



Newsletter No 95 - September 2013



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ASSOCIATION NEWS

2013 AGM AND REUNION

Another successful and enjoyable reunion has been and gone. For this we must give a big thank you to Bryan Hoare, in particular for negotiating such a good discount on bar prices at a Hotel so close to London. Many of the 'regulars' were in attendance, as well as some who were attending for the first time. Attendance at Reunions now seems to have peaked at approximately 85 members accompanied by 55 partners. We look forward to everyone joining us again next year at Peterborough.

Bryan Schofield (33rd) - Chairman

SW HERTS GROUP AT THE 2013 REUNION



17TH ENTRY REPS AT THE 2013 REUNION



SERVICE DINNERS

RAF Administrative Apprentices Association
The RAF Administrative Apprentices Association held its annual reunion and dinner on Saturday at the Marriott Hotel, Wallham Abbey, Wp, Cdr Dianna Bentley, RAF Red, was the guest of honour. Mr Bryan Schofield, Chairman, presided and Mr James Wilcox, President, was among others present.

*Daily Telegraph Monday June 24th 2013
We're in the national press again!*

2014 REUNION

The 2014 Reunion will be held at the Peterborough Marriott Hotel over the weekend 13/14/15 June 2014. Room half-board prices have been agreed at £65 per person per night with a £15 per night single occupancy supplement (These are the same rates as 2013). In addition a discount of 35% has been negotiated on all bar prices throughout the weekend. The Booking Form is enclosed with this Newsletter.

Accommodation Costs of the Reunion are:

	<u>DOUBLE</u>	<u>SINGLE</u>
OPTION A (Fri/Sat Nights)	£260	£160
OPTION B (Sat night only)	£130	£80
OPTION C (Fri/Sat/Sun Nights)	£390	£240
OPTION D (Reunion Dinner Only)	£50	£25

CENOTAPH REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE

We have some tickets remaining for attendance at the annual Remembrance parade being held at the Cenotaph on Sunday 10th November. Any member who would like to attend is requested to contact the Chairman on 01933 443673 or at chairman@rafadappassn.org.

ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Your committee will be meeting on Saturday 12th October at Boddington, near Cheltenham. If you have anything at all that you wish the Committee to discuss, please let the Secretary have your written request by 8th October. Bob Wise's address: 3 Humphries Close, Carterton OXON OX18 3HS. Email: r.wise285@btinternet.com

AMENDMENTS TO MEMBERS DETAILS

Jeff Paul (3rd): jeff592191@btinternet.com
Tom Wilson (7th): brigatom@deniacharters.com
Brian Maycock (17th): brianjmaycock@gmail.com
Maurice Hill (23rd): mail@mojenhill.plus.com

**URGENT URGENT - NORFOLK CYCLE RIDE -
AVM WILES - 6 TO 8 SEP 13**

AVM Wiles, (Chief of Staff Personnel [COS Pers]), is undertaking - along with 15 members of his staff and 5 support crew - a three-day cycle ride around Norfolk with a view to visiting a number of WWII RAF bases in the County. These will include: Marham, Docking, Bircham Newton, Swanton Morley, Foulsham, Little Snoring, North Pickering, Shipham, Dereham, Attlebridge and Horsham St Faith (now Norwich airport). Day 1, on **Friday 6 September 2013**, takes in Marham, Docking and culminates at Bircham Newton.

COS Pers intends to invite the RAFA President and Chairman of the Central Council as well as the Stn Cdr RAF Marham to the Day 1 event which will also be open to the RAFALOs. Other local dignitaries will also be invited and it is hoped the areas ATC units will wish to attend.

The broad outline for the Friday evening is as follows:

1630-1700 - Cyclists and visitors arrive at the RAF Bircham Newton Heritage Centre - welcome and time to relocate to the adjacent Lecture Theatre.

1700-1740 - Evening activities start with a brief history of the Station from local historian Peter Stibbons.

1800-1830 - RAF Presentation Team.

1830 onwards - RAFA briefing then relocating to the Heritage Centre for light refreshments and mingle with guests.

If any member of our Association wishes to attend the Day 1 event would you please let Dixie Dean know **as soon as possible** on williamdean907@sky.com or 01728 747878.

(NOTE BY EDITOR: E-mail recipients will have time to respond to this appeal but postal recipients possibly won't. IF POSSIBLE, GET YOUR NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL!!)

ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

<http://www.rafadappassn.org>

Please note that I have now completed posting the new Entry Lists. An entry to this effect has been placed on the website noticeboard at: <http://www.rafadappassn.org/noticeslatest2.html>
Alan Bell (29th) – Web Manager

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S MOAN

Please, please, please – take note of my contact details in the Newsletter heading! Alan Bell has forwarded to me some articles and material which have been sent to the Newsletter Editor at newsletered@rafadappassn.org. **I DO NOT USE THIS ADDRESS.** If you have sent material for publishing to me at this address, please retransmit to the address in the Newsletter heading viz ralph82@ntlworld.com.

FOR DISCUSSION

(COPY OF EMAIL

SENT TO OUR WEB ADMINISTRATOR, ALAN BELL)

"..... I was, however, a tad disappointed to read the reason you gave for not publishing certain articles I had sent to you and the newsletter editor. Viz: "Items that do not directly affect Association members are sometimes therefore not used." Surely most of us have inhabited a much larger world than was our lot in the RAF? Some of us only enjoyed brief careers in the RAF and many have long since retired. We have, therefore, all experienced events and adventures well outside any RAF admin capers, fascinating though they may have been at the time! I would have thought we were originally drawn to the RAF to be somehow connected to aircraft and the guys who fly them, however remotely being a clerk seemed to be. Hence my sending in all things connected with aviation and flying generally. As I now live in Thailand I am, of course, particularly interested in the Thai RAF and consequently sometimes send in pieces with this connection, which I thought would be of interest to those of

Michael Owen (28th): mjandteowen@ntworld.com

David Jones (36th): davidjones30@outlook.com

Mike McCrow (36th): mike.mccrow@virginmedia.com

John Smith (37th): john52@btinternet.com

Brian Allan (41st): ballan193@btinternet.com

Keith Green (42nd): kmail@kwjgreen.plus.com

Michael Johnston (301st): mjohnston19@virginmedia.com

Brian Burscough (303rd): burscob@icloud.com

Jim Parker (305th): jimwparker@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERS

594500 **John Richard Porter** (301st): Barnet, Herts:
barnet41@yahoo.co.uk: 01035 389677

8000011 **Stephen A. Bowen** (311th): Yate, Gloucestershire:
stephenbowen52@gmail.com: 07518 382512

8000337 **Alec Grant** (313th): Eastbourne, E Sussex:
agrant@brighton.ac.uk: 01323 478027

8002132 **Trevor Ronald Turner** (330th): Cheddleton, Nr Leek,
Staffs Moorlands: trevorrturmer@gmail.com: 01538 360714

Barbara Higgs (Honorary)

RESIGNATIONS

David (Dickie) Dynes (29th)

MEMBERSHIP LAPSED

Keith Bell (305th)

R.I.P.

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

590967 **Len Stavers** (39th Ruislip)

592091 **Ray Smith** (1st)

592217 **Bill Hansford** (3rd)

592198 **James Rayner** (3rd)

OBITUARY

ROBIN GLANFIELD (3RD)

Robin Glanfield was not a member of our Association, but was well known as an Admin Apprentice at St Athan, where he was an extremely smart and popular App. My main contact with him was on Sundays at St Athan when I umpired at Station Hockey Practices. With hundreds of National Service airmen being in the RAF, representing one's station was quite competitive. Further, we Apps were not permitted to try out for the Station teams. There was one specific exception - Robin. He was an excellent and most dextrous hockey player, and represented the Station regularly. He also indulged, if not caught, in undercutting - whereby the hockey ball became a dangerous missile! I should add that these practices were mixed sex, and I quickly realised that females were the most dangerous of the species! Robin represented the various Commands where he served, and he was also an excellent tennis player. He served in the Canal Zone at HQ 205 Group, Command Accounts (1951-1954) when, at almost every station there, ex-Admin Apps could be found. He was a keen and active member of the Canal Zoners - along with Jim Wilcox and myself, and he acted as financial advisor and auditor for the local branch, where he was a most popular member. He had been in good health, but had a nasty fall and went into a coma, from which he never recovered. He had cared for his wife Heather, who had suffered from cancer for a number of years; sadly she passed away within a month of Robin. Vale, Robin, I am sure you will be well remembered.

Bill Huggins (5th)

us with experiences both within our own RAF and elsewhere in the world. Even just for comparison purposes! A piece on a visit I made to a small Thai RAF open-air war museum in central, north eastern Thailand, depicting their battles against communist insurgents, with pictures attached, was not published, for example. The idea that publication should rest almost entirely on reminiscing about postings and incidents solely whilst serving in the RAF is a mite restrictive and, dare I say, even a tad boring to those of us who never served at the stations mentioned, or were in the trades featured. Please re-consider what you deem to be appropriate for publication based on my views expressed above and it would be nice to have this e-mail itself published in order to get some kind of feed-back - agreeing or otherwise! Cheers, and thanks for all your hard work producing the Newsletter. I do still appreciate that!"

David Cartwright – (38th) (Pay Accountant) - retired to Chiang Mai, Thailand since 2006 and loving every minute of it!

GRATEFUL FOR COMMENTS

(See Newsletter heading for contact details)

Editor

CHAIRMAN'S SERVICE BRIEFING

DISBANDMENT OF NUMBER 617 SQN

No 617 (Dambuster) Sqn and the sister unit number 12 (Bomber) Squadron will disband at RAF Lossiemouth by 1 April 2014. The disbandment is part of the planned drawdown of the Tornado GR4 Force towards an out-of-service date in 2019. It is part of the wider change programme in the Royal Air Force's combat air forces that also sees the growth of the Typhoon Force and the introduction of the F35B Lightning II aircraft. The disbandment will make way for Typhoon aircraft which will begin relocating to Lossiemouth from RAF Leuchars in late 2013. The Squadron's rich history, which includes the 1943 Dams Raid and more recent operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya, has led to a decision to re-form 617 Sqn, probably at RAF Marham, as the UK's first operational Lightning II Sqn, which will be jointly manned by the RN and RAF.

DEFENCE DISCOUNT CARD

The Defence Discount Service is a valuable and tangible part of the nation's recognition and appreciation of the Armed Forces Community. It is seen as an important element in developing the Armed Forces Covenant across the UK. The Defence Discount Service gives members of the Armed Forces Community discounts both online and on the high street. The Membership Card costs £4.99 for five years and is a physical card that members of the Armed Forces Community can take into stores, restaurants and venues in order to obtain a discount. The Defence Discount Service is available to: Serving Armed Forces, Reserve Forces, Veterans, Service Family Members, MOD Civil Servants, Cadet Forces (over 16) AND NATO Personnel serving in the UK. More information and application can be found from: Defence Discount Service, PO Box 10180, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 9HN (01509 233446) or at <https://www.defencediscountservice.co.uk/index.php?p=about>

WITHDRAWAL OF C130K FROM SERVICE

The Hercules C130K will be retired from service on 31 October 2013 and the capabilities and roles provided by the C130K aircraft will be transferred to the C130J variant. Whilst further extension of the C130K OSD has been considered, the decision to retire the variant was taken primarily for Air Safety reasons; in addition this decision will also allow best use of resource to develop the C130J capability.

Bryan Schofield (33rd) - Chairman

REGIONAL GROUP NEWS

CYPRUS

Another meeting of the Cyprus Group has been held which means another three months has gone by. Time flies when you are enjoying yourself! We met this time at the Kyrenia Restaurant at Avdimou Beach and viewed the beach and the great outdoors from an inside table as there was a strong wind blowing even though the temperature was in the 26°C area. Probably a good job as the temperature could have felt hotter without the wind. However, if we had been outside we would probably have been whipped to death by the sand off the beach. The attendance for this event doubled from the last meeting and we had myself, Ian Dennis, Dave Pyant and Phil Tobutt enjoying a few beers and a good lunch plus the usual chat and information passing. Ben Casey couldn't make it as his wife had planned something for his big seven-oh day but sent his best wishes. I hope the big day went according to his wife's plan! We plan to meet again at the Kyrenia Restaurant on Monday 2nd September and anyone on holiday in Cyprus at that time will be more than welcome. I enclose the usual picture to show that we are all getting more attractive as the years go on!!

Ray Burrow (29th)

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



DORSET

Unfortunately, the Dorset Branch chose to meet on the day the Newsletter is published! I believe that they're changing their quarterly date to an earlier Saturday so, hopefully, the next edition will contain two reports on the quarterly meetings of this Branch and then a report on a regular basis.

Editor

Contact: **Shay Foley (46th):** heights73@talktalk.net / 01202 631652.

SOUTH-WEST HERTS

We met again on Saturday 3rd August 2013 at the Three Crowns pub, Bushey Heath, with nine members present. We were pleased to welcome a new member, David Ainsworth (304th) from Romford, Essex. Apologies for absence on the day from Derek Hobden (19th), Tom Price-Rees (40th), Noel Hayes (31st), and Gerry Singlehurst (15th). It is hoped that our next meet can be arranged with a visit to Bentley Priory perhaps in September/October but all members will be advised by e-mail or letter beforehand. Assembly will be as usual at the Three Crowns pub. Pub details etc at www.three-crowns.com.

N.B. We had a very good presence of SW Herts members at the AGM at Waltham Abbey and a photograph of the pre-dinner Group beer call (see above) can also be viewed on the Association website in the dedicated Regional Group pages.

Trevor Moore (15th)

Contact: babstrevem@btinternet.com / 01923 232686



Photo (L to R): Phil Gough (31st), Trevor Moore (15th), John Forshaw (20th), Jack Marshall (56th Ruislip), Haydn Illingworth (21st), Tony Parsons (19th), Ken Roost (1st), Pete Ralph (46th), David Ainsworth (304th)



Neil (background) with HRH



A Flt 2 Sqn, 304th Entry
(Which one's Neil?!)

ARTICLES

THE ONLY STAFF SERGEANT IN THE RAF

I was a sergeant PA to the Defence & Air Attaché in Tel Aviv when Maggie Thatcher paid a visit to Israel. For some reason which I cannot recall, the Military Attaché's sergeant, Ron Marshall, and I were summoned to meet Maggie with the Ambassador. Naturally, Ron and I were dressed in civvies. I am sure Maggie would have been properly briefed and told that the tall handsome guy with the glasses was the RAF sergeant and that the little guy was an Army sergeant. However, it was famously said of Maggie that she heard but didn't listen. Ron and I reported to the Ambassador's office and the Ambassador, being very democratic, introduced us by saying "This is Brian Philpott of the RAF" to which Maggie replied "How do you do, staff sergeant" followed by some other fatuous pleasantries. And then it was "This is Ron Marshall of the Army". Maggie responded with "How do you do, corporal" and similar pleasantries; after which Ron and I went back to work. Having mulled the interview over, I said to the D&AA that if Maggie envisaged me with a crown above my stripes he should write to Records and get the situation rectified. As the D&AA and I were not the best of buddies, this went down like a lead balloon. I didn't get much support from Ron Marshall either as he had logically worked out that if I was to be promoted he should be demoted. Still, it was nice to be the only staff sergeant in the RAF even if only for one day and in Maggie's imagination.

Brian Philpott (30th)

ANOTHER TRUE STORY RE STAFF SERGEANTS

A Flight Sergeant (Clk Sec) (Ex Boy Entrant) at Rheindahlen was forced to work, during exercises, for the Army in HQBAOR and his boss, a cavalry Colonel, had the annoying habit of addressing him as "Staff". After repeatedly telling the Colonel that it was "Flight" not "Staff", he really told his boss off. The Colonel, somewhat embarrassed, said "I'm really sorry but you must understand that if you were in the Army you'd be a Staff Sergeant". The reply was: "Jesus, sir, if I was in the Army, I'd be a b-----y General"! I fear that this, also, went down like a lead balloon.

Pete Ralph (46th)

ROYAL PRESENTATION

Neil Angus (304th) was recently presented to the Princess Royal when she made a visit to Oban, where Neil resides. Her Royal Highness presented awards to Argyll Voluntary Action, an organisation which public-spirited Neil gives time to. A talented musician and keen Apprentice Wing Band member in his RAF Hereford days, Neil plays music and sings songs at "Soup Lunches" for the elderly for Argyll Voluntary Action. Neil's not an Association member...or at least not yet (I'm working on it!).

Dave Ainsworth (304th)

WHAT'S A BLUE BERET PARADE?

Three years ago my grandson decided to join the Army Apprentices. After a foundation course at the Army Apprentice College at Harrogate, he decided that he wanted to be an avionics technician working with army aircraft; this required him to do a two year course as a junior soldier at the REME depot at Arborfield in Berkshire. On successful completion of the course he would then be a fully fledged soldier and work with the Army Air Corps. We were invited to visit Arborfield and attend his "blue beret parade". The REME normally wear the black beret of the engineers, which had been his dress thus far. At the parade were 10 soldiers, (9 lads and 1 girl), who had all just qualified, and all wearing black berets. A colonel from the AAC took the parade and at its conclusion presented each of the graduates with a spanking new Army Air Corps sky blue beret. That was the end of his training, and he is now at the Apache aircrew training squadron at Wattisham Airfield. Attached is a photo of Andrew, my grandson, (wearing the new beret), and myself.

Bob Blundell (17th)

(NOTE: This article published because it illustrates the fact that the Army are still recruiting apprentices!.....and also, it seems, taking over the training of avionics! Good luck, Andrew. Ed.)



Andrew and Bob

APPEAL FOR HELP

My Dad, 90 last week, has asked me if he could have a DVD of RAF Seletar circa 1953 to 1958. We were there as a family and he does not have any photos. I was there until September 1955 and I left to join the RAF as an Admin Apprentice. My family were there for 3 years and it was the best posting they had! Will you please help me in this, I will pay any costs involved, Regards

"Lofty" Davies (26th)

(NOTE: Lofty has been advised to contact the RAF Seletar Association but feels that "some of our members may have been to Seletar but do not belong to that association". If anyone can help, please contact Lofty at patandbob@gmail.com or on 01162 694938)

**MINUTES OF THE 16TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
RAF ADMINISTRATIVE APPRENTICES ASSOCIATION
HELD ON 22nd JUNE 2013 AT WALTHAM ABBEY MARRIOTT HOTEL**

PRESENT:

Association Committee:	<u>Name</u>	<u>Entry</u>	<u>Post</u>
	W J Wilcox	5 th	President
	B Schofield	33 rd	Chairman
	R Wise	4 th	Vice Chairman/Secretary
	G Hoyland	330 th	Treasurer
	P J Ralph	46 th	Newsletter Editor
	M Heritage	11 th	Archivist
	A Burchell	38 th	Membership Secretary
	T McKnight	318 th	Almoner
	A Bell	29 th	Web Site Manager
	R B Danes	33 rd	Publicity Officer
	D Johnson	313 th	Publicity Officer Designate
	S Sanders	307 th	Golf Secretary
	B Hoare	307 th	Social Secretary

Members (in Entry order):

2nd: S Robathan. **5th:** D Burlingham, R Osborne. **13th:** J White. **14th:** B Richards, J Gent, T Moore. **16th:** G Singlehurst. **17th:** R Mabbott, B Bullivant, G Wright, R Blundell, P Edmonds. **18th:** J Summers. **19th:** D Hobden, A Cowan, J Evans, A Parsons, J Waltham, I Thomson. **20th:** P Follett, J Forshaw. **23rd:** R Shepherd, D Marshall. **24th:** D Bulleid. **27th:** A Martin. **28th:** I Bell, M Owen. **29th:** R Burrow, R Pipe, H Trumbell, G Masson, R Anders, D Davies. **30th:** B Philpott, P Williamson, F Harrington. **33rd:** A Du Feu, G Goddard. **34th:** K Hendry, R Orr, M Ridge, A Peters. **35th:** R Dickinson. **36th:** B DeVecchis. **38th:** P Dyer, D Linney, F Carroll, M Day. **40th:** W Dean, P Charnell, R Cleife, T Price-Rees, G Stevens. **42nd:** R Hedinburgh, K Green, W Hoggarth. **44th:** B Morrison. **46th:** S Foley. **301st:** W Beedie. **304th:** D Ainsworth, G McCullough, A Proctor. **305th:** A Hammonds. (Attendance 77).

ITEM 1 Opening of the meeting by the Association Chairman

The Chairman opened the meeting at 1330 hrs and welcomed members to the 16th Association AGM, in particular those members who are attending for the first time. He thanked all who had travelled a long distance, particularly from overseas; which includes - Ian Bell, Australia; Ray Burrow, Cyprus; Frank Carroll, Spain and Alan Bell, France. He and the Committee hoped they would all enjoy the weekend. He then handed over to the Almoner.

The Almoner asked: Mr. President, Mr. Chairman, Fellow Committee Members and Members "Please stand to honour the memory of those members who have died since our last Annual General Meeting":

Len Stavers 39th (Ruislip), James Rayner 3rd, Bob Adkins 2nd, John Clarke 2nd, Chas Hardie 23rd, Bob White 5th, John Higgs 7th, Reg Holman 17th, Stuart Preston 37th, Chas Hardie 23rd, Peter Osborne 36th, Reg Drinkwater Affiliated, Mrs Kathleen Cameron Honorary.

He also asked to please think of members and their families who are unwell at this time and those members who have been prevented from attending the Reunion because of ill health.

ITEM 2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from the following members (In Entry order): **1st:** P Evans, J Green, M Jeffrey, S Mold, J Robinson, R Shingler. **4th:** P Bullick, D Kirby, J Young. **9th:** J Williamson. **11th:** D Gibson. **12th:** J Fraser. **15th:** P Doggett. **16th:** P Baker. **17th:** W Stott, D Valentine. **18th:** B Cowell. **21st:** A Ross. **23rd:** M Benn, P Bullock, J Reynolds. **24th:** M Griffiths. **25th:** P Homden. **29th:** L Croucher. **32nd:** M Wilkinson. **34th:** M Needham. **38th:** J Featherstone, M Gunning, D Jenking, J Nash, A R Smith (828), A Smith (838). **40th:** R Harden. **41st:** P Hirst, I Ritchie. **42nd:** G Ash. **311th:** K Caswell. **314th:** E Reilly.

ITEM 3 Minutes of the Fifteenth Annual General Meeting held on 16 June 2012.

A copy of the minutes was circulated with the August 2012 Newsletter and are therefore taken as read. Proposed; R Shepherd 23rd, Seconded D Davies 29th that the minutes be accepted as a true record. Carried.

ITEM 4 Matters arising from the AGM held on 16 June 2012 (Other than items on today's agenda)

There were no matters arising from the minutes that are not covered elsewhere in these minutes.

ITEM 5 Presentation, review and acceptance of the Association Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2013

The Treasurer had distributed copies of the audited Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet. These accounts have been audited by John Waltham and there were no formal comments from the Auditor. As was seen from the Income and Expenditure Account, the excess of income over expenditure has shown a decrease from £1,618.88 to £865.98. However, there was a payment of £500.00 for the 2014 AGM hotel deposit, which has been reserved in this year's account. On the income side: Subscriptions were down; Income from the sale of ties & badges was up overall; T-Plus commission has remained roughly the same as last year; Bank interest from the deposit account and High Interest Bond was down slightly. Since the end of the financial year the latest 6 month notice High Income Bond has

matured but has not been re-invested. A deposit of £10,000 has been made into the Cambridge & Counties Bank 95 day notice account which pays 1.95% compared with around 0.5% from the High Interest Bond. All donations made to the Association last year were initially paid into the NMA account; however all bills for the NMA memorial have now been paid. Since then any donations to the Association have been paid into the donations account amounting to £136.05 for the year. There were some major changes on the expenditure side, these were: A further reduction in the cost of telephone calls. The same for newsletter printing as more members receive their newsletter by e-mail. Also, donations to the RAF Ben Fund have fallen as not as many members have passed away. Travel costs have increased, due mainly to meetings for the NMA Project and some costs paid last year that were incurred in the previous year. There was a net cost of £170.00 from last year's Reunion due to the cost of the coach for the Ladies' trip. At this point last year we needed to find £1,400 to fully fund the NMA Project. Sufficient donations were received and all bills have been settled. Overall, the Association remains on a sound financial footing. There were again a number of late subscription payers resulting in 54 needing one reminder to pay (last year 71) and 27 needing 2 reminders to pay (last year 21). This resulted in a loss of 16 members who either resigned or whose membership has now lapsed (last year 23). There is no problem with members paying for more than one year at a time. Also, the Treasure had standing order mandates if anyone wanted one. Trevor Moore 14th proposed and Bob Mabbott 16th seconded that the accounts be accepted as audited. Unanimous

ITEM 6 Annual Membership fees for the year 2014

The Treasurer stated that the Association remains on a sound financial footing and there are no reasons to increase the current level of subscriptions at the moment. Proposed by Garry Hoyland 330th, seconded by John Waltham 19th that the annual subscription remains at £10.00. Unanimous.

ITEM 7 Reports for the period 1 June 2012 to 31 May 2013 from the following committee members.

a. Chairman

The Chairman thanked our President and the whole of the Committee for their support to him and their continuing dedication and hard work on behalf of the Association over the last year. Before starting the individual reports he invited our Association President, Jim Wilcox, to say a few words. The President then thanked Bryan for all his hard work in obtaining all the numbers/names of Administrative Apprentices. He also thanked all the Committee members for all their work.

The Chairman continued, the Association has a number of very well established Regional Groups; namely SW Herts, Gloucester, Cyprus, Spain and Dorset, all who meet on a regular basis and their reports are in the Newsletters and on the website pages. These Groups are now entirely self-sufficient and each has its own coordinator and he thanked them all for their work and continuing commitment to the Association. Again it was very disappointing to see so many former members failing to renew their subscription at the end of last year. Eight members resigned and a further 8 allowed their membership to lapse: Half of these lapsed members were from the 300 series entries. The future of our Association lies in the hands of the later entries and it would be a great pity if we continue to lose members at such a high rate.

b. Membership Secretary

The Membership Secretary stated that since the last AGM we had 13 new members join the Association. Unfortunately there have been 12 deaths in this period, also 8 resignations and 8 lapsed memberships. Total membership now stands at 593, comprising of 556 full members (13 of whom are ex-Ruislip), 1 Life member (Our President), 30 Honorary, 1 Affiliated, 3 Associate and 2 Friends of the Association.

c. Newsletter Editor

The Newsletter Editor stated that he had now received sufficient items for the newsletters but hopes that members will continue to provide items, anecdotes and continue with the reports of meetings, anniversaries etc, both to him and the Website Manager.

d. Social Secretary

The Social Secretary opened by thanking the Chairman for all his support in organising the Reunions. It has been proposed that we do not use Preston again as a Reunion venue; principally because of the distance and also it did not draw in many new faces. The 2014 AGM & reunion will be at the Marriott Hotel Peterborough over the weekend 13/14/15 June. Prices are held at the 2013 rate of £65 per person per night with a £15 single supplement. He has negotiated a discount of 35% on **all** bar prices over the weekend.

e. Publicity Officer

Bob Danes, The Publicity officer informed the meeting that he was standing down as PRO and will be replaced, subject to the members' approval, by David Johnson 313th entry. He then introduced David to the members present. He had continued to place adverts for the Association in free Service related publications. He told members to read the next Daily Telegraph as our Reunion report would, hopefully, be in it.

f. Almoner

The Almoner stated that he had sent get well cards to fourteen members, Honorary members and member's wives. Six thinking of you cards had been sent to Association members suffering particularly difficult times in their lives as recognition that they are not alone and their fellow Association members were remembering them in their thoughts". These were the only ones notified to him, but he is sure that there are other members out there who have been ill or who have experienced difficult times during the year. However, if the information was not notified to either him, or a fellow committee member, he could not react. He asked that, if you do hear of any occasion where you feel a card should be sent, please do get in touch. His contact details, as well as those for all the other Committee members, are on the Association Website. The Chairman had mentioned that the future of the Association rested with attracting new members especially from the 300 series entrants. As Almoner he normally had to report on the death of members but he wanted to say that this year he had managed to recruit one fellow 318th Entry member.

g. Golf Secretary

The Golf Secretary presented trophies to Harry Trumbell and Ian Thomson, the winners of the Friday matches,

h. Archivist

The Archivist had little to report as there haven't been very many additions to the archives. The only thing outstanding is the work on the Toblerone, at the RAF Museum, which has been put on hold with the appointment of a new Director. He is working on a presentation using records of a 33rd Entry apprentice showing correspondence from the Air Ministry, letters from the School and various certificates of achievement together with extracts from a handwritten diary and pass-out results. He has these on record so that when the presentation is needed it will not take long to produce.

j. Website Manager

The Website Manager reported that the site averaged 4,000 hits per month between January and June 2013. He updates every two weeks, depending on need. Some problems with "spammers" on the Application Form and Find a Friend; but reluctant to report as spam because applications from genuine users could be lost. There have been no problems with publishing since using second computer with Windows XP. He will shortly be revisiting the Bircham Newton pages to separate out material relating to the Heritage Centre. The Yahoo Site builder is outdated but the work and cost of re-launching the site is, in his opinion, not worth the effort. He reiterated the fact that the Website is not in competition with the Newsletter. He again asked that Regional Group reports, forthcoming events such as reunions or anything else that needs to get to the membership should be copied to both him and Peter Ralph (Newsletter). (After the meeting Alan gave a presentation, which had to be produced in haste due to a computer burn out. The presentation was very well received).

ITEM 8 Hendon Museum Project progress report.

Toblerone - The Chairman had recently been in contact with Matt George, Head of design at the RAF Museum, who advised that the RAF Museum's Director General, Peter Dye, had removed the Halton Apprentice display which had been at the Museum for many years and consequently Matt was now uncertain whether our toblerone display would be feasible. He is in regular contact with Matt who is very keen for our toblerone display to be in place and has agreed to contact Bryan in a few months time as the Museum staff are concentrating on next year's 100th Anniversary of the start of WW1 and also the Dornier display. Once these are complete Bryan has been told that a planning meeting will be held to discuss all future Museum displays.

Albums - The Chairman advised that he has now received the lists of ex-apprentices in the 8-million series of numbers from DCOS Cranwell. He was very surprised to discover that some 600 numbers in the series were never actually allocated to anyone. DCOS confirmed the fact and advised that these numbers were probably allocated by PMC to applicants who later changed their mind about joining or failed to arrive at Hereford. Details have now been passed to the Website Manager of complete lists, by Entry, of every Admin Apprentice and Alan will update the existing lists on the Website. The Chairman will also furnish the Publicity Officer with the same information and these lists will then be incorporated into the albums along with Entry photographs. Due to the limitations of the Data Protection Act, the information contained in the revised Entry Lists will be number, surname, Christian name where known and initials.

ITEM 9 Administrative Apprentice Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum

The Administrative Apprentice memorial commemorating all who trained as Administrative Apprentices and Apprentice Clerks between 1925 and 1973 has now been in place at the National Memorial Arboretum; Alrewas for a little over one year and the dedication ceremony took place on 20th October last year. If anyone would like a copy of the Dedication Service the leaflets are available from the Chairman. He hopes some members may have had the opportunity to visit the NMA over the last year and that they are as pleased as he is with the memorial.

ITEM 10 Resolutions.

The Committee had not received any resolutions from the members.

ITEM 11 Election of Association Committee for 2013/14

The Chairman stated that all the Committee appointments are scheduled to be elected/re-elected at this AGM. Appointments are for one year, with the exception of those of the Secretary and Treasurer and both these are for 3 years. However, we will not vote on the election of an Association Secretary today. As you may know Bob Wise, the current Association Secretary, is experiencing significant family health problems and we have therefore agreed that he will hand over the responsibilities of Association Secretary as soon as possible; personally, though he is very pleased to say that Bob has agreed to be considered for election to the Vice-Chairman appointment. A member of the 314th Entry, Ed Reilly has volunteered to take on the role of Association Secretary, but unfortunately Ed is unable to attend this AGM because of a long standing family commitment. However, Ed will join us at the next Committee meeting in October when he will become Secretary (designate) and then available for election at next year's AGM. Therefore, Bob has agreed to remain in the Secretary post until the October meeting.

Bob Danes today stands down as Publicity Officer. Since taking on the task Bob has worked hard to promote the Association through whatever media outlets he has been able to persuade to place an advert at a minimal cost, including national and local newspapers, military publications and military affiliated museums. He, along with Alan Bell, was also instrumental in the early stages of the Hendon Toblerone project and then continued to collate the necessary information for the creation of the albums to be placed at the RAF Museum. The Chairman, and he is sure, the members of the Committee will miss Bob's support, timely advice and humour. and a vote of thanks was recorded to Bob for all he has done for our Association. A member of the 313th Entry, David Johnson, who was in attendance, has volunteered to stand for election to the Publicity Officer role. Therefore, to meet the requirements of the Articles of Association, nominees and seconders for the appointments of four Committee members was requested:-

- a. Chairman - Bryan Schofield – proposed Gerry Singlehurst 16th, Seconded Ron Anders 29th – unanimous
- b. Vice Chairman - Bob Wise – proposed by Bryan Schofield 33rd, seconded by Bryan Morrison 44th – unanimous
- c. Association Treasurer - Garry Hoyland - proposed by Bill Beedie 301st, seconded by Bob Wise 4th, - unanimous
- d. Publicity Officer, David Johnson – proposed by Bob Danes 33rd, seconded by Don Davies 29th – unanimous

The remaining 7 members of the current Committee had all indicated their willingness to serve on the Committee for a further term and unless any member objected or volunteered to take on the appointment, a nominee and seconder were requested for:

- e. Tony Burchell - Membership Secretary
- f. Peter Ralph - Newsletter Editor.
- g. Bryan Hoare - Social Secretary
- h. Tom McKnight – Almoner.
- j. Steve Sanders - Golf Secretary.
- k. Mike Heritage – Archivist.
- l. Alan Bell - Website Manager.

Proposed by Harry Trumbell 29th, seconded by Don Burlingham 5th - Unanimous

Over the last few years the Committee has received a great deal of help in tracing former Admin Apprentices from Bill Hoggarth. He has spent many hours tracking down names and addresses from Electoral Rolls and whatever available other source of information he could use. On behalf of the Association, and the Committee in particular, the Chairman recorded a vote of thanks to Bill for his support and dedication: Long may it continue.

ITEM 12 Cenotaph Remembrance Parade.

The Chairman stated that we were represented by 6 of our members at last year's Remembrance Day Parade at the Cenotaph. We will be requesting tickets at next month's Federation meeting for this year's allocation. Six members put their names forward and we will request 8 tickets.

ITEM 13 Any other business.

To celebrate the 75th Anniversary of RAF St Athan a Veterans Day will be held there on 9 July and all former Admin Apprentices are invited to attend.

In an attempt to cut down the long distance travelled by many members to Reunions, venues for future Reunions were discussed. After much debate the Chairman agreed to carry out a survey of distances travelled by members to the last few Reunions and report his finding to the next AGM when the subject would be discussed further.

ITEM 14 Date and Venue of next AGM

The 2014 AGM and Reunion will be held at the Peterborough Marriott Hotel over the weekend of 13/14/15 June 2014

**The Chairman closed the 16th Annual General Meeting of the
Royal Air Force Administrative Apprentices Association at 1530 pm.**

ROYAL AIR FORCE
ADMINISTRATIVE APPRENTICE ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2013

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>LIABILITIES</u>	<u>2013</u>
Cash at Bank	£1,777.09	£5,410.00	Subscriptions 2012	£5,400.00
Deposit Account	£9,504.88	£1,550.00	Hendon Museum Project Reserve	£1,550.00
High Interest Bond	£5,028.27	£959.68	NMA Project Reserve	£0.00
Stock of Ties	£278.46			
Stock of Badges/Wheels	£164.00			
Deposit 2012 Re-Union				
Deposit 2013 Re-Union	£0.00			
Deposit 2014 Re-Union	£500.00	£9,436.72	Capital Account	£10,302.70
	<u>£17,252.70</u>	<u>£17,356.40</u>		<u>£17,252.70</u>

CAPITAL ACCOUNT AS AT 31 MARCH 2013

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>		<u>2013</u>
Balance as at 1st April 2012	£9,436.72	£0.00	Excess - Expenditure over Income	£0.00
Surplus - Income over Expenditure	£865.98	£9,436.72	Balance as at 31st March 2013	£10,302.70
	<u>£10,302.70</u>	<u>£9,436.72</u>		<u>£10,302.70</u>

I certify that I have examined all relevant financial documents of the RAF Administrative Apprentice Association. In my view the Income & Expenditure Account for the period ended 31st March 2013 is an accurate summary of the financial transactions that took place during that period and the Balance Sheet is a true representation of the Associations financial position as at 31st March 2013.

J Waltham

Date:

ROYAL AIR FORCE
ADMINISTRATIVE APPRENTICE ASSOCIATION

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2013

<u>2012</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2013</u>
£5,945.00	Subscriptions (2012)	£5,410.00	£245.03	Net Postage	£242.29
	2012 received 2012/2013	<u>£160.00</u>	£5,570.00	Stationery	£56.29
			£32.68	Printing	£34.95
	Ties:		£29.99	Office Equipment	£39.31
	Opening stock	£417.96	£99.79	Telephone	£49.84
	Plus purchases	<u>£0.00</u>	£1,586.60	Travel Expenses	£2,319.40
		£417.96	£0.00	Publicity	£18.00
	Less closing stock	<u>£278.46</u>	£53.00	Buffets	£55.00
	Net cost	£139.50	£140.00	Donations - RAF Benevolent Fund	£54.00
	Sales	<u>£157.00</u>	£1,634.43	Newsletter Printing - RBLI	£1,264.64
£5.76	Surplus on sales		£17.50	£6.00	£4.00
	Badges/Wheels:		£188.95	Web Site Costs	£120.00
	Opening Stock	£189.00	£26.00	Suspense - Subscriptions	£0.00
	Plus Purchases	<u>£0.00</u>	£3,052.00	NMA Project Costs	£3,008.80
		£189.00	£120.00	Bircham Newton Project	£0.00
	Less closing stock	<u>£164.00</u>	£0.00	2014 Re-Union Hotel Deposit	£500.00
	Net cost	£25.00	£50.00	Hendon Museum Project Additional Reserve	£0.00
	Sales	£33.50	£959.68	NMA Project Reserve	£0.00
£10.00	Surplus on sales		£8.50		
£19.37	Bank account interest		£15.51		
£0.00	Donations	£136.05		<u>2012 Re-Union</u>	
£42.80	T-Plus Commission	£42.14		Coach	£325.00
£50.00	Hendon Museum Project Donations	£0.00		£225.00	
£26.00	Suspense - Subscriptions	£0.00		<u>£155.00</u>	<u>£155.00</u>
£1.50	Membership Lists	£0.00		£70.00	£170.00
£4,011.68	NMA Project Donations	£2,049.12		£126.00	£0.00
	NMA Project Reserve	£959.68		£0.00	£0.00
	Bank charges	£4.00	£216.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Excess Expenditure Over Income			<u>£20.00</u>	<u>£0.00</u>
	to Capital Account		£0.00	<u>£216.00</u>	<u>£170.00</u>
			£1,618.88	Total Cost	<u>£170.00</u>
				Excess Income Over Expenditure	
				to Capital Account	<u>£865.98</u>
<u>£10,112.11</u>		<u>£8,802.50</u>	<u>£10,112.11</u>		<u>£8,802.50</u>

Royal Air Force Administrative Apprentices Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REUNION 13th– 15th JUNE 2014

PETERBOROUGH MARRIOTT HOTEL

BOOKING FORM

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

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

ALL BOOKING FORMS MUST BE RETURNED BY 31st JANUARY 2014

From: - Name..... (Block Capitals please)

Number..... (Check letters not required) Entry.....

Address.....

.....Tel No.....

I will/will not* be attending the Reunion & AGM 2014 and will be **Accompanied/Unaccompanied***

by.....First Name. If attending, please indicate your requirements below:

ROOM RATE - £65.00 PER PERSON PER NIGHT: SINGLE OCCUPANCY SUPPLEMENT £15.00 PPPN.

OPTION A - ACCOMMODATION FOR FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT

(Includes Fri Dinner, Sat Breakfast, Reunion Dinner and Sun Breakfast) - Room Required - please tick

Double Room _____ Twin Room _____ Single Room _____

OPTION B - ACCOMMODATION FOR SATURDAY NIGHT

(Includes Reunion Dinner and Sun Breakfast) - Room Required - please tick

Double Room _____ Twin Room _____ Single Room _____

OPTION C - ACCOMMODATION FOR FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY NIGHT

(Includes Fri Dinner, Sat Breakfast, Reunion Dinner, Sun Breakfast, Sun Dinner and Mon Breakfast) - Room Required - please tick

Double Room _____ Twin Room _____ Single Room _____

OPTION D - REUNION DINNER ONLY (Saturday Evening) (£25.00 p.p.)

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

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 14 June 2014 with the Booking Form

BURNETT TROPHY GOLF – FRIDAY 13TH 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 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