



BFES SCEA Association

Newsletter & Journal - Spring 2019

Issue 42

News from the IOE Archive

About the IOE archives

The Institute of Education Archives are part of University College London's Special Collections. We are responsible for the collection, management and preservation of rare and unique materials on education, in a broad sense of the subject. At the IOE we have 180 collections that people have either donated or deposited. Our oldest item dates from 1797 and our most recent from 2017. We have papers from pioneering teachers, school architects, politicians, campaigns relating to education, educational youth organisations, the archive of the IOE itself, and of course the British Families Education Service/Service Children's Education Authority (BFES/SCEA) archive.

Archives are generally unpublished records (or information) generated as part of a person's or organisation's everyday work that have been deemed worthy of permanent preservation. It is this decision that they will be kept in perpetuity that is key to whether an item is an archive or not. In traditional terms it will be minutes of meetings and correspondence, diaries, photographs, but today it also includes digital information such as websites & social media.

Unlike publications which are classified according to subject, archives are kept in separate collections by who created the records. Collections are normally a mixture of records created by that person/organisation and material they have collated from other places. Collections can be one item, for example a diary, to 100s or even 1000s of boxes.

We have around 400/450 visitors a year to the IOE Reading Room. Anyone can come and use collections held here. Users of the collections include researchers, family historians, students, and academics. Some people come in for an hour, others can be here for weeks completing their research. We also run modules for BA courses in using archives for research, collaborate with the school of Information Studies by providing cataloguing placements, and promote our collections by participating in various events run by our outreach team.

How the BFES/SCEA archive came to be

The first Archivist of the BFES/SCEA was appointed to oversee the collection of memorabilia given by the members and maintain the records of the Association itself. Materials were donated following appeals at annual reunions.

A Message from the Chair

2019 will certainly prove to be a significant year in the history of BFES/SCEA in Germany with the final closure of all the schools, apart from the small school in Ramstein and a late reprieve for Attenborough School. The recent decision taken by the Secretary of state for Defence to retain the huge barracks in Sennelager was the reason for the continuance of Attenborough School.

To commemorate these final closures King's School is planning special events over the weekend of the 21st to 24th June. Further details regarding this weekend can be found on page 15 of this newsletter.

Should members of the Association wish to be present at this weekend it is important that you declare your interest online and complete the necessary pro-forma.

The inclusion in the last newsletter of the words written by John Trevelyan, the first Director, about those early days starting in December 1946 and extending to the end of 1948, makes all of us realise we were members of a very special education service in Germany. The work of **Wally Lewis**, our archivist, in preserving and coordinating the collection of artefacts about the history of our Service is so important and we are very fortunate that he is so dedicated to this task. By way of further background the



current newsletter has a most interesting contribution by the I of E staff who store and catalogue these artefacts.

As an Association we try to organise different events which will enable members to come together for reunions at different venues. Bearing in mind the fact that some 70 members had so enjoyed the three days reunion we organised last year in Gütersloh, I am personally very disappointed that the 3 days reunion planned for late June at the Holme Lacy hotel had to be cancelled due to an insufficient level of interest. It would help **Sue Adams** as well as myself a great deal if members could perhaps let us know what were the reasons why this planned reunion did not appeal. Was it too expensive? Did the prospect of a three night stay in a hotel not appeal? Was it the location? Was it due to a clash of dates? Do you prefer reunions where there is no need for an overnight stay? Would a one overnight stay be more acceptable? Would it enhance the appeal of an event if there was an after lunch/dinner speaker?

It would help us a great deal in the planning future events if you could find time to communicate either with Sue Adams or myself to give us a steer on what kind of reunion event you would find most attractive.

Finally I wish to conclude by extending the congratulations of the Association to **Barbara Arrandale** on the award of the **MBE** for her community service to the community of Hasland in Derbyshire. I am sure she will enjoy that very special day in **Buckingham Palace**.

Ken Jones OBE

In 2001 the collection was transferred to the IOE archives under the direction of **Peter Hall**, who recognised its significance historically, and potential as a valuable research resource.

The archive

The BFES/SCEA archive dates from 1944-2018. It continues to grow with the BFES/SCE Association's records contributed to the archive repository regularly. The BFES/SCE Association Archivist, Walter Lewis, also manages the donations which make up the other parts of the collection, those that represent life working as a teacher for the SCE (and former organisations) in all countries worldwide.

Records in the collection fall in to three groups;

Administrative papers of the BFES/SCE Association including minutes of meetings, papers regarding events and publications;

Recollections, diaries, photographs and school publications of former BFES/SCE teachers working in Belgium, Cyprus, Germany (West Berlin and West Germany), Egypt, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Mauritius, Sri Lanka and Yemen;

Records of the BFES/SCE itself including teaching resources, information for staff and families living abroad, and publications. Most of these papers have been donated by members of the BFES/SCE Association but relate more generally to the work of the BFES/SCE rather than the work of individual schools.

We also have a small number of publications issued by the British Forces and community.



Tom Baker (Dr Who) visiting Wavell School in 1977

The BFES/SCEA collection has been used for teaching, conferences, and exhibitions. It is one of our strongest collections in the representation of children's experiences of education – the school magazines in particular give voice to children having a very specific experience of learning and education, both formally, and in their personals and family lives.

Since the start of 2019 we have had five enquiries, a request for research copies of items from the archive, and an academic using the collection extensively in our Reading Room for her research into the social history of British bases in Germany (1945 to the present day). Since January 2018 we have conducted 74 fetches for the collection, and had 7 visiting readers, in addition to this we receive a large number of email enquiries about it, and also use it in internal teaching.

It is a very much appreciated archive and therefore very rewarding to work with - many enquiries are personal requests, not made for professional research reasons, but because experiences teaching, or attending the schools are a significant part of the enquirer's lives.

Jessica Womack and Kathryn Hannan, IOE Archivists, February 2019

The BFES/SCE archive is an important collection to the IOE which wants all its collections to remain focused and of high quality so that people who use them can find useful material in them. The following list outlines what we aim to collect to enhance this incredible resource.

In particular the Archive seeks to collect the following:

Accounts written by teachers, such as memoirs, diaries, and/or letters written to the BFES/SCE Association Archivist; school newsletters, yearbooks and magazines documenting the work of the school and its pupils; Items documenting school events, eg. school plays/concerts, Royal visits to the school, school trips; photographs of school staff (preferably with named teachers); photographs of school buildings; school booklets given to parents including prospectuses; Records documenting what life was like living as a BFES/SCE teacher such as official documentation, information booklets and photographs.

The IOE is unable to take:

School log books (these are being collected by the National Army Museum) , school punishment books, school attendance registers, class photographs, school correspondence (internal and to parents), artefacts including uniforms, trophies and badges, HMI / OFSTED reports, copies of photographs.

It is however necessary to limit the following type of materials;

Photographs; Films; Audio material; Digital material (eg. DVDs, CDs, memory sticks - these can hold the equivalent of many boxes worth of paper records and so cannot be catalogued well enough for people to access them).

Due to the specific and costly storage conditions required by photographs, film and audio material, we have to limit the amount we preserve. We need your help in selecting what you send. For example, if you have four photo albums of activities in the school you worked in, please select one you think represents it best. The same applies to cassette tape recordings of school concerts etc. Some video tape formats would be too expensive for us to ever prioritize for digitization, therefore we can only accept VHS tapes.



The Winter Edition of the Newsletter included a glowing tribute to **Bob Parkin**: this issue looks back to the start of Bob's career - drawn from the **2004 Association Magazine**.

Chat on a Hot Tin Plate

I have only eaten from tin plates twice in my lifetime and I was vividly reminded of this fact as I drove into York to attend the October 2003 reunion.

As I motored slowly to Fulford Barracks, where I had been detailed to report in **October 1946** to be presented with my "demob gear" as it was euphemistically termed by grateful recipients, who like myself had grown out of our pre-service (and in my case, school) civilian clothing.

Before being measured out, repast was offered - was it chops? I forget - but whatever it was came on a hot tin plate and memories flooded back of my first meal at HMS Ganges in 1943, also served on a hot tin plate in an annexe to that training establishment, again a prelude to being kitted out, this time in the sartorial rig of a very ordinary seaman/cadet rating about to end Hitler's little game.

My Fulford demob kit consisted of one green trilby, one brown herringbone overcoat, one striped shirt and matching tie, one pinstriped grey suit (complete with turn-ups) and one pair of brown brogue shoes.

Research on the History of the British in Germany undertaken by Dr Bettina Blum featured in the Winter 2018 Association Magazine.

A new exhibition is opening at the Duesseldorf Landtag (State Parliament) during May 2019 - see poster opposite.

Exhibition in the Landtag, Düsseldorf
4th May - 2nd June 2019

The British
in North Rhine-Westphalia
1945 - 2019

My last civilian gear had been of schoolboy vintage. I now needed clothes ' to fit a young adult and I received them thankfully to start my career as a trainee teacher awaiting a college place.

Between the tinplate meals described I had the interesting experience of serving my Lords of the Admiralty for nearly four years of my late teens.

It all started when I was a 16 year -old at the local grammar school where, amongst many notices guaranteed to excite the adolescent imagination, was an invitation to attend selection boards to determine acceptability for the Royal Navy "Y" scheme to provide potential young officers for various roles in the service.

The RAF similarly were engaged in tapping the young school leaver market to serve "per ardua ad astra" via the ATC Squadron at the school and eventually the Commonwealth Flying Training Scheme. Not to be outdone, the Army likewise promulgated a similar scheme to start the newly formed REME with technical officers. The Indian Army was also active in recruiting embryo subalterns for their infantry. We were in demand! A pre-requisite of entry to the RN"Y" scheme at 17 was to serve in an approved pre- service organisation to gain "appropriate military experience".

I made my application, was psychometrically tested at a depot in North Eastern Road, Darlington, and was accepted.

To meet my pre-service commitment, I became a Lewis gunner in the Home Guard, charged to defend the River Idle, a tributary of the River Trent, every Sunday at a location adjacent to the Haxey Gate Inn, where my fellow gunners availed themselves of refreshments, which I was denied as I was still an underage schoolboy. I had a minor role on our one-and-only World War I Lewis machine-gun - I fed the ammuni-

Let's face the music and dance

Nolan Thomas Clamp (1930 - 2018)

Director BFES/SCS (1976 - 1991)

BFES/SCEA Association President (2003 -)

Nolan was born in Derby and known as Snowy because of his blond hair. He attended Long Eaton Grammar School, where he was a talented 440/880 yards runner, developed a lifelong love for classical music and learned to play the piano and violin.

After WW2 he would visit his French pen pal, Pierre and tour the countryside on their motor cycles. He kept in touch with Pierre whose letter of fond remembrances was read out at the funeral service.



He studied history at Nottingham University before moving to Colmar in North East France as a teaching assistant and where he studied for his teaching diploma.

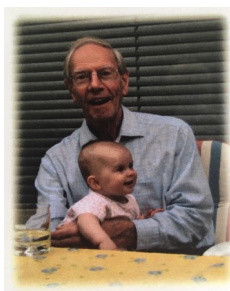
His National Service was spent as an officer in the RAF Education Branch. He met Evelyn at an Officers' Mess dance in Gütersloh and so impressed her with his accomplished dance steps that they

were married in 1957. A year later Simon was born and then James in 1959. After teaching in secondary schools he moved to St John's School in Nicosia where Ruth was born in 1962. The 1963 crisis saw the family returning to the UK in his Mercedes 190. Nolan went back to Cyprus alone before taking up an administrative role in Gateshead. He then became deputy director for Burton-on Trent, where Liz was born in 1969 before arriving in HQ Rheindahlen as deputy director to Eric Lowe, whom he succeeded in 1976. As a member of the Hash House Harriers he encouraged Liz in her athletic efforts. He retired in 1991 settling in the attractive village of Bettles in rural Suffolk.



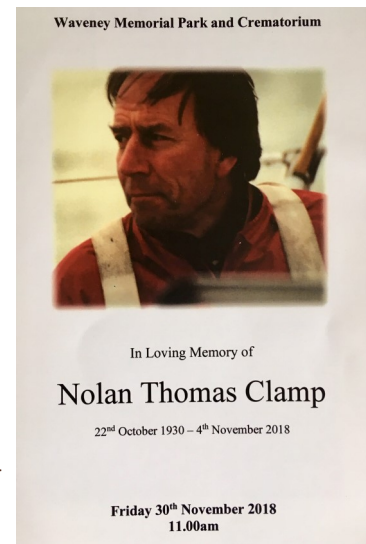
A few years after Simon died his beloved Evelyn passed away; Nolan found life difficult but continued to lead an active life. He participated in recruitment interviews for SCEA, was a governor of 3 schools and a member of the Beccles Choir Society. He visited Germany for the last time in 2010 which was when he first showed signs of dementia.

His funeral service reflected the man. Despite the sadness of the occasion it was a heart-warming happening; the sun shone, and his family made everyone feel so welcome that we did not feel like mourners, rather celebrants to a well lived life, which, of course is what everyone present wanted. The reflections showed other sides of the man we worked for in BFES. He was more than a man in a suit. It was obvious he adored and was adored by his family. It is seldom that people in authority attract respect and affection in equal measure, but Nolan Clamp did.



As his dementia worsened, he had to leave the choir; he sang the wrong words at the wrong time. His son, James looked after him until he went into a Care Home shortly before he died. It is reported that he shouted at people and played loud music! The recessionary music was Fred Astaire singing 'Let's face the music and dance'. What a pity we never thought of asking for a demonstration of his terpsichorean and musical skills during those convivial evenings at the Director's Conferences at Loccum!

Sincere thanks to Mike Bennett - former HT Shackleton School, Fallingbostal who penned these words and who with wife Fran represented the Association at Nolan's funeral.



British Families Education Service - Directors

Mr J Trevelyan, CBE BA	1946-1949
Mr GAN Lowndes, MC	1949-1952
Dr JA Humphreys, BA	1952-1954
Dr jur. H Priestley	1954-1957
Mr HE Pacey, CBE MA MSc	1957-1966
Mr EE Lowe, CBE MA	1966-1976
Mr NT Clamp, BA	1976-1981

Service Children's Schools (North West Europe) - Director

Mr NT Clamp, BA 1982-1991

Service Children's Schools (North West Europe) - Chief Executive

Mr IS Mitchelson, CBE MA 1991-1996

Service Children's Education - Chief Executives

Mr IS Mitchelson, CBE MA 1996

Mr DG Wadsworth, MA MPhil Hon D Ed 1997-2008

Mrs Linda Fisher, MSc MEd 2009-2012

In the Winter 2018 Issue of the Association Newsletter John Trevelyan, the first Director of British Children's Schools, British Army of the Rhine "reported" on the first three years - 1946 to 1948.



60 years on, in September 2008, and as he was preparing to leave SCE, **Chief Executive David Wadsworth** reflected on his time with the organisation to Tom Nielsen-Marsh - AEO and one-time Editor of **SCEnic Views** the monthly journal of Service Children's Education.

I first joined the pay roll in November 1996 since, coming from outside the MOD, someone had ascertained I would need a two-month handover in

order to be 'indoctrinated' into MOD practices. Such a lengthy period is not to be recommended. However, I duly took charge of the organisation on 1 January 1997 when (before the introduction of FS1/FS2 classes), the numbers on roll were 14,539 which excluded the Gurkha school; it never appeared in statistics in those days – presumably because it was fully funded by the Brunei Bill.

You might like to ponder one or two things. What follows was used as a sort of quiz at the **Headteachers Conference in Berlin** (in part) and at the Education Directorate's Summer Conference at the very end of last term.

There are three questions:-

Between 1 January 1997 and 1 September 2008, how many schools have closed? How many female head teachers were there in post on 1 January 1997, who and where were they?

At the end of the summer term (July 2008) there were four headteachers who were headteachers then and remain in the same school; there are four others who were headteachers then but are now headteacher in a different school; and there was one hybrid. **Can you name the 4, 4, 1 formation?**

Contd overleaf /

Bob with two WRENS and a friend - Tenby 1946

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tion to a butcher, who would have been the real triggerman if called upon to fire in anger, which he never was.

Somehow, I passed scrutiny and was called to a clinic near Sheffield United's ground to take my medical. A high standard of vision and physical condition was required for "Y" scheme cadet/ratings and I ascertained that the optician was asking the people ahead of me in the queue just to read the bottom line of his chart - each eye separately. I knew my squinty right eye would just not manage this task unaided, so I memorized the last line of very small print: F U W Z X O A.

That line has remained indelibly in my memory ever since.

I passed 6/6 and A1, and awaited being 171/4 and the call to HMS Ganges, where I learned that the current requirement for "Y" schemers was for pilots and observers (Fleet Air Arm) and for landing craft crew (Combined Operations) with but a few general service vacancies via HMS King Alfred at Brighton.

I resisted the appeal of a year's flying training at Pensacola in Florida for the shorter course for Landing Craft and found myself at Lochailort late 1943, still well below my 18th birthday, as a cadet/rating with the distinguishing white surround to my cap, being indoctrinated in all the maritime skills their Lordships deemed necessary in as short a period as possible.

The next three years were a different story, but the tin plate meal brought back so many memories as I drove through Fulford in October. It all seems so long ago before I entered my anecdote.



THE BFES GAZETTE

An Educational Experiment

Wednesday 6th August
1947 (Part 1)

The publication of "The BFES Gazette" is an event of some importance in the development of our service. Up to the present we have concentrated all our efforts on the building of our organisation. Now we have reached the stage at which our service is spread throughout the Zone and BFES teachers are widely scattered. Through the publication of "The BFES Gazette" each month I hope to be able to keep each member of our staff in touch with the service as a whole.

In pioneering work of this kind, it is a good thing from time to time to review progress made. On August 6th we shall celebrate the first birthday of BFES, since it was on August 6th, 1946, that I entered for the first time our temporary office in Princes Gardens. It is therefore an appropriate time to review a year's work.

We now have 85 schools at work and a school population of more than 3500 children. We have 220 BFES teachers at work in Germany. We still have to improvise in many ways, but our standards are steadily improving, and we can say that our service has taken shape.

We have day secondary schools in Hamburg and Berlin and have opened our first boarding secondary school, **Price Rupert School**, at Wilhelmshaven. We expect to open our second boarding school in a few months' time and are looking for the buildings for a third to be opened later.

Our school meals service has

It has been a fascinating time. In that period I have worked with 6 Adjutant Generals, 4 Command Secretaries, 5 GOC (UKSC(G)), 4 Civ Sec (UKSC(G)), 6 COMMARCS and 8 Under Secretaries of State. It would be remarkable if anyone could name all those individuals..... I mention those statistics for one reason only - the frequency with which anyone in my position has had to rehearse, re-educate, re-inform those senior post holders of what it is that we are about. It is a time-consuming, and at times enervating, business; no other Department of State works in that way, although the F.C.O comes close in some aspects.

Looking back over that incumbency of nearly 12 years, people ask me what I see as our main achievements.

Fundamentally I think it is that the organisation is much more professional, accountable and publicly recognised for its achievement. I mention the latter because when I took up post, we were constantly being criticised in Sixth Sense, at AFF Conferences and the like for a whole range of things – and, mercifully, most of that has disappeared. I hope that is because we have become much more open and transparent about what it is that we are doing, what we are trying to do, and why. I am not sure that was the case in earlier times.

Clearly, the massive development of Early Years, the introduction of full-time FS2 provision with its single admission date, and of part-time FS1 has been a major achievement. So was the acquisition of Parity money and that, perhaps, has had the most overt effect – look at the state of (most of) our buildings – not least the external appearance and the modernised playgrounds; look at our ICT provision which is state of the art and often draws comments of awe from people visiting, or joining, us from UK. Our CPD is probably unrivalled amongst local authorities, and we have not only achieved but been re-accredited on two occasions for IIP – we would not have passed stage one 12 years ago!!

Partly coming out of Parity, but driven by a change in philosophical and practical approaches, our provision for youngsters with special needs of one sort or another has been transformed for the better.

Within our schools, there have been year-on-year improvements both of academic achievement and attainment – which is to be applauded. We have had, at least in the very early stages of the new Inspection regime, a significantly higher proportion of 'Outstanding' and 'Good or better' schools than virtually any other authority. It is a record of which all of us can be proud – but not complacent. What, then, at a professional level have been the 'pluses' from my perspective as the head of this organisation? I think it has been seeing SCE grow and mature. **Mick Waters**, in a very generous valedictory note, said

"... the work you have done for SCE has been thorough and uplifting. You have been a shield that has protected many as your team developed their skills, the schools have taken the initiative, and children have seen the benefit ..."

It has been good to see the enthusiasm of our young children and students; of our teaching staff including the NQTs, of us seizing the chance to introduce new blood into the teaching force. It has also been wonderful to see the development of the networks and training opportunities made available to our support work force, the growth of which at NVQ level has been phenomenal. At a personal level, it has been working with the senior military, many of whom are outstandingly bright and able, and having had the opportunities to visit places I would otherwise never have seen.

On the minus side, at least professionally, we have had to undergo, in less than 12 years, reviews by the Cost Scrutiny Unit, by DMCS (twice), by the DG Sec Land Force, alongside undergoing an unduly critical OfSTED Inspection and a Quinquennial Review – six major 'inspections' in less than 12 years. No wonder, sometimes, we take our eye off the ball in the sense that we are dealing with ridiculously frequent scrutiny of that kind when we should be concentrating on educating children in schools. Further minuses are that we, like everyone, have made some appointments which fell short of what we expected – not many but one is too many! I have been disappointed by the **Byzantine bureaucracy** of the MOD which is totally different to the way the other departments of state with which I

have worked (Education and Environment) operate.

At a personal level, I have found it frustrating to have to pass through Heathrow as often as I have, and, whilst we are now looking to the remit likely to be given by my successor, to see the role expand now in a way that I advocated two or three years ago and which I think should have been done then.

And what of my time with SCE?

Perhaps it has not been the most creative period in my career – that was in Leeds as an energetic 30 year-old who, over three years, reviewed and revised the staffing policies of every sector of the city's education provision - for primary schools, middle schools, high schools; for the 10 FE colleges and ultimately the (then) Polytechnic. I say that because it was achieved without there being a dissenting vote or voice in any governing body, in the Schools sub-committee or the FE sub-committee nor in the full Education Committee or the City Council! But career progression moves you from the 'active hands on' to the supervisory then the managerial and ultimately to the desk where the "buck stops" (Harry S Truman); responsible for policy development, and for ensuring, albeit by delegation, that those policies once agreed are delivered through appropriate structures; responsible for ensuring that everyone (external and internal stakeholders alike) knows what we are doing and why; responsible for the reputation and well-being of the organisation; and, in this instance ultimately accountable to Parliament. It has been one of the most challenging periods of my career and on reflection, personal circumstances apart, I think it has been the most satisfying.

I thank you all for that.

I think I leave SCE as a strong, successful and very professional part of the UK education world – albeit 'off shore'. It is ready to fly and I am sure it will. I wish you all good health and good fortune. To those who so wish, I do hope you will keep in touch.

D.G.W

Editor's Note - David died at home in Covington (near Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire) on Christmas Eve 2012; he was 67.



A reunion lunch is being organized at *Corpus Christi College, Cambridge* for 7 September 2019. For £47 per person members will be able to mingle over a glass of sparkling wine or soft drink, before enjoying a three course lunch, served with two glasses of wine or soft drinks. After lunch and tea or coffee, members will be able to enjoy the tranquil historic grounds.

Cambridge has proven to be a popular destination for past reunions with many making it a weekend away. In addition to the usual hotels the College and neighbouring Colleges are offering accommodation, of various types and prices, to our members. Further details can be found at www.cambridgerooms.co.uk. Please let Sue Adams (Events' Co-ordinator) know (letter, e-mail or telephone) if this event interests you by 30 May 2019: a booking form will be sent out to all who register their interest in late May.

made a good start, despite many difficulties, and from now on we shall move steadily forward with the development of independent school canteens.

Our children's circulating library scheme is already in operation and will extend as more books arrive.

Many of our schools are in very good buildings. Some schools are less fortunate, but we have made a lot of progress and steady improvements are being made.

We are still short of books and equipment - as indeed are many schools at home-but the position is improving steadily. Our school furniture order is not yet completed, but we hope to have all schools properly furnished by the time they re-open after the summer holiday.

All this has only been possible as a result of the splendid work of the BFES staff, and I would like to pay a special tribute to the Regional Education Officers and their Assistants for the magnificent work they have done, and to the initiative, enterprise and hard work of our teachers: examples of this from town and country may be seen in other articles in this issue of the BFES Gazette.

As I have said to many teachers when they have passed through Herford on their arrival in Germany, our success in this educational experiment will depend almost entirely on the quality of our staff - administrative and teaching. I have been in close touch with the administrative staff in our Regions, and I have personally seen almost every teacher in our Service.

I have also had reports from

Regional Education Officers of the enthusiasm shown by our teachers in their work, and have had many appreciative comments from parents. As a result, although we have some way to go yet before we reach the standards we are aiming at, I feel fully confident of success.

I have referred to our work as an "Educational Experiment" and I hope we shall all look on it as such. From its predecessor, "Evacuation", we learnt much of value in education. We discovered that good results were obtained from the change of environment from town to country, and from the mixture of town and country children, and we found new ways of using for our teaching the wealth of material that lies outside the school. We discovered also that many of the temporary premises that we used, despite their disadvantages, had the compensating advantage that they helped us to dispel the traditional school atmosphere. But in many cases we were dealing with unaccompanied children, and we found that while in some ways this was perhaps an advantage in other ways, it was a loss to have the child severed from the background of home.

In our experiment we have all that Evacuation had, and this time we have the children with their parents, transplanted into temporary homes in Germany. We have also, an even richer fund of material outside the school, the whole life and history of another nation with new things to see at every turn. Once again, we have the problem of temporary premises, but we have the advantages also. And we have the educational opportunity provided by an interesting, and perhaps unusual mixture of parents, people from all parts of the British Isles and some from overseas. We even have children whose parents serve in Allied Forces, who introduce a cosmopolitan element into some

Letters to the Editor

Dear Tom

That was a special issue! Although I've read it on screen I would appreciate having a hard copy to show family and friends who never did join the Association. (Each autumn we meet in Spain five other teachers who were colleagues who became close friends in Singapore then followed us to BFES Germany.)

My wife and I have very fond memories of our twelve years teaching service children and since 2009 I have been meeting up and corresponding with several children who were in my class and recorder group at **Pasir Panjang Junior School**, Singapore, between 1964 and 1966. They found me via the **Singas** web site and those little girls have become great friends over the past nine years. They too remember the happiness of life at Pasir Panjang as an oasis in the turbulence of following their fathers around the world every 18 months or so.

It's very sad to see the end of service education in Germany. The Germans didn't want us to leave!



An interesting connection is that 29 Regiment RA, who hosted the recent reunion in Gutersloh, use the same vehicles as those which fascinated me when I arrived in **Hildesheim** in 1969. Those Abbot self propelled guns, then operated by 32 Heavy Regiment RA, were supposed to be able to fire **nuclear bombs** across the border into East Germany. I've attached a couple of pictures of the day each year when the regiment paraded men, Abbots and other vehicles to commemorate a particular anniversary the title of which eludes me!



Best wishes for the continued success and interest of the magazine.

Sincerely,

Bill Johnston - Pasir Panjang (later Wessex) Junior School, 1963-69

Hildesheim Primary School 1969-70

Bünde Primary School, 1970-75

Producer of the SCEA Celebration video, 1996

PS: Having written that last line I've just put the video on to remind me of happy days!

Residential Trip to London – June 2009

Year 5 from **Oxford School, Muenster**, enjoyed a fantastic two night trip to London in June 2009.

The trip, organised by **Rachel James**, gave the children first-hand experiences of learning outside the classroom, taking in highlights such as the British Museum, the National Gallery, Downing Street, The Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace and the Lyceum Theatre. Accompanied by their teachers Rachel James and Jecky Loeffler, Deputy Head teacher Paul Nagle and Teaching Assistant Laura Bingley, the children had an exciting 48 hours.

Among the highlights was a visit to **Downing Street**. The group was allowed right outside the door of **number 10** whilst the Thursday morning weekly cabinet meeting was taking place. Rachel James had written to 10 Downing Street in advance, asking if they could visit and consequently Margaret Darling, wife of the Chancellor came to the door with 3 year old Fraser Brown, son of the **Prime Minister**, to say hello. She told the children “Please tell your daddies we are very proud of them.”

The children also had a close-up view of the ‘**Changing the Guard**’ ceremony, after being given special permission to go onto the forecourt of Buckingham Palace. The band played the theme tune to Star Wars and Indiana Jones especially for them.



At the **National Gallery** the children had a ‘Talking Paintings’ tour led by a Gallery lecturer and were especially thrilled to see ‘their’ painting, ‘The Stonemason’s Yard’ by Canaletto, which the school studied earlier in the year as part of the Gallery’s ‘Take One Picture’ project.

On their final night the group went to see The Lion King where, in addition to enjoying the show, the children went backstage after the performance to meet some of the cast.

Rachel James said *“Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the trip and we hope the children will remember the experiences for a long time. We are very proud of them.”*



of our Schools.

Again, we have the interesting relationship between British and German children. If they can come to know each other and understand each other we may be sowing the seed of a future relationship between the two nations which will contrast favourably with the relationship in the past 35 years. Such a relationship cannot be forced; it must grow naturally from the natural desire of all children to meet and mix in activity and play.

To be continued in the Summer 2019 issue of the Association Newsletter

Obituary

The Association learned in late December 2018 of the death of former member **Robin Cox**.

Robin served as headteacher in 3 very different Service schools and subsequently as AEO in Germany and SAEO in Cyprus.

Robin joined SCEA in 1974 as headteacher of Tengah School in Singapore. Tengah, largely an RAF community school with 6 staff, served 120 pupils. It was reputed that Robin’s office displayed a shelf of jars containing **pickled snakes** caught on school premises; always a talking point for visiting parents. Speech in the school was often disturbed by the sound of aircraft taking off and landing and the children and staff got used to pausing ‘till they could be heard. Life in Singapore encompassed Chinese, Indian and Malay cultures and quartering was provided; colonial and spacious.

When the British withdrew from Singapore at Christmas 1975 Robin closed the school and moved to Hong Kong as



head of Stanley Fort School. Overlooking the South China Seas, it was a breath-taking setting. The pupils here were mainly drawn from the 2nd Battalion Royal Grenadier Guards. Robin's three year tenure saw several changeovers, including the Green Jackets who were there when he left. During Robin's time as head, Princess Alexandra arrived to make a regimental visit (at the same time as HMI arrived to inspect the school). Union Jacks were waved as the pupils lined her route, but she didn't stop. However, as the school buses drove down the narrow, steep road at home time, two of them neatly sandwiched the royal car - much to the delight of the children but not the disgruntled Colonel!

Christmas 1978 saw Robin and his family packing to relocate to Germany. After nearly five years in the heat of the Far East, it was a shock to arrive back into a German winter. Robin's third headship was at Hemer Primary School near Soest with 450 pupils, mostly 2nd Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. The school, previously home to a Canadian High School, included a Special Unit for eight special needs pupils. As usual in a SCEA School Robin's time as head saw pupils and staff turn over several times.

It was here that Robin was introduced to **Oswin Hall** (Inspector Adviser) who was immediately impressed by the quality of Robin's leadership and who persuaded Robin to apply for a vacancy in the Advisory Service. Following his successful appointment to what was then the Northern Region, he and Oswin worked well together and created many programmes for In-service training in both Regions (N and S). Here too Robin found time to author several primary handwriting handbooks in conjunction with Charles Cripps.

Celebrating Huge Success 2009 Style

Ten years ago almost to the day the SCE partnership with the Open University was proving hugely successful in providing a career pathway for support staff. The outcome for Nicki Martin and Annie Tomlinson had been the achievement of a degree with honours, the first in SCE! Brenda Titley (SCE IA) and Alison Robins (OU Tutor) presented Annie with the flowers at a recent tutorial. The achievements provide a further incentive for current OU students. Many students are supported by teachers in school and Alison Drakeford (Haig) and Sue Chislett (Scott) supported these two students. FS leaders at the time joined Alison Iveson in applauding their achievement which provided Haig FS1 with a graduate practitioner!

Annie's story is told below

My Life as an OU Student

I did it! Now I've finished my degree I'm left with a mixture of emotions. Obviously ecstatic that I've achieved this but also tinged with a feeling of sadness that my journey has now come to an end coupled with an excitement of where to go from here. Having entered the world of FS1 in 2001, initially I volunteered to stand in for a friend who was going on a course and that was it – I was hooked and I realised this was the career for me!



With no qualifications in Early Years, I undertook the NVQ3 and decided to do an Early Years degree. Having talked with Alison Iveson, I studied for the E123 and E124. I already had completed two psychology courses transferring the points into an Open Degree. Luckily for me, another friend also undertook the same path in OU so we decided to study the same courses.

Having someone to talk to definitely benefited both of us and forged a friendship that will last forever.

Throughout the last six years I have been so fortunate to have met and made some fantastic friends on the OU tutorials. These friends have encouraged and supported me throughout; helping me to stay focused and see the degree through to the end. I can honestly say that, had it not been for their support and that from the team of other SCE students on the OU tutorials, the outcome may well have been very different. I'm hopeful now that I can build on this achievement and continue to complete the EYPS and become an FS1 teacher.

So a huge thank you to everyone at SCE, all the friends I've made – you are all amazing.

Yours truly,

Annie Tomlinson BA (Hons) Open (Open).

A Warm Welcome Back

David Greenwood, MBE and his wife Linda, have re-joined after a couple of years absence. They served in Gibraltar, Munster, Sardinia, Berlin and Detmold. Linda also taught in Paderborn. David and Linda live in Abingdon, Oxfordshire.



Henry William James Hickie (1807 – 1885)

This extract is from the account of the life of Henry William James Hickie written by his son, Henry William James Hickie (1841 – 1922), in 1914 at the age of 72 years. The words and names in brackets and italics are suggested typo corrections.

Pedigree of Mr. Henry William James Hickie formerly **school master Sergeant** 15 Kings Hussars, and 12th Royal Lancers and latterly by transfer to the Medical Staff Corps on formation 1855 as Sergeant Major. He was in possession of the medal for meritorious service for which he received £10 annually and was discharged to pension in 1864 after 27 years service during which period he had not been entered in either the Company Troop or Regimental Defaulters Sheet.

My fathers name was "Henry William James Hickie" after whom I, his eldest son am named but in all my Military documents I am simply "Henry Hickie". He was a native of Tipperary, Ireland of poor respectable parents of Protestant faith. His father was a farmer who died at an early age (45), leaving a widow and several sons, my father being the youngest.

My father's grandfather (paternal) was a Roman Catholic. The changes to religion came about in this wise. As a Wesleyan he courted and made love to the woman who became his wife. She being a Wesleyan during their courtship he accompanied her to the Wesleyan Chapel and was married as Wesleyan. It was after the birth of the first child, a boy, who became my great grandfather, that it was discovered that the man she had married was not a Wesleyan but a Roman Catholic for as soon as possible after the birth the father took the child accompanied by his female relatives to the Roman Catholic Church and there had it baptized. He had thrown off the mask and thereby declared himself a "Roman".

As you may imagine this was a great shock to his wife, the babe, after baptismal in the Roman Catholic faith was received by the mother and after consultation with her female relatives, it was decided to purge the infant from any contamination which it was subjected to whilst away with the father, a good warm bath was given it and after it was cleaned it was taken to the Wesleyan Chapel and there baptized as such, the mother taking full and sole charge of the child. This occurrence led to a separation which continued until death. So this was the cause of the change of religion in the line "Hickie" of which I am the lineal descent.

At the age of 14 my father went to Dublin and was employed as a boy writer in a Solicitor's office, being fond of study and a pretty good scholar he qualified for the position of National School Teacher and an attaining the age obtained the certificate and was appointed school master at Kilmore Clonmel, this was the locality of his birth. After a little time he accepted the position of Tithes Collector - not an enviable one in Ireland, especially down South. In the course of time he married a school mistress (my mother) who also was possessed of the National School Certification. Her maiden name I am led to understand was "Elizabeth Porry (*Perry*)".

Owing to my father's out spoken declaration as to religious principles much prejudice was displayed towards him and also towards his family (the widowed mother and children) his mother's property was damaged and the few cattle she possessed were injured - masked men even went so far as to fire into the house. Everything was done to injure my father and every one belonging to him. The only cause being his hatred towards the Church of Rome, which he did not hesitate to exhibit whenever opportunity offered. The fact of the matter was this - he was an **orangeman** having been inducted into such principles whilst in Dublin. He was regardless of any consequences in his pronounced belief and till the hour of his death held the same view. All through life he denounced all show of religion, detested ritual, plain worship was his motto. He had many good friends but made many enemies amongst those who were of a different faith. I may say with regard to the foregoing that perhaps the times and surrounding circumstances contributed to inducing my father in such belief - however I, even as a boy, considered that it was a folly to make enemies over a matter that the most learned man of the day every theologian of the greatest renown have failed to pronounce an edict as to give complete composure to the righteous who yearn

Robin subsequently went on to serve successfully as AEO in Minden and Gütersloh and as SAEO in Cyprus.

Those who worked and socialised with Robin (and wife Jane who predeceased him) remember them always for their lasting friendship and quality time together.

(Tom Nielsen-Marsh & Oswin Hall)

Mike Back served as the Headteacher of Gloucester School, Hohne from 1973 to 1982. He was a victim of the 50+ rule which meant that when he returned to the UK in 1982 he faced unemployment, being supported by wife Jan's work as a nurse.

He was born in 1932 and unlike many of his siblings who died in early childhood, he survived until the age of 88, dying on the 3rd of February 2019 after a very short illness. He lost his dear wife Jan in 2012.

At a very young age he lost the sight in one eye but despite this he continued to play a good level of rugby. In his retirement he was very keen supporter of the Worcester Warriors rugby club and regularly went out fishing very early in the morning. He is survived by two daughters and one son and a number of grandchildren.

(Ken Jones OBE)

Stephen John Jorgensen, OBE, joined Service Children's Education in 2005 as headteacher of Akrotiri Primary School in Cyprus. Steve's previous post was headteacher of Prescot Primary School, Knowsley, Merseyside. While head of Prescot he had been awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours List for services to education. Steve was

headteacher of **Akrotiri School** from 2005 until 2009, when he took retirement. His four year tenure covered a challenging period for this large primary school. This included considerable Ofsted monitoring and building and commissioning a completely new 8 class Foundation Stage. I was privileged to work closely with Steve during this time through many highs and some lows. Steve's integrity and sense of humour remained intact in the busiest and hardest times. Steve continued living in Cyprus after retirement from Service Children's Education (SCE), making his home in the village of Prastio. It is understood that Steve died in hospital in Limassol after a short and serious illness, following an otherwise routine operation. The funeral took place in UK, with Steve's ashes being returned to Cyprus. Steve is survived by his wife Jill, who was also a former Merseyside headteacher. I shall remember both for their generous hospitality, appreciation of humanity and a great sense of humour.

(Mike Chislett, March 2019)

Don Friswell, died January 2019. Don taught in Paderborn and Gütersloh. He was a warm, animated ebullient character, a very talented thespian and a member of the Mansergh Players. He regularly involved himself in Kings School musical productions and gave a memorable portrayal of the role of Fagin the 1973 school production of the musical Oliver.

Rev John Fielding, died February 2019. John was for 8 years the padre at Windsor Boys' School in Hamm.

for salvation a good sober life and holiness through this greatest offering for sin is all sufficient – why anything else necessary? I fail to see it, and should say all wise men calling themselves a Christian hold the same view. However liberty of conscience is the grand principles even to my family and I have a large one.

My children and grand children may worship in the Christian doctrine in any form either Wesleyan, Roman Catholic or any other religion but I certainly would wish them to belong to the Christian faith and observe the principles taught by it. The observances of the Church of England are plain and sufficient as far as one interested in church going is concerned. The one main principle is to be observed if one desires to enjoy the privileges of the Christian faith irrespective of what denomination he or she may claim to belong to all others fail experienced has already decided and has been handed down from generation to generation the pith of the main principle above referred to. Well now so far as to show my relatives the faith observed by the individual from whom we his children have descended.

As matters became exceedingly unpleasant for my parents owing to the condition of affairs not only for them but for those related. An opportunity was only required to get away from such surroundings and this was by God's mercy shortly to come to pass: It happened that in these days when a school master Sergeant and mistress with the National School Certificate were required for a regiment an advertisement or notice appeared on Church doors to that effect; The 15th (The King's) Hussars were in want of both school master and mistress and therefore a notice was posted on the Church doors.

My fathers attention was drawn to it and he at once applied to the Lt. Colonel Commdg. at Cahir where the regiment was stationed. Sir Walter Scott, son of the poet, was then the Officer Commanding and accepted my parents on the recommendation by testimonials in their favour. After a short stay at Cahir the regiment was moved to Leeds and then to Glasgow and thence to India in 1839. The regiment was stationed at Poonah and then in Bangalore where after about 15 years they were relieved by the 12th Royal Lancers.

My father was transferred to the Lancers as School Master Sergeant, but as the Lancers had a school mistress who came out from England with the women and children of the regiment, my mother lost the schoolmistressship. This was a loss of about £.60 a year, perhaps more. This change of regiment was in no way a benefit to my parents as they lost considerably by it, not only a financial loss, but the interest of officers and gentlemen and ladies who had known them for years in the 15th Hussars, but in effecting this change of corps my father had an object in view he purposed talking his discharge to pension as soon as his term of service was completed and to set up a school in the cantonment. He had all along been permitted to have his sons and daughter of civilians as scholars, their parents paying a fee for such education, he also had pupils, children of officers whom he used to teach at their own homes. A pony was always at his service to travel in his journeys.

His hopes were soon frustrated, for the outbreak of the Crimean war effected many changes. The Lancers were chosen and so were ordered to proceed at once after only a stay of about eight months in Bangalore. The Lancers, with their horses, were soon on the march by road to Mangalere for embarkation for Suez, the women, children and invalids by hachery (?) to Madras to embark here for England on board the East India Man of War "Trafalgar" and "Earl Hardwick". We came home in the former ship and **were four months and 20 days at sea** arriving at Gravesend, where we were conveyed to Chatham by omnibuses (as no train service ran then) and taken to St. Mary's Barracks (Casemater) (*Casemated meaning fortified*).

By influence, father was transferred to the Medical Staff Corps and appointed Sergeant Major after a few months he proceeded to the Crimea and from there to Scutaris (Asia) where he had charge of Medical Stores (*The Barrack Hospital at Scutari, Istanbul, was Florence Nightingale's base during the Crimean War*). In the break up of the British residence he was sent to Malta, where he was stationed till 1858. From Malta he returned to Chatham, then to Jersey, the Curragh and Aldershot at which station he was discharged to pension and settled in Dublin where he died. His body was interred in Mt. Jerome cemetery and a stone indicates his place of burial. His daughter Emily,

Mrs. Harkness of Nenagh paid all expenses of burial, including the stone. He (*She*) had been very kind and attentive to our parents and they wanted for nothing.

My mother survived my father a couple of years. She died in Liverpool whilst on a visit to her son George, and was buried there. My father died at the age of 85, my mother 77. Of so large a family - 13 children, nine attained maturity, four died in infancy.

I should like to say a few words of my father's character. I do so now at an age (72 years) where experience and a past life of ups and downs and a checkered career has given me calm and studied thoughts and knowing that mankind, and in fact all animal nature, inherit the nature of their forefathers, are therefore inclined to act accordingly by nature for good or for evil, in the case of evil inheritance. His will that the young should be made aware of the frailties of these from whom they descended so that they may have a forewarning of the dangers before them and be induced to exercise means to thwart each inclination as may arise and prevent their development and as I now give a true description of my dear father's character, which, in retrospect, is as clear to me as if in the present state.

He was a man of very settled habits, his character is well worthy of notice because of its excellence. Though of humble birth he had a noble spirit and always was strong in the belief of the Omni-presence of the Creator, I firmly believe he would never do a thing privately but what he was prepared to do openly; by this I mean that he had no sly, mean or cunning ways. He was moral in the extreme. I never heard him make an oath or use violent language in his lifetime. He was the first to check wrong doing; his conversation was sedate, both at home and abroad and expressed with wisdom. He was of a jocular nature and could discuss on any matter, was well read in history (especially biblical) he expressed himself in plain words without superfluity, although having the dictionary at heart. He was religious holding the plain Christian faith and detested ritual.

He was a good mathematician, would read nothing but plain facts and detested novels. He was a good school master and summoned his scholars to a higher standard than all other schools in India, so that there were more boys from his school passed the examination for the grammar college in Madras than other schools for which he received the praise of the Governor General of India. He had however short comings.

He was an inveterate snuff taker, but never smoked except for an occasional cheroot. He was an habitual spirit drinker, never drunk beer and spirits were always diluted (half water). Although practiced in this indulgence he was never actuated by its influence, he took it at stated times so that the effect of that had time to disappear itself was wisdom. He was fond of exercise - walking, jumping, riding, a good swimmer, an early riser; fond of gardening always had a good garden in India, the best of the station. Flowers and vegetables were reared which surprised many good gardeners.

He was a moderate eater, never cared for sweets, cakes and puddings were not in his line, he ate sparingly at breakfast - because he would take his whiskey and water instead. It must be borne in mind that as a boy in Ireland the people seldom drunk tea, in fact it was scarcely known, then it was very expensive so people drunk Poteen, which has been the cause of so much unhappiness and degradation. Thank God times have improved since and that they may continue for the happiness of those yet to come.

He was cruel in inflicting punishment and to this day I feel the effects of his cruel punishment, still I venerate his name and admire his strength of character; too much of a rod spoileth the child. I wish that had been his motto instead of that advised by Solomon. He lived to a good old age, he showed no sign of baldness, at his death the hair on his head was black whilst his beard was grey. He never suffered from tooth ache and his teeth were perfect to the day of his death. I attribute it to his being a non-smoker.

He had sad family trials in his later years, the example set in his household had not a beneficial effect, in fact, it was in a sense quite the opposite, disastrous. I fail to see how it can be wise for in my boyhood's days I can remember two decanters always displayed on the side board, one containing Arrack, the other Brandy or Whiskey.

Ken Jones - Association Chair - reflects on his headship at King's School in Gütersloh and visits by BFES Director Nolan Clamp.

Nolan found his visits to King's School were rather complicated by the fact that one of the DEL staff was an old 'flame' of his, who had preceded Evelyn, dating from his time at RAF Gütersloh. The said lady was rather a way out character, very different to Evelyn, which always led him to say "Please make sure I do not bump into you know who" !!

I strongly suspect that Nolan's early time as the director of BFES, taking over from Eric Lowe, was in some respects rather difficult for him. Eric Lowe had the advantage of a long service as an RAEC officer, reaching the rank of full colonel, which enabled him to relate easily to the high ranking Army officers in HQ Rheindahlen. As well as the BAOR dimension, Nolan also faced the problems caused by the Controller SCEA post rotating between the Army, Navy, RAF. Without doubt one particular Group Captain Controller made life very difficult for Nolan, given his jaundiced view of SCEA schools and teachers!!

Despite these difficulties, there is no doubt that during Nolan's time as the Director the quality of the education service provided for the children improved immensely. The excellent staffing levels were maintained and the advisory service grew significantly. The establishment of new education centres in different parts of Germany led to further in-service training opportunities for the teachers. To achieve this during times of constant MOD financial reviews was a huge achievement. In his time the dreadful 50+ was also removed, which meant that the schools no longer lost their richly experienced teachers.

In all his dealings with teachers and headteachers he always adopted a relaxed, accommodating, understated style. In many respects he and Ian Duncan, his Deputy, were a good double act, with very contrasting styles; Ian being nicknamed by the Headteachers as Dr No!!

In his retirement Nolan was an encouraging, long serving, ever present President of the SCEA/BFES Association, until the onset of dementia meant that he had to step down.

Mug Shots



An occasional look at something almost every school had ...

1000 Years of Fallingbostel - 993 to 1993: Fallingbostel was first mentioned when, under Kaiser Otto III's rule, the borders between Westfalen and Ostfalen were established.

The coat of arms was first used in 1949, and consists of crossed horses heads representing the Heide area where they are regularly found on the gables of farmhouses. The black beehive highlights Fallingbostel's centuries' old position as the centre of the Heide honey production.

The river Boehme is symbolized by the wavy line.

As part of the thousand-year celebrations Shackleton School had several hundred mugs produced by a Scottish pottery. Permission to do so was willingly granted by **Bürgermeister Gerlach.**

(Mike Bennett)

If you have a school mug with a story please let the editor know - photo obviously appreciated.



To replenish these vessels reserve stock was kept locked up in a liquor case, my mother being entrusted with the key, a very dangerous and responsible occupation taking into consideration that residence in India is not to be compared to home life. There in India you live among a few Europeans, perhaps those you care not to associate with, so a person, unless actively employed, becomes inclined to melancholia, and as a remedy to stimulate the mind are encouraged to take a drop and after a time this drop becomes table spoonful and so on till one becomes enslaved to the indulgence and we know or should know by now in this century the terrible results and then irrespective to the injury done to oneself being the subject of this craving for liqueur, the example set to the children has a prejudicial effect and even grown up persons in many cases are encouraged and acquire habits by seeing examples on their elders "what is good for the goose is good for the gander". The start is made, it becomes a part of nature and the dread result in many cases only realized when too late, therefore the best example to set in a household by parents is total abstinence, joy will follow and the end the fruits will be enjoyed even to the grave.

My father became paralysed for (*four?*) years before his death which occurred in 1885. Of the large family there now at this date survive myself H.W. James Hickie and two brothers viz:- Samuel and George Henry. Considering the conditions under which my parents children were reared, educated, the bad sanitary conditions prevailing at that time in India and the ignorance of all classes to hygienic principles, we came off fairly well and have every cause to be grateful to the Divine Providence.

The only education we received was from our parents and for a month at a time none whatever, when I see the facilities offered now inducing children to study free of cost I am utterly astonished at so much ignorance and many who do go ahead and pass the required examinations even scholarships, lack what is essential, good manners and morality, a combination essential to prosperity. Two of my parents children (sons) raised themselves to commissions in the army; Quartermaster and Lieutenant Henry W J Hickie, Army Service Corps, and **Inspector of Army Schools** and Lieutenant, William A Hickie, Corps of Army Schoolmasters. Of the daughters, Emily was a Governess before marriage. Charlotte, Phoebe and Henrietta passed as **Army School Mistresses.**

(From the family archive of Patrick Craze and in memory of Judy O'Malley, Great-Great-Granddaughter of Henry William James Hickie, and friend of Sue Adams.)

Princess Margaret visits Charlottenburg School - Berlin in 1972



Her Royal Highness, The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowden visited Berlin on **7/8th June 1972**. She is pictured above at Charlottenburg Primary School accompanied by the GOC HQ Berlin (British Sector) Major General, the Earl Cathcart DSO MC. Standing (right) is the Deputy Head Mr IC Gregson of BFES. *Photograph by the Army Public Relations Section HQ Berlin.*

An Invitation from MOD Schools in Germany

Dear All

We are writing to let you know that there is an **open invitation** to the Closing Celebration Concert of BFG schools, taking place on Saturday 22 June 2019. You may well already know about this, but we were keen to spread the word as we know that you may wish to attend. Access is restricted and requires a completed application form, which you can find via this hyperlink [Kings School Closure Event](#)

or

http://www.sce-kingsschool.net/page_viewer.asp?page=King%27s+School+Closure+Event&pid=168

The concert will celebrate the many years of British schooling in Bielefeld, Gutersloh, Paderborn and Sennelager, including the Music Centre. Children from across all six schools and Music Centre students will be taking part, and this event is being co-ordinated by the Music Service. The attached form outlines the events before, during and after the closing ceremony.

If you do decide that you are coming, please can we ask you to send your completed forms to the email address listed at the foot of the form: kcn.closureevent@modschoools.org

Due to the recent migration of our internet system, we have been unable to access previous email addresses. Please therefore, can we ask you to forward this open invitation to anyone that you know may want to attend and have contact details for. Thank you.

With very best wishes

Johanna Murphy and Brenda Titley

Brenda Titley

Senior Inspector Adviser/Deputy Principal MOD Schools
email: brenda.titley@modschoools.org

Thank You

Doncaster Rovers Foundation, which supports school football, was delighted by the generous donation in **Bob Parkin's** memory to which many BFES / SCEA friends contributed. They are putting the money to good use by training coaches and running junior teams.

Sue (Bob's daughter, Iserlohn Primary School 1960-63) and family are pictured enjoying the hospitality of the Foundation as the Rovers scored a 3-1 victory against Peterborough.

Nick, Bob's grandson, saw his first professional match with his grandad as a lad. Back in 1949, so did Bob's nephew, John Berry, the one sporting the Rovers' regalia, and he has been a constant Rovers supporter ever since, as well as a referee. We continue to meet people who remember being taught, coached or mentored by Bob, and think he would be pleased to see his legacy in action. Thank you for all the gifts made in his memory, and the many reminiscences you have shared.



Dates for the Diary

Association Curry Lunch at the Gurkha Museum in Winchester on Saturday 27 April 2019 - spaces still available - please contact

Jane Tull

64 Purbrook Gardens -
Purbrook - Waterlooville,
PO7 5LD.

Association Reunion at Corpus Christi College in Cambridge on Saturday 7th September 2019 - please see **page 7** for further details.

Association Reunion and AGM at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on Saturday 5th October 2019.

Association Committee Meeting 2019 at the Hilton Bristol City Centre on 8th May 2019.

Booking forms and full details of the Cambridge and Sandhurst events will be sent under separate cover in late May.

The editor welcomes articles and photographs from members and former colleagues on any facet of Service School life: reminiscences, comments, opinions, anecdotes, news of members and former colleagues.

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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 us.

Association Website



Our association web-site is found at

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

Please check it out and - better still - please send the webmaster, Mike Chislett, your old school pictures and anything else you think might interest members.

Between 8 February and 10 March, we had 1565 unique visits to the site – that could be 1565 different people, or one person, 50 times a day. More likely it is somewhere in between.

3497 pages were visited and, on average, each visitor looked at 2.3 web pages.

We can tell which pages were visited and the number of visits:

archives - 104; noticeboard - 83; contact us - 56; schools - 52; gallery - 41; links - 40
Newsletter #32 - 36; Newsletter #31 – 33; events - 33

Most new visitors find us through Google, although other search engines are represented.

Comments on and suggestions for the website are very welcome – as is notification of any links that don't work.

Association Membership

From January 2019 membership of the Association costs £15 per year. If you pay by standing order - please remember to update it.

Membership is open to *anyone* who has served with BFES, SCEA, SCS(NWE), SCE or 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 the Membership Secretaries,
94 Headcorn Drive,
Canterbury, Kent,
CT2 7TX

The Association Newsletter and Journal is currently published three times each year: spring, late summer and winter. Distribution is by post or e-mail. Articles for the newsletter are most welcome and should be sent to the Editor at bfes_scea_newsletter@yahoo.co.uk

An electronic version (PDF) of each newsletter is 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.