

Royal Air Force Administrative Apprentice Association

"MULTUM A PARVO"

Web Address: www.rafadappassn.org



Newsletter No 100 December 2014



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Your Association President, Chairman and all members of the Committee wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous and, above all, a Healthy 2015



ASSOCIATION NEWS

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

This is a **reminder** for all members that 2015 membership subscriptions are due on 1 January 2015. However, no need to wait until then - cheques can be sent to the Treasurer whenever convenient. Also, members can pay for more than one year. For members paying by cheque: cheques for £10.00 for each year payable to "RAF Administrative Apprentice Association" should be sent to the Treasurer - Garry Hoyland, Bourts House, The Bourts, Lydbrook, Gloucester, GL17 9QB **OR** if you wish to subscribe by Standing Order please contact Garry.

ANNUAL AGM AND REUNION 2015

The 2015 AGM and Reunion will be held at the Swindon Marriott Hotel over the weekend 12/13/14 June 2015. Full details were contained in the last Newsletter. A Booking Form for the Reunion is included with this Newsletter: please return your form to our Social Secretary, Bryan Hoare, by 31 Jan 2015. Room half-board prices have been agreed at £67 per person per night with a £15 per night single occupancy supplement. In addition a discount of 35% has been negotiated on all bar prices throughout the weekend.

REUNION 2014 FEEDBACK

The Chairman has received feedback from three members about our annual reunion and he would welcome more from other members. Please can he have your feedback? Are you happy with the quality and location of chosen venues and does the hotel meet your expectations? Would you prefer a different time of year? Are you satisfied with the service provided by the hotel? Is the programme of events satisfactory? Should we continue with the Ladies outing? Can we improve the Reunion weekend in any way? Your views are welcome on all aspects of the Reunion weekend. If you have any comments or suggestions would you please send them to the Chairman either by email to chairman@rafadappassn.org, by post to his home address or by telephone to 01933 443673.

REUNION 2014 PHOTOGRAPHS

So far we have received very few photographs taken at the Peterborough Reunion for inclusion on the website. If you have any photographs taken at the Reunion which you would like to share with the membership please e-mail them to Alan Bell, the website manager, on administrator@rafadappassn.org or send them by post to the Chairman. All photos sent by post will be returned.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

For personal reasons, I will not be standing for re-election as Newsletter Editor at the June 2015 AGM. This is a plea for someone to come forward **now** and volunteer to replace me at that time, thus allowing a period during which, together, an efficient hand-over can be accomplished. The work in this post is both enjoyable and fulfilling. Please contact me (see Newsletter heading for contact details). Your Association needs **YOU!**

Pete Ralph (46th)

CENOTAPH REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE



Association members participating in the march past at the Cenotaph in London on Remembrance Sunday

NEW MEMBER

8000973 **Graham Goddard** (317th): 01355 523782:
elizagram@btinternet.com: East Kilbride, S Lanarkshire

RESIGNATION

592700 **Chris Wilmott** (16th)

AMENDMENTS TO MEMBERS DETAILS

John White (13th): jow1935@supanet.com
Colin Croucher (17th): ccroucher1@cogeco.ca
Jeff Short (37th): jeff21@btconnect.com
Ron Muggleton (38th): r.a.l.muggleton@sky.com
Mike Frank (42nd): mike_frank2@hotmail.com
Mick Johnston (301st): mjohnston1923@gmail.com
John Turner (313th): janetjohn1b@outlook.com

R.I.P.

It is with sorrow that we have learned of the death of the following members:

592324 **Peter Pendlebury** (4th)
592887 **Michael Gardiner** (20th)

and of the following non-member:

595556 **Robin (Bob) Curson** (308th)

The Association extends its condolences to all family and friends.

OBITUARIES

PETER PENDLEBURY (5TH) 1932-2014

Peter joined the Admin Apps School at St Athan in 1948 and was a well-respected member of the 5th Entry – training as a Clerk GD. We lived in D24 with other members – Bill Huggins, Jim Wilcox, John Pack, Alan Milestone and others. We passed out at Easter 1950 and went our separate ways – not for long however as Peter, Stan Walton and myself found ourselves at 2 S of TT Hereford as Instructors. An intake of 40 people arrived after a couple of weeks and two courses were formed – I had the 'A' Course of 19 airmen and one airwoman and Peter had 20 airmen. Two weeks later ACW Jones, the WRAF trainee was transferred to Peter's course as we had started walking out together and our Supervisor was not happy about it. At interim exams however, the failures of both courses were recourse and I was given the remainder – including ACW Jones – no-one in authority noticed. Sylvia Jones and I married in 1953, Stan Walton was our best man and Peter our Guest of Honour. Whilst at Hereford in 1952, I bought an ex-WD motorcycle and after only a week's rider experience decided with Pete Pendlebury to go to London for the week-end – we took off the 'L' plates on the bike and off we went. On the Oxford bypass I, through inexperience, pulled in front of a lorry and nearly killed both of us. Peter said he would go back to Hereford on the train – but come the Sunday however we had no money so he had to return on the bike. We got back safely and shortly afterwards Peter and Stan applied for overseas service and went off to France. Sylvia and I next had the pleasure of meeting Peter and his wife Yvonne when Peter passed out of his commissioning course at RAF Feltwell. We were stationed nearby at Mildenhall and Sylvia looked after Peter's first-born whilst Yvonne attended the passing-out parade. We then did not cross paths for some time – Pete and Yvonne went to Yorkshire and Sylvia and I to Singapore. After I left the Service in 1972 I officiated at a European Cup tie in Malta between Malta and Greece and was interviewed by BFBS. Pete, who was in hospital in Malta at the time, heard the interview, got in touch and we caught up with our news. Peter finished his service in Yorkshire as a Sqn Ldr and Sylvia and I had the pleasure of meeting both Peter and Yvonne several times at reunions. The world will be a poorer place at Peter's passing and Sylvia and I and his friends in the 5th Entry will miss him greatly.
Don Burlingham (5th)

REUNION

302nd ENTRY SUPP/GEN

302 Entry Supp/Gens are hosting a reunion on 6th January 2015 at The Three Counties Hotel in Hereford. We have contacted as many as we can find, but...there are a lot more. We have a Facebook page (302 entry supply) that will furnish all details. Or contact me on: graiqxmasevent@hotmail.com or 01633 894052.
Steve Murray (302nd)

REGIONAL GROUP NEWS

CYPRUS (TWO MEETINGS!)



1. There was another meeting of the Cyprus Group held at Avdimou Beach on Monday 15th September, and 50% of the membership were in attendance. Ben Casey had to call off at the last minute which was a pity and we haven't heard from Brian Granville for a long time. I don't even know if he is still on the island or not. Again there was a strong wind blowing and we had to sit at the side of the restaurant to avoid the sand being blown around. There weren't too many people out in the open either or they would have been sand-blasted. We had a light lunch and a few beers and it was all extremely civilised. Quite a few people in the restaurant but it was very pleasant to sit and natter about old times and crazy politicians, etc. Nothing changes really. As Dave is going to be away in December we decided that the next meeting, and the last one this year, would be held on the last Monday in November - 24th - at The Captains Bay in Pissouri at the usual time of 1230 to 1300. Again, if anyone is going to be on the island at that time and wishes to join us then they will be most welcome.

2. Today saw the quarterly meeting of the Cyprus Group which was held at the Captain's Bay Restaurant in Pissouri Bay on 24th November. This is the last meeting of this year. The meeting was brought forward to accommodate those of us who will be away in December. All the remaining members were present and the mandatory photograph is attached. Not too much discussion about old times today but politicians of all hues came into focus which provided great interest and much laughter, plus another couple of theories on the disappearance of the Malaysian aircraft. We had a good meal and a couple of the usual beers and wondered about possibly increasing our company by including any other ex-AAs or ex-BEs who may be on the island. I intend to put a note in to the RAFA magazine to this effect and also to possibly put a note into the local magazines out here. We will see what happens!! The day was bright, and very warm out of the wind, hence the windcheaters in the photograph. I think that both Dave and Ben were heading into some wet weather as they returned to Limassol. We discussed future meetings for 2015 and agreed to meet on the following dates at the locations shown:

Mon March 2nd: Captains Bay, Pissouri: 1230

Mon June 8th: Kyrenia Restaurant, Avdimou Beach: 1230

Mon Sept 7th: Kyrenia Restaurant, Avdimou Beach: 1230

Mon Dec 7th: Captains Bay, Pissouri: 1230

Anyone visiting Cyprus at these times will be more than welcome but should contact me to confirm that the meeting will take place as we do change venues and timings to suit the situation. Everyone here in Cyprus wishes everyone who is an Ex- AA a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ray Burrow (29th)

Contact: raymondo@logosnet.cy.net /
(00357) 99-303572 or (00357) 26 621662.

DORSET



The Dorset Group of the RAFAAA met at the RNLI College in West Quay Road, Poole on Saturday 22 Nov 14. The bar overlooks Holes Bay in Poole Harbour and is open to members of the public. Those present were Tony Peters (34th), John Gent (14th), Tony Richards (14th), Peter Reed (30th) and Shay Foley (46th). The next meeting will be on 21 Feb 15 at the Heights Hotel, Portland. Dress is casual - 12.30 for 1300.

Shay Foley (46th)

Contact: heights73@talktalk.net / 01202 631652

NORTHERN IRELAND



John Davies (303rd), Pat Wedlock (12th) and Steve Ings (317th)

RAFAAA Members (complete with regulation tie) are pictured at the reception held following the Annual Northern Ireland Battle of Britain Parade and Church Service which took place at the Joint Helicopter Command Flying Station Aldergrove on Sunday, 21 September 2014.

John Davies (303rd)

Contact: johnanddorothydaves@btinternet.com / 02892 611045

SOUTH-WEST HERTS



L to R: Haydn Illingworth (21st), George Masson (29th), Brian Scott (32nd), Pete Ralph (46th), Jack Marshall (56^R), Tony Parsons (19th), Ken Roost (1st), John Forshaw (20th), Steve Sanders (307th), Derek Ennis (37thBE – Guest), Phil Gough (31st)

The quarterly parade of the SW Herts Group was at the Bentley Priory Battle of Britain museum. (Apologies were received from Peter Moir (17th), Ron Anders (29th), Pete Forster (29th), John Bell (31st) and Mike McCrow (36th).) (Noel Hayes (31st) was present but not in the photo) Haydn Illingworth (21st) welcomed us in his Volunteer Guide role, and we were able to see the beautiful transformation in décor and excellent new exhibits since our last visit when it was still in the early stage of setting up. After a short film and coffee on the café terrace in bright autumn sunshine we made the short trip to the Three Crowns for lunch, natter and photograph thanks to Debbie of the bar staff. The occasion was the anniversary of our founder Trevor Moore (15th) decamping to Cornwall. It was so much enjoyed that we resolved to have an annual trip of relevant interest in addition to our quarterly meet. Next meeting at the Three Crowns on Saturday 7th February 2015. The SW Herts Group wishes all ex-Apprentices a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Phil Gough (31st)

Contact: pgough@ntlworld.com / 01923 466956

GLOUCESTER AREA LUNCHEONS



L to R: Mike Day (38th), Dave Spicer (27th), George Masson (29th), Brian Kent (28th), Bill Huggins (5th), Tom Worsfold (5th), Peter Hoyte (42nd), Ian Clark (53^R), Jim Wilcox (5th), Brian Yost (22nd)

The area luncheon was held on Tuesday 21st October 2014 at Seven Springs which is just down from the Birdlip Hill roundabout. Our usual venue, The Royal George, at Birdlip was unavailable as it was under refurbishment. The turnout was an even dozen which included 2 ladies. There were 2 FTRs whom I will not mention by name as it may have been due to the weather, we were on the tail end of that hurricane (Gonzalo). Our company included our oldest member, Ian Clark from the 53^R Entry, who is a sprightly 93 year old! We were also yet again joined by George Masson of the 29th Entry who had come all the way from Northampton. As an alternative place to hold our reunions, the pub was fine and the meals were OK (very cheap). Our next meeting will be around March, when we will return to The Royal George. Please make contact if you wish to be included on future luncheons.

Mike Day (38th)

Contact: mikeday28@hotmail.com / 01993 841026

SPAIN



L to R::Frank Carroll (38th), Dave Squire (44th), Bill Laverick (30th), Allan Bacon (35th), Syd Avery (39th)

A larger gathering of the Spanish crew of the Association, together with their wives and friends, gathered in El Campello for our 6-monthly Lunch and Natter session. Attending were Dave and Sue Squire together with their friends Eddie and Marge, Alan and Judy Bacon, Syd Avery and his friend Rite, Bill Laverick and Pauline and Frank and Barbara Carroll. Unfortunately, our latest recruit, Roger Milsom (41st) was unable to attend. One aspect of these gatherings is the amount of travel time some members have to these functions – often around three hours to get to our equidistant point of El Campello; just shows how deep is the sense of camaraderie and friendship born from the times of our apprenticeships. Everybody had survived the very hot summer and was in good health bar the odd old men's medical issues such as prostate problems, skin cancer and so on. The joys of getting old! Participation in sporting activities throughout the year seemed to be a common theme of conversation, ranging from golf to cricket, but football appeared to be for the younger generation. Of course, as with any gathering of ex-Service personnel, this time enhanced by our guests, the land-based lamp was swung for a couple of hours as reminisces of past lives in the Forces were shared and past friends remembered. We shall be gathering again towards the end of March 2015, again in El Campello, which is situated between Alicante and Benidorm. Should any members be in the locality around that time you would be more than welcome to join us for Lunch and a Natter. Please contact me for further details.

Frank Carroll (38th)

Contact: notreve@shariah.org.uk

ARTICLES

BIRCHAM NEWTON

'H' BLOCKS

On a recent visit to Bircham Newton, I was surprised and disappointed to see the "H" Accommodation Blocks behind the parade ground were being demolished to make way for a private housing development and a sports complex for the Construction College (CC) students. Two have already been demolished and the remaining two will face the same fate later in the year. The CC considered they were too costly to refurbish for student accommodation.

TONY NELSON'S MODEL NORFOLK AIR FORCE

The Bircham Newton RAF Heritage Room recently opened specially in support of the Construction College for a charity event in aid of "Scotty's Little Heroes". One of the exhibitors was Mr Tony Nelson and his model Norfolk Air Force. The display included a 1/6th scale model of a Stirling Bomber MK III in the colours of 99 Sqn that took Peter 6570 hours to build. The Stirling has featured in an edition of The Antiques Road

Show which was screened earlier in the year. Peter was speechless when given the valuation by the expert in question. The BBC TV show is to be repeated later in the year, so I will not spoil it by giving the valuation away if you have not already seen the programme!

Dixie Dean (40th)



THE 1955 TRAIN STRIKE

Grahame May's question in Newsletter 99 regarding the 1955 train strike, which I may be confusing with a "go-slow" in January 1956, reminds me of an experience. I and two other 24th Entry stalwarts were stranded late afternoon when trains ceased to run until the following morning. We reported to nearby RAF Hack Green, a radar station and, having been provided with accommodation for the night, we set out in our uniforms to explore the local town. We caused a panic upon entry to one hostelry as the gambling customers saw our hats through the frosted glass and mistook us for a police raid. Upon leaving this establishment sometime later, we passed young ladies heading in the opposite direction who, in response to our flirtatious comments, called "Come on then". A second invitation would have been superfluous and we spent a pleasant hour or two strolling by the river or canal and canoodling. I escorted my young lady to the corner of her street where she observed her father at their front door; it was somewhat the wrong side of 11.00 pm. Before I could respond to the lady's suggestion that I scarp, her father was round the corner and expressing his unhappiness at the late hour in vehement terms. He noted my uniform and, turning to his daughter, advised her that she could not trust airmen who were "here today and gone tomorrow". In those days, traffic was minimal, almost to the extent of non-existent but unfortunately at that moment a car drove past and lit up my features. I was a very young looking 17 year old. Father exclaimed "And you look too young to be allowed out at this time of night". To which I replied "Well I am stranded here for the night due to the rail strike and nobody at the camp is bothered about me". To this day I swear he shot up above the eaves of the houses and, upon returning to the pavement, shouted at his daughter "I told you so, here today, gone tomorrow". What else ensued I cannot recount as I beat a retreat at a very respectable pace.

Garth Forbes (24th)

WEB LINKS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

Vulcan and 2 Lancasters in Formation

http://planestv.com/video/266?mc_cid=a9fe2be743&mc_eid=7aa0211af1

More than just an Air Show!

<http://vimeo.com/100670266>

Compliments of the Season!