



Qualitas Non Quantitas

95th Entry Halton Apprentices

Newsletter

Number 26

July 2016

Post 2016 Reunion Report

Held on Thursday 16th June 2016 at Barnsdale Lodge Hotel, Rutland

Ladies and Gentlemen of the 95th Entry:-

I feel privileged to use that form of address due to something that one of the guys said to me in casual conversation on the Wednesday afternoon before the reunion.

He said that it was a curious thing but at other RAF reunions he attended, he had never experienced the degree of warmth & companionship that he gets from one of our reunions.

I thought about that and concluded that it must be because of the people encountered-

YOU PEOPLE!

(Breathe on your fingernails & polish on your lapel) He's Right! I agree with him!

Read on and be proud!

Bill & Jeanette Thornley:

Congratulations are due to Bill & Jeanette Thornley as they celebrate their 50 years Golden Wedding anniversary later on in the year. They will be celebrating with their full family inclusive of, I think, 5 grandchildren around them

Well done Bill and Jeanette - a rare and fine achievement these days.

2016 Reunion and Dinner:

The 2016 Reunion took place as advertised on Thursday 16th June at Barnsdale Lodge Hotel, Oakham, Rutland and was a credit to Tony & Hilary Bradley's sterling organisation.

It was attended by a total of 29 people comprising 27 Entry members and their ladies, being:-

Tony & Hilary Bradley (2); Alf Banyard (1); John & Stephanie Cormack (2); Tony & Ann Eve (2); Dave & Veronica Howe (2); Martin & Denise Kerby (2); Sandy Lerski & Mary (2); Errol & Liz Macbean (2); Roger (Dusty) Miller (1); Mike Reid (1); Roy & Mary Scott (2); Mike & Marian Storey (2); George & Valerie White (2); John & Pam Worsfold (2) and Bill & Jeanette Thornley (2),

plus Wendy & Glenn Warder, by specific invitation.

Wendy is the daughter of Janet Carlton (Roland Baths' sister) who joined us in April 2014 at the Bell, Aston Clinton, Unfortunately, Janet passed away in February 2016 and Wendy notified Roger by email to advise us. Roger responded sympathetically and issued an Ad-hoc invitation on the basis of being Roland's family. The invitation was accepted and we were pleased that Wendy & husband Glenn joined us on the Thursday Cruise on Rutland Water and for the dinner and evening socialising etc, leaving as a friend after breakfast on Friday (see Accolades below).

The venue was well chosen and very suitable for the job. In fact there were enough diners of the Entry for a group meal on the Wednesday 15th evening which turned a one day event into three for those staying for three night package.

The reunion dinner on Thursday 16th was taken in a private function room and the service staff made a terrific well practiced task of serving the various courses, with reference to Tony' list as guidance.

Accolades for 2016: (in no particular order)

Just wanted to say thank you for a wonderful time last week and to everyone for making us feel a part of it all. You were all so welcoming; when I got home I was quite overwhelmed by the whole occasion.

I emailed Tony earlier today with a few paragraphs which I have asked him to forward for inclusion in the next news letter (see below).

Take care and stay in touch. Best wishes, Wendy

Hi Tony, sorry for the delay in getting this done. Just wanted to say thank you for a wonderful time. Glenn and I would like to express our grateful thanks to everyone who attended the recent reunion of the 95th Entry, held at Barnsdale Lodge.

I desperately wanted to get up and respond to Alf's kind words after the meal last Thursday but the emotion of the day had started to take hold and I just knew I would cry! I had wanted to stand and respond in person after dinner but emotions got the better of me. I would like you all to know that we felt very welcome and I was honoured to finally meet the people my uncle had so obviously spent many happy times with in the final two or so years of his life. I feel very proud that he is still remembered with affection by so many after 54 years.

I know it was a great comfort to my mum to meet you all (in April 2014) and she certainly found a sense of peace about his passing that she had been unable to find before.

We wish you all a lovely summer and will hopefully meet again next year.

Best wishes, Wendy and Glenn.

Hi Tony and Hillary, Just had to let you know how much we appreciate the work you must have done to organise such a successful reunion at Barnsdale Lodge, it was an ideal location. We realise the weather is beyond your control (even mine with initials JC) but everything else was just perfect. We thoroughly enjoyed it and it was great to see everyone again in such a relaxed atmosphere.

Hope you enjoyed your birthday and was recovered enough to blow out **ALL** those candles, it would be nice to meet up again sometime and if you are ever in this neck of the woods please call to see us.

Best wishes and many thanks, John and Steph

Hi Tony and Hillary, Thank you for organising and stage managing the reunion. The Barnsdale Lodge was the perfect venue and everyone clearly enjoyed the occasion very much. The reservation of the rooms and the discount were much appreciated.

Alf and I usually attend the day before and leave the day after everyone else. It is significant that this year we were accompanied by 12 people the day before the reunion and 10 the day after.

Really terrific and I thoroughly enjoyed getting together. Indeed I am looking forward to another 95th reunion next year.

Take care both of you, Very best regards, Dusty

On a hand written card:-

Many thanks for a very enjoyable evening last Thursday. The food was superb and the company as usual made another memorable reunion"

Best regards, Bill & Jeanette Thornley,

Hi Tony & Hilary, I've forwarded the message below from Sandy & Mary and also to add my own compliments to you both for organising what turned out to be a superb reunion. I know

that Wendy & Glenn both enjoyed the occasion and appreciated the tribute made to her late Mother.

For myself, it was a treat to be "in the background" although I was cajoled to do the bit I did. Terrific venue, superb catering, wonderful organisation - a grand job all round. To have everything run like clockwork needs proper winding of the spring. Thanks to the both of you.

I thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience from Wednesday night's dinner, the cruise etc on Thursday, through to Friday chill-out day - thanks for all of it I'm already looking forward to next year.

Many thanks, Alf

Just wanted to thank you for a great couple of days last week. Mary and I really enjoyed ourselves meeting everyone again. Barnsdale was such a perfect place for such a gathering. We finally got back home to Scotland on Sunday evening,

All the very best, Sandy and Mary

Hi Tony, Sorry this is late, we seem to be always rushing from one thing to another not least looking for a new home. Just wish to say thanks to both of you for organising a brilliant reunion for us. The venue was great, but especially the company. Look forward to the next one

Take care and thanks again, Liz and Errol

I also overheard many verbal thank-yous to Tony & Hilary as the evening progressed.

Well done Both of You.

Our Widowed Ladies

As always, our widowed ladies are most especially welcome and should be encouraged to join us; **if you know them, please encourage them.**

2017 Reunion and Dinner:

The 2016 Reunion has passed into the realms of historical archives and we can now turn our attentions onto arrangements for a "something similar" for 2017.

All it will take is a willing volunteer to grasp the reins and take on the task of organising it.

Apart from identifying a suitable venue with accommodation, it really is a straight forward task and is not as difficult as you may imagine.

Would you all examine your social calendars and let us know if you are volunteering, by **July 31st** please. Helpful encouragement and advice is always available..

Invitation from the 96th Entry.

On the subject of Halton reunions, on 14th May Frank Baldry of the 96th Entry contacted me to see if there was any interest in a joint venture. Given the persistent downgrading of the HAAA Triennial I thought that there may well be some mileage in such a move in addition to our 95th reunions. I asked for further details and the latest information is reproduced below. Clearly at this stage it is difficult for Frank to plan anything definitive until he has some idea of numbers. Target dates will depend on when a potential venue decides to publish a program for 2017. Frank's email reads:-

Roger, Thanks for your earlier reply.

Initially I wanted to establish contact and potential interest. I have emailed representatives of 92nd to 100th inclusive, and so far had all but three replies wanting to know more. It may be that some of us will know each other from our service lives, and of course our shared history at RAF Halton, so it has the potential to be a good day out.

My idea is, a day visit to RAF Cosford to include an open cockpits evening and a presentation to us all in their auditorium, plus of course the full museum access.

Format of the day might be

- no fixed time of group arrival, individuals would arrive as and when.
- Booking in with coordinator for a mid/late afternoon (1500hrs)
presentation in either the auditorium or conference room, perhaps with
tea/coffee/sandwiches etc.
- evening open cockpits
- individual departure.

I have had a reply from the museum visit coordinator, and all seems possible, however the dates for their 2017 events is not yet decided, so all I can do at this stage is to generate interest and assess potential.

I have asked for and been offered free use of their theatre for anything we want to do as a group, and I already have an idea for that.

I would leave travel arrangements and accommodation to each entry organiser.

There would be a charge, I will have to wait for a reply from Cosford regarding auditorium hire and refreshment charge.

Let me know in due course what you think, I would hope we could generate 50 to 100 of us?
Thank you and have a good day.

Frank Baldry
effbee584@me.com
01603 261111

So troops, if you live close enough and would be interested in such a day out please let me know. Dusty

Sadly, the "In Memoriam" list is growing. As and when we hear of the passing of our colleagues, their names are added for future remembrance.

In Memoriam

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

<i>Michael McColl Young</i>	<i>Roland Bath</i>	<i>Keith Burdass</i>	<i>Clive Wilson</i>
<i>Rod Pritchard</i>	<i>Jerry Padgen</i>	<i>Colin Pollard</i>	<i>Bob Jupp</i>
<i>Mike Thatcher</i>	<i>Mike Frankling</i>	<i>Bob Horsham</i>	<i>Glyn Bolderson</i>
<i>Chris Harris</i>	<i>Mike Chambers</i>	<i>Steve Urwin-Mann</i>	<i>Reg Apps</i>
<i>John Swash</i>	<i>Mike Gay</i>	<i>Frank Firth</i>	<i>Mike Crooks</i>

Absent Friends

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