



Qualitas Non Quantitas

95th Entry Halton Apprentices

Newsletter

Number 16

January 2012

Best Wishes for a Happy New Year 2012

95th Entry 50th Anniversary of Graduation Reunion

Hello Everyone,

Despite appearances, the Planning Team have been turning soil & moving mountains. At the meeting held in June 2011, we examined the merits of each of the ten proposed venue areas provided in response to an emailed request during 2010. The Planning Team are grateful to everyone who responded and each proposal was fully considered.

Healthy debate occurred as each proposed area was examined for its suitability from every angle. When the original ten were whittled down to the most likely four, a show of hands vote was taken, which resulted in a very clear majority decision.

Therefore, as advised in the previous newsletter, the City of **YORK**, UK, is the properly elected venue area for the reunion, to be held during April 2013.

Despite your own possible disappointment of chosen area, please bear in mind that this forthcoming 50th celebration in 2013 may be the last re-union of the type we have previously enjoyed. Therefore, this is "**THE ONE**" that we hope you all will make every effort to attend.

This newsletter is to update you all about the Planning Team's further deliberations of details for the reunion and other news.

The following are the salient arrangements: Write them in your appointment's calendar; tie a knot in the curtains; order a minion to "forget at your peril"; now is the time to do your internet research, arrange the bank loan etc, etc, etc.

The specific Venue & Date for the Reunion Function is:

THE PARK INN HOTEL

NORTH STREET

YORK

YO1 6JF

Tel: +44 (0) 1904 459988

on

Wednesday 10th APRIL 2013

1830 hrs for 1930 hrs

Note: In selecting this date and venue, the Planning Team have examined and compared all relevant factors including, especially, the costs of the meal, the venue and venue accommodation, in both mid-week and weekend conditions.

Dress code: Gentlemen - Black Tie optional / Lounge Suit minimum
Ladies - Posh Frocks & crown jewels

The Reunion function will be in a style commensurate with the occasion, similar to those we have enjoyed previously, and as usual, is open to all family members, subject to children age limit of 16 years, no younger please. This Reunion is also especially open to the Widows & families (16 or older) of our deceased members.

Could everyone please actively encourage those members and widows/families of deceased members who are known to you, to attend this reunion. Let us all try to make this occasion the best yet. Thank you.

Meet and Greet

A suitable venue has yet to be chosen for a Meet & Greet (probably between 11.00am - 3.00pm on 10th April 2013) and will be advised at a later date.

Reunion Dinner Menu

In the past, our Reunion dinner has given choices of starter, main course and sweet. However, on this occasion, the Reunion Dinner will be a sit-down meal with a set menu, which is a deviation from our norm, but a cheaper option.

This is considered to be the best solution, in the current economic climate, considering the costs and logistics involved etc and will preclude you having to decide what you want to eat 15 months in advance, as in the past.

In reaching this decision, the Planning Team have studied the hotel's sample menu lists and proposed a menu similar to the following example.

Starter:	Leek & Potato Soup *
Main:	Medallions of Lamb, Venison & Beef * with potatoes and vegetables
Sweet:	Crème Brulee / Raspberry Coulis *
	Coffee & Truffles *
	Table Cheese Board & Port **

Nota Bene: It is emphasised at this stage, that the above is an example only until we have confirmed with the Hotel that this menu is acceptable. The actual menu will be related later.

* It is anticipated that the cost of the meal, per person, will be approximately £35.00 (TBD).

** The Table Cheese Board and Port will be an additional extra, funded from the Entry Fund.

The Park Inn Hotel, York

The 3*/ 4* Park Inn Hotel, North Street, York. YO1 6JF, (previously known as the Viking Moat House Hotel) has been chosen because it offers the best overall solution for our reunion requirements. We think this is the best compromise between venue elegance, function room availability, dinner and accommodation comfort and proximity to other hotel or B&B establishments.

To paraphrase the hotel's internet description, the Park Inn Hotel is a vibrant city centre hotel located in the centre of York. The hotel's 200 stylish and comfortable guest rooms includes Standard, Riverview and Business Friendly rooms and feature 24-hour room service, air conditioning, flat-screen 26" digital TVs and complimentary use of their Health and Fitness Club. This is the largest hotel in York, just a five-minute walk from York Train Station and is near shopping districts and major tourist attractions.

Accommodation at The Park Inn Hotel, York

Standard per-room rates at this Hotel are; mid-week circa £100.00+ and weekends circa £160.00+. The following accommodation rates are offered for our Reunion:

Standard room	Double occupation	1 night	£89.00
Standard room	Double occupation	2 or more nights	£75.00
Standard room	Single occupation	1 night	£79.00
Standard room	Single occupation	2 or more nights	£75.00

Room Upgrade £20.00 extra per night for Minster/River views

N.B. These prices are the best value for money noted during venue investigations and are current for 2011/2012 period. Please remember that there may be an increase for 2013 (possibly in the region of 5-10%).

Alternative Accommodation: York has a plethora of alternative accommodation at over 250 hotels, Travel Lodge, Premier Inn, B&B's and guest houses - all bookable via the Visitor Information Centre (+44 (0) 1904 550099; Email: visityork.org; www.visityork.org) who can advise you.

Accommodation Booking

If you are planning to attend the reunion, whatever accommodation package you choose for yourselves, it is strongly recommended that you make your booking as soon as you can. Please bear in mind that York is non seasonal and very popular with tourists all year round.

If opting for the Park Inn Hotel, to ensure you get the negotiated package, please quote:

RAF 95 Entry Reunion and Code: RAFR 100413

A credit Card number is sufficient to secure a room booking at the Park Inn Hotel.

DEPOSIT REQUIRED PLEASE: Please be aware that the Planning Team has paid out a substantial deposit (greater than current funds) to secure the larger of two function rooms, which is dependent on numbers attending. To provide confidence to the Planning Team of your probable attendance and justify the advance expenditure, would you all please show your commitment and forward a minimum £10.00 per person non-refundable deposit as soon as possible to:

Alf Banyard, 105 Stone Hill Drive, BLACKBURN, BB1 5TS.
[Cheques payable to "A P Banyard (95 Reunion)" please]

Overseas members: To alleviate possible money transfer difficulties, please confirm your attendance until costing is confirmed and time to pay is announced later in 2012.

A Special Message to the Families of Deceased Members

The 95th Entry has always been special, due largely to the calibre of its members and the bonds of friendship that formed in the early years together.

As this is likely to be the last centrally organised reunion, the Planning Team would like to emphasize and extend a very warm invitation to the widows and families (16 and over, please) of members who sadly are no longer with us.

Please come along and join us in April 2013, with or without a companion, to help us celebrate this unique occasion. You would be very welcome and we would truly love to see you. For the rest of the Entry, please do your best to encourage, or perhaps even accompany, those widows or children who would like to come.

Worried About Costs?

Now that you are aware of the relevant details, it makes sense to start saving for the anticipated expenditure involved. By using the costs detailed in this newsletter, it can be seen that the core costs for a couple, staying one night at the Park Inn and attending the reunion dinner, amount to around £160.00, not counting travel and incidentals. Alternative accommodation may be cheaper still.

Nevertheless, if you have concerns that these costs may be a bit out of reach, we may be able to offer a little help. We have limited Entry funds available which we intend to use at this function and which could be used to help.

Rather than miss this important event, please do contact Alf or Roger by mail or email - Discretion is assured.

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AL4 9DY
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OTHER NEWS

Stu Rae Found

Great News. Following an opportune tip-off, Stu Rae, his wife Brenda and their son Graeme, have been found again. He served on Harriers for 15 years; left the RAF age 43 in 1987; 15 years picture framing in Stamford, then Computer sales in Saltash, Cornwall; then back to Stamford doing PC repairs. Now retiring to Saltash as at 2nd December 2011.

Halton Grove at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA)

National Memorial Arboretum (NMA), Croxall Road, ALREWAS, Staffs. DE13 7AR. Tel: 01283-792333 (from internet) (or RAFHAA +44 (0) 1296 696896 (from Haltonian).

The revamp work on The Halton Grove is now complete. The new Wheel/Propeller, gates and commemorative pathways are now available for the public to view.

To date, almost 100 Entry pavers (including ours - see right) together with a number of "In Memoriam" pavers have been laid or going to be laid and the new gates have been installed. Other areas of the installation show extracts from RAFHAA history and names some of our heroes, such as Thomas Grey VC (20th) and Sir Frank Whittle (8th).

**95th Entry
1960 - 1963
Qualitas non
Quantitas**

The RAFHAA Council has arranged an official opening on Saturday 12 May 2012 at the Halton Grove to mark the 90th anniversary of the Halton Apprentice scheme.

The celebration will be for RAF Halton Apprentices Association members and their guests/carers ONLY. Admission will be by TICKET ONLY and only members of RAFHAA will be entitled to tickets.

Non-members of the Association who wish to attend this anniversary event are encouraged to apply for RAFHAA membership ASAP and especially ask for a copy of the official application form for tickets to this event - but you will need to move fast.

All applications for tickets are to be made to the Airfield Office on the official form, which must arrive at the Office not later than **10th February 2012**, with the envelope marked "2012 anniversary". Incorrectly marked envelopes may be overlooked.

What about after 2013 ?

What happens after the reunion function in 2013? The Planning Team are considering this question. It might transpire that a more informal arrangement will be preferred. Perhaps in the form of the simple publication of a date and a venue and leave it up to those who want to just turn up, perhaps annually rather than as at present.

IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS, PLEASE SHARE THEM AND LET US KNOW.

In Memoriam

*Colleagues and Friends who are known to have passed on.
Always in our thoughts and prayers.*

Michael McColl Young

Clive Wilson

Colin Pollard

Mike Frankling

Chris Harris

Roland Bath

Rod Pritchard

Bob Jupp

RL (Bob) Horsham

Mike Chambers

Keith Burdass

Jerry Padgen

Mike Thatcher

Glyn Bolderson

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On behalf of the Planning Team,

Alf