



NEWSLETTER No 20 ~ 3RD MARCH 2015

GREETINGS

A very hearty almost Spring greeting to all of you. Those of you living in England have enjoyed, if not the warmest of winters, certainly according to the records, the sunniest winter since 1929. I do not have a lot of news items for you this time around but here we go with what I do have. I hope the date of this Newsletter does resonate for you!

VALE

It is with regret that I have to advise you of the death of **Noelle Finney** on 14th January this year. She was the widow of Philip Finny who you may remember spent some time in the Force as head of Special Branch, amongst other suspected nefarious positions! Noelle was 97 years old at the time of her death and notice was given to me by their son Christopher who spent some time in the Protectorate and who follows the affairs of the Association. I passed on our condolences to him and other members of his family.

Then in February I received news of the death of **Bernard Ward** (known to many as OB Ward). He died on 16th February this year and is survived by his wife Iris. OB was one of the characters in the Force and was something of a "legal eagle". In his last days he was visited often by **John Wilkes** and through him, and my Newsletters, kept himself apprised of our "doings". I have not been able to speak to Iris to pass on our condolences but **John Wilkes** undertook to do this for us and if possible to attend his funeral.

Although this is a sad section of the Newsletter, I should mention the comment made by **Colin Baker** on receipt of one of these notices. He said, "We continue to dwindle away". I thought this rather apt and often refer now to those of us still surviving as "dwindlers"! Long may we continue to do so.

AVE

An ex-colleague of whom I hear periodically but do not hear from is **Basil Horsfall** who was in Special Branch. He is in his nineties now and lives in Scarborough. He is in quite regular contact with **Anne Binney**, widow of **Alan Binney**, and she finally gave me Basil's telephone number. I spoke to him and his reason for not retaining contact with us is simply that his age restricts him so. He was very pleased to hear from me and passed on his wishes to those who do remember him.

CONTACTS

As usual I have made contact with many of our ex-colleagues already this year. Some are not in too great health and out of respect for their privacy I will not name them as ailing. However, I have communicated by telephone, skype, email or snail-mail with **Malcolm Llewelyn, Mike Harper,**

Richard Smallshaw, Boyd Pendennis, Jack Lane, Heber Russell, John T.Parker, Ray Punter, Tony Drynan, John Catling, Eric Bult, Jon Dennison, John Clements, David O'Neil, Don McCarry, Allan Dew and probably others whom I do not remember.

I am sure that a number of you will remember **Danny Morrison** who left the Force on retirement shortly after I got to the country. He had moved to Australia where he lived near his daughters **Heather Dwyer** and **Mary Abela**. I am sure that many of the "children" who receive this letter will remember these two girls. Heather has come down with a virulent cancer having retired only a year or two ago. I am in contact with her through Mary and also Ron Morgan, brother of Ian Morgan, who also lives near her. I mention her because Heather has been one of the very staunchest supporters of the Association, both financially and with great interest in all we do. I know you will join me in wishing her well with her treatment and future.

COLIN BAKER

Colin continues to support the Association and to produce his delightful books, He has asked me to ask you if you can remember any colourful nicknames any of us had whilst in Nyasaland.

Obviously I was called "**Bwana Nyemba**". If you have any names to offer, please let me or Colin have them.

He also, inspired by the television programme "Wanted in Caymans, New Zealand, Australia" etc thought that a good section in one of his future "Life and Works" might deal with the reasons some of us first went to Nyasaland and the effects on our families left in the UK together with our first impressions of Nyasaland. If you can contribute anything along these lines, please let me or Colin again, have something.

REUNION 2015

As you know, our Annual Reunion will take place in Coventry at the Holiday Inn on 16th July this year. Bookings roll in steadily but I ask you again, if you intend coming, please let me have your bookings sooner rather than later. I am resigned to the fact that I will have to make a number of telephone calls in a couple of months to people who do intend coming but just haven't got round to sending me a form or cheque. Please save me the time and effort if you can.

DONATIONS

I hope I have thanked everybody who responded to my request for a little financial support for the Association, but if I missed you, please accept my grateful thanks now. We don't have a subscription, it isn't merited, but a fiver or so once a year or so just helps to meet postage costs etc. and to pay for the website host.

With that, until next time, I hope you and yours are all well.

Kindest regards

CHRISTOPHER BEAN