



Qualitas Non Quantitas

95th Entry Halton Apprentices

Newsletter

Number 18

May 2013

95th Entry 50th Anniversary of Graduation

Post Reunion Report

The latest reunion of the 95th Entry was held at the Park Inn Hotel, York, on Wednesday 10th April 2013, to celebrate our 50th Anniversary of Graduation, to the day & the date.

I, personally, was humbled and delighted to meet all the old colleagues and their Ladies who attended, especially those who had travelled half way round the globe - and you caint go further than that without getting into space, tha' knows!

Attended by 54 members and guests, which included the Widow and Son of a deceased member, the whole event was a marvellous success - from meeting early birds on Tuesday 9th and impromptu dinner parties, through the Meet and Greet at the "Corner Pin" & the formal Reunion Dinner on the 10th, to socialising through York on the Thursday & Friday rest (sic) days - a really jolly good time was had by all.

Email messages of goodwill were received and read out from Peter & Marlene Micklewood (South Africa); Tony & Denise Dapre (Australia); Alistair Allcroft; Janet Carlton (Sister of Roland Bath); Janet Chambers (Widow of Mike - Corfu) and Phil Stephens 86th Entry, which underlines the depth of camaraderie that exists between ex Apprentices everywhere.

The accolades received and reproduced below pass their own message, however, reading them all with impartiality, it can be construed that Roger and I did everything. THIS IS NOT TRUE. Whereas we were the Up-Front faces in communications etc, it must be remembered that everyone on the Planning Team deserve and get equal billing. Marlene Dietrich got it right with her rendition of "*See what the boys (& girls) in the back room will have*". (Mine's a Malt!)

As previously stated, this is the last reunion with me in the driving seat. Thank you all for your support over the last 20 years,

With sincere best wishes & warm regards,
Alf

Bill Thornley has written a report which he is sending to the Haltonian Magazine (journal of the RAFHAA) and also the Royal British Legion magazine with a request for their publication. Bill's report is reproduced here - verbatim or, as she is writ.

95th Entry 50th Anniversary of Graduation - Reunion

The 95th Entry held this event at York on 10th April 2013. The venue was the Park Inn Hotel which is situated on the south bank of the River Ouse. The hotel had splendid views of the city and the iconic York Minster being only a 5 minute walk to the city offering many shops and picturesque streets.

The event commenced with a 'meet and greet' at the Corner Pin, a typical city pub close to the hotel. 54 people attended including the son of a departed member. The hotel dining room was meticulously prepared with a grand display of memorabilia. A 5 course dinner was promptly and efficiently served by the hotel staff.

After the meal our chairman Alf Banyard remembered our departed members and then commenced his speech with a long and detailed history of the Entry's achievements over the past 50 years. The 95th were the first of the smaller entries but achieved some very high results during their 3 years of training (1960 – 1963). Several pursued long term careers in the RAF whilst many served the minimum 12 years and then achieved high class civilian careers both in the UK and overseas.

The Entry went 30 years before the first reunion and thanks to Mike Gay who mainly sponsored the event with Alf who spent many hours tracing the members. The 'first' was held at Thame in 1993. Since then the Entry has been held together by a well organised planning team led by Alf.

Further reunions were held at Leeds in 1998, Tring 2000, Thame 2003, Stratford upon Avon 2007 and Australia 2010. The Australia venture involved 5 years of very careful planning and long distance coordination between the planning team and 'our man in Sydney' Tony Dapre. The Entry received a warm welcome and outstanding support by the Australian Returned and Services League (RSL) during the visit. The RSL organised a 95th Entry paver placed in the Forestville RSL Sub Branch Memorial Garden. The Entry was also invited to march - complete with 95th banner, at the ANZAC Day celebration which by coincidence 2010 was the 95th ANZAC celebration.

During 1999 it was decided to donate a 95th Entry stained glass window to the west window of St Georges Church at RAF Halton. Such was the response by the Entry that enough money was raised to donate a second window at the apex of the west window. Window No 73 depicts the 95th Entry motto and No 74 forms a cross in the 3 colours of the 3 Apprentice Wings. A reunion was held at Tring and a church service of dedication of the windows on 14th May 2000. In recent years a 95th entry paver has been laid in the Halton Grove at the National Memorial Arboretum.

Also during the evening an e-mail arrived from Jan Chambers, wife of the late Mike, who now lives in Corfu. She apologised for her absence but wished the Entry an enjoyable reunion.

Alf finally ran out of words but did announce his retirement as chairman and would not be involved with any further major planning activities.

Jeff Bullock then thanked Alf for making all the reunions possible and the work involved. He also paid tribute to Pam Miller who sadly passed away during the planning stages of this reunion. Pam had been a member of the planning team together with Roger over many years.

Finally, on behalf of the Entry I would like to thank Alf for his excellent work over the years including the production of the 95th Entry Newsletters. Also to Roger Miller who bravely carried on planning after the loss of his dear Pam. Roger runs our website and keeps us in touch with his many and sometimes humorous E-mails.

Many thanks to the members of the planning team: Jeff and Marilyn Bullock, John and Gayle Othen, John & Stephanie Cormack and Tony and Ann Eve. You have all served the Entry well and made the reunion a very memorable occasion.

This was the last of the large organised reunions. Future events will be on an 'ad hoc' basis.

One for your diaries, 12th April 2014 – Bell Hotel, Aston Clinton.

Bill Thornley 95th Entry
(Qualitas non Quantitas)

POST 2013 REUNION - ACCOLADES

(to all Planning Team Members)

1. Hi Alf, So sorry we missed you this morning, as we wanted to say how much we enjoyed the reunion. No doubt you are very relieved everything went off so well, but that in part is due to all the hard work you and Dusty have put in. It was lovely to catch up with everyone for a last ??? time. Best regards,

Sue and Mike Gay 12/4/2013

2. Hi Alf, Roger, Jeff and John and all the planning team. Hope that you all got home OK and all is well with you. I wish to offer my personal thanks and congratulations to you for the wonderful achievement of this special re union. I'm sure that you would have suffered the anxiety etc that comes with planning and arranging these events. It was perfect. The meal, the get together, the whole atmosphere and location. There was also, for us, that lack of urgency now so important to us 'oldies' enjoying the more casual pace of life which gave us the peace of mind to enjoy our time with such dear friends. Our very best regards to you all.

Liz and Errol MacBean (13/4/2013)

3. Dusty, thanks for the database update. It was lovely to see you all again and to meet all the others after such a long time (even though it seems to get more difficult to recognise some of them!). Thanks again for a great Reunion, All the very best,

Dave Kennet 13/4/2013

4. Thanks Roger - and many thanks to you, Alf and the planning team for organising such a great Reunion. I'm sure everyone enjoyed themselves. We are now back in Swindon where it is cold and raining. Just had email from Oz to say how hot it is! Anyway it was lovely to catch up with you and the others. We stayed behind at the hotel to say goodbye to everyone but may have missed a few. John and Steph being one of the couples but will email them from Oz when we get back. Take care. Kind regards,

Chris and Jan Michalak 14/4/2013

5. Alf and the Planning Team: Many thanks to you all for a well organised reunion. We thoroughly enjoyed the event. Our best wishes,

Bill & Jeanette Thornley 14/4/2013

6. To all the Committee - Hi guys and gals!! (We did remember the recognition awarded to you ladies during Alf's speech!)

Thanks to you ALL for all your hard work in putting such a great reunion together! What a wonderful fun-filled few days of meeting, chatting, 'recognising' and remembering with the cream on the cake being the addition of being able to see York. What a city!!

It's a long time on the train from Cornwall (OK OK ... I know we can't match Oz or NZ!), but a straight through trip with no changes made things easy. Incidentally, the very first shop we found on getting here was ... yep .. a Cornish Pasty shop situated right at the station entrance. How did you plan that Alf? .. or weren't you i/c trains?

No, seriously, it was a great reunion thanks to all your hard work. I'm not good at keeping in touch, as Dusty well knows, but you persevere and make some of us feel guilty. When I've finished with all this college stuff (If I meet these deadlines .. help!) I'm going to have a bash at trying to get in touch with some of the other Electrical and Instrument guys for any future one, even though informal. "All on me own guys! – Come on!!"

Loved the speech Alf and thanks for the introduction to Betty's Tea Room. What a treat. Oh and ... to you Dusty, .. Thanks for the treat!

Will pull all stops out for next one ... "Dreckly!!"

Steph, a real Cornish woman, adds her thanks and good wishes.

Rog (Smith) and Steph 14/4/2013

7. Alf, Thanks for once again masterminding a great reunion. There is no doubt without you there would probably not have been any. At every one the chat reveals something new about how we made our way to this point in our lives. Once again thank you and good wishes.

Tony and Hilary Bradley 14/4/2013

8. Thanks for all your efforts, you really pulled off a splendid occasion and the after dinner speech was fantastic. Well done Alf, see you soon. Best regards,

Ann & Tony Eve 15/4/2013

9. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves at the reunion and hopefully will be able to make Aston Clinton. Many thanks to all those involved in the organisation. All the best,

Dave and Veronica Howe 15/4/2013

10. Hi Dusty, Thanks for the updated database. Will be putting it to good use. May I take this opportunity to thank you, Alf and all those on the organizing committee for producing a really great Reunion. Marian & I really enjoyed ourselves not only during the evening but also at the meet and greet.

To all those who attended, may I also thank you all for putting us at ease and making the event feel as if it was really a "family" get together. If I do not see some of you before, then hopefully, I will see you all at next year's gathering at Aston Clinton.

Best regards,

Mike & Marian Storey 17/4/2013

11. Hi Alf, A belated thanks for the excellent reunion of last week and also many thanks for all of your hard work over the last 50 years! Last week's events, including your wonderful speech, were well worth waiting for. Best wishes for the future and I look forward to meeting up again - The Bell at Aston Clinton next year???

Grahame & Sandra Catherall 17/4/2013

12. (After receiving Pipes & Drums web site URL from Roger 18/4/2013) Thanks Roger - I found this site some years ago but it has mushroomed since I last looked. Many thanks, I'll have another poke about. Best regards and many, many, thanks for the reunion, which we enjoyed enormously.

Johnny & Una Johnson 18/4/2013

13. Alf, thank you for a great 50th Anniversary reunion. Must remember to bring the paperwork next time,

Jock (Mike) Reid 22/4/2013

14. Was a great get together!!!

Bob Harris & Jo Lamont 6/5/2013

(from a man of few words, each word is sweeter - Thanks, Bob)

15. Hi (Dusty), Really enjoyed the re-union, good company, good food and a gallon of beer, what's not to like. Thank you for all you do, not just on those nights but throughout the year. See you at Aston Clinton in April next year and maybe in September * this year.

Tony Bradley 6/5/2013

*(Note. * refers to the RAFHAA Triennial reunion at Halton on September 21st - see below)*

POST 2013 REUNION PHOTOGRAPHS REPOSITORY

A) Roger is using his IT skills in attempting to establish an Entry friendly repository which everyone would be able to access with a unique entry code and deposit copies of their reunion photographs and subsequently view everyone else's - a really good and welcome concept. As a new venture, he is experiencing some teething problems. He forwarded the initial attempt recently (30th April) with his input inserted, which has prompted the following messages:

i. Hello Dusty, Thanks for the photos, super. If only I could recognise somebody apart from you and Errol. I've been studying all the faces and comparing them with the old Halton pics but no chance of putting a name to any of the faces, even those with relatively strong features. The only thing that nearly everyone has in common was a nice middle aged belly!?! It's a pity that I couldn't get there because then I could have gone around asking everybody their names. One never knows perhaps in flesh and blood I might have recognised somebody. I was glad to hear that a good time was had by all and those of you who attended will have something nice to remember. Best wishes to you all,

John Vince 1/5/2013

ii. Hi Dusty and Everybody, It seems as though I am having the same problem as John Vince in recognising some of the lads from the photos. Naturally having recently run the event in Sydney I was able to recognise some of those who attended as well as the Ozzie contingent who were present. Perhaps Dusty you could send us a list of the names as they were standing in the group photos just in case I ever run into one of them in Sydney. I am still very disappointed at not being able to be with you at what is an unrepeatable event and please know that

there will always be a bed available for any of you who decide on a holiday in Sydney at any time. Regards,

Tony Dapre 1/5/2013

- iii. Thanks Dusty. We are now back in Oz enjoying some good, warm weather!!! It was great to catch up and the planning committee did a splendid job. Jan is just sorting out our photographs. Take care. Regards to you all.

Chris and Jan Michalak 2/5/2013

- B. The following message was prompted following email circulation of "identification" photo's from Alf:

- i. Thank you Alf - saucy wench indeed!! For those of you who didn't attend, I was not on the floor through booze!!!! I was trying to get everyone in my photograph. You missed a great Reunion and Alf and the planning team did a wonderful job. Hope you are all well. We are back in the land of Oz and enjoying some decent weather!! Now that we've returned of course the weather has improved. It's down to 23 degrees today in Sydney, but most acceptable after having tops of 16 in UK - with cold winds blowing. Brrrrrr! Just off to watch our grandson play AFL now. Take care. Regards to all,

Chris and Jan Michalak 4/5/2013

THE 11th RAFHAA TRIENNIAL REUNION

The 11th Triennial Reunion of the RAF Halton Apprentices Association will be held at RAF Halton on Saturday 21st September 2013.

Full details were printed in the "Issue 65 - February 2013" version of the Haltonian magazine together with a loose pre-registration form for use by association members. Those who are members would have received a copy and know all about it; those who are not members didn't, and consequently do not know the details.

If you are interested and don't have the information, please contact the Association at:

RAFHAA, The Airfield, RAF Halton, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP22 5PG.

Tel: +44 (0) 1296 696896

Office Hours: 10.00 - 13.00 hrs (Tuesday & Thursday)

Email: secretaryhaaa@aol.com

In order to attend you will be required to join the Association as well as pay appropriate fees.

NEXT 95th ENTRY SOCIAL GATHERING

The Planning Team (10 off) intend to meet for an informal meal, on

Saturday 12th April 2014

at:

The Bell in Aston Clinton

London Road, Aston Clinton, Aylesbury, HP22 5HP

Tel: +44 (0) 1296 632777

7.00 pm for 7.30

However, we have discovered that they will not take an advance booking until 4 months prior to that time, i.e. 12 December 2013 at the earliest.

This notwithstanding, nothing will be "organised" except an original loose booking for a table for 10 people - which might increase in quantity.

Everyone is welcome to join us; make your own accommodation bookings "where-ever" to suit your personal preference, but -

PLEASE DO REMEMBER

- to let The Bell know you are coming to join the throng for the meal - mentioning 95 Entry and date (Saturday 12th April 2014) should be enough.

If you're not booked in on the night - It's down to you!

It might be a good idea to let us know your intentions, too - just for the hell of it!

N.B: Make sure you make note of the above information
There will be no further reminders.

SOMETHING I PICKED UP ON MY TRAVELS

A Sobering Thought

(Although the following is written as "Man"; it is equally applicable as "Woman" too)

*Some time when you're feeling important; some time when your ego's in bloom;
some time when you take it for granted you're the best qualified man in the room;
some time when you feel that your going would leave an unfillable hole,
just follow this simple instruction and see how it humbles your soul.*

*Take a bucket and fill it with water; plunge your hands in up to your wrists;
take them out and see the hole that remains; it's a measure of how you'll be missed.*

*You may splash all you please as you enter; you may stir all the water galore;
but, stop, and you'll see in a minute, it looks just the same as before.*

*The moral of this is quite simple; just do the best that you can,
Be proud of yourself, but remember, there is NO indispensable man.*

Obituary

REG APPS

It is with sadness that I confirm the passing of Reg Apps on August 10th 2012 from Fibrosing Alveolitis (or Idiopathic Pulmonary Disease) aka "chronic respiratory failure" - read on:

Having, at the re-union, raised the possibility that Reg Apps was no longer "with us", but then on reflection not recalling how I may have heard about his demise (if at all), I decided to phone his wife, Amy, last night (Friday 12 April). I'm sure we've all, at some time, hesitated when deciding to contact someone about a loved one or friend who may, or may not, have died. However I'm glad I did.

The sad thing is that Reg died on August 10th last year (2012). When Amy realised who I was (she remembered me writing to Reg last February 2012), she was quite forthcoming and there wasn't any awkwardness at all. She remembered Alf and Dusty visiting but within a few months Reg was deteriorating badly. He last e-mailed me on April 10th (2012), to which I replied and that was the last I heard. Amy said she didn't know how to contact any of his Halton friends as all his computer files were a bit of a mystery to her and she didn't know how to find his e-mails.

Reg received palliative care nursing at home and she gave him his last meal before he passed away at 6 pm. She still sounded very lost without him but also pleased to know that his friends would still remember him; I explained about our entry camaraderie and that at reunions etc., we always remembered those of us who had passed on.

Dave Kennet 13/4/2013

Reg's name is added to our "In Memoriam" list and he will be remembered at all our future functions.

In Memoriam

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

Michael McColl Young

Roland Bath

Keith Burdass

Clive Wilson

Rod Pritchard

Jerry Padgen

Colin Pollard

Bob Jupp

Mike Thatcher

Mike Frankling

Bob Horsham

Glyn Bolderson

Chris Harris

Mike Chambers

Steve Urwin-Mann

Reg Apps

Qualitas Non Quantitas

Your Planning Team

IMPORTANT NOTICE

HAVING HAD OUR FINAL FORMAL REUNION WE HAVE DECIDED THAT ALL FUTURE 95TH ENTRY COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE BY EMAIL ONLY.

AFTER THIS ISSUE, ON A COST SAVING BASIS, SNAIL MAIL COPIES WILL NOT BE ISSUED. THE COST OF MATERIALS AND STAMPS ALL COMES OUT OF SOMEONE'S POCKET, NOT FROM ENTRY FUNDS. THE PRODUCTION TIME HAS REDUCED OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS OF NEWSLETTERS AS MORE PEOPLE WENT ONTO EMAIL. HOWEVER THE PRINTING, COLATING, MAIL MERGE AND POSTING STILL COSTS TIME AND MONEY.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE YOUR OWN EMAIL ADDRESS THEN WE THINK THAT YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO ARRANGE FOR ONE OF YOUR CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN WHO HAVE EMAIL TO PASS MASSAGES TO YOU. PERHAPS A NEIGHBOUR WOULD OBLIGE.

CONSEQUENTLY, IF YOU RECEIVE THIS BY SNAIL MAIL AND WISH TO MAINTAIN CONTACT, PLEASE ADVISE A SUITABLE FUNCTIONAL EMAIL ADDRESS FOR YOURSELF TO:

ROGER MILLER (quernrigger@yahoo.co.uk) OR
ALF BANYARD (alfpatban@ntlworld.com)