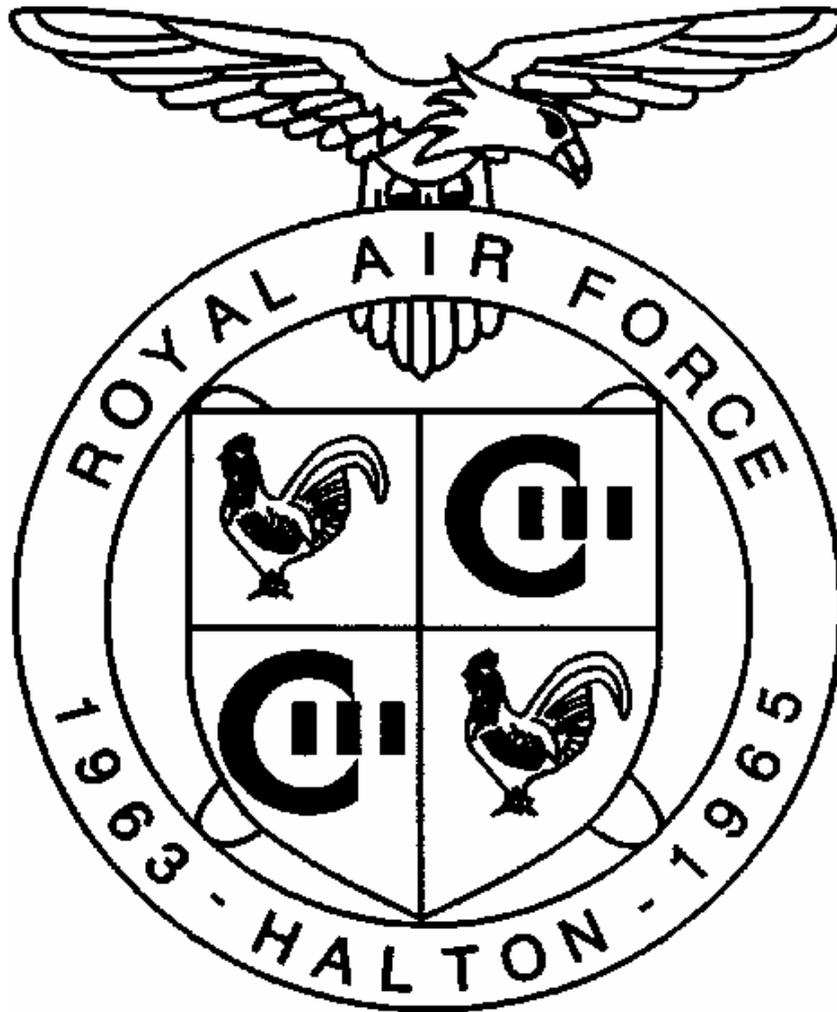


103rd Entry Association

Newsletter



No. 16

October 1999

Editor: MHF Watts



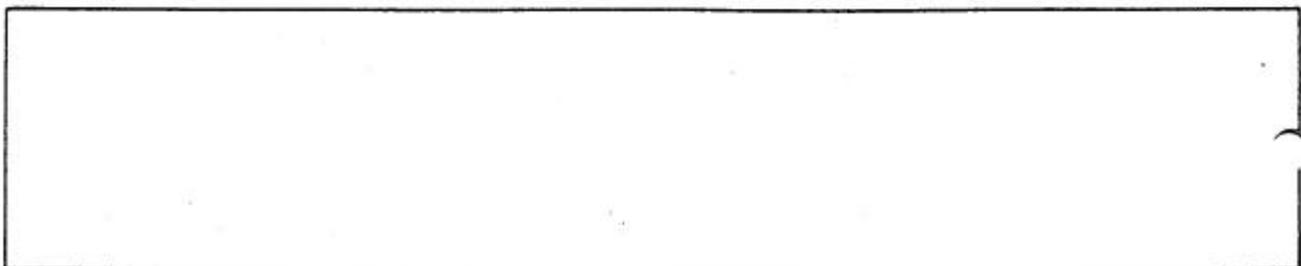
**EX HALTON
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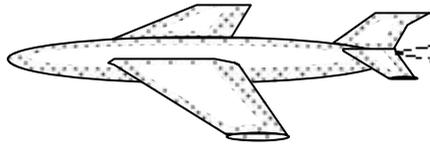
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Editorial

Holidays over? It must be time for another newsletter.

Since the last, the "Committee¹ have continued to work towards our Y2k Reunion. Maybe we were expecting too much, but we only received a small response from people willing to register their interest. Maybe with only a little over a year to go, a few more will feel able to put their names forward. We are not seeking any firm commitment just yet, but we do need to have a rough figure to work on and the hotel will shortly be requiring us to confirm numbers.

Many thanks to all those who provided us with updates to the 103 database. Please keep them coming, I am sure that there are many more email account holders out there, so please, if you have yet to register your email, please do so. The more people that we can via the web, the less we will have to spend on postage stamps.

Talking of the web - John Dillon volunteered to start work on a web-site for us. His efforts can be viewed at: <http://homepage.tesco.net/~john.dillon1>

Please note that the 'squiggle' is important! As a taster, I have included an extract from John's work. I think that all who see it will be as impressed as we were at the last committee meeting. We will be using the site to display newsletters and other articles, though John will of course, respect individual's confidentiality by removing any addresses and telephone numbers.

Any content or comments on the web-site to: john.dillon1@tesco.net

Paul Collins is now in Australia and I hope that he won't be too offended by the extract I have taken from a recent email.

Ken and Ann Bannister have provided us with an update and something to ponder.

We have had another letter from Mrs Bromley, John's mum, in which she forwards her best wishes to us all. She is clearly still enjoying life, having spent some time in New Zealand earlier this year.

MW

News from Paul & Alice Collins

After leaving Lyneham and the RAF in 1976, having become a flight engineer and instructing for the last three, I joined BA on their 707 fleet.

It was great fun, mostly Caribbean and the US, which was probably the main reason that I got divorced. It was very difficult not to get into trouble with 4 days in Antigua! But seriously, the relationship seemed doomed after the first few years.

Then I felt like a change and I could see rightly or wrongly that spending the next 20 odd years on the 747 until retirement was not my cup of tea. CX threw me a line and I took the bait.

In 1979, I went to Hong Kong. A bit of a dramatic change to what I was used to, what with all the things that were happening in those days. But it was different and exciting, and least of all, it was a different aircraft, the L1011.

After 5 years on that, I trooped onto the 747 for a stint of 15 years, (not so bad), before they made us all redundant when they sold our aircraft to PIA.

I had contemplated where to go on my retirement in 2001, for many years. I got married again in 1988 after 9 years of fun and frolics in Hong Kong, and now have another set of 2 children, (girl 8, boy 5). Because my wife is from the Philippines (as with Dave), and because I got used to the warmer climes, we decided to go to Oz. Luckily this was approved about 3 months ago - phew, only just in time!

So here we are near Brisbane on the Gold Coast, having only been here 10 days, things are a bit hectic, as you can imagine. It's a strange new world I tell you!

Anyway, I have no job, but am looking. I may start a business with some friends we have here. There is lots to offer. But first we have to get onto our feet.

PC

Parish Notices

Those of you transiting through Aylesbury, please call at the Queen's Head public house. It is under new management (LSI), and the new owner will buy you a pint, if you can catch him. The password is '90%' (*why dot 103%-Ed*)

Rumour has it that Chris Lacey has just rejoined the RAF (not as an AA!!), because apparently they are desperate for engineers.

**Dates for your Diary: 1st December 1999 - Committee Meeting, Queen's Head
11th November 2000 - 103rd Graduation Reunion (35 years!)**

Update from Ken & Ann Bannister

Well, here we go with an update from The West Sussex Waffler!! Where to start as things have been pretty hectic over the last year or so.

Last year wasn't too good as we had a major problem with Ann's health. Last June, she spent several days in Hayward's Heath hospital having three litres of yucky looking fluid drained from her left lung. This was caused by the onset of secondary breast cancer - it had returned with a vengeance. For two years after her operation to remove a lump from her right breast, everything seemed to be going well but from January 98, she started to suffer from chest pains, increasing breathlessness and backache culminating in the admission to hospital. Anyway, she was rapidly sorted out and put on a course of treatment and she is now stable. When she asked the cancer consultant if the diagnosis was terminal he said that she wouldn't live as long as might have been expected, to which she replied "I shouldn't expect to get a telegram from the Queen then?" "No, probably not", was the reply. After this, we decided to live from day to day and to enjoy life to the full. We went to the States in September. I was working at Vero Beach in Florida for 5 days and Ann came with me. She had a ball meeting up with our old friends from Doha, Qatar and she was well looked after while I worked hard at our family agreement. I EARN THE MONEY AND SHE SPENDS IT!!!!

At the end of the week we left to go up to stay with some more friends in Kalamazoo, Michigan. In fact, we left Florida the day that hurricane George swept across the top of Miami. I expected the Interstate Highway 95 to be full of traffic but we had a very quiet drive up to Orlando for our flight to Detroit. Orlando airport was jam packed because Miami was closed. Spent a hectic week with our friends in Kalamazoo before coming back to Florida to stay with some of Ann's friends she knew from way back when - probably when Pontius was in basic flying training!!

While Ann was recovering from her treatment, we came to terms with the fact that we might have to cancel the holiday - but we didn't and after the holiday we decided to think ahead and booked a holiday break to Amsterdam in February 99. This was a bit different as we drove there and took our grand-daughter with us. The three of us had a ball especially walking around the canals in Amsterdam and taking a short cut through the side streets and finding yourself in the Red Light District. Well, laugh, I didn't know which way to look so tried to look nonchalantly ahead so that my eight year old grand-daughter wouldn't suspect anything. She's not Stupid!!

Ann tried to pass them off as models but I don't think she got away with it.

**Dates for your Diary: 1st December 1999 - Committee Meeting, Queen's Head
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Our next jaunt took us back to Doha for a fortnight in March where we stayed with friends, had the use of a 4-wheel drive and had a super time. On the flight back, Ann wouldn't talk to me because she wanted to stay longer. If it hadn't been for the restriction on the flight tickets, I'd have left her there for a couple of months. She could have found a JOJD and paid her way - no problem.

May saw us in Bordeaux for a long weekend staying with Claude and Christiane. Claude I'd met in Doha when he was a military attaché. He wanted to improve his English and I wanted to improve my French - so it worked out a good deal and we have revived the Entente Cordiale but without the politics. What better way to spend a weekend than eating good food and washing it down with a bottle of St. Estephe Grand Cru 84 one night followed by a St. Emilion Grand Cru 85 the next! Guess where we are going for a fortnight next year!!!

Finally, Ann spent three weeks in Plymouth house and cat sitting for our son and family while they went off to Corfu for a well earned holiday. I took a week off and joined Ann for the middle week of her three and we had a great time doing the tourist bit in Devon. I enjoyed Plymouth and if anyone is thinking of a break, it is well worth a look.

Well that's yer lot for now. As for the future, we're off to North Wales later this month, then we're going down to Cornwall with the family in October and in December it is Tunisia for Christmas.

KB & AB

Changes of Address, Emails etc

Ken Bannister can now be reached on:
ken.bannister@tesco.net

Les Garden now at work on:

les.garden@kiddegraviner.co.uk,

and at home on: lesgarden@compuserve.com

Chris Wales now at work on: chris.wales@bae.co.uk
and at home on:
chris.wales@djwales.freemove.co.uk

Paul & Alice Collins- PO Box 9029, GCMC Bundall, QLD 9726, Australia (Reads *like a penal colony - Ed*) Email: philpotinoz@bigpond.com

Jeremy Bell -12 Locking Close, Melksham, Wiltshire SN126XR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at Procon Electronics - 6th March 1999

Present: L Shardlow, J Dillon, M Watts, K Bannister, L Garden

Apologies: C Wales, B Neal, N Smith

1. Reunion 2000
The response to the basic enquiry for members who will attend the Reunion has been disappointing. Only six members responded outside the Committee. Five have indicated that they will attend and one is uncertain because he lives in Australia, More effort is required from the Committee, the Reunion will be advertised as normal and put onto the HAAA website.
2. Membership
Gary McMenemy has joined. NS to send bankers form to him asap. There is a query re Chris Lacey, NS to sort with LS. LG to check with Brian Lee re Mick Davey.
3. Next Meeting
5th June at Ken Bannister's place.

LG

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at Ken's Place - 5th June 1999

Present: K Bannister, L Shardlow, L Garden, M Watts

Apologies: C Wales, B Neat, J Dillon, N Smith

1. JB's Mum
MW has received a letter from John Brom's mum, still very much alive and appreciative of being on the circulation list for our newsletter.
2. Reunion 2000
A general discussion over Committee tasks to make the organisation of the event relatively painless for those involved. All Committee members urged to attend to avoid the s*** jobs.
3. Newsletter
Once again MW is short of copy for the newsletter. LG is threatening to fill the pages with rubbish unless members respond positively. •
4. Next Meeting
11 am on the 2nd of October 1999 at Procon.

LG

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at The Queen's Head, Aylesbury - 2nd October 1999

Present: L. Shardlow, N. Smith, B. Neal, J. Dillon, M. Watts, C. Wales, L. Garden.

Apologies. K. Bannister (sick)

1. A vote of thanks to JD for the excellent new Entry web site.
2. All members to be notified of web site.
3. Newsletter to be finalised and published on the web-site. All entry members to advise JD/MW of email address so that all future editions of newsletter are only sent to members not on email. This will cut postage costs considerably.
4. Reunion 2000
 - a) Booking requires confirmation by April 2000, Reconfirm booking and menu- LS.
 - b) Format same as last reunion, this worked and will require little change.
 - c) BN / RN volunteered to do the table plans, menus and flower arrangement. CW to send BN Entry Logo. Please copy LG as well for window.
 - d) Booking form to be produced for Jan 2000 newsletter - MW/NS
 - e) Freepost letter reply to be priced- BN/NS
 - f) Publicity, LG to put in Haltonian/ RAFN and any other magazine which will print; it. Web site has it prominently on the front page and details will be updated as they happen –JD
 - g) Tin room - KB (well you were missing).
5. Apprentice Stained Glass Window.
As you may well have seen in the Haltonian, the RAFHAAA have decided that all entries will be commemorated in the St Georges Church by means of a stained glass window. Costs to be obtained and presented to the entry on 11 Nov 2000 for approval. This will mean a commemoration service at Halton sometime in 2001 to dedicate the window. As we have an official entry badge, this should keep costs down as the artwork can be provided by my son. Costs to obtained by LG by next meeting.
6. Next meeting:
1100 on the 11th December 1999 at the Queen's Head, Aylesbury . All welcome.

LG

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