



## 103<sup>rd</sup> Entry Association

Issue 31  
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# Newsletter

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## Editor's comments & Editorial

*Hello Everyone,*

As you have no doubt read in the Committee Meeting Minutes (You have haven't you?) that I have taken over from Chris Wales as the editor of our Newsletter. A difficult act to follow and I am sure you will all join me in thanking him for his outstanding work in getting the Newsletter up and running and presented in such a professional manner. From here on in it can only go downhill, but I will do my best to continue the same standard at least.

For myself I have now retired completely from regular work, but do remain registered as a Chartered Safety Practitioner and a

Quality Auditor and do from time to time take on projects if I find them interesting, the fees are good, they don't interfere with my holidays and it is not too cold outside.

Yvonne and I continue to retreat to our home in Florida whenever possible and of course Yvonne's homeland of Malaysia (Penang to be precise) where we catch up with family and of course our friends from the entry from that neck of the woods.

In common with my predecessor I will no doubt have problems getting articles and contributions for this Newsletter and I would ask that you sort out

any old photos you might have or a memory you are willing to share with us all.

Send anything for inclusion into the Newsletter to me either by e-mail or by letter if you prefer. It doesn't have to be RAF related; maybe you have had an interesting experience or hobby you care to share with us.

See the back page for where to send your article, comment or memories.

BGL

## Dates for your Diary

### **Next Committee Meetings:-**

5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> June 2010 – At either CJWs or on Steamboat Alaska - 11:00hrs.

11<sup>th</sup> December 2010 at LSs in Aylesbury.

### **Proposed Mini reunion after next Triennial HAAA at Halton**

25<sup>th</sup> September 2010 details in this newsletter (Page 4 )

### **Next Entry event**

May/June 2013 at Halton Grove, Armed Forces Memorial at the National Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffs

### **'Tribute to the V-Force'**

To be hosted by Newark Air Museum on April 24 & 25, 2010 at its site on the Winthorpe Showground Nr Newark

*It is always pleasing to receiving an article from an entry member; the following was given to the editor by Les Garden (Electrician) and probably **reflects** what we are all seeking now. Thanks Les and may this be the start of many adventures for you and Carole.*

## Retirement

Part 1 (Pt 2 in next Issue)

Once the decision to retire had been taken, the plan was to make it effective immediately to enable a switch off from the hassle. So Saturday 30 Aug saw us into the caravan and heading off to sunny Lincolnshire. Bit naive really as the weather was iffy. Still we managed to get set up with the awning dry. For those of you who have not had the pleasure of putting an awning up, it is one of those things that automatically invoke a man/woman argument. Still I survived without a hatchet in my head. We had camped at a site near Woodall Spa which is slap bang in the middle of the historical RAF –BBMF at Coningsby just down the road, the other Lancaster at East Kirkby a few miles the opposite way. The site itself had been part of a wartime camp – the gun butts were part of the toilet block. You could still see the bullet holes in the brickwork. We had visited this site in June as part of our last Entry Committee meeting and had the misfortune of hearing about my mother's death on the Sunday after the meeting which stopped our exploration of the area. Woodall Spa is also very historical – home of the Dam Busters with the 617 memorial in the village square and the Officers Mess at the Petworth Hotel – full of RAF

material and the only private house to be allowed to fly the RAF ensign.

We did the RAF historical round the old local airfields – Methringham, just a Nissen hut left but full of old bits and pieces. A place which is a must is the preserved airfield of East Kirkby. This is run by two old farmers whose brother died over Berlin. They have a ground running Lancaster (Just Jane) and this is a very impressive memorial – it is about people who lived and died in Bomber Command. A very worthwhile place to visit. We will go back and try to get there when the bomber is ground running – twice a week.



**Just Jane**

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We did Lincoln in and out of the castle and got caught at the bottom of Lincoln hill in a thunderstorm with no wet gear; this started the downhill trend of the weather to come. We managed to get over to see a friend from RAF days in Boston to have a barbeque between rain showers (as you do). Next day we met up again for a trip on his narrow boat. Something we both have wanted to do for some years so thanks for a very enjoyable day on the Witham. We both had a go at steering which in the strong cross wind was fun – no serious damage was done and we managed to get back without calling the RNLI! Thanks Ken.



**Ken with the barbie in the rain**

From Lincolnshire we headed up to a village called Knayton in North Yorks to a little site 2 miles from the village.

Again managed to get set up nearly dry with only a few bad words. This is a part of the world which we know very well. We got married into RAF Topcliffe and then had 5 years at Leeming where Andrew our no 2 son was born. We did a fair bit of walking again dodging the rain round the area and managed to fit in a few trips to the local pub, the Dog and Gun. This serves Black Sheep – very palatable ale and does plain good food. You do not get up after their Sunday roast.

Dog walking has become a way of life at least twice a day and the morning walks were taking on an interesting nature – there are no pheasants down our way and the dogs thought that these were their own special treats. Gracie would just disappear and end up near the top of the hill having chased pheasants and rabbits ad infinitum. Kept them quiet till the next walk!

Had a day in York because it was pouring and decided to do the National Railway Museum, quite impressive but I would advise anyone not to eat there, £8 for two teas and two small pieces of cake – worst rip off in the entire holiday. We have a couple of friends from our early days in Yorkshire who live in the next village so we spent some time with them and did a few more pubs !.



Knayton Site

Next in line was the long trip up the A1 to the Woods at Alloa to see my old man. Again we got set up with only a few cuss words and almost dry!

Since my mum died I had not been able to get up to see my dad so this was a time for family – mind you when dad said “I’m not going out so off you go ” did put a bit of a damper on things.

We did the usual Scottish thing with a visit to Glasgow where we had a curry injection. Very strange, Scotland’s curry houses are staffed by “natives” (Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi) who have a stronger Scottish accent than the locals. Wonderful curry though. Walking through the city we were treated to a live opera singer and then to wild hooligan music – 5 drummers and a piper giving it pure jock. Loads of local walking dodging the rain – wet dog is not a good idea in close confines of a caravan.

We had a trip up to the Broch (Fraserburgh) and Aberdeen to see my cousin and Carole’s sister, long day but we walked the dogs along

the Broch beach – this was my stomping ground pre RAF so was a trip into the past. Can still find my way through the various farm tracks as well!

We decided to go to Pitlochry Highland games on the Saturday – as usual, it was raining on and off. We stopped at Killikrankie and walked down the pass – really good and very scenic. We thought that it would tire the dogs out but ..... no chance.



Carole and dogs at Killikrankie

WE WILL CONTINUE WITH THE ADVENTURES OF LES AND CAROLE IN THE NEXT ISSUE

For those amongst us who receive this Newsletter in Electronic form click on these links for some relevant videos

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8GByrfoCiE>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ChaDHdN2xx0>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUDXqeme534>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctFDbjFwWeo>

And for those who receive it in hard print, you could ask your grandkids for help

It is a wise man who talks with an 80 year old and an 8 year old before making a decision

## Notice

It has been suggested that The Entry hold a Mini Reunion in the Aylesbury area after the Triennial Reunion at Halton on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2010... The Committee needs your views on this and an indication of those likely to attend, it would be very informal and not subsidised by Entry Funds, but none the less a good opportunity to catch up with old mates and chew the fat a bit.

Contributions, mail or abuse about the Newsletter to  
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### **Entry website**

<http://www.103rdentry.org.uk/>

### **Committee Members:**

*Les Shardlow, Les Garden, Chris Wales, Barry Neal  
Ken Bannister, Malcolm Watts, Mick Woodhouse, Brian Lee.*

**The next Issue of the newsletter will be during October 2010,  
Deadline for contributions is 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010**