

BAFUNCS

British Association of Former United Nations Civil Servants

NEWSLETTER



Number 89
Spring 2026



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survey

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AGM26

AR2027

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UN Pension Scheme review

Members may have heard that the General Assembly has requested a major review of the UN Pension Scheme. This will be undertaken by the Pension Board on which BAFUNCS has representation through its membership of FAFICS. The FAFICS delegation comprises several very experienced former staff. The President of FAFICS has provided more details in a letter that can be found on the BAFUNCS website.

The UNJSPF states on its website that these discussions do not affect the Fund's ability to pay benefits or its financial stability. The General Assembly has mandated a result by 2028.

This will no doubt be a protracted process and we will be sure to keep members informed as best we can, courtesy of the FAFICS delegation.

Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPA)

It may come as a surprise to some of our members and their families that it is necessary to have their LPAs validated by the Fund because they may have been using them for some time in the UK already. Although the UNJSPF booklet on *Legal guardianship* states that the Fund does not accept Powers of Attorney, **an exception has been made for the United Kingdom.**

The Fund requires an original signature on all Fund forms so, when a beneficiary is no longer able to sign (for example, the CE), a complete copy of the Lasting Powers of Attorney documentation (both for finance and welfare) must be sent to the Fund for validation.

The accompanying letter should give the UID of the beneficiary as well as contact details (e-mail, phone and postal address) for the attorney(s) and a photocopy of their passport page containing photo and signature. The documentation can be uploaded onto Member Self Service (MSS) on the UNJSPF website (see p.11) or sent by post to UNJSPF, c/o Palais des Nations CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

The Fund does not correspond with lawyers on behalf of a beneficiary unless the lawyer holds the LPA, i.e. is also the attorney. Once the Legal Department has validated the LPA, the Fund will immediately correspond directly with the attorney(s), thus limiting the chance of documents being misplaced or ignored, especially when the beneficiary is in a nursing home.

For more information or assistance, the BAFUNCS Member Support Team can always be contacted.

BAFUNCS Information Note 2: *When a pensioner dies*, is intended for retirees as well as their dependents. It tells the survivors how to contact UNJSPF but also advises the pensioner what they can do to make things easier for their survivors. It is accessible on the BAFUNCS website under *Publications*.

Contact the Editor

The final deadline for receiving contributions to the Autumn 2026 issue is 15 July 2026, provided they are expected. The Editor should preferably be contacted no later than mid-June 2025 to discuss an idea before writing: by phone at +352 621 660252; by letter at 51 route de Mondorf, Remich, L-5552, Luxembourg; or, preferably, by e-mail (maryroll51@gmail.com).

Note from the Editor



BAFUNCS Newsletter Number 89 - Spring 2026

The Editor and the Executive Committee of the British Association of Former United Nations Civil Servants accept no responsibility for the opinions expressed in reports, articles and advertisements published in the Newsletter or for the accuracy of the information given.

Furthermore, mention of any product, service, organization or company in the Newsletter does not necessarily represent an endorsement by the Association.

Dear BAFUNCS Members,

As usual in the Spring edition, the main content comprises the documentation for the AGM, that will again be virtual this year. The voting form is enclosed with the newsletter.

2026 marks a significant change in the BAFUNCS year. For the first time since the founding of the Association, the Annual Reunion will take place in September. It remains to be seen whether this change will facilitate participation by more members. The Executive Committee sincerely hopes so. We now have the results of the survey carried out last year to get the views of the membership on all aspects of the reunions that are our most important social gathering. Many thanks go to Andy Flatt whose expertise in the area of surveys is much appreciated. His analysis of the material, with beautiful graphic illustrations, is published here on pp.25-31.

The Annual Reunion 2026 will take place in Cardiff, on 13-15 September. We now have a Permanent AR Committee to take care of all the details. A description of the planned excursions is given on pp.4-5, while the speakers are introduced on p.12. All the details about accommodation and the registration form are enclosed with this newsletter for those receiving the printed version, and are available online for everyone else.

There is a considerable amount of work involved in organizing annual reunions, and anyone interested in helping out is strongly encouraged to get in touch with our Chairman Stephen Rudgard or any other member of the Executive Committee (listed on p.2). It is expected that the Annual Reunion in 2027 will take place in Chester (see back cover, p.36), so anyone living in that area would be very welcome.

Every year the Spring issue showcases regional activities. Nicky Rodgers, Regional Convenor, has done a sterling job getting all the information together and making sure there are plenty of illustrations that demonstrate the richness and variety of activities available to BAFUNCS members in their own area. The report appears on pp.6-10.

Although former UN staff who have reached retirement age are able to enjoy life if their health permits, the future is not so rosy for current staff. We cannot ignore the developments of the past year, as most of us probably know first-hand of a serving staff member who has lost their job, or been more or less willingly reassigned to a lower-cost duty station. It is deeply upsetting, not to say traumatic, for many especially those who have been giving their best unstintingly to the Organization for many years. The negative repercussions for the headquarters duty stations are particularly acute in the case of Geneva that has the longest tradition of being the centre of the multilateral world. I have reviewed the latest reports and summarized them on pp.32-33.

Mary Roll-Vallanjon

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2026 Annual Reunion, Cardiff

13-15 September 2026

Cardiff will be the exciting location for this year's BAFUNCS Annual Reunion. We will be breaking with tradition this year as our reunion will be in September instead of May. This year's reunion will take place from Sunday 13 September to Tuesday 15 September.

From the comfortable and modern surroundings of the Majestic (formerly Radisson Blu) hotel we will not only be able to enjoy catching up with good friends, we will also have an amazing opportunity to experience what the Welsh capital has to offer – some of us for the very first time.

From its humble beginnings to becoming the current seat of the Welsh Parliament, Cardiff has a fascinating history. Archaeological evidence indicates settlements existed in and around Cardiff around 6000 BC. A number of early burial sites, Bronze Age burial mounds and Iron Age forts can still be found in the area. By the time of the Roman invasion of Britain in AD 43, Cardiff had become part of the territory of the Silures, a warlike

Celtic British tribe. Under Roman occupation, Cardiff became a fort and civilian settlement until the end of the 4th century, when it fell into a state of relative obscurity ...in which it remained until the 11th century and the Norman occupation.

And this is where it gets interesting for us. This is because **Cardiff Castle** is one of the excursions being offered for this year's Annual Reunion. Within walking distance of our hotel, Cardiff Castle (construction started in 1081), has been at the heart of the city ever since. In fact, the castle is built around an original Roman fort, the remnants of which are preserved within the castle and can be seen on the tour. Within the castle itself, we can walk the ancient ramparts, examine a trebuchet (a medieval weapon of mass destruction) and visit the stunning restoration of Victorian apartments.

What may be of additional interest at the castle is the Firing Line Museum and the War Time Shelters. Cardiff has a long history of British Army units housed in the



city's Maindy Barracks, and the Firing Line exhibition covers over 300 years of military history from Waterloo to recent events in Iraq and Afghanistan. The War Time Shelters will give us a fascinating insight into how the castle's original tunnels were transformed into air raid shelters during the Second World War.

From the Middle Ages until the time of the Industrial Revolution, Cardiff became the county town of Glamorganshire with a history of modest trading. It was not until the end of the 18th century that a port was built at Cardiff and it then became a major trading depot for the new and prosperous coal industry, supported by the railway and canal system. An example of this can be seen should you opt for the excursion to **Tredegar House**, where you can visit the opulent mansion of the seemingly eccentric and wildly extravagant Morgan family. The estate and its beautiful gardens, which includes a 250-year-old Cedar of Lebanon tree, are the remnants of a vast swathe of land once leased out to mine owners.

The Cardiff of today is a vibrant, cosmopolitan and diverse university city. The Senedd (the Welsh Parliament), the Wales Millenium Centre, the Norwegian Church and a plethora of waterfront cafés, are some of the attractions that can be seen on a **guided tour of Cardiff Bay**. The waterfront's origins date back to the beginnings of the coal industry. In fact, in 1910, it was from the Cardiff docklands that Captain Scott and his British Antarctic Expedition set sail on the *Terra Nova* heading for Antarctica on their doomed mission to reach the South Pole.

Cardiff is also home to a thriving artistic and performing arts tradition. For all the TV buffs, Cardiff was best known for being the filming location of the BBC's Doctor Who series. And so, to end, we invite you to follow the wise words of the Doctor:

Time travel is like visiting Cardiff. You can't just read the guidebook. You've got to throw yourself in!

See you in September in Cardiff.



Regional activities in 2025

compiled by **Nicky Rodgers**, Regional Convenor

Cambridge Region

Nicky Rodgers

Our members benefited from a broad range of events this year, starting with our AGM and spring lunch at the Bell hotel in Thetford attended by 16 members.



Bell hotel, Thetford, March 2025 CAM

The Annual Reunion in Norwich was well attended by 13 local members including Nicky Rodgers as convenor, Charles Robson as registrar and Gill Allard who read the Preamble to the UN Charter. Several others gave their time and expertise to the planning and preparation of this flagship event.

The heat of June intensified the sensory experience of visiting the grounds of Norfolk Lavender, followed by an excellent lunch. Later we enjoyed tea and scones kindly hosted by Gill Allard at her home in Hunstanton.



Norfolk Lavender, June 2025 CAM

In September we were warmly welcomed to the Bawdsey Radar Museum by CAM member James

Vanier, a volunteer guide at the museum who organized the visit and introduced us to the Bawdsey Radar Story over tea and coffee. James then guided us through the development of the radar technology that proved vital in the Battle of Britain and established the world's first radar station, where women played a crucial role in the operations. We enjoyed lunch at the Rambolt Arms overlooking the River Debden where strong gales deterred us from pursuing a stroll on the beach.



Bawdsey Radar Museum, September 2025 CAM

A festive and convivial Christmas lunch was enjoyed by 14 members at the George Inn, Babraham.



Christmas lunch at the George Inn, Babraham, December 2025 CAM

Many thanks to all those who contributed to regional events and supported members in some way in 2025. The next CAM Region AGM and lunch will take place on 12 March at the Bell hotel in Thetford.

Kent Sussex Region

Terri Jezeph, Heather Johnson & Richard Sydenham

The Region continued an active schedule of meetings and lunches during the year, holding seven meetings including an AGM and the Christmas lunch.

The first meeting of 2025, which was also our AGM, took place at the Hydro hotel, Eastbourne, in February.

Thanks to Joan Wilson for making the arrangements. Nine members were present with seven apologies for absence. Our spring lunch took place in April at the White Hart hotel, one of the oldest pubs in Lewes.

June found us in central Brighton at Cote restaurant, enjoying good food and conversation

Thanks to Margaret Bills for organizing lunch in July at the Arun View Inn, Littlehampton, a beautiful spot overlooking the river. In September, Celia and Michael Askwith very kindly organized lunch at St. George's Retirement Village, Ditchling Common, Burgess Hill. This was followed by a highly informative talk by Martin Harris, Chair of the local UNESCO Coastal Biosphere Reserve Project.



UNESCO Biosphere, Burgess Hill, September 2025 KSX

In October, we went to the Relais hotel and restaurant at Cooden Beach, East Sussex. Thanks to Joan Wilson for recommending this delightful venue. The Region celebrated the Christmas season with lunch at the Hummingbird restaurant at Shoreham (Brighton) Airport, where 14 members and guests enjoyed good food in a convivial atmosphere to round out the year.



Cooden Beach, October 2025 KSX



Christmas lunch, Shoreham, December 2025 KSX

London Region

Hannah Shabathai

2025 marked the second year of the new team in London. Tekeste Ghebray agreed to take on Member Support, so together with Carole Harris as Treasurer and Secretary and myself as Regional Representative we are three, with added help for specific events.



Museum of the Home, September 2025 LON

Frederick and Robyn Lyons organized the visit to the Museum of the Home in September, and Shahnaz Lockwood provided us with her regular donation of delicious homemade chocolate gifts for our end-of-year festive lunch, as well as providing great help in our search for an appropriate venue. Events were both cultural and fun, including a private visit to the Charles



Charles Dickens Museum, May 2025 LON

Dickens Museum in May and our annual Festive lunch in December.



Festive lunch, December 2025 LON

Carole and I represented BAFUNCS at the International Day of UN Peacekeepers, laying a wreath at Whitehall (see Newsletter 88, Autumn 2025, p.11).

We've had an enjoyable and productive year, maintaining close contact with our members and trying to be as helpful as possible in every way. Thank you to Carole and Tekeste for their work and to all those who have contributed to a vibrant region.

Northern Region

Nikki Feirn

On account of Nikki's loss of mobility in 2025, no events took place in the Northern Region. However, telephone calls were made to our more elderly members to check on their situation and the usual Christmas cards were sent out with a letter announcing our 2026 gathering in Durham on 9-11 June. Members from other regions are most welcome to join us in Durham with its stunning setting and World Heritage cathedral and castle.

We also mentioned that the BAFUNCS Benevolent Fund is actively seeking new applicants and reminded members to inform the executors of their wills of the period of tax relief claimable as a result of the UK/USA Double Taxation Agreement.

Overseas Region

Mary Hamouda

The OVS Geneva area held three lunches in 2025: in April at La Terrasse de la Paix in Geneva; in August at Le Patriarche in Ferney-Voltaire; and in November again at Le Patriarche but in its new premises. Invitations to these lunches were sent to all OVS members in the event that any were in the area at the time.

A number of OVS members attended the Annual Reunion in Norwich in May and three of our members, Gary and Liz Lewis and Mary Roll-Vallanjon, provided the entertainment at the gala dinner (see Newsletter 88, Autumn 2025, p.21).

New Year's greetings were sent out to all members.



Le Patriarche, Ferney-Voltaire, August 2025 OVS



Le Patriarche, Ferney-Voltaire, November 2025 OVS

Oxford Region

Stephen Rudgard

The Oxford Region held its summer lunch at the Gusto Italian restaurant in Oxford High Street in June.



Gusto Italian restaurant, Oxford, June 2025 OXF

A total of 12 members enjoyed the meal, including one member from LON and two current UN staff as guests. Before the lunch, some of the party attended a guided tour of the gardens of Trinity College by the Head Gardener, including a description of the almost 500-year history of the college buildings and facilities, as well as the evolution of the gardens.



Trinity College gardens, Oxford, June 2025 OXF

The Christmas lunch was held at the Extraordinary Hare Inn in West Hendred, which is set in a lovely position with a view of the Berkshire Downs and the Ridgeway. The party of 22 enjoyed each other's company in a separate dining room, with excellent food and attentive service, with the OXF members welcoming three members from the WMW region and two prospective members from the OXF Region. Stephen Rudgard (Regional Representative) made a few announcements at the end of the meal, including promoting the upcoming Annual Reunion in Cardiff in September 2026.



The Extraordinary Hare, West Hendred, December 2025 OXF

There were a few calls for member support during the year, responded to by Latifa Noman. In addition, a card and a small gift were sent to various members who are housebound or unable to attend events. In terms of plans for 2026, there will be a summer lunch combined with a tour, and a Christmas lunch.

South Central Region

Claudine Pichon

Tradition prevailed in quarterly lunches with lunch at La Parisienne, Romsey in April; the White Hart, Cadnam in July; and the Golden Lion near Winchester in October. We went back to the Golden Lion for Christmas as, in addition to excellent food and service, it is centrally located with good parking facilities and easy public transport. The lunches were well attended with light-hearted discussions and laughter.



La Parisienne, Romsey, April 2025 SCL



Christmas lunch at the Golden Lion, Winchester, December 2025 SCL

The spring lunch is being planned and will probably be in March.

South West Region

Nicky Rodgers

We are pleased to announce that Mark Davis is the new Regional Representative for the South West Region. Penny Ratcliffe is stepping down from her role as member support contact which she has carried out admirably for several years, and we thank her for her service to the Region. Mark can be contacted for all member support and BAFUNCS-related issues.

Surrey Region

Marilyn Carr

As usual, the Surrey Region held three Committee meetings in January, April and October. Sadly, at the end of the year, Annie Kean stood down as Social Secretary and a replacement is now being sought. A high level of participation in social events has continued during 2025. Nineteen members attended the spring lunch and 42nd AGM in March, and 26 attended the Christmas lunch at Hampton in December. Both lunches were held at the Duke of Clarence in Hampton Hill.

The summer outing this year was to Osterley Park and House and took place in July. Thirteen members attended including a member from the London Region. After a guided tour of the house, participants enjoyed a meal at the cafeteria and a stroll in the Park.



Osterley House, July 2025 SRY



Christmas lunch at Hampton, December 2025 SRY



Osterley House, July 2025 SRY



Christmas lunch at Hampton, December 2025 SRY

During the year, telephone contact was made with older members and some personal visits were made. A card was sent to our member who celebrated her 101st birthday. Christmas cards were sent to those not attending the Christmas lunch, and small gifts were sent to housebound members.

West Midlands and Wales Region

Nicky Rodgers

The AR Committee are delighted to announce that AR 2026 will be held on 13-15 September in Cardiff. Do please consider joining us for this event with an exciting selection of speakers and excursions (pp.4-5 & p.12). We would love to see you there.

The search continues for a Regional Representative, so if you have recently joined WMW, please get in touch if you would like to help in some way.



Cardiff Castle

The UNJSPF website link

The UNJSPF website link provides you with all the information you need to manage your pension effectively, whether you are a beneficiary (retiree, surviving dependent) or participant (active staff member). It also contains Annual Reports, Regulations and Rules, information on management and actuarial matters, booklets, specific issues and up-to-date statistics.

The public pages contain useful information for family members and those with Powers of Attorney (LPA). There is a series of 21 videos (*Resources – All videos*) covering a range of subjects including how to contact the Fund, Certificate of Entitlement, survivor's benefits and the two-track system.

Participants and beneficiaries should use the *Member Self Service (MSS)* site. To create an MSS account you need your Unique Identification Number (UID). If you do not know it, you can email requestUIDonly@unjspf.org and include your full name, last employing organization, last duty station and former 5-digit alphanumeric retirement number i.e. R/... .

MSS provides you with access to your pensions account and allows you to submit forms and documents to the Fund.

Beneficiaries can:

1. Track all payments from the Fund as well as After Service Health Insurance (ASHI) premium deductions.
2. Access the pdf of the annual Certificate of Entitlement (CE) form – unless they are paid under the two-track system.
3. Track whether the CE which they returned was received by the Fund.
4. Access all official UNJSPF forms pre-completed with their name and UID.
5. Upload and submit completed, dated and signed pension forms and supporting documents.
6. Update their e-mail address and mailing address on file with the Fund and provide an emergency contact – unless they are paid under the two-track system.
7. Submit an initial Emergency Fund request in case of severe financial hardship.
8. Run an estimate of their entitlement under the two-track option, if they retired after 2 August 2015. (You can ask the Fund to do this for you.)

The annual Certificate of Entitlement (CE) (see video in the series mentioned above) must be returned every year. You can opt to receive it by post or complete it digitally. If you complete and send it on-line, you must do so from your declared country of residence i.e. not when you are abroad. Each time you change device you must re-enrol. The paper version, which is sent in June or July of each year, can be returned by mail or uploaded on to MSS.

It is advisable to warn family or nursing-home staff of this procedure in case you are incapacitated at the time of receipt.

How to access the online membership directory

A permanently up-to-date online membership directory is available in the members' area of the BAFUNCS website (<https://bafuncs.org/membership-directory/>). Signed-in members can search the database by a member's family name, given name or region. The search result can be saved as a pdf or printed.

Any member needing assistance can contact the Membership & Subscriptions Secretary, Aubrey Botsford, at membership@bafuncs.org; or can obtain support from the respective regional team.

Speakers for 2026 Annual Reunion, Cardiff

13-15 September 2026



Sir John Sawers, GCMG. Former Director-General of MI6 and UK Permanent Representative to the UN in New York.



Mr Ian Martin. Chair of the UK United Nations Association, former Special Representative of the UNSG in East Timor, Nepal and Libya and Secretary-General of Amnesty International.



Mr Amir Abdulla. Former UN Coordinator for the Black Sea Grain Initiative and Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP).

For more information on the Annual Reunion, see pp.4-5

AGM/2026/1

Annual General Meeting 2026

List of documents

- AGM/2026/1 List of documents
- AGM/2026/2 Process for the Annual General Meeting 2026
- AGM/2026/3 Report of the Revised BAFUNCS Annual General Meeting 2025
- AGM/2026/4 Report of the Executive Committee for 2025/26
- AGM/2026/5 BAFUNCS accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025
Proposed budget for 2026 and 2027
- AGM/2026/6 Nominations for National Officers and Members of the Executive Committee 2026/27
- AGM/2026/7 Report on the BAFUNCS Benevolent Fund to 31 December 2025
- AGM/2026/8 Voting form*

* Separate flyer circulated with the newsletter.

Process for the **BAFUNCS** Annual General Meeting 2026

It is a constitutional requirement that BAFUNCS convene its AGM once a year to consider certain items of business, including: approval of the annual report; approval of the accounts and budget; noting the report of the Benevolent Fund; election of officers to the Executive Committee; and any other business that may be proposed for discussion/decision by the Executive Committee. BAFUNCS will again conduct its AGM virtually in 2026, as it did in the previous six years (2020-2025). The main elements are:

- **Documentation.** This will be provided in the Association's Spring 2026 Newsletter No.89, which will also be available on the website.
- **Online discussion group.** There will be a discussion group on the website, where members can ask questions and receive responses from members of the Executive Committee.
- **Zoom session, 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday 5 May 2026.** There will be a single session on Zoom, moderated by our President, Sir Mark Lowcock. Members interested in attending this meeting should indicate their interest to agm2026@bafuncs.org and they will be sent the link a few days prior to the meeting. This meeting will consider the reports of the Executive Committee and the Benevolent Fund, and any other business raised by members.
- **Voting.** Voting on the items of business will be managed by Jocelyn Mason as our Polling Officer, operating under the aegis of our President. The voting process is outlined below.

All the above details will also be posted in the Members' Area of the BAFUNCS website. They may be accessed by clicking on the following link:

<https://bafuncs.org/2026-annual-general-meeting/>

Voting process

The voting form lists the items of business to be considered by the AGM. In addition to being distributed with Newsletter No.89, the form can be accessed at the above website link. Members may register their vote on the items of business in one of four ways:

1. Complete the online voting form which can be found on the website and in the *Bulletin*. The website link is <https://bafuncs.org/bafuncs-agm-2026-online-voting-form/>.
2. Download the voting form on the BAFUNCS website (see link above); fill in the form; save it to your computer, and e-mail it as an attachment to agm2026@bafuncs.org.
3. If voting in favour of all the items of business, send an e-mail to that effect to agm2026@bafuncs.org.
4. Complete the voting form circulated with the newsletter and mail it to Jocelyn Mason at 76 Eyot House, Sun Passage, Southwark, London SE16 4BP.

The deadline for receipt of votes is **Sunday 31 May 2026**. Once voting is complete, Jocelyn will tally the votes and request the President to endorse the results.

Reporting the outcome

The election results will be announced in the website *Bulletin*; posted on the website; and published in Newsletter No.90, Autumn 2026, which will also include a full report of the entire AGM 2026 process.

Report of the **BAFUNCS** Annual General Meeting 2025

This can be found in Newsletter No.88, Autumn 2025, pp. 24-27.

Report of the **Executive Committee for 2025/26**

1. Chair's Report (*Stephen Rudgard*)

This report formally relates to the year that started with the approval of the resolutions adopted at the 2025 Annual General Meeting, but in practice it mainly covers the calendar year 2025.

A notable landmark of 2025 was the approval of the revised Constitution of the Association at the Annual General Meeting. This defines the structure and procedures of the Association, and the relationship between the Association and the BAFUNCS Benevolent Fund.

In an effort to encourage prospective members to join the Association, the Executive Committee negotiated with the UNJSPF Secretariat the circulation of a flyer to UN pensioners with a UK address in August 2024. New members continued to complete applications through the first half of 2025, partly due to follow-up on pending cases by Aubrey Botsford (Membership & Subscriptions Secretary). Consequently, the total number of members has risen slightly in 2025 to 718. The clear benefits of that flyer have encouraged the Executive Committee to approach the UNJSPF Secretariat to repeat the exercise in 2026.

BAFUNCS members derive important benefits from their membership in relation to updates on changes in the status of the UN pension, after-service health insurance, and UK income tax. Examples of such updates include an article by Paul Webb, an accountant familiar with the UN pension tax liability, on reduced UK income tax for recent retirees published in Newsletter 88, Autumn 2025, pp.14-15. Information on *Pensions, lasting powers of attorney and after-service health insurance*, prepared by Carolyn Murphy, was posted on the website in November (<https://bafunco.org/lasting-powers-of-attorney-lpas-the-unjspf/>). See also p.2, p.11 & p.23.

The benefits from our membership of the Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS) in relation to matters of pension and health insurance were brought to members' attention in an article by Andy Flatt in the Autumn 2025 Newsletter (pp.17-18). Andy and Claudine Pichon participated virtually on behalf of the Association at the 54th FAFICS session held in Vienna in July 2025, and reported key decisions to the Executive Committee.

The Annual Reunion Committee worked hard to ensure that the 2025 Annual Reunion held in Norwich in May was a success, as is reported below (see also Newsletter 88, pp.19-23). The Committee has been finalizing arrangements for the 2026 Annual Reunion, which will be held at the Majestic Hotel in Cardiff from 13 to 15 September. This flagship national social event of the Association will have outstanding speakers as usual, including John Sawers, former Chief of MI6 from 2009 until 2014 and British Ambassador to the UN from 2007 to 2009 (see p.12).

Communications are well featured later on in this report, with contributions from both the Newsletter Editor and Website Manager. Given the key role of communications, a small working group has begun a strategic analysis of

how the Association communicates with its members and prospective members and will report its findings to the Executive Committee.

We are starting the process for the 2026 Annual General Meeting, and I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped to keep the Association running in 2025, whether at the national or regional level. I am particularly grateful to the members of the Executive Committee, most of whom have kindly allowed their names to go forward for election for another year. At this point, we say goodbye to a long-standing member of ExCo with nine years' service, namely Carolyn Murphy, who has handled the Pensions brief, and thank her for such valuable service.

I would also like to underline that the Association can only function if members volunteer to take up roles at the regional and overall levels, so if you feel that you can contribute in any way, please do contact me, any member of the Executive Committee, or your Regional Representative.

2. Administration (*Richard Sydenham, Secretary and Archivist*)

The Executive Committee held three meetings in 2025. Two meetings (in March and November) were hybrid meetings, both in person at the International Maritime Organization and on Zoom. The meeting in August was held virtually on Zoom. All meetings were well attended by committee members, and in the November meeting two new BAFUNCS members attended to observe the work of the Executive Committee (Soraya Bermejo and Christine Gregory).

The AGM was held in May with a Zoom question-and-answer session and online voting. Changes occurred in the Executive Committee following the 2025 AGM, with Stephen Rudgard taking the role of Chair and Nicholas Rosellini that of Vice-Chair. Karen Jørgensen was co-opted as a member of the Executive Committee in August.

The Annual Reunion Committee, the Website Committee, regional representatives and the Member Support team have all held meetings during the year.

The newsletter and minutes of the Executive Committee meetings have been regularly updated in the web-based archive.

Since the 2025 AGM, the membership of the Executive Committee, with their portfolios, is as follows:

Elected National Officers

Stephen Rudgard	Chair
Nicholas Rosellini	Vice-Chair
Richard Sydenham	Secretary and Archivist
Richard Saynor	Treasurer

Elected Members

Aubrey Botsford	Membership & Subscriptions Secretary
Andy Flatt	Annual Reunion Committee and FAFICS/Pensions/ASHIL
Carolyn Murphy	Pensions
Nichola Rodgers	Regional Convenor and Member Support
Mary Roll-Vallanjon	Newsletter Editor

Co-opted Members (as of January 2026)

Robert England	Website Manager
Carole Harris	Information Notes
Karen Jørgensen	As of August 2025
Sheila Macrae	
Alnoor Nathoo	FAFICS/Pensions/Tax & ASHIL/ASLI

Other members assisting the Committee have included

Claudine Pichon	FAFICS
Jenny Towler	Accounts Examiner

3. Treasurer's Report (*Richard Saynor*)

The accounts for 2025 (see p.21) showed a welcome surplus of almost £5000 which increased our assets to over £37 000. Income from subscriptions reached our target and we welcomed 44 new members, whose joining fees contributed to a small increase in our overall projected income. On the expenditure side, there were savings on Executive Committee expenses and payments for UNCRP and UNCPP travel, whilst the cost of the Annual Reunion in Norwich was very close to the amount budgeted. Once again, the Regions did not take full advantage of the amounts available to them and some suggestions have been made to finance more activities locally. Previously, a high proportion of regional expenditures was for the cost of year-end greeting cards and postage, but these have been supplanted by increased use of e-mail communications. Some savings were realized on website costs, but despite a number of members opting to receive their newsletters digitally, including most of our new members, the cost of printing and postage continues to increase. Lastly, it was decided that our presence at the FAFICS Council in 2025 would be virtual, although it is important that BAFUNCS should normally participate in person whenever possible.

It is encouraging that our assets are on a steadier footing, mostly as a result of the AGM decision in 2024 to increase subscriptions, but also due to the campaign to promote our Association through the UNJSPF. As has been mentioned before, members are encouraged to switch to paying their subscriptions by Direct Debit as many have not updated their standing orders and are still paying at very old subscription rates.

Finally, I would like to offer thanks to Jenny Towler who is kindly reviewing our accounts and whose report appears on p.20.

The proposed revised budget for 2026 and the provisional budget for 2027 are provided on p.22.

4. Membership & Subscriptions (*Aubrey Botsford*)

The number of members at the end of 2025, broken down by membership type and region, is shown below.

Region	Single	Single Life	Joint	Joint Life	Total Members
CAM	33	8	18	8	67
KSX	25	11	16	6	58
LON	86	20	42	4	152
NOR	63	9	26	14	112
OVS	42	20	16	6	84
OXF	26	5	20	-	51
SCL	24	5	10	-	39
SRY	33	6	18	2	59
SWT	18	9	10	4	41
WMW	28	3	24	-	55
Total:	378	96	200	44	718

In an effort to make these figures a more accurate reflection of active members (that is, members who pay their subscriptions regularly), a number of memberships were deemed to have lapsed in 2025. However, the figures still show an encouraging overall increase since the end of 2024, especially in Single members. The Northern Region, in particular, gained 13 new members, and the London Region 8 members.

5. The Regions (*Nicky Rodgers*)

A wide range of successful events have been organized, with all credit due to the amazing regional teams during 2025. Their annual reports can be found on pp.6-10.

We have welcomed and encouraged newer members to attend gatherings where friendships continue to be forged, with fresh ideas emerging for future gatherings and the ways in which we can support each other in a region. All forthcoming regional events as well as reports and photos of past events are available on the website, as are the minutes of the meetings. So, take a look as you may find a photo of yourself there.

Two virtual meetings were held in April and October to address how we can best serve our regional members as well as discussing the wider topics disseminated by the Association. Distributing information through the regions on ASHI, pensions, UK tax, LPA, the BAFUNCS Benevolent Fund and the AR Survey has generated a number of queries with assistance provided according to the circumstances.

A meeting between the regional representatives and the BAFUNCS Benevolent Fund is planned early in 2026 to discuss promotion of the Fund to the members and the wider UN community.

We welcome Mark Davis who has agreed to act as the Regional Representative for the South West Region. Meanwhile we are looking for a representative for the West Midland Wales Region.

My thanks go to the regional representatives and their teams who volunteer their time for the BAFUNCS membership. I will end with a message for members to encourage those who have not yet attended a regional gathering or an annual reunion to come and join us for some convivial fun.

6. Member Support (Nicky Rodgers)

The year 2025 was no exception and our member support teams were extremely busy with issues relating to scams, health insurance (ASHI) and pensions, referring individual members to the relevant information or appropriate contact within BAFUNCS or external organizations. Two meetings were held this year when we discussed the queries that arise in the regions, sharing our knowledge and experiences.

We are delighted that many members have followed up on our recommendation to make a lasting power of attorney (LPA) for both finance and welfare that can be registered with the Pension Fund when appropriate. The latest advice on how to register the LPA prepared by our Pensions Officer Carolyn Murphy has been widely circulated and can be found on p.2.

We owe a huge thanks to the regional teams and individual members for the support they have provided in the last year. The needs vary so please get in touch if you are willing to be contacted to assist with this ongoing vital aspect of BAFUNCS work in some small way.

7. Annual reunion activities (Andy Flatt)

The 2025 Annual Reunion was held in the leafy environment of the Park Farm Hotel and Leisure, a few miles south-west of Norwich. Attendance by members was slightly up on the previous year, in fact we virtually took over the hotel, which provided plenty of opportunities to mingle together informally as well as at the dinners and speaker sessions. The reunion is well documented in Newsletter 88, Autumn 2025, pp.19-21 and back cover, with an illustrated report including the excursions to Blickling Hall, the Sainsbury Centre, Hickling Broad and the walking tour of Norwich. The presentations, including the *conversazione* between Sir Mark Lowcock and Sir Andrew Mitchell and the talks by Asher Minns and Andrea Kelly, are summarized by John Burley on pp.22-23.

The annual reunion has traditionally been held in May, but 2026 marks a change in that the decision has been made to organize it in September – specifically 13 to 15 September 2026, at the Majestic hotel in Cardiff. Speakers are being lined up including Sir John Sawers, former UK Permanent Representative to the UN and Head of MI6 (see p.12), and arrangements for excursions are under way, as detailed on pp.4-5. Registration forms have been made available on the website, and are enclosed with the printed copies of the newsletter.

Following a short discussion at the Bath reunion in 2024 on the future of annual reunions, it was decided to explore the views of the membership on this topic in a more structured way, through the conduct of a survey.

This had the advantage of reaching out to those members who have never attended a reunion, as well as to the stalwart habitual attendees; the answers represent the opinions of around 100 members. The survey was analysed during 2025 and the report on its findings, which will be taken into account in the organization of future reunions, appears on pp.25-31.

The Annual Reunion Committee, initially comprising Nikki Feirn, Andy Flatt, Heather Johnson and Richard Saynor, welcomed Liz Lewis in the latter part of 2025, and has been meeting more or less frequently throughout the year. Utilizing the “breathing space” afforded by the September timing of the 2026 reunion, the Committee has been attempting to plan a little further ahead than has been possible in recent years, and accordingly a provisional decision has already been made to hold the 2027 reunion in Chester. Marking the 50th anniversary of the founding of BAFUNCS, this promises to be a particularly memorable gathering. (see p.36, back cover).

8. Pensions and health insurance (Carolyn Murphy)

At the 81st session of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board (UNJSPB) in Vienna in July 2025, the Chief Executive of Pension Administration and the acting Representative of the Secretary-General gave very positive briefings on the status of the Fund “notwithstanding the prevailing global challenges”. The Fund’s assets had exceeded US \$100 billion in June and, over the past 15 years, the investment portfolio had achieved a real rate of return of 4.9% surpassing its long-term objective of 3.5%. At an *ad hoc* meeting on market swings relating to tariff announcements, the Office of Investment Management had been advised to stick to its long-term strategic asset allocation.

Enhanced communications outreach had resulted, *inter alia*, in 30 pension town hall meetings since January 2024, attracting more than 27 000 attendees and 48 000 views of the recordings online. Global take-up of digital certificates of entitlement (CE) was now over 55%. Close collaboration with retiree associations had reduced potential suspensions (due to non-receipt or non-return of CEs) by 71% during the 2025 exercise.

As of October 2025, all UN pensioners must re-register and set up Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) to continue accessing Member Self-Service (MSS) on the UNJSPF website.

The use of lasting powers of attorney (LPA) by beneficiaries is steadily increasing and BAFUNCS members are fortunate in that the Fund, exceptionally, recognizes their use in the UK. When it becomes necessary (usually for signature of the CE) the beneficiary, or the person holding the LPA, must send copy of the full documentation to the Fund for validation by the Legal Department plus proof of identity and contact details of the LPA holder. The Fund will then correspond direct with the holder. Full details are available on the BAFUNCS website (see also p.2.)

In 2026 an increase in the number of early retirements and separations from service is expected to impact BAFUNCS’ membership and services.

A large part of the workload for BAFUNCS liaison with UNJSPF relates to supporting surviving spouses or children of beneficiaries who themselves are not necessarily members of BAFUNCS and have scant knowledge of the workings of UNJSPF. However, it has always been the Association’s policy to give them full support.

The cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in April 2025 led to a 2.8% increase in pension benefit on the US\$ track and a 2.5% increase in the GBP local track pension. It is anticipated that the dollar track pension will rise by 2.7% in April 2026, with the GBP local track pension increasing by 3.4% on the same date.

Health insurance. There has been no specific feedback from FAFICS as to any follow-up of the questionnaire completed by its member associations last year. However, FAFICS continues to be engaged with matters relating to both after-service health insurance (ASHI) and long-term care through its Standing Committee on ASHIL. FAFICS promotes health insurance best practices across organizations of the United Nations system, such as the representation of retirees on agency committees dealing with health insurance; in that regard the Chair of the BAFUNCS Executive Committee wrote to the Secretary-General of the IMO urging adherence to the relevant recommendation of the Joint Inspection Unit.

9. UN Career Records Project (Nicholas Rosellini)

Nicholas Rosellini and Terry Jones continued to coordinate the UNCRP and offer support to potential contributors. Documentation about UNCRP was reviewed and updated, including the information note and questionnaire. The questionnaire can now be completed online via the BAFUNCS website for those interested in contributing.

Archiving of physical documents is up to date while digital archiving is still pending updating of systems at the library. Full digital archives are available with UNCRP and have been transferred to the BAFUNCS document repository. Bill Jackson completed his editing of Supplement No. 3 (2021-2025) to the *Guide for researchers*.

10. UN Career Paths Programme and UNA-UK (Stephen Rudgard)

UNA-UK. After a period when UNA-UK did not have the capacity to collaborate with BAFUNCS, contact was re-established in 2025. Ian Martin had been selected as Chair of UNA-UK in October 2024, and the Board appointed Jane Kinninmont as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who started work in June 2025. Stephen Rudgard (Chair) and Nicholas Rosellini (Vice-Chair) attended the reception for the UN@80 anniversary organized by UNA-UK at Central Hall in Westminster held on United Nations day in October. Efforts were made to promote UNA-UK to BAFUNCS members through the *Bulletin*, and a message to members in the south-east of England. UNA-UK launched a new strategy in November that sets out its agenda, and discussions on establishing further collaboration will continue.

BAFUNCS Career Paths Programme (CPP). Eight events were staged in 2025 with conversations about UN careers between BAFUNCS members and a total of around 1000 students. Seven of the events were organized in collaboration with universities, namely Cambridge, Imperial College London, Kings College London, London School of Economics, Oxford, University College London and the University of Sussex Institute of Development Studies (IDS). The other event was held at the London International Model United Nations (LIMUN) conference. The IDS event was in hybrid format, with around 300 participants connecting online, the Imperial College event was entirely online, and the other events were face-to-face. All of the events comprised panels of three experts, mainly with BAFUNCS members and occasionally including a recently graduated alumnus working in the UN, who spoke of the key aspects of their experiences in the UN and then answered questions from the audiences.

11. Communications (Robert England and Mary Roll-Vallanjon)

During the year we have done our best to keep members informed about Association events as well as any other developments that may be of interest.

The keystone for our communication strategy continues to be the website, but this is complemented by our biannual BAFUNCS newsletter and the *Bulletin* that was issued to all online members on a monthly basis. Recently we have expanded our virtual presence with a LinkedIn account. We are conscious that, while more than 90% of our membership use digital media and are active online, some are not, and some others lose interest in this medium. It is for this reason that we place a lot of emphasis on the activities of our Regions with their personal contacts and their own communications.

The basic website has remained much the same over the year, but its content has been regularly updated; it includes a tickertape of news about Association activities, as well as our membership database, management information and archives. For this we are indebted to a team who use it, post material and update information whenever it becomes available: Aubrey Botsford, Carole Harris, Nicholas Rosellini, Stephen Rudgard, Richard Saynor, Richard Sydenham, Joanna Tempowski and especially, in terms of regional activities, Nicky Rodgers. Apart from adding content himself, our Website Manager, Robert England, provides training and first-line support. He is always looking for volunteers.

Our biannual newsletter continues to be very popular among our members, as it brings together in one place both the important information related to the business of the Association as well as interesting articles which we hope members enjoy. That content is also made available on the website. The Editor, Mary Roll-Vallanjon, welcomes contributions from members. While we are committed to sustaining the newsletter as such, we are keen to

encourage more of the 300 members who request the printed version to receive it digitally. This is principally due to the ever-rising mailing costs, which are especially heavy for our overseas members. So, if you are still receiving a paper copy and would be happy to convert to a digital version – which is readily available on the website and distributed via the *Bulletin* – please let our Membership & Subscriptions Secretary know (membership@bafuncs.org) and he will make the arrangements, including a £5 discount on your membership dues.

Our presence on LinkedIn is still in its infancy and is principally intended to put us on the map with prospective new members, many of whom use this social network for professional purposes. You could help us extend its reach by following BAFUNCS on the site and linking your own posts to BAFUNCS, thereby spreading the word.

Communications should be a two-way street, so we are always looking for ways in which members can contribute. In this respect, our website discussion groups have been a bit disappointing, except for the taxation discussion which has generated some engagement. However, there is also a group on *Letters to the Editor*, and Mary would be happy to publish such contributions. Or start your own discussion thread. Our website manager will be happy to help (write to: website@bafuncs.org).

Report

on the accounts of the British Association of Former United Nations Civil Servants for the year ended 31 December 2025

I have examined the accounts of the Association for the year ended 31 December 2025 and, to the best of my knowledge, I find 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 situation of the Association for the year 2025.

Signed:



Jenny Towler

Date: 19 January 2026

BAFUNCS accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

	See Note:	£	£	£
Receipts:				
Balance brought forward from 2024				33,552
Subscriptions	1	15,517		
Membership joining fees	2	1,084		
Interest		445		
Surplus from Reunion		0		
Miscellaneous		100	17,146	
			<hr/>	
Payments:				
General Administration		33		
Executive Committee travel		1,627		
Executive Committee other		222		
Annual reunion		230		
UNCRP and UNCPP		284		
Regional subventions		895		
Regional administration other		0		
Website		3,003		
Newsletter		4,731		
FAFICS subscription		1,133		
Travel to FAFICS		0		
Miscellaneous		45	12,203	
			<hr/>	
Surplus of receipts over payments				4,943
Deferred income and expenditure net of releases	3			(1,375)
				<hr/>
Balance carried forward as of 31/12/2025				37,120
Balances in hand as of 31/12/2025				
Barclays Community a/c			660	
Barclays Business Reserve a/c			36,386	
Barclays Reserve (Annual Reunion)			74	
Debtors			0	37,120
				<hr/>
Movement of funds:				
General Fund:				
Balance as of 31/12/2024		17,202		
Surplus/deficit 2025		4,943		
Transfer to operational reserve		(800)		
Balance as of 31/12/2025			21,345	
			<hr/>	
Operational Reserve:				
Balance as of 31/12/2024		16,420		
Transfer from General Fund		800		
Balance as of 31/12/2025			17,220	
			<hr/>	
Total Funds			38,565	
			<hr/>	
Liabilities:		£	Assets:	
General Fund		21,345	Barclays Bank	37,120
Operational Reserve		17,220		
Balance of deferred income and expenditure		(1,445)	Debtors	0
				<hr/>
Balance carried forward		37,120		37,120
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Notes				
1	Subscriptions net of refunds and Direct Debit charges			
2	Membership joining fees net of Direct Debit charges			
3	Deferred income and expenditure from 2024		70	
	Fees received for AR2026		0	
	Less advance payment for Hotel deposit AR2026		(1,445)	
			<hr/>	
			(1,375)	
			<hr/>	

Proposed budget for 2026 and 2027

Provisionally approved by ExCo at its 13 November 2025 meeting

2025 Budget	Item	2025 Income/expenditure	2026 Revised budget	2027* Budget
Income				
15,500	Member subscriptions	15,517	16,500	17,000
600	Membership joining fees	1,084	800	800
450	Bank interest	445	440	450
0	Surplus from Reunion	0	0	0
100	Miscellaneous	100	100	100
16,650		17,146	17,840	18,350
Expenditure				
Central administration				
100	General administration	33	100	100
2,200	Executive Committee travel	1,627	2,200	2,400
400	Executive Committee other	222	400	400
250	Annual Reunions	230	250	250
700	UNCRP and UNCPP**	284	700	700
<u>3,650</u>	Sub - total	<u>2,396</u>	<u>3,650</u>	<u>3,850</u>
Regional administration				
1,600	Regional subventions	895	1,600	1,600
200	Other costs	0	200	200
<u>1,800</u>	Sub - total	<u>895</u>	<u>1,800</u>	<u>1,800</u>
Communications				
3,620	Website	3,003	4,120	4,300
5,000	Newsletter	4,731	5,000	5,200
<u>8,620</u>	Sub - total	<u>7,734</u>	<u>9,120</u>	<u>9,500</u>
External relationships				
1,250	Subscription to FAFICS	1,133	1,200	1,200
1,000	Travel to FAFICS Council	0	1,350	1,000
<u>2,250</u>	Sub - total	<u>1,133</u>	<u>2,550</u>	<u>2,200</u>
100	Miscellaneous	45	100	100
16,420	Total	12,203	17,220	17,450
230	Difference between income and expenditure	4,943	620	900
Notes: *Submitted for provisional approval and will be revised at AR2027 **UN Career Records Project and UN Career Paths Programme				
Recapitulation of assets				
	Opening balance	17,202	21,345	21,735
	Surplus/Deficit (Actual/projected)	4,943	620	900
	Transfer to/from operational reserve***	(800)	(230)	0
	Total of General Fund	21,345	21,735	22,635
	Operational reserve***	17,220	17,450	17,450
	Total funds available	38,565	39,185	40,085

***Based on 12 months of the following year's estimated expenditure

Nominations for **National Officers and Members of the Executive Committee 2026/27**

President Sir Mark Lowcock (UN)

Honorary Vice-Presidents (life appointments)

Dr Erik Jensen (UN)

Sir Richard Jolly (UNICEF/UNDP)

Sir Kieran Prendergast (UN)

Vice-Presidents (in order of seniority)

Miss Sheila Cooper (WHO)

Mr Cyril Groom (FAO)

Ms Sheila Macrae (UNFPA)

Executive Committee

Chair Mr Stephen Rudgard (FAO)

Vice-Chair Mr Nicholas Rosellini (UNDP/UN)

Secretary Ms Christine Gregory (IMO)

Treasurer Mr Richard Saynor (WHO)

Members of the Executive Committee

Mr Aubrey Botsford (IMO)

Mr Andy Flatt (UN-ECA/HQ/ESCAP)

Ms Karen Jørgensen (UNEP/UNDP/OECD)

Ms Nichola Rodgers (FAO)

Mrs Mary Roll-Vallanjon (WHO)

Mr Richard Sydenham (UN)

Note: A list of co-opted members of the Executive Committee is provided in document AGM/2026/4 (see p.15).

AGM/2025/7

Report on the **BAFUNCS Benevolent Fund** to 31 December 2025

The Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the BAFUNCS Benevolent Fund (BBF) will be made available to members on the website. The Chair will be available to answer questions in the AGM online discussion group and at the Zoom meeting scheduled for Tuesday 5 May 2026.

After-service health insurance (ASHI)

Each UN organization is responsible for the ASHI arrangements of its staff and former staff who opt to remain in the system. Some organizations run their own insurance schemes and others use commercial providers such as CIGNA.

BAFUNCS is a member of the Federation of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS) that develops the Federation's objectives in the FAFICS Council's Standing Committee on ASHI and Long-Term Care (ASHIL). It also participates as an observer in interagency meetings of human resource officers on long-term care benefits. The Federation's aim is to have these benefits incorporated in all organizational health insurance plans.

BAFUNCS Benevolent Fund

Trustees. John Cubbon, John Doherty, Terri Jezeph,* Lynne O'Donoghue (rotating Chair), Sarah Papineau, Penny Ratcliffe,* KC Tan (Treasurer), Joanna Tempowski (Secretary).

Over the last few months, the Board of the BAFUNCS Benevolent Fund has continued to meet both in person and online to review the diverse set of applications received, alongside updating the various policy documents associated with running a registered charity. Information on the Fund has also been sent to a host of UN staff publications.

Fund disbursements during the past eight months include a grant to purchase a stairlift for an elderly retiree and the provision of funds to assist transitional arrangements for repatriating UN employees. Additionally, the trustees are currently seeking help for a former UN employee who has become homeless. Regional subventions have also continued, providing small treats for ill, very elderly or socially-isolated members across the country.

While the total amount disbursed during 2025, at just over £30 000, is less than hoped for, the Board remains confident that the outreach efforts made during the year will start to yield results in 2026.

BBF trustees have made contact with around 15 organizations during the year, including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, council refugee resettlement offices and various retiree organizations in the UK, Geneva and New York.

"One of the problems we have always faced," explained Terri Jezeph, interim Chair at the end of 2025, "is reaching those people in need who qualify for a grant or loan from the Fund. With this in mind, we are making

contact with as many organizations as possible to encourage applications".

Over the past decade, Terri has done invaluable work for the Trust, making contact with former UN employees from Afghanistan and Iraq, now in the UK. Sadly, she has decided to hang up her hat as from March 2026.

Another trustee, Penny Ratcliffe, who has served the BBF Board for 15 years, will also be retiring from the Board after the next meeting. Terri and Penny brought many years of experience to assist the decisions of the BBF. Both will be sorely missed.

On the plus side, however, in November 2025 a new trustee, Sarah Papineau (UNDP), was welcomed to the Board and a further prospective trustee is under consideration. This will bring the number of trustees to seven. As the BBF Constitution provides for nine trustees, the Board is always on the look out for more interested parties to join in its endeavours.

BAFUNCS members are also urged to assist the Board in its work by encouraging anyone who may be in need to apply to the Fund for support.

Full information on how to apply, including an application form, are on the Benevolent Fund's webpage: <https://bafuncs.org/bafuncs-benevolent-fund-bbf-rev>. Contact can also be made via regional representatives or regional member support contacts. Alternatively, general queries should be sent to the Secretary of the BBF: benevolent.fund@bafuncs.org.

The Trustees stress that all enquiries will be dealt with in strictest confidence.

* Retiring March 2026.

Report on survey on **annual reunions**

Background to the survey

Towards the end of the 2024 Annual Reunion in Bath, Nikki Feirn made a presentation on the future of annual reunions. In considering their viability, Nikki identified five main factors – attendance by members, the cost of the event, the organizational work involved, the facilitating role of the Annual Reunion Committee, and the format of the reunion. A summary of the presentation appeared in the Autumn 2024 Newsletter, pp.14 –15.

Time ran out in Bath before these factors could start to be explored by those attending, and in addition, it was realized that the views of BAFUNCS members who were not present – and who perhaps had never attended an annual reunion – should also be sought. Subsequently a survey questionnaire was designed to elicit members' views on many aspects of an annual reunion; the questionnaire was refined through several drafts before a final version was launched on the website in February 2025 via a bulletin alert, and included as an insert with the Spring 2025 Newsletter.

Response from the membership

81 replies to the survey were received, representing about 11% of the total number of members at the beginning of 2025, and around 14% of memberships. The response was smaller than that in the online ASHIL survey in 2024 (96 replies) and in the 2022 membership survey (100), but slightly greater than the 75 who replied to the "BAFUNCS @ 40" survey in 2016, when membership was somewhat higher than it is today. Although joint members had been invited to submit individual replies, only one couple did so.

It seems that there is a natural limit to the extent of response to surveys promulgated by BAFUNCS, governed partly by the Association's demographics and partly by the degree of engagement of the membership in the Association's affairs.

The majority of respondents used the online survey, while a quarter submitted a hard copy by mail. Of respondents who provided information, the median age was 78 and the median year in which they had joined BAFUNCS was 2008. Almost a third of respondents reported that their health or mobility restricted their participation in BAFUNCS' activities. While a majority of members replying had attended at least one reunion in the past, the survey did succeed in reaching at least 22 members who had never been to one – a group which was a particular target of the survey.

The entire survey could be completed using multiple-choice answers. It nevertheless invited write-in or type-in comments, particularly to flesh out members' views on certain questions. Many members did respond with useful remarks, in total submitting 67 comments; to the extent possible and appropriate, these have been reflected in this report.

Limitations of the survey

By and large the administration of the survey ran smoothly, although there were some exceptions. Two of the replies contained no useful information, since the drop-down menus had not been utilized, and a number of other respondents failed to provide an answer to certain questions. The highest percentage was for question A, history of attendance at annual reunions, where 11% of responding members gave no answer; this was unfortunate as it somewhat vitiated subsequent analysis. All these members were utilizing the digital questionnaire, quite possibly indicating initial difficulty in handling the drop-down menu. Although much less numerous, members returning the hard copy skipped relatively few questions. There were two instances of multiple identical responses to the digital survey over a short period of time, presumably indicating uncertainty on the part of these members as to whether submission of the response had been successful. (The duplicate responses were of course discarded.)

Overall, the number of responses clearly limits the extent to which nuanced conclusions can be drawn, especially when analysing the views of groups of members differentiated by their attendance status, but nevertheless the survey is considered to be sufficient in the round to give a reasonable picture of members' views about annual reunions.

Factors influencing attendance at annual reunions

The survey asked about the factors which would influence members when considering attending an annual reunion in future; the question allowed multiple factors to be entered.

Some 18 members, 22% of the total, indicated that they would be unlikely to attend a reunion, for the most part not citing a particular influencing factor. For the remainder of members, the incidence of influencing factors is shown below:

Table 1. Factors influencing attendance at a future annual reunion

	Number of members mentioning the factor
Knowing someone else who's going	29
More interesting programme	27
Lower cost	21
More attractive location	17
Improvement in my health or mobility	11
More convenient time of year	9

However, the overall results above concealed a wide disparity of views between the different groups of members replying. The factor of "knowing someone else who's going" was easily the most important among members who have never attended a reunion, and along with cost, it was also the most important factor in the group of those who have attended one or two reunions in recent years. However, and unsurprisingly, it barely featured as an issue within the group of members who have attended all or most of the reunions in recent years; in this group, a more interesting programme and a more attractive location were the main factors driving attendance.

As a result of the survey, it is suggested that BAFUNCS consider ways of publicizing a provisional list of AR participants prior to the reunion (and obviously prior to the cut-off date for hotel reservations). This could be done via suitably-timed website bulletins, and through regional events and communications. The importance of the next three factors in *Table 1* above – programme, cost and location – should of course continue to be borne in mind by AR organizers.

Unsurprisingly, nearly all those respondents whose health or mobility issues severely restricted their participation in BAFUNCS activities indicated that they would be unlikely to attend a future reunion. However, of those 18 members with a slight restriction to their participation, only 5 reported that they were unlikely to attend in future. This underlines the point that the organizers of future reunions should continue to take accessibility and mobility issues into careful account when selecting a venue and organizing activities.

Relative importance of aspects of the reunion

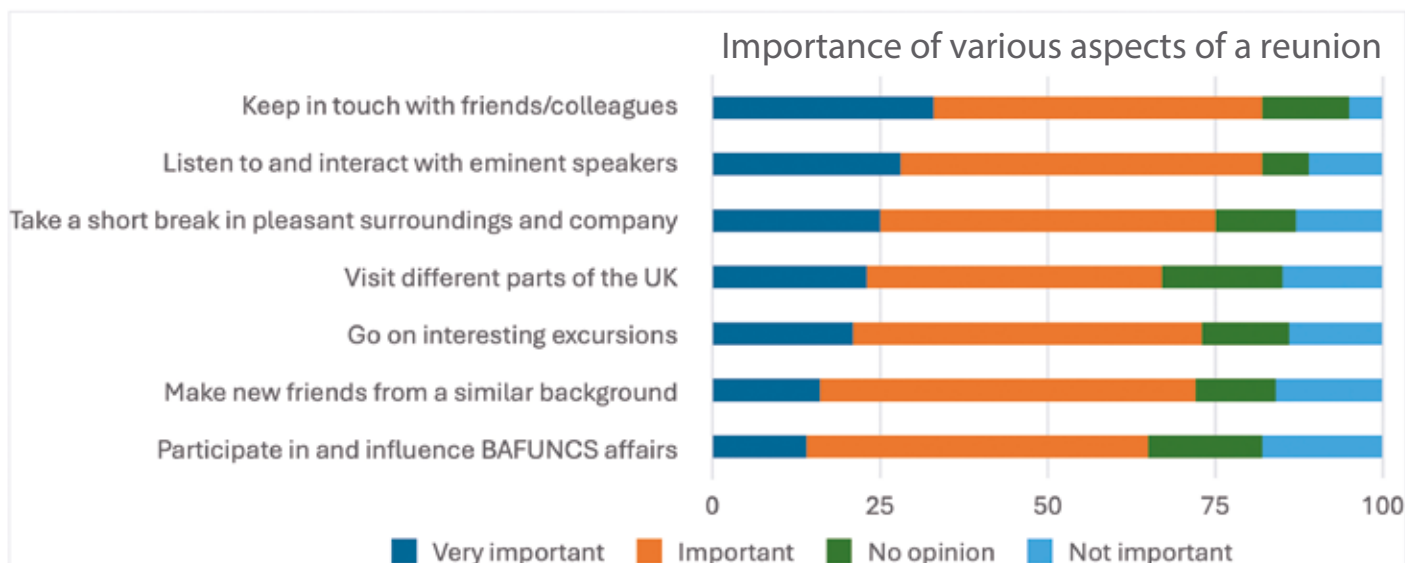
Members were asked to assign a degree of importance to various aspects of a reunion. *Table 2* ranks those aspects in order of the importance members gave to them.

Table 2. Importance assigned to aspects of a reunion

	Very important	Important	No opinion	Not important	No answer
To keep in touch with friends/colleagues	26	38	10	4	3
To listen to and interact with eminent speakers	21	41	5	8	6
To take a short break in pleasant surroundings and company	19	38	9	10	5
To visit different parts of the UK	17	33	13	11	7
To go on interesting excursions	16	41	10	11	3
To make new friends from a similar background	12	43	10	12	4
To participate in and influence the affairs of the Association	11	40	13	14	3

Table 2 illustrates the emphasis placed by members on the central idea of keeping in touch with friends and former colleagues. That said, it is worth noting that all aspects of the reunion which the survey examined were rated as very

important or important by a majority of respondents, varying from 82% for both “keeping in touch with friends and colleagues” and “listening to and interacting with eminent speakers” to 65% for participation in BAFUNCS affairs. Ignoring the non-responses to the questions, the percentage distribution of the replies is shown in the chart below.



Although the aspects are again ranked by descending order of “Very important”, it is noted that the additive percentage of those indicating a degree of importance for excursions was greater than that for “visiting different parts of the UK”, on which several respondents were undecided.

Across the board, the regular attendees of the reunion were the most likely to rate all the above aspects as very important or important, with only small minorities of this group (occasionally nobody) considering them to be unimportant. They were also much less likely to have no particular view on a specific aspect of the reunion, whereas as many as 40% of those who had never attended a reunion proffered no opinion on several areas – as might be expected.

In additional comments, a number of members noted the success in recent years of securing speakers of standing who are well-informed on current international or UN issues. Speakers needed to be very carefully chosen by the President, with forms of address other than the *Conversazione* to be considered.

Frequency of the reunion

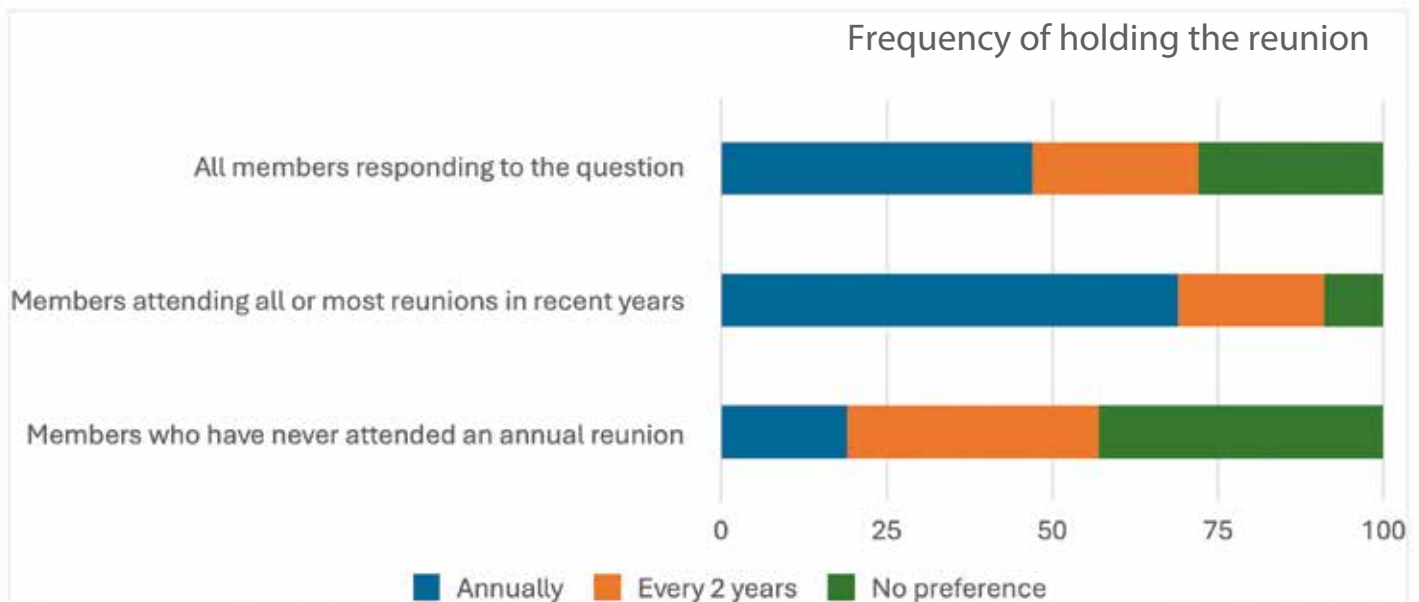
Members were asked how often the reunion should be held, and given a choice of annually, biennially, or no particular preference. The results are shown in *Table 3*.

Table 3. Frequency of the reunion

	Annually	Every two years	No preference	No answer
All members	35.5	19.5	21	5

The most frequent response was for maintaining an annual periodicity; however, there was some support for a biennial meeting, and an 18-month frequency was also mooted in comments; there was also a significant group of members expressing no particular preference. As can be seen in the percentage distributions below, there was a distinct difference in response among the various groups of members, with those regularly attending the reunions strongly preferring to maintain the annual frequency, while those who had never been to a reunion opted more strongly for a biennial function.

In the comments on this question, a number of members commented that an annual frequency was desirable to maintain momentum, although there was recognition that the organization of reunions was falling on a small number of people and therefore a biennial event might be preferable from that standpoint. Some members advocated experimenting with different frequencies and times of year (but see responses to the next question), while the view was expressed that the current model made it challenging to attract younger members to a reunion.



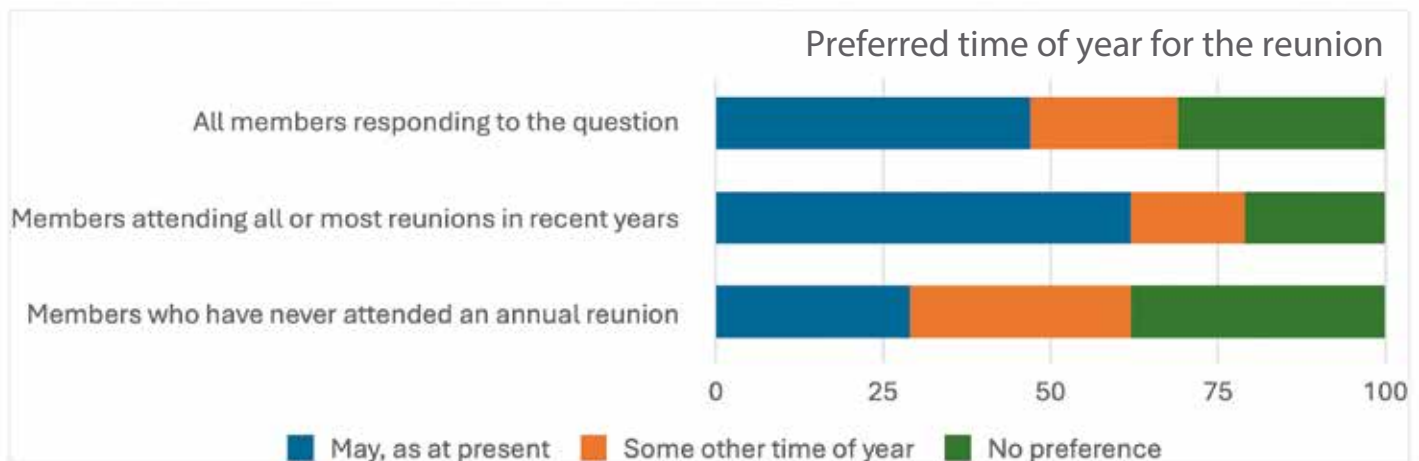
Time of year for the reunion

Members were asked about the time of year when they would prefer the reunion to be held. Nearly half of those expressing an opinion, 47% of the total, preferred the current timing of May, with a significant number expressing no preference in the matter. Somewhat predictably, members advocating some other time of year opted for a spread of timings, although half of this group plumped for either April or June.

Table 4. Preferred time of year for the reunion

	May, as at present	Some other time of year	No preference	No answer
All members	37	17	24	3

As with the previous question, the *status quo* of May was preferred by the group of members who have been regularly attending the annual reunion, while the second largest group of respondents, those who have never attended, had a wider range of views, with nearly 40% expressing no particular preference in terms of the time of year.



Duration of the reunion

Once again, the status quo prevailed when members were asked how long the reunion should last. An absolute majority of those responding, 61% of the total, opted for the current duration of two nights.

Table 5. Preferred duration of the reunion

	1 night	2 nights, as at present	3 nights	No preference	No answer
All members	11	48	4	16	2

Among the comments on this question were suggestions by several members that the duration could depend on the location, for example that a reunion overseas might be longer than the standard two nights. (The survey aside, it is noteworthy that several members already extend their stay either side of the reunion, and the AR organizers attempt to arrange special hotel rates for these “shoulder” nights.) Those advocating a shorter programme over one night cited cost considerations, although they suggested that a second night could be an option.

Days of week for the reunion

A majority of members were neutral when it came to the preferred days of the week over which the reunion should be held. Those who did express a view preferred weekdays, by a large margin.

Table 6. Preferred timing of the reunion during the week

	On a weekend	On weekdays	No particular preference	No answer
All members	9	24	46	2

The recent practice of the AR organizers has in fact been to hold the reunion when hotel costs are the lowest; this can vary depending on the venue, but has tended to be in the early part of the week.

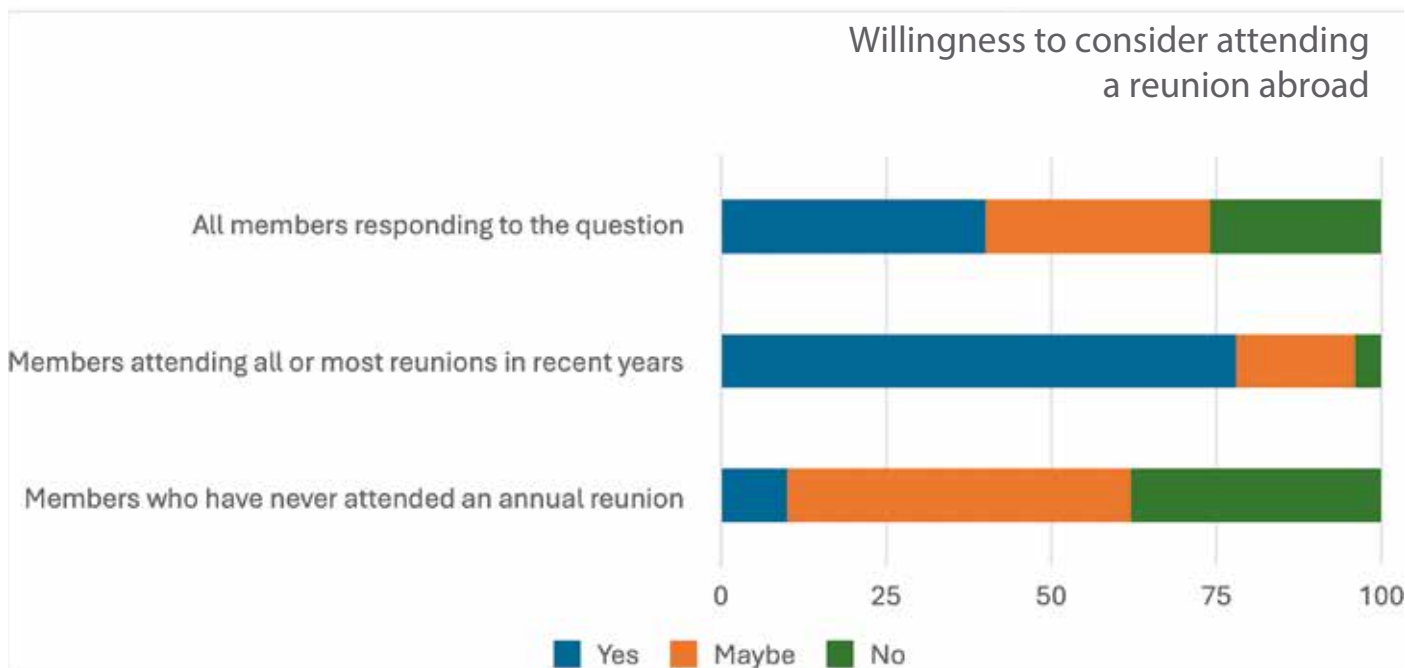
Reunions abroad

A majority of respondents, nearly three-quarters of those answering the question, were willing to at least consider attending a reunion outside the UK.

Table 7. Willingness to consider attending a reunion abroad

	Yes	Maybe, depending on the cost and other factors	No	No answer
All members	30	26	20	5

As shown in the percentage distributions below, those members who had attended all or almost all reunions in recent years were generally willing to travel to an event outside the UK, whereas hardly any of those who had never attended were willing to make a definite commitment to do so.



In comments on this question, some members cited the success of the 2018 reunion in Geneva, although they recognized that it required much work and coordination from a group of local members and might not be feasible elsewhere.

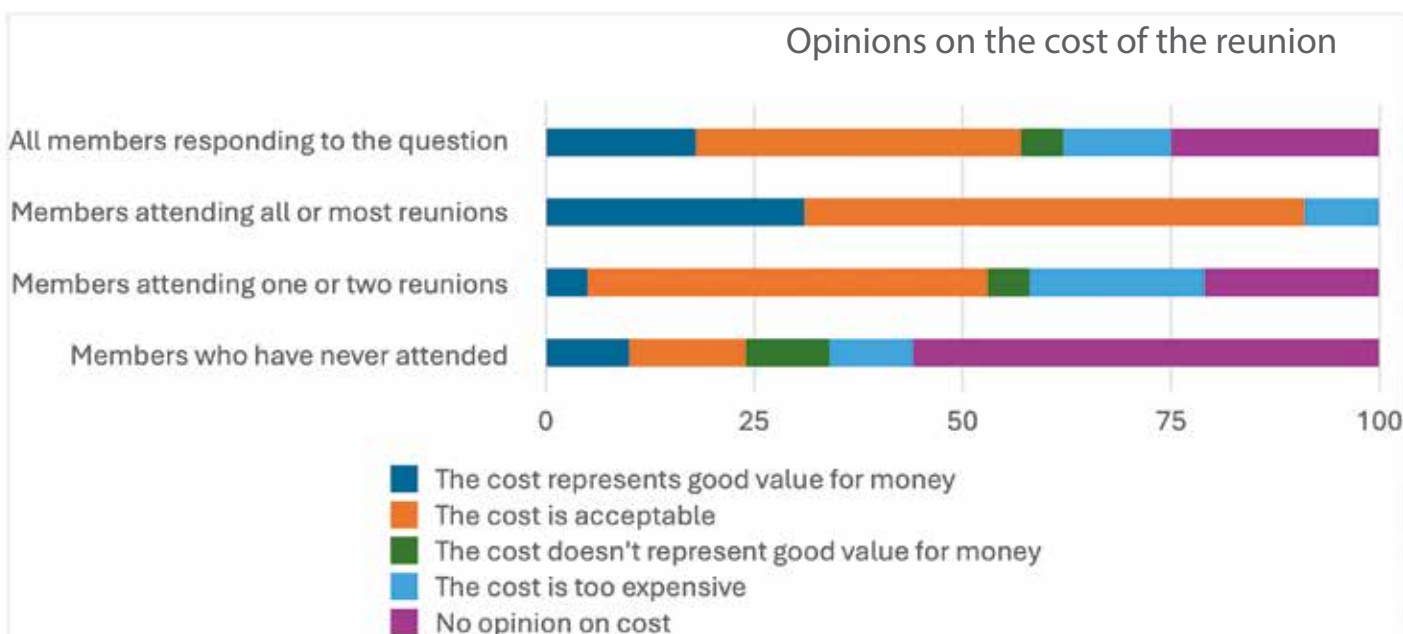
Cost of the annual reunion

Members who felt that the cost of the reunion was at least acceptable outnumbered those who thought that it was too expensive or didn't represent good value for money by a factor of three to one.

Table 8. Opinions on the cost of the reunion

	The cost represents good value for money	The cost is acceptable	The cost doesn't represent good value for money	The cost is too expensive	No opinion on cost	No answer
All members	14.5	30.5	4	10	20	2

Unsurprisingly, only a small minority of regular attendees felt that the cost of the reunion was too high, while this percentage increased among those who had been to only one or two recent reunions. As could also be expected, a majority of those who had never attended a reunion offered no opinion on its cost.



Standard of food at the reunion

In one of the clearest results from the survey, only three members out of the 75 who answered this question were prepared to sacrifice the standard of food in order to keep the cost of the Reunion down. Although a very small group, those members who used to attend the reunion but no longer do so were particularly keen on maintaining a high standard of food.

Table 9. Opinions on the standard of food at the reunion

	It's very important to have high standards of food, even if the costs are a bit higher	So long as the standard is reasonable, I'm not too bothered	I'd accept a somewhat lower standard of food, if it helps to keep the cost down	No answer
All members	26	46	3	6

Desirability of different types of activity at the reunion

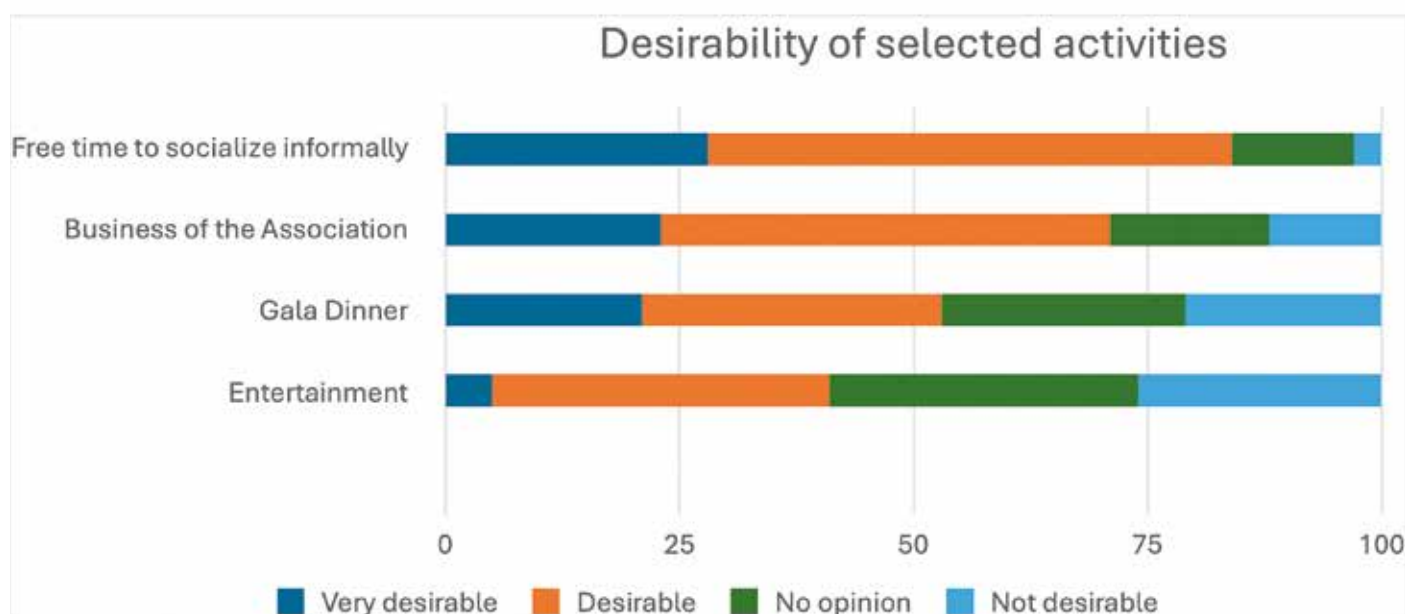
The views of members were sought on the desirability of four selected types of activity which have featured at some or all of the reunions over the past several years. These activities are listed below in descending order of desirability.

Table 10. Opinions on selected types of activity

	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	No opinion	No answer
Free time to socialize informally	21	43	2	10	5
Business of the Association	18	37	9	13	4
Gala Dinner	16	25	16	20	4
Entertainment	4	28	20	26	3

In line with the responses shown earlier in *Table 2*, free time to socialize informally was the most attractive element of those selected, with hardly anyone feeling that this was an undesirable activity -- which was as might be expected given the nature of the reunion and indeed given a major purpose of BAFUNCS itself. This was followed by the business of the Association, which was felt to be at least desirable by 71% of those responding to the question, and by 77% of regular attendees. The Gala Dinner proved to be a divisive issue, with equal numbers considering it very desirable and not desirable; support was concentrated among regular attendees, while those who had never attended a reunion were markedly less enthusiastic, or expressed no opinion. Only a minority of members felt that entertainment was desirable or very desirable; entertainment can of course take very different forms, which was probably reflected in the significant number of members offering no opinion on this question.

Ignoring the non-responses to the questions, the percentage distribution of the replies is shown in the chart below:



Other aspects of the reunion

Twenty-two members responded to the general invitation to provide additional comments, given that the survey could not cover every aspect of a multi-faceted event like the annual reunion. To the extent possible, these comments have generally been incorporated in earlier paragraphs.

Several members recorded here their general appreciation of the reunion, as being informative, interesting, and well organized. Members also recognized the work that went into making it a success. The initiative of undertaking a survey of this sort was also appreciated.

While the survey has brought out some reasonably clear conclusions on a number of aspects of the annual reunion, it is also apparent that on other aspects respondents have expressed a wide range of views, perhaps conveying "mixed messages" to organizers of future reunions; and of course the survey reached only a minority of members. Nevertheless, the survey is considered to be a reasonably valid reflection of the diversity of opinions held by the membership on the annual reunion.

Geneva in turmoil

Mary Roll-Vallanjon*

The United Nations is significantly reducing its footprint in Geneva, with over 3500 jobs lost in the past year and thousands more to be cut or relocated by mid-2026 due to budget constraints, funding shortfalls, and a push for lower-cost locations. Major agencies, including UNICEF (relocating to Rome), WHO and ILO, are restructuring, reducing the city's role as a primary humanitarian hub. The cuts threaten Geneva's status as a top "peace capital", affecting local rental markets, schools and the NGO sector that relies on the UN.

A US\$1.59 trillion shortfall in Member State dues (as of late 2025) has led to a 15.1% budget cut and a reduction of 18.8% in staff for 2026. Over 20 000 jobs, including consultancies, are being eliminated across the UN system, representing a major reduction in the Geneva workforce.

On 30 January 2026, António Guterres warned Member States that the UN faces a financial crisis which is "deepening, threatening programme delivery", and that money could run out by July. He asked them to honour their mandatory payments or overhaul the Organization's financial rules to avoid collapse. This comes after the UN's largest contributor, the USA, refused to contribute to its regular and peacekeeping budgets, and withdrew from several agencies it called a "waste of taxpayer dollars". Several other Members are in arrears or are simply refusing to pay.

UNICEF

Already, UNICEF is transferring the majority of its Geneva jobs to Rome. According to media reports, around 290 posts will be transferred, leaving only some 100 in Geneva, where it currently shares offices with ILO. While a UNICEF spokesperson declined to comment on the number of posts remaining, it was stated officially that "approximately 70 % of staff currently in Geneva and in New York will be relocated to lower-cost duty stations". These include Nairobi, where hundreds of staff from New York are already in the process of moving.

"We are committed to maintaining a presence in Geneva for global advocacy and coordination, and New York, which will continue to be our global headquarters" a UNICEF spokesperson said. In response to the move, a spokesperson for the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs stated in an e-mail: "Switzerland will continue to support UNICEF during this transition, notably through tailored subsidies for its workspaces, to ensure that Geneva remains an essential operational hub in service of humanitarian action". The Swiss Parliament has nevertheless decided to reduce the country's annual contribution to UNICEF to CHF13 million for 2025, down from CHF21 million between 2022 and 2024.

The move to Rome is expected to take place in the summer of 2026, with UNICEF employees understood to be moving into the offices of the World Food Programme (WFP) where space will be freed up owing to drastic job cuts of its own.

UNICEF projects a 20% reduction in its income over the next four years compared with 2024 levels, as a result of dwindling funding that began before 2025 but was catalysed by drastic aid cuts on the part of the USA. Headquarters and regional budgets are to be reduced by 25%, with staff relocated and offices consolidated worldwide, saving roughly half a billion dollars between 2026 and 2029. In May 2025, the agency announced that Amman would become its regional office for Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, while Bangkok would serve as its regional hub for South and East Asia, and the Pacific.

WHO

WHO is set to lose 800 jobs in Geneva. According to a report released in November 2025, nearly a quarter of its global workforce is expected to be affected – around 2370 jobs – by mid-2026 (from a staff of around 9500 as of December 2024) as it struggles to shore up a funding gap of over US\$1 billion for its 2026-2027 budget. In Geneva, 272 jobs have already been eliminated and another 533 are expected to follow.

* Based on numerous online sources.

Other organizations

ILO, the International Organization for Migration and UNHCR have also cut thousands of jobs, while relocating hundreds to other cities across Africa, Asia and Europe.

Some of the biggest global health funders, including GAVI (the Vaccine Alliance) and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, have also announced major overhauls as donors pull back on their commitments. Both groups have warned of the serious repercussions cuts will have on their work saving lives and on hard-won gains fighting infectious diseases.

GAVI staff at its Geneva headquarters are understood to be anticipating a second round of redundancies after launching a transformation plan at the end of October 2025, that announces a 40% reduction over the next four years. The health group has already eliminated 155 full-time jobs in Geneva after a decision to reduce its global workforce by 24%.

The impact on Geneva

Through all the turbulence of the past year, it is important to remember why Geneva has held such a central role in humanitarian diplomacy for so long. The city remains home to one of the most robust institutional ecosystems in the world. Its dense concentration of international organizations, diplomatic missions, the International Council of Voluntary Agencies network and other civil-society actors, has created an environment where humanitarian, human-rights and policy discussions take place side by side.

Beyond the institutional landscape, Geneva also hosts a significant normative and scholarly infrastructure. Institutions such as the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, continue to strengthen the intellectual foundations of humanitarian policy. This combination of theory, practice and legal expertise means that Geneva is not only a space for dialogue but also a hub of knowledge production that informs global standards.

Switzerland itself has remained committed to preserving this international role. Federal and cantonal authorities have doubled down on efforts to reinforce Geneva's position, from shaping the 2026 International Cooperation Forum around themes like humanitarian diplomacy to announcing over CHF260 million in new investments to bolster Geneva as a diplomatic hub. These actions demonstrate that, despite real challenges, the host country continues to see Geneva's future as central to its identity and global position.

Recent developments reveal a confluence of forces that have pushed Geneva into a period of uncertainty. Layoffs across key agencies reflect the financial shockwaves created by donor retrenchment and the wider geopolitical realignments that are driving governments to focus increasingly on domestic and defence priorities at the expense of multilateral, human-centred action.

Geneva is also facing competition from cities that offer lower operating costs and increasing political influence, creating an environment in which its historic centrality can no longer be taken for granted.

The cumulative effect is unmistakable: international Geneva is being reshaped, not simply challenged.



In Memoriam

Bernadette Cownridge Rivett 1924–2025



Bernadette passed away peacefully in the home where she lived at the grand age of 101 years and 3 weeks. We understand from colleagues who visited her that she was joining in with activities in the home until almost the very end. Bernadette began her career in Geneva at WHO headquarters in 1955, providing secretarial support to

several administrative and technical units before becoming the Personal Assistant to Dr Grundy, Assistant Director-General, in 1963. In 1975, she became Administrative Officer in staff development and training, before moving to the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific in Manila from 1980 to 1983 as Technical Officer in staff development and training. She retired in 1983 but returned as a Consultant for staff development and training workshops and activities until 1989.

On returning to the UK, Bernadette joined BAFUNCS where she was an active member of the Surrey Region for over three decades. During much of this time, she served on the Committee in various capacities including as

Chair. One of her many initiatives was encouraging fellow BAFUNCS members to join her in documenting some of their more memorable experiences working for the United Nations. These light-hearted memoirs were published by BAFUNCS in two very popular volumes of *Travellers tales*.

She inspired us all with her warmth, enthusiasm, grace and elegance. She was one of a kind and a much-loved and valued member and friend who will be greatly missed. Surrey's Welfare Officer had the honour of attending Bernadette's funeral to say a fond farewell from all of us.

Sue Block Tyrrell and Marilyn Carr

Membership news

Aubrey Botsford

Membership & Subscriptions Secretary

The following membership changes have occurred or been notified to us since our last update (Autumn 2025 Newsletter), and cover the period to the end of January 2026. For reasons of space, members affiliated with more than two organizations during their careers are shown as working at "UN agencies".

Please let us know of any errors or omissions by contacting Aubrey at membership@bafunco.org.uk.

New members

Daphne Allen	SCL	FAO
Rafah Aziz	LON	UNICEF/WHO
Nigel Bond	OVS	UN agencies
Ruby Correya	LON	ILO/IMO
Heike Deggin	LON	IMO
Anna Eliatamby	KSX	IOM
Maria Bella Evidente	LON	UN agencies
Jane Forty	OXF	ITU
Alistair Graham	NOR	UN agencies
Christian Gunneberg	NOR	WHO
Julie Hall	NOR	WHO
Vasi H-Daniel	LON	UNIDO
Trond Jensen	SWT	UN agencies
Keith Jordan	KSX	UNHCR
Mair Lewis	LON	ILO (late husband)

Clifford Peace	CAM	UNTSO
Jennifer Rate	LON	IFAD/IMO
Melanie Seto	KSX	UNESCO
Maria de Lourdes Vivas Alicea	CAM	UNICEF
Johannah Wegerdt	WMW	WHO

Former members

(lapsed or resigned)

Gudrun Almquist-Kahane	NOR	UNDP
Jane Reeve Aptekar	OXF	UN (ECOSOC)
Anthony Axelrad	CAM	ICJ, ICTY
Margarida Fawke	WMW	UNHCR
M.E. Guilbride	OVS	FAO
Peter King	LON	IMO
June Ray	LON	OHCHR
Tony Shorrocks	LON	UNU

In memoriam

Stan Cornford	SCL	WMO
Eugenia Fay	LON	WHO
Stanley Finning	OVS	UN agencies
Judith Munzinger	OVS	WHO
Ian Naylor	CAM	UN
Jacqueline O'Connor	SRY	UN
Jane Pittson-Chianese (d. 2024)	SRY	UN
Marjorie Richardson	SCL	UN/UNCTAD
Bernadette Rivett	SRY	WHO
Isobel Taylor	SRY	WHO
Tresca Winteringham	WMW	UN agencies

Regional officers of BAFUNCS as at end-January 2026

Contact details for all BAFUNCS officials are in the online Membership Directory available on the BAFUNCS website (<https://bafuncs.org/membership-directory/>)

CAMBRIDGE

Regional Representative/Secretary Nicky Rodgers
Treasurer Lynette Kimata
Member support Nicky Rodgers

KENT AND SUSSEX

Regional Representative Heather Johnson
Treasurer Richard Sydenham
Member support Terri Jezeph

LONDON

Regional Representative Hannah Shabathai
Secretary Carole Harris
Member support Tekeste Ghebray

NORTHERN

Regional Representative Nikki Feirn
Treasurer Sarah Mehta
Edinburgh Sub-region Hossein Khermandmand
Member support Nikki Feirn

OVERSEAS

Regional Representative Mary Hamouda
Treasurer Richard Saynor
Member support Mary Hamouda

OXFORD

Regional Representative Stephen Rudgard
Treasurer Anoma Jayawickrema
Member support Latifa Noman

SOUTH CENTRAL

Regional Representative Claudine Pichon
(to be contacted on all matters)

SOUTH WEST

Regional Representative Mark Davis
(to be contacted on all matters)

SURREY

Regional Representative Marilyn Carr
Secretary Rini Reza
Treasurer Marilyn Carr/
Joanna Tempowski
Member support Joanna Tempowski
Social Secretary Vacant
Membership Secretary Karen Jørgensen

WEST MIDLAND AND WALES

Regional Representative Vacant (contact
Nicky Rodgers)
Treasurer Elizabeth Searle

BAFUNCS Membership

BAFUNCS exists to facilitate communication between former UN employees both for social purposes and to provide practical help and advice. Members are urged to recruit friends and former UN colleagues. Members receive the Newsletter in Spring and Autumn. The Membership List is available on the BAFUNCS website (<https://bafuncs.org/membership-directory/>). BAFUNCS has also issued the following information notes that can be downloaded from the publications page of the website:

1. About us (information available on the website)
2. What to do when a pensioner dies
3. Accommodation for older people
4. [No longer applicable]
5. Taxation in the United Kingdom
6. Managing your personal information
7. Member support
8. Wills and succession
9. United Nations Career Records Project (UNCRP)
10. Guide to the BAFUNCS Benevolent Fund

Subscription rates (subject to change): single £30 (non-digital £35); joint £45 (non-digital £50); single life £750; joint life £1,125.

Applicants for membership should complete the online application form that can be found on the website. A paper application form as well as hard copies of the available information notes can be obtained from the BAFUNCS Membership & Subscriptions Secretary: membership@bafuncs.org, Aubrey Botsford, 42 Parklands Road, London, SW16 6TF

BAFUNCS Benevolent Fund

Trustees:

Chair: Position currently rotating among trustees

Treasurer: KC Tan (UNRWA/ICAO/UNFPA/ITC)

Secretary: Joanna Tempowski (WHO)

Members: John Cubbon (UNMIBH/UNMIK/ICTY), John Doherty (FAO/IAEA), Terri Jezeph (FAO/ESCAP), Lynne O'Donoghue (UNHQ/UNMIBH/UNDP), Sarah Papineau (UNDP), Penny Ratcliffe (WHO)

Correspondence

All correspondence is treated as confidential.

The Fund is a registered charity and welcomes contributions through the Gift Aid scheme.

For application forms/further information see: bafuncs.org/bafuncs-benevolent-fund-bbf-rev/ or e-mail the Secretary: benevolent.fund@bafuncs.org.



Looking ahead: annual reunion Chester 2027

Chester, in the county of Cheshire, is the proposed destination for the BAFUNCS Annual Reunion in 2027. Superbly situated on the River Dee, Chester's origins date back to AD 79, when the Romans built an imposing fortress. Chester's famous walls and large harbour rendered it one of the most significant Roman settlements in the British Isles.

Steeped in history, Chester weathered the Vikings and the Normans when, in 1066, William I became the first Earl of Chester. From the Middle Ages onwards, Chester was a prosperous trading port until its temporary demise during the English Civil War. By the Georgian period, Chester's port had dried up but it remained a town that attracted wealthy merchants. Evidence of its prosperity can be seen in its magnificent architecture, including the

beautiful Rows (the medieval two-tiered buildings), the elegant terraced houses, the gothic Victorian town hall and the Eastgate clock, which is apparently the second most photographed clock in the United Kingdom after Big Ben.

Chester is also home to the Roodee, the historic Chester Racecourse, where the first races date back to 1512. For animal lovers, there is the Chester Zoo, dedicated to animal conservation and the protection of endangered species. Of course, no visit to Chester would be complete without a visit to the 1000 year-old Chester cathedral, which houses the stories of medieval pilgrims, Civil War armies and Anglo-Saxon saints.

We look forward to inviting you to Chester in 2027.

