



Honorary Chairman - Mr Ron Mockford
 Treasurer - Mrs Margaret Walton
 Committee Members - Mr Keith Andrews
 Ms Angela Lane

Vice Chairman - Mr Kenneth Coy
 Secretary - Mrs Barbara James
 Mrs Annette Hughes
 Mr James Whiskens

BACK TO THE 'ORIGINAL' BAFEPOW NEWS SHEET FOR NOVEMEBR 2021

During the Covid lockdown, while we were unable to hold our usual monthly meetings, the usual monthly news sheet became a place where items were featured that might have come up for discussion during those meetings. Many of you have said how much you have enjoyed reading them and that they are appreciated so - should we continue doing those? Any additional items of news were not included in those news sheets but were added to the accompanying email which replaced the usual printed monthly version that would have been handed out at the meeting. So, this month I am sending out a news sheet plus an 'Extra News Sheet' and I welcome your comments as to what you would like. It may be that in some months there will not be the 'Extra' as it will depend on there being sufficient items of interest to include.

For those of you who are still deciding about the BAFEPOW Christmas Lunch, here is the invitation again:-

YOUR INVITATION TO THE ANNUAL BAFEPOW CHRISTMAS LUNCH

And so, the BAFEPOW Committee warmly invites you and a partner to join us at the Birmingham Holiday Inn on Tuesday, December 14th and on the menu will be:-

Winter Vegetable Soup served with warm rustic bread roll (V,VG,GF)
 Turkey Pauplette with sage & onion stuffing wrapped in bacon served with roasted chateau potatoes, turned carrots, glazed parsnips, Brussel sprouts and a rich gravy
 Fusion of Roasted Sweet Potato Falafel served with roasted chateau potatoes, turned carrots, glazed parsnips, Brussel sprouts and a rich gravy. (V, VG)
 Festive Cheesecake (V, VG, GF)

It sounds festively delicious and will cost just £10 per head but we really need you to confirm that you would like to join us and so we do ask that you send your payment to Margaret Walton in advance to avoid having to sort it out on the day. Please email me, Barbara, at bmjames142@yahoo.co.uk and I will email back to you the details to make the payment which will go directly to the BAFEPOW account. The treasurer will then let me know who has confirmed that they will be joining us. Also, if you would prefer the vegetarian option, please let me know when you email me as I need to let the Holiday Inn know how many guests will be present and if there are any dietary requirements before Monday, December 6th.

I do hope that you will join us for this special time when we will also remember how the FEPOW celebrated their Christmas' during captivity, so please contact me if you haven't already - Barbara.

NEWS FROM THE BAFEPOW COMMITTEE

The committee met on 21/10/21 and among the items on the agenda was a suggestion that we should possibly arrange to visit Ron Mockford, our Honorary Chairperson, who is no longer able to travel into Birmingham. BJ had contacted his daughter, Maggie, to see if this would be a good idea and she was delighted as she thinks that Ron would love to chat with his 'old friends' from Birmingham. It would be necessary to arrange with Maggie in advance if anyone would like to visit him and it will probably be in Spring before anyone will wish to make the journey as both the weather and the Covid Restrictions/concerns are worthy of consideration.

The gift of Christmas hampers for Ron, Irene and Iris will be sent again in December.

One of our members had put forward a suggestion that we should hold some meetings that would be purely for those with an interest in research or discussions on FEPOW history. We all felt that this is an excellent idea and we are planning to hold a meeting at the Holiday Inn just for this and it will possibly be held in the two weeks after the usual monthly meeting which is held on the second Tuesday of each month. If you would be interested in being part of this sort of meeting, please let me know and we will fix a date.

Next February will see the 80th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore on 15/02/42 and we did discuss some sort of commemoration. BJ had been in touch with Birmingham Cathedral about holding a small service there but they didn't seem interested so will look into going to St Martins in the Bullring where the BAFEPOW memorial plaque is on the wall in the southern transept.

The next committee meeting will be held in January but depends on the weather/Covid Restrictions.

COMMEMORATING REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY ON 14/11/21 AND 11/11/2021, ARMISTICE DAY

On Remembrance Sunday members from our group will be laying BAFEPOW memorial wreaths in Shirley, Cambridge, Northfield and Codsall. We also have two members who will be taking part in the parade to the Cenotaph at Whitehall on Remembrance Sunday along with other members of COFEPOW. There will also be a service at the NMA on Armistice Day if you are able to go.

ROLL OF HONOUR

There are no names to add to the Roll of Honour this month and so we will remember all those who fought in the Far East during WWII and, particularly, those FEPOW, Internees and Romusha who suffered in captivity - both those who did not return and those who returned and lived under the shadow of the cruelty and deprivation that they endured for so long -

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM!

WELFARE GRANTS FOR FEPOW, WIVES AND WIDOWS

If you need help with a grant towards hospital stays, Nursing Home Costs, alterations to the home, mobility aids etc, then please get in touch with:-

Mrs Margaret Martin, the Java Club by email:- margaretmartin1944@sky.com

Mrs Pauline Simpson, NFFWRA by email:- enquiries@nationalfepowfellowship.org.uk

(The BAFEPOW news sheet is put together by the association secretary, Barbara James, and, hopefully, it contains items of interest to members. You are very welcome to suggest future topics or to submit items for future inclusion.)

