



THE BEVIN BOYS ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1989

CHAIRMAN

R. G. Todd,
"The Chalet",
24 Oldfield Way,
Heswall, Wirral,
Merseyside.
CH60 6RG.
Tel. 0151 342 3703

SECRETARY

D. E. Todd (Mrs)
"The Chalet",
24 Oldfield Way,
Heswall, Wirral,
Merseyside.
CH60 6RG
Tel. 0151 342 3703

TREASURER

H. Parkes,
12 Stonesby Vale,
West Bridgford,
Nottingham
Notts.
NG2 7UR
Tel. 0115 8465354

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

A.Lane,
Snipelands,
Bourton Combe,
Flax Bourton,
Bristol. N.Somerset.
BS48 3QL
Tel. 01275 463703

NATIONAL REUNIONS

M. Rose, (Mrs)
Willow Lodge,
Victoria Lane,
Fakenham,
Norfolk.
NR21 8LB
Tel. 01328 863986

NEWSLETTER FOR AUTUMN 2012.

STOP PRESS

Many members will have received by post with no address or signature a 'note' purporting to be from Lady Finsberg resigning from the position of President of the Association as from 7th October 2012. At a request at the AGM a letter be sent by Recorded Delivery to Lady Finsberg asking her to confirm the validity of her resignation. The Committee has not been informed of her intention to a) resign, or b) contact members. As we have not received a reply we presume she has indeed resigned. The office of President will not be renewed. As the function of a Vice President is to officiate in the absence of the President, that position now falls.

Chairman Warwick Taylor announced at the AGM that he would not be standing for re-election. Therefore a new Chairman Gordon Todd was proposed and elected from the floor of the meeting. Warwick joined the Committee in 1995. We thank him for all his past endeavours on behalf of the Association. Warwick announced that this year will be the last one in which Bevin Boys will parade at the Cenotaph.

We wish to reassure all members that the Committee will continue to produce the Newsletter and arrange the AGM in October 2013, which incidentally is our 70th Anniversary of the Bevin Boy conscription. Dates for all Regional Reunions and other items of interest will be published as usual.

As Warwick no longer has a function as a Committee member or as Vice President and Chairman, all queries and communications should be addressed to the Secretary, Membership Secretary Alan Lane or Treasurer Harry Parkes for Donations. If you require an acknowledgement please include a SAE.

Only when the membership decides, (see Rules and Regulations) will we consider disbanding, or in the event of some unforeseen difficulty arising.

D.Elizabeth Todd.

Secretary, for and on behalf of all the Committee.

Obituary of JOHN BURGESS Past Chairman.

John Burgess, who died on 23rd May, was a true Wintonian although he lived the majority of his life in the Nottinghamshire area working in the coal mining industry.

Born at Bar End Winchester in 1926 he was educated at All Saints School and Danemark School (now St. Bedes). He was also a choirboy at All Saints Church. On leaving school at the age of 14 years John was employed by RNAS (HMS Ariel) at Worthy Down, at that time an Engineering Training School. He was conscripted to the coal mines in 1944 and became, what is generally known as a Bevin Boy, working at Annesley Colliery Nottinghamshire doing menial underground jobs. During his 'service' he met

Joan Newham, a local girl from Nottingham. They married and on being demobbed in 1947 John decided to make the coal mining industry his career. By studying managerial skills of a working colliery he was awarded his manager's certificate in 1955 and his first appointment was manager of Sutton-in-Ashfield Colliery. He eventually rose to the position of Area Manager of three collieries in the Nottinghamshire coalfield and is the only Bevin Boy to reach this high position in the industry.

On retirement in 1986 John and Joan joined the Notts Caravan Club and travelled the country in their caravan, staying at many caravan sites including the one at Morn Hill Winchester. In 1998 John joined the Bevin Boys Association becoming its Chairman in 2000 and remaining in that office until 2009.

Local historian Phil Yates, also a Bevin Boy, paid this tribute: "John was a lovely jovial man who never forgot his Winchester roots and often reminisced with me about the city of his birth. On his visits to Winchester to see his two brothers and three sisters (he came from a large family) we would walk down the High Street – he knew more about the town centre of the 1930s than I did. He also had fond memories of the Theatre Royal in its cinema days."

The family resided at Retford, Nottinghamshire, and he is survived by his widow Joan, son and daughter and two grandchildren.

This is the Obituary which was written by Phil Yates for the Hampshire Chronicle.

MESSAGE FROM THE HON. SECRETARY.

'Where Are You Now'

Once again September is proving an Indian summer to help make up for such a wet one. To be fair, depending on the part of the country you live in, we did have some good weather.

Now to the latest news. HENRY FENELEY from Bedford had some good responses from his request for contacts in the Spring Newsletter. KEN LOWE with whom contact is just by phone, lives in London. GEORGE MORTON who lives near Grimsby and MAURICE WARD who lived in Skegness but has now moved to Chertsey in Surrey. All three were some-time residents at the Abbot Road Mansfield hostel and Ken and George both worked at Glapwell colliery. Their paths never crossed because the Mansfield colliery catered for up to five hundred lads and most were on day shifts, but Harry was on afternoon or night shift. Maurice found out that RAJAH RAH also came from Skegness. Rajah had a motor cycle and on occasion took Maurice there for weekends. Also when needed, Rajah used the motor cycle to ride in the Wall of Death at an amusement park. Harry said how good it was to hear from them although they had never met in the Underground Movement during the war.

JOHN WRIGHT from Gillingham writes of his still busy life. Despite disability he continues to paint land and seascapes plus advertising posters for the disabled. He has good memories of his time down Ansley Hall colliery, Nuneaton after training in Warrington. He recalls "Coming a cropper on being advised by fellow miners that my hostess would welcome chopped chockwood", and getting a clip around the earhole, not knowing the implications that carried! Later in lodgings he found the lady who cared for him was the sister of an aunt who lived a few doors away from his family home - in Fulham; small world!

DOUG HYSLOP from near Ulverston sent prints of some of the poems we have included in the newsletter; He was sent to the William pit Great Clifton near Workington, Cumberland. A very primitive pit supposedly over a hundred years old and wet as it was under the sea. He was one of only two Bevin Boys there. He drew the short straw being sent down to work on haulage the other Bevin Boy to work in the office. Later Doug completed his apprenticeship in Motor Engineering then via a re educational grant to study art. He went on to work in the Museum and Art Gallery world then retired after teaching as senior lecturer in Visual Communications.

I also received a very detailed and lengthy communication from H B FRED FAIRHURST from Bolton which will go into the archives. He records his observations on the topic of conscription 1943-1948. The research he has undertaken presents another strongly held point of view. Fred

was sent for training at Cremlington north east of Newcastle, then onto a colliery at North Walbottle.

Desmond Southgate of Solihull tried some time ago, to contact Tony Mills, with no success. Nevertheless, he would like to hear from anyone who worked at The Granville or Grange Collieries in Shropshire. Do ring him on Tel: 0121 7111405 or e-mail: dessouthgate@hotmail.com

Darren Davidson Kegworth of Shirebrook, Notts, a member of the National Mining Memorabilia Association, contacted me to inform us, that fake Bevin Boy Veterans badges (not veteran) were being sold on e-bay internet sites. After contacting Jeremy Cousins of the Department of Energy & Climate Change who then dealt with the situation on our behalf, confirmed that five sellers had been contacted, who unaware they were fakes, had agreed to withdraw the badges from sale. We must thank Darren for his vigilance on 'our behalf'. He has a collection of colliery badges and mining memorabilia, as mining is part of his family history and this will be passed onto his children and future generations. Has anyone else come across this situation? Do let me know.

Finally I must correct a mistake I made when printing the text of the Bevin Boy 1944 poem in the last Newsletter. On the last line of the sixth stanza I should have written, Home to the missus WHIPPETS and beer NOT WHIPS and beer. I hope I have not offended too many miners' wives!

As always, thank you for your communications by telephone 0151 342 3703 or letter.

With every good wish,

D. Elizabeth Todd (Liz)

MESSAGE from the HON.TREASURER.

Following my appointment as your Treasurer, I have endeavoured to simplify the system of fund accounting and presentation. With the inevitable continuing year on year reduction of membership numbers, together with a lack of a guaranteed income, I was unable to provide a comprehensive fiscal plan for future funding.

The two major charges on the General Fund were:-

- 1) National REUNIONS
 - 2) The FREE NEWSLETTER on restricted issue to Members only.
- These had the effect of producing large monthly fluctuations in the General Fund.

1) NATIONAL REUNIONS

This is self funded by BBA Members, Friends and Family patrons. The account is operated by our National Reunions Organiser Margaret Rose.

There is no call on the General fund, although it remains under the Treasurers control and the authority and responsible to the BBA National Committee.

2) NEWSLETTER

At the AGM 2010 it was agreed to implement a voluntary annual £5. Subscription fee to cover the production and postage cost of the popular Association Newsletter. The appeal for subscribers has been very well supported. It is a more equitable way of funding. As this is now self funding, we are able to accept subscriptions from non members requesting copies of the Newsletter. Please contact our Newsletter Editor Anne Lane for details. We could not accept such requests before on grounds of cost.

3) THE GENERAL FUND supplemented by incoming donations now supports all other activities.

- a) General Admin and Office expenses,
- b) Committee Travel, Subsistence and Accommodation,
- c) Room Hire,
- d) Sales,
- e) Insurance and Miscellaneous costs.

My thanks to Anne Lane and Margaret Rose for shouldering the extra burden resulting from this programme of changes also the National Committee and Chairman for their continued help and support.

Harry P.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT.

It has been quite overwhelming to receive so many Subscriptions & Donations to the Association, especially since the last Autumn Newsletter. We have also received over a hundred letters saying how much you all look forward to reading the Newsletters. Although we do seem to be dwindling each day! Please would you write, telephone or e-mail me, as Membership Secretary, to notify me of Change of Address or Telephone numbers and if you hear of any Bevin Boys, members or not, who have sadly passed away. My address and Telephone number is at the top of this Newsletter, e-mail address is alananne2749@gmail.com

This Autumn Newsletter will be distributed to 283 members this time, 54 of whom receive it via e-mail and 6 members who live outside of Britain. Unfortunately it is very sad that we now also have 1242 names in the Deceased list.

A Happy Christmas and Healthy 2013 to you all,

Alan.

Sales.

Total Sales for Postal & Reunions last year were £659.95p. £195.10 to date this year. For all Sales, please apply to Mrs A. Lane, Snipelands, Bourton Combe, Flax Bourton, Bristol. BS48 3QL. Tel: 01275 463703. All cheques to be made payable to **THE BEVIN BOYS ASSOCIATION**. Please add £1 for the lighter items & £2 for the books & BB Cap, as they are expensive to post, especially with the increase in the postal charges!

Any donations of stamps for postage are always welcome!

Blazer Badge	@ £7.50	New Blue Enamel Badge	@ £2.00
Miners Lamp Keyring	@ £4.00	Ladies Brooch	@ £5.00
Maroon Tie	@ £10.00	BB Veteran Baseball Cap	@ £7.50
Digging Up the Past	@ £10.00	A Bevin Boy Remembers	@ £5.00
The Forgotten Conscript.	@ £10.00	Bevin Boy Banner Postcard	@ £0.20

2 different Black & White postcards of prints from A Bevin Boy Remembers @ £0.20 each
& 2 colour & 2 black & white prints of A4 size from A Bevin Boy Remembers @ £0.20 each

Many Thanks to all our 'customers', as always!

Anne.

National Reunion & AGM

What is the purpose of the Reunion? This question can be answered thus:-

- 1) To hold an AGM to fulfil our obligations as a Committee. (see Rules & Regulations)
- 2) To meet and greet our fellow colleagues.
- 3) To be informed and updated on various relevant issues.
- 4) To be uplifted and encouraged to feel that our life has been worth while and to know that at the country's hour of need we contributed our all.
- 5) To enable all members to feel - with pride - that their war effort can never be forgotten.
- 6) To meet together - not by e-mail, telephone or letter, but to be part of one group - our Association to which we belong is now recognised nationally.

It is with pride that I have been able to fulfil this duty and therefore our next reunion will take place in early October 2013. Work is in hand for this.

I have been asked to send good wishes from all the staff at Park Inn, Bedford, who told me that they were impressed with the cheerfulness and dignity displayed by all.

As a result of good housekeeping, the Bevin Boy Association Social Fund has been able to present a cheque for £1000 to the representative dealing with the grand Memorial stone for all Bevin Boys at Alrewas. This has been achieved by not taking up the offer of a free room for the Organiser, but all of us paying the same price.

Reunion & AGM Llandudno. The AGM was held on the Wednesday and our outing took place on the Thursday. The Coach Company (as previously) supplied an excellent driver who took us to Llechwedd Slate Caverns where we saw an interesting presentation about the rough times for the slate workers. We were transported through a small part of the mine by a motorised wagon holding 28 people.

After spending time in Portmadoc for lunch, we boarded a small steam train which took us through beautiful scenery until we met our coach and driver at Beddgelert. Our driver (Martin) took us on a scenic route through some narrow mountain passes - at times hair raising, until we arrived safely back at St. Kilda's Hotel.

All those who maybe interested in attending the Reunion & AGM in October 2013, PLEASE write to me enclosing a stamped addressed envelope so that I can send you details.

Blessings for the year,

Margaret. Tel. 01328 863986

Bevin Boys Association Website.

Your committee decided that we would have an **Official** Bevin Boys Association website. This contains a little bit about the Association, pictures of the BB plot at Alrewas and the BB Memorial plot which is adjacent. Also the Newsletter, Rules and Regulations as well as the contact details for all the Committee. Please go to:- <http://www.bevinboysassociation.co.uk>
If you have any input or news items for publication please contact me.

Kind regards,
Anne.

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION.

The subscription is equitable and fair to the members, in that people who subscribe to cover the costs of postage and production of the Newsletter. The added advantage is that we will now be able to send copies of the Newsletter to non-members if they wish to subscribe, who previously we had to refuse on grounds of the drain on our finances. At the moment we are running the subscription for a further year. **The Spring Newsletter will be sent out at the end of next April/ beginning May 2013.**

Anne.

Editor.

N.B.

An Annual Subscription of £5.00 will be required to receive the twice yearly newsletter. ALL Cheques to be made payable to

THE BEVIN BOYS ASSOCIATION only, and to be sent to:-

Anne Lane, {Mrs} (Newsletter Editor), Snipelands, Bourton Combe, Flax Bourton, Bristol. BS48 3QL. **To be received by 1st April 2013.**

-----PLEASE TEAR OFF AND SEND WITH YOUR CHEQUE-----

NAME.....

ADDRESS
.....
.....

POST CODE **TEL.NO:**

e-mail address:

Cheque: £