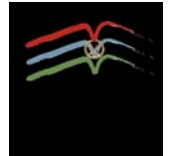


Royal Air Force Administrative Apprentice Association



NEWSLETTER No 88 - February 2012



Note by the Association Chairman – Bryan Schofield

We were unable to produce a Newsletter in December due to the admission of Ken Cameron to hospital. Subsequently, Peter Ralph (46th) agreed temporarily to take on the responsibility of issuing the Newsletter. However, I regret to inform you that Ken passed away on 26th January. Accordingly (always subject to the will of the next AGM, of course), Peter will now assume permanently the post of Newsletter Editor. Please send any contributions for future Newsletters to Peter using the contact details for the Association Committee listed at the end of this Newsletter.

Compliments of the Season

Your President, Chairman and Committee wish you and yours a (belated) happy, prosperous and, above all, a healthy 2012.

Association Committee

The current contact details for the Association President and Committee are detailed in this Newsletter.

A list is held by the Chairman of the members who indicated, when first joining the Association, that they would be prepared to serve on the Committee. However, as the list is fairly dated in many cases and to avoid numerous telephone calls, any member who would like to volunteer to serve on the Committee as an understudy to any existing Committee post, with a view to taking on the role in the future, is asked to contact Bryan Schofield.

Association Committee Meeting

Your Committee will be meeting on Saturday 14th April. If you have anything you wish the Committee to discuss, please let the Secretary have a written request by 9th April.

3 Humphries Close, Carterton, Oxon, OX18 3HS
01993 212595 r.wise285@btinternet.com

Admin App NMA Memorial

The National Memorial Arboretum Trustees have approved the Association's application to place our memorial at the NMA. Thanks to the continuing generosity of our membership and former Apprentice Clerks the appeal fund now stands at over £3,200. However, the total cost of placing the memorial at the NMA is £6,050. The applications for grants from both the National Lottery and the Land Community Fund were unsuccessful. Therefore, we still need more contributions to fund the placing of our permanent Association memorial at the Arboretum, which will not only mark the significant contribution made to the RAF by former Administrative Apprentices/Apprentice Clerks over a period of 86 years, but will also be a gift to our future generations. Please send donations to the Treasurer, Garry Hoyland.

As agreed by members attending the 2011 AGM, the order has now been placed for the construction of the memorial to the design of the model displayed at the AGM and shown in the August Newsletter. As long as the manufacture and installation of the memorial runs to schedule, it is anticipated that the unveiling and dedication ceremony will take place in late April or early May of this year. Watch for information on the website and in the April Newsletter.

Appeal for Information

Our researches have enabled us to attribute approximately 6,850 surnames to Service numbers in respect of the 8,200 former Apprentice Clerks/Administrative Apprentices. The "missing" 1,350 all fall into the Service number block from 8000005 to 8002157. To help us to complete our lists, does any member from the 311th to 330th Entries have a nominal roll of their own Entry which attributes a surname to a number? Anyone who may be able to help is asked to contact Bryan Schofield.

RAF Museum Project

The Head of Design and Display at the RAF Museum Hendon has indicated that he anticipates that they will be in a position to commence the design of our proposed display in the late Spring. The Association Chairman and Archivist will visit the Museum in the next couple of months to deliver the additional material obtained over the last months and to discuss the content and design of the display to be made.

Annual Subscriptions

Reminder for all members that 2012 subs were due on 1 Jan 2012. For members paying by cheque: cheques for £10.00 for each year (members can pay for more than one year at a time) payable to "RAF Administrative Apprentice Association" should be sent to the Treasurer - Garry Hoyland, Bourts House, The Bourts, Lydbrook, Gloucester, GL17 9QB **OR** make things easier for everyone by contacting Garry and arranging to subscribe by Standing Order!!

RAF Heritage Room - Bircham Newton – 50th Anniversary Celebration – Dixie Dean (40th)

The open days for the 2012 season are now available on their web site www.rafbnmp.org.uk

The 50th Anniversary of the closure of RAF Bircham Newton will occur in December 2012. The Heritage Room plans to hold a 50th Anniversary Celebration as part of their final public opening this year on 30 September. It is hoped to have a Beat Retreat ceremony. Further details will be published on their web site later in the year and details will also be published in our newsletter.

The 43rd Entry were the last to pass out at Bircham, which coincided with the closing ceremony on 18 December 1962. The 44th, 45th and 46th Entries transferred to RAF Hereford to complete their training.

Association Website

Over the last few months the Website Manager, Alan Bell, has spent a considerable amount of his time overhauling the layout of our website to try and give it a more modern look and feel. Whilst Alan still has some way to go before the site is completely 'updated', he has made dramatic improvements to the site and it is now much easier for visitors to navigate through. Please browse the site to look at the changes and if you feel there is anything about the site that is missing, needs changing or you don't like, please contact Alan and let him know. While you are there, please have another look in those old photo albums as there is always the chance you may come across something we have not yet got. The direct link to the website notice board is:

<http://www.rafadappassn.org/noticeslatest.html>

2012 REUNION - ATTENDEES

Bookings to attend the 2012 Reunion at the Preston Marriott Hotel have been received from the following members:

1st Entry - J Green, J Robinson, K Roost
2nd Entry - S Robathan
4th Entry - P Bullick, C Dixon, D Kirby, R Wise
5th Entry - P Pendlebury, J Wilcox
11th Entry - D Gibson, M Heritage
15th Entry - T Moore
17th Entry - R Blundell, B Bullivant, R Holman, D Valentine, G Wright
19th Entry - A Cowan, J Evans, D Hobden, J Waltham
20th Entry - P Follett
23rd Entry - W Benn, P Bullock, D Marshall, R Shepherd
24th Entry - D Bulleid
27th Entry - A Martin
29th Entry - A Bell, R Burrow, L Croucher, D Davies, G Masson, R Pipe, H Trumbell,
30th Entry - B Philpott, P Reed, P Williamson
32nd Entry - M Wilkinson
33rd Entry - R Danes, G Goddard, P Hall, B Schofield, P Watson
34th Entry - K Hendry, M Needham, R Orr
35th Entry - R Dickinson
36th Entry - B DeVecchis, L Porter
38th Entry - A Burchell, P Dyer, D Linney, J Nash, K Williams
40th Entry - W Dean
42nd Entry - S Craycraft, H Gilbert, R Hedinburgh, B Hodgkinson, W Hoggarth, J Taylor
44th Entry - B Morrison
46th Entry - P Ralph
305th Entry - A Hammonds, B Collins, J Muirhead
307th Entry - B Hoare, S Sanders
318th Entry - T McKnight
330th Entry - G Hoyland

There are still a number of rooms remaining. If your name is not on the above list and you wish to attend, please contact Bryan Hoare on 01403 581324 or socialsecretary@rafadappassn.org.

New Members

Syd Avery (39th) Alicante, Spain 00349 667 34795
syd.avery@hotmail.co.uk
Lewis Kidd (302nd) Lanzarote, Canary Islands
00349 285 10526 lewisk47@yahoo.co.uk
Barry Collins (FoA) Ulverston, Cumbria, 01229 585495
barrycollins6@btopenworld.com
John Muirhead (FoA) Milton Keynes, Bucks
01908 563365 john-muirhead@lineone.net
John S Peddie (58th Ruislip) Scunthorpe, Lincs 01724
844080 josannpeddie@ntworld.com
Eric Burland (48th Ruislip) Dursley, Gloucs 01452
545118
Leonard W Stavers (39th Ruislip) Bury St Edmunds,
Suffolk 01284 753075

Amendments to Members Details

Graham McCullough (304th) Great Sampford, Essex,
01799 586182
Peter Charnell (40th) Eastbourne, 01323 472543
Dave Jones (301st) david.jones486@ntworld.com
Ian Bell (28th) miqbell1@bigpond.com
Dixie Dean (40th) williamdean907@sky.com
Keith Harden (42nd) kjh064@btinternet.com

Resignations

Philip G Doggett (15th)

Obituaries

It is with sadness that we have learned of the deaths of the following members:

Milton (Andy) Anderson - 592178 - 2nd Entry: Ken Cameron - 592249 - 4th Entry: Derek Gould - 592980 - 23rd Entry: Jeff Homersley - 591563 - 53rd Ruislip: Stuart (Rog) Longbottom - 594071 - 42nd Entry: Brian Miller - 592098 - 1st Entry: Clive Woodin - 592733 - 17th Entry

and of the following non-Member:

James E. Abraham (13th) - Died in service Jan 62

Since September 2011, we have sent letters to all ex-Ruislip Apprentice Clerks for whom we have a contact address advising them of the National Arboretum and RAF Museum projects. Sadly, we have learned of the deaths of the following:

Russell C Allen (591904) 58th, James C Baston (591857) 57th, Lloyd Bennett (590145) 11th, Alfred H Dixon (591555) 53rd, Alfred J Faber (591385) 50th, Albert S Gray (590812) 34th, Norman H Hammond (591219) 47th, Derek A Harvey (591388) 50th, John R Lewis (591959) 59th, William J Parham (590347) 37th, Robert L Robinson (591862) 57th, Leslie W Smale (590492) 22nd, Charles E Stansfield (590490) 22nd, William Thompson (590241) 14th, Ken Williams (591750) 55th.

Some News of the RAF

As a result of the Strategic Defence and Security Review a number of RAF stations are to close or change role in the near future and the size of the RAF will draw-down to 33,500 by March 2015. Now that the Harrier aircraft have been sold to the US Marine Corps, RAF Cottesmore will close on 31st March 2012. The Royal Anglian Regiment will move into the unit in the summer followed by a Royal Logistics Corps Regiment in 2013. The future of RAF Wittering has been secured as 12 (Air Support) Engineer Group, currently based at the former RAF Waterbeach, will move there by the summer of next year. RAF Lyneham will close on 31st December 2012 with the bulk of its former role being transferred to RAF Brize Norton. Decisions regarding RAF Kinloss and RAF Lossiemouth will be made after the Scottish Parliament elections in May.

South West Herts Group – Trevor Moore (15th)

Saturday 5th November combined our quarterly meeting with a Fireworks Day and a good attendance of 10 members with a further 7 apologies from our regular members. The photograph shows all enjoying their sparklers after partaking of food and ales.



Back Row David Marshall (23rd) Tom Price-Rees(40th) Haydn Illingworth (21st) Peter Ralph (46th) Shay Foley (46th) John Summers (18th) Noel Hayes (31st)
Front Row Ken Roost (1st) Jack Marshall (56th) Ruislip Trevor Moore (15th)

In the last Newsletter we mentioned that we may have a "Guy" to burn. In the event, we decided not to take such drastic action but to keep him as the Group mascot—named Guy - an Honorary member of the Group, and to be on parade at each future meet! He is wearing 2 GCBs (16 months service) on his graduation day, but there



was some controversy of this award as to when it started and was discontinued. Any members wish to comment?

Our next meet will be on **Saturday 4th February 2012** at the Three Crowns, Bushey Heath, Herts: Free car parking on site. We meet at 1100 onwards with food available from 1200. No need for advance notice. We look forward to meeting old friends and new members who are within travelling distance to the area.

Pub details and directions at www.three-crowns.com. For any queries, including travel, please contact Trevor Moore at babstrevem@btinternet.com or telephone 01923 232686.

ADVANCE NOTICE The SW Herts Group was formed in 2002 (then as the Watford Flight!): So 2012 is our 10th Anniversary. Therefore, it is the intention for the May meeting to be our 10th ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL: this is likely to be **Saturday 5th May 2012**.

Cyprus Group - Ray Burrow (29th)

With Christmas drawing near we met on Monday 5th December 2011 at the Captain's Bay Restaurant in Pissouri on a lovely sunny day. Perish the thought of the snow in the UK so we dedicated half a bottle of Keo to the idea of the freezing hundreds in the UK at this time. This is the seventh meeting of the group and there were four of us present. I was joined by Phil Tobutt, Ian Dennis and Dave Pyant. We have lost John Featherstone who has returned to the UK on a permanent basis. Ben Casey couldn't make it as he had an operation on his shoulder on Saturday morning: He is out of hospital and starting on the physiotherapy which is usually the worst part of the operation. Brian Granville also couldn't make it owing to a dental appointment which was for a root canal job. Happy thought. We had a moments pause for absent friends and then carried on with the usual tall stories accompanied by beers and lunch.



Ian Dennis seems to be heavily involved with the Cyprus Rugby team who are proving quite successful at the moment. He presented me with a DVD of two recent matches played against Finland and Luxembourg. It seems that if you want to see the world these days do not join the services but become a professional rugby player instead. Phil Tobutt and Dave Pyant seem to be just happily going about their retirement in the same way as me.

We have agreed to meet up again next year on the same basis as this year although we will hopefully avoid Green Monday this time. The projected dates and locations are as follows: Monday March 12th at Captains Bay, Pissouri, Monday June 4th at Kyrenia Beach, Avdimou, Monday 3rd September at Kyrenia Beach, Avdimou and Monday December 17th at Captains Bay, Pissouri.

If anyone is interested in joining us please call me on +357-99-303572 or turn up at the selected meeting place around 1230 – 1300 on the day.

40th Entry Reunion - 12 To 14 December 2011 - Littlecote House, Hungerford – Dixie Dean (40th)

A thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all who attended the 40th Entry reunion held at Littlecote House Hungerford on 12 to 14th december 2011, The occasion was to mark the fiftieth anniversary of our passing out from RAF Bircham Newton on 18 December 1961 and it was the nearest to the anniversary date that we could get. Littlecote House is steeped in history and is part of the Warner Leisure Hotels, there are numerous activities, to suit all tastes, which are provided by the Hotel throughout the day and evening. It is reported to be the third most haunted building in Britain!



In the group photograph are (L to R); 'Ronnie' & Ian Ritchie, Norman Pringle, Dixie & Sue Dean, Mike & Patti Hamill, "Father Christmas", Jill & Geoff Stevens, Tove & Tom Price-Rees.

46th Entry 50th Reunion – 7 to 9 May 2012 – Aylestone Hotel, Hereford – Peter Ralph (46th)

The 46th Entry will hold their 50th Reunion (enlisted 8 May 1962) on the above dates. Only people able to read and write will be allowed to attend. A knowledge of how to fudge allowances is not required, nor is the ability to fold blankets neatly. This will, therefore, probably be the only reunion when all members attending will be Clerk Secs. Any member of the Entry considering themselves qualified to attend should contact Shay Foley on 01202 631652. Any member of the Entry whose date of attestation was 9 May 1962 can attend whether he can read or not.

Note by the Newsletter Editor

Please let me have, by the end of March, any information, stories etc that you wish to be published in the April Newsletter. If you have sent material to Ken previously and it has not been published, please re-send it to me. Also, if you've got access to EMail and have not declared it (hence currently getting your Newsletter in hard copy by post) please convert to EMail, thereby saving money for the Association.

Association Committee Contact Details

The current contact details for the Association President and Committee are as follows:

President: W J (Jim) Wilcox - 01452 863935 - [no EMail](#)

Chairman: B (Bryan) Schofield - 01933 443673
chairman@rafadappassn.org

Vice Chairman
& Secretary: R (Bob) Wise – 01993 212595
r.wise285@btinternet.com

Treasurer: G (Garry) Hoyland – 01594 860644
accountant@rafadappassn.org

Newsletter Editor: P J (Peter) Ralph - 01923 491785 or 07901 551753 ralph82@ntlworld.com
82 Gammons Lane, Watford, Herts WD24 5HZ

Membership
Secretary: A (Tony) Burchell – 01425 511378
burchell.anthony@sky.com

Web Manager: A (Alan) Bell - 0033545 985074
administrator@rafadappassn.org

Social
Secretary: B P (Bryan) Hoare – 01403 581324
socialsecretary@rafadappassn.org

Archivist/ Regional
Rep Co-ord: M (Mike) Heritage – 01403 783360
archivist@rafadappassn.org

Almoner: T (Tom) McKnight – 01302 831970
almoner@rafadappassn.org

Golf
Secretary: S (Steve) Sanders – 01527 878825
golfsec@rafadappassn.org

Publicity
Officer: R B (Bob) Danes – 01751 473790
publicityofficer@rafadappassn.org

Bircham Newton Heritage Co-ord: W G (Dixie) Dean – 01728 747878 williamdean907@sky.com