

103rd Entry Association



Newsletter

No. 20
July 2001

Editor: Bob Procter



Editorial

Malcolm has had to relinquish the editorship of your newsletter for personal reasons and as he said in the last issue, he has moved to Jersey.

Thank you Malcolm, and I know I speak for all of us, for all the hard work you have put in over the last 10 or so years with both the newsletter and your work on the committee - it has helped enormously to keep us all in touch. How about a committee meeting in Jersey once in a while?

So, who is the new editor responsible for putting out the next letter before you have had time to digest all that was in the last one?

It is-

Bob Procter
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Lytham St. Annes
Lanes. FY8 3AE
Tel: 01253711021
Email: bobp@cyberscape.net

Please send your letters, articles, comments, news, appeals, pleas, change of address, adverts etc. etc to me in any form you wish, Email, snail mail (long hand or typed) or even over the phone.

Not long now to the September RAFHAAA Triennial at RAF Halton and for those of you who may have mislaid the application form I have added a copy to this newsletter and in A4 for those of us who wear specs, even LG had to do this to read the thing! Send it off now!

It is with sadness that my first editorial also has to record the death of Ken Bum who was at our reunion last year.

RWP

A memory of 'Kennuff' by Geoff Barber

It was with great sadness that I read the news of Kennuffs death. We "lived" together during our internment at Halton and shared many good experiences. He had a knack with bulling boots, something I was never very successful at. We were both in the brass band and I remember on one occasion we had just formed up (Finsbury Park, I think) for the Lord Mayor's Parade when Ken announced to us all that he needed to go to the loo. Too late I'm afraid as the off was given. Ken had to march and play his B flat bass with full bladder for the first half, some four miles, until we got a break. There was a rush for the nearest gents, as I'm sure you can imagine. As I completed my ablutions I glanced across at Ken who had gone red in the face and was mumbling expletives under his breath. He looked over and said, "I can't ***** wee." Relief did come eventually.

A small memory. My condolences to his family.

STOP PRESS

NEXT REUNION 40th ANNIVERSARY BASH

WHEN 18th JANUARY 2003
WHY 40 YEARS SINCE ATTESTATION
WHERE THE KINGS HEAD, AYLESBURY
DRESS INFORMAL

For more early details see the minutes of the last committee meeting below.

Letters

From Malcolm

Due to a change in circumstances, I will be finding difficult to attend future meetings, including this weekend.

Do we have any volunteers to give a fresh look to the newsletter. Bob Procter did express an interest! It's about time that someone with (maybe) more time could make it look more professional. If no takers - I will carry on.

(Will change the format etc. for the next issue - Ed)

More on The Window from Dave Lomas

I presume that because your last newsletter was sent to RAF Waddington the GPO did not deliver to you my letter posted last November informing you of my 'new' address. New is in inverted commas

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because I have actually lived here for ten years but as you can probably guess I finally retired from the RAF last November.

Also included in the last letter was a donation to the Entry Window which I cannot trace in my bank account records.

Let me know if you didn't receive the cheque and if not is it too late for a belated donation?

An update from Bob Procter

Well since I'm now your editor and I did promise Malcolm an item for the newsletter, which I never did manage to do, I had better do it now. My last offering to the newsletter was some 10 years ago now and in that time many things have changed in my life.

For a start I took early retirement from BAE Systems Warton under the redundancy scheme and as luck would have it the date coincided with my 55th birthday just over a year ago. So now I'm a gentleman of leisure although I do some voluntary work, this for instance and I am also an active member of the PlaneMakers Credit Union at Warton manning the office on Friday mornings, so I still keep in touch with what's happening at Warton. Believe it or not a few weeks ago I was approached by Electrical Planning at Warton offering me a job - I declined. During the last 10 years of my working life I've helped to develop the electrical build of the boxes and panels for the development aircraft of Eurofighter and looked after all the electrical tooling for the whole site, calibration and purchase etc. Les Garden used to pay me the odd visit too and I also kept in touch with Alan Collard who is at BAE Samlesbury and still bump into Colin Frame in the supermarket. More in the next issue.

Articles

The Hump Back Bridge

Do you remember when.....

We were taken down to the airfield on double decker buses?

Do you remember the drive from Main Point down Chestnut Parallel?

Remember what happened just before we got to the right hand bend at the bottom of Chestnut Parallel?

Yes, that's right, the NCO apprentice in charge of the bus used to shout "Everybody to the left" as the bus turned into the bend. The old bus used to lean quite

dangerously and the driver would struggle to control it. After the bend he had to negotiate the next hazard - the hump back bridge. Just before the bridge, the order was given "everybody up". We all stood up and waited..... As the bus was on the apex of the

bridge, the order came "Down". Everybody sat down at the same time the object being to ground the bottom of the bus on the bridge!! Good game!!

Do you remember the day it backfired and we were met as we got off the buses and had to push the Vulcan back 3-4feet!! Not such a good game!!

When I went back to Halton some 20 odd years later as a Master Engineer taking a course of ab-initio Flight Engineers to ground run the Argosy, the Vulcan long gone by this time, all the above came flooding back to me as we went from Main Point down Chestnut Parallel. When we went through Halton village and got to the airfield I suddenly realised - no hump back bridge! The road was dead flat, where had the bridge gone to and why?

Back to the present and in the last year I have become very interested in narrow boating along the canals especially the Oxford, which is quite a good introduction to it. My children bought me an annual subscription to one of the magazines and idly flicking through the July edition I came across an article on the Wendover Arm of the Aylesbury Canal. Didn't know there was one, did you!!

Well, yes there is. It is six miles long and was built as a branch of the Grand Union canal opening in 1799 thereby linking the small market town of Wendover to the canal system and onto London. By the early twentieth century, it was leaking water away from the Grand Union and it was allowed to fall into dereliction. Now there is a restoration programme being coordinated by the Wendover Arm Trust, its aim being to reopen the full length of the Inland Waterways Arm. The Trust aim to do the project in three phases. With the help of volunteers, financial grants from the Association and the proceeds from the annual Tring Canal Festival! they are about two years away from the completion of Phase 1 - Tringford Stop Lock to Little Tring. Phase 2 shouldn't be too difficult from Little Tring to Aston Clinton. It is dry and volunteers have already started to remove vegetation. Both these sections will soon be ready to receive a new, modern lining, which, when laid, should stop the canal leaking - the cause of its closure. Phase 3, the, long term objective, will see the last four miles restored to Wendover. There is only one major obstacle on the - the lowered road bridge in Halton village!

We may yet see the return of The Hump Back Bridge!

Ken Bannister

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Minutes

NOTES OF A COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
103rd ENTRY ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE
KINGS HEAD, AYLESBURY 30 JUNE 2001

Present: BP, KB, MW, LS, LG

Apologies: JD, MFHW, BN, NS, CJW

1. A card was signed by the committee for Ken Burn's family, also the remembrance of Ken by Geoff Barber was also passed on to his family.
2. A proposal to send a donation of £25 on behalf of the Entry to Ken's family nominated charity was approved - see address in JD mail informing us of Ken's death: Action NS
3. Proposed that the Entry Fund contribute towards the Whittle Memorial Window which is being sponsored by the 86th to the sum of £25. LG to advise NS of details for the cheque.
4. For those of you who read his newsletter, you will have seen that MFHW has moved to Jersey and therefore has requested that he be relieved of the newsletter. A volunteer was found in Bob P -MFHW/BP to liaise direct on handover etc.
5. Next reunion. It was decided to run a 40th Anniversary Bash on the 18 Jan 2003. Venue - The Kings Head, Aylesbury. Format - informal buffet / celebration.

Actions for above:

LS - Costs / details of hotels/guesthouses in Aylesbury for period 17-19 Jan or 18/19 Jan/ music. LG - Liaise with HAAA for Church/museum to be opened.

BP - Advertise in newsletter to go out before end July 2001

CJW - Look at providing transparencies of the window to decorate rooms.

L S has stated that he should be able to provide an all inclusive price for buffet and drinks for the Bash. Fund also to look at what subsidy we can put towards members costs. 103 Entry Beer will also be on sale. CJW to provide LS with details of badge so that a suitable placard can be added to the beer pump.. This function will be known as the "40th Anniversary Bash"
JD to put on home page of website.

This is not a complete list of actions as these will evolve as the planning goes along.

6. Meetings - the chairman proposed that meeting frequency should be reviewed and it was agreed to reduce to 3 per year. Also dates of meetings for the next two years to be published so that all are aware of when, venue to be decided at previous meeting. Therefore dates for meetings are as follows:
22 Sept 2001 – (TriennialHalton) - 8 Dec 2001 -
20 Apr 2002 - 21 Sept 2002 - 7 Dec 2002 - 19
Apr 2003 - 20 Sept 2003

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Post meeting thought on Ken Burn. Having looked at the websites of various entries, they have a page dedicated to the memory of those who have died - thoughts please John.

LG

Following the meeting LG received the following Email from Min Larkin - Deputy Chairman of RAFHAAA in respect item 3 of the minutes. (Ed)

"Dear Les, Thanks for your offering to contribute to the Whittle Window. Please make your cheque payable to "HAAA". Write on the reverse "Whittle Window Fund". Regards Min"

Change of address

Dave Lomas
40, Dore Avenue
North Hykeham
Lincoln LN6 8LW

Tel: 01522881683

And Finally

For those who receive this newsletter through the letterbox rather than electronically - have I got your postal address correct including the postcode? Dig out the envelope and check. If it is incorrect in any way please let me know.

RWP