deputy Mayoress Monika Paskarbies welcomed members of the group on behalf of the city of Gütersloh.



If **Fred Rose** had been told in 1976 that he would be celebrating his 96th birthday in Gütersloh, he would never have believed it. As deputy headteacher of the **Haig School** until 1976, Rose taught the children of British soldiers based in Gütersloh in the grounds of Mansergh Barracks. Now, at 96, Fred

returned to Gütersloh with many other former teachers.

The trip was organised by **Ken Jones**, Head of Kings School for 22 years. "This is a memorial journey for us. We're returning to Germany, to Gütersloh, because we enjoy remembering the good times we had here," says Ken. About 70 Britons made the journey back. On a sunny Thursday afternoon, on the terrace of the **Parkhotel, Gütersloh Deputy Mayoress Monika Paskarbies** welcomed members of the group



on behalf of the city of Gütersloh. "The rest of the group are already on their way home. But it's great that so many were able to visit and that some can be here today to share memories and stories with Ms. Paskarbies, Ken continued. For Ken Jones, however the reason for the trip is tinged with sadness:

"Next year the schools will close, which is such a shame, but that's the way it is.

The former teacher had only positive things to say about Gütersloh. "I think it's a great city and we always got on well with the Güterslohers. But, I also had a very nice life



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King's School Panorama





here. I lived in a beautiful house on the high street and was able to walk to work every morning through the city park," he explained. The British visitors also have only fond memories of their students.

"Teaching here in Germany was just a lot more enjoyable. There was a very close community and the kids were just nicer. Maybe that's the positive German influence," former teacher **Les Garner** said with a grin.



For many, the trip was also their first reunion with former colleagues. After their time in Germany some stayed, many went back to the UK, and some are now living in France – and one couple came all the way from Cyprus to relive the old days. For **David Maclean** it was also a journey into the past, even though he had a much different job than many others. Maclean was a former member of the Royal Air Force stationed at the airfield between Gütersloh and Marienfeld and accompanied his wife, a former teacher, on the trip. "It's great to come back and see how the city has developed. In Britain, we would say that it has developed positively, mixing modern and old," he explained.



The highlight of the trip for all participants was attending the Officers' Mess of the 26th Field Regiment on Wednesday evening. This was a special moment as "civilians" are rarely allowed to attend, but an exception was made for the former teachers. Cake was also served and **Fred Rose celebrated his 96th birthday - in Gütersloh.**



Translated from "Erinnerungsreise in die alte Heimat—Rückkehr in eine »Super-Stadt« – ehemalige Britische Lehrer besuchen Gütersloh".

<https://www.guetsel.de/content/guetersloh/17898/erinnerungsreise-in-die-alte-heimat.html>



Visit to Bielefeld School (They even have a Yurt!) by Mike and Hazel Harland



This was a nostalgic return to Bielefeld School after a gap of twenty-two years.

Kelly Reeves and her staff made us very welcome and Mollie & Grace were our enthusiastic and informative Year 5 guides. We explored everywhere with them, including the cellars.

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There have been a few internal structural alterations to the office area and good use of the extra space now available as numbers on roll have shrunk. A suite of Staff Rooms in the old caretaker's flat are a real luxury.



A welcoming foyer and different visitors entrance highlights the child centred atmosphere in the school.

The overall impression we had of our visit was the enormous amount of equipment now available since our day, we saw two Computer and Music rooms as well as much more AVA equipment in the classrooms.



The outside play equipment is quite amazing and plentiful, set in shaded areas it must provide lots of opportunities for imaginative play. There is also a yurt!

Mature trees make this part of the barracks more attractive.

A wonderful visit.

What lucky children and staff to work in such a well-equipped, happy environment with even smaller classes than in our day. We are sure they will be sad when the school closes in July 2019, it will be the end of an era.





Early Days in Berlin

By Hugh Pollard

First Published Wednesday 6th August 1947

I reached Berlin on Sunday, 24th November 1946 - the first of the British teachers to arrive in the German capital.

I had spent seven months in the Rhineland soon after the war finished and was well acquainted with the frustrating picture which Germany as a whole presents to-day — that overall depressing vista of ruins, wreckage and rubble. But Berlin strikes one differently. In the first few hours of sightseeing one instantly senses the 'Stimmung' of a capital city. There are crowds of people milling around, there are crowded tubes, there are theatres, cinemas and opera



houses. Then suddenly there obtrude gigantic gaps, with destruction visible on quite an unparalleled scale. (6,427 acres of built-up area were destroyed in Berlin; 600 were destroyed in London!). Berlin must have been a very solid capital before its final knocking about in 1945, and still trails clouds of ugly nineteenth century domestic architecture in all the less damaged 'faubourgs'; but it is now a **ruined, quadripartite shambles.**

One of my first impressions was of *complete* wonderment as to where the Germans were living, and coupled with it an agonising horror that somewhere amid those ruins there were children — German, French, American, Russian and British children.

How stupid and unfair it would be if one were to say blithely that this fact raised no misgivings! If environment means anything in Education, what are our children going to gain from all this? Can the teachings of Froebel and Rousseau be so ignored? What of the German youths and children who have known only Hitler, the war years, and now this famine? What of them? Here they are living in a 'Waste Land', and the main preoccupation of them and of their parents is food. What cultural ideas for a better world are they ever going to glean in this desert? How on earth can one hope to relate a school and pupils to this historical and geographical incident which is Berlin at the moment? Such thoughts came unbidden to the mind. They still come more often than one might wish. I remember, soon after my



arrival, passing a ruined street which bore the name 'Pestalozzistrasse', ironical indeed, in such context.

My sightseeing expedition, however, was not of long duration. I soon had to contact my Regional Education Officer who had been working alone for some weeks and was submerged in a whirl of thankless activity — coping with ruined

houses, plumbers, wayward children and over-anxious parents. He explained the set-up to me briefly. A school had already been begun by the **Royal Army**





Departed Friends

Colin Fanshawe who served in King's School from September 1970 to December 1975. He was initially a superb, talented Head of Music and from September 1973 to December 1975 the Second Deputy Head in King's School. Though born in Derbyshire he became a proud adopted Yorkshireman. A warm hearted, engaging and friendly individual who was responsible for many superb musical shows and concerts which delighted many and which left the audience wanting more. He even composed a March for Kings. He sadly died on the 25th May at the age of 87, after a short illness.

The Association has also learnt of the death in June of **Geoff Kerr** who was the Headmaster of Edinburgh School, Munster in the 1970's and early 1980's.

Educational Corps. It coped with all British and Allied children from four and a half to sixteen, Army Sergeants acted as instructors, assisted by British wives and German helpers. The children came to school from the remoter parts of Berlin by bus.

I soon met the Staff Officer i/c Education, and he installed me in the school as Headmaster. It was rather a complex and delicate operation, but everyone already working there took it most kindly. After a few days we had frequent meetings of staff, pooled our ideas, altered existing arrangements to some extent, and had no major clashes of temperament – the last being perhaps our greatest achievement. Indeed, we lived very much from day to day and plodded on slowly, for the simple



reason that there was precisely nothing else we could do. In the school itself we had little equipment, no desks at first, no pegs for coats, no textbooks, no cloakrooms. In truth we had very little of anything apart from a building, a hundred or more children of widely varying types, and a body of willing helpers. But it was an

experiment in invention which I candidly admire. It was something tentative, new, imperfect, inchoate and doubtless bristling with opportunities for those who wished to be merely critical. We were, however, the pioneers. The new land was all before us—quite uncharted, and the smooth roads had to be built.

I found something stimulating in the thought.



Bit by bit the British teachers trickled into Berlin – all of them exceedingly eager to get down to the job. As one such teacher arrived I arranged with the staff officer i/c Education that one of his sergeants should be withdrawn. So gradually, we took over, and the Army withdrew.

All this doubtless reads as though life were exceedingly calm and unruffled. But how different the actuality! I remember a typical five minutes on the afternoon of December 20th (1946).

I had two B.F.E.S. teachers in my room explaining to them our rough schemes of work, when there was an interruption from a German lady, who explained to me very volubly that her husband was in Bagdad and she wanted her son to come to the British school. The child was, by nationality, Iraqi and therefore an ally. No sooner had she left than a bedraggled German workman entered to announce that two Christmas trees had arrived. I told him to leave one for the school and send the other to the Staff Officer i/c Education with my compliments! As he left the telephone rang, and I was informed that as we had sent neither coal nor fuel to No. 4 Karolinger Platz (a building ear-marked for subsequent use as a Kindergarten) the care-taker had been unable to keep the fires going, and consequently the pipes had burst!

**MOD Schools'
Joint Closing Celebration
Concert
to be held on
Saturday 22nd June
at King's School
between 11:00 and 15:00.**

It is likely that we will need people to register beforehand so we have an idea of numbers and can maintain high security for what could be a very big event.

Dave Cummings is our lead POC and will be in touch early autumn when we have the finer details.

King's School closing celebrations to be spread across the weekend from Friday 21st June to Monday 24th June 2019. This will include: open house and tours; opportunities to share memories and memorabilia; live entertainment and a disco in the attic (continuing from the joint celebration at 15:00); refreshments and a closing service led by the padre on the Sunday. Again, Dave is the lead POC and will be in touch when we have more information.

The other schools will also be holding open/celebration week ends but these dates are to be confirmed.

We will issue a poster which includes all dates and events to the wider community in the autumn term.

And so life went on in this chaotic manner — confusing and tiring days following each other without respite. Indeed, it is almost impossible to demonstrate the sort of muddle that existed from minute to minute. One mother was most anxious that her son should do Latin for his Common Entrance Exam, another that her three sons should have more woodwork instruction; one father was furious because transport never arrived in time to collect his child, another equally irate because his daughter was becoming noisy and picking up bad language.

My first move was to close the Kindergarten in the afternoons — a move not popularly received by all parents, but which did, at last, give us more "Lebensraum". Secondly, I had to get some sort of discipline from the children themselves, particularly with regard to bus journeys. Shocking stories of slashed seats and free fights reached my ears, and furtive whispers of German drivers being bribed with cigarettes to drive more quickly were on the lips of almost everyone who had even heard of the school. These stories were, of course, grossly exaggerated. To get some sort of order necessitated my travelling personally on the school bus, which I did for several days. How successful I was at the beginning, the following entry in my Diary shows. It is dated **Wednesday, 27th Nov 1946** — "**I come home at lunch-time by bus. The noise and confusion are terrific. I warn the children it must stop. I come back with them in the afternoon and it's worse than ever.**" Of course, it didn't work at once, but gradually it got a little better. So did internal order in the school itself — such simple matters as walking up and down stairs on the right-hand side, opening and closing doors for others, folding coats tidily etc. etc. Rules were kept to the absolute minimum, but gross breaches of discipline were punished by depriving the perpetrators of their afternoon games in the **Olympic Stadium**. In those early days one was tempted to superimpose a rigid external discipline, to get everything taped out and make the children conform to a pattern already formulated. But could folly have stooped further? How could anyone have hoped to mould English, Irish, Scottish, Welsh, Polish and Dutch children into some one preconceived prototype? And, in any case, how, in one's more rational moments, could such thoughts have existed in Berlin — the city which, less than two years ago, was still witnessing an apotheosis of regimented mankind? Never, one felt, must any mechanism be allowed to supersede the consideration of the individual pupil.

It is difficult to write any account of one's first impressions of Berlin without presenting a picture at once so obscure and confused as to befog the most penetrating vision.

It would be gratifying to say, in conclusion, that all one's wonderful theories have borne fruit and that the school has gone from strength to strength. Alas! nothing could be further from the truth. Its course is still confused and fraught with problems. But these are early days; we know just how intricate the problems are, and we are not in too great a hurry to get everything taped out. We realize that what we want must be a growing thing and based on progressive experience.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

Your Committee want you to know that we have updated our data handling and privacy policies and that these will be available to all at the AGM in Leeds. Copies will be available on the Association Web Site.

These will explain why we collect your data, how we collect it, when we might share your data and under the terms of the GDPR your many rights regarding your personal data including how we keep your data safe and how we update it.

If you haven't already replied to the Association Membership Secretaries following their note to all members could we please ask you to do so as soon as possible. Thank you.



Where are they now

'Wilma Simpson and her motocross adventures'

I taught for forty years, thirty-two of those with Service Children's Education in Naples, Cyprus, Werl (near Dortmund), Paderborn, Heidelberg and Sennelager. I have had a tremendous time living and working in these countries getting to know a little about the culture, history and people in each. As well as this, there was the opportunity to travel far and wide and every school holiday saw me off exploring another destination.

When I retired in April 2015, people said I would wonder how I ever had time to fit in work. After three years of much activity, I totally agree with that comment. I have never been busier but there is little stress and few deadlines to be met that cannot be moved to suit my wishes. So what is it that I get up to that keeps me so busy? I love gardening and since a young child I have had a little patch to cultivate and this continues to the present time. I have revisited the challenge of playing golf and here I do see the stress levels rising as I try to manoeuvre a little white ball around undulating green pastures! I also enjoy catching up with friends and family as well as visiting old haunts from when I was young; how distances appear much shorter these days!

However, the greatest part of my time from March to October each year is spent following the sport of Motocross. The World Championships circle the world from Argentina to Indonesia, Portugal to Sweden and in total involve around twenty locations annually I tend to keep to the European circuit and the venues are often in areas away from the hustle and bustle of normal tourist sites. From where have I acquired this interest? Originally my brother was a professional motocross rider for many years and the family association with the sport continues to this day as his son and my nephew, Shaun Simpson turned professional the day after leaving school in 2004. He sat his last exam, physics on the Friday morning and flew down south with his mother (dad having driven down ahead with bike etc.) for his first GP on the Isle of Wight.

Two years ago I made it to Talavera in Spain, a venue I had always wanted to attend as I worked at Talavera School in Werl near Dortmund from 1989 until its closure in 1994. As well as attending the race track I spent a few extra days sightseeing; Salamanca, Talavera town itself and a number of other sights nearby but it was the hundreds of storks making their nests in pylons and high up in road signs by the side of the motorway that fascinated me. Not something you see at home in north-east Scotland.

I spent many years travelling to various race tracks within reasonable distance of Paderborn; six hours to Loket near Karlovy Vary in the Czech Republic, two and a half to Teusenthal near Leipzig, three to Lommel in Belgium and two and a half to three hours to Valkenswaard and Lierop in The Netherlands, ten hours to Trentino at the north end of Lake Garda and so on. Now I fly / drive to the events and miss the ease of simply jumping into the car and setting off to the various venues. You can't have everything. I have become quite an expert these days with car hire, flights etc. etc. It is great to have the time to follow Shaun around the circuit and not have to rush back for work.

At present I attend the European races but there are a few that are classed as flyaways; Qatar, Argentina, Malaysia, Indonesia, Mexico, USA, Russia and next year I believe China is on the list. They do not travel to them every year and in 2018 Argentina, Indonesia, Russia and USA are the chosen destinations.

What is motocross? Many have asked and my explanations appear to be less than clear. Here is an article written by Adam Wheeler that was recently in



Welcome to New Members

Welcome back to **Tony Price**, whose membership lapsed for a couple of years, for some unknown reason. Tony was in Hong Kong from 1957 to 1959, and now lives in Salisbury.

Emma Bryson was at Prince Rupert School briefly in 2013, and since September 2013 has been the Headteacher of Kings School, Gütersloh.

Robin Moseley who was Area Educational Psychologist in Cyprus from 1982 to 1984, and then Hong Kong from 1985 to 1992. Robin and his wife Glynis now live in Monmouth.

Credits

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Lynn Marshall, Carol Jones, Mike & Hazel Harland, Hugh Ritchie and Paul Budge.

Translation

Dr CM Nielsen-Marsh

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We're on the Web!

<http://www.bfes-scea-association.org/>

Your comments, articles, news items, photographs, and letters would be gratefully received in electronic or hard-copy format.

Find us on Facebook

Log on to Facebook and type in "British families education service association". If you have a Facebook page, please spread the word about the Association.

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The Telegraph, about the sport of motocross and features Shaun. Adam is a highly accredited sports journalist and also writes about Moto GP (that is road racing). Friends that I sent this to have told me that it very clear so you too may have a greater understanding of the sport by reading Adam's article.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cars/features/get-physical-mxgp-riders-push-limits-motorcycle-racing-human/>

I hope you enjoyed reading about the sport. This is how I spend the summer months; travelling to most events in Europe. My first trip of the year was to Valkenswaard near Eindhoven in The Netherlands on 18th March, where snow and ice was predominant! As I tweak this piece before sending it off to Tom, I have just returned from a two week trip. Firstly it was to Kegums about fifty kilometres south of Riga in Latvia followed by the next weekend in Teutschen-thal near Leipzig. The sun was out at both; much more like it!

And in between I spent a few days in Paderborn revisiting old haunts as well as catching up with remaining friends.

Association Membership

Membership of the Association currently costs just £10 per year (£12 for those who live outside the UK and who do not have a BFPO address).

Membership is open to anyone who has served with BFES, SCEA, SCS(NWE), SCE or latterly is serving with the remaining MOD Schools.

The membership year runs from 1st January to 31st December and payment can be made by Standing Order or cheque.

Further information and a membership application form is available from

Membership Secretaries,
94 Headcorn Drive,
Canterbury, Kent,
CT2 7TX



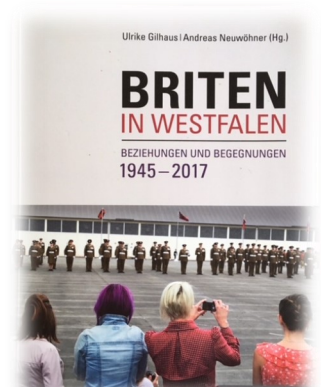
The Association Newsletter and Journal is published three times each year: spring, late summer and winter. Articles for the newsletter are most welcome and should be sent to the Editor at

bfs_scea_newsletter@yahoo.co.uk

Some members have now elected to receive their newsletter electronically via e-mail : an electronic version (PDF) is also available to read and/or download from the **Association Website**: you will need the current Association password to enable you to do so. A copy of each previous newsletter is also held on the Association Website at

<http://www.bfes-scea-association.org/>

If you wish to pay for Association Lunches by **Electronic Transfer** please remember that your Booking Form—duly completed—will still be required by the event organiser. Please follow the instructions on the relevant Event Booking Form.



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BFES SCEA Association AGM and Lunch

The Queens Hotel, Leeds October 6th 2018

Personal Information	
Title	
Name/Surname	
Contact Phone Number	
E-mail	
Address & Post Code	
If you do not have an e-mail address and require confirmation and final arrangements to be sent by post you must enclose a stamped addressed envelope (with appropriate postage please). Thank you.	
Meal(s)	
I wish to book the following places for lunch and have indicated those who have special dietary requirements	
Number of Members @ £45	notes
Member(s) Name(s)	
Chosen Menu option(s)	See overleaf – select on the day
Number of Guests @ £45	notes
Guest(s) Name(s)	
Chosen Menu option(s)	See overleaf—select on the day
Payment	
I enclose a cheque payable to BFES/SCEA Association for the sum of: £	
Bank Details:	Cheque No:
If you wish to pay by Electronic Bank Transfer the Association Bank details are	<u>Lloyds Bank PLC</u> <u>Account Number</u> - 01403653 <u>Sort Code</u> – 30 – 92 – 69 <u>Reference</u> is always the function venue and date
Send this completed booking form to arrive by 14 September to	Sue Adams —Tanglewood, 21 Buckwell, Wellington, Somerset, TA21 8TA
No refunds for cancellations are possible after 20 September 2018	

BFES SCEA Association AGM and Lunch

The Queen's Hotel, Leeds — October 6th 2018

To be held in the Pateley room at 11.00 hrs.

Menu

Starter

Leek, chestnut, mushroom and blue cheese tart, balsamic reduction

Main Course

Loin of pork, spiced apple and roasted onion mash,
seasonal vegetables, sage jus.

or

Chick pea and vegetable tagine, fruit cous cous.

Dessert

Red Eton mess with crushed meringue and
sugar glazed strawberries.

Tea or coffee

Photo—The Queen's Birthday Parade—Berlin—May 1978 —
attended by pupils and staff from all BFES Berlin Schools

Parking is available at £18.95 per day — Sat Nav = **LS1 4DY**

Access to the hotel can be made from the railway station via a private covered way — City Square, Leeds, LS1 1PJ

Lunch commences at 13.00 hrs

All attendees are kindly asked to bring some photos with them of their time with Service Schools.

