



NEWSLETTER No 92 - December 2012



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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 2013.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

NOTES FROM THE ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN

Committee Members. There has still been no response to the request for volunteers to join our Association Committee either now or in the future. Can you give your Association a few hours a month as a Committee member and are you able to attend the AGMs? If you would like to serve on your Committee please contact me on 01933 443673 or chairman@rafadappassn.org.

Annual Subscriptions. Reminder for all members that 2013 membership subscriptions are due on 1 January 2013. 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: Treasurer - Garry Hoyland, Bourts House, The Bourts, Lydbrook, Gloucester, GL17 9QB **OR** if you wish to subscribe by Standing Order please contact Garry.

Newsletter Distribution. To help us to reduce Association running costs, if you receive this Newsletter by post and it could be sent to you by email (which means you receive it **in colour** on the day it is issued rather than in black and white up to one week later by snail mail) please let us know your email address at chairman@rafadappassn.org

2013 REUNION AND AGM

The 2013 Reunion and AGM will be held at the Waltham Abbey Marriott Hotel on 21/22/23 June 2013. 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 2013.

RAF ADMIN APPRENTICE MEMORIAL UNVEILING AND DEDICATION CEREMONY

The dedication and formal unveiling of our memorial took place at the National Memorial Arboretum on Saturday 20th October 2012. The memorial was unveiled by our Association President, Jim Wilcox and the service of dedication which followed was conducted by the Reverend (Sqn Ldr) Colin Weir, Station Chaplain RAF Cosford.

Over 50 people attended and Entries were well represented with 91 year old Ken Barker of the 49th (Ruislip) Entry, through to the 330th Entry.



THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLOSURE OF BIRCHAM NEWTON

The 50th anniversary of the closure of RAF Bircham Newton was remembered on 30th September 2012 when hundreds of visitors turned up to enjoy an afternoon of activities around the RAF Heritage Room and memorial. These activities included military music played by the Fakenham Town Band, a flypast of vintage aircraft from Felthorpe Flying Club and a 'Sunset' ceremony which re-enacted part of the original 'Beating the Retreat' ceremony performed when the RAF station closed in 1962. During this ceremony a trumpeter played the Last Post as the RAF ensign and various standards were lowered in the presence of Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Keith Williamson, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Michael Beetham and other distinguished guests. Many former RAF administrative apprentices attended, including some who had participated in the closing ceremony in December 1962. The photograph below shows some of the former apprentices.



Left to right: Bryan Schofield, Jim Wilcox, David Newton, Barrie Loftus, David Tinley, David Weaver, John Wells and Dixie Dean.

**MEMBERS OF THE 29TH ENTRY ON HORSEGUARDS
PARADE FOLLOWING THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE
REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE AT THE CENOTAPH ON
SUNDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2012**



Picture (L-R): Ben Croucher, Don Davies, Roy Pipe, George Masson and Ron Anders

NEW MEMBERS

8001068 **Paul Leggott** (318th): Scunthorpe, Lincs: 01724 857178: piacere@ntlworld.com
 8001682 **John Tombs** (322nd): Saltburn-by-the-Sea: 01287 638521: john.tombs@talktalk.net
 8001974 **Norman Bernard Burham** (330th): Horsham, West Sussex: 07831 142401: norman947@btinternet.com
 1946369 **Stuart Wright**. (Associate): Swindon, Wilts: 01793 878588; sw6369@yahoo.com

RESIGNATION

592976 **Trevor Hicks** (23rd)

AMENDMENTS TO MEMBERS DETAILS

Eric Burland (48thR): Sunderland
Ray Orr (33rd): raymar4140@hotmail.com
Rick Dickinson (35th/36th): rick.patd@yahoo.co.uk
Mike Hamill (40th): michaelhamill658@gmail.com
Ian Dennis (41st): iandennis969@gmail.com
Dennis Champion (308th): CathyDennis6@gmail.com



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

592151 **Bob Adkins** (2nd)
 592288 **Bob White** (5th)
 593726 **Stuart Preston** (37th)

OBITUARIES

REG DRINKWATER

I was sorry to learn of the passing of Reg Drinkwater. As a 16 year old apprentice at Hereford he, and his colleagues Sgt Joe Salter and Cpl Bebb of the RAF Regiment managed to instil discipline into myself and many other youngsters in the mob. What good role models those three gentlemen were. I shall never forget that on returning to the UK in May 1966 from AFNORTH HQ to take up the position of Sgt PA to the CO of RAF Benson, I went to Hereford for a week of shorthand revision, and there standing at the main gate was Sgt Snowdrop Reg Drinkwater. As I got out of my car to book-in at the guardroom, Reg said, "Hello Payton, how's it going?" That was after nine and a half years since we'd last met. That to me was class! I was proud to have been a member of his Number One Flight E-mail circuit. It was a pleasure to have known you Reg, and many thanks for all you did for me

and many others during our early RAF careers. All the best mate, and I sincerely hope that where ever you are, you've got a good supply of Famous Grouse or Bells!

Derek (Dick) Payton (25th)

REGIONAL GROUPS

N.B. All contributors of articles on Group Meetings are requested to copy any reports directed to the Newsletter Editor to the Website Manager, Alan Bell (29th), at administrator@rafadappassn.org. (Ed.)

SOUTH WEST HERTS GROUP

Our quarterly get together was on Saturday 3rd November 2012 at the Three Crowns, Bushey Heath. A smaller attendance than usual, with apologies from six members, but enough on the ground to keep the ale flowing with pleasant company. Seven of our regular members were present, namely Jack Marshall (56th Ruislip), Trevor Moore (15th), Gerry Singlehurst (15th), John Summers (18th), Haydn Illingworth (21st), David Marshall (23rd)(who flew in to Heathrow from Malta only a couple of hours before arriving at 08:40), Phil Gough (31st). Our next meet is on **Saturday 2nd February 2013** at the Three Crowns. We meet at 1100 onwards with food available from 1200. Directions to the pub at www.three-crowns.com. For any queries please contact Trevor Moore at babstrevem@btinternet.com or on 01923 232686.

Trevor Moore (15th)

(Sorry, Trevor – no room for photo this month! – Ed.)

CYPRUS GROUP

We held another group meeting on 17th September at the Kyrenia Restaurant on Avdimou Bay on a very windy day. A very warm wind, but also very strong. Thankfully the wind died down as the afternoon progressed and we enjoyed ourselves, as usual. There were only two of us today, myself and Ian Dennis, but we still managed to talk over a fairly comprehensive range of subjects although we tended to concentrate on rugby which we have both indulged in during the summer. Ian was away on a long weekend, Dave Pyant was away in the UK, Phil Tobutt had relations over from the UK and Brian Granville had an appointment with the wine makers who were coming to collect his grapes today. With only a small group it was a bit of a pity. We have things to do then that is what happens!

Ray Burrow (29th)

(Sorry, Ray – no room for photo this month! -Ed.)

DORSET GROUP

We held our second meeting on Saturday 24 Nov 12 in the Blue Boar Inn in Poole. The weather was foul but the founder members Peter Reed (30th), Tony Peters (34th). Mike Hamill (40th) and Shay Foley (46th) welcomed two new members - John White (13th) and Tony Richards (14th) to the group. The Blue Boar Inn must be one of the few pubs in the land where you can see a Bren Gun and a Lee Enfield No 4 (complete with pigsticker) hanging from the ceiling as well as many other artefacts. Unfortunately there are no photos as the pub was full of rugby fans - and we lost to the Boks! The next meeting will be in Weymouth in February (date and venue to be decided). The rotation is due to the size of Dorset and the need to even out travelling costs. However this may be attractive to those members who live in Devon and Somerset and want to attend an area lunch. If anyone is considering attending and hence wishes to know the precise date and place of the meeting (when decided), please liaise with Shay Foley on 01202 631652 or heights73@talktalk.net.

Shay Foley (46th)

GLOUCESTER AREA LUNCHEONS GROUP

For this luncheon we revisited The Royal George Hotel at Birdlip on Friday 2nd November. This seems to have become our regular watering hole mainly due to its location for most of the members and good value meals. Unfortunately our numbers were a bit down on the usual and we had only 10 people including some wives. A couple of the original list had dropped out and I would have cancelled except that one of our party John Humphrey (28th) had travelled 100 miles from Chandlers Ford to meet up with specific members, namely Brian Kent (28th) and Phil Flavell with whom he worked as Accountants at RAF Shinwell Park, and by chance Bill Huggins also served there at the same time. I think everyone enjoyed a

anyone out there who would like to join our group please let me know. My address is mikeday28@hotmail.com.
Mike Day (38th)



From left to right: Brian Kent (28th), David Spicer (23rd), Bill Huggins (4th), John Humphrey (28th), Mike Day (38th), Phil Flavell (45th), Ian Clarke (53rdR). (Some of you may be wondering why I have got a stick and it is because my hip will need replacing, to match my other one! I am sure that there are many of you out there who are also bionic but it is a damned nuisance when you have to give up your golf!)

GLOUCESTER AREA LUNCHEONS GROUP
VISIT TO LONDON

Earlier this year Ian Clarke (53R) asked me about the feasibility of a trip to London to see the new Bomber Command Memorial in Green Park. There would also be a visit to the Imperial War Museum. He required 32 people to fill the coach and I was to advertise the trip amongst our Ex-Apprentice S' & @ [] * ! [~] A a a q * ^ c @ ! A a @ A q q A q } e s o A ^ A i a @ A have a good day out. However when it got nearer to the deadline we could only manage around 23 so he had to look for a smaller coach from another company. On the 7th September the journey commenced picking up in Gloucester then onto Cheltenham and Burford. Our party finalised at 25 and we had an added bonu A a c o e a @ A q e s @ A a i A q | a } A produce the original vehicle and we had a larger coach in which we could all comfortably spread out. We eventually arrived at our drop off point at the bottom of Park Lane with instructions to be back in half an hour! To get across the road to the memorial we had to walk up towards Piccadilly until we found a crossing (about 200 metres) and then walk back on the other side of the road. The monument is situated adjacent to Piccadilly Road immediately opposite to The Royal Air Force Club. It is a fitting memorial to the 55,573 aircrew killed and is widely thought to have been long overdue. Whilst taking a] e c ! ^ A @ e e r a A i A e j [@ ! A i ~ i a o A @ A e } q A } } ^ e r a A i A @ A RAF but had a friend who was a tail gunner and had been shot down 3 times! He died quite a few years ago but sadly his widow had only passed away recently. To get back to the coach no one wanted to go back the way we came so we survived the hazardous short cut across the corner of Hyde Park Corner which everyone else seemed to be doing. After re-boarding the coach we proceeded to The Imperial War Museum. It was just a short hop across the River Thames

towards the other side of Waterloo and on arrival we split up into groups to take lunch and tour the exhibits. There is quite a lot to see in the short time we had but there were some excellent displays of equipment, campaigns and my favourite, the Lord Ashworth Collection of VC and George Medals. We departed London at 4 pm fighting our way through the start of the rush hour arriving at our first stop at Burford 2 1/2 hours later. The weather had been very pleasant and I think everyone enjoyed the visit. Our thanks must go out to Ian Clarke for his organisation, no mean feat, for a 91 year old!

Mike Day (38th)



Back Row: Bill Huggins (5th), Mike Day (38th), Bob Wise (4th), Ian Clarke (53rd Ruislip). Front Row: Mick Morris (44th), Shaun Barbour (6th), Dave Buley (22nd), Brian Yorston (22nd)

REUNION

44TH ENTRY PAY ACCOUNTANTS

At the hugely successful 42nd/44th 50th Anniversary bash at Bircham the 44th Pay Accountants present resolved to meet again. An initial suggestion that we should stick to the 50-year routine was voted down on the grounds that it would be a very long time to wait for a beer with friends. There were originally twelve 44th Pay Accountants of whom ten made it to Graduation (or was it Pass-Out?) including one who enjoyed being an apprentice so much that he managed to wangle a recourse to the 45th. U A c q . ^ A c } E c [A q @ A U a e q O c a . A and Bruce Morris) are sadly no longer with us and two (Colly Graham in N. Ireland and Ian McAlpine in Scotland) were unable to get to London. We are still looking for George Metcalfe and Tom Proctor so if anyone has any leads to them please let me know.

Accordingly four members of the 44th PAs plus their better halves met in London on 1st September to commemorate 51 years since enlistment. We enjoyed good seats at the musical y z ^ a d e a A c 8 \ | \ } o A [a a e a y a s a A ^ c e ! a e E The real highlight however was renewing old friendships and enjoying each others company. As is so often made clear in these pages, the years fell away and it was as if we had always been in close contact. AATS must have done something right.

John Boston (44th)



Picture (L-R): Alan Rich, John Boston, Pete Miller and Mike Peacock

ARTICLES

EQUALITY FOR VETERANS ASSOCIATION (EFVA)

The issue of Public Service Pensions has been very much to the fore in the media recently. There is, however, one body of Public Servants who continue to be denied any pension whatsoever. affected veterans of the UK Armed Forces, who when serving did not work normal office hours, indeed invariably worked very unsocial hours; were often separated from their families; had no right to withdraw their labour or take any form of industrial action; and were prepared to lay down their lives in defence of UK national interests. These discussion of these matters have continued to be ignored for well over twenty years. Service leavers pre-April 1975 receive no pension benefit whereas those leaving post-April 1975 receive a pension benefit. There is a great body of evidence which shows that both pre and post April 1975 leavers were not kept informed of pension scheme changes or of their likely entitlement. This is a clear breach of the duty of care MOD owed to its employees in the Armed Services. Both the efva and afpg (Armed Forces Pension Group) continue to work hard in their efforts to obtain justice for ex-service veterans. This year has seen the establishment of an All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) under the Chair of Ms Katy Clark MP with Sir Bob Russell MP as Group Secretary. My local MP Jason McCartney is a member of the APPG. We are also very pleased that in July this year the Royal British Legion, at their Annual Conference, passed a motion calling for action to secure equal pension rights for pre-1975 veterans. These are very positive developments. The active support of members of the RAFAAA would be greatly appreciated. They can take action by writing to their member of parliament or their local newspaper(s). The information contained in the Equality for Veterans website (www.efva.co.uk) may be of use. The website provides updated information about the progress of the campaign and full contact details. However, if preferred I can be contacted via h.trumbell@sky.com. I will be happy to discuss any relevant issues and hopefully give appropriate advice.

Harry Trumbell (28th)

MEMORIAL / ADEN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

It was both a privilege and a real pleasure to attend the dedication of the Memorial Stone on 20th October. The dedication itself was a well-organised, dignified affair. There was a kindred spirit amongst those present and the weather was extremely kind, making it a great day and it was so nice to be amongst like-minded people.

My wife and I belong to the Aden Veterans Association (AVA). I am Chairman of the North Devon Group and my wife is Secretary both of North Devon and the South West Branch. The previous Chairman of our Group attempted to get a Memorial for Aden Veterans but his efforts were rejected by the National Committee. This resulted in our former Chairman resigning and caused a great deal of acrimony amongst our North Devon members. With the advent of the Admin Apprentices plan for a Memorial Stone, my wife took it upon herself . outside of the AVA . to present rock solid costings to all Branches (supplied by Bryan Schofield and confirmed by Paul Kennedy of the Arboretum) and hoped to enlighten Aden members of what was available. This was again rejected by National Committee which stated that it had been decided that it was not required as there was already a bench in position . which had been donated by an AVA member! the sad thing is that National Committee has taken measures to ensure that the subject (or this old potato) is

never brought up again! All members of the AVA have not been approached for their opinion through the Dhow. How sad is that? I know that a lot of Admin Apprentices served in Aden and are not members of the AVA. I wonder how they feel about this?

I feel that the Admin Apprentices Association should be congratulated on a job well done.

Dave Gilbody (41st)

ADAPTABLE SUPPLIERS PART 2

I must have followed Stuart Robathan (2nd), writing in Newsletter 91, to R.A.F. Driffield in 1961, after a tour in Aden. When I arrived all the 15 Thor missiles had been sited at five sites in the area. No more aircraft to refuel but the missiles required regular topping up with liquid oxygen (LOX), gaseous nitrogen to purge the missile systems and diesel to run the mobile generators. Now comes the adaptable bit, British Oxygen supplied the LOX in large tankers calibrated in cubic feet, the missile tanks were calibrated in U.S. gallons and of course Air Ministry wanted everything calibrated in Imperial gallons. Of course all this had to be accounted for on a Bin Card and that famous stock card the Form 1640. No electronic calculators in those days, imagine the mistakes that could be made but as far as I can remember none were. In conjunction with this I had to report to Missile Control every day with the fuel stock position for every missile. At least once per week there was a 'wet-run' on one missile, missile in full launch position, LOX pumped into it and rocket fuel pumped but by-passed into another tank. So we had to calculate how to replenish the LOX without wasting too much and bearing in mind LOX is evaporating all the time at each missile, I forget the boil-off rate and the percentage loss allowed. No half or three-quarter road-tankers from BOC, only a full tanker, 6,000 gallons, all the way from Leeds. (Or was it Sheffield?) No problem in the summer, we did seem to have summers in those days, but icy roads caused all sorts of problems and of course the missiles had to be at maximum readiness, with a high minimum stock of LOX at all times for immediate launch in those Cold War days. I don't think the old Form 1640 would have worked on those stock levels but we did not have computers either; just old fashioned arithmetic and 'chinagraph' wall-boards made the day. Wall mounted spreadsheets! More adaptations at this stage, again no computers but a punched card US Air Force stock system for missile spares. Stock orders were signalled through the American Embassy then stock was received with a punched card and receipt confirmed with the card going to the Embassy for machine entry into the system. Strange whilst this was happening the Supply Branch was developing its own computerised system, punched tape initially and consultations with all Suppliers took place, for a starting date in 1964.

P.S. Television News this morning, 16 October, from North Luffenham where part of the old R.A.F. Base has been given Listed Building Grade 2* in respect of his history of Thor missiles. A few seconds of some old film showing a missile going into the launch position.

Tony Johnstone (3rd)

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

I have had a number of articles submitted recently - very many articles. This is a list of some of the articles submitted recently - ralph82@ntlworld.com: 07901551753 or 01923491785: Newsletter Editor, 82 Gammons Lane, Watford WD24 5HZ.

Pete Ralph (46th)

Royal Air Force Administrative Apprentices Association

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REUNION 21st – 23rd JUNE 2013
WALTHAM ABBEY MARRIOTT HOTEL**

BOOKING FORM

Return to: Mr Bryan Hoare – 60 Wordsworth Place, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 5PS

Tel: 01403 581324 or e-mail socialsecretary@rafadappasn.org

ALL BOOKING FORMS MUST BE RETURNED BY 31st JANUARY 2013

From: - Name..... (Block Capitals please)
Number..... (Check letters not required) Entry.....
Address.....
..... Tel No.....

I will/will not* be attending the Reunion & AGM 2013 and will be **Accompanied/Unaccompanied***
by..... First Name. If attending, please indicate your requirements below:

OPTION A - ACCOMMODATION FOR FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT

(Includes Fri Dinner, Sat Breakfast, Reunion Dinner and Sun Breakfast) **Rate £65.00 pppn. (Single Supp £15.00 pppn)**

Room Required - please tick

Double Room _____ Twin Room _____ Single Room _____

OPTION B - ACCOMMODATION FOR SATURDAY NIGHT

(Includes Reunion Dinner and Sunday Breakfast)

Rate £65.00 pppn. (Single Supp £15.00 pppn)

Room Required - please tick

Double Room _____ Twin Room _____ Single Room _____

OPTION C - REUNION DINNER ONLY (Saturday Evening)

(£25.00 p.p.)

Number Attending _____ **DINNER ONLY. (PLEASE PAY THE TREASURER AT THE A.G.M.)**

THERE IS ALSO AN OPTION TO STAY FOR THE COMPLETE WEEKEND

(As per Option A plus accommodation Sun night, Sun Dinner and Mon Breakfast)

Room Required - please tick

Double Room _____ Twin Room _____ Single Room _____

REUNION DINNER SATURDAY EVENING

If you would like to sit at a Table with colleagues please indicate below and we will endeavour to accommodate you

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS.....**Disabilities, Dietary, etc**

LADIES OUTING - SATURDAY AFTERNOON – YES/NO - (please advise) - £5.00 per lady**

** Please include £5 cheque dated 18 June 2013 with the Booking Form

BURNETT TROPHY GOLF – FRIDAY 21ST JUNE

- **PLAY/NOT PLAY - (please advise)**

LADIES' TROPHY

- **PLAY/NOT PLAY - (please advise)**

Please note this is a Booking Form and we will book your room upon receipt of this form

N.B. ALL HOTELS HAVE NOW IMPOSED A CANCELLATION CHARGE AS DETAILED BELOW:

Over 90 days 10%; 90 to 61 days 25%; 60 to 30 days 40%; 29 to 10 days 60%;
9 to 3 days 80%; 2 days to night of 98 %

Member's Signature..... Date

It is advisable to send in your booking form as soon as possible as we cannot reserve the entire Hotel and there could be limitations on accommodation