

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association



LAA Newsletter

Serial 38

February 2004

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Chairman's Letter

It gives me great sadness to pen this open letter for publication in the Newsletter, because it adds discord to a publication, which normally raises a smile, always reminds me of the close comradeship of Apprentice life, and which is the main purpose of the existence of our Association.

The letter from the member D. Pemberthy (71st), published in the November Newsletter, raised many points, some of which were scurrilous, some interesting, and some fanciful.

Firstly, the suggestion that the proposal by Mr. Mills was shouted down by a Committee member, is a total misrepresentation of what occurred. There was no shouting down, given any possibility of a reasoned discussion'. Perhaps Mr. Pemberthy is under the delusion that only his opinions count as 'reasoned'. My recollection of the topic, was that discussions went on for quite some time, and were quite wide-ranging. It was apparent to me that the majority of our members, who had travelled, in some cases a long way to enjoy the friendly comradeship of our annual reunion, were probably entertained for no more than a few moments by Mr. Pemberthy's intimate knowledge of the Public Records Act (1958). There was no vote taken on the proposal by Mr. Mills, as I judged Joe Holroyd's proposal to be an amendment to the original proposal. There was, however, a unanimous vote in favour of Joe Holroyd's amendment, simply because there were no dissenters - even from Mr. Pemberthy.

Secondly, I am puzzled, and concerned, at the suggestions that the records are the 'playthings' of a select few, or that the compilation of the database has some hidden purpose. What conspiracy theories are going on in someone's mind are purely fanciful, and just don't merit any further refutation. Our Association has been built on trust and fellowship, and as Chairman I will do my utmost to ensure this continues.

The complaint that the venue for the AGM was not suitable, as it was not at a Service Establishment, and inevitably led to a disorderly meeting, will be rectified next year. I hope that you will all find it more suitable at RAF Cosford.

Finally, just in case the reason for Dave Gunby's work in creating the database has escaped anyone, it was to assist Members to trace old comrades. Have you tried 'phoning Innsworth when all you can remember is that he was called 'Geordie' Major, oh and yes, he was in the 87th Entry. If we can make something easier, and simple, to trace old friends, why not? The database (why is it infamous?) contains details of those that passed through Locking, to have attempted anything else would have been too ambitious, and unnecessary.

Tiny Kuhle (87th)

Chairman

Joe Holroyd Founder Member and past Chairman

A REPLY TO Mr DAVID PEMBERTHY'S LETTER "AGM 2003 – FROM THE OTHER SIDE"

I read your letter, Mr Pemberthy with interest, with sadness and not a little disappointment. I write now as one of the founding members of our association and as a past Chairman.

You pick up comments made by individuals at the AGM, who were honestly trying to answer your questions; you treat them in a chevalier manner twisting the responses to enable you to ridicule them. You scatter vague threats of legality and potential retribution from the Lord Chancellor's Office and the MoD and hide behind the "interests of the LAA and its elected officers. What **is** your aim, what **are** you trying to achieve?

From my perspective you and Mr Mills took umbrage when your offer to catalogue the Aircraft Apprentice records held (at Henlow) by the LAA, was refused by the committee. What has not been revealed is that your offer was conditional. One of the conditions was the provision of accommodation (in the officer's mess no less!), mileage allowance and subsistence for yourself and Mr Mills for the duration of the task. The committee (at that time) felt that it could not accept your proposal on behalf of the members, in terms of that expense alone. Since that decision you have entered upon a crusade to ensure maximum attention is paid to storage of records which, had not one of our founder members intervened, would have ended up on the tip in Weston-super-Mare. All the posturing and legalese that you now espouse appears to have the aim of discrediting the current committee, its Chairman and the Association. I do not wish to see my efforts nor those of the committee, flounder on the rocks of one individual's intransigence.

I spent much time with Chas Hart and other enthusiastic ex-apprentices nurturing the groundswell of interest which resulted in the foundation of the Locking Apprentices Association – our aim, simply, was to provide a fellowship of ex-apprentices who wished to re-connect with the people from their youth. After the inaugural meeting I accepted the role of Chairman and, after 3 years, passed the baton to Bert Davies to enable fresh thought and energy to be brought to the association.

All recognised associations require a constitution and ours was kept as simple as possible as were our annual general meetings, (we even admitted our wives/partners!) to engender good fellowship and enjoyment of our reunions. The formalities required under our constitution were kept to a minimum, membership reports, election of officers and agreement of financial records. Members were then able to maximise the real reason for their attendance – the renewal of old friendships and restatement of our mutual bond.

I turn now to this year's meeting and your criticisms. There is a process to remedy these issues: from your attendance at AGMs you will remember the general reluctance of the majority to offer their time to serve on the committee. I didn't see you offer, perhaps you may like to volunteer your services? The election of officers is an agenda item at all AGM's.

The issue of Aircraft Apprentice records is now out of the RAF LAA's jurisdiction. We will be informed of the final location of the records in due course by the Authority. Access procedures will no doubt be made available at the same time. I hope you are satisfied.

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

I look forward to the next AGM, where I shall meet up with old friends and acquaintances, pick up on conversations that were suspended 47 years ago as if it were yesterday, because the majority of members shared the same ethos and culture; motivation and aspirations. That's why I shall be attending the reunion at Cosford. Oh, and the AGM as well.

Regards

Joe H

APPLICATION FOR AGM 24th April 2004

LUNCH, AGM & DINNER

Name:

Entry No:

Address:

Vehicle Registration Number and Details

I will be attending the 2004 AGM at RAF Cosford:

I wish to attend the lunch at RAF Cosford only (includes lunch, bar facilities & tea/biscuits):

Please provide tickets @ £7-00pp £

I wish to attend the dinner at Telford Moat House Hotel (includes wine and disco) only:

Please provide tickets @ £20.00pp £

I wish to book both lunch and dinner (includes wine and disco):

Please provide tickets @ £27.00 pp £

Please delete as appropriate. Cheques to be crossed account payee and made out to the RAF Locking Apprentice Association

Any special dietary requirements (Vegetarian etc) should accompany this application.

Please post your application to:

Mr A Horry, Hillside Cottage, Kewstoke Road, Kewstoke, Weston-super-Mare, BS232 9YD

Tel: 01934 628383 (e-mail: horrycorp@aol.com)

Members are reminded that any proposals for the AGM should be with the Secretary in writing by February 28th 2004. Agendas will be available on the day.

ACCOMMODATION BOOKING

Please note: Arrangements have been made for members to book directly with the Telford Moat House Hotel at £34.00 per person per night (double room) or £49 per person per night (single room). All accounts to be settled directly with the Hotel

For accommodation please contact:

Telford Moat House Hotel

Forgegate

Telford Centre

Telford TF3 4NA

Tel.No. 01952 429988

Rooms are available at the agreed prices for both 23rd and 24th April.

Please quote 'RAFLAA' when making reservations.

Timetable of Events for the AGM 24th April 2004

- 1030-1100hrs Members and guests arrive at Flowerdown Hall.
- 1100-1230hrs. Meet and Greet (Cash bar provided and run by No1RS personnel)
- 1230-1330hrs. Buffet lunch in Flowerdown Hall
- 1400-1600hrs. Annual General Meeting in Flowerdown Hall followed by tea and biscuits before dispersal.
- Dinner and Dance at Telford Moat House Hotel

Note: The new Ties, Label Badges and Coasters will be available for purchase during the AGM

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

Treasurer's Report February 2004

PROFIT & LOSS

<u>SALES</u>	2003/2004	200/2003	
Membership fees	2,416.76	2,870.10	
Life membership	200.00	300.00	
Sales - ties, pins and videos	56.50	218.50	
Social events	0.00	273.00	
Raffle at social event	0.00	0.00	
AGM and other misc income	3,349.50	2,715.00	
Bank interest received	115.42	33.91	
		6,138.18	6,410.51
<u>PURCHASES</u>			
Pins	0.00	0.00	
Ties	355.56	0.00	
Videos	0.00	53.00	
Social event expenses	149.08	325.00	
Donations and wreaths	225.00	125.00	
Name badges	21.30	24.90	
Other	549.90	252.00	
AGM and other purchases	5,478.78	3,397.25	
		6,779.62	4,177.15
<u>DIRECT EXPENSES</u>			
Advertising	0.00	24.00	
Bank charges	2.00	4.00	
Auditing	50.00	50.00	
Refund	0.00	52.50	
		52.00	130.50
<u>GROSS PROFIT</u>		-£693.44	£2,102.86
<u>OVERHEADS</u>			
Travelling expenses	592.20	412.10	
Printing	373.98	404.80	
Telephone	40.25	74.25	
Postage and carriage	383.36	311.83	
Stationery	61.02	268.62	
		£1,450.81	1,471.60
<u>NETT PROFIT/LOSS</u>		-£2,144.25	£631.26

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

BALANCE SHEET		
	2003/2004	2002/2003
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
Business No Notice account	£7,021.32	£6,907.72
Current account	£920.30	£3,178.15
Petty cash	£32.47	£32.47
<u>NETT CURRENT ASSETS</u>	£7,974.09	£10,118.34
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>		
	£0.00	£0.00
<u>FINANCED BY</u>		
Brought forward balance	£10,118.34	£9,487.08
Profit and loss account	-£2,144.25	£631.26
	£7,974.09	£10,118.34

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

RAF LOCKING APPRENTICES ASSOCIATION INCOME/EXPENDITURE - 17th July 2003 - 31st Jan 2004

Brought forward from 16th July 2003

Moneymaster A/C	£	6,963.05
Current A/C	£	1,371.21
Cash	£	32.47

Net Current Assets after unrepresented cheques

£8,366.73

Income (Sales)

Membership Renewals		
Cheques	52	£395.00
Standing Orders	102	£765.00
New Members	5	£50.00
Life	1	£100.00
Sales - Ties	3	£18.50
Sales - Videos	0	£0.00
Sales - Wheels	0	£0.00
Sales - Sidecaps	0	£0.00
AGM		£0.00
St Clement Danes		£0.00

Interest - Moneymaster A/C	£58.27
Current A/C	£0.45

Total Income

£1,387.22

Total Balance

£7,974.09

MoneyMaster A/C

£7,021.32

Current A/C

Presented to LAA Committee - 18th February
£920.30 2004

Cash

£32.47 Tony Horry - Treasurer

Expenditure (Purchases)

Pins	
Ties	£355.56
Video	
Social (FABEA)	149.08
Donations	£125.00
Badges	£12.30
AGM-2003	£9.28
Other (Cabinet)	£249.90
Advert	£0.00
Bank Charges	£0.00
Audit	£0.00
Refunds	£0.00
Bank Charges	£0.00
	£901.12

Overheads

£1,328.50 Travel	£315.80
Printing	£304.18
Telephone	£32.25
Postage	£226.51
Stationery	

£878.74

Total Expenditure

£1,779.86

Surplus/Deficit

-£392.64

This year the accounts show a carry forward balance that is lower than last year due to not we are not showing any advance income towards the 2004 AGM bookings.

Tony Horry

The 216 Entry Craft Apprentice

I met Roy Gorringe at RAF Twinwoods who recognised the Locking Apprentice tie I was wearing, soon we were chatting about our times at RAF Locking and the very shiny floors in the barrack blocks, "No!" he didn't remember because the Blocks hadn't been built when he was there, he was in the earlier 'Huts', "With the pot bellied stoves in the middle" said I. Apparently they didn't even have heating but that's a story for Roy Gorringe to tell. Clearly, as a 'new boy' I had different experiences..... Before my meeting with Roy, I thought I had it tough, two years of seven days a week Drill, Rifle Drill, P.E., Inspection Parades and trade training, and no, this wasn't borstal, I had volunteered for all of this.....This is my story:

It's amazing that the date, entry number, service number and place are engraved into my memory like a birthmark. On the 9th September 1969, I became E8009729 Craft Apprentice Boris Gilbert of 216 Entry RAF Locking studying Ground Radar

I caught the train from Midland Station in Nottingham clutching my RAF rail warrant in one hand and all my worldly possessions in the other. At 16 years old my escape from a violent home to a new family called the Royal Air Force began. I immediately meet another fresh-faced youngster on the train. "Going to RAF Locking?" said I, and a shy looking chap nodded back. Within minutes of boarding the train, I had already met fellow adventurer Trevor Evans who would prove to be a good friend at Locking.

Having successfully negotiated the London underground (not for the last time), we finally arrived at Weston Super Mare Station to be herded together with many other spotty faced youngsters by some severe looking NCOs. The RAF blue/grey bus drove us to our new home.

The next few days were like a whirlwind but the first thing we HAD to do was write home and say that we had arrived safely. Next came the medical, which included a thousand different inoculations against everything you could catch and one against Martian Flu 'just in case'. Whilst the main uniforms (No 1s, 2s, and great coat) were withheld, we were issued with a button stick, shoe brush's, three shirts and six collars complete with my first introduction to the collar studs and a tie that had to have a Windsor Knot, and of course the famous hold all which seemed like a very awkward bag, but was soon found to be beautifully shaped to fit your back and provide an arm rest for hitch hiking duties. Even underwear was issued and our pants were affectionately known as Shreddies (does anyone know why?). These were usually the first casualties of the inexperienced launderette operator as most ended up yellow when washed with a duster. We were expected to wear Coveralls, webbing belt, beret and highly bulled boots every day for the first three months and we were confined to barracks for this period. The privilege of being allowed to wear Jeans after this had huge status but they were worn in conjunction with the regulation haircut (not so hot!). I remember an apprentice from a senior entry shaving his head and being confined to barracks until it had grown back.

The Apprentice Mess had birds flying about inside and often pecked at the sugar. The Corn Flakes were scooped up with your bowl and when the milk was added any lurking cockroaches would crawl out. If you weren't early enough for the fresh milk, powdered milk was made up, this really was disgusting.

Our Drill instructors managed to gel us together with the common bond of 'Hate the DI'. Flt Sgt Betel was a kindly, paternal figure. Sgt Watson of 'A' Flight was an Irishman from the old school

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who wanted every one to become stars of the Boxing Ring, Cpl Price (RAF Regt) was great, very easy to get on with, but commanded respect, this at a time when every odd job was an RAF Regt job. I seem to remember that firemen as well as DI's were members of the Regt and funnily enough several years later, I did a tour with 2 Sqn. RAF Regt where I earned my Parachute Wings, was I influenced in any way by the said Cpl Price? And finally there was that Hardman Cpl Mullon who we hated beyond hate andwait for it, would have followed him anywhere and sometime later I did meet him again in a NAAFI at St Athens and thought what great bloke, even bought him a drink in a moment of weakness.

Drill was done every weekend and coming to the Halt whilst wearing our studded boots out side Thompson Block (I think) which was on the slope nearly always ended up with us skidding, sliding and falling over.

We had bull night after bull night to keep us busy and not get home sick, we would glide over the floors in the blocks on polish pads and the floors were like mirrors until the dreaded pass out of a senior entry who would raid our blocks and ask us for money or they would ruin our precious floor. Many a night had been spent repairing the damaged polish with the result of yawning apprentices at college the next day

Sometimes we would crack under the pressure, there was no real means of redress and I recall plotting to go AWOL with Ken Holdaway, we kept this idea afloat for several weeks before reality stepped in. A lad called Chetwyn turned to religion in a big way and some escaped to the band in D Flight so that they could alleviate their frustration by strangling a bagpipe or banging a drum

These days were punctuated with the occasional Red Cross parcel from a loving parent and all in the billet were invited to the feeding frenzy. Then there were birthdays when a parent would send a giant birthday cake for the birthday boy to share, oh jolly days.

Remember the Bed packs, the hospital corners? I recall an inspection one morning when Sgt Watson and the Flt Lt came round and picked up Trevor Evans's razor, alas there was no blade in it and Trevor was asked why not. Quick as a flash Trevor replied that he didn't want Sgt Watson to cut himself. The officer told him that Sgt Watson was a big boy and could look after himself. Trevor was put on a 252. The real reason for no blade was that like most of us, Trevor had nothing to shave and a blade on our super soft skin did major damage to our acne. The first time we tried shaving cream, we had it all over our faces and our eyebrows were at serious risk of being removed. We had no idea how to shave or even why. We learned how to iron using a blanket and tabletop. Apart from our own boot polish we found that we had the choice of only two polishes that had to shine everything else in the block so metal polish doubled up as the glass polish as well.

We were called into service in other ways too, baby-sitting for the officers was one perk that I enjoyed and was paid to do. My Officer who I regularly babysat for and who's name I can't recall, was selling his record player for £40, which I couldn't afford. He generously let me have it for £5 and this coincided with our Year & a Day. As you know, one is a Sprogg until one has completed a Year and a Day so clearly this was an occasion to celebrate. I cunningly sold the record player for £30 and our entire block illegally climbed through the fence and descended on a pub nearby. I bought a pint of vodka amongst many other drinks and don't remember much more. I came round once as we struggled back through the fence and recall spending most of the night on my knees in the loos.

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The next day I was ill, my head really hurt and my wallet was empty. I've never been drunk since, but as side note, my good friend Trevor innocently and proudly told my Officer of the vast profit I had made out of the record player. I was never asked to baby sit again. What a learning curve.

About that time a small apprentice called Jolly was hung up by his epaulettes on the coat hooks in one of the tech blocks. The passing Sqn. Ldr. was not amused. We were warned not to loiter in front of The Nodding Horror of our kidneys would cook. Someone from England has since invented the Microwave Cooker and I hope it was one of our apprentices who saw the potential and took the money.

A civvy cook from the mess allowed me to drive his car on the beach, which was brave of him as the tide, comes in pretty quickly. The Fun Fare on the pier was a source of great amusement. As well as thrashing the Go Karts at the end of the pier, Andy Digby and I would stand behind the hand rail in the pitch dark of the Crazy House, after a time our eyes would adjust to night vision mode and we could see people passing through. We would touch their hands or let their hands slide along the handrail until they touched our hands. In the darkness, panic-stricken people would scream and we would laugh, ah, such simple things. During the Summer months, coach after coach load of young ladies would appear on holiday and a chap wearing the uniform of the Royal Air Force held a certain fascination for them. I have many a happy memory of Weston – Super – Mare. Hitch hiking was a breeze in uniform and as you could exchange a pass for money, travelling became a profitable pastime if you didn't get caught swindling the public purse.

We would see Concorde fly overhead before it came into service and even then we all knew that it was something special. We were proud to be British.

During 1970 I volunteered for everything, after much training, I took part in the Ten Tors expedition across Dartmoor and then went on to Holland to walk the Nijmegen Marches where the Dutch people were exceptionally friendly to us, but were distinctly 'cold' towards the German teams. They asked that we call them Hollanders because Dutch sounded too much like Deutch (land). Being Royal Air Forces, we were very much liked by the locals. It was years later that I learned about the RAF's role in feeding the Dutch people only 25 years earlier but the good Dutch people clearly remembered. It was during this trip to Nijmegen that I met a girl from Bedford also taking part in the marches, she belonged to the Girls Venture Corps wing of the Air Cadets. I married her several years later so it's fair to say that being a Locking Brat comes with a high price

All these years later, I would love to know if there was any truth in the myths of RAF Locking

Myth One:

An unknown apprentice was set upon in Weston Super Mare, which triggered a devastating response from Locking. According to the Legend, the 'No one kicks my dog but me' principle applied and just about every apprentice at Locking descended on Weston where a riot ensued but, according to legend, we were never again set upon by the locals. Certainly in my time, we were treated with respect from the local Skin Heads and even went into their strong hold 'The Dolls House' with impunity

Myth Two

Another unknown apprentice who was renowned for oversleeping woke up in his bed one fine sunny morning on the parade square with his two lockers and mat by his bed whilst the whole Apprentice Wing stood on parade smirking at him

In conclusion, from my background and lack of qualifications, there was a very real danger of me embarking on a life of crime until I joined the RAF, they believed in me, gave me friendship, standards to achieve, rewarding challenges and myself respect. I look about me and see youngsters who would benefit as I did. I finally ended up running several different Air Training Corps units and was able to make a difference for a few souls by drawing on my time as an apprentice. I was always able to understand just how isolated an individual can feel and the power of friendship, trust, belief, pride and achievement can be. I take great pride in being an RAF Brat, it gave me self worth and set me up for an interesting and independent life

Boris Gilbert

216th Entry

Letters to the Editor

From: John M Smith (72nd)

The characters created by Lewis Carroll for Alice Liddell and her siblings have had a few mentions in the Newsletter. Humpty Dumpty was in the last issue and I mentioned the Cheshire cat some time ago. Could the Enquirer who wrote to MOD be the Knave of Hearts?

David Penberthy again raised the point why have reunions at WSM? Alan Mills had raised this in a previous issue of the Newsletter.

I'll ask the question, why not hold more reunions at WSM? It makes a good focal point (If that is a good phrase) for the Association. I imagine the town will still be there in ten years time. Will Cosford or Henlow? Before anyone says yes definitely, I suggest whisper the words Locking and Lynham.

According to a survey in a previous Newsletter regarding accessibility of venues for AGMs for members, WSM, Cosford and Henlow were near enough equal. We used to hold reunions and AGMs at the Dance Scene, for some reason that place seems to have been dropped.

From my own viewpoint I enjoy reunions at WSM (Bournemouth would be better, but that's not going to happen) I get a feel good feeling as I stroll along (I nearly wrote strut) the promenade wearing my Gieves and Hawkes jacket rustling bank notes in my pocket, anticipating congenial company and depending on the weather, a few or more whiskies or G and Ts.

A marked contrast from years ago in hairy blue, that impractical S D hat and jingling a few coins in my pocket, thinking of a few pints of cider at the Old Inn, Hutton.

I thought that there was a general consensus of opinion that future reunions would alternate between WSM and an active RAF station (getting rarer). I cannot find anything definite about this.

If David and Alan aren't happy with WSM as a venue for future reunions and AGMs for whatever reasons, perhaps they should put up a proposal at Aprils AGM, that no more are held there (WSM)

Alan mentioned in a previous issue merging with the CAA (that has been mentioned a few times). If it looks like becoming a reality, it will be one of the most important decisions the Association will probably ever make. I hope that the vote will go to the full membership (postal if necessary).

I'm a don't know at present. I joined the LAA (which I enjoy) if asked to join a wider fraternity, I'll have give the matter some thought.

Mention of the Glen by Mike Furness brought back memories of the delightful Melody Cool, who was a singer there in the early sixties.

None of the tunes he mentioned came close to the 1953 favourite 'How Much is that Doggie in the Window, sung by both Patti Page and Lita Rosa. That really set the feet tapping. On reflection it probably induced mild epileptic fits. I never delved, but I think there are some hidden meanings in the lyrics.

Some of the faces in the photograph with the caption 'Summer Camp 1959' look familiar. As the writer remained anonymous I'll hazard a guess and say 85th (Geordie Nanson's entry)

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Arriving back at Locking in Autumn 1959 the 85th were the first entry I met up with when they were on, their final intercommand receiver revision. So I reckon a couple were GWFs. I'm probably wide of the mark and they may have been 86th.

I didn't give much heed to being put on the No 1 Wing duty roster thinking that most ex-apps may have been. When I found that none of the other 72nd members who were instructing in 2(T) block were so honoured, I realised that an admin glitch had occurred. Another later glitch gave me a chance to escape.

In the four years that I had been away lots of changes had taken place in No 1 Wing at the top of the hill. All of them for the better in my opinion. But I thought, 1 period on 1 Wing at No 1 Radio School as quite sufficient for 1 lifetime.

Quite a few members have mentioned Scrumpy I just did. When the GWF department moved over to 1(T) block I met a civilian instructor Jack Rendall.

Jack owned a pub on the Mendips. He was in some sort of consortium, and had all the apples in his orchard turned into rough cider. He sold me a gallon at the trade price of 2/6. The demi-john it came in still had the original label on which said. For the treatment of Ringworm in sheep. I asked if the vessel had been washed out? The reply was that the cider would be better than any disinfectant.

In a short time lumps appeared in the cider and I used to pour it through a filter. I reckon it was as near 40% proof as it was possible to get. I have never touched cider since.

Still as Frank Sinatra used to sing 'That's Life'.

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

'Heathbank' ,
Barrack Shute,
Niton,
PO38 2BE
Isle of Wight.
3rd.February,2004

Dear Sir,
For inclusion in the next Newsletter:

“The light shineth in the darkness but the darkness
comprehendeth it not”

Well, eventually, even so it took the best part of three years for the Committee to see the light that was switched on in the Discussion Paper, written in January, 2001, in which it was proposed that the records held 'in custody' by the **L.A.A.A.** should be lodged with the R.A.F.Museum.

Gentlemen, my congratulations!

Of course, if you had actually read the Paper in the first instance instead of " .. taking your (collective) eye off the ball" ,we should have been saved the ensuing 'discussion'!

However, the hook and sinker are still in place even if the line has been spat out and it will be interesting to see how you propose to wriggle out of the illegal creation of the data-base, a small matter you are carefully ignoring in your self-congratulatory frenzie .

There is no doubt in at least one mind at MoD (Air) that the training records 'held in custody' form a part of an individual's Record of Service and, as such, are closed for seventy-five years after the individual's death. Some of us are waiting to hear that the data-base has been destroyed in its entirety but I have no confidence that a statement to that effect will be made voluntarily by the Committee.

I must remind the Committee that they are NOT the Association and that, by their ill-informed and ill-considered attitude they are, collectively, placing the existence of the Association in jeopardy but, naturally, this consideration is situated a couple of inches - fifty millimetres or so in 'newspeak'- beyond their collective nose, isn't it ?

Yours faithfully


D.Penberthy

Obituaries

Robert Hewitt 80th Entry

It is with great sadness that we report the passing on of another member of the Association and ex-member of the 80th Entry, Robert Hewitt on 6th December 2003. No other details are known.

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association



The Apprentice Prayer

Teach us good Lord, to be thankful
For all the good times we had,
The skills we have learned,
The friendships we have shared
And the companionship we have enjoyed.
May all who have served the apprenticeship of the Wheel
Be ever mindful of the needs of one another.

Amen

RAF Locking
Apprentice Association
Application for membership of the
Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

Name..... Serving member HM forces. Yes/No

Address..... Entry Number.....
.....
.....

Post Code.....

Do you object to your details being disclosed to other organisations? Yes/No

Telephone No.

E-Mail Address

Name for Identity Badge..... Membership Fee: - £10.00

Do you require an LAA tie? (*Cost £7.50 per tie - max 2 ties*) (Qty) £.....

Total Enclosed £.....

(Please make cheques payable to: - Locking Apprentice Association)

Return this form together with your remittance to: -

Mr A. Horry (RAFLAA Treasurer)

Hillside Cottage

Kewstoke Road,

Kewstoke,

Weston-super-Mare

North Somerset. BS22 9YD

Tel. No. 01934 628383

e-mail horrycorp@aol.com

For Committee use

Comments

Membership Paid/...../.....

Database Updated/...../.....

Acknowledged/...../.....

Tie/...../.....

Badge/...../.....

Secretary –
Mr. Dave Gunby
23 Toynton Close
Gregg Hall Estate, Lincoln,
Lincolnshire. LN6 8AL

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

RAFLAA AGM 2004

24th April 2004

RAF Cosford

Display Cabinet

RAFA Club Weston Super Mare

The Display Cabinet is now installed in the RAFA Club at Weston Super Mare all donations or loans of Apprentice Memorabilia would be appreciated.

Please contact any member of the Committee.

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

RAFLAA COMMITTEE

Appointment	Name	Address	Tel/e-mail	Re-Election	Entry
President	Martin Palmer				91 st
Chairman	“Tiny” Kühle	22 Tavistock Clse Woburn Sands Milton Keynes Bucks MK17 8UY	(01908) 583784 Hans.Kuhle@t-mobile.co.uk	April 06	87 th
Secretary	Dave Gunby	23 Toynton Clse Gregg Hall Estate Lincoln Lincolnshire# LN6 8AL	(01522) 525484 dpgraf72@btinternet.com	April 06	72 nd
Treasurer	Tony Horry	Hillside Cottage Kewstoke Road Kewstoke Weston-s-Mare BS22 9YD	(01934) 628383 horrycorp@aol.com	Apr 06	76 th
Membership Secretary	John Farmer	8 Glenmore Rd Minehead Somerset TA24 5BQ	(01643) 705443 RAFLAAMS@aol.com	Apr 06	77 th
Service Rep	Joe Holroyd	Well Cottage 36 High Street Guilden Morden Royston SG8 0JR	(01763) 853742 patandjoeholroyd@tesco.net	Sep 05	85 th
AA Rep	Charles Hart	9 South Road Weston-s-Mare BS23 2HA	(01934) 621969 charhart@supanet.com	Sep 05	71 st
General	Vic Gibbs	8 Old School Rd Royal Lane Hillingdon Middlesex UB8 3WE	(01895) 235 076 Gibbsvic@aol.com	Mar 04	88 th
Craft Rep	Graham Beeston	87 Hornbeam Rd Havant PO9 2UT	(023) 92346242 Work 0778 8795358 mapleoak@newnet.co.uk (home) graham@mapleoak.co.uk (work)	Sep 05	209 th
Tech Rep	Andy Perkins	107Balmoral Way Worle Weston-s-Mare BS22 9BZ	(01934) 417323 aperkins@schaffner.com	Sep 05	109 th
Newsletter Editor	Colin Ingram	Fairhaven Gooseham Morwenstow Bude Cornwall EX23 9PG	(01288) 331629 cwingram@aol.com	Sep 05	88 th

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To Bank						STANDING ORDER MANDATE							
Postal Address													
		Bank		Branch Title (not address)				Sorting Code Number					
Please pay		HSBC		WESTON-SUPER-MARE				40		-	46		
		Beneficiary's Name				Account Number				Quoting Reference			
for the credit of		RAF LOCKING APPRENTICE ASSOCIATION				4 1 3 6 8 8 7 7							
		Amount		Amount in words									
The sum of		£											
		Date of first payment		And		Due date and frequency		until		Date of last payment		and debit my/our	
commencing				thereafter every				further notice in writing or				account accordingly	
PLEASE CANCEL ALL PREVIOUS STANDING ORDER/DIRECT DEBITING MANDATES													
IN FAVOUR OF:		RAF LOCKING APPRENTICE ASSOCIATION				Account to be debited				Account Number			
UNDER REFERENCE No.													
Special instructions													
						Signature(s)							
									Date			
												
Note: The bank will not undertake to													
a) make reference to Value Added Tax or pay a stated sum plus V.A.T., or other indeterminate element.													
b) advise remitter's address to beneficiary. c) advise beneficiary of inability to pay d) request beneficiary's banker to advise beneficiary of receipt.													
e) accept instructions to pay as soon after the specified date as there are funds to meet the payment, if funds are not available on the specified date.													