



LAA Newsletter

Serial 39

July 2004

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COMMITTEE LIST

AGM 2004 Flowerdown Hall RAF Cosford

Prior to the AGM taking place the RAFLAA Trophy, a framed citation and a cheque for £50 was presented to Chief Technician Colin Watson by the Chairman. Chief Tech. Watson thanked the Association for the recognition and said that he rated it higher than an AOC's commendation.



The Chairman then opened the meeting with a reading of the Apprentice Prayer.

ITEM 1

Apologies had been received from the President, Service Rep, Technician Rep, Craft Rep and Philip Ashton (74th).

ITEM 2 Chairman's Report.

The Chairman combined the Presidents brief with the Chairman's Report.

Since our last AGM several members had passed away and the Chairman read the following names :-

Dick Cheesman (84th), Ron Holdsworth (87th), Colin Heasman (76th), Dennis Grant (76th), Alan Coon (87th), Rob Hewitt (80th) and Bob Scanlon (103rd).

The meeting then observed a minutes silence in remembrance of those lost members. Their names are added to the Roll of Honour.

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

The Chairman commented on the co-operation the Association had received from the Commandant Air Cdre Sims together with Sqn Ldr Greenway and staff of No1 Radio School. The Secretary would write a letter of thanks.

The memorabilia cabinet on the premises of the RAFA Club in Weston-Super-Mare was in need of further items, and members were invited to donate or loan any things of interest.

In July 2003 the Association hosted the AGM of FABEA (Federation of Apprentices and Boy Entrants) at the RAFA Club in Bedford. The Polish Apprentice Association announced that they would be disbanding in 2005 due to there being so few members with the passing of the years. Our Association will be represented as usual in July at the next FABEA AGM.

The RAFLAA had the honour of laying the FABEA wreath at the Cenotaph in November. The Chairman said that he found it a moving experience and encouraged more members to attend in the future.

The Chairman expressed his pleasure at the increase in membership but he, along with the Committee, was disappointed at the low attendance at this AGM.

The Chairman concluded by thanking the Committee for their work during the year and he hoped that everyone would enjoy the evening celebration.

The Chairman then invited the Treasurer to present his report.

ITEM 3 Treasurer's Report.

Annual Accounts 2003/04

Attached are the audited accounts for Financial Year 2003/04

It will be noted that that our balance of £7,974.09 is considerably less than the balance carried forward from last year (£10,118.34). This is due to the fact we did not carry forward any income in respect of the to-days AGM

The income from members for the AGM of £3349.50 was added to £1584.00 brought forward from the previous year. Total income for the AGM = £4933.50

Last Years AGM was the greatest expense at £5478.78. The event was held at Daunceys Hotel costing a total of £5402.00 plus the award of the annual Trophy to Jon Lawrence at £50 plus engraving at £17.50. So overall the cost of the AGM to the Association was £448.50 – which was within the budget set by the Committee.

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

Purchases –

The Association authorised expenditure

- New supply of ties (£355.56)
- The Trophy Cabinet project has been completed by Jon Lawrence at a total cost of £549.90. The cabinet was collected and delivered by Tiny to the RAFA Club HQ in Alexandra Parade, Weston-s-Mare.
- RAFLAA hosted the FABEA Meeting at the RAFA Club, Bedford (£149.08) shown under Social Events

Donations –

- During the period, donations of £225 have been made to:
- Prince Philip's Jubilee Appeal for Commonwealth Veterans (£50)
- Flowerdown House, Weston-s-Mare (£25) – Committee Meeting
- RAFA Club, Weston-s-Mare (£25) – Committee Meeting
- Macmillan Nurses (£25) in memory of Dick Cheeseman
- Weston Oncology Unit (£25) in memory of Ron Holdsworth
- RAFBF (£25) in memory of Colin Heasman
- Lister Kidney Unit (£25) in memory of Denis Grant
- York Cancer Care (£25) in memory of Dougie Banks

Our overheads have generally remained steady. As I have said at previous AGMs, by the very nature of our organisation, printing and postage will be high in order to communicate with the membership. Travelling has increased as there has been some extra travelling required by Committee members as they perform duties on behalf of the Association.

With the healthy balance of £8000 being carried forward, I do not recommend any increase in the subscription level of £7.50.

I propose that the Accounts for 2003/04 be adopted

Tony Horry
Treasurer
24th April 2004

Peter Kay (76th) Proposed that the Treasurers report be accepted and this was seconded by Colin Ingram (88th) and all agreed.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his efforts and then invited the Membership Secretary to present his report.

ITEM 4 Membership Secretary's Report.

General

2004 has not been a good year as far as membership is concerned. Seven members have passed away, (the most in any year since the association's inception) I am glad to say that resignations have fallen this year. We have a number of members who have defaulted on their 2003 membership subscriptions and will be classified as ex members at the end of April. Even with 17 new members recruited this year we have a decrease in active membership. We also have a number of enquiries out regarding Standing Orders that do not appear to have been paid which could in the worse case decrease numbers still further.

Advertising

The association continues to advertise in the RAFA magazine and on Teletext Channel 4 p173 Service Pals. The IPA (Independent Pilots Association) gave us free advertising for this AGM in their magazine. We have been promised that the Associations details will continue to be entered into RAF News Association Register. The returns from this advertising continue to be encouraging with the greatest return from the RAFA magazine. As in previous years advertising in other magazines and papers is proving too expensive for the anticipated return. We are always glad to hear of any possible source of (free) advertising.

Appbe Website

The Appbe website is still up and running. Efforts to update our section of the website have not been successful. This means that the automatic re-router for enquiries to the RAFLAA membership secretaries e-mail address still does not function and the committee seems to be frozen in time with Joe Holroyd and Bert Davis as Chair (persons) and Charles Hart and Glynn Price as Secretaries (why did we need two of everything in those days?). I *was* able to advertise this AGM on the site quite easily. I am pleased to say that enquirers are still able to download the application for membership form and the notice boards are well used.

RAFLAA Website.

The RAFLAA website came on line some months ago. It is still in its infancy but at least its there! Anyone with any thing they would like to put onto the site please contact Graham Beeston.

Newsletter by e-mail

This continues to be reasonably successful. There are still problems with members not letting me know about address changes which does cause quite a lot of extra work (and expense). The last edition of the newsletter was sent out in a different format to some members. (In word on A4) the response was encouraging. Comments most welcome.

Membership reminders by E-Mail continues. I am not sure that the exercise is entirely successful as the number of members needing reminders by snail mail makes me wonder if people do in fact read their e-mails!

Life Membership and Standing Orders

The number of members who are taking out Life Membership of the Association continues to grow slowly as does the number of members paying their subscription by Standing Order Mandate. I would urge those of you with a commitment to the association (and those of you who like me want an easy life) to seriously consider making use of either facility.

For those of you who like figures: Membership changes

17 New members have joined since last year so we now have 608 names on the database

Since the last AGM:

- ❖ 4 members have resigned making a total of 40 resignations since the association started
- ❖ 7 members have passed away making a total of 23 deaths since the association started
- ❖ 16 members have defaulted on subscriptions
- ❖ 17 new members have been welcomed to the association

Which has resulted in a decrease in (active) membership of 10 to a total of 378

Additional statistics, which may be of interest:

- ❖ 2 more members have applied for life membership giving a total of 29 life members overall.
- ❖ 4 more members have decided to pay their subscriptions by Standing Order Mandate making a total of 236 Members paying by SO.
- ❖ There are 230 ex members (including those who have resigned, defaulted or who are deceased).
- ❖ There are 13 new names on the enquiry list.

New statistic

- ❖ Since the association started 15 members have left and rejoined (although non have done so this year).

Changes of personal details

Please keep me informed in any changes in your personal details, especially those that may affect delivery of the newsletter.

This concludes my report, which I commend to the meeting.

J.Farmer

Membership Secretary RAFLAA

The Membership Secretary had canvassed opinion via e-mail with regard to the publishing certain Association information on the RAFLAA web site.

The majority thought it a good idea to publish the Newsletter on the site and although agreeing that the membership list could be published only names and entry numbers should be made available.

This meeting generally welcomed the suggestions with the reservation that only the names and entry numbers of individual members should be published.

Glynn Price (102nd) proposed that the meeting accept the Membership Secretary's report. This was seconded by Colin Hinson (89th) and all agreed.

THE CHAIRMAN THANKED JOHN FOR HIS REPORT AND INTRODUCED THE NEXT ITEM ON THE AGENDA.

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

ITEM 5 Election of officers.

The General Representative Vic Gibbs was the only member of the Committee due for re-election. Vic offered to serve for a further 3 years.

Vic's offer was accepted without dissent.

The revised committee list is as follows :-

Appointment	Name	Address	Tel/e-mail	Re-Election Due	Entry
President	Martin Palmer				91 st
Chairman	"Tiny" Kühle	22 Tavistock Close Woburn Sands Milton Keynes Bucks MK17 8UY	(01908) 583784 Hans.Kuhle@t-mobile.co.uk	April 06	87 th
Secretary	Dave Gunby	23 Toynton Close Gregg Hall Estate Lincoln Lincolnshire# LN6 8AL	(01522) 525484 Dpgraf72@btinternet.com	April 05	72 nd
Treasurer	Tony Horry	Hillside Cottage Kewstoke Road Kewstoke Weston super Mare BS22 9YD	(01934) 628383 horrycorp@aol.com	Mar 06	76 th
Membership Secretary	John Farmer	8 Glenmore Road Minehead Somerset TA24 5BQ	(01643) 705443 RAFLAAMS@aol.com	Mar 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 super Mare BS23 2HA	(01934) 621969 charhart@supanet.com	Sep 05	71 st
General	Vic Gibbs	8 Old School Road Royal Lane Hillingdon Middlesex UB8 3WE	(01895) 235 076 Gibbsvic@aol.com	Mar 07	88 th
Craft Rep	Graham Beeston	87 Hornbeam Road Havant PO9 2UT	(023) 92346242 Work 0778 8795358 graham@mapleOak.co.uk	Sep 05	209 th
Tech Rep	Andy Perkins	107 Balmoral Way Worle Weston Super 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

ITEM 6 Newsletter Distribution

The members present felt that the distribution of the Newsletter was satisfactory. The percentage of members receiving their copy by e-mail continues to grow. Consequently our savings on postage continues to benefit the Association. Proposed changes in the way that items are charged by the Royal Mail may cause us to rethink.

ITEM 7 Any other business.

- Arranged Visits-Vic Gibbs said that the previously hoped for visit to Sky Studios was now unlikely as Sky had increased levels of security and were less inclined to agree to visits. However, visits to Teddington Studios to see the taping of a show and to the wartime bunker at RAF Uxbridge were viable and Vic invited those interested to give their names to him.
- Michael Barker (85TH) Drew the attention of members to the existence of The National Memorial Arboretum in Shropshire. He had visited the site on his way to the meeting and had been most impressed by what he had seen. Halton Apprentices were represented there by a hedge sculpture and Cranwell Apprentices were in the process of evaluation. He passed a leaflet to the Newsletter editor for inclusion in the next issue.
- Tony Horry updated the members with reference to the state of RAF Locking. The regional Development Council had still not decided on how the former station was to be developed and consequently were unable to suggest what sort of perpetual memorial would be appropriate to incorporate into the entrance design. Tony continues to monitor the situation. Tony was pleased to announce that coasters depicting the No 1 Radio School logo were available at £1.50 each.

ITEM 8 Date and venue for next meeting.

The members were invited to make suggestions with regard to the venue for AGM05. There were several suggestions regarding Hotel Chains and in particular some nearer London. The Secretary pointed out that having acted on members suggestion to hold the AGM at an active RAF Station the numbers attending today did not represent the hoped for response. The Secretary was particularly disappointed with the turnout which he felt did not reflect the efforts made. The future of No1 RS at RAF Cosford is by no means certain and so the AGM05 will be held at Daunceys Hotel in Weston-Super-Mare during April. (The home and away principal also applies) The committee will endeavour to put on the same facilities as on previous occasions at that venue.

Impressions of an AGM Attendee

The 2004 RAFLAA AGM was the first I attended and I found it a very positive experience which I and others hope to repeat next year. I thought the whole weekend went well and, as far as I could tell, the wives enjoyed it too. Certainly my wife did. So, well done to all the committee for all their hard work and for a well organised event.

Cosford as a location was fine for me, as I would have to travel to Locking or most other potential venues. The hotel was however poor. The service and standard on the Friday evening fell well short of what I would expect of a Moat House. The breakfasts were not much better. Still, our group found so much to talk about that they eventually closed the bar on us!

The Meet & Greet before the AGM was great. It was good to meet so many familiar faces from other entries apart from your own. The free bar was convivial but I thought that too much time was allowed for the Meet & Greet. I suspect the committee did too as they started the AGM proper a little early. Please have a shorter overall timetable next year.

The AGM was interesting and informative. However, it seemed to in report mode rather than what the committee think should be done. For example, I do not think the Web site has had sufficient attention. Certainly I signed on over a year back and signed off as it did not seem to hold anything for me. I was contacted through Friends Reunited and only then went back signed up. These days a good website is crucial in attracting new members and we do not have one.

The dinner/disco went well. I thought the wine was good and for the meal to cost £20 including wine is particularly good value. I was wary of the disco beforehand but whoever booked and briefed the disco man did well as the music was for our generation and mostly the volume was reasonable!

So, all in all, I am very glad I made the effort and went and, at least as far as the 92nd Entry is concerned, I think we may get more there next year.

Chris Tett
92nd

Grumpy Old Men?

As I understand it the RAFLAA is run by friends, for friends in the spirit of friendship. Time and organisational skills is given up freely for the benefit of members like me and David Penberthy (of 'The 2003 AGM – From the other side' Fame,) who don't contribute anything. How wonderful it is to simply turn up at an event full of old comrades, knowing that it was lovingly planned and that without the huge and tireless effort put in by so many others, it wouldn't have taken place at all. Thank you very, very much for making these events possible

Boris Gilbert (216 entry)

Reading The Riot Act

Gentlemen,

It looks unlikely that I will be able to attend the AGM & thrash this year, perhaps those of you whom I bumped into on the dance floor last year will be thankful for that!

I did take some good photos and my 91st friends of the night who will probably get prints eventually!

This year I am currently overwhelmed with work; which for me is like busses & girlfriends, either none at all, or three in a row. 120 hours a week at the moment, and in my spare time currently pondering if I should add to perestroika by making my current Moscovite lady friend a permanent fixture or not! (This is not a 'postal' affair, she already lives in Ilford, where Russian is fast becoming the predominant language)

I am working on something so profound as to change the course of history (if allowed to see the light of day) and hope to demonstrate shortly! Yet none have shown any interest whatsoever! Have your hanger doors closed permanently?

When we passed out 1961, the world was alive with great expectations of 'radical technologies'. It was the heyday of 'Fantasy & Science Fiction' mag. Isaac Asimov used to write regularly on serious issues, & I actually built my version of the 'Dean Drive' (simply 'rectified centrifugal force') out of old gyro compasses I was breaking up (what a waste)! I was building the first digital systems at Watton, which were then overflown Russia in the best high altitude aircraft we could muster. (I wonder where Vic Clark 92nd and Hazel whom he always talked about, are now?)

I can assure you that profound things were invented, but failed to see the light of day, for so many different reasons, that the answers would fill a book. I am just the 'custodian' of one of those technologies; which, in my instance actually ran six electric cars from 1976 – 1992, which did not need their batteries recharging. Never becoming a production item, the challis has now been passed to me.

As I 'close the hanger doors', I will leave you with something fundamental to consider, In a 'perfect' transformer, all the flux is contained in the core; 'collapsing magnetic flux cuts the wires and induces voltage'.

As there is no flux outside the core, how can it 'cut the wires'???

A simple hall effect transducer will validate this statement! So, with one stroke a cornerstone of our theory is 'blown away'

This is 'insight one' of advanced electrogravitics!

My final 'beef' concerns my actual offer to 'write a book' in my spare time.

NOT ONE OF YOU has responded with words for the songs that we used to sing, or even (poor) Colin again, with scripts of all articles submitted since 'day one'.

Now, I will be most surprised if I and my few 'herberts' of the 93rd were the only ones to perform various oratories; or perhaps only the more demure of you joined the association?

Seriously folks, I have let off a substantial broadside here, with good reason. I had hoped to 'wake up' the association with an increasing dialogue in each newsletter, which you would all eagerly anticipate.

This calls for ACTIVE PARTICIPATION from many more of you, if our cause is not to fall by the wayside. THIS MEANS YOU. (or I may cut off your tie)

I will end in reply to Boris, relating to 'Myth one'

It was considered that the 'Teddy Boys' from Bristol occasionally got to the point where they needed a 'good slapping' and such an incident occurred in my time.

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

We were not the senior entry, maybe 89 – 90th and word went round about a young ‘uniformed’ sprog (to third term) had been ‘ill treated’ and retribution would follow on the next Saturday. (may even have been 96th is he a current member?)

The ‘directive’ from the senior entry forbade all 48’s etc for all but compassionate grounds, and all were to assemble in the evening and innocuously congregate below the sea wall.

I distinctly remember the huge increase in activity in the workshops that week, and Jan Bowen, who always overcooked everything, skilfully (first time?) attaching a length of PREN MET (?) metal braided cable, to the largest Plessey plug he could find, and with the help of several soldering irons, managing to fill it with at least one large roll of solder! This substantial monument he considered to be his ‘priest’ for pacification and conversion of the uninitiated.

The ‘day of judgement’ arrived, and WSM seemed a little more populated than usual, with not a policeman in sight, and a high concentration of ‘Teddy Boys’ being led like ‘Lambs to the slaughter’ I do not remember it being like a ‘kick off at a Football Match’, but all the ‘Sproggs’ were there in uniform, and little did the ‘Teds’ know that the majority of the civilians were in fact Apps in Mufti.

We actually ended up ‘scouring the town’ to find all the little enclaves of itinerants. I remember Nig Halliwell persuading one of them to try headbutting a car instead of him, which seemed to take the ‘lead out of his pencil’ completely!

We had about an hour with the complete town to ourselves (authority probably planned it that way) then all the MT section arrived & scoured the town in coaches with ‘Snowdrops’ all over like a rash, all were eventually recognised and picked up.

‘No names, no pack drill’ as the saying goes, but we all had to disembark at the Guardroom and deposit our ‘weapons’.

I distinctly remember a pile of the ‘workshops finest’ piled higher than the ‘Duty CA’s table on the Guardroom floor!

Needless to say life remained totally peaceful in WSM for the remainder of our tenure, just back to our normal territorial ambitions, in our ‘downtown office’, the ‘Four Rose coffee bar.’ (not a spelling mistake, immigrants couldn’t spell.)

Mike (Bernie) Furness 93rd

SECRETARY'S SNIPPETS

On the 28th May I attended, by invitation, the graduation of Course 1932/65 at Flowerdown Hall, RAF Cosford. I was met by a very smart young man in best blue with white webbing belt at the Guardroom who, having first checked my identity, issued me with vehicle and personal passes and directed me to Flowerdown Hall. Here I was met by a, not unattractive, WRAF Officer who escorted me to the conference room where I took sherry with CO. Also there, was a representative of Cranwell Apps Assoc Tony Manners (70th). Tony and I were then invited to present the prizes as a part of the passing out parade. I felt very proud and honoured to carry out the presentation coming some 50 years since my own passing out.

After the parade (there were only 10 passing out) refreshments were served and I took the opportunity to speak to a few of those graduating. The course is an intensive 60 weeks which comes after 4 weeks at RAF Halton learning the difference between left and right. Apparently the students can walk away from the RAF at anytime up to 50 weeks without penalty. There is a very high failure/re-course rate. This passing out entry contained only 6 of an original 16 intake.

All in all a very pleasant three hours spent with some good people.

Following last year's Inaugural No1Radio School annual lunch this years event will take place on 10th November in the sergeants mess RAF Cosford. There are seven places allocated to RAFLAA and more may be made available if needed. However, whereas last years event was paid for, (Surplus money from the Reformation Day slush Fund). This year is all pay and the estimated cost for the event is £25. Anyone wishing to go along should contact me for details.

May I remind any member who would like to start looking for his former colleagues I can provide a list of names and initials. For entries up to 91 the list is original members and entries after that the list is passing out list.

It may interest members to know that I have a total of 5,791 names on the lists comprising:

- 4347 Aircraft Apprentices (Entries 64-106)
 - 1085 Craft Apprentices (Entries 201-226 and 231)
 - 248 Technician Apprentices (Entries 107-109,111-122)
 - 111 Mechanic Apprentices (Entries 402-406)
-

If anyone has a photograph of the superhet receiver we were tasked to make during our apprenticeship. Will you please contact the Secretary. If possible could you pose the question in the newsletter please.

MEMORIES OF MALTA?

Many of us served in Malta in days gone by, and very many others passed through Luqa when the old Transport Command route to Singapore ran through Malta on its long way to Habbania, Karachi, New Delhi and so on. If you have memories of Malta (and I hope they are pleasant ones!), you may like to know of the Malta Aviation Museum now situated in one corner of the Second World War airfield at Ta'Qali.

The Museum has been up and running for several years now, and it has attracted many keen and talented enthusiasts who work in their own time to restore and maintain the Museum exhibits. Quite apart from a very large collection of artefacts such as instruments, weapons, aircraft parts and equipment from German and Italian machines claimed by the defences of Malta during the Second World War, the Museum has also managed to gather a remarkable group of aircraft. These include: Spitfire IX EN 199, Seahawk WV826, Vampire T11 WZ550, a Fiat G91, a DC3, and Hawker Hurricane Ila Z3055.

This last mentioned is a splendid example of the capabilities of the Museum staff. From somewhat unpromising beginnings, the volunteers have entirely rebuilt the fuselage and empennage, and last year the firm of 'Vintage Fabrics' travelled out to Malta to give the completed body an absolutely authentic finish.

Even better, the Maltese enthusiasts are actually constructing new mainplanes for the Hurricane, relying on original manufacturer's drawings to do so, and using metal castings and extrusions identical to the original specifications. As an ex-FIIA, I can tell you that I was very impressed when I visited the Museum in the autumn of last year!

Meanwhile, the Museum has become a victim of its own success; it has run out of space. To make more room for displays and for workshop activities, the Museum has therefore set its sights on purchasing a brand new aircraft hangar, to be erected on the present site alongside the existing buildings. The total cost of the venture is around £90,000 and fund-raising has been going on for more than a year, with donations coming in from such bodies as the Royal Air Force Historical Society, the Spitfire Society, the Beaufort Aircrew Society, a wide range of Squadron associations with Malta connections, and very many individual supporters.

As a former Station Commander at Luqa (1972-1974), I was asked to help raise funds for the project, and we are now over half way to finding all the finance for the new hangar. But we urgently need to raise the rest of the money so that the order for the hangar can be placed.

Any donations, large or small, will be more than welcome, and all of the donors' names will be recorded in a Commemorative book held in the new building. The address to which cheques, money orders or whatever should be sent is: Ray Polidano, Malta Aviation Museum, Ta'Qali, RBT 13, MALTA GC; or to me: Michael Armitage, Cairn Court, Oakhill, Bath BA3 5BL.

Please help if you can. A tenner or even a fiver each from the many of us with memories of Malta would be a tremendous help.

And if you are planning a holiday in Malta this year, do try to call in on the Museum and see for yourself what enthusiasm and hard work have been able to do for the history of aviation, and especially that of the Royal Air Force, in Malta.

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

(Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Armitage KCB CBE RAP (Rtd) and ex-56th Entry Aircraft Apprentices, Halton)



The
**AIR BATTLE
of MALTA
MEMORIAL
HANGAR**
Appeal

The National Memorial Arboretum

As requested by Michael Barker (85TH), see AOB in the AGM Report above, I have included the leaflet from the National Memorial Arboretum, although the stated website address is published there I found the address :-

<http://www.barton-under-needwood.org.uk/natmem.html> was a better site. There are many Service memorials including RAF Halton Aircraft Apprentices.

There are many Service organisations represented there including RAF Halton Aircraft Apprentices., Royal Air Force Wing, RAF Regiment and many others, too many to list here.

The National Memorial Arboretum is being created as a living tribute to the wartime generations of the twentieth century and as a gift in their memory for future generations to reflect upon and enjoy.

Welcome to **The National Memorial Arboretum**



Croxall Road, Alrewas, Burton upon Trent,
Staffordshire, DE13 7AR.

Tel: 01283 792333 Fax: 01283 792034

e-mail: nmarboretum@btconnect.com

Website:
www.nationalmemorialarboretum.co.uk

Retirement Therapy

Sam Allan (76th Entry) put retirement on hold and spends his time between Peterhead and Malawi. He went initially to help teenagers who were mainly Aids orphans, they were being trained in joinery work, but was limited due to lack of tools and financial considerations so he made an appeal from home for old woodwork tools and was not disappointed, he also received sponsorship for various projects.

Sam used money also donated from Home to buy extra tools, parts for cookers requiring repair, sponsoring a girl to go to school for a year and sponsoring two apprentices.

So far in Malawi, Sam has repaired cookers, installed a water supply into a hospital in Livingstonia, repaired broken children's swings, repaired seats in the church and made crutches for children amongst many other 'challenges'. When not working Sam was attending bible classes and church services, where there would be about 1,000 people on a Sunday.

More volunteers are needed over there, especially maintenance staff such as painters, electricians, joiners and plumbers, it's a very humbling experience but a job to be proud of, says Sam.

Anyone who may wish to contact Sam to offer any sort of help or assistance can find his address and telephone number in the Membership List.

Letters to the Editor

JPM.MILLS

53 Hope Fold Avenue, Atherton, Manchester M46 0BW

Dear Editor,

AN OPEN REPLY TO JOE HOLROYD'S OPEN LETTER IN THE R.A.F.L.A.A. FEBRUARY 2004 NEWSLETTER. TO DAVID PENBERTHY, in particular his statement: *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.*

This certainly is NOT the case - and Joe should know it.

It is true that we wanted to be accommodated near to the workplace. I had been told that accommodation in the Henlow area was a bit 'hit and miss', and with the Association having held the 2001 AGM in the Officers' Mess at Henlow, it seemed the most logical, convenient place for us to stay to do the job, which would have only taken two or three days of our time.

It was with this in mind that I wrote to the Secretary Elect a couple of weeks before last year's AGM (2003) with a proposal that David Penberthy and I be given the facilities to do the job saying: *For this, we will need official unimpeded access to the apprentice records held in the museum at RAF Henlow, an adequate supply of the right type of suspension files for the filing cabinet drawers and a few nights on-site single room accommodation in the Officers' Mess funded by the Association. For our part, our travel expenses and time to do the work needed are offered in all good faith on a purely voluntary basis.*

We didn't think Joe would have-a problem arranging the accommodation with him being on the spot at Henlow and, given the nature of the job, we didn't think it unreasonable for the Association to fund it.

But two things we certainly DID NOT do were to make any demands whatsoever for mileage allowance or subsistence. Of course we needed accommodation, but all the rest was offered in all good faith on a purely voluntary basis.

I think that not indexing the Apprentice Records was a wasted opportunity. But it was not for the want of trying on our part. Even one or two committee members back in March 2001 thought it worth doing as well. So, what prevented the indexing job from being done?

Could it be that the answer lays in Joe's words above - (in *the officer's mess no less!*)? It certainly has a meaningful ring, doesn't it? Does the exclamation mark betray the real reason, I wonder?

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

RAFLAA AGM 2005

Finally can I ask members to put the next AGM/Reunion date in their diaries.

It is April 23rd 2005 at Daunceys Hotel,

Weston-Super-Mare.

The weekend format will be as for previous events.

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	<u>107Balmoral Way</u> Worle Weston-s-Mare BS22 9BZ	(01934) 417323 aperkins@schaffner.com	Sep 05	109 th
Newsletter Editor	Colin Ingram	<u>Fairhaven</u> <u>Gooseham</u> <u>Morwenstow</u> <u>Bude</u> <u>Cornwall</u> 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		- 18									
		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.																					