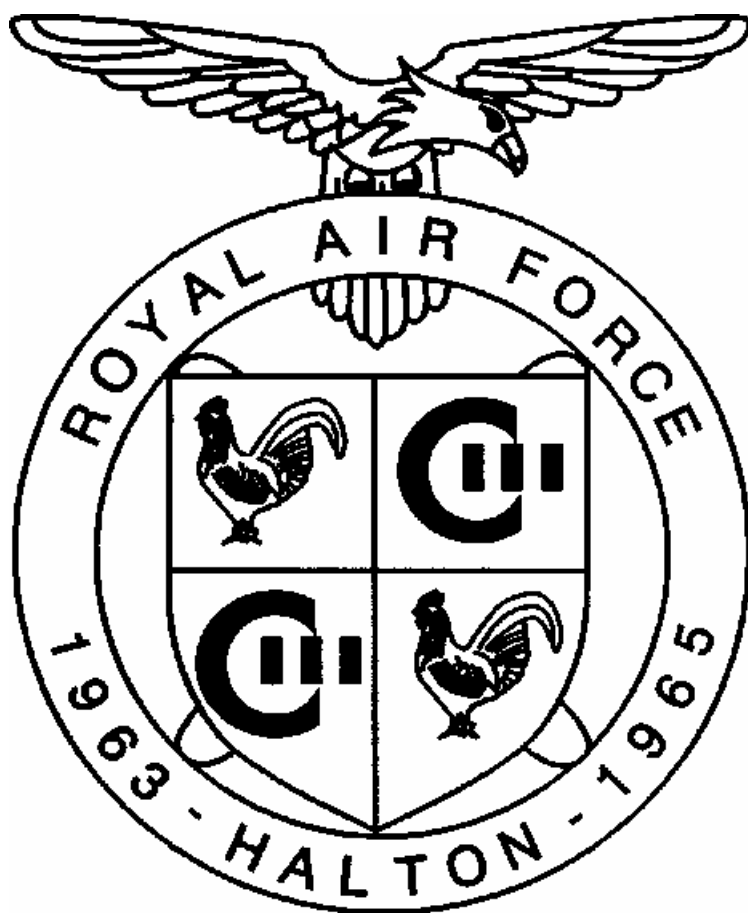


103rd Entry Association Newsletter



No. 18

September 2000

Editor: MHF Watts

Editorial

It is with a great deal of sadness that I have to begin another newsletter with bad news. Ann Bannister finally lost her fight for life in June. As you will recall, Ann had a way with words which was much appreciated by us all when she wrote for this newsletter. Our thoughts are with Ken and Ann's respective families. Ken's message is reprinted below.

Our window for the Halton Church has continued to occupy the minds of the Committee. We have now finalised the design with our chosen craftsman and a deposit has been placed for the work of construction to begin. If you cannot get a viewing of the final design on the 'web', then make sure that you get yourself to the November Reunion, where there will be a display and a plea for more cash. At this point, I should express our sincere thanks to John Brom's mum for her contribution "•- the 'window fund'". Thanks George, and thanks to everyone who has made a donation. But we need more!

The Reunion approaches even FASTER! Less than TWO months away!! Time for the undecided to finally make a commitment!!! If you haven't already, do it now!

Efforts in tracking or tracing old friends continues to bring success. George Rattray and Ian Sturges have been 'found', Ian has also written a few words, below.

MW

Ann Bannister

Dear Friends

Ann, my beloved wife, died peacefully on Sunday, 25th June at 1355, at the hospice.

The funeral was held at St. Andrews Church, Junction Road, Burgess Hill on Monday, 3rd July at 1315 followed by a private, family cremation in Brighton.

Ann had requested that any donations be sent to St. Peter and St. James Hospice, North Common Road, North Chailey, Lewes, East Sussex BN8 4ED.

Regards, KenB

Fanmail from Roger Flitter !

An excellent news letter - thank you for producing it. Also thanks to John for his splendid work on the website.

Apart from a very informative well presented site I was able to become reunited with Vulcan XH558 on which I worked at Finingley after leaving Halton!

Hope to make it in November.

Currently with EDS and up to my eyes on the Rolls-Royce Account.

Kind regards - Roger

Lost & Found No 1

Hey, guys, look who we found!!

I've sent George a mail explaining what he will get for the princely sum of £5 membership, and how we would love to have him pipe us in at the Reunion. No doubt Nick and Les (G) will now do the strong arm to get him to join.

JD

---Original Message ---

From: georgerattray005

<[maiito:georgerattray005@netscapeonline.co.uk](mailto:georgerattray005@netscapeonline.co.uk)>

To: John.dillon1@tesco.net

Sent: Friday, July 07, 2000 1:30 PM

Subject: 103rd Entry lost silver piper!!!!

Dear John,

Just a short note to say that I have found your WEB Site via the 99th Entry.

Some interesting photographs indeed! I have saved the page so that I can have a proper look at the text. When I have some more time I will get in touch with you again!

Since leaving the RAF in 1976 I have worked for British Airways at Heathrow, the REME at Hermitage near Newbury and British Telecom. I now work as an Electronics Test Engineer at Greenham Common for an Electronics Company.

I still live nearby in Thatcham and have two girls, 16 and 19. The eldest, Tanya is at Hull University and the 16 year old, Irena is still at school. I married a Dutch girl back in 1973 and still go over to Holland at least twice a year.

Anyway I have made contact with you and hope to be in touch again.

George

Lost & Found No 2

--- Original Message ---

From: Ian Sturges <ian_sturges@yahoo.co.uk>

To: <[john.dillon1\(j5\).tesco.net](mailto:john.dillon1(j5).tesco.net)>

Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2000 4:50 PM

Subject: Coming in from the cold

Delighted to come across your (103) web page. Brilliant job well done. Count me in!

More from Ken Bannister

Hi guys

I'm Back!! I'm now a qualified 45foot narrow boat driver -scary, I know!!!!!! Had a lovely three days on the Oxford canal trundling up to Banbury and back with stops for beer, wine and GT's. Have had to go on a diet this week to get back into my work trousers!!

On a serious note - Thank You a!! for all the cards, e-mails and the donation to the Hospice. It was all really appreciated. The final act will be to take the ashes down to Devon and to sprinkle them in the River Erme at a place called Cadover Bridge. It was what Ann wanted so that's what we'll do. This will take place the last weekend in July which will mean that I can make the meeting at Chris's place in Bournemouth on the 5th August.

I won't be able to make the 12th because I'll be sitting on a beach in Spain getting a suntan. I have been catching up on the e-mails that you lot have been flinging around the moronosphere and have decided that this map thing you've all been going on about is a bit technical for a chap like me - sooo I would be very grateful if Chris could send me written instructions on how to get to wherever it is the next meeting will take place.

I'm also happy - I think - with what you've chosen for the window so I'll go along with your decision on that.

I don't think I've missed anything but no doubt Les G will put me right if I have!!!

Bye for now KenB

Ian Sturges (23)

Now for a spot of nostalgia ... who could forget that winter of 1963? Four feet of snow, which we rookies had to clear from the parade square wearing only our newly issued denims over drawers cellular, airmen for the use of, as our uniforms had not then been tailored. I particularly remember the apology for not being offered a tot of rum as was customary for working in such conditions ... we weren't old enough! I thought that was !an rich and boded well for the future.

As I recall, Bob Procter was the oldest (I wonder whether he got a tot?) and Malcolm Watts the baby of our entry, (feel free to edit this lot Male!). Pint size china mugs, the smell of moth balls, six brushes and a button stick, bed-packs and jankers, slashed SDs and drainpipes, bull-nights and bumpers ... ah those were the days!

We were issued with three shirts ...one on, one off and one in the dhobi -1 never did quite work that one

out wit laundry only once a week. Was it true that our laundry was done at a woman's prison and the lads would get billets-doux tucked in with their smalls?

"Any boy scouts here?" demanded Sgt Wilson. Naively my hand shot up ... "Lions Patrol Leader, 15th Brighton -Sir, er... Sergeant". "Good", he said, you're room-leader and you get your own bedroom ...but first get this lot to clean up and no smoking after lights-out

I recall marching a squad back from some detail or other, as room-leaders did, when Simmo neatly planted a snowball squarely on the nape of a Pilot Officer cycling up ahead of us. The officer wiped the floor with me ... and it was probably at that moment I realised that I was not born to lead!

I got no support when I wanted Simmo hung, drawn and quartered, so I gave up on becoming a great leader of men. Later, Fit Lt Tulk wrote on my second year report; "A satisfactory year's work. Works quietly and steadily, but must remember that one day he will be required to lead". Clearly my plan was working!

On passing out of Halton, (on an historical point, as I recall it was Cranwell Cadet's who "graduated", whereas we merely passed out, (and nothing to do with either Red Barrels or Two Brewers), I was posted to Waddington along with Bill Dowdeswell and Alan Milne. We actually passed out as electrical fitters (air) and did not become aircraft fitters (electrical), A Fitt Es, until assimilating the instrument trade after a short course at Newton.

I married before my twenty-first and got into a little bother with the Royal Air Force for not obtaining permission to do so. Even the vicar wanted a note from my parents!... how times change eh? Bill was my best man ... and Alan made sure I would never remember my stag night!

We spent the first three months at Waddington in the battery room, and having spent three years training as (air) and not (ground) leckies; we were not best pleased. I recall being tapped on the head like some errant schoolboy by our tyrannical WO, when I suggested that I really ought to be getting dirty mending aeroplanes!

Shortly thereafter however, Bill and I went on to the gin palace, whereas Alan went off to the armoury. After about a year of bench work I finally got my hands on the real thing _ the mighty Vulcan (tears in my eyes). Working shifts on first-line while trying unsuccessfully to t in an HNC course on day release at Lincoln Tech. Looking back, probably my happiest days in the mob. (I wonder if Dave East surfs this way?)

From Waddington it was a choice between unaccompanied and freezing in Goose Bay, or with my family in sunny Zambia. I found Tony Shevels way ahead of me in Lusaka! My family finally joining me some four months later, delayed in the UK by the

birth of our twin sons and an untimely BOAC strike. We enjoyed a year or so at Lusaka as part of a joint (army and airforce) training team where I gained experience in changing nappies, of Caribou, Beaver, the presidential Andover and a beautiful (queen of the skies) Dakota.

Back to Sealand for a long old stint of four years ... more bench and later office work at third-line this time! My boss finally spoiling matters by giving me nines, which I think "won" me the posting back to Halton as an trade instructor. Pity really because we'd bought a house, maintained a garden allotment in the village and had all but gone native! (I wonder if Joe Jennings surfs this way?)

Returning to Halton I have to say was a great disappointment... call me Victor Meldrew, but I just couldn't believe it! It was about this time too that I reckon that I lost the plot... the four-day weeks, instructing by candlelight and my course being cut from 16 to 2 weeks. I awoke one morning and thought what am I doing here! Reading Trenchard's biography didn't help much either! I decided to get on with the rest of my life and gave the then required eighteen-month notice. I had signed on for 22, and on leaving was short of my 12, chiefly and gratuity by only a few months. However, I have very fond memories of my time in the RAF, especially the comradeship. (I wonder if Roger Briggs surfs this way?)

All of my siblings have served ... Duncan an armourer, five years my senior and ex 88th Halton, Malcolm a linguist, a year younger than me and Neil (Andy), ten years younger, in air movements.

I recall a chance meeting with Les Shardlow in Wendover in 1974/5, but otherwise haven't knowingly crossed paths with any other old boys since leaving the fold. I have had a variety of jobs since, but with no spectacular achievements or successes to report... and just the usual share of life's ups and downs.

Some of you may remember Wing Co Len Brown in 3A Wing ... he just happened to be the personnel officer at my first civilian job and swung me a tour in Bangladesh, again with the family, which by then included our daughter (born at Princess Mary's Halton).

All in all I am enjoying life and very much looking forward to the reunion in November. I wish too that it hadn't taken years to discover the Association, particularly as I have been keeping an eye on the RAFA Newsletters. We are especially lucky to have John Dillon mastering such an excellent web site and let's hope it attracts the remaining "lost" members of the Entry and they get in touch.

IS

Advice from Chris

Hi folks,

I meant to pass this on to you all a couple of weeks ago because of that virus that appeared on my system. I searched the web and came across this company and it's been great in solving my viruses, and it's FREE,

I have now have membership to 'Computer Associates' that regularly updates my system with the latest virus checker. To date it has proved very useful with a number of viruses that are buzzing around the e-mail world.

You can find them at: <http://www.cai.com>

If you don't have a virus checker on your system I recommend you try this company as it's completely free, it takes a while to download the program but worth it in the end.

CJW

Change of Address. Phone, Email etc

(A) Hi folks,

Just to let you know that good old Dexion have put me on their intranet so I've lost my btinternet account at work. You can, of course still reach me at work if you wish. To summarise: -

Work - ken.burn@dexion.co.uk

Home - ken_burnd@hotmail.com

Home - k.d.burn@talk21.com

Confused. I certainly am. See as many of you as possible in November??

Regards, Kennuft

(B) Hi Folks,

This is to let you know my new WORK e-mail address.

chris.wales@baesystems.com

Regards,

Chris Wales
Chief Engineer
BAE SYSTEMS
Land & Sea Systems

Grange Road, Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 4JE

Tel: +44 - (0)1202 40 4395 (DDI)

Fax: +44-(0)1202 40 8308

e-mail to: chris.wales@baesystems.com

This Message Carries a Hidden Health Warning (- Ed)

Hi Again

It seems our last message had the wrong address in the FROM Field, ie up the top in the heading. This is now changed to the correct address for you to copy to your address book.

Paul & Alice Collins.

Cheers philpotinoz@austarnet.com.au

Minutes from Committee Meeting Sat 5 Aug 2000

Present: LG, CJW, NS, KB, JD, MFHW

Apologies: BN (Carless), LS (lost somewhere)

1. Accounts
Nick presented the accounts for the Entry fund. These were accepted by the Committee. LS needs to sign a copy for NS.
 2. Business
JD highlighted the Hot Office program and recommended that we use it for "virtual" committee meetings. Minutes of the meeting posted.
- JD to send info for all committee to sign on and use.
3. RAF Halton Church Window
CJW showed latest design and the Committee adjourned to Riverside Stained Glass at Wimborne where we were , shown the final design as interpreted by the manufacture We agreed on the design and price, £800. There will be small changes to enable the window to fit the church. CJW will monitor progress.

A payment schedule was agreed and NS paid deposit of £200. Stage payments will be progressed by CJW to an agreed schedule. A full scale picture will be available at the Reunion. A vote of thanks was made to CJW for the substantial amount of work which he has put into the window design.

Actions arising: CJW - monitor progress NS pay as requested LG inform HAA of Brian Gibson visit to measure window - complete 8/8

4. Donations
Mrs Bromley has made a donation to the window fund in memory of John. NS to write and thank her.
A record of donations to be made and probably entered onto the Window page on the website.
5. Next meeting
No decision was made due to no available time slots. LS/NS/LG to arrange side meeting re Reunion attendance and donations asap but no later than 3 weeks time. LG unable to make this weekend (12/13) but free after that up till 1 Sept.

Can You Help? (Via Email)

Dear All,

Here is a little brain teaser for you.

Do any of you remember Ron Anderson from 103rd Entry? I have, I believe that he went to Scampton, do you know where he went from there until he retired 1.10.76 as Fit Lt enclosed below a couple of pictures that may jog your memories.

On leaving Halton, I believe that he was in (E&I) and was in Air Traffic Control. On retiring he went to Australia. Do you know where he was last stationed before retiring, or where in Oz he may have settled?

I look forward to any info that you may have.

Names in the first picture are as follows: Clive Bullen, Paul Batt, Chris Bayes, Chuck Beswick, Cliff Gobbitt, Ken Burn, Ian Armitage, John Bromley, John Broughton, Pete Bugden, Dave Bowden, Bernie Angus, Dick Grant, Tom Baldwin, Don Avery, Mick Bossy, Andy Anderson, Geoff Barber. Ron Anderson is middle row, 3rd from right.

«RM1BFlt.gif» (web picture)

Names in the second picture are Brian Lee and Ron Anderson (sorry it's a bit small)

«ron.tif» (another web picture, v.small!)

Jan Morgan Tel: 0193 3392577

And finally:

Don't forget to keep up to date by visiting John Dillon's web-site at:

<http://homepages.tesco.net/~john.dillon1/>

Any comments or contributions to:
john.dillon1@tesco.net

If you have moved recently or are aware of anyone who has recently moved, please get in touch with me at the address below. Also don't forget to send your contribution for the next newsletter (or window) to me at:

162 Main Rd Naphill, High Wycombe,
Bucks HP14 4RU
or email to: mhfwatts@hotmail.com