



Young and old at Devon weekend



Remembrance at the NMA



York weekend doubt



Carol attends Earlham memorial

COFEPOW Quarterly is a review magazine, informing members of events and opinions expressed over a three-month period. Please visit the COFEPOW website at www.cofepow.org.uk and our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cofepow for regular updates.

CoFEPOW Quarterly

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Normal Services being resumed



COFEPOW is delighted to announce that, at the close of 2022, normal memorial parades and special remembrance services are gradually returning to normal, after the crushing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

From the beginning of 2020, all memorial activities organised by the COFEPOW charity have been severely hampered, even though many officers and members ploughed on through the various restrictions imposed, to help overcome this vicious infection and continue the fundamental duty and responsibility of the charity.

Whilst the consequences of the pandemic are still being felt, and illness and loss remain, the trustees of COFEPOW

believe there is evidence to show that into the new year and beyond, we can continue to pay our respects to those who endured greater hardship and deprivation than we, their descendants, can ever imagine.



100th issue

The January 2023 issue of COFEPOW Quarterly is the 100th edition of the official COFEPOW charity newsletter. The magazine format publication has increased over the 25-year history of the association, from the early days as a black and white 12-page mailing, to very often, a 24-page full colour publication, printed and delivered both conventionally and digitally.

The objective of the newsletter is to keep all members, old and new, informed of the activities of the charity, the work of the trustees and officers in maintaining the memory of FEPOWs and civilian internees and their horrific incarceration during the Second World War, and to help inform and educate the general public and maintain memorials dedicated to our brave forbears who served and suffered in the Far-East theatre of conflict.

Apart from printing costs, the origination and assembly of the newsletter is produced entirely without charge by COFEPOW members.



Chair's Notes

“ Keats called Autumn 'the season of mellow fruitfulness'. For COFEPOW, it is the season of remembrance.

The main event is, of course, the national one at the Cenotaph in London, which I have reported on elsewhere in this issue, but we should not forget or set aside the very many smaller ones up and down the country, where locally, we can remember both the FEPOWs who returned and those that did not.

As not everyone can attend the London service and parade, being present at these regional events is encouraged, so that our FEPOWs are remembered and their message and spirit passed on to new generations.

This is especially true of the commemoration at Southampton, which I joined on Friday 18th November, and which is focused on the returning FEPOWs who arrived at the dockside there and in particular, Bob Hucklesby, whose determination resulted in the Memorial being established there, after having seen a similar one in Liverpool.

This event is particularly special, with contributions made by local children, who attend the event each year and make wreaths for the occasion and have prepared and made speeches and read out poems in the past.

Thinking of Liverpool, I must report that the Memorial there needs some TLC. I visited in September and saw that the names are beginning to come off and generally, the memorial is no longer in good shape. We are looking at establishing a dedicated fund-raising programme to commission and purchase a replacement memorial, that will be able to withstand the harsh coastal weathering at the seafront on the Mersey, more effectively.

Should any member wish to make a donation specifically for this project, please contact me on email at: cofepow.chairman@gmail.com

Thank you.

David Brede, Chair, COFEPOW.

Torquay in October - a welcome weekend

Once again, COFEPOW members keen to meet up with fellow FEPOW families, joined the annual 'Weekend Away' at the Livermead House Hotel in Torquay in the heart of the English Riviera, in Devon.

Held over the weekend of Friday 29th September to Monday 2nd of October 2022, the hotel made all guests very welcome as usual. Chris Wills, National Events Co-ordinator, shares some of the pictures taken over the weekend with her own comment....

"The first, top right, is of my mother-in-law, Joan Wills, pictured with Gemma Wenborn. Mrs Wills was



the only FEPOW widow to be present over the weekend, at the youthful age of just 94! Gemma is a granddaughter, in fact it was her 14th birthday on the Sunday we were there. So there we have it – the oldest and the youngest!"

Plymouth group member Lisa De-Lar continues the report...

"Once again, the 12 months had gone more quickly than we realised since we all gathered at the Livermead House Hotel last year. For us, it's a lovely weekend, still learning about the other members who have been a part of this large family for many years. It's interesting knowing that our relatives cover so many areas of military and civilian life which were affected in the Far-East.

"A very relaxed weekend was enjoyed by all and once again we had the pleasure of being looked after by great staff at the hotel.

"On Friday evening, we enjoyed the entertainers, who we've got to know over the years, with music we can actually sing along to!

"On Saturday daytime, a few of the members went off to visit the Donkey Sanctuary and Sidmouth, and the weather was more kind this year than last.



"Saturday evening arrived, and we looked forward to the Gala Dinner, with many prizes donated and won afterwards in the lounge area. Once again, we were pleasantly entertained by the duo who both sang and danced as we jigged and clapped along in our chairs!

"A great sleep followed, before we headed into the meeting room on Sunday morning to listen to two key speakers about the books they had written about their relatives. It was most informative, learning about different family history. It's the stories that need to be told to keep the memories alive of such brutal times. A portrait was displayed of 102-years young Jim Wren, a former Royal Marine survivor from HMS Repulse, a painting of whom was commissioned by

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the previous HRH Prince of Wales on the 75th Anniversary of VJ-Day. Andy, Jim's son-in-law, gave a talk about Jim and the wonderful outside celebrations for his 100th birthday, which had taken place in the street, due to Covid, during which Jim and his late wife, Margaret, sat in the garden as members of the public came and gave their good wishes and raised a glass of bubbly as they went past. Jim continues to be in the best of health and very much independent.

"As some members set off home on the Sunday afternoon, a few stayed behind to head off on the Mon-



day. A good weekend, enjoyed by all and ready for next year's gathering."

Lisa De-Lar

Alongside and over the page are details of the Book Talk held at the event...



Please note for 2023...

Due to several last minute cancellations in 2022, the hotel lost almost £2,000 in business. In these difficult economic times, they can't afford for the same to happen again next year. Chris Wills would like to stress that this was no-one's fault, as having to look after someone who is ill, or falling ill yourself, cannot be avoided. With many cancellations being close to the date of the weekend, the hotel was unable to re-let the rooms or use the food already bought.

So, going forward, as part of the contracted agreement with Livermead House, guests in the COFEPoW party who cancel within one calendar month prior to the next weekend (29th September 2023), will be liable to pay the full amount directly to the hotel.

Whether or not you or your partner have any health concerns, it may be beneficial to take out holiday insurance for your stay next year.

Thank you.



Torquay Weekend Book talks & sales



One or two of the photographs taken over the weekend are shown in this column and in the left-hand column overleaf. In the first picture, Chris Wills chats with members as she introduces Christine Ogborne, who gave a very interesting outline of her book 'October Tides.' During the weekend, Christine sold 6 copies of the book. The author continues:

"October Tides' is a biography of my Uncle Tom, illustrating his early life in South Wales, where he was born in 1920 as one of twins, in a family with ten siblings. Life in the Welsh Depression of the 1920's was not easy and there were very sad as well as happy times for him.

"As a teenager, he lived in Exeter, Devon, working as a hotel porter, no doubt adding to a yearning for adventure and seeing the world, as he handled suitcases for people who were widely travelled. He joined the Royal Navy, signing up for 12 years, and began his training as a stoker in Plymouth.

"By 1938, Tom was based in Hong Kong, just as fears of war in Europe were beginning to be realised. As hostilities progressed of course, the Far-East became involved and Hong Kong fell to the Japanese. Tom became a POW and had to endure life at the cruel hands of his captors.

"Just as his early life had sad and happy times, Christine has tried to show how Tom's spirit amongst his fellow prisoners shone through despite the hardships."

Copies are available by contacting Christine on email at christineogborne@gmail.com We hope you enjoy reading Tom's story.

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Homage to the Wartime Generation...

Caroline Repton gave a talk about 'Lotus-Eating Days', the memoir she wrote about her parents, published by the Book Guild in February. Her father, Christopher Repton, was the eldest child in a middle-class English family: her mother, Theresa Pang, the 13th child of Chinese immigrants in Singapore. Both survived the war - he as a POW on the Thai/Burma railway, and Theresa working in Japanese-occupied Singapore. 'Lotus-Eating Days' is the story of how they grew up on opposite sides of the world, and against all odds, met and married in Singapore after the war.

Caroline comments:

"The book describes my father's experiences as a British soldier in the Queen's Royal Regiment in India, Malaya and Thailand and Theresa's in Singapore. After the war, my father sailed home on the 'Corfu', one of the first troop ships to arrive in Southampton in October 1945. He and his fellow FEPOWs met up in the months after the war, as only they could understand the ordeal they had endured.

"There are many letters from his former POW friends, and lifelong friendships are formed. Dramatic events in Java ensue, amid the Indonesian revolution and Malaya's 'Emergency'. Then there are happier episodes in peacetime among friends and family, culminating in my parents' wedding in Singapore and four-month honeymoon in Malaysia, the UK and Europe in 1959."

The book is a kaleidoscope of voices from a bygone era, telling the story through letters, diaries and recordings, plus the piles of unseen letters and photographs found in Christopher's wardrobe, after his death in 1998.

"In 2000, my mother, who was by then blind, recorded her life story on about a dozen cassette tapes. So, I was able to combine their stories and in February 2022, publication coincided with marking the 80th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore.

'Lotus-Eating Days' is available online, including from the publisher, www.bookguild.co.uk or from any good UK bookshop.

Caroline Repton.

2022 Remembrance Day at the FEPOW Building & Grove, NMA



Left: Jack and Shirley Barnes, Alan Wills and Caroline Aston.
Right: Michael Wilson, and David and Cherry Sartin.

Sunday, 13th November, saw COFEPOW members gather at the FEPOW Memorial Building and Grove in Alrewas, Staffs., for the Remembrance Day Service at the National Memorial Arboretum.

Chris Wills tells of her delight at meeting old friends from the COFEPOW charity, who had braved the unpredictable, although, as it turned out, rather mild November weather, to join others at the NMA.

Chris reports further on the day...

"It was lovely to see familiar faces at the National Memorial Arboretum on Sunday 13th November, for the annual Remembrance Day Service. Having walked across to the Changi Lychgate, we all met up and paid our respects to the FEPOWs.



"Retired former trustee, Alan Wills, pictured immediately left, laid the wreath on behalf of all trustees and members of COFEPOW.

"Caroline Aston, pictured above top at the Memorial, had travelled all the way from Herefordshire to be there on the day, and laid her own wreath. Shirley Barnes, shown bottom left, joined us from Leicester, and laid her poppy crosses with son, Jack.

"David Sartin, above, made his way on the day from Stoke-on-Trent, and laid his poppy cross. Mike Wilson came from Hinckley, Leicestershire. Many thanks to all, for coming to join us for Remembrance Sunday."



Whitehall Remembrance Day Service and Parade 2022

David Brede reports on his first year as organiser of the COFEPOW Remembrance Day Service and Parade at the Cenotaph...

"This year was my fourth March-past, but my first as the co-ordinator. Pam Gillespie was amazing at fulfilling the role, so I had a big pair of boots to fill.



"It was good to take advantage of the arrangements that Pam had made and used before with the Ship and Shovell pub, for the after-march refreshments. Again, they came up trumps with their 'ploughman's plates' with thick doorsteps of ham or cheese, with salad and pickles.

"The lead up to the event involved the negotiation with the Royal British Legion about our attendees. Disappointingly, some of our attendees could not make it on the day and unfortunately, we were unable to backfill the spaces with others who were eager to attend.

"The night before the event, there was a get-together with ten of the marchers, at the Strand Palace Hotel, for a lively catch-up and some dinner.



Photo: Courtesy of Jill Robertson

"The big day started a bit misty and damp, and after a decent breakfast, we made our way to the assembly point in Whitehall via the necessary security.

"The muster-point was near the memorial to the women of World War Two, which was also where Sophie Raworth and the BBC team were located. She mingled among us, but mainly to speak with the crowd next to where we were standing.



"Like Pam before me, I had some sweets to sustain the contingent during the wait and others had thought the same. It is a great relief when the bands start to strike up and we know that the formalities of the ceremony are due to start. The muster-point is in line of some large TV screens so we could see the events at the Cenotaph itself.



"On completion of the service and wreath-laying by the dignitaries, the March-past commenced. We were in the fourth line, so one of the last to leave Whitehall. But, in due course, we set off with a quick march at 100 paces, past the Cenotaph. The wreath was handed over and we proceeded apace to Parliament Square, into Great George Street and right back to Horse Guards parade ground for the salute from HRH and then dispersal.



Photo: Courtesy of Jill Robertson



"Many of us regrouped at the Ship and Shovell for a well-earned lunch and a chance to catch up with old and new friends, before going our separate ways." **David Brede, COFEPOW Chair.**

Guidance on new online membership system

The trustees are delighted with the progress being made in introducing a major technological improvement to the system used to record, retain and inform new and existing members.

'Memberstack', as the new system is known, is a significant move forward for the charity, although inevitably, with all things new, it's taking time to integrate into existing manual methods. The change in how COFEPOW logs and manages its membership data has also coincided with the transition from former, to new Membership Secretaries.

As work on the system progresses, there will be a delay in the announcement of new members, their contact details (if consented) and the brief description of their FEPOW relative's war-time experiences, in order that existing members can make contact if they wish.

Membership Self-Service Dashboard

This is a secure area where you can manage your membership. The Portal is available 24/7 and can be used to:

- Gain access to the list of FEPOWs
- Quickly access Area Co-ordinator contact details
- Quickly and easily renew your membership
- Update the postal address, email address or phone number linked to your membership
- Amend your contact preferences
- Sign up to our newsletter for access to the latest membership news

The trustees would like to assure all members, new and old, that their details will be managed within all data protection regulations, throughout their introduction and on-going useage within the COFEPOW database.

For new applications and renewals, including how to set up an annual payment to the charity for continued membership, please refer to the website at:

<https://www.cofepow.org.uk/membership>

COFEPOW takes active part in Festival of Remembrance

Following an invitation from the Royal British Legion to attend the Annual Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall in November, COFEPOW trustees, Nick Bullen-Bell, Merchandise Officer, and Karen Brown, Membership Officer, were delighted to represent the charity and participate in the event.

Nick relates the story of the thrilling, yet daunting honour of taking part...

"After arriving home from work one day, my wife, Sylvie, said:

"How would you like to go to the Royal Albert Hall for the Festival of Remembrance?"

"As COFEPOW had been offered the opportunity of attending this magnificent and important occasion, the question was asked of the COFEPOW trustees: "Who would like to attend?"

"Instantly, I said yes, having never been offered this opportunity before and thinking it was just an invitation to be part of the audience. I didn't think much more of it until the emails and paperwork started to arrive, with confirmation that we, and I, had been accepted.



Circled above: A TV Screenshot of COFEPOW trustees, Karen Brown and Nick Bullen-Bell, looking nervous as they march down the steps at the televised Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall.

"After trying to accept our invitation and book tickets through emails (that was probably the hardest part), little did we realise that Sylvie was going to be in the audience for one show and I was going to be part of the Civilian Muster, and still didn't appreciate what that entailed.

"Instructions and tickets arrived, the weekend got nearer, train times were checked, re-checked and checked again due to rail strikes, and I set off on Friday 11th November for a 4.00p.m. appointment at the Royal Albert Hall to collect my security pass, get all the instructions, meet the other civilians involved and sit through a rehearsal. Only then did it actually sink in what I was to be part of!

"I sat with the others in the Royal Albert Hall, watching and listening to stories of those who had served and been lost, those who had served and witnessed untold horrors, and those still serving. And that was just a rehearsal!

"An early start on Saturday, as
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Sylvie and I arrived at the Royal Albert Hall at 7.10a.m, 10 minutes late! I was allowed in, having been already checked by security, but Sylvie wasn't and had to walk around South Kensington for ten hours, before she was allowed in for the evening performance. Not a good start for us.

"Our Royal Albert Hall guide also did a vanishing act, and we were all left to our own devices. Eventually, we were reallocated some guides and lots of apologies, a breakfast and then rehearsal after rehearsal after rehearsal, by then, fully aware that anything short of perfection was not going to b

David Brown (COFEPOW Treasurer) and Karen's husband, was also part of the performances, representing the Royal British Legion and COFEPOW as Standard Bearer, along with all the other Standard Bearers performing with perfection and discipline.

"Lunch and lots of waiting around followed, until the first actual performance took place in front of a full house. Our instructor - an RAF Regiment Sergeant/Drill Instructor - really meant business and we were part of a surreal, highly-charged and very emotional experience.

"The next (and last) performance at 7.00p.m. was in front of our



acceptable.

"One last rehearsal took place, this time a full dress affair. Luckily, I was not the lone COFEPOW representative, as I was partnered by Karen Brown, Membership Secretary, and we soon clicked with our timing and steps.

new King (and Sylvie!), and had to be even better. With heart pounding, terrified of making a mistake or slipping down the steps, we did it. What an honour! The biggest honour ever for me, to be there to represent my Dad, who served with the 2nd Battalion,



Cambridgeshire Regiment and spent three and a half years as a POW. We were there to represent COFEPOW on behalf of ALL other FEPOWS and their families and to do it in front of a full-house audience and His Majesty the King.

"Words cannot express my pride, nor explain how it felt to be part of such a huge public occasion. There are no words that do justice to the pride I felt in my Dad. Finally, thank you to COFEPOW from the bottom of my heart for being chosen to represent the charity (I still have to keep pinching myself to check it was actually real) and to the Royal British Legion for inviting and allowing Karen and I to be the representatives on behalf of COFEPOW.

"It was an experience I will never forget."

Nick Bullen-Bell, Merchandise Officer.



Remembrance Day Service and Parade

Whitehall, 2023

COFEPOW will be asking the Royal British Legion for tickets for the Whitehall Service and Parade in November, now that the prevailing situation regarding the pandemic has allowed for a resumption of normal activities.

Until Chair, David Brede, receives full details, we are not sure whether the RBL will maintain their stipulation introduced during Covid, that tickets will only be given to veterans, their widows and first generation descendants.

In the event that that continues to be the case and you would like to be considered for a ticket, [please register an interest by contacting David Brede, COFEPOW Chair, by post at 3, Blossom Way, Little Billing, Northamptonshire NN3 9ET or by email at \[cofepow.chairman@gmail.com\]\(mailto:cofepow.chairman@gmail.com\) or by phone on 07930 960241.](#)

Please include your connection/relationship to the FEPOW you wish to represent in your message, and tickets received will be distributed subject to the revised arrangements, on a first come, first served basis to those eligible.

The procession along Whitehall is scheduled for Sunday November 12th. As the event gradually returns to its regular form, please be aware that:

- Those who wish to attend are advised that they must be on Whitehall by 9.00am: extra time is needed to go through security so it is an early start on what could be a cold and wet morning.
- There is a great deal of standing about, from assembly, through the 11.00 Silence and Service and until the final march-off. The parade is usually dismissed at about 12.45.
- Once COFEPOW is able to confirm the number of tickets and allocate them, personal details have to be submitted to the RBL for security checks. Tickets are strictly non-transferable as they are issued to people by name and proof of ID will be required.

Southampton commemorates...



Walter Tuttlebee, son of former FEPOW, Gunner/Driver William Henry Tuttlebee of 281 Battery, 85th Anti-Tank Regt, RA., reports on the annual service to mark the homecoming via Southampton, of so many of the POWs released from captivity after the war in the Far-East...

"Mandy, who runs the nearby brewery/restaurant 'The Dancing Man' kindly opened up early again for us, as in past years, to welcome and host us with free refreshments shortly after 10.00am, as children, relatives and friends of Far-East POWs gathered. Our Standard Bearers, Nick Roberts and Paul Nicholls, had risen very early, setting off at 6.00am to drive down from Wolverhampton to serve us, for which we were very grateful. Nick and Paul are long-time friends of Bob Hucklesby, the original instigator of the Memorial. It was a joy and privilege for them to be with us again, along with a few of Bob's relatives.

"Southampton's Lord Mayor, Councillor Jacqui Rayment - the 800th Mayor of Southampton and the city's first Lord Mayor - also joined us, laying a wreath on behalf of the city.

"As 11.00am approached, we were led across to Town Quay Park by our Standard Bearers, with the warm sun shining brightly. It was great weather and a good turnout of around 40 people, similar to pre-Covid years. Pauline Simpson, the national FEPOW Chaplain, and other friends from Norfolk, had planned to join us, but last minute challenges unfortunately prevented this and apologies were conveyed. Likewise, Meg Parkes of the Researching FEPOW History Group (RFHG) - the other driving force behind the memorial alongside Bob - had also sent her apologies.



"For a few of those present, it was their first time at the Southampton Memorial, but I'm sure not the last. Many children of Far-East POWs had fathers amongst the 20,000 or so who returned *Continued overleaf...*

...77th anniversary of FEPOW repatriation



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from their imprisonment and hard labour via the city, and each year, more of them are rediscovering the stories of their fathers' experiences and journeys home, with new people making contact and visiting each year. A photograph of the memorial plaque, which lists the ships that brought POWs home to Southampton in autumn 1945, is shown below.



"After a brief welcome from myself, Dave Adcock led the Service, explaining how he had first met Bob Hucklesby and heard his story on a veterans' trip to Normandy, which he was covering for BBC Radio Solent. Dave's brief address, explaining the significance of remembrance on this day, was followed by the exhortation, the Kohima Epitaph, FEPOW prayer, the Last Post, the Silence and Reveille. These were followed by the laying of wreaths and planting of crosses, including several beautiful hand-crafted wreaths made and laid by the children from nearby St John's school (see top).

"Some folk stayed on at Town Quay Park a while afterwards to reflect in silence, whilst many others returned to 'The Dancing Man' where people shared a few of their fathers' stories and had the opportunity to view articles from a 1945

Southern Daily Echo, including the repatriation ships and the FEPOW camp on Southampton Common.

"Jill Robertson - author of the recently published book, 'Captured in Singapore: A Diary of a Far-East Prisoner of War', had also joined us for the day and made copies of her book available.

"One of those present, Elizabeth Hallett from Chichester, suggested that some of us may wish to share email addresses, to stay in touch. If you would like to share in this, please email me at: walter@tuttlebee.com stating that you'd like to do so and I will forward your details to Elizabeth. Please add "Stay in touch" as the title of your email.

"Personally, I've found new contacts made at various events, including past RFHG conferences (see later in article), to be hugely valuable, as I've learnt about my own father's story and met people who've been able to point me to sources of information. For that reason also, I'd encourage you to respond to Elizabeth's invitation.



"Thank you once again for your support and to everyone who attended and contributed in various ways to the 2022 annual Southampton FEPOW Repatriation Commemoration Service.

"For those who wanted to come but couldn't make it, or may wish to come next year, please put Saturday 18th November 2023 in your diary. I hope to see many of you again over the coming year, and/or next November".

**Walter Tuttlebee,
Hampshire.**

Below are copies of articles published in Southampton at the time of repatriation, as mentioned in the article. Naturally, they are shown here for story background and are not intended to be legible. Should any COFEPOW member wish to see them in more detail, please contact Walter, who will be happy to help.



NB: As briefly referred to in the article, the conference on FEPOW history will hopefully take place in Liverpool in June 2023, organised by the RFHG (Meg Parkes). More details are available on page 12 of this edition of the newsletter.

As the hosting venue is a medical establishment (the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, where many FEPOWs were treated) details remain a little uncertain as the facility is sensitive to the on-going situation with Covid.

Apply for your FEPOW Album Page

This comprehensive collection of individual A4 sheets holding brief facts about each FEPOW's incarceration and service, is written by their immediate relative, collated by COFEPOW and held on show in the FEPOW Building museum at the NMA, and available for all to read. If you would like to create an album page for your FEPOW relative or friend, please view the link on <https://www.cofepow.org.uk/fepow-photo-album>

Chris Wills would like to remind members that anyone who contributed previously and would like their FEPOW relative to be included again, to contact her at chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk

Want to start organising events in your area?

Please take a look at the full list of Area Co-ordinators on the back page of this newsletter.

If you would like to start organising events in your part of the country, which isn't covered in the existing list, visit the COFEPOW website at <https://www.cofepow.org.uk/cofepow-events> and fill in the form.

We'll get back to you as soon as we can to help to bring you up to speed on the kinds of things you can do to help your local fellow COFEPOW members enjoy their membership more.

Remember: refer to our research database for FEPOW facts

The trustees and volunteer members of COFEPOW have spent many, many years of unstinting dedication and commitment, to assemble a comprehensive database of information on the wartime service and captivity of over 50,000 former FEPOWs.

Sources have included the Military Archives at Kew, the Imperial War Museum and Services records held in the UK and abroad.

View your FEPOW facts at <https://www.cofepow.org.uk/research-database>



Lanarkshire remembers



Above - left to right: Gavin Whitehead, Agnes Thomson, Campbell Thomson, Clr. Eileen Logan, Derek Edmond and Bethany Black.

Left: Some of those who were present at the Service in Belhaven Park, gathered at the Lanarkshire Yeomanry Memorial.

The men of the Lanarkshire Yeomanry were once again remembered on Remembrance Sunday at the two Memorials situated at Carluke and Wishaw. Agnes Dougan reports on the day...

"Following the Community Service in the Market Place in Carluke, friends and relatives of the Lanarkshire Yeomanry gathered at the Lanarkshire Yeomanry Memorial, where a prayer was given by Campbell Thomson, after which wreaths and tributes were laid.

"Gavin Whitehead, the Vice-Lord Lieutenant of Lanarkshire and Clr. Eileen Logan laid a wreath on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council.

Bethany Black laid a wreath in memory of the men of the Lanarkshire Yeomanry. Wreaths were also laid in memory of Sgt. William G. Anderson of the 155th (Lanarkshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment R.A., who died whilst a POW at the Kinkaseki copper mine in Taiwan, and in memory of Neil Moore, who was killed in World War I, while serving with the Royal Navy, and his son Neil Moore Jnr., who was taken POW by the Japanese while serving with the Royal Army

Ordnance Corps in the Far-East.

"A tribute was also laid by the Cameronian Association, in memory of their comrades in the other Lanarkshire Regiment. The Service ended with a recital of the Kohima Epitaph.

"Later in the afternoon, we participated in the Community Service in Belhaven Park, Wishaw. Agnes Thomson gave the reading, and a prayer was said by Rev. Terry Moran of South Wishaw Parish Church. Some of those who were present at the Service in Belhaven Park gathered at the Lanarkshire Yeomanry Memorial.

"Wreaths were then laid at the Lanarkshire Yeomanry Memorial on behalf of the families of Gunner James Fegan of the 155th Lanarkshire Yeomanry Field Regt. R.A., who was held as a POW in the Far-East, and Harold Coleman, of the 156th Lanarkshire Yeomanry Field Regt. R.A., who had fought with the regiment in Sicily, Italy and Western Europe.

"The Service ended with the recital of the Kohima Epitaph, followed by a Blessing by the Reverend Moran."

"Our thanks to Frank Morrison for the photography."

Agnes Dougan

Members meet at Earlham memorial tree in Norwich

Below: members stand for photography by the tree.

Circled: COFEPOW founder and Honorary Life President, Carol Cooper, at the service, with her daughter, Adele.

Bottom right: wreaths and poppy crosses laid at the tree.

Norman Craik describes the annual meeting of members and former officers of the COFEPOW charity, at the special FEPOW memorial tree planted at the crematorium almost 25 years ago...

"On Sunday, October 23rd 2022, twenty members of COFEPOW gathered at Earlham Crematorium, Norwich, for a short ceremony, beside the tree planted there in 1998. Other than enforced absence due to Covid, members have met

there every year since it was planted.

"This year saw a mixture of old and new members, including Carol Cooper, founder and first Chair of COFEPOW, Robin and Beryl Canwell and Graham Robertson, all of whom have served as membership officers. Also in attendance was Judy Craik, one of the first trustees of the charity.

"The short service, which is always very moving, was followed by a visit to the local pub for lunch and a catch up.

"Our thanks go to Thelma Johnson, Area Co-ordinator, for organising the event, and Graham Robertson for printing the service sheets.

"All members will be meeting up again at our Christmas Dinner in January."

Norman Craik



COFEPOW Quarterly is available either as a printed multi-page A4 magazine, or as a PDF, emailed to your online address. Published in January, April, July and October, it is edited and assembled by Chris Wills and Steve Riley, who are keen to receive all material from members, to contribute towards the newsletter.

Please send all photographs, illustrations, articles, notices and event information to either: chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk or sriley.beeches@btinternet.com Thank you.



amazon smile

Note to all members...

The COFEPOW charity has now been registered with AmazonSmile, a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices and shopping features as Amazon.co.uk

The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the COFEPOW charity, at no cost to you. So any purchases you would normally make through Amazon can now be made through smile. [amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) in exactly the same way.

Simply copy this link - <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1074474-0> and it will take members directly to AmazonSmile to order whatever you require, whilst supporting our charity organisation at the same time. Thank you for supporting us. Remember, always start at smile.amazon.co.uk



Give as you Live®

Give as you Live online helps raise COFEPOW funds

Give as you Live Online is a free and easy way to help raise vital support funds for COFEPOW's work in maintaining memorials across Britain. By using this online site, you can shop at over 5,500 stores and whatever you purchase - from holidays and travel, to clothing and gifts - a small percentage from the sale goes to help raise significant sums from your everyday shopping, all at no extra cost to you. Simply sign up for an account and start shopping to make a difference. Visit the website now to register.

<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/cofepow>

Save the date!



RFHG

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine confirms date for hosting Researching FEPOW History Conference

On the 10th and 11th June 2023, the long-awaited RFHG's conference (postponed from 2020 and in 2021, following Covid) at the LSTM will take place

This is an in-person event and places are extremely limited. Registration opened on 1st October 2022 and closed on 30th November. It is now more than possible that only cancellation places will currently be available. Further details will follow in the April edition of COFEPOW Quarterly. Visit <https://fepowhistory.com/> for all updates. To assist with planning, please email mike.parkes@talktalk.net now to confirm your registration (non-binding) before the event.

Thank you.

COFEPOW at Nairn Remembrance Day Parade



Jane and Roland Stuart report on the Remembrance Day service and parade in Nairn, Scotland...

"Sunday, 13th November came very early, and we had to be at the Royal British Legion, in Nairn for 8.50am. The presentation was made to the Girl Guides who collected the most monies for the Poppy Appeal in Nairn. Well done to you all!

"Afterwards, the parade formed and marched to St Ninians, Nairn Parish Church, for the service, which was taken by Reverend Thomas Bryson and Reverend Alison Mehigan. Amongst the people taking part in the



parade, were a hundred soldiers from the 4th Scots Regiment. Members of the Royal British Legion, veterans and young people from the Guides, Scouts, Air Cadets, Army Cadets and the very young members of Beavers. Nairn Pipe Band led the parade. Also present were Lord Lieutenant George Asher and Lord Provost Laurie Fraser.

"After the service, the parade reassembled and marched to Nairn War Memorial, where wreaths were laid. Carol Huggins (father was a FEPOW) and Jane Stuart (father was a FEPOW)



laid the FEPOW wreath.

"After the service in Nairn, we went to a village called Auldearn and laid the COFEPOW and FEPOW wreath. The FEPOW prayer was said by us at both Memorials. It was a wonderful tribute to all who laid down their lives so we could be free today."



"In August on VJ-Day, Carol Huggins and Kirsteen Forbes laid the FEPOW and COFEPOW wreath at the Nairn War Memorial, led by Reverend Thomas Bryson, who has been very supportive and led all the wreath-laying ceremonies we've arranged with Nairn Legion since moving to Scotland.

Jane and Roland Stuart.

'22 York weekend reunion planned again for '23



Novotel York Hotel and Centre, Fishergate, York YO10 4FD

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

At going to press, sadly, only 4 deposits have been received. If a significant number of deposits are not received by the 31st January 2023, the weekend will be cancelled and deposits returned to those that have already paid.

After a very successful reunion in York this year, COFEPOW has decided to do it again next year....

The hotel overlooks the River Foss and is situated close to the historic city walls and is well-positioned for exploring the culture of York. There is excellent accessibility for those with reduced mobility; WiFi/internet access is also available. There are bus-stops very close to the hotel. For those that haven't been to York before, there is much to see and many museums to visit. For those that have been before, well, there is always something you've missed on previous visits and then there's always Betty's Tea Shop!

York Minster has, again, agreed to hold a short service and wreath-laying on the Saturday morning at 10.00 a.m.

Itinerary:

Friday 24th – Monday 27th March 2023:

Prices are for Bed and Breakfast per room.

Single for 2 nights Fri & Sat - £290.

Double for 2 nights Fri & Sat - £310.

Single for 3 nights Fri, Sat & Sun - £415.

Double for 3 nights Fri, Sat & Sun - £445.



Dinner on Saturday night will be £30 per head, which will include canapés, 3 course dinner, tea/coffee and mints. The meal will be served in the Fishergate suite with it's own private bar.

Other bars and restaurants are available in the hotel - please note any drinks and/or meals are to be paid for at the point of sale.

Car parking at the hotel is £12.50 per night.

A deposit of £30 per person is required when you book.



Please complete the form below, clip it from the newsletter or print it from the email and enclose with your cheque, made payable to COFEPOW and post it to Chris Wills, 74 The Greenway, Sutton Coldfield B73 6SG.

If you would like to pay by Bank Transfer or Direct Debit, the COFEPOW bank details are: Sort Code 77-66-08 and the account number is 39157268.

Please ensure you add 'York' as a reference and let Chris know what you have paid and when, together with a note of your room requirements for your reservation.

If you need any further information, clarification or If you just wish to discuss the above, telephone Chris on 0121 244 7263 or email: chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk.

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1. You can cancel free of charge up to 4 weeks prior to arrival; after this point all reservations would be fully chargeable.**
- 2. The £30 deposit is for the cost of the meal, so that would also be forfeited.**
- 3. Payment for the rooms must be paid for on arrival.**



Name

Address

Post Code

Tel no.

email

No. of people

No. of rooms

No. of nights

Type of room (special requirements)



Thai/Burma Death Railway Centre - fundraising update

How to get involved in the work of COFEPOW...

Since the foundation of COFEPOW in 1997 by Carol Cooper, unswerving efforts have been made by the charity's volunteer trustees, officers and members, to help build this remarkable association of families and friends: in doing so, the charity continues to fulfil its original aim of ensuring those servicemen, women and civilian internees who were incarcerated by brutal military forces of Imperial Japan in the Far-East during WWII - both those who suffered and died there and those who returned to the corners of the Commonwealth to continue sometimes difficult lives - are forever honoured and remembered.

The work entailed in generating funds to help pay for the maintenance of the FEPOW Memorial Building at the NMA is significant. The site requires constant rejuvenation, and annual costs run to many thousands of pounds. On top of this, there remains the need to generate additional monies to pay for other Memorials and Services of Remembrance around the country, at various times of the year.

The current trustees would like to ask for your help. Is anything happening in your area relating to FEPOWs? Do you have an interesting story about your FEPOW? We would love to hear your news and stories and include them in COFEPOW Quarterly. Also, if you think there's anything you can do to assist in organising local meetings of members, maintaining in-situ memorials, establishing community groups, dinners, lectures and memory-sharing, amongst others, even down to sparing a couple of hours on Sundays to act as a guide to the many visitors who arrive at the FEPOW Building each year, then please contact Chris Wills by phone **0121 244 7263** or by email at: chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk.

Solid training, support and encouragement will be given and although all work of the charity is unpaid, there is a tremendous sense of satisfaction to be gained in knowing that your work will honour the memory of your family FEPOW.



The Thai/Burma Death Railway Museum and Research Centre near Kanchanaburi in Thailand, is a renowned facility, dedicated to providing permanent testimony to the conditions endured and fortitude shown in captivity by British and Commonwealth POWs in the Far-East.

Previous COFEPOW Quarterly newsletters have carried fundraising appeals, whilst promoting the centre's

research work in helping families learn more about their FEPOWs.

Terry Manttan, General Manager of the TBRC, wishes to thank everyone who has contributed over recent months, particularly at Sandra Norman's 'gofundme' page.

Please continue to donate to the centre and/or complete the form below for details of your FEPOW relative's time in captivity.

 THAILAND-BURMA RAILWAY CENTRE (TBRC) 	
Kanchanaburi, Thailand. P.O.W. enquiry	
Your relationship to the POW?	
Did he survive the war?	
Please complete, to whatever extent possible, the following information about the veteran:	
Surname	
Other names	
Nation served with	
Date of birth	
Army/Navy/Air Force	
Name of his military unit	
Rank	
Any other information that may be of assistance or interest	
ABOUT TBRC:	<p>TBRC is a privately operated, world-class Museum and Research Centre (opened in Kanchanaburi, Thailand in 2003) with a few long-serving Researchers dedicated to ensuring the story of the Thailand-Burma Railway (1942 to 1945) is never forgotten and to providing ongoing research to enquiring families for present and future generations.</p>
ABOUT OUR RECORDS:	<p>While our research is ongoing and our records continue to grow, we currently have in excess of 106,000 individuals of all serving nationalities in our database with detailed information added to each record as found. Additionally we have over 95,000 hospital admission and discharge records now individually identified and digitally recorded. In conjunction with all available Japanese Index Cards and Liberation Questionnaires plus a large number of Books, Personal Accounts, Diaries and Reports, we are in a unique position to offer rapid, comprehensive, factually based and researched information to related family members who we believe have a right to know.</p>
<p>Please contact TBRC Research Department staff (in the Research Centre on the second floor of the Museum or by email). Thailand-Burma Railway Centre (T.B.R.C. Co. Ltd) 73 Jaokunnen Road, Ban Nua, Muang, Kanchanaburi 71000, THAILAND. email: admin@tbrconline.com website: www.tbrconline.com</p>	
<p>All information is gathered during extensive research by TBRC, relying on both official and unofficial sources and with in-depth accumulated personal knowledge. Such information is offered in good faith and while great care is taken in recording facts, absolute accuracy cannot be guaranteed in every instance.</p>	

LEST WE FORGET



The Livermead House Hotel in Torquay is an elegant hotel, built in 1820 on the edge of Cockington Valley on Torquay Sea front in the heart of the English Riviera, Torbay, Devon.

The hotel offers a traditional flavour, breathtaking sea views, and high standards of service and cuisine with an award-winning chef. The Livermead House is one of three Rew Hotels, a family-owned and managed group of hotels on Torquay's water's edge. There's a pleasant level walk to the town centre, free on-site parking and free Wi-Fi internet access in all public areas. Tea/coffee will be offered on arrival. A full English or continental breakfast will be served each morning and a four-course table d'hôte dinner each evening. On the Saturday, there will be a complimentary drinks reception before dinner with entertainment on Friday and Saturday night and a complimentary meeting room for Sunday.

**The Livermead House Hotel,
Sea Front, Torquay TQ2 6QJ.
Friday 29th September to
Monday 2nd of October 2022.**

**Two nights' dinner, bed and
breakfast, just £176 per person.**

**Three nights' dinner, bed and
breakfast, just £242 per person.**

**Reservations are on a strictly
first come, first served basis.**

***Please see note on page 3
regarding cancellation.***

If you wish to extend your stay, extra nights will be £66 per person for dinner, bed and breakfast, for up to a maximum 7 night stay in total. There is no supplement for the first 6 single rooms (on a first come, first served basis) and any single rooms over will incur a supplement of £15 pppn. Sea view rooms carry a supplement of £10 pppn.



To secure your place, simply send your name, address, email (if you have one), telephone number, the number of people attending, the number of rooms required, the number of nights you wish to stay, the type of room, special requirements, i.e. sea-view, walk-in shower etc., together with a deposit of £25 per person to: Chris Wills, 74 The Greenway, Sutton Coldfield B73 6SG. Tel: 0121 244 7263. email: chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk Cheques should be made payable to COFEPOW.

If you live locally, and would just like to come to the Saturday night dinner, we can offer a special price of £25 per head – £9 less than the normal price.

For more information or to book by phone or email, contact: Chris Wills, telephone: 0121 244 7263, or email: chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk We look forward to seeing you there later this year!



✂

Name

Address

Post Code

Tel no.

email

No. of people No. of rooms No. of nights

Type of room (special requirements)

Museum of Singapore: data building in action

Obituary

Josie Aston

The COFEPOW trustees have learned that FEPOW widow, Josie Aston, has recently passed away.

On behalf of all members, the trustees would like to express their heartfelt sympathy and send their sincere condolences to Lesley and the family, at this very sad time.

Donations of Artefacts

The COFEPOW charity has accepted and continues to accept relevant donations of POW authored publications, personal artefacts, souvenirs, mementoes and military keepsakes.

Whilst donations of these artefacts are gratefully received, the trustees cannot guarantee that they will be displayed in the FEPOW Building at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA), as we are unable to change the display cases in the downstairs exhibition area, and, of course, we are limited by space.

Please be assured that the donations of artefacts will be stored safely in the archives (upstairs in the Building) under lock and key, where there are security cameras. Unfortunately, the space in the archives is also limited and although we are not yet at full capacity, when it is full, we will regrettably have to turn down any further offers of donations.

If you wish to donate an artefact to the charity, please contact either Keith Andrews by email scubaka@yahoo.co.uk or telephone 01530 450621, or Chris Wills by email at chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk or telephone 0121 244 7263.

The editors of COFEPOW Quarterly wish to clarify that the opinions, stories, features and information reproduced in this newsletter are generally those submitted by contributors and do not reflect or otherwise, the opinions of the trustees of the charity.

Whilst every effort is made to verify the factual accuracy and content of material published herein, the trustees do not accept responsibility for errors or beliefs printed here.

Following a recent article in COFEPOW Quarterly about the National Singapore Museum asking for details of any POWs detained in Changi, Keith Nicholls of Somerset, contacted Rachel Eng at the museum about his father, William Coates Nicholls, who served in the Royal Navy. William was stationed in Singapore at the time of capture and spent three and a half years as a POW, the last nine months in Changi Gaol. Having forwarded a detailed account of his father's experiences, he was delighted to receive the following response from Rachel, which he has forwarded for all to read...

"Dear Keith,

"Thanks very much for sending over this detailed story about your Dad and your family's history – it was great to learn more about his experiences.

"Unfortunately, the database at the museum has a bit of a word limit and I've attempted to condense your Dad's story below. I've taken the liberty of calling him 'William' in the narrative, but please let me know if you'd like to refer to him in a different manner. The original email that you sent us will be kept for reference so we'll still have all the information with us. Please let me know if you'd like to make any changes or additions. Thank you! Rachel." The entry reads...

"William Coates Nicholls was a member of the First World War 'baby bulge'. He was born on 29th April, 1919. He had a sister, Mary, who was born on 1st January, 1912, so she was thrilled to have a baby brother to look after. With his mother, they all lived in a terraced house at 21 Church Street, Bridgwater, Somerset. His father suffered from the effects of wartime gas raids, but managed to go back to his work as a hairdresser in a small shop in Bridgwater.

"William was a good old-fashioned boy, always up to mischief and always getting into trouble. They all went to church just round the corner and he went to the church school, opposite the church. His schooling ended at the age of 14 and he was told that he would go into his father's business as an apprentice hairdresser. At that time, working hours were 8.00a.m. to 8.00p.m. and on Saturdays 8.00a.m. to 10.00p.m. In those days,

many men came to the shop for their daily cut-throat shave, so he became an expert at this as well as hairdressing.

"William joined the navy on 25th October 1939, at Butlin's Holiday Camp Skegness, on HMS Royal Arthur and was drafted to HMS Drake in Plymouth on 30th November 1939, then to HMS Sultan II in Singapore. He left Plymouth by train to Portsmouth, to Cherbourg and on to Marseilles, joining the cruise liner 'Andes' and arriving in Singapore on 1st May 1940. There, he served on HMS Dragonfly, a Yangtze river gunboat, until 27th April 1941, before returning to barracks.

"After war broke out against Japan, William was moved to Pilot House and on to a water boat, waiting for soldiers who were cut off. He then moved to R.A.F. Seletar, then to an Admiralty tug, from there to a petrol station and then back to another tug, the 'Yung Ping'.

"Eventually, William left Singapore on 13th February 1942 for Australia, but his ship was sunk in the Banka Strait two days later. After 16 hours clinging to a lifeboat, he was picked up by an RAF rescue launch but was taken POW in Banka. A week later, he was sent to Singapore, where he was imprisoned on a coaster, named 'MV Rompin', at Singapore Naval Base, until 1944. During imprisonment, he served on work parties around the base and also made two trips to Sumatra to bring timber.

"In 1944, William was moved to Changi Gaol, where he was employed as hairdresser to the warrant officers. Occasionally, he was sent to work on the aerodrome. As a POW, he earned about \$6 a month.

"After liberation, William had his first taste of normal food – eggs and bacon. He returned to Liverpool, on the hospital ship 'Monaway', where he was greeted by his sister, aunts, uncles, and the town dignitaries. He was eventually discharged from the navy after six months and returned to his father's shop to continue running a successful hairdressing business until he retired in 1984."

See the next page for the Museum form to submit your FEPOW's story....



Story continued from previous page....

Photography: courtesy of the museum



Contributions of stories and photographs

**1000 Upper Changi Road North,
Singapore 507707.**

The database of FEPOWs and civilian internees available at the Changi Chapel and Museum contains information accumulated from 'Findmypast', which has digitised a number of Kew Military Archive records.

Given the nature of the records, the National Museum of Singapore is aware that the database is incomplete and views it as a 'living' one, which invites contributions from visitors and family members to expand it.

The curators apologise that a number of COFEPOW members' relatives' information could not be viewed or retrieved and have asked for COFEPOW members to send information about their FEPOW relative to them, so they can include the data directly into their database within the museum.

The information the Changi Chapel and Museum invites you to provide includes contributions of stories and photographs about POWs and civilians who were interned in Changi during World War Two, as well as relevant donations which document the internees' experiences or are otherwise related to the internees.

Keith Nicholls story shown alongside in this issue, demonstrates how building the written database can work.

If you would like to contribute a story to the CCM database, please complete the form alongside, print or cut out this page, and scan or reproduce the appropriate facts on a plain sheet of paper and post to the museum at the address above, marking your submission as 'COFEPOW RESEARCH DATA'.

Or please email to:

NHB_NMS_Curatorial@nhb.gov.sg

Full name of internee:	
Nationality:	
Date of Birth:	
Date of Death:	
If internee was a soldier:	Unit: Rank: Service No.: Occupation:
If internee was a civilian:	
Internment camp(s) and dates:	
Period of Internment:	
Personal story: (Related to war experience and internment in Singapore)	
Objects/images related to the internee's experience in Changi: Softcopy files can be emailed to the following email address: NHB_NMS_Curatorial@nhb.gov.sg	
Contributor details:	Name: Relation to internee: Contact details (for internal reference only):

Changi Chapel and Museum is managed by the National Museum of Singapore.

☐ I am agreeable to the information I have provided being added to the internee database for public access at the Changi Chapel and Museum.

New National Event Co-ordinator needed

Applications are invited to fill the role from suitably committed members who wish to help the COFEPOW charity fulfil its annual event calendar.

Chris Wills, former and now temporarily re-installed National Event Co-ordinator, had announced plans to retire from the role in 2019, and was scheduled to step down after the 75th Anniversary commemoration of VJ-Day in 2020. With the turmoil caused by the Covid pandemic however, the event was postponed until August 2021, and so Chris agreed to stay on to help the charity through this difficult period.

Having been in the role for 16 years, Chris felt it was time to encourage other members to take up the position and bring fresh impetus to the charity's events. Although two new members had accepted the challenge, both decided they could not proceed for varying reasons. Therefore, the position is once again vacant.

If you would like to be considered for this highly-rewarding role within COFEPOW, there are one or two characteristics it would be an advantage for you to possess:

- You will need to be an organised, methodical and enthusiastic individual.
- You will be comfortable speaking and negotiating with people from all backgrounds and levels.
- You will need to be diplomatic whilst possessing a degree of tenacity.
- You won't necessarily need any experience, but will need to be imaginative and able to give up a little of your time through the year and keen to help members enjoy their participation.
- On a more pedestrian level, you will need to have access to a computer.

There are three main annual events which will require time commitment from you, as well as an ability to encourage others within the association to help, both prior to, and during their occurrence.

The three are:

1. The AGM and Service for VJ-Day which occurs around the 15th August each year at the National Memorial Arboretum.
2. The COFEPOW weekend away, held at a seaside hotel in October each year.
3. Remembrance Sunday at the NMA in November.

In previous years, the charity has also organised extra services every five years at the NMA on the 15th February, to commemorate notable anniversaries, such as the fall of Singapore.

These events mean a great deal to COFEPOW members in ensuring remembrance. COFEPOW would prefer anyone who takes on this challenge, therefore, to be willing to demonstrate true commitment.

If the thought of assuming responsibility for the entire event itinerary for a year seems a little daunting, we would be happy to welcome anyone who might like to take over part or individual management of specific events.

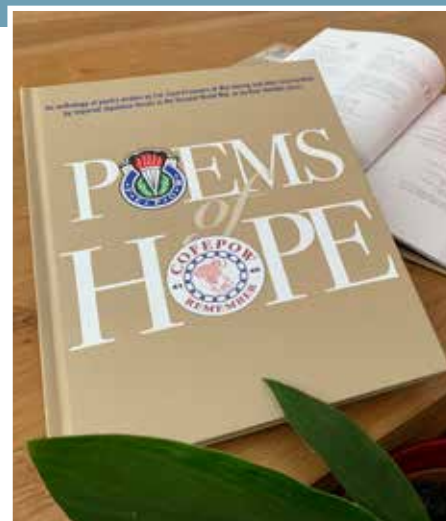
So if you are, or know someone who might be, interested and feel that you/they may have the organisational skills or is/are willing to learn them for this significant role, you may like to have an informal chat with Chris Wills to see what's involved. If so, please contact Chris on 0121 244 7263 or by email at: chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk

The three principal objectives of COFEPOW

COFEPOW is a registered charity, first established in 1997 to preserve and promote the memory of all British and, at that time, empire service and civilian men and women, who were Prisoners of War in South-East Asia under Japanese occupation during World War II, 1941-45.

Secondly, the charity exists to provide and maintain memorials to the above, and thirdly, it aims to advance the education of the general public about the suffering endured and sacrifices made by Far-East POWs (FEPOWs) during their incarceration and as a consequence of their wartime hardship.

Submissions invited for second 'Poems of Hope'



In 2019, the trustees of COFEPOW initiated a drive to collate as many poems written by FEPOWs and their families as possible, to create an anthology of poetry. The collection featured over 80 poems, many of which were written during captivity or based on recollections or emotions experienced by close family since the war. Published under the title "Poems of Hope", it went on sale via the merchandising office at £11.99 and has sold well to raise funds for the charity.

A second volume is being assessed for viability and is hoped to contain not only poetry by captives, but also stories, and thoughts or memories of loved ones in poetry form.

Merchandising Officers, Nick and Sylvie Bullen-Bell are asking for contributions of any new or freshly discovered poetry to be included. Any originals will be returned, but in the interests of protecting family heirlooms, they would prefer if rewritten or typed contributions could be submitted.


If you would like to provide any poems, please contact them at the merchandise site by emailing: tickles.sbb@gmail.com, phone 01245 222 604/mobile 07721 067501.

Information will also be available on the COFEPOW website in due course at www.cofepow.org.uk

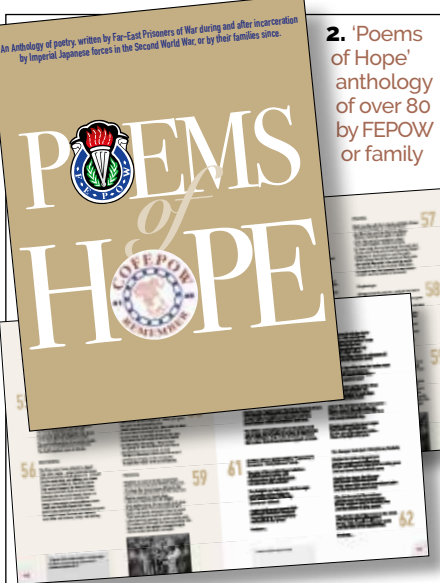
Perfect gifts and fitting mementoes

A comprehensive selection of quality COFEPOW branded merchandise, priced competitively to help the charity.

1. Blue pen with logo




2. 'Poems of Hope' anthology of over 80 by FEPOW or family



3. 30mm diameter 75th anniversary of VJ Day commemorative enamel pin badge in blue velvet presentation box




4. VJ70 mug




5. Car sticker



6. Tie clip




7. Lapel badge




8. Badge




9. Badge



10. Key ring




11. Wooden frame A3 landscape



12. Note holder




13. Trolley coin




14. VJ70 Medallion



15. Tie




16. Cloth shopping bag 37cm (14½") x 47cm (16") cloth



17. Notelets



18. Polo Shirt



18. Polo Shirt



19. Range of books at COFEPOW prices!



Merchandising Officers, Sylvie and Nick Bullen-Bell, would like to thank all members who have purchased COFEPOW merchandise to wear or use with pride and to those who have made additional donations to the charity. Through your generosity, a substantial quantity of merchandise is being sold over the year to help COFEPOW funds.

A further big thank you to all those who add a donation (however big or small) to the COFEPOW funds with their merchandise purchase. Every penny donated helps the charity.

Besides the newer additions of the Anthology of FEPOW poetry, FEPOW photo-frames are available to include your FEPOW's photograph, cap badge, regimental colour, FEPOW medals, the COFEPOW poem and a poppy in an elegant frame. Please email Nick or Sylvie, indicating whether you have a suitable photograph and badge, and they'll get back to you as soon as possible with a price for your frame.

Details of ordering/payment methods for all merchandise, including Paypal and overseas postage costs, can be obtained by emailing Nick or Sylvie at: tickles.sbb@gmail.com, post or phone 01245 222 604/mobile 07721 067501. Information is also available on the COFEPOW website. For general information or if you would like to submit ideas for merchandise, please also email us. Items shown are not to scale.

Current merchandise price list

ITEM	Price	P&P
1. Blue pen with logo and website	£1.00	£0.88
2. FEPOW Poetry Anthology book	£11.99	£3.00*
3. Special VJ Day 75 pin badge	£4.00	£3.10
4. VJ 70 Mugs	£8.50	£3.10
5. Car Sticker	£1.00	£0.65
6. Tie clip	£3.00	£0.88
7. Lapel Pin Badge	£2.00	£0.88
8. Woven COFEPOW Badge	£3.50	£0.65
9. Poppy Woven Badge	£2.50	£0.65
10. Key ring	£3.50	£0.88
11. FEPOW Photo Frame	TBA	
12. Note Holder	£2.50	£0.88
13. Trolley coin	£3.25	£0.88
14. VJ70 Medallion	£7.50	£3.10
15. Tie	£12.99	£0.88
16. Cloth Shopping bag 14.5" x 16"	£2.50	£0.88
17. Pack of 10 Notelets, inc. envelopes	£2.50	£0.88
18. Unisex Polo shirts (B/W) M, L, XL. (Low white stock - new ordered)	£16.00	£3.10
19. BOOKS - Title		
'When You Go Home'/Arthur Lane	£5.00	£3.10
'What Price Bushido'/Alf Baker	£5.00	£3.10
	List Price	COFEPOW
'Conjurer on the Kwai'	£9.99	£3.50
'Surviving the Japanese Onslaught'	£19.99	£6.50
'Faith, Hope and Rice' Only 2 remaining	£19.99	£6.50
'Escape from the Japanese'	£19.99	£6.50

*P&P in Europe £6.00, elsewhere £10.00.

Patrons, trustees, members, officers and officials.

COFEPOW: Children, Families and Friends of the Far East Prisoners of War, incorporating FEPOW. Registered address: 3 Blossom Way, Little Billing, Northampton NN3 9ET. Tel: 07930 960241. email: cofepow.chairman@gmail.com Website: www.cofepow.org.uk Registered charity, number 1074474.

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Please remember to use AmazonSmile for purchases - 0.5% of each buy goes to COFEPOW.

The FEPOW Memorial Building Archives at the NMA are open to visitors by arrangement.

If you would like access to the material held there, you must be accompanied by a COFEPOW officer. If you would like to visit, on a Sunday preferably, please arrange with Keith Andrews, Head of Research, on 01530 450621. Thank you.

Area Coordinators. Please note: the list of Area Co-ordinators is provided to help facilitate access to a local group for members. The trustees are also anxious to recruit Co-ordinator volunteers for overseas, and for regions in the UK not covered below, particularly in Beds, Bucks, Herts, Staffs, Warwicks, Wilts, West Hants, East Somerset and Yorks., where we enjoy existing groups which no longer have a Co-ordinator. If you have a Co-ordinator near you, they would welcome you making contact, with a view to meeting and sharing knowledge and memories about your FEPOWs.

Area	Name	Email
1. Birmingham and the Black Country	Annette Hughes	cranedriver1964@live.com
2. Derbyshire	John Rutherford	Joruth27@gmail.com
3. Devon and Cornwall	David and Val Warner	davalofcedartree@gmail.com
4. Dorset	Ann Whiteside	louisewhiteside7426@gmail.com
5. Essex	Nick Bullen-Bell	bullenbell@btinternet.com
6. Gloucestershire	Diane Vear	dianevear@yahoo.co.uk
7. Greater Manchester and east Cheshire	Robert McGechan	bobmcgechan@yahoo.co.uk
8. Herefordshire and the Wye Valley	Kerry Bird	hanjoem@gmail.com
9. Kent	Brian Faulkner	faulkner2021@btinternet.com
10. Leicestershire	Shirley Barnes	shirleyb60@virginmedia.com
11. Lincolnshire	Hazel Taylor	hazel.taylor@yahoo.co.uk
12. Merseyside and Lancashire	Colin Coleman	colin.colemanuk@mac.com
13. New Zealand	Hilary Cunningham	hilarycunningham1@gmail.com
14. Norfolk	Thelma Johnson	tjohnson4@btinternet.com
15. Northamptonshire	David Brede	davidbrede@yahoo.com
16. Oxfordshire	Mike Clarke	mikejclarke27@hotmail.com
17. Scotland	Jackie Sutherland	skyscapeg6@gmail.com
18. South Wales	Tony Jukes	bajukes@tiscali.co.uk
19. Surrey	Una Price	trryroger@aol.com
20. West Sussex	Jill Robertson	cofepow.westsussex@gmail.com
21. Yorkshire	New vacancy	Please apply to David Brede, Chair.
22. USA (East coast)	Jan Slimming	jslimming@comcast.net
23. USA (West coast)	Sharon Cusumano	lestweforget1941@gmail.com



Help and information

While researching personal information, members below have accumulated data which they are happy to pass on and share with others.

They are as follows:

Amanda Johnson: Haruku/Ambon and Moluccas (Spice Islands)

email: amanda@dcodetranslations.co.uk

Agnes Dougan: 155th (Lanarkshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.

email: agnes.dougan@live.com

Jean Roberts: 3rd Heavy Anti-Aircraft Saigon Party.

email: jeanadrianroberts@gmail.com

Steve Mockridge: Jesselton, Sandakan and Kuchin.

email: smockridge@sky.com

Keith Andrews: Singapore Coast Regiments and A.A.

Artillery and Thailand. email: scubaka@yahoo.co.uk

Colin Docketty: Rabaul and Ballale Island.

Frank Clark: Saigon.

email: paghamfrank@talktalk.net

Thailand-Burma Railway Centre:

All things related to the Thai-Burma railway.

email: admin@tbrconline.com

Address: Thailand-Burma Railway Museum, Kanchanaburi, Thailand: www.tbrconline.com

Derek Lawson: Deaths in captivity.

email: lawsonderek@hotmail.com

Michael Hurst MBE: Director, Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society. email: society@powtaiwan.org

Web: www.powtaiwan.org

Hong Kong:

Tony Banham, email: tony@hongkongwardiary.com

Web: hongkongwardiary.com

David Tett: The subject of 'mails'.

Also: www.fepowmail.com may be useful.

Welfare Grants: Grants are available from the FEPOWs' Central Welfare Fund for all FEPOWs, wives and widows. It covers hospital stays, carers, care homes, sheltered accommodation, etc.

For further information contact:

Margaret Martin of the Java FEPOW Club,

email: enquiries@thejavafepowclub42.org

or **Pauline Simpson** of NFFWRA,

email: pauline761@btinternet.com

Donations can be made to COFEPOW via cheque or Paypal. See above.