



The **BAFUNCS** Newsletter

March 2008

Nº 53

Looking at things in a different light



In this issue

BAFUNCS member John Rodda uses a thermal camera to obtain a picture of a house to reveal heat loss from a house

- Executive Committee Report for 2007/2008
- A new perspective on wartime memories
- Kenya: memories of a visit to Mathare
- What can we do about global warming?
- The Pension Fund replies to our questions
- Membership news

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Vice-Chairman:

Brian Dando (WHO)

Honorary Secretary:

Annie Kean (IMO)

Honorary Treasurer:

Bryan Sutters (WHO)

Elected Members:

Fred Beer (WHO)

Michael Davies (WORLD

BANK/UN/FAO/UNDP)

Tony Loftas (FAO)

Jeremy Wells (ITC UNCTAD/WTO)

Co-opted Members and Advisers:

Michael Askwith (UNDP)

Ziaul Islam (WHO)

Ben Goffman (UN)

June Hargreaves-Beer (WHO)

Bill Jackson (UNV)

Peter Lewis (WHO)

Christine Woodworth-Batho (WHO)

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BAFUNCS Newsletter N° 53

March, 2008

Note from the Editor

Once again we are looking forward to the Annual Reunion when, in the business sessions, we will be reviewing the state of the Association as reflected in the Chairman's report. The signs of an ageing association are unavoidable, but, fortunately, the death toll among members is being matched by the recruitment of new ones; the number of members is only four less than a year ago. This is good. It would, of course, be better if the membership had increased, and better still if more members would offer their services to the Association. As Chairman Pat Brown points out in her statement it is becoming increasingly difficult to find people willing to help.

The cover picture shows John Rodda focusing a thermal camera on a house. The image it produces can be used to determine and correct heat loss. Energy conservation and the reduction in carbon emissions are now very much in the news. Vice-President David Axford first alerted readers to the reality of global warming over six years ago (*BAFUNCS Newsletter N° 40*). In this issue John looks at some of the practical things we can do about the problem.

Irene Chamberlain recalls her wartime experience at a wireless intercept station that fed information to Station X, better known as Bletchley Park. She was even taken on a day trip to Station X where she saw Colossus a codebreaking computer in action. After the war these machines were all destroyed, but a Colossus has been rebuilt at Bletchley and she went to see it. In November last year Colossus was back in action decoding messages transmitted from Germany.

My own trip down memory lane had a much sadder inspiration: the violence that followed the elections in Kenya. A journalistic mission to Kenya some 35 years ago stimulated my interest in development and probably set the direction of my career. The conflicts I witnessed then clearly remain, but, for all that, Kenya remains a special place for me; I was saddened to see its future placed in such serious jeopardy.

Finally, Michael Askwith, who regularly disappears to remote places, explains what happened to BESO which used to encourage retired UN specialists to volunteer for missions overseas. I thought it had disappeared, but it has simply joined with VSO. I hope it is more successful in attracting volunteers than BAFUNCS!

The **deadline** for contributions to **the September 2008 issue is Friday, 22 August**. If you wish to try out an idea before writing, I can be contacted by phone (01844 343 652), by letter (36 Manor Park Avenue, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire, HP27 9AS) or, **preferably**, by e-mail (tony.loftas@btinternet.com).

Tony Loftas

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Report of the Executive Committee for 2007/2008

Patricia Brown

Chairman, Executive Committee

1: Chairman's statement

To-day, Shrove Tuesday, it seems appropriate to pause to look back over the past year. I wonder how many people these days keep up the tradition of cooking pancakes, or think at all about the coming Lenten season.

We left May 2007's very successful Annual Reunion in Eastbourne little thinking that it was the last time most of us were to see Imogen Mollett, who died suddenly in August while on holiday with her family in the Canadian Rockies. I am sure her closer friends miss her greatly, as do we all. Her death has left a considerable gap in the life of BAFUNCS. Although she had largely ceased her formal contact with the Committee she remained a Vice-President and still took an active interest in its affairs, always available with her wisdom and institutional memory to give advice and help in solving knotty problems. An old friend, Basil Loveridge, looking well at Eastbourne, also died unexpectedly later in the year, followed very soon after by his wife. And then another friend, both to BAFUNCS and the Benevolent Fund, Desmond Nugent, left us just before Christmas. All, and the deaths of other members over the past twelve months, a great sadness.

Some changes to the Executive Committee occurred during the year. Sue Shaw's unexpected resignation and that of George Dzielcielewski for family reasons, meant that we needed a Regional Convenor and a Membership Secretary. Bill Jackson undertook the work of Regional Convenor and Ben Goffman that of Membership Secretary. Both are standing for election to the Committee at the coming Annual General Meeting, Bill Jackson moving from being a co-opted member. It became necessary to revert to the practice of having a Subscription Secretary, separating the work from that of the Treasurer. Christine Woodworth-Batho has been preparing herself for the task and will stand for election to the Committee in May. Two more members, Brian Dando and Jeremy Wells, will not stand for re-election. I want to thank Brian for his calm and sturdy support over a number of years, latterly as Vice-Chairman. Jeremy is leaving for the United States, his wife's native country. He has been a faithful and interested member of the Committee, holding the Archives on the computer and using them to look up past history when it was needed as a background to discussion. Harold Dunning felt

that our new President, Sir Richard Jolly, having been Chairman of the United Nations Association-UK, and thus in a strong position to liaise on BAFUNCS' behalf with UNA, the time had come for him to stand down as Liaison Officer with UNA. Our grateful thanks to Harold for many years of effort.

Early in 2008 there was another change in the Committee's meeting place. By the end of 2007 the refurbishment of the IMO building was not yet finished and the United Nations Association was no longer able to accommodate us. On 31 January we met at the London Office of UNHCR in a pleasant room overlooking the busy junction of the Strand and Aldwych. A UNHCR intern was most attentive in looking after us. We are grateful to Mrs Bemma Donkoh, the UNHCR Representative to the United Kingdom, for allowing us to meet there until we return to IMO.

I reiterate our thanks to Sam Daws, Executive Director of UNA, for putting up with us for so long and for supporting us in so many ways. One way was once more to mention BAFUNCS as an organization worth joining in the September issue of *New World*, the UNA Newsletter.

It is disappointing to hear that, despite appeals to the membership, registration for AR2008 in Kendal has not yet reached the 100 participants needed for the hotel to provide a complimentary bedroom for a speaker. It is hoped that, as in the past, numbers will pick up nearer to the date. Unfortunately, this year it seems that some regulars are experiencing health problems or cannot face a long journey. They will be missed. Preparations for AR 2009, to be held in Chilsworth, near Southampton, are well under way, as is the search by the core team of the South-West and Channel Islands Region for a suitable hotel for AR 2010. Surrey's regional committee has agreed to start preparations for AR 2011. All we know about 2012 at the moment is that we shall want to meet well away from London.

It is three years since I made an appeal for new members and those who have not taken part in the work of the Association up to now to come forward and volunteer their services. It is becoming more and more difficult to find people willing to undertake the various tasks waiting to be done. At national level, for example, we shall need an Archivist to take over from Jeremy Wells. Similarly, the regions need officers to oversee their functioning if they are not to collapse - the Northern Region in particular comes to mind. And, though Cambridge has a nucleus of members who for years have found themselves taking office

Report of the Executive Committee - continued (Item 2 Administration)

because no-one else volunteers, it finds itself unable to contemplate organizing an annual reunion because new, younger members are not coming forward. Surrey is at a loss to find new members for its regional committee and may have to cease organizing its enjoyable events. I believe other regions find themselves in the same situation. So do, please, come forward. Michael Davies, who incidentally stands for election as Vice-Chairman in May, makes telling comments about this in the last paragraph of his report in Section 5 below.

In the same way the number of members attending regional events is falling. As I said in 2005 it would be so good to see more members taking advantage of a luncheon, or interesting outing, specially arranged for them, and of the opportunity to meet up and talk with people who have had similar working experiences to their own. Some who have taken the plunge and attended a regional event, or the annual reunion, have been pleased to find long-lost colleagues, former friends, who have the special bond of having served with them in a far-flung part of the world.

A disappointment, also mentioned by Michael Davies below, has been the lack of interest shown by members in the medical insurance survey. It raises the question of whether they have thought deeply enough about the ultimate purpose of the survey.

I conclude by thanking our President, Sir Richard, for his interest and attention to our needs during the year. Thanks also go to Vice-President David Axford, who continues to be the BAFUNCS Representative on a FAFICS Working Group, to attend some of the Executive Committee's meetings, and to give valuable advice. To Michael Davies thanks for his ever increasing help to members and the bereaved on pensions and health insurance matters, and for his contributions to the FAFICS Working Group on After Service Health Insurance and Long-Term Care. My own experience this year in trying to help the husband of a friend and colleague to sort out the intricacies of claiming for her long-term care from the staff health insurance of the Organization she served has shown me how valuable the work of that Working Group will prove to be. Fred Beer continues to think about ways of improving welfare support (see his letter on page 9); his efforts are appreciated, as are those of other members of the Committee. Mrs Elsa Brathaug agreed again to audit the annual accounts. To her and all those who have left, or are leaving, the Committee this year my sincere thanks once more.

2: Administration (Annie Kean, Secretary)

A. Meetings of the Executive Committee

During 2007/2008, the Executive Committee held an *ad hoc* meeting at the Cavendish hotel, Eastbourne, on 13 May 2007, three regular meetings at the Headquarters of UNA, on 26 July, 27 September and 29 November, and two at the London Office of UNHCR, on 31 January and 27 March. From 2008 the UNA was not able to host Executive Committee meetings. The London Office of UNHCR kindly offered to provide alternative accommodation pending completion of the refurbishment of the IMO building. The Executive Committee wishes to thank the three organizations for hosting its meetings.

Ann Fitzherbert attended the July and David Macfadyen the November meeting of the Executive Committee to report on progress made by the Northern Region in preparing for the 2008 Annual General Assembly and Reunion. David Axford attended on several occasions in his capacity as Vice-President. Work continued on Phase II of the United Nations Career Research Project. The former Secretary, Sheila Cooper, kindly agreed to resume responsibility for the BAFUNCS website.

B. Responsibilities of ExCo Members

The responsibilities of the elected and co-opted members of the Committee were as follows:

Elected Committee Members

Chairman: Patricia Brown

Vice-Chairman: Brian Dando

Treasurer: Bryan Suitters

Secretary: Annie Kean

Members:

Fred Beer: *National National Welfare Support*

Co-ordinator

Michael Davies: *Pensions and Insurance*

George Dziecielewski: *Regional Convenor and Deputy Treasurer (Until July 2007)*

Tony Loftas: *Editor*

Jeremy Wells: *Archivist*

Co-opted Members

Marilyn Carr: *Relations with United Nations bodies*

June Hargreaves-Beer: *Annual Reunions*

Co-ordinator

Ziaul Islam: *Deputy Secretary and Adviser on Relations with Age Concern*

Membership of BAFUNCS, 29 February 2008											
Type of Membership	CAM	KSX	LON	NOR	OVS	OXF	SCL	SRY	SWT	WMW	Total
Single	19	43	54	45	37	28	28	44	41	34	375
Joint	*38	30	32	42	28	28	12	26	34	14	284
Single Life	4	15	10	5	17	*1	3	8	7	5	75
Joint Life		4	12	14	4	*10	4	8	8	2	66
Single Associate	1	1	1	1			1	1			6
Honorary	1										1
Honorary Associate								1			1
5 Total	63	93	109	109	86	67	48	88	90	55	808

* 1 x HVP

Bill Jackson: *Regional Convenor (from July 2007)***Others assisting the Committee have included:**Michael Askwith: *Special Adviser on UNCRP II and Liaison with NGOs*David Axford: *Representative on the Working Group on the Objectives and Function of FAFICS and Revision of its Statutes*Harold Dunning: *Relations with UNA and NPC (until autumn 2007)*Ben Goffman: *acting Membership Secretary (from September 2007)*Christine Woodworth-Batho: *acting Subscription Secretary (from December 12007)***3: Finances****(Bryan Suitters, Treasurer)**

See end of this Report (page 9).

4: Membership Secretary**(Ben Goffman)**

The last statistical report was published in March

2007 (BAFUNCS Newsletter, No. 51), and since then 26 new members have joined the Association, seven of whom are spouses covered by joint subscriptions. Three members resigned and two others allowed their membership to lapse. One member was reinstated. Eighteen members have died.

5: Pensions**(Michael Davies)**

This has been a generally quiet year on the pension front apart from one incident. For the second time in four years the UNJSPF has failed to process the United Kingdom annual cost-of-living adjustment on time. The only excuse that they offer is that the Pension Fund rules require them to follow a defined procedure to obtain this data, despite the fact that more modern methods are now available (such as government announcements on the internet). The UK is not alone in this as recently Italy, Austria and Australia have all suffered the same problem. UNJSPF seems unwilling to take the initiative to examine a possible improved mechanism and so we are continuing to pursue the matter through FAFICS.

Report of the Executive Committee - continued (Items 6 Welfare and 7 Regional Convenor)

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Despite the recent market turmoil the financial situation of the Fund has held up well. At year-end 2006 the Fund had assets of US\$36 billion and there was a surge in value over the first two thirds of 2000, with assets reaching a record level of US\$42.2 billion in October 2007. Since then there has been a 1.4 percent fall in its value but still, on a year-on-year basis, the Fund has seen excellent growth to a current level of US\$41.7 billion. Some 58 percent of the Fund's assets are in equities, 33 percent in bonds and 4 percent in real estate.

Members' enquiries have mostly continued to centre on the issue of switching from the dollar to the dual (UK) track. It is surprising that there are still a number of pensioners who have not yet switched to the dual track, given the level of improved protection it gives against the recent dollar decline. While there will always be those individuals who need to maintain a balanced investment portfolio or for personal reasons prefer to have the pension established on a dollar basis, those who have no such reasons should seriously consider switching. Such a decision however, should only be made after requesting appropriate details from UNJSPF.

As has been reported in the Newsletter (*see* page 19) we have obtained clarification and some understanding of conditions applying in the UK (but not matched in a number of other countries) concerning use of public notaries and living wills as part of the certification processes required by UNJSPF, particularly for certifying the financial details for a survivor's pension and for annual certification when the pensioner is fully incapacitated.

This year for the first time internet enquiries from members have outnumbered mail or phone enquiries which provides an interesting insight to the take up of the internet in the BAFUNCS community – perhaps now is the time to ensure that your e-mail address is in the BAFUNCS Membership List. Members may also wish to explore the UNJSPF web site (www.unjspf.org) as many of their needs (such as copies of forms, cost-of-living information and exchange rates) can be found therein. It is also suggested that any member asking for assistance by e-mail preface their message title with the acronym BAFUNCS so that unknown incoming e-mails are not confused with junk mail. The subject titles “enquiry” or “question” (for example) are automatically sent to my junk mail unless the sender is known.

On the medical insurance front, due to the lack of interest shown by members we have not taken any further the results of our survey on the use of

the NHS, although FAFICS has adopted our proposals at a policy level. This brings to mind one other issue that I have noticed about BAFUNCS members – namely their reluctance to get involved with the Association's activities. Unless members continue to participate actively, the Association will wither away slowly which is of disadvantage to all. My experience is that many different individuals request some support in the course of a few years and often for reasons that cannot be easily foreseen. Recently BAFUNCS has been quite active in trying to secure improvements in retirement conditions and rules that have the potential to help all its members. I believe it is easier for me to say this as I am not a UN pensioner and therefore can see more objectively the value of BAFUNCS to you all. Relying on a few tried and trusted individuals is fine in the short term but does not ensure the long-term viability of the Association.

6: Welfare (A.G. [Fred] Beer)

It is appreciated that we have a working welfare support and help network. However, the need for any kind of assistance can be recognized only if those requiring it bring it to the attention of Regional Representatives and the welfare support teams. It would be a help if members would inform us of the kind of support they might expect to receive, in respect to, for example, contacts, visits, and transport, on the understanding, of course, that we are not qualified advisers and can only act informally. I personally feel concerned about what we can do, what we are doing, and what we are unable to do to assist further.

7: Regional Convenor (Bill Jackson)

George Dziecielewski kindly handed on the baton of Regional Convenor in the autumn of 2007. The position continues to allow for two-way liaison between the regions on the one hand and the Executive Committee on the other. Suggestions for nominations for the election of officers have been solicited from the regions.

Before the next Annual General Meeting at Kendal, with a view to up-dating the Information Document INF4 “Planning for Retirement in the United Kingdom”, the Regional Representatives will have been invited to forward information on

the experience, good or adverse, of members - including in particular, newer members - of settling back into life in the United Kingdom upon retirement from the United Nations system. For the Newsletter, officers from all ten Regions have supplied information on activities held. They have also supplied, as far as they are available, details on upcoming activities. These are forwarded for inclusion on the BAFUNCS website, often with warm invitations to members, not just from the region organizing the activity but from other regions, to participate if they can. The customary meeting of Regional Representatives will take place at Kendal, where they can and should raise any issues they and their members may have, with a view to having BAFUNCS respond to the fullest extent possible to what the membership would like to see.

8: Editor (Tony Loftas)

Support given by members to the Newsletter was encouraging, with more offers of contributions coming through, but, as in past years, very few submissions were received for the Self-help section. Books written by members continued to be a source of inspiration for articles, four during this period. In fact, looking at my bookshelf, I see that so far I have collected 14 titles by members!

Production costs of the Newsletter and the Membership List were within budget. I am rather proud that, despite increases in postal charges, which now account for about 20 percent of the publishing budget, the allocation for publishing has remained at a similar level to that in 2000 when I assumed editorship of the Newsletter. This has been achieved by the use of desktop publishing and changes in procedure such as maintaining most of the Information Leaflets as ready to print computer files, but credit should also be given to our printers, Mayfield Press. Their representative has always been ready to suggest ways of reducing costs and the company has achieved production economies by using the latest technology.

As in previous years Susan Miller has assisted with the proof reading of the Newsletter.

9: Annual Reunions Co-ordinator (June Hargreaves-Beer)

The Thirtieth Annual General Assembly and Reunion was held in Eastbourne, East Sussex, from

11-13 May 2007. The organizers, the Kent/Sussex Region, are to be congratulated on achieving a well-organized and enjoyable meeting. After some initial concern at the low numbers registering, the final number of participants was 147.

Contact has been maintained with the Northern Region, organizers of the 2008 Reunion, which will take place in Kendal in the Lake District from 9-11 May 2008, as well as with the South-West Region who will host the Reunion in 2010.

The Reunion in 2009 will be hosted by my own Region, South Central, and arrangements are proceeding. A preliminary information note can be found in this Newsletter under a separate item.

10: Archives (Jeremy Wells)

There is little new to report for 2007/2008. The archivist continued to record electronically all minutes of meetings of the Executive Committee, as well as the report on the Annual General Meeting and Reunion.

He also continued to archive the Newsletters when they were received electronically (on CDROM) from the editor.

However, the archivist is not standing for reelection and will hand over all of the archived material after AR2007 to the new archivist.

During 2007, several requests were made to the archivist for information to support the writing of obituaries and as background to Executive Committee discussions.

11: Relations with other organizations

Age Concern (Ziaul Islam)

Dr Islam represented BAFUNCS at the Joint Meeting of the National Associations Forum & Retirement Forum in June 2007. Among many other issues, debate was focused on the following most important political issues facing the new Prime Minister:

1. Long-term care for ill, disabled and frail people and if the money is limited, should the government improve the quality of services?
2. Or should it pay for more services for people whose needs are at a lower level?
3. What should the balance of responsibility be between individuals and the government?
4. What are the choices facing organizations

Report of the Executive Committee - continued

(Items 11 Relations with other organizations and 12 United Nations Career Record Project (UNCRP-II))

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that provide services to older people?

Discussions were held on long-term social and health care, both at home and in hospitals and care homes. It was pointed out that there should be a clear distinction between personal care and health care. The roles of the Department of Health, primary health care trusts, local authorities, charities, NGOs and Age Concern England etc were also discussed. The participants were divided into three sub-groups to discuss important issues, such as, who should pay for personal care, how extra resources were to be raised and what needed to be done to support carers.

Participants were also informed about the background to Age Concern. The formal name of Age Concern England (ACE) is the National Council on Ageing (NCoA). "Age Concern England" and "Age Concern" are names that NCoA uses in promoting its work. ACE and NCoA are therefore exactly the same; simply different names for the same body.

In September 2007 Dr Islam also participated in a meeting of the National Council on Ageing. Among the topics of discussion were foot care, mental health, and human rights of older people in health care.

The past ten years have seen an increasing rationing of NHS chiropody services and reduction of funds for foot care. The waiting lists for these services have increased but the figures are not counted in official waiting list statistics.

The Report on the Mental Health Enquiry identified key areas that need to be improved for older people with mental health problems, namely, ending discrimination, prioritizing prevention, improving current services and enabling older people to help themselves and each other. The Report from the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Elders Forum was also reviewed.

The opportunity for BAFUNCS to participate in ACE and other related meetings is appreciated, particularly in the health and related issues being discussed at these meetings.

12: United Nations Career Record Project (UNCRP-II)

(Michael Askwith)

The BAFUNCS Annual Reunion in Eastbourne in May 2008 provided a useful opportunity to up-date members on the status of the UNCRP, and to encourage increased participation. Both the outgoing President, Erik Jensen and the in-coming one, Sir Richard Jolly, provided strong

endorsement of the importance of the UNCRP, and of the continuing need to collect information on the careers of former UN civil servants and staff.

The file of contributions made to date was on display, and about twenty members signed up to complete questionnaires. By February 2008 contributions provided are as follows:

Expressions of interest	
BAFUNCS members	63
Non-BAFUNCS members	10
Total	73
Full questionnaires submitted	14
Part I of questionnaires submitted	13
CVs submitted	20
<i>Sub-total of contributions</i>	<i>47</i>
Members who have contributed papers	12
Papers promised	7

During 2007–2008, the number of additional contributions received has been modest, approximately half a dozen, although these numbers will be increased by the addition of obituary information published in past BAFUNCS Newsletters, and those who have contributed to the UN Intellectual History Project. Sincere thanks are expressed to all those who have contributed in the form of completed questionnaires, CVs and papers.

In early 2008, Bill Jackson kindly prepared a list of the 329 contributors to the UNCRP Stage I, maintained in the Bodleian Library, which included summary information on their respective agency(ies), positions held, duty stations etc.

During the year, the Bodleian Library continued to demonstrate its interest in the UNCRP by upgrading its computerized processing and storage capacity and expanding access to the collection to more users. It plans to give increased priority to this collection and to making the contributions of former British and other members of the UN more widely known.

This underlines the continuing need for the project and regional representatives to encourage members to complete questionnaires as well as leave papers and other written or taped records of their UN careers and service. It is also hoped to expand the coverage of the project to those who have been associated with the UN and its agencies, for instance through the UK diplomatic service, and in peace-keeping operations, as was the case in Stage I.

Next year's Annual Reunion and General Assembly will be in Hampshire

Host Region: South Central

When: Friday, 8 May to Sunday, 10 May 2009

Venue: Chilworth Manor Hotel, Chilworth, Hampshire.

Situated between Southampton and the historic market town of Romsey, Chilworth is close to the New Forest and is ideally situated for visiting the Isle of Wight, the famous Historic Dockyard at Portsmouth and Hampshire's capital, Winchester. Set in 12 acres of landscaped grounds, this Edwardian Manor House has been a hotel for some 15 years, and maintains a high standard of comfort and service. There is an elegant restaurant, as well as a lounge bar, and a splendid terrace where one can enjoy a pre-dinner drink.

The recently opened leisure club includes a heated indoor swimming pool, hydrotherapy spa pool, sauna and steam room.

How much: Full weekend (Category A) £425 for a double or twin room, £215 for a single.

Guest speakers: To be announced.

Saturday outings: The following excursions are being considered:

- Exbury Gardens in the New Forest – famous for its rhododendrons and azaleas, which should be in full flower in May. A small train

circulates through the gardens and can be used by those members who do not wish or are unable to walk far.

- Braemore Manor House, Fordingbridge (also in the New Forest) – a magnificent old manor house containing a fine collection of paintings, tapestries and furniture, situated in a historic village with a Countryside Museum with replicas of village shops.
- A guided walk around Winchester, with visits to the Cathedral and other sites of historic interest.

The banquet: A gala dinner will be provided on the Saturday evening, with music afterwards.

Longer stays:

Thursday: £100 for a double bedroom, £75 for a single room, bed and breakfast. Sunday: £70 for a double room, £35 for a single room, again bed and breakfast.

Further information: will be provided at AR 2008 and in the September *BAFUNCS Newsletter* when the booking form will be available.

Queries: Contact June Hargreaves-Beer, Carrick House, 10 Mallard Road, Rowlands Castle, Hampshire, PO9 6HN (tel: 023 9241 2568; e-mail: jhb@hargreaves-beer.freeserve.co.uk).

Have you booked your place at this year's Annual Reunion and General Assembly in Kendal?

The Thirty-First Annual Reunion and General Assembly will take place in Kendal from Friday May 9 to Sunday May 11, 2008. The venue, Castle Green Hotel, is a popular centre for visitors to the Lake District and late spring is one of the best times to visit this part of the world.

As is customary, participants have a choice of excursions for the Saturday afternoon: to Brantwood, John Ruskin's former home above Conistown Water; Dove Cottage, Grasmere former home of William Wordsworth and Levens Hall Gardens plus a cruise on Windermere. On Saturday morning Lord Mark Malloch-Brown, Minister of State for Africa, Asia will be the speaker on Saturday morning and ex-President of BAFUNCS Erik Jensen will speak on Sunday morning (see below).

At the time of going to press a limited number of places still exist and any BAFUNCS Member who wishes to attend the Kendal Reunion is urged to contact the registrar Laurie Robertson without delay, preferably by telephone (0131 312 7196) or e-mail (rlaurierobertson@aol.com).

Terms and reservation arrangements are given in the Registration Form AR/2008/2 which was sent to all members. If you have mislaid it, you may book by simply contacting Laurie Robertson. Registered participants who wish to arrive early or to extend their stay to explore the Lakes, should contact the Hotel direct, requesting the BAFUNCS-agreed rate (telephone: 01539 734 000; email: reception@castlegreen.co.uk).

Members from the Northern Region look forward to welcoming their BAFUNCS colleagues to an enjoyable reunion.

Speakers and their themes

Lord Mark Malloch-Brown is Minister of State for Africa, Asia and the United Nations. Before taking up this assignment, he was Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, serving under Kofi Annan, and before this from 1999-2005 Administrator of UNDP. Earlier, he had worked as Vice President for External Affairs of the World

Financial report for the year ended 31 December 2007

AR/2008/10

Bryan Suitters
Treasurer

A. Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2007

The year produced a satisfactory financial result for the Association, with a modest surplus of income over expenditure being achieved. The Life Membership Fund also reversed the downward trend in asset value, which is a very encouraging result. In the end, the fund showed a modest increase in value, as a number of new members opted to take out Life Membership. The Life Fund is well placed to fund the short-term needs of the Life Members of the Association.

B. Budget for the year ending 31 December 2008

It is thought that the anticipated income of the Association during the year 2008 is already fully committed to fund projected activities during the year. A conservative budget is proposed; taking into account the pattern of expenditure that has emerged over recent years, and the proposed activities, which ExCo has been discussing.

REPORT

On the Accounts of the British Association of Former United Nations Civil Servants for the year ended 31 December 2007

I have gone through the Accounts of the Association for the year ended 31 December 2007 and confirm to the best of my knowledge I have found them to be in accordance with the substantiating documents and bank statements provided by the Association's Honorary Treasurer.

In my opinion the Accounts present an accurate and fair view of the financial affairs of the Association for the year 2007.

Dated: 13 February 2008

signed: E. Brathaug

Letters

Dear Sir,

I am too young to think about care/nursing homes for myself and my wife! But I do think about the later years of our present good life.

There are many residential homes throughout the UK, but we love our home and would like to remain in it as the ageing process progresses.

A friend, one of our caring Welfare Support Team, has written to me, and I quote, "Where to find out about private Carer Agencies who send people out to look after anybody in need of assistance. I have a neighbour about to celebrate his 100th birthday who has a live-in carer from a private agency and when the carer needs to go away she is replaced by someone else. This may be costly, but affordable.

Where do we find information on such agencies? Any information you or members have, or any suggestions, on home care would be much appreciated and could be circulated for the use of all of us."

Please send anything directly to me, or to your Regional Representative or Welfare Support team members.

Fred Beer
National Welfare Support Coordinator

Bank and at the beginning of his career for the UNHCR in Thailand, in charge of field operations for Cambodian refugees. As the lead international partner of the Sawyer-Miller Group he has advised many third world governments. Lord Malloch-Brown will speak on the theme "The UN and Britain: the opportunities and challenges ahead".

Erik Jensen retired as an Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations after five years heading the Western Sahara mission. Over the 31 years of his UN career he held posts in New York, Geneva and London. He undertook political, economic assistance and humanitarian missions - to Nigeria, Bahrain, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, Timor, Chad, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic, Djibouti and Guinea-Bissau.

Before joining the UN he did anthropology and development work in Sarawak. After retiring from the UN he was professor in international relations in Boston. Erik Jensen will speak on the topic "From Jungle to Desert with Stops Between - A UN Life".

AR/2008/10

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

(rounded to nearest £)

	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts:					
Balance forward from 2006					64067
Membership Subscriptions		10252			
Bank Interest	Note 1	1360			
Reunion		515			
Miscellaneous	Note 6	<u>0</u>			
			12127		
Off-budget Items					
Music Group	Note 7	3406			
Deposit from KSX Region	Note 5	9864			
Bank interest. KSX deposit		164			
Deposit from NOR Region	Note 5	12545			
Bank interest. NOR deposit		<u>33</u>			
			<u>26012</u>		
				38139	
Payments:					
General Administration	Note 2	1427			
Executive Committee	Note 3	3259			
Taxation		0			
Other Organizations	Note 4	561			
Publishing		4254			
The Regions		762			
Reunion		0			
Miscellaneous		<u>0</u>			
			10263		
Off-budget Items:					
Music Group	Note 7	4549			
Funds to KSX Region		22293			
Funds to NOR Region		<u>225</u>			
			<u>27067</u>		
				37330	
Surplus of receipts over payments					<u>809</u>
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2007				64876	<u><u>64876</u></u>
Balances in Hand at 31 December 2007					
(A) Bank Community Account			1006		
(B) Bank Business Reserve Account			11196		
(C) Treasurer Deposit Account			40000		
(D) Bank Business Reserve (AR)			12554		
(E) Bank Business Reserve (MG)			120		
(F) Debtors			<u>0</u>		
					<u>64876</u>
Movement of Funds:					
Life Membership Fund at 31 December 2006		3184			
Pay Life Member subscriptions		-1743			
Interest on Fund Assets		59			
Member subscriptions		840			
			<u>2340</u>		
General Fund:					
at 31 December 2006		41448			
Add Life Member subscriptions		1743			
Pay interest to Life Member Fund		-59			
Pay new Life Members subscriptions		-840			
			<u>42292</u>		
Liabilities					
Shirley Phillips Reserve Fund		3259		(A)	1006
Life Membership Fund		4033		(B)	11196
General Fund	42292			(C)	40000
Add Surplus for 2007	809	43101		(D)	12554
KSX deposits		14363		(E)	120
Music Group deposits		<u>120</u>		(F)	<u>0</u>
		<u>64876</u>			<u>64876</u>
					<u>64876</u>

Assets

(A) 1006

(B) 11196

(C) 40000

(D) 12554

(E) 120

(F) 0

6487664876

NOTES TO BAFUNCS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2007

(Rounded to nearest £)

	£	£
Note 1. Interest due but not yet received is not included.		
Note 2. These Administrative charges were:		
Mail (with internet)	351	
Travel	161	
Print/Photocopy	0	
Supplies	913	
Telephone	2	
Miscellaneous items	0	1427
Note 3. These Executive Committee charges were :		
Printing and photocopying	924	
Mail and internet	30	
Telephone	0	
Travel	352	
Representation	1804	
Supplies	9	
Stationary	140	
Miscellaneous items	0	3259
Note 4. The other Organizations to which payments were made are :		
Subscription to FAFICS	548	
Subscription to National Pensioners Convention	13	561
Note 5. BAFUNCS offers the Region organizing the Annual Reunion a deposit facility to hold prepayments from attendees		
Note 6. This represents surplus funds generated from holding the Annual Reunion:		
Kent and Sussex in 2007	461	
Oxford in 2006	54	515
Note 7. The Music Group offered a visit to Copenhagen in 2007. This was cancelled for lack of support		
Total receipts	3406	
Total expenditure	4549	-1143

BAFUNCS Proposed: Budget for 2008

Budget 2007	Item	Actual 2007	Budget 2008
Receipts:			
10400	Members Subscriptions	10252	10500
1600	Bank Interest	1360	1500
0	Surplus from Reunion	515	0
0	Miscellaneous	0	0
<u>12000</u>		<u>12127</u>	<u>12000</u>
Payments:			
1300	General Administration	1427	1400
2000	Executive Committee	3259	3000
1700	Life Membership Subscriptions	840	700
0	Miscellaneous & Taxation	0	0
700	Other Organisations	561	600
4700	Publishing	4254	4800
1500	The Regions	762	1500
100	Reunion	0	0
<u>12000</u>		<u>11103</u>	<u>12000</u>

Annual Report of the BAFUNCS Benevolent Fund for 1 January to 31 December, 2007

On the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the BAFUNCS Benevolent Fund, it is appropriate to give a brief review of its activities during this period. The fund was established as a registered charity with a small bequest from the Esther Symmonds Fund. The total receipts from covenants, gift aid scheme donations, etc., together with bank interest and income tax refunds, since its inception amount to £55,970.

The main object of the fund is to assist former employees of the United Nations Organization or its Specialized Agencies who are ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom. Their spouses and dependants are also eligible. To date the fund has helped those in need, by the issue of grants to a total of £17,997. Loans amounting to £5,300 have been made and subsequently repaid. The grants have not only been in cash but also in the

provision of equipment to enable recipients to improve their life style. The balance remaining in the fund is now £37,936 (see box below).

The Trustees would, once again, appeal to all members of BAFUNCS, particularly those who have joined recently, for their support, no matter how small. There has been a reduction of donations in 2007, due to members passing on, but thankfully, this has been compensated by a few individual contributions and a generous one of £150 from the South East Region. In conclusion we are very sad to report the deaths of two of our ardent supporters, Desmond Nugent, who was a Trustee for 19 years and Chairman for 4 of them, and Basil Loveridge who was a founder member. Thanks are due to BAFUNCS members for their continuing support.

Nanda Wijayatilake, Clerk/Treasurer

BAFUNCS BENEVOLENT FUND: FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	2006	2007
Receipts		
Brought forward	1665.81	2968.57
Covenants (Gift Aid)	1137.00	1042.00
Transfers from Deposit Account		
Donations received	10.00	299.80
Tax Refund	330.56	320.69
Repayment of loans	1247.00	913.00
Cheque lost/cancelled	200.00	21.80
	4590.37	5565.86
Payments		
Transfers to Deposit Account	—	1500.00
Grants paid out	600.00	900.00
Loans paid out	1000.00	—
Administrative expenses	21.80	*44.75
	1621.80	2444.75
Balance Current Account	2968.57	3121.11
Barclays Deposit Account		
Brought forward	31343.14	32164.30
Transfers from Current Account	—	1500.00
Transfers to Current Account		
	31343.14	33664.30
Interest received	821.16	1151.28
	32164.30	34815.58
Add current account	2968.57	3121.11
Total in Fund	35132.87	37936.69

*includes 2006 expenses - £21.80

Compiled by **Bill Jackson**
Regional Convener

Cambridge Region

Thérèse Bruce

The Cutter Inn is a restaurant located in Ely from where you can see barges and boats cruising on a canal and this is where we gathered for Christmas lunch on 12 December 2007. The air was crisp and the sun was shining and it really was a nice day. With 17 of us present, our attendance was slightly lower than last year, but this did not prevent us from sitting in a merry mood to share a lovely Christmas lunch.

Kent/Sussex Region

Joan Wilson

The Spring Luncheon and Annual General Meeting were held in the Hydro Hotel, Eastbourne, on Wednesday, 20 February 2008. Eighteen members attended and apologies were received from seven members.

The Chairman reported that although the Christmas Lunch had been cancelled owing to lack of takers, a number of members had enjoyed a convivial get together during the December monthly lunch. The lunches at Alfriston will continue on a turn up basis each second Thursday of the month during 2008; any one who wishes to join the group at Arundel, please contact Margaret Bills on 01 903 78 70 81.

The Regional Representative, Treasurer and Welfare Support Officers all stood for office once again and were unanimously elected. The accounts of the region are in a healthy state and the Welfare Officers reported that in general all was going well in their areas.

Following the withdrawal from office of Waida, Brian Dando kindly volunteered to take over the responsibilities of Membership Secretary for the time being. Overall membership remained the same, two members had joined during the year: David Fletcher and Mrs Green, whose husband Harry recently died. Mrs J. B. Paterson had moved from Eastbourne to be nearer to her daughter based in London. Tribute was paid to Jean Lassman who had died during August 2007 and who will be greatly missed by all BAFUNCS members as well as her family and other friends.

Events planned for 2008 will be:

- Summer Lunch, Wednesday, 4 June 2008 to be hosted by Winifred Saunders
- Autumn Lunch in Tunbridge Wells on Wednesday, 17 September 2008. Venue to be announced.
- Christmas Lunch on Wednesday, 10 December 2008 at the Brickwall Hotel, Sedlescombe.

There was also some discussion on the difficulty of finding suitable retirement homes and it was agreed that Welfare Officers would continue to keep in contact with members in their area.

London Region

Walter Hoffman

In the second half of 2007, the Region held two luncheons: one to honour United Nations Day in October and the other recognising Human Rights Day in December.

In the first half of 2008 it is planned to hold a further luncheon, in April, marking World Health Day.

Members from other Regions wishing to attend lunches should contact the Secretary, Brenda Suitters, on 01582 763457.

Northern Region

Laurie Robertson, Honorary Treasurer

Seventeen members, including one visitor from another region, met at the comfortable old Three Tuns Hotel in Durham from 9 to 11 October 2007. A successful outing was organised on the Monday, including the Bowes Museum at Barnard Castle where lunch was taken. An interesting journey back to Durham took us round part of the Yorkshire Dales.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 11 October with most members attending. Our Regional Representative, Kenneth Smart, had stood down; additionally we were without an Honorary Secretary and a Welfare Officer and we have not so far found replacements. We hope that it may be possible to attract volunteers at the Annual Reunion 2008 in Kendal. Meantime, the fact that we are much taken up with organising that national reunion has led us to agree to defer holding a further Northern regional one until the autumn of 2009.

Overseas Region

Fred Beer

We are pleased to welcome some new Overseas members, bringing our membership to 70+ worldwide. Unfortunately we have lost some colleagues, through resignation, lapsed membership, no notification of change of address, or through death.

A few OVS members have registered for the Annual Reunion to be hosted in May 2008 by the Northern Region in the Lake District. We look forward to seeing them.

On 24 January 2008, an AAFI/AFICS Seminar on Long-Term Care was held at ILO, Geneva. A few members living in Geneva, or in neighbouring France, attended. Apart from presentations focused on care facilities in the local area, there was an information session on the coverage for long-term care currently available under the Health Insurance schemes of the UN System. We expect a report on this Seminar and information when published will be in a *BAFUNCS Newsletter*.

While there are a few exchanges of correspondence with OVS members, I should like to take the opportunity to encourage you to contribute an article to our Newsletter. We – especially our Editor – would be pleased to hear from you.

Oxford Region

John Miller

On 20 September a small group paid a visit to Cogges Manor Farm Rural Museum near Witney. This was a pleasant relaxed visit; despite some inclement weather we were able to wander around the farm building with individual audio guides. The farm house provided a fascinating reminder of times past, the staff demonstrating traditional handcrafts and culinary skills. In October we made a return visit to the Trout at Wolvercote, a pub well remembered by former university undergraduates and townsfolk. It has been taken over by a younger generation of restaurateurs, but one can still enjoy an imposing menu while enjoying the riverside views with the spires of Oxford in the background..

32 members and guests returned to Sandford-on-Thames on 13 December for our pre-Christmas lunch which was served this year in a decorated marquee in the grounds of the Hotel. We returned there again on 21 February for our AGM and lunch. The arrangements for April have still to be finalised.

South Central Region

June Hargreaves-Beer

In the September 2007 *Newsletter* we announced the death of one of our long-standing members, Basil Loveridge. We are now sad to report that Basil's wife, Olive, also died, shortly before Christmas. Condolences have been sent to their son.

We continued with our quarterly lunches and are pleased that a number of members from neighbouring Regions often manage to join us. Our Autumn lunch was held at the East Close Country Hotel at Hinton St. Michael, near Christchurch, when Vera Schwarb-Jackson whetted our appetite for travel with an account of her exciting trip to Ecuador, Peru and the Galapagos Islands.

Our Christmas lunch took place again at the Upland Park Hotel in Droxford. Numbers were somewhat depleted this time, due partly to travel by a number of our members but also the fact that it coincided with the funeral of one of our well-loved BAFUNCS friends, Desmond Nugent. However, those that were able to attend the lunch were well entertained by Grace Westerduin who talked about Christmas in other lands.

Our next lunch will take place on 20 March 2008 at the Cloud Hotel, Brockenhurst, in the heart of the New Forest. It is hoped that members will be blessed with fine weather and can take the opportunity of enjoying the wonderful scenery in that area.

For our summer lunch, towards mid-June, we intend to invite members to our home in Rowlands Castle for a buffet lunch, weather permitting in the garden.

Members from other Regions, and guests, are always welcome to join us and may contact me at any time for details.

South West and Channel Islands Region

Ron Forrest

Our annual reunion, held this year at the historic Union Hotel in Penzance, was a great success although the number attending (21) was not as high as we would like it to have been. A highlight of the occasion was a visit to the idyllic home by the sea of John and Sue Phillips for drinks and Cornish pasties.

We will be holding our AGM and annual lunch at the Somerset County Cricket Ground on 11 March. Local lunches every two or three months for members in the Wells/Shepton Mallet area are continuing to attract 15-20 members.

Preparations are going ahead for AR2010 which is to be held in our region, probably in Bristol.

Surrey Region

Tilly Armstrong

As the Newsletter went to press, we in Surrey Region held our AGM on 22 February at the Ambassadors, a large theatre complex in Woking.

In terms of our programme for 2008, we are investigating possibilities such as a visit to the Headquarters of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem; the Geffrye Museum with its displays showing the changing style of the English domestic interior across the centuries; and lunch and a talk by Tilly Armstrong on 19th century shopping and the rise of the department stores.

George Dziecielewski is resigning from our committee as of the AGM (and also Jeremy Wells and Heather Vit)

.....

and we have already lost Willy Hermesen-Vidler. This leaves us somewhat denuded of members, but Pat Brown has agreed to take over as Regional Representative as a temporary measure until we can recruit someone else.

West Midlands and Wales Region

Duncan Morris

The Region's membership has not changed since the publication of the last BAFUNCS Newsletter; it still has 56 members. It is also gratifying to be able to report that, by great good fortune, none of our members has been flooded out although for some it must have been a close run thing!

As ever, we extend our thanks to Mrs Phyl Marshall, our Regional Welfare Officer who continues to do sterling work.

The region held its autumn reunion at The Old Passage Inn at Arlingham on the West bank of the River Severn on Wednesday 3 October. Nine members from

WMW Region, including one who had been unable to attend for 11 years, enjoyed a lunch with mainly but not exclusively seafood options. This time we held our usual short meeting before rather than after our lunch.

At our Autumn Reunion, we decided to hold our Spring Reunion on Wednesday 9 April in the Herefordshire/Worcestershire area. However, both the date and venue have been changed for several reasons, mainly concerning the Regional Representative. It will now be held on Tuesday 8 April at the Berkeley Arms Hotel in Berkeley in Gloucestershire. The hotel is offering us a two-course lunch for £12 a head and, for those who are interested, this will be followed by a guided tour of Berkeley Castle at £6 a head.

As always, BAFUNCS members from other regions are very welcome to join us. Anyone who would like to come to Berkeley should get in touch with Duncan Morris, the Regional Representative, on 01452 740773 by Friday 4 April 2008.

Visit events in other Regions

Members are welcome to attend events in all Regions. The latest information is given on the IMO website: <http://bafuncs.imo.org/home.htm>. Contact details, where not given, can be found in the Membership List.

Cambridge

No events are planned for the period to September.

Kent/Sussex

4 June - summer lunch to be hosted by Winifred Saunders
17 September - autumn lunch in Tunbridge Wells, venue to be announced
10 December - Christmas lunch, the Brickwall Hotel, Sedlescombe
Second Thursday of each month: informal lunch at The George Inn, Alfriston, East Sussex
First Thursday of the month: lunch at the Norfolk Hotel, Arundel - contact Margaret Bills (01903 787081)

London

Lunch at the Sherlock Holmes Hotel from 12.30: a lunch is planned in April to mark World Health day, for details contact the Secretary, Brenda Suitters (01582 763457).

Northern

No meetings are planned in the immediate future because the Region is hosting the Annual Reunion and General Assembly, 9 to 11 May at the Castle Green Hotel, Kendal.

Oxford

Plans for 2008 will most likely include a lunch either in South Stoke or Moulsoford in April; a visit to College Lake Wildlife Centre (Bird Sanctuary and museum) at Bulbourne, near Tring, in June/July. Other lunches will be arranged for September and December. Another event will be planned for October possibly a visit to Sulgrave Manor (Home of the Washingtons) or to the Stanley Spencer exhibition at Cookham Dean. Contact: Cyril Groom 01844 218399

South Central

mid-June - buffet lunch hosted by Fred and June Hargreaves-Beer at their home in Rowlands Castle

South West

29 May - lunch at the Strode Arms, West Cranmore. Contact: Rosemary ap Rees 01749 880511

Surrey

The Region is investigating visits to St John's Gate (Headquarters of the Order of St. John) and the Geffrye Museum and Lunch and a talk (by Tilly Armstrong on 19th century shopping and the rise of the department stores). Further information can be obtained from Pat Mukhtar 020 8546 6387.

West Midlands and Wales

8 April: spring reunion at the Berkeley Arms, Berkeley, Gloucestershire. Contact: Duncan Morris 01452 740773

Climate change: what we can do about it

Although some doubters still exist, there is a general agreement that global change is the biggest threat currently facing humankind. Largely because of human actions, changes are taking place to the environment at a breakneck speed, a speed unmatched over the major part of geological history. Most important of these is the change in composition of the atmosphere, principally the rise in the content of carbon dioxide (CO₂) content and other greenhouse gasses. At the start of the Industrial Revolution (c 1750) the CO₂ level was about 270 parts per million (ppm). Now it is 380 ppm and likely to reach 400 ppm in 10 years' time. Such levels have not been reached during the previous one million years of the Earth's history.

The rise in CO₂ has resulted in an increase in the mean global temperature, about 0.6° C during the 20th Century. It is demonstrated most noticeably by the fact that 8 of the 10 warmest years since temperatures were first recorded (about 1750) have occurred over the past dozen years. Evidence of this rise in temperature is demonstrated by shrinking ice in the polar regions and a retreat of glaciers elsewhere; melting of the permafrost; earlier onset of spring and the alterations to the regimes of flowering and patterns of bird migration; and in many other ways. Forecasts indicate that global temperatures are likely to be three to five degrees warmer by 2100. The rise in sea level is expected to continue as well as changes in the patterns of global precipitation. For South East England hotter summers with about 60 percent less rain, but more intense storms, are predicted, along with milder winter and about 30 percent more rain. The recently published Fourth Assessment Report of the

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Climate Change 2007* sets out clearly these findings and the latest state of knowledge.

International initiatives such as the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol, EU and national targets and carbon trading are amongst the instruments introduced to stem the increase in CO₂. The British government is one of those leading the movement towards international agreement, although public opinion in the UK seems to favour more stringent and far reaching efforts. A great deal more needs to be done to halt the rise and achieve significant reductions in greenhouse gas levels.

"Think globally: act locally" is very pertinent to combatting climate change and there are many things that we can do and encourage others to do? We each produce about 10 tonnes of CO₂ per annum, when for sustainability the figure should be about 1 tonne. Life styles will have to change and we may each have a CO₂ ration in the not too distant future. The consequences of not reducing emissions may be a planet that is untenable for our grandchildren and their progeny. Little things done now can help, things in the home, travelling and in daily life (see panel below).

John Rodda, Oxford Region

*IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) consists of four reports released during the course of 2007. On 10 December 2007 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Al Gore received the Nobel Peace Prize "for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change". For further information go to www.ipcc.ch.

Things you can do

At home

- Turn off lights on leaving a room
- Install energy saving light bulbs
- Shut off standby switches
- Turn down thermostats and wear more clothes indoors
- Turn off radiators in rooms not being used
- Choose green appliances
- Limit the use of tumble dryers
- Recycle household waste
- Use a compost bin
- Save water
- Install water butts
- Install solar panels, heat pumps and windmills
- Arrange a thermal imaging

survey of your home to see where heat may be leaking

Travelling

- Use public transport
- Share car journeys
- Walk and cycle for short trips
- Drive at lower speeds
- Choose a fuel efficient vehicle
- Limit air travel
- Neutralise your car's emissions by donating to initiatives that fund alternative and renewable energy projects such as targetneutral.com

Shopping

- Purchase local produce
- Support farmers markets
- Consider food miles and

transport costs

- Buy goods with little packaging
- Take your own bag instead of using plastic bags
- Return packaging to shops

General

- Offset your carbon production by donating to Trusts that plant forests. Work with bodies such as The Energy Saving Trust.
- Lobby the County and District Councils, your MP and Parliament to introduce measures that save energy such as upgraded buildings and reduced street lighting after midnight and in little used areas
- If you have money to invest, place it with green funds

Wartime memories put into a new perspective

During the early years of the War my job as Secretary to the Medical Officer of Health of the nearby Orpington Urban District Council was what was considered a reserved occupation but, at the beginning of 1944, I was called up for war work. I fully expected to be drafted into the ATS, but before this could happen I was offered the possibility of working instead at a Wireless Intercept Station at Knockholt, a half hour's bus ride away from my home, which I accepted thankfully.

I had left my commercial college in 1939 with very average typing skills but with a verbatim shorthand speed of 180 words a minute. This was never a great deal of use to me as verbatim reporting was strictly a male preserve in those days but it did look good on my CV and when I reported for duty at Knockholt I found that, on the strength of it, I had been allocated to work as Secretary to the Officer in Charge of the Station.

I had not been there very long before I realised that morale at the Station was extremely low. We knew, obviously, that the wireless operators were intercepting German messages but that was all. These messages were recorded on an undulator, a thing that draws a wiggly line on a piece of tape, a bit like ticker tape. One room full of girls had to transcribe these tapes of 'wiggles' into groups of five letters (not words) and colleagues in another room transmitted the transcribed tapes by teleprinter to our Headquarters, known as Station X. The work was extremely boring, particularly for the girls reading the tapes. To add to the discontent, we were very poorly paid. It was not long before I was approached and asked to start a branch of the Civil Service Clerical Association. I duly started making appropriate contacts. However, I had hardly got started before we had a visit from a high-ranking officer from Station X, a Major Tester, who listened to our complaints and within a matter of weeks we had a substantial pay rise. I can not remember the figures at this distance but, whatever the amount, it gave us what was a reasonable wage for those days.

In another morale-boosting exercise, a fellow senior secretary and I, along with all the chiefs of sections, were taken on a day trip to Station X (which we knew to be at Bletchley Park) to see something of what went on there. The trip was a great event in those days of restricted travel. We understood little of what we saw but we thoroughly enjoyed the day out. I have a dim recollection of a machine, complete with flashing lights, vaguely resembling the 'fruit machines' you find in pubs nowadays. After this, although the work was still extremely boring for most people, morale was greatly improved and I thankfully gave up trying to organise a trade union.

It was not all doom and gloom. One night, sometime after D-Day when the Germans were retreating, one of the teleprinters started rattling away. Someone dashed to it expecting some highly important message from Station X, but what came off the machine was a poem of which I only remember the first two verses:

*"When God handed out noses I thought He said roses and ordered a red one
When He handed out ears I thought He said beers and ordered two large ones"*

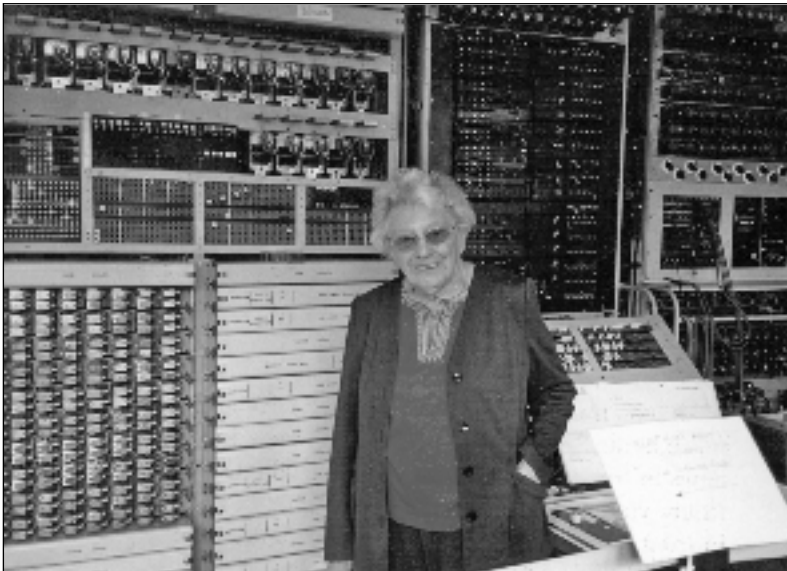
The poor girl from Station X had thought her machine was in neutral and was absolutely mortified to discover she had been transmitting something so frivolous.

With the end of the War there was a re-organisation at the Station and a new Officer in Charge was appointed who brought with him his own secretary. This meant another job had to be found for me and I was given the thankless task of organising a costing unit. It was an impossible job as no proper costing had been done during the whole of the War. Added to

Irene Chamberlain
Southwest and
Channel Islands
Region

This had the advantage that I worked daytime office hours; albeit long ones, instead of the round-the-clock shifts worked by most of my colleagues. The work was also much more interesting than theirs.

I can not remember why I was singled out for this doubtful honour unless it was because I was already a member of NALGO, the local government officers association, and presumed to have more knowledge of union matters than was in fact the case.



The author standing in front of the rebuilt Colossus computer at Bletchley Park.

*F.W. Winterbotham, *The Ultra Secret*, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1974

The Colossus machines were broken up after the war in a bid to keep their secrets. As a result the machine at Bletchley took 14 years to rebuild.

*Written without access to official records, the book has been criticized for inaccuracies and self-aggrandizement. Nevertheless, as a first-hand account of the work at Bletchley Park, it remains of interest. Editor

Wartime memories put into a new perspective – continued

.....
which, I am hopeless at figures. It was my turn to be thoroughly bored and unhappy but fortunately this situation only lasted a few months and in the Autumn of 1945 I happily went back to my interesting job in the local Public Health Department.

In 1948 I went to Geneva to work in the International Labour Office, where I stayed for 32 years, and my fairly brief stay at Knockholt was soon forgotten. My memory of it was stirred again in 1971 when I read a book *The*

Ultra Secret by F. W. Winterbotham, an RAF officer who had been responsible for the distribution of intelligence gleaned at Bletchley Park. From this I learned that our radio interceptions at Knockholt were all part of Operation Ultra, the decoding exercise carried out there (our Station X) of messages sent by the Germans, an exercise which Churchill said shortened the War by two years! At the time of the publication of the book there was some consternation that Winterbotham had broken the Official Secrets Act (which we had all had to sign before starting work at Knockholt), but since then there have been several books on the subject as well as a film.

Discovering that I had played a part, however small, in such an important wartime exercise as Ultra put a new complexion on my memories of a very bleak period in my life, and made me wonder whether the 'fruit machine' that I had seen on our excursion to Station X was the decoding machine known as Colossus - and it was! I have now visited Bletchley Park twice and I have been able to see the rebuild of Colossus, appropriately enough in one of the same buildings that housed one of the original machines. I do not understand much more about the machine now than I did all those years ago, except that it was the world's first programmable electronic computer and was used to break the coded messages (including personal messages from Hitler to his generals) sent by the Germans. I now marvel that our small group from Knockholt was taken to see something so highly secret as Colossus at such a crucial point of the war, and I think I must be one of the very few still alive who saw one of the original machines.

Colossus cracks codes once again

In November last year, after more than 60 years, a Colossus computer at Bletchley Park was used to crack coded messages transmitted from Germany. They were received on World War 2 radio equipment. The first Colossus was designed and built, with input from Bletchley, at the Post Office Research Station, Dollis Hill. After testing in December 1943, it was shipped to Bletchley. It was designed to break an ultra-secret cipher codenamed Tunny. Far more advanced than the well-known Enigma cipher, Tunny was used to relay messages between Hitler and his generals, and to convey vital information about the Nazi war machine.

Built in an 'electromechanical' rather than 'solid state' age, the aptly named Colossus featured more than

2000 valves, weighed a ton and took up a good part of a room. Ten machines were built eventually, but they were all destroyed, most of them shortly after the war on the orders of Churchill.

In its heyday Colossus could decode messages in a matter of hours. It was so fast because, unlike most present day computers, it was designed for a single purpose. To put its capabilities in a present-day context, a 'virtual' colossus program written to run on a modern laptop takes about the same time to break a cipher. The rebuilt Colossus, housed in exactly the same place as one of the original machines, is now a star attraction in what it is hoped will become the National Museum of Computing. Editor

Follow-up by the Pension Fund to questions from FAFICS

The annual meeting of the FAFICS Council includes a session with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and senior staff of the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund (see page 22, BAFUNCS Newsletter, No. 52, September 2007). In preparation for the meeting the Council submits a list of questions to be considered at the meeting. The formal response to these questions is given later in a written memorandum from the CEO of the fund to the Chairman of FAFICS. What follows are edited extracts from this memorandum, dated 16 November 2007, that might be of interest to BAFUNCS members.

The Working Group on the Fundamental Review of the Pension Fund recommended that retirees who provided proof of residence and opted for the dual track should be allowed, after a certain period of time, say five or ten years, to opt out of the dual track. Do you envisage a possibility of this recommendation being taken up and implemented in the near future?

The Working Group established to carry out a fundamental review of the UNJSPF gave consideration to the possibility of allowing pensioners to opt out of the two track system, but neither the Working Group nor the Pension Board went so far as to recommend allowing retirees and beneficiaries this second chance to opt against the Fund. Should such a decision ever be taken, it would certainly result in an increase in the overall costs of the two track system of adjustment. In fact, the existing estimated actuarial cost of the two-track system, which has been reflected at 1.9 per cent of pensionable remuneration in each of the actuarial valuations since 1995, was exceeded for the first time in the valuation as at 31 December 2005. At that time, the emerging long-term costs of the two track system of adjustment were estimated to be 1.92 per cent of pensionable remuneration. The estimated cost used in the actuarial valuations is, in effect, the "premium" assessed for providing the retirees and other beneficiaries with an option that they can exercise when circumstances are in their favour. Any consideration of providing more advantages than currently exist would also need to be carefully weighed against the findings of the recent Asset Liability Management (ALM) study. Among other things, this study reviewed the existing provisions of the two-track system of adjustment and concluded that it added significant volatility to the projected financial condition of the Fund. These findings make it difficult to imagine any positive changes in respect to the two track system of adjustment in the near future.

Certain member associations of FAFICS regret the delays in the transmission of Consumer Price Index (CPI) data which lead to delays in implementing the cost of living adjustment normally due on 1 April. These data, even if not published on time in an official publication, are usually available on the website of the government institution responsible for collecting and processing CPI data. Can the Fund use this data rather than wait for their publication?

As stipulated in the UNSPF Regulations and Rules and the Pension Adjustment System, the index used for measuring changes in the CPI of a country is the official CPI issued by its national Government and published in the United Nations Monthly Bulletin of Statistics. Using CPI data as reported on the websites of the national government institutions may result in discrepancies (whether due to rounding, different methods of rebasing or otherwise). Notwithstanding the negligible nature of any such discrepancies, the Fund would nevertheless be required to carry out all the necessary reconciliations. In order to mitigate most delays in the cost of living calculations of the Fund's benefit payments, the Fund does request advance copies of the official relevant CPI data so as to be in position, whenever possible, to process cases before the corresponding payroll cutoff dates. Moreover, and most importantly, all CPI adjustments that are due are always recorded once they become available and all ensuing payments are made on a cumulative and retroactive basis when necessary.

If a beneficiary is unable to sign the certificate of entitlement due to incapacity UNJSPF needs a medical certificate or official statement to that effect. If he/she is no longer able to take care of his/her financial affairs UNJSPF needs documents naming a court appointed guardian who can sign UNJSPF documents on the beneficiary's behalf. However the Fund does not recognize a power of attorney. Given that in the UK we now have living wills which bestow power of attorney in certain circumstances should not the UNJSPF rules be liberalised (with appropriate safeguards) to facilitate and recognize modern and legally accepted practice?

The Fund does not generally accept Power of Attorney because such designations can be easily changed, revoked and/or falsified. As a long standing practice the Fund has been willing to accept durable/enduring power of attorney, which

Kenya: memories of a visit to Mathare Valley

Tony Loftas
Editor

As we go to press, the Kenya parliament has reconvened after President Mwai Kibaki and opposition leader Raila Odinga agreed to share power in accordance with an agreement brokered by former UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan. I was distressed when the violence broke out after the flawed elections in December last year and the apparently hasty installation of Kibaki as President. One site of the violence were the Mathare Valley slums which set me thinking about my experiences some 35 years ago as a young writer.

In those days I had very little experience of life or conditions in the developing world. I had had a little exposure; in 1969 I made trips to India and South Vietnam as part of an assignment with FAO to prepare information material for the first Environment Conference in Stockholm. I had also had a stint preparing a technical report for FAO in El Salvador. In fact, it was my writings on these trips that had led to my being awarded a Freedom from Hunger Campaign Travelling Fellowship in 1973 and why I found myself in Kenya helped by Kenya Council of Churches and, of course, FAO contacts (including my fellow ExCo colleague Michael Davies).

Because of the good relations enjoyed by the KCC with the Mathare dwellers and their leaders, they agreed to let me go into the settlements with a camera - not something that would normally be welcomed! The object was not to dwell on the misery of the place but to show what was being done to improve life in the Mathare Valley. My companions on this delicate mission was Tom Kraft, a German-aid photographer, and his African trainee from the *Daily Nation*. Our guide was an African social worker.

Follow-up by the Pension Fund to questions from FAFICS - continued

is formally registered in the courts. Keeping in mind the importance of adhering to internal controls and the need to build and ensure sufficient safeguards, the Fund may consider reviewing its current practice specifically in respect to the signing of its Certificate of Entitlement (CE); such a review would include an examination as to the adequacy of general durable powers of attorney executed in accordance with the relevant national laws. Such a project would depend on the provision of sufficient resources, particularly in the UNJSPF legal office. The Fund secretariat has already begun collecting documentation along with relevant background information on practices in this respect.

For the past two years UNJSPF has requested surviving spouses, when newly taking up their pension rights, to have their signature certified by either a UN office or local government office. UK authorities do not provide this service. Could the Pension Fund add "public notary" to the list of persons who can certify a signature?

The status of the "public notary" differs from one country to another. The UNJSPF does in fact accept their certification if and when such an office is part of a governmental or municipal office or authority. It must also be stressed however that the Fund is

duty bound to ensure that the payments are made to those who are entitled to UNJSPF benefits and that each individual's identity is properly established. This is of particular concern in respect to the submission of payment instructions when the benefit entitlement is established for the first time. The Fund would appreciate any assistance that FAFICS can provide in this regard.

In the Regional Meeting of the Latin American AFICS, a resolution with a proposal for the takeover by the Fund of banking charges on deposit of pensions was approved. What is your reaction to it?

The Fund will review the issue of bank charges and the impact on small pensions paid by the Fund and report on the matter to the Pension Board in 2008. In fact, in its resolution 61/240, the General Assembly requested the Board "to consider, during its review of small pensions, the negative impact of administrative expenses, transaction fees or bank commissions regarding the benefits in order to remedy such impact and to report to it thereon at its sixty-third session as part of the review by the Board". Also in the same resolution, the Assembly invited the Board "to explore the possibility of further diversifying banking transactions".



I had met Tom some days earlier at a lunch given by the editor of the newspaper. It was there that I had my first introduction to the racial divide that featured in the recent conflict when I met the widow of Tom Mboya. Mboya, a Luo in a government dominated by Kikuyu, was assassinated in 1969. He has been described as the best President that Kenya never had. (The Kikuyu are the largest tribe in Kenya followed by the Luo.)

The social worker, who proved to be a Luo, seemed well-known to the Mathare residents, but it soon became clear that Tom's trainee, a Kikuyu, was far from welcome. I did not understand what the locals were saying to him, but he was visibly trembling by the time we left. And this was not very long after our arrival. We had to leave in such a hurry because someone had informed the Nairobi police of our presence. (It was forbidden then to take photos of the Mathare even from the main road.) Fortunately, the settlement had its own informant in the police so we had time to go our separate ways.

Later I learned that the police were able to track down Tom and confiscate his film. They were unable to find me because I had left Kenya the following day. I eventually presented the photographs to the FAO Photo Library. It was a pleasant surprise when I finally joined the Organization nearly ten years later to find they were still there.

The Mathare Valley shanty town in 1973 (above). Home to a string of illegal settlements it stretches from the countryside almost into the heart of Nairobi. On my visit there I went to a nursery school (below, right) and, some distance away from Nairobi, a primitive distillery (below left) that produced illicit liquor for sale in the city. Like slums the world over, the people of the Mathare were intimidated by the authorities and exploited by their own kind, particularly landlords who charged extortionate rents for cramped and primitive shacks. Burdened with debt, women would be pressed into prostitution although one settlement I visited had become a refuge for such women and their children. In present times this continuing situation is reflected in a high prevalence of HIV aids, unknown when I visited, and tens of thousands of Aids orphans. Of course, the settlements have increased enormously over 35 years, but judged by reports over the past three months life is no easier. In fact, it may have become more difficult following the post-election violence.



Whatever happened to BESO? It joined VSO!

Michael Askwith
Kent and Sussex

Retiring from an active life with the UN can produce two reactions: "At last, I can settle down in one place, be closer to my family and grandchildren, and enjoy my retirement" or "I would like to carry on using my experience in whatever way may be useful to developing countries." Retirees who subscribe to the latter view have often taken up short-term consultancies with a variety of organizations, including the British Executive Service Overseas (BESO)

BESO, which was established in 1972, specialized in sending out retired specialists as volunteers to assist beneficiaries to respond to development challenges and opportunities. BESO has fielded over 8,000 short-term volunteer assignments. BESO volunteers complete 400-500 assignments a year, lasting an average of 33 days. It merged with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) in April 2005 in an initiative to build upon each organization's strengths. Until then BESO had been relatively small, focusing on retired specialists. The Department for International Development (DFID) provided funding of about £4 million pounds per year, complemented by contributions from industry and the private sector.

Prior to the merger VSO used mainly younger volunteers at early stages of their careers although it did have a flourishing programme for older and retired volunteers. VSO also works with companies such as Price Waterhouse Cooper, Accenture and Randstadt which second their staff as part of corporate partnership arrangements with them. They find this really helps them to recruit, retain and develop their staff. VSO is funded through a DFID contribution of over £20 million, complemented also by corporate and voluntary donations.

The VSO-BESO merger was designed to strengthen VSO's capacity to provide senior specialist skills, by drawing upon BESO's considerable experience and expertise in this area. At the same time, it would enable BESO to continue its operations, under the VSO umbrella, and to benefit from VSO's substantial country level infrastructure and networks.

Short-term opportunities are aimed at highly experienced professionals who can provide advice at senior levels. The assignments can last anything from one to six months. Short-term volunteers work in the same countries and on the same programmes as VSO's long-term volunteers. They offer different but complementary approaches to sharing skills with partners overseas. Long-term volunteers have time to immerse themselves in their roles and communities. In contrast, short-term volunteers have to act as troubleshooters, hitting the ground running and achieving a lot quickly.

The conditions for service with VSO continue to be based on the principle of volunteering, but the opportunities and job satisfaction far outweigh the very modest remuneration. VSO covers all of a volunteer's costs, including such things as travel and medical cover, and takes care of administrative matters such as visas and work permits. The employer provides a modest living allowance and accommodation.

In 2002 I carried out three BESO missions to Brussels to work with other expert volunteers in appraising project proposals for EC funding. This was followed in 2003 by four missions to Tanzania as team leader of a group of three volunteers helping a network of NGOs in the Dodoma region to develop projects for funding. More recently I carried out a 'virtual' UK-based consultancy for VSO itself helping a Vietnamese NGO draw up a project proposal on HIV/AIDS prevention for EC funding. I strongly recommend the experience of working as a volunteer should the opportunity arise. Members interested in exploring the possibility of voluntary service should check VSO's website www.vso.org.uk or they can contact Short-Term Volunteers Manager Stuart Malcolm (stuart.malcolm@vso.org.uk) for advice.

The average age of a volunteer is 51, but the retirement age has recently been raised to 75.

There are 3,700 active volunteers on the BESO register. BESO volunteers have particular expertise in enterprise development.

Will “Eternity” after-shave help?

Think
positive

Fred Beer
National Welfare
Support
Coordinator

Those of you who know me know that I have some kind of a beard. For those who don't know me, I do have a beard, a rather small one. When I see men with grey or white, or even salt and pepper, beards, I look at them, and often chat to them about beards. Don't get the wrong idea – it's not that sort of introductory chatting up. It's just that when I decided one New Year's Eve on my resolutions, the only one that lasted more than a few days, was the one to grow a beard. What sort of beard? It went like this: the trendy unshaved look - remember Yasser Arafat? I even tied a checked tea towel round my head and it didn't look too bad! It then became an older version of a younger Boris Becker and that didn't look too bad when I stood with my old wooden tennis racquet. It went on - could it be a King George image, like the one I have on an Indian silver rupee? No, it couldn't. So, could it make me into a rather suave Sean Connery in his post-James Bond days (I with none of the 007 attributes)? It didn't work. So, I've ended up with some kind of a beard and I continue to look at beards on other men!

When I shave I use Eternity Aftershave which I received for Christmas (it replaced my usual Old Spice). Good thinking. And then, thinking “Eternity”, I eat my five portions of fruit, I struggle through the green vegetables. It has been scientifically shown that my evening malt whisky and daily glass of red wine could increase my lifespan. (When the chemical resveratrol, found in red wine, was added to the food of a small species of fish with a normal life span of one to three months, it increased longevity of the fish by up to 50 percent - in their case another three months to avoid being eaten by a bigger fish.) Why worry, if you do, about Eternity? We are being looked after: we are swamped with Health and Safety precautions, though some are obscure or unnecessary.

I have just read that Help the Aged are assisting with a research programme, studying how a 400-year old clam (its age worked out by the layers of growth on its shell) can have lived so long. It won't work, you know. A 'vitamin doctor' who took massive doses, believing he might live for 1000 years, has just died of a heart attack. He was 78, just 922 years short of his target.

What have I been writing about? Our Newsletter Editor said write something about loss of memory, lack of mental control that comes with age, such as “Where are my glasses, where did I park the car?” What have I been writing about? The Editor's idea was obviously to write something about ageing. I put my specs somewhere and before I found them I'd forgotten what to write about, and what I have written? It is the ageing process. I did not use Eternity this morning.

As you all well know, ageing brings the need for a great deal of positive thinking or avoiding negative thinking. We attend some of the monthly talks of the University of the Third Age (U3A). These cover a variety of topics, for example recently “The Bermuda Triangle”, “A Bold Thing – the History of Vaccination”. U3A have group activities of all kinds for third-agers. Keep the mind active, the body in movement. A to Z: aerobics, ballroom dancing (will you be on the floor after the AR banquet?), belly-dancing (good for the eyes also), creative writing...Zen (enlightenment, almost eternity).

Some of our members are no longer mobile, even living at home or in a residential centre or retirement village, but may still wish to be involved, but need help to do so. Unfortunately unless our Regional Representatives or Welfare Support team are made aware of members' needs, how can we help? Members, please help us to help you. Let us know when you feel some contact would be welcome, a phone call, a visit, just a chat, or a drive to one of our social meetings or perhaps to a U3A talk or similar. Do not put off till tomorrow what you can do today!

I am going out this evening with June. Where are my car keys? I used only Old Spice aftershave today...

Compiled by Ben Goffman
Membership Secretary

New Members

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members who joined the Association between mid-August 2007 and February 2008:

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Resignations

Ms J Jopling
Miss B E Bentley

Lapses

Mrs M D Khamis

In Memoriam

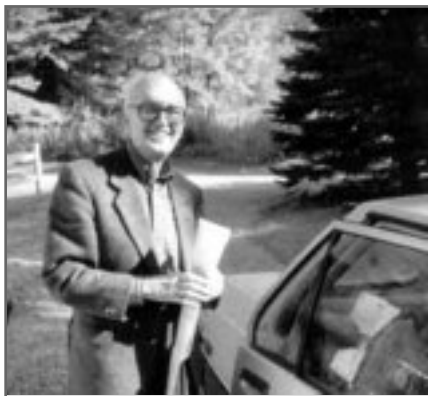
Deepest sympathy and sincere condolences are extended to the families and friends of members who have died recently:

Dr S CYWINSKA	WHO	OXF
Miss M ELLIS-JONES	GATT	OXF
Mr E FINDLAY	FAO	SWT
Mr G FLETCHER	UN	LON
Miss m. J. HERON	ILO/ECE/IMO/ITU	SWT
Mrs J M LASSMAN	WHO	KSX
Mrs O D LOVERIDGE	ILO	SCL
Dr D A W NUGENT	WHO	SRY
Mr C W SOWTON	ITU	SWT
Miss H TETLEY	ICAO	NOR

Granville Fletcher 1910-2007

A penalty of great old age is that most of the people who could best attest to one's qualities and achievements – contemporaries – have themselves already departed the scene. So it was with Granville Fletcher, who died on 30 December, last year aged 97. At the outset of my own career, I was much encouraged by him, just as *his* distinguished service with the United Nations was

approaching its end.



Granville began as a cub reporter on a Worcester newspaper and soon became one of Reuters' youngest editors. When the Second World War started, he

joined the RAF as the lowest form of conscript life yet, despite his Italian mother being an 'enemy alien', finished as a Squadron Leader in Intelligence. Politics, and in particular the prevention of war, was always a passion. In the 'thirties, he had acted as PA to peace activist David, Lord Davies of Llandinam, a founder of the League of Nations Union. That seed flowered with Granville going to New York in 1946 as one of the original members of the UN's staff. He was later to say of himself and colleagues: "They joined the UN, reeling from the war, with hope and enthusiasm. What they discovered was an organization thrown together and in some disarray. The reality of working for the UN was not necessarily the creation of a better world but cut-backs in funding and staff dismissals." The Trygve Lie Secretary Generalship and the McCarthyite attacks on the UN he found particularly discomfiting.

Once again, he had entered modestly as a translator but, by the time I first knew him, was Director of the UN Information Centre in London, with responsibility for the UK, Ireland and the Netherlands. In between he had been, successively, an editor with the Journal of the Security Council, Chief English Editor, and Head of the English, French and Spanish sections of the Official Records Division, before moving to the Office of Public Information. He had also been for two years Chairman of the Staff Committee of the Staff

Association, served in the Bureau of Personnel and for a period had headed up the information side of the UN in the newly independent and troubled Congo. I next knew him as Director of the UNIC in Rome. He completed his career in 1971, having held the posts of Chef de Cabinet and Director of Protocol at the UN Office, Geneva. A founder member of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law at San Remo, he was known as a courageous challenger of bureaucracy and vested interest.

After retirement, Granville was much involved in the establishment of our Association: his was membership number 92 of the 1400 past and present members. He represented the Oxfordshire Region on the Executive Committee in the early days and from 1986 to 1989. He followed the Region's activities after moving to London from Blewbury some fifteen years ago. His name also features, representing BAFUNCS on the committee that advised on setting up the UN Career Records Project. Appropriately, some of his papers are among those thus safely conserved in the Bodleian Library.

A colleague has written of him: "... there is so much more to a man than how successful he was at the office. In the end, and especially as he has been retired for some 35 years, it is his friends and family who are important and the reality is that he was liked by everybody and adored by many. What needs to be emphasised is what good company he was – cultivated, amusing, warm and with great natural authority. You just wanted him to be your friend." An affectionate and warm family environment had given him early a deep appreciation of the many and varied benefits of civilisation. This love of beautiful things, art, music, books and literature, food and wine – fostered not least in the house he had in Greve outside Florence – never left him.

Granville and his wife Lesley, who survives him, were married for fully 67 years. They were a dazzling combination and took on the world with huge gusto, but his son Michael says that it was as parents that they really shone, giving them those things which we know the ups and downs and the ever-changing locations of a life in the UN make so difficult to impart: complete emotional security, unwavering support and help, direction and encouragement.

He was one on whose shoulders we have stood. BAFUNCS expresses its sincere condolences to Lesley, to his children Michael and Anna and their families.

Bill Jackson (OXF)

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An appreciation of Desmond Nugent (1921-2007)

Desmond Nugent knew very early what he wanted to do - follow in the footsteps of his father and become a doctor. A devout man, had he been born in an earlier age, he might perhaps have become a medical missionary. As it was, he served first in the British Colonial Service and later with WHO. On retirement in 1982, having worked for over 30 years, mostly in the tropics, Desmond retired with his wife Mary to their home in Cheam. But he did not sever his connections with the United Nations. He joined the Association of former WHO staff and served on the BAFUNCS Executive Committee and as a Trustee of the Benevolent Fund.

Desmond Nugent was the second son in his family, his father was a doctor serving with the British army in India. (Nigel, the first son, had died of diphtheria at the age of three.) Desmond grew up in India and was educated at St George's College, Mussoorie, a boarding school in the Himalayas run by the Irish Patrician Brothers. By all accounts he was an outstanding student and a gifted sportsman.

His brother Neil recounts that Desmond won two of the awards coveted at the school: the Phelan Medal for the best boy and the Barnet Medal for the best scholar. In addition to his successes in athletics in both track and field, he played cricket, football and hockey "wonderfully well, usually as captain of the team. Had it not been for the war and his medical studies I have no doubt that he would have had an international career as a sportsman in whatever sport he chose."

Desmond studied medicine from 1939 to 1945 and, after service in the forces, continued with post-graduate studies in Liverpool, first for the Diploma in Public Health and then a degree in tropical medicine. In 1949 he joined the Colonial Office and was posted to the Gold Coast, now Ghana, where he found himself in charge of an area the size of Britain! The pattern in those days was to have one large hospital, usually in the capital; small district hospitals with one doctor outside the capital; and all other areas served by dispensaries.

Desmond worked in the Gold Coast for ten years and during this time there came into regular contact with specialists from the World Health Organization. These contacts led him to join the organisation in 1959. He was posted to Nigeria as Senior Medical Officer. Four years later he was appointed as WHO Representative to Liberia, followed by Nigeria, Indonesia and, finally, from 1978 to 1981, India. Among his many duties was to persuade governments to implement medical programmes



recommended by WHO. Something he invariably achieved in a quiet, charming way.

Desmond was always strong in his Catholic faith. In a letter to WHO's former staff magazine last year (July-September, 2007), he recalled that "the Catholic Cathedral (in Brazzaville), which I attended regularly when there, is truly magnificent." In retirement, he supported his local church, attending Mass almost daily. He was a member and for a time chairman of the Parish Council. He joined the Catenians, an association that supports Catholic laymen and their families. He was a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, one of the oldest of the chivalric orders within the Catholic Church. He spoke at numerous churches to raise funds for the Catholic Society SURVIVE.

An early member of BAFUNCS, Desmond was coopted on to the Executive Committee in 1989, became a full member in 1991 and was Vice-Chairman from 1992 to 1998. He also served as the regional representative for Surrey Region and its precursor the Greater London Group. But it is for his service for over 19 years as a trustee of the BAFUNCS Benevolent Fund that he will probably be best remembered. He was Chairman of the board for four years during which time he endeavoured to make the Fund more accessible and better known within and outside the Association. It is not widely appreciated that assistance from the Fund is not restricted to BAFUNCS members but can extend to any UN retirees living in the United Kingdom.

Desmond Nugent was a kind, humane person who throughout his career and in retirement gave high priority to meeting the needs of others. He was also someone who enjoyed a wide range of pursuits, many of them echoing his earlier sporting prowess. He was, for example, a member of the MCC and one of his great pleasures was to take nephews and nieces as his guests to watch important matches. He enjoyed golf and was a keen bridge player. In fact, he can best be described as a fully rounded man. Desmond, who died on 26 November 2007, will be missed by family and friends...and BAFUNCS.

Tony Loftas

Menna Ellis-Jones

It was a great loss to her many friends when we learnt that Menna had died on 25 August 2007 from a massive stroke. She will be remembered for her very cheerful character which brightened up the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing her. She had a great love for animals. At the same time she was a rather private person and it is difficult to put together a comprehensive account of her life experiences.

Records show that she was an early member of BAFUNCS and in 1986 took on the role of Welfare Officer for the Oxford Region, a position she held until her death.

During the Second World War she served in the WRNS. After the war she joined the Foreign Office, and in the early 60's she joined UN Headquarters

in New York. In 1964 she was posted to UNEF in the Gaza strip, also spending some time with UNTSO in Jerusalem in 1965. Again in the 70's she spent a couple of years with UNDP in Afghanistan. Her last assignment was with GATT in Geneva, where she stayed until her retirement in 1982. Since then she has been active with the St John's Ambulance Service, as a driver for many years.

Menna was also a member of the local branch of the Royal British Legion in Henley-on-Thames. She served on its Committee and was responsible for trips and entertainments. A regular feature of the programme was an annual river cruise. She was in the words of a RBL contact, "one of our ladies who dines" - a group of women who meet to socialise. Members from the RBL joined together in a brief, but moving, ceremony to scatter her ashes.

Muriel Salter SRY

Self-help centre

• accessing the internet for beginners • check for concessions when booking theatre tickets • UN stamps - any interest?

Getting connected

Some 39 percent of adults in the UK are still not online. The aim of UK online centres is to encourage more people to use the internet. Funded by government, UK online centres provide millions of people with free or low cost access to computers and the internet, plus help and advice on using them.

There are thousands of centres across England,

staffed by people who can show you how to get online and use the services available through the internet. Apart from making it easier to contact friends and relatives around the world, the internet offers many other benefits such as identifying the best buys, offering discounted sales and buying groceries for home delivery.

The growing number of members with e-mail

addresses shows a growing appreciation of what can be done. But there are still many who have yet to learn how to use the internet. Once a centre has got you online you can access a wide range of simple courses provided by myguide (www.myguide.gov.uk). To find your nearest UK online centre call free on 0800 77 1234

Cut-price theatre

A reminder that many theatres and cinemas offer reduced prices to the over sixties. You should always check when booking tickets.

Concessions in London include: the National Theatre which offers reduced prices at all three of its theatres (box office 0207 452 3000 or www.nt-online.org); the English National Opera makes tickets unsold on the day available at a discount. Groups of 10 or more senior citizens can book at between 15 to 35 percent discount throughout the season (box office 0207 632 8300 or www.eno.org); the

Really Useful Group offers group bookings for senior citizens (with a minimum 8 or 15 depending on the show) and offers discounts in the hour before performances on showing proof of age and identity (www.rutheatre.com); and Royal Shakespeare Company at the Barbican offers discounts for the over 60's for every matinee and every Wednesday evening.

Most of the other West End Theatres offer concessions: an easy way to check and book online is www.theatreland.co.uk. Another useful website is the theatre site: www.officiallondontheatre.co.uk.

UN postage stamps

Beryl Sroka has written asking if any member can advise her on what to do with a very large collection of UN stamps that her late husband built up.

Please would you contact her direct at 52 Sandown Lodge, Avenue Road, Epsom, Surrey KT18 7QU.

The Membership Database

Following the change in Membership Secretary, the Association's membership database is being thoroughly checked. Over the years, errors and discrepancies have crept in and have continued to be repeated, very often because there has been no feed back from members. You are urged, therefore, to look at your details in the 2007 Membership List or, if you are a new member (or have made changes recently), check your entry in this newsletter. Any corrections should be sent by 30 June 2008 to the Editor (see the inside front cover for contact details) in order to ensure that the entry in the 2008 membership List is correct. The information will be forwarded to the Membership Secretary for entry in the membership database.

REGIONAL OFFICERS OF BAFUNCS

CAMBRIDGE

Regional Representative/Chairman (Acting)
Secretary/Treasurer
Welfare Officer

Mr Vincent Austin
Miss Philomena Guillebaud
Dr I. O'Neill

KENT AND SUSSEX

Regional Representative/Chairman
Treasurer
Secretary/Membership
Welfare Officer (Brighton)
Welfare Officer (Lewes and Haywards Heath)
Welfare Officer (Kent)
Welfare Officer (Tunbridge Wells and environs)
Welfare Officer (West Sussex)

Ms Joan Wilson
Dr Brian Dando
Mrs Waida Dando
Mrs Grania Skeldon
Mrs Jennifer Brooke
Miss Ann Miller
Ms Sheila Cooper
Miss Margaret Bills

LONDON

Regional Representative/Chairman
Vice Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer

Mr Walter Hoffman
Mrs Georgette Butler
Mrs Brenda Suitters
Mrs Lynda Young

NORTHERN

Chairman
Regional Representative
Honorary Secretary
Honorary Treasurer
Welfare Officer

Mr Peter Bagshaw
Vacant
Vacant
Mr Laurie Robertson
contact Chairman

OXFORD

Regional Representative
Secretary/Treasurer
Welfare Officer

Mr Bill Jackson
Mr Cyril Groom
Vacant

SOUTH CENTRAL

Regional Representative/Secretary/Treasurer
Welfare Officer

Mrs June Hargreaves-Beer
Mr Fred Beer

SOUTHWEST & CHANNEL ISLES

Regional Representative
Deputy Regional Representative
Membership Secretary
Treasurer

Mr Rosemary ap Rees
Barbara Whitehead
Miss Irene Chamberlain
Mrs Eileen Wait

SURREY

Chairman
Regional Representative
General Secretary
Treasurer
Social Programme Secretary
Help Line

Miss Tilly Armstrong
Miss Patricia Brown (ad interim)
Mrs Alison Husaunndee
Mrs Isobel Taylor
Mrs Pat Mukhtar
Mrs Pat Mukhtar
Miss Dell Tierney

WEST MIDLANDS & WALES

Regional Representative/Treasurer
Regional Welfare Officer
Local Welfare Contact, Cheltenham

Mr Duncan Morris
Mrs Phyl Marshall
Mrs Sheila Rashed-Angelini

OVERSEAS

Regional Representative (to be contacted on all matters)

Mr Fred Beer

BAFUNCS Benevolent Fund

Trustees:

Chairman

Cyril Groom (FAO)

Clerk/Treasurer to the Trustees

Nanda Wijayatilake (UNHCR)

Members

Fred Beer (WHO)

Susan Idreos (WHO)

Susan Miller (UN-IDNDR)

Geoffrey Shakespeare
(UNWRA)

Brenda Suitters (WHO)

Correspondence

All correspondence with the Benevolent Fund, is treated as confidential and should be addressed to:

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41 Riverine
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Maidenhead
Berks SL6 8PF
Telephone: 01628 636000

The Benevolent Fund, a registered charity, welcomes contributions through the Gift Aid Scheme. The Fund can reclaim Income Tax on all donations, big or small, as long as a Gift Aid Declaration is completed and the donor has paid Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax the Fund reclaims on the donation during that Tax Year. Forms and/or further information are available from the Fund's Clerk/Treasurer (see above).

Addresses of all BAFUNCS officials can be found in the Membership List.

Calling all members

Members are invited to tell friends and former UN colleagues about BAFUNCS. The annual subscriptions are £14 for a single membership and £21 for joint membership (husband and wife). Life subs are £140 and £210 respectively.

Members receive the Newsletter in March and September and the Membership List in September. BAFUNCS also issues Information Notes: INF1 **Guide to BAFUNCS**; INF2 **When a pensioner dies**; INF3 **Accommodation for older people**; INF4 **Planning for retirement in the United**

Kingdom; INF5 **Taxation in the UK** (revised annually); INF6 **Personal information checklists**; and INF7 **Guide to welfare support that BAFUNCS can provide**. Information Notes and membership application forms can be obtained from the Membership Secretary, (see inside front cover)

