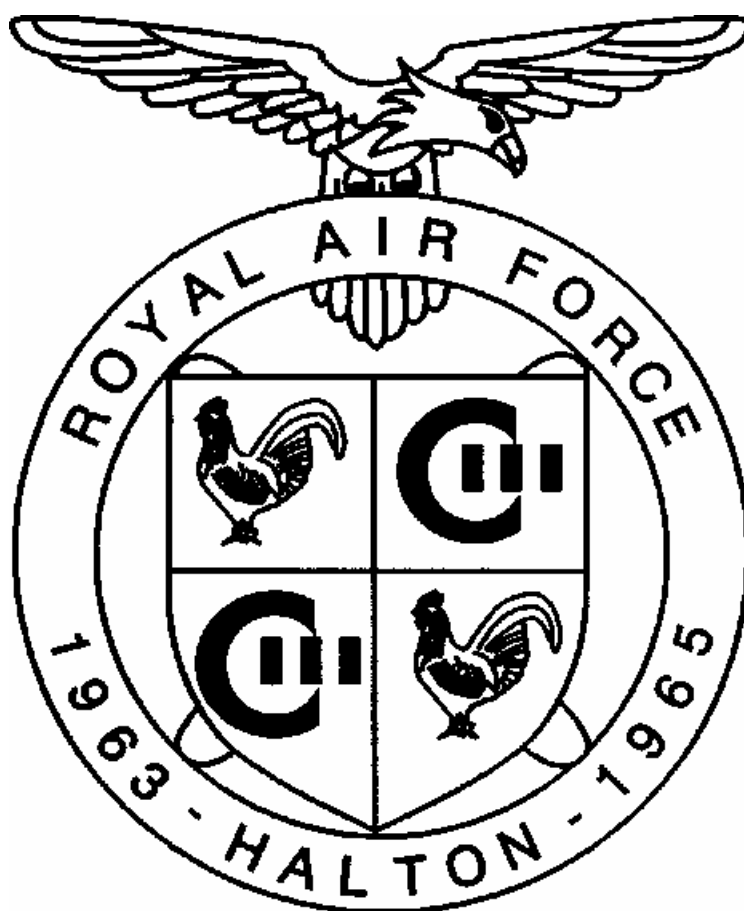


103rd Entry Association Newsletter



No. 19

May 2001

Editor: MHF Watts

Editorial

It seems like a long time since our last newsletter, and it is. Since September last year, we have enjoyed another reunion bash at Stratford and have seen our window dedicated in St George's Church, Halton.

Successful though the reunion was, it didn't go unnoticed that more of us attended 'church parade' than did the reunion. Is this a sign of our advancing years or something else? Either way, both events have ensured that the Committee have had a busy 12 months. Many thanks to all who have supported our efforts and a special thanks go to all those members who took the trouble to write with their comments and also those who made donations to the window appeal.

So what events have we now to look forward to?

The first is the RAFHAAA AGM at RAF Halton. Not one of our more popular venues, but I'm sure that the 103rd will be represented as usual.

June 30th is the date for our next Committee meeting. We had hoped to combine this with the above AGM, but couldn't get our diaries synchronised. We also tried to change the venue to Henley-on-Thames where Mick Woodhouse pursues a sober career in the dark. No doubt the reference to Mushroom Airways on his CV had some impact.

September sees the RAFHAAA Triennial at RAF Halton. Always a good turnout and old friends from other entries. As will be seen from Committee minutes below, we are trying to see if we can get something organised for the evening of the 22nd September. Our Chairman has a growing interest in the oriental, so a Thai evening is proposed. Please let Les know if you're interested in coming along.

MHFW

Reunion - 11th November 2000

Although numbers were a little down on our previous reunion, a thoroughly grand evening was had by all. Another success which raised £603 from our auction and raffle, as follows:

Raffle-£160

Auction - £443

- -Car Badge, Gerald Miller (£125)
- -Art Work, Mo Eades (£103)
- -Shield, Bob Proctor (£40)
- -Lanyard, Barry Neal (£25) (Trying to push up the bidding doesn't always work!!)
- -Narrow Boat, Pete Slawson (£150)

Bob Proctor said that he would add £25 if anyone could come up with a pair of Entry cufflinks, but as far as I know, he is still waiting.

For those who can get access to the web, John Dillon has posted some of Chris Wales's photos of the event. See www.103rd-Entry.org.uk/, which is our new web address.

Window Dedication - 14th January 2001

On Sunday, January 14th, 2001 we had the dedication service for our Entry window in St George's church, RAF Halton. We had an excellent turnout, including wives, and many younger family members. All in all, about 60 of us.

It was cold day (no snow on the ground like January 1963), but very bright, so the window could be seen to good effect with the sun coming through. Everyone was very well pleased with the end result, and there was a hint of a suggestion that we thought it was the best one_, there! Well, we would, wouldn't we?

Most of those attending met up in Halton House for coffee before moving to the Church. There was a certain hesitation by some at the thought of volunteering for another 'church parade', but this was overcome manfully. The event in the church was very relaxed. Min Larkin made an appeal for those not already members of the RAHAAA to please join, Bob Mawson showed that he is human by blushing as fingers were pointed. Barry Neal read the lesson, Les Shardlow gave a few words on the Entry, Chris Wales gave a brief history of the window design and the vicar didn't make us sinners feel too uncomfortable a chance to meet up with

A group photo was taken with Gerry Miller's new digital camera and now can be seen on our web site. The photo was taken outside the old schools building. A second photo, also from Gerry, shows the window in place. John Dillon has also posted his contributions on-^ the site.

After the 'church parade' and the group photo session, we all moved off to the RAFA Club on the old airfield for a buffet lunch and another "do you remember when " session. This was punctuated by another Mawson demonstration, which proved again that someone managed to clone our nearest animal relation back in 1963! After wolfing the sandwiches, off to the Trenchard Museum to see their collection of Apprentice memorabilia. All in all a good day, and a permanent reminder in St George's of the 103rd Entry.

JD

Dates for your Diary: 6 th June 2001 - RAFHAAA AGM, RAF Halton
30(h June 2001 - 103rd Entry Committee Meeting, King's Head, Aylesbury?
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Longhand Letter from Mick Woodhouse

A couple of things that might help you when you are compiling the Entry newsletter.

Firstly, I mentioned the Committee request for a wine tasting session in the wine-mine to Richard Sandford, my employer, he readily agreed. I think that this would be best left until the early autumn as at the moment we are anticipating quite an upheaval in our trading methods, with new types of customers, supply, storage etc. Both the young ladies, one of whom, with me, would conduct the tasting are presently doing their courses which don't finish until May. Then comes summer when people want to be outdoors rather than underground.

I imagine we could accommodate up to about eighteen people and I think that it would have to be early on a ^-Thursday evening as we all have to travel several miles

get here. Those willing to attend will have to let us know so that I can distribute maps (the mine is difficult to find!).

Since our last meeting, I have been lucky in recruiting a crew to go sailing with me in Greece, in May. Of the three, two are complete strangers to me, and two have no boating experience whatsoever. However, we are all very excited and looking forward to a good holiday together.

My 'network' is beginning to work. I have another Volunteer to go next spring, but I'm also hoping to go to Greece or Turkey in October, but as yet no companions. If any of our members fancy it or know anybody who might, please get in touch.

Also, I started my typing course this week, but still find it easier to write (using a pen). I think I probably need another three year apprenticeship, rather than just two hours a week for fifteen weeks!

The turnout at Halton and more 'newly found' members is encouraging, hope it continues.

MW

Another Letter from Mrs Bromley

Thank you very much for the invitation to the Dedication Service. I am very sorry that I was unable to reply to it and that I was unable to attend.

I have been out to New Zealand for 3 months, had a very good flight both ways on Singapore Airlines. The weather was lovely and it was good to see Christopher and family. I don't like the weather here.

I have had a very busy year. I became a Great Nan, Diane's two daughters both had a daughter. Also had a wedding, a christening and an eighteenth

birthday. I also celebrated my 80th birthday with the family. They are all well.

I send best wishes to you and all 103rd.

Ginge

Mick's Saga continues (typed this time!):

Thanks for the minutes of the last meeting. I didn't realise that I had just joined the Committee. I thought that I was only there for the beer, but never mind, I'll just have to keep my eyes open when the next jobs get dished out!

I asked Debbie, my colleague who I would like to do the wine tasting for us, if she was available on the 30th June, but unfortunately she is away that weekend practising her amateur dramatics. She would be the best person to do it as she left the RAF last year to join us and is just finishing her wine course and taking on wine selling as part of her job. The experience would also be good for her.

Unfortunately, the 'wine-mine'¹ is not a suitable place for a committee meeting on its own, it has no facilities, not even enough chairs, so I think the wine tasting would be best left until one evening in the autumn. Perhaps I could persuade Debbie to give up her Saturday evening after the Halton Triennial Reunion on the 22nd September.

MW

ps I am now looking for a fourth and possibly fifth person to join me on another of my sailing flotilla holidays in October. Maybe another space-filler in the next newsletter for you Malcolm! (Thanks - Ed)

Notes from Committee Meeting, Saturday 9th December at the King's Head, Aylesbury

Present: JD, BN, CJW, MHFW, BP, LS, LG

Apologies: NS, KB

1. Bob Proctor has joined the Committee - welcome Bob.
2. CJW's window report: Almost complete, to be fitted by end of week 15th December. Window insurance to be checked with HAAA. CJW to compile list of those who donated money for the window, present a copy of the window design to the Falcon and get 3rd/4th payments sorted with NS asap.
3. Reunion well received and many positive comments. Auction /raffle raised £603. LS/NS to complete accounts and monies due from auction.

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4. BP reported that the original plaque was not handed over after the Reunion. BP to contact Falcon.
5. Window Dedication -
BN reported that the Dedication Day would start at approx. 10.30am at the Halton Officers' Mess, where Min Larkin of the HAAA would run a tour of the house. Then:
12.00 - Dedication Service (combined with normal service)
13.00 - Buffet lunch at the RAFA Club and on to Halton Museum on No2 Wing Square.
Proposed that Entry fund pay for lunch was carried. NS to note. Fund also to be prepared to pay any other costs associated with the dedication.
CJW to invite the window builder to the Service.
BN to co-ordinate all activities for the Dedication.
LG to place advert in RAF News, 11th December.
LG to send email to all members requesting their presence.
MHFW to send letter to rest with same details.
BN to get costs for lunch from RAFA.
6. Website - JD to invoice NS for costs of website.
7. Many members had requested that the Reunion be brought down to a 3 year cycle instead of the current 5. As the RAFHAAA reunion is at a 3 yearly interval it would seem logical to combine a mini-reunion at this event along with a few beers at the King's Head and keep the main one at 5 years. MHFW to canvass opinion from the membership via the newsletter. The next HAAA reunion is Saturday 22nd September 2001. Event to be discussed at the next meeting.
8. Next meeting at Officers' Mess, RAF Bentley Priory on 31st March. Pass car details to BN.

LG

Notes from Committee Meeting, Saturday 31st March at the Officers' Mess, RAF Bentley Priory

Present: BN CJW.MHFW, BP, NS, KB, MW, LG

Apologies: JD, LS (got lost!)

1. Mick Woodhouse has joined the Committee D welcome Mick.
2. The Secretary proposed a vote of thanks to Barry Neal and Chris Wales for the hard work they put into making a great success of the Dedication Day.
3. NS presented the accounts for the Reunion and Dedication. These were accepted by the Committee. Copy attached.

4. NS to transfer the majority of money in the Current account back into the Savings account.
5. LS, Have you written to the RAFHAAA thanking them for the day?
6. Halton Triennial is on Saturday 22 Sept 2001. LG has canvassed the membership directly after the Dedication to see if there was an interest in a function in Aylesbury after the reunion. One reply received ! MHFW to retry in the next newsletter (hopefully by the end of this month) to see if the added attraction of a Thai night will rouse any interest. LS will proudly show off his turbo Wok!
7. Next meeting, 30 June, venue TBD. MW to advise.

LG

Treasurer's Report - 27th March 2001

Summary:

Balance Current a/c as of 10/7/00	£622.04
Balance Savings a/c as of 10/11/00	£1,481.03
Closing balance, Current	£1,192.17
Closing balance, Savings	£681.52
Total of closing balances	£1,873.69

Total Costs to Entry funds of Reunion and Window Dedication = £229.38

NS

Lost & Found

You may remember the plea made by Jan Morgan in the last newsletter, to find Ron Anderson. Anyway, Ron has been found. No more details.

Change of Address, Phone Email etc

Colin Frame phoned, being a tin basher he has no email. He says that his telephone number given in the last newsletter is incorrect. It should read: 01253-723303

Jeff Lloyd, Senior Account Manager
Tel: 07798 858604
Fax: 01952401974
e-mail jeff.lloyd@global-crossing.co.uk
Find out more about Global Crossing at:
<http://www.uk.globalcrossing.com>

Ian N A Sturges (please note one 's' at end of name)
56 Sandhurst Avenue

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North Woodingdean
BRIGHTON
BN2 6NG
East Sussex
home number: 01273 309070
work number: 01273 365265 mobile: (no thanks)
email: ian_sturges@yahoo.co.uk
or work email: ins@mm-brig.mottmac.com

John Carhart has recently moved.
His new e mail address is:
admin@fsm.co.za
and postal address is: 4 Deane Crescent,
Northmead, Benoni 1501.

Been advised by HAA that Jess Myers has surfaced.
His address is:
Blinco Road, Rushden, Northants NN10 0DT

Brian & Yvonne Lee have moved to:
"Omaha House", London Road, Ipswich,
Suffolk IP20SS
Tel No 01473 686966
Fax No 01473 686969
The email remains the same

Pete Slawson's mail is still arriving via Springfield
Farm so we must presume he hasn't told you his
new address! - after 2.5 years so.....!
Elms Cottage, 88 Woodville Rd, Hartshorne,
Swadlincote, Derbys DE11 7EX
Tel 01283 229718
Mob 07980 264517

Received a note that Paul Kettle no longer lives at
Boscombe Down and no forwarding address is
available.

Please note that Geoff Barber's email address has
changed to: geoffrey.barber1@btinternet.com

Malcolm Watts has moved to:
94 Quennevais Park, St Brelade, Jersey JE3 *GD

Interested?

If any of you have had holidays on Crete, or have
any interest in military history, have a look at a new
site John Dillon has just built,
www.crete-1941.org.uk Keeps him interested on
those cold winter afternoons!
Tel: 01933 392577

And finally:

We need feedback on whether our reunion should
be held ever 3 or 5 years. Don't forget to let Les
know in the usual way.

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

<http://homepages.tesco.net/~john.dillon1/>
or the new address at: <http://www.103rd-entry.org.uk>

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

Or

If you have moved recently or are aware of anyone
who has recently moved, please get in touch with
me as usual.

MHFW

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