



Qualitas Non Quantitas

95th Entry Halton Apprentices

Newsletter

Number 21

April/May 2014

How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.

~~~~ ~~~~~ ~~~~~

*For Whom "The Bell" tolled.*

*Post Informal Reunion 12 April 2014 - Report*

At the last meeting of the Planning Team prior to the 50th Anniversary of Graduation in York, there was much discussion about Entry meetings in future. Eventually, it was suggested and agreed to hold an informal gathering in April 2014 using The Bell in Aston Clinton as a suitable first venue. It was believed that we could just turn up for a group meal without going to any "organisational" trouble; however, subsequent events & discussions proved this to be incorrect and Roger took up the loose reins, doing a splendid job by visiting the venue and finalising arrangements. You know the rest. Well done, Roger.

Thus, the first informal gathering of the 95th Entry took place as advertised on Saturday 12th April 2014 with 25 people attending (13 old boys, 10 partners, which included Dimitri & Christine Diamandopulis for the first time and "two others"). Unfortunately, two couples couldn't attend due to medical problems but I can assure them that their share of the modest financial subsidy from the Entry Fund was "liquid-ated" to great effect.

The "two others" were Janet Carlton (who is the sister of our Roland "Duke" Bath, deceased) accompanied by her son Roland, having accepted the opportunity offered. Some of you will recall that Janet came to our attention in the build-up to the reunion at York in 2013 but too late to be invited to attend at that time. They were both warmly welcomed into our midst. I am led to believe that Janet was absolutely thrilled at spending some social time with us as I hope her feedback, when received, will reflect - *Qualitas non Quantitas*.

Our provisional booking for 10 - 20 diners was refined to 25 and allowed for a room to ourselves, where customary justice was done to food & beverage on offer, interrupted frequently by bounteous conversation. As usual, a toast was held to "Absent Friends". The proverbial good time, as they say, was had by all.

**REQUEST:** Could all attendees please provide feedback of their opinions of the venue, venue staff, catering standards, accommodation standards and general value for monies from the weekend - possibly intimating a willingness to go back next year - or not!

**Entry Fund:**

It had been intended to fully use the Entry Fund at the 50th Anniversary of Graduation on 10th April 2013 in York, however, due to unexpected refunds, I was left with a minor sum of £361.50 (too little to do anything with; too much to disregard). This sum has sat undisturbed in the bank account for the last 12 months and hence I resolved to use it up at this second opportunity and close the account.

As it is very unlikely that there will be any further major Entry reunions, I cannot foresee any real need to maintain the Entry Fund as a going concern. Consequently, I have distributed the remnants of the fund as shown below:

|                                         |               |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------|
| Maintenance of Entry Website (£)        | 225.00        |
| Subsidy of Reunion Meals 12/04/2014 (£) | 125.00        |
| Administration Costs (£)                | 11.50         |
| Total (£) :                             | <u>361.50</u> |

The Entry Fund is now finished.

**I've learned....** That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

**Is This the Last Reunion?**

No further major Entry reunions are envisaged but the question is: Will there be any more informal gatherings of the type just enjoyed?

All it will take is for "*Someone*" to propose a suitable Restaurant / Pub / Hotel venue in their own catchment area (with the capacity to cater for a group of around a guess-timated 20/25/30 ish diners) and (here is the crunch) for that person to act as the local representative to perform the very minor duties of organisation; liaison to confirm venue willingness to comply, ascertain their modus operandi for group bookings (individual tabs etc); locate & supply menus as required, possibly suggest likely local accommodation sites and be "Head Honcho" until fruition - not very much at all, really!

It is a task "*Anyone*" can do but if "*No-one*" comes forward, then the concept will fall into the proverbial black hole - which will be a great shame.

For the future, it is as well to remember that Roger has spent considerable time and energy in creating and maintaining the Entry Data Base and he has indicated his willingness to continue

to be the "Point of Contact" and "World Wide Communicator" between everyone. Consequently, that side of things is taken care of and will continue - whatever.

Furthermore, Mike & Marian Storey ~~were browbeaten~~ volunteered to look into organising something on the same lines for next year and have appealed for some "suggestions" from the Entry of suitable venues/Sites - **Thinking caps on, chaps!**

**Volunteers are needed, por favor! It's down to you, Guys!  
(but see above)**

**If a pig loses its voice, does it become disgruntled?**

The following text is a message from Roger Smith (& a poorly Stephanie) which was intended to be read out during the evening. However, despite the marvellous advances in communication science, it didn't get through in time - therefore, herewith related for your enjoyment (Thanks, Roger. Hope Steph recovers well & soon).

**Subject:** Message from HM!

Dear People round the Table

“I have been instructed by Her Majesty to send our heart felt appreciation for all the sales of the nation’s ales whilst you were serving in her Royal Flying Corps .. and the extended efforts still being maintained .. above the call of human duty ... OR, in other words, ... When you old buggers still refuse to surrender to total pipe and slippers!!

“WE are most humbled ... Have one on us!! (Go on Phillip .. Get yer purse out!!)”

Sorry just couldn’t make it this year fellers (and feller-esses).

Rog and his patient Steph

(Was gonna sing you all a song over the phone ... but they might charge you for the in-house entertainment!!!)

**And it's goodnight from me ...**

I have been privileged to continue from where Mike Gay left off after our first reunion in 1993 and confess to having enjoyed the journey to date.

As I said in York, I have been pleased and encouraged to do so by all your enthusiastic support given to the events that occurred over the subsequent 20 years, which made it all really worthwhile; whilst not forgetting the valuable active help and encouragement specifically provided by Bill & Jeanette Thornley, Jeff & Marilyn Bullock, John & Gayle

Othen, John & Stephanie Cormack, Roger & Pam Miller and Tony & Ann Eve, along the way.

By each of your generosity of spirit and funding, the Entry has achieved marked recognition by donating it's stained glass tributes to the two topmost centre column locations in the West Wall of St. Georges Church, RAF Halton; by laying memorial pavers at the Forestville Returned and Service League (RSL), Sydney, NSW, Australia and at The Halton Grove in the UK National Memorial Arboretum grounds at Alrewas, Staffordshire and also by selecting a new Entry Badge from several designs submitted, retaining the old motto Qualitas non Quantitas.

I said at York that I would not be fronting any further Entry events and stopped talking by using these words:

Don't walk in front of me for I may not follow;  
Don't walk behind me for I may not lead;  
Walk beside me and be my friend.

Those words are no less true now, as they were then; I consider each of you my friend and I am deeply honored.

With apologies to anyone I've upset over the years; Good luck, God bless & Thank you,

Alf Banyard  
Armourer  
(Hon. Chair)

P.S. Looking Forward to Next Years' Do.

War does not determine who is right - only who is left.

There is no such thing as clutter just different forms of relaxed organisation!! - Jeff Bullock

When you get a bladder infection urine trouble.

The statistics on sanity say that one out of every four persons is suffering from some sort of mental illness. Think of your three best friends; if they're OK..!? then it's you!

**I've learned....** That I can always pray for someone when I do not have the strength to help in some other way

## *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*

*John Swash*

## *Qualitas Non Quantitas*

*Dusty (ne Roger) & Alf*

**I've learned...** That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

**I've learned....** That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.

