



*Qualitas Non Quantitas*

*95<sup>th</sup> Entry Halton Apprentices*

*Newsletter*

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## *2018 Reunion*

Well the reunion at Loch Lomond has been and gone. Johnny Othen has provided a comprehensive write up as you will see below.

### REUNION OF THE 95<sup>th</sup> ENTRY LOCH LOMOND, SCOTLAND JUNE 2018

2018 marks the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of our graduation. Are we all that old? Members of the 95<sup>th</sup> entry RAF Halton held our annual reunion dinner on the 28<sup>th</sup> June. This year Sandy Lerski with much help from Mary were the organisers and chose The Cameron House Hotel at Loch Lomond as the venue. Who could have guessed that this wonderful hotel would burn down over Christmas 2017? Sadly, two guests lost their lives in the fire.



Sandy now had to find alternative accommodation.

Just north of the Cameron House Hotel is The Lodge on Loch Lomond. What a beautiful setting. Our rooms were on the water's edge, overlooking the Loch itself.

The majority of those attending arrived on Wednesday, the 27<sup>th</sup>. Meeting in the bar established that this was going to set the trend for the next 48 hours. Following a casual dinner we again retired to the bar and attempted to catch up with whatever each had been doing for the past 12 months. You can imagine that talk went way into the night such that we saw the bar close and had to rely on room service.

Dawn comes early in Scotland during the summer and soon it was time to meet up again for breakfast Thursday morning, still talking as if sleep had not interrupted us. After breakfast Sandy had to go to Glasgow Airport to meet Mary whilst the rest of us went our separate ways to enjoy a “free” day.

Thursday was the day of our “Official” dinner where we were joined by more members. Jackets and ties were donned for the pre-dinner gathering in the bar. Sandy surprised us all by arriving in his full Scottish dress, including kilt. It was so hot even for Scotland that jackets and ties were soon discarded. Sandy ushered us out to the hotel lobby. Why? He had a surprise waiting for us. When the doors opened it became very obvious what the surprise was. Anyone remember the “Bear Marches” at Halton? Well, a lone piper played us marching (shuffling) into the dining room to the strains of the “Black Bear”. There followed our excellent three course dinner, more talk until time to retire once again to the bar where the piper kept us entertained with more bagpipe music, including requests. The other residents were somewhat amazed but happily played along.



Before any discussion on next year’s reunion (2019) it was time to say a few words. I thanked Sandy and Mary on behalf of us all for organising such a successful gathering. Time for a toast: “Absent Friends, and Members of the 95<sup>th</sup> Entry”.

It was decided that we should meet again next year back in England. A volunteer, me, suggested we revisit The Bell Inn at Aston Clinton, quite close to RAF Halton. The dates have not yet been decided as that will depend largely on hotel availability but will be mid-week over Wednesday and Thursday during May or June.

Friday morning it was time to say our farewells and go our separate ways. Sadly, three of our “regulars” were not able to make the reunion due to unfortunate circumstances. Let us hope that they will be able to join us for the next reunion. However, we were delighted that Roland Bath’s niece Wendy Warder and her daughter Zoe were able to attend.

As we approach the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our joining perhaps we should be planning a really special reunion. Any ideas? It just leaves me to say that those attending had a great time and we all look forward to meeting even more of you next year.

JEAO

Many thanks for the write up John! -- Now do not forget to click on the other attachment to the email to see the wizard surprise Sandy had laid on in the form of the piper.

Well, despite distances and timings not to mention burning hotels, yet another enjoyable reunion has been and gone. Many thanks once again to Sandy and Mary.

Thanks also to John and Gale for taking on the mantle of organisers for a reunion in 2019.

Any ideas for a 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary? Perhaps 60 years after joining i.e 2020 or 60 years after completion of training 2013. Or Both?

On that optimistic note I wish the very best to you and your families

*Dusty*

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