

Royal Air Force Administrative Apprentice Association

MULTUM A PARVO

Web Address: www.rafadappassn.org



NEWSLETTER No 90 - June 2012



ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

It has been brought to my attention by an [EMail](#) receiver that the established design of the newsletter (i.e. in newspaper column format) is not easy to read on a computer. Accordingly, this newsletter is being sent to [EMail](#) receivers in standard page layout while those members receiving it by post will continue to receive it in newspaper column format.

I am now very short of material (i.e. members' contributions) for future newsletters. Please let me have any articles for publication at ralph82@ntlworld.com or 82, Gammons Lane, Watford WD24 5HZ.

Newsletter Editor

NOTES BY THE ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN

The appeal for more Committee members in recent Newsletters has proven fruitless. Committee appointments are for one year, with the exception of the Secretary and Treasurer which are for three years and are due for election next year. The remaining eight Committee posts are all to be elected at the AGM on 16th June. The current Committee have, so far, all indicated their willingness to serve on the Committee for one more year. However, for the administration of the Association to continue in its present manner - and for the Association to continue in the long term - it is essential that we always have at least ten Committee members and also some cover for existing members. Therefore, there is a vital need for more volunteers to join the Committee. Can you give your Association a few hours a month as a Committee member and are you able to attend the AGMs? The Committee also meet twice-yearly, currently at Boddington near Cheltenham, and whilst attendance at these meetings is always desirable it is not essential. If you would like to serve on your Association committee please contact me before or at the Preston AGM.

Do you receive this Newsletter via the postal system and do you have an [EMail](#) address? If the answer to this question is yes and you are prepared to receive your Newsletter by [EMail](#) will you please advise a member of the Committee of your [EMail](#) address.

The recent increase in the cost of postage now means that the Association's Newsletter postage bill will increase by approximately £30 for each issue. Therefore, In order to combat the increased cost of postage and keep the Association running costs to a minimum, the Committee made the decision to reduce the frequency of the Newsletter from bi-monthly to quarterly – issued in March, June, September and December. Therefore, the next Newsletter will be issued in September 2012 .

ADMIN APP NMA MEMORIAL

Your memorial commemorating all who trained as Administrative Apprentices and Apprentice Clerks between 1925 and 1973 is now in place at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, DE13 7AR: the memorial is located to the north-east of the Visitor Centre. Proceed along Millennium Avenue, turn right onto the gravel path just before the wooden shelter and our memorial is on the right adjacent to the Locking Apprentices and the Boy Entrants Memorials. So if you are travelling to the Preston Reunion along the A38 near Lichfield why not call in and have a look.

Because of a forecast increase in costs, the Committee made the decision to proceed with the manufacture and installation of the memorial without further delay: We have since found out that the NMA have increased their costs by 50% and that the cost of the materials supplied to the Stonemason has increased by 4%. If we had not proceeded when we did, this would have meant we would have had to raise a further £700.

In response to the appeal for funding approximately £4,500 has been raised so far. More funds are needed so please send donations to the Treasurer, Garry Hoyland.



NEW MEMBERS

591737 **Edwin Parkin** (55th Ruislip): Royston, Barnsley (NOT Parker as published in Newsletter 89 - Many apologies - mea culpa! (Ed))

593769 **John Butterworth** (38th): Peterborough, Cambs:
01733 575208: joro.butterworth@ntlworld.com

593813 **Colin C Mount** (38th): Belleville, Ontario, Canada:
colin.mount@sympatico.ca: 001 6139 685945:

595746 **Toni Thompson** (309th): Knightcott, North Somerset: 01934 820875: toni.19@hotmail.co.uk

Ann Gould (Honorary): Lathan, Australia:
006 126 625 4644: annmgould@bigpond.com

AMENDMENTS TO MEMBERS DETAILS

Philip Tobutt (24th): Paphos, Cyprus

John Bell (31st): Desborough, Northants: 01536 355491:
johnjeanbell@hotmail.com

Dave King (41st): Mablethorpe, Lincs: 01507 475897:
sudaki@btinternet.com

Kevin Brown (313rd) (Still serving at 60!)
07896 568 929: Kevin.Brown284@mod.uk

Sheila Craycraft (Honorary): sheila.59@sky.com

RESIGNATIONS

592149 **John Crabbe** (2nd)

MEMBERSHIP LAPSED

Stan Paine (2nd), **Frank Buckley** (12th), **David Sargent** (18th), **Dave Smith** (18th), **John Greedy** (21st), **Colin Chambers** (27th), **Peter Boor** (31st), **Chris Moss** (39th), **John Clegg** (301st), **Bob Farmer** (303rd), **Jerry Endicott** (304th), **Alan Barlow** (310th), **David Medway** (314th), **Dave Peirce** (314th), **Steve Ings** (317th), **Chris Short** (320th), **Peter McGuirk** (330th)

R. I. P. OBITUARIES

Very glad to say – **NIL**.

ASSOCIATION GOLF

The Association plays two matches each year – the match against the RAF Halton Aircraft Apprentices Association and the match at our Annual AGM and Reunion.

The annual match against the Aircraft Apprentices for the Don Fisher trophy has been booked for Mowsbury Golf Club (Bedford) for Wednesday 18th July 2012 with tees starting at 1100. If you are still working - can you get the day off? If you can play for the Administrative Apprentices on this auspicious occasion please let me know at steveksanders@googlemail.com. The Golf Section is now in real need of new blood. If no additional members appear, I am not confident of fielding six players in this competition.

The Reunion Match is to be played at Ashton and Lea Golf Club, Tudor Avenue, Lea, Preston on Friday 15th June – Tees are from 1420 to allow time for travelling. If you want to play let me know.

Steve Sanders (307th) – Golf Secretary

46TH ENTRY 50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

The 46th Entry 50th Anniversary Reunion was held in Hereford from 7-9 May 2012. Five members of the Entry attended (doesn't sound many but it is 25% of the Entry!) – all members of the Association - and a great time was had by all. After lots of reminiscing, a few (?) pints and a rendezvous with Tony Collins in Australia via Skype, we went out to the Travellers' Rest near the old camp to visit the venue of our local pub where we did our (usually illegal) drinking but – shock, horror – it was closed on Tuesdays! Fortunately, the landlady – seeing suspicious-looking characters lurking in her vicinity, no doubt – opened the pub especially for us! Heartfelt thanks to Yvonne Price – an ex-

member of the WRAF. We had a dinner (we even all got dressed up!) at a local steakhouse (picture) and all swore to meet again for our 60th Anniversary (or before?!).

Pete Ralph (46th)



From left: Pete Ralph, Pete Spight, Shay Foley, Steve McKay, John Dyer

CYPRUS GROUP

Next meeting (No 9) is at the Kyrenia Beach Restaurant, Avdimou Bay on Monday 4th June when it should be a lot warmer than it has been recently. As ever, we invite any ex-Apprentices who are in Cyprus at the time of the next meeting to join us if they wish. Either give me a call or turn up at the Kyrenia Restaurant between 1230 and 1300. You will be made very welcome.

Ray Burrow (29th)

SOUTH WEST HERTS GROUP

The Group celebrated its 10th Anniversary on Saturday 5th May at the Three Crowns pub, Bushey Heath, with an excellent attendance of 15 including Bob Wise and Mike Heritage, Committee members, with six apologies from our regular Group members. We were also pleased to welcome the Association President, Jim Wilcox, and Bryan Schofield, the Association Chairman. From the original "Watford Flight" of four in 2002, through the re-union days at RAF Bentley Priory, and to our quarterly meets of ex-Admin Apprentices at our present venue there was plenty to reminisce.



Photo (L to R): Phil Gough (31st), Peter Moir (17th), Bryan Schofield (33rd), Bob Wise (4th), Tom Price-Rees (40th), Noel Hayes (31st), Peter Forster (29th), Trevor Moore (15th), Haydn Illingworth (21st), Ken Roost (1st), Jack Marshall (56th Ruislip) (with Group mascot "Guy"), Tony Parsons (19th), Jim Wilcox (5th), Mike Heritage (11th), John Summers (18th)

We also took the opportunity to celebrate the 90th birthday of our only ex-Ruislip member, Jack Marshall, whose birthday falls on the 22nd May. We invited Jack's son, Andrew, to the lunch and Bryan Schofield presented a birthday gift from the Group of a "Kindle", with engraved case, to Jack who has been a regular supporter of our reunions.



Jim Wilcox also presented Jack with a framed photograph of his first meeting at RAF Bentley Priory in 2005.

Our next meet is on Saturday 4th August at the Three Crowns pub in Bushey Heath. We meet at 1100 onwards with food available at 1200. 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 please contact Trevor Moore at babstrevem@btinternet.com or on 01923 232686.

Trevor Moore (14th)

GLOUCESTER AREA LUNCHEONS

We are always looking for new faces so if you do not get invitations and wish to come to future events please contact me at mikeday28@hotmail.com or 01993 841026 to be added to the list.

Mike Day (38th)

LUNCH AND A NATTER IN SPAIN (COSTA BLANCA/MURCIA AREA)

A small gathering of Dave & Sue Squire (44th), Allan & Judy Bacon (35th), Syd Avery (39th) and Frank and Barbara Carroll (38th) met for our bi-annual lunch and reminiscence session on 2nd May 2012 at La Cova restaurant in El Campello, near Alicante. Unfortunately, two of our members could not attend; Brian Newman who is recovering from illness and Bill Laverick who was 'stuck' in Florida! Good food and wine was punctuated by lively conversation and memories of times past that were much enhanced by Allan Bacon producing Apprentice School magazines from the 1959/60 eras.

Of course, it did not take long before the three horrors of Bircham Newton surfaced; the fear inspired by the huge presence of Wallington who you had to look-up to whether you liked it or not (and not just because of his size!). The opposite was Stewart, who when he shouted at you there was no option but to look down because of his small stature (but I still remember him, daily, as it was he who insisted I started shaving daily on day two of my service life!) and, lastly but not least, Prior; you were nobody if he hadn't shouted at you or invited you to double around the hangar, often with a rifle.

From the school days conversation drifted into man-service days. Who can forget the horrors of marching in and out of married quarters (didn't know you could stable a horse in the lounge of officers' quarters at Rheindahlen); what to do when your chief clerk is arrested overnight doing naughty things in gentlemen's toilets in London; how to operate an imprest or, to put it another way, make sure it always balanced and the days when 'credits' were paid, giving pay accountants much influence. Perhaps the one of the most interesting stories was of the ex-German POW who announced to one of the guys, many years ago, that he was a prisoner at Bircham and as things were rather slack looking after the inmates, he used to cycle down to Docking for a pint most evenings; we couldn't make up our minds whether that would have been to see Docking Lil's mother or grandmother! These were just a few of the memories but, in their turn, they stirred other stories of service life, some good and some not so nice but, all in all, most interesting.

Any members living or holidaying around the Costa Blanca and would wish to join us for one of our sessions, please contact Frank Carroll on (0034) 962800462 or notreve@shajah.org.uk; our next gathering will be towards the end of September.

Frank Carroll (38th)



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

(NOTE BY EDITOR)

Unfortunately, Frank's original report on the bi-annual lunch held at La Cova on 29 September 2011 appears to have "fallen down the cracks" between editors and has been overtaken by the report (above) on the 2 May 2012 meeting. However, for the sake of posterity, please see the photo below from September 2011, which included two very welcome visitors from UK, Dave Linney (38th) and Paul Dyer (38th).



29 September 2011: Group & Wives, L to R:
Frank Carroll, Dave Linney, Barbara Carroll,
Paul Dyer, Sue Squire, Syd Avery, Dave Squire

RAF HERITAGE ROOM BIRCHAM NEWTON

Barrie Loftus (41st Entry) visited the RAF Heritage Room on Sunday 6 May to present a mess uniform donated by Brian Granville (also 41st) who lives in Cyprus. The photograph shows Barrie (left) presenting the uniform to David Jacklin, Chairman of the Trustees. David is an ex Halton Apprentice. **Dixie Dean (40th)**



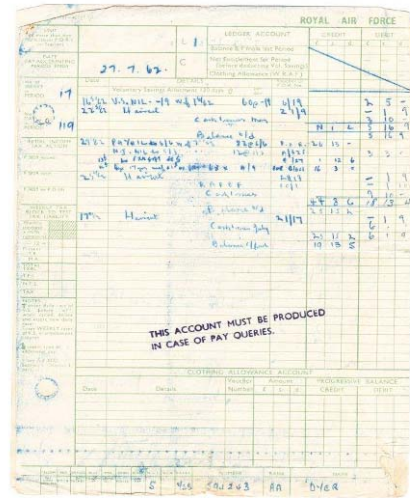
KHAO KHO MUSEUM, THAILAND

I attach pics (*only room for one, sorry: Ed*) taken at the Khao Kho open air museum here in Thailand. It exists as a memorial to the Thai soldiers who died and fought the Communist insurgents during the 60s. I thought it might be of interest especially as you recently published a piece by a member who recalled time served in Thailand and Seato. This part of Thailand is now very peaceful of course and popular with Thais with its mountains and fresh air and is also called 'little Switzerland'. And just to add I am still enjoying my retirement here having now acquired a house in Chiang Mai. Any ex Apps are welcome to visit me and my Thai boyfriend any time of course. Best regards to all. **David Cartwright (38th)**



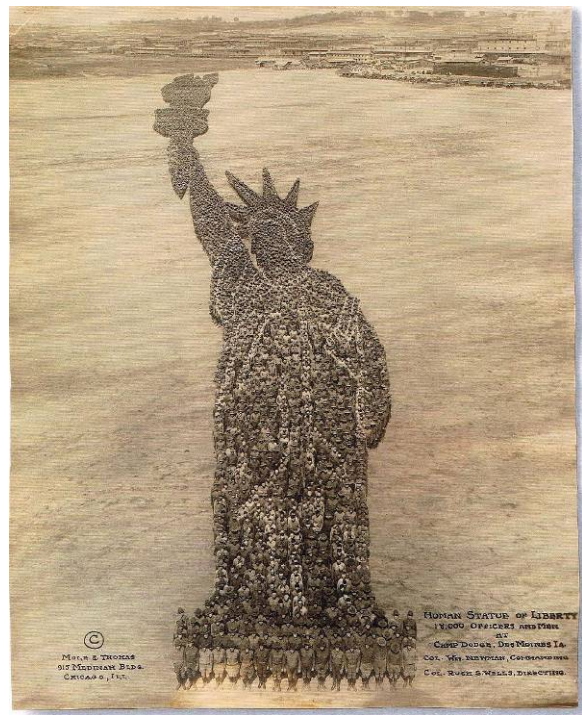
IT WAS EXPENSIVE BACK THEN!

The F.4074 (later F.4200) below was kindly sent to me by John Dyer (46th). Note that we had to pay 1/9d for a haircut in 1962 and, to add insult to injury, had to contribute a "voluntary" 1/10d to the RAFBF! However, anyone who can tell me where to get a haircut for 9p these days, please contact me immediately!
Newsletter Editor



STATUE OF LIBERTY

This incredible aerial picture was taken in 1918 at a training camp (Camp Dodge) in Iowa, USA. **David Cartwright (38th)**



STANDING TALL Titled "Human Statue of Liberty," this image was taken at Camp Dodge in Iowa and used eighteen thousand men.

FACTS

Base to Shoulder - 150 feet: Right Arm - 340 feet: Widest part of arm holding torch - 12 1/2 feet: Right thumb - 35 feet: Thickest part of body - 29 feet: Left hand length - 30 feet: Face - 60 feet: Nose - 21 feet: Longest spike of head piece - 70 feet: Torch and flame combined - 980 feet: Number of men in flame of torch - 12,000: Number of men in torch - 2,800: Number of men in right arm - 1,200?: Number of men in body, head and balance of figure only - 2,000: **TOTAL MEN: 18,000**

2012 REUNION AND AGM AT THE PRESTON MARRIOTT
HOTEL, GARSTANG ROAD, PRESTON, PR3 5JB



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Fri 15 June	1400	Burnett trophy golf tournament tee off
	1930 to 2130	Carvery Dinner in the Broughton Suite
Sat 16 June	0700 to 1100	Breakfast in the Broughton Restaurant
	1300	Ladies coach outing departs
	1400	Annual General Meeting in the Broughton Suite
	1700	Ladies coach outing returns
	1930	Broughton Suite for pre-dinner drinks
	2000	Reunion Dinner in the Broughton Suite
Sun 17 June	0700 to 1100	Breakfast in the Broughton Restaurant

INFORMATION

Rooms are available from 1500 on the day of arrival

Please bring and wear your own nametag

Dinner only guests please pay the Association Treasurer

Accommodation and any extras to be settled by members with the Hotel on departure

The telephone number of Hotel Reception is 01772 864087

TRAVEL DIRECTIONS

Leave the M6 Motorway at Junction 32 onto the M55. Keep to the left-hand lane, but watch for traffic crossing and joining from the left. Keep to the left and leave the M55 at Junction 1. Proceed down the exit slip road into the right-hand lane and follow signs on the road for A6 Garstang. Move to the nearside lane; go under the Motorway take the third exit onto the A6 Garstang Road. Pass Durton Lane and Church Lane on the right and at the hatched marks on the road turn right into the Hotel car parks.

ATTENDEES

1st Entry	J Green, J Robinson, K G Roost
2nd Entry	S Robathan
4th Entry	C A Dixon, P Bullick, D Kirby, R Wise
5th Entry	J Wilcox, P Pendlebury, D Burlingham, W Huggins
11th Entry	M Heritage
14th Entry	R McEwan, B Richards
15th Entry	T Moore
16th Entry	G Singlehurst, R Mabbott
17th Entry	B Bullivant, G Wright, R Blundell, R Holman, D Valentine
18th Entry	A Key, J Summers
19th Entry	D Hobden, A Cowan, J Evans, J Waltham
20th Entry	P Follett, R Pell
23rd Entry	D Marshall, J Reynolds, W M Benn, P Bullock, R Shepherd
27th Entry	D Bulleid
27th Entry	A Martin
29th Entry	A Bell, R Burrow, D Davies, R Pipe, H Trumbell, L H Croucher, G Masson
30th Entry	B Philpott, P Reed, P Williamson
32nd Entry	M Wilkinson
33rd Entry	R Danes, G Goddard, P M Hall, B Schofield, P Watson
34th Entry	K Hendry, M Needham, R Orr
35th Entry	R Dickinson
36th Entry	B Devecchis, L Porter, K Rossiter, P Holland
38th Entry	A Burchell, J Nash, K Williams, P Dyer, D Linney, M Day, M Gunning
40th Entry	W Dean
42nd Entry	S Craycraft, H Gilbert, R Hedinburgh, B Hodgkinson, W J Hoggarth, J Taylor, P Bailey, S Hopewell
44th Entry	B Morrison
45th Entry	I Hunter
46th Entry	P J Ralph, J W Foley
305th Entry	A Hammonds, B Collins, J Muirhead
307th Entry	B Hoare, S Sanders
318th Entry	T J McKnight
330th Entry	G Hoyland

REUNION DINNER MENU

Butternut squash and sweet potato soup

Breast of Chicken stuffed with cheese and wrapped in bacon with Dauphinoise potatoes, seasonal vegetables and a Red Wine & baby onion sauce

Raspberry Crème Brulee with Shortbread

Coffee and mints