



THE BEVIN BOYS ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1989

CHAIRMAN

R. G. Todd,
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SECRETARY

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MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

A.Lane,
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NATIONAL REUNIONS

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NEWSLETTER FOR SPRING 2013.

We are very sad to record the recent death of Gordon Todd who was the newly elected Chairman, at the October 2012 AGM at Llandudno, on April 6th 2013. He died on Grand National Day, as a friend said, 'God took a winner'. The following is what he intended to have published in this Spring Newsletter.

This year marks the 70th Anniversary of the balloting of the National Conscription of Bevin Boys in December 1943, which we will celebrate at the Reunion and AGM in Norwich in October 2013. 2013 also marks the 20th Anniversary that Liz (the National Secretary) and I, joined the National Bevin Boy Committee, joined under the then Chairmanship of Phil Wood. Warwick Taylor joined in 1995, and Alan Lane in 1998.

It is a memorable year also as the permanent stone Memorial to ALL Bevin Boys will be dedicated by the Countess of Wessex on May 7th at the National Arboretum at Alrewas. More information will have been given by local Area Representatives. The Memorial is placed adjacent to the Bevin Boys Association site. I wish everyone good health for the year ahead, but unfortunately I have recently been unwell myself, but nevertheless send good wishes to all of you.

Gordon Todd.

POSTSCRIPT TO THE STOP PRESS ITEM IN THE AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2012

The committee and I have had many enquiries by letter and telephone asking for an update on the Stop Press item in the last Newsletter. We feel it is important that we clarify matters for you, the members, who still number over 280 and possibly, are unable to attend the local or National reunions and rely on only the Newsletter to be kept fully informed.

At the last AGM in October 2012, we were surprised that Warwick Taylor told the committee the morning before the afternoon AGM, that he did not wish to stand for re-election as Chairman - due to ill health. This we understood, as travelling to committee meetings can be difficult and onerous in one's later years, and thank him for his past great Public Relations and publicity contribution to the cause of the Bevin Boy Association. Warwick had expressed his desire to close down the Association on previous occasions, starting from the time when in 2009 he no longer wanted to organise the Annual Chairman's Weekend or Autumn Reunion. This was very ably taken up immediately, as many of you know, by Margaret Rose, and she has continued to organise the much appreciated Reunion and AGM in different parts of the country.

The alleged note from Lady Finsberg supporting Warwick to close down the Association was a surprise to us all, as she had NO authority to act on the Association Committee's behalf. Since I have been Secretary, from the year 2000, neither I nor any committee member has ever had any communication from her, as Warwick always acted as her contact. We frequently reminded members, that no individual can act on or behalf of other members, only as officially set out in our Rules and Regulations. Therefore we felt it incumbent on us, as your elected committee, to inform you as we did.

Our final concern is with those of you, or family members, who have access to the internet. Unfortunately, Warwick Taylor still has incorrect information on The Forgotten Conscript and Seniors Network sites, stating he is still Vice President and Chairman and as such he is clearly suggesting that the Bevin Boy Association is no longer functioning. Also that he and he alone is the only person to contact with regard to the Bevin Boy Association and or Veterans. The committee once again is being sidelined and ignored, a situation we have experienced repeatedly in recent years.

Once again, please be reassured that we will keep sending the Bi-annual Newsletter as long as there are members sending the £5 contribution to postage and packing. The local Area Representatives will, we are sure, continue to organize meetings/dates which as usual will be found later in the Newsletter.

It has been a difficult time for many members with ill health and the loss of loved ones. Our thoughts are with you. Thank you again for your many letters and telephone calls of support.

As always here to help.

Every good wish.

D. Elizabeth Todd (Liz)

MESSAGE FROM THE HON. SECRETARY.

What a long wet cold winter it has been, by the time you receive this Newsletter let us hope we are enjoying Sunshine and Spring flowers. We have some special news in this 70th Anniversary year. As part of the Bevin Boy history it has always been understood that Ernest Bevin's Secretary drew the card giving the number used to select the first ballottees. Not so. The mystery has been solved. Two weeks ago I received a telephone call from a Peter Fleming, son of a Betty Nunn. He told me that his mother, now 92 years old, was anxious to put the record straight. She had felt constrained by the Secret's Act not to divulge that it was she, a young secretary in Sir Godfrey Ince's Office, in St James Square, who had been called by Ernest Bevin's Secretary to go to the Minister's Office, and it was there that the card Number 9 was picked out of the hat by her. Fortunately Margaret Rose our reunion Organiser, was able to visit her with Geoff Rose, her Bevin Boy husband, to record the occasion with photographs. Another piece of history has been fitted into the Bevin Boy story.

With every good wish,

D. Elizabeth Todd (Liz)

MESSAGE from the HON.TREASURER.

I have been committed to organizing the Dedication ceremony of the Bevin Boys Memorial at the National Arboretum, Staffordshire. I needed to take two months leave of absence from my duties as Committee Member and Treasurer of the Bevin Boys Association. Unfortunately events within the BBA committee necessitated me taking on other duties and I am unable to present my usual Treasurer's report. Of course all banking transactions have continued as normal.

The bank balance in the general account at 28th March 2013 shows a healthy sum.

Harry P.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT.

We have again received a great many letters saying how much you all look forward to reading the Newsletters and for your committee to 'keep up the good work'. 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 and/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 Spring Newsletter will be distributed to 284 members plus 17 sons, daughters and wives this time, 60 of whom receive it via e-mail and 5 members who live outside of Britain. Unfortunately it is very sad that we now also have 1273 names in the Book of Remembrance. **Please note that Alan Stamp is shortly to move and therefore Bob MacKenzie (Shene Cottage, Marchmont Road, Richmond. TW10 6HQ. Tel: 020 8948 5538) has kindly agreed to be the Area Representative for the Home Counties Group.**

Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy Summer,
Alan.

Sales.

Total Sales for Postal & the AGM Reunion last year were £260.59p. 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

Plans are gradually being finalised for the Reunion to take place at the Maidshead Hotel in Norwich.

Monday September 30th, Arrival, registration etc.

Tuesday October 1st, Free day to explore Norwich or surrounding area.

Wednesday October 2nd our coach outing to visit Sandringham House.

This is Her Majesty's personal property, nothing to do with the country or the government. This is where her extended family congregate to spend Christmas together. The Queen and Prince Phillip use this time as their winter break (they returned to London on Tuesday February 12th this year). It will be an interesting day, there is much to be seen and the collection of Royal cars are on display in the small museum. For people who may wish to divide their time by enjoying a tractor/trailer ride around the grounds, this can also be arranged.

Thursday October 3rd, , AGM at the Maidshead Hotel @ 2pm. This will be followed by a Gala Dinner when our guest will be The Lord Mayor of Norwich. There will also be entertainment.

This reunion needs a Royal flavour because it is the 70th year since the start of the Bevin Boys conscription and we need to celebrate, and give thanks for the contribution made by the Bevin Boys in

defending our country at such a challenging time. As Michael Cain would say 'not everybody knows that'.

By the way, the Queen is celebrating her 60 years since her coronation in 1953.

Some of you have already sent me your SAE for more details. I suggest that you respond quickly because the hotel is hoping to retrieve their rooms for another booking.

On receipt of your envelope, I shall send details, the cost, and the amount of deposit required.

You may know that Norwich is served by rail from Liverpool and Liverpool Street. There is a good coach service too. As there are bus stops near the hotel to the city centre you may prefer not to use your car, but use your bus pass. Having said that, there is free car parking at the hotel.

Please remember to make an early response – as soon as you receive this Newsletter, to avoid disappointment. The committee members look forward to meeting you all.

All good wishes,

Margaret. Tel. 01328 863986.

REGIONAL REUNION DATES.

Please contact the Area Rep.

Sunday June 9th - East Anglia Group - As discussed at last years area meeting, a Sunday lunch has been arranged at The Cottage, Thorpe St. Andrew. Please contact **Margaret Rose** for details. Tel: 01328 863986.

Monday 10th June - South West Group - Alan Lane 01275 463703.

July 1st Stoke Area. V.M. Slater MBE 10 Mill Hayes Road, Knypersley Stoke on Trent ST8 7BU. Tel: 01782 512561.or e-mail: phil@sunbeam1930.wanadoo.co.uk

Wednesday July 17th - Essex & NE London - Summer Luncheon on Mersea Island. Please send SAE to **Eric Johnson.** 22 Alexandra Avenue, West Mersea, Colchester. CO5 8BG. For details and booking form.

Tuesday August 6th – Home Counties Group – Bob McKenzie 020 8948 5538

Thursday 5th September - Southern Counties Group at Bournemouth (**Warwick Taylor** 01305 261269)

Wednesday October 16th - Cheshire, Lancs & North Wales Group at Thornton Hough, Wirral (**Liz Todd** 0151 3423703)

Bevin Boys Association Website.

Just to remind you all that we now have an **Official** Bevin Boys Association website. This contains a little bit about the Association, pictures of the Bevin Boy's plot at Alrewas. 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.

Tel: 01275 463703 or e-mail: alananne2749@gmail.com