



RAFLAA Newsletter

SERIAL 60

JULY 2011

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Editor's Notes

Hello to you all,

First I must apologise to Derek Quinn of the 87th. In the last Newsletter, I included under 'Closing Thought' an inappropriate reference to Alzheimer's. This was:

Keep learning. Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever... Never let the brain idle. 'An idle mind is the devil's workshop.' And the **devil's** name is **Alzheimer's**.

Derek was very annoyed and his letter appears later. I should have weeded the reference out and I am very sorry to have missed it and caused distress.

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I am pleased to write that the AGM & Dinner Dance at the Webbington seemed to go off very well. Many people said that they enjoyed the food, and the music by the duo Atlantic Crossing seemed to go down well again with lots of people dancing.

A coach was laid on to take the ladies out for the Saturday to Bath. The feedback indicated that all the ladies thoroughly enjoyed the trip and have asked for another next year! Last year the coach cost the Association a lot of money due to the low use but this year a lot of ladies booked and consequently the coach did not cost the Association any money at all.

We will be back at the Webbington again next year for the AGM and Dinner/Dance. You'll find 'Advance Warning' under Notices of the event so you can book the hotel now.

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Following our new practice, you will find the minutes for the February Committee Meeting in this issue. The minutes for the AGM will be published next time in the November issue. I am also taking the opportunity to place the minutes further back.

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I received the following from Dave Croft 98th

I was contacted (last week) by Jon Harvey ex-98th who I haven't seen or heard from since the mid-60's. In respect of this I have been trying to contact Mick Rafferty (also ex-98th) who had set up a 98th Entry web site (Jon was on the 'wanted' list) but it seems to have fallen into disuse. Both Les Thorley and myself have tried to get a contact address for Mick but we have failed. The RAFLAA, it seems, is our last hope, and I was wondering if you can be of help?

I had to write back:

We have an email address for Dave Croft. However, it is the Association's policy not to give out email addresses or other details to anyone who asks for them but to pass on a message with contact details. The note I sent to Mick is below and refers to your first message. Please do let me know if you are successful.

I was pleased to get the following from Dave Croft

Mick Rafferty has contacted me within the last few minutes so all is now fine. Thank you for all your help in this matter, it is much appreciated.

So if you lose touch with a member we may well be able to help but it is best to contact the Membership Secretary direct.

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Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

Readers will notice that the newsletter is a bit shorter this time. I have one longer piece by Jeff Richardson which I've saved for next time but I need you to write about your experiences. Come on, you remember - "..... and then the officer said". Please write and send me the details or send me some comments and/or pictures from the AGM/ dinner dance. We all like to read them.

My regulars are always welcome but it would be good to hear from some new writers. Do put fingers to keyboards and let us know what it was like for YOU

Ed.

Deadline for next issue - 23rd September 2011 for November 2011

Please send all comments, contributions, ideas and feedback to the newsletter editor. Soft copy preferred!

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Letters to the Editor

Dear RAFLAA Newsletter Editor,

I've enjoyed reading the RAFLAA Newsletter for many years, smiling, chuckling and reminiscing over many of the articles, sometimes by people I knew. I have been interested in how other people's lives have developed, post apprenticeship and also, post RAF.

Today I cursed the author off the article in the March 2011 issue. This was Closing Thoughts, subtitled 'Philosophy For Old Age'. How dare some upstart from the 92nd entry say that. The quote that annoyed me was under the heading "How To Stay Young" and went on to say that an idle mind is the devils workshop, and the devils name is Alzheimer's. Perhaps the author would like to read up some basics information about the causes of Alzheimer's.

I celebrate my 70th birthday this year and hope to attend it and to remember most of it. The reason for this hope is that three years ago I was diagnosed with early onset of Alzheimer's. I was 66 at the time, was a director of a successful wood recycling company that I and two others had set up four years earlier. The business was growing; I was fully occupied mentally and physically. I am an active member of the local Green Party, local and national Friends of the Earth and of the local church. I keep fully in touch with my six children, cycle anywhere I am going under 3 miles, am physically fit, and, only 2 years ago, stopped sailing because the last my six children (the crew of my large dingy) had all eventually moved away to live independently, I now volunteer at Wiltshire Wood Recycling (my old company) and I also volunteer at an Homeless Peoples Breakfast group for one morning a week (and a lunch session on another day if required. I spend part of another day (sometimes more if we get lost) with the local Alzheimer's walking group.

Altogether my life could be described as a physically and intellectually active one which rarely left my mind idle; I hope that this précis of my current life will change the author's opinion about the cause of Alzheimer's.

Derek Quinn 87th

I apologise to Derek Quinn. I should have weeded the reference out. Please see Editors Notes on page 2 – Ed.

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I was also corrected by Bruce Graham of the 79th. He writes:

Chris

Thanks for the latest issue of the Association Newsletter - good stuff as usual.

You might just get a number of inputs on this topic but I thought that I'd add my two penn'orth (doesn't that date me!).

I got to page 23 and read the "Manure - an interesting fact" article and for a microsecond or two disbelief was suspended and I thought that I really had missed out on a "fact". Then I reached over my shoulder for my trusty OED and found that the origin of the word in question was either the Old English "schitte" or Dutch "schiften" - take your pick. Then a quick Google on the term "Stow High in Transit" revealed the Urban Myth where this story originated.

Nice one, though!!

Keep up the good work. See you at the reunion.

Bruce Graham, 79th

NOTICES

Advance Warning

The 18th Annual General meeting of the RAF Locking Apprentice Association will be held on [Saturday 21st April 2012](#) at the Webbington Hotel, Loxton, Weston-super-Mare.

It will follow our usual format with the AGM in the afternoon and a dinner dance in the evening.

Full details will follow in the November edition of the Newsletter but put the date in your diary now.

Costs are increasing but the hotel has agreed to keep the rates at £75 B&B for a double or twin room (double occupancy) and £60 for a single room for a **2 night stay (Friday & Saturday)**. However, for the Saturday night only there will be a £5 per person increase - £85 B&B for a double or twin room (double occupancy) and £65 for a single room.

If you want to book a room, the hotel is accepting reservations now - call The Webbington Hotel, Loxton, Weston-s-Mare, BS26 2HU Tel: 01934 750100

Or Email: info@webbingtonhotel.ecilpse.co.uk



Passwords

Members have been concerned about the need to remember all the past passwords so, after some discussion, we have decided to publish passwords going back over the past four years.

This is on the basis that, to access this Newsletter, you must have used the current password or been sent a hard copy so, in turn, you must be a paid-up member.

So here are the passwords:

RAFLAA11/07	November 2007
SPIRAL1/08	March 2008
INDIGO2/08	July 2008
RASPA3/08	November 2008
GREGOR1/09	March 2009
FORAGO2/09	July 2009
SPANDREL3/09	November 2009
HICKOX1/10	March 2010
ANTHRO2/10	July 2010
TEECUP3/10	November 2010
JOHNF1/11	March 2011

Notes instead of Minutes

75 Years and (Re)Counting

From Dave Gunby 72nd

It all started on the 16th January 1936. Born the son of a bus driver in Leicestershire. Attended the local Infant and Junior school before passing the 11+ at the age of 10. So, off to grammar school for 6 years. Each school day, 10 miles from home, sandwiched between two paper rounds. I was always struggling to keep up with my peers and in retrospect I may have benefited from another year in junior school. On leaving school I was smitten with the idea of wearing a uniform (probably due to my years in the Boys Brigade). I applied unsuccessfully to the Metropolitan Police (visually challenged) but accepted by the RAF. (Was this the onset of the blind leading the blind?)

I struggled once again in academia but was ok at smoking and drinking without a pass and breaking in and out of camp. Surprisingly my name only appeared twice on form 252 - once for missing extra instruction (3 Days) and once for stealing another airman's rations namely 1 mug of tea and 6 rounds of bread. (3days). I was above average at road walking and playing various drums in the band. These activities meant I was a member of the 4 man team to win the RAF 7 mile walking championship (First apprentice team to win a national competition) and I also had the honour of playing in the band at 2 Royal Tournaments. Finally I passed out in September 1955. I should have passed out in the July but had to re-take an exam. I was a bit narked at having to parade in the band instead of with my entry in front of Princess Margaret.

Am now aged 19 and facing the real RAF. In summary there were postings to RAF Edzell, RAF Xmas Island, RAF Waddington, RAF Eastleigh (Kenya), and RAF Linton-on-Ouse. The day of reckoning came on the 16th December 1965 when I had my application to sign on refused. Am now aged nearly 30 married with two sons and facing civvy street. I had not given it much thought until then.

Computers seemed all the rage so joined English Electric as an engineer on those industrial size computers. After trying the London and Birmingham sites and seeing the problems of travel I decided that we were unlikely to settle to that kind of life so located to Lincoln in the hope that a job could be found. At least we would be happier as a family. After a very short while putting myself about I was employed by Hawker Siddeley working on cable looms for the Vulcan A/C. In 1970, and with a daughter added to the clan, I had the opportunity to join the Post Office Telephones thanks to a bit of door opening by a good neighbour. There I stayed until taking redundancy in 1992.

To fill in the years (and the back pocket) until retirement I did several different duties with the Lincolnshire County Council. That made it to age 65 whereupon I called it a day (well 23744 days actually including leap years).

In retirement I am involved with local cricket, school governorship, gardening and the 72nd Entry. It has been my hobby for the past 30 years to try to find my former colleagues of the 72nd Entry. To date I have found 96 of the original 112 a fact with which I am very pleased. Many friendships have been rekindled and we have had about 15 full reunions.

Latterly I have been Secretary of the RAF Locking Apprentice Association as readers will know. I came into the Association at a very difficult time with the Chairman and Secretary having to resign through ill health and disbandment a real possibility. Had a new Chairman and Secretary not been found on the day of the 2003(I think) AGM then the association would have been unable

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to continue without an executive. As I remember it was not until 10pm on that night that Tiny and I answered the Presidents call.

During my 8 Years of secretaryship I have been closely involved with the design and provision of our commemorative window in St Georges Church at RAF Halton. At the service of dedication I was very proud to have the honour of giving an historical address. I assembled a database of all apprentices who passed through No1RS by extracting their names from old and damaged files belonging to the RAF Museum. I did not count the hours but they were many.

As I retire from the secretaryship I am involved with the design and installation of our memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum the dedication of which should take place later this year. I intend to see the project through before fully handing over the reins to the new secretary.

I have made many friends through my membership of the Association. Furthermore I have had the opportunity to establish contacts with No1Radio School at RAF Cosford such that on Monday 10th September 2012 the 72nd Entry survivors will visit the school. That will be 60 years to the day that we made our first visit. That will be some day.

Finally I wish the Association well for the future. It will seem a bit strange attending an AGM on the shop floor.

I am now as old as my tongue and nearly as old as my remaining teeth.

We have a lot to thank Dave and Tiny for. Without them stepping in, we would not have an Association with yearly regular reunions and most of our entry reunions would not have happened either - Ed

Apprentice Days

Three days Jankers award

From Chris Lewis 92nd

Sometime in 1961 I along with two others (Martin Eversfield + 1 name not remembered) was on a charge for some misdemeanour. I was marched in and awarded (first ever award I received in the RAF) 3 days Jankers. This now posed a problem, as there was a squadron badminton competition that night and I was playing for B Squadron. I marched back in to the awarding officer and explained the problem. He solved this by writing a memo to the Wing W.O. explaining that I was playing for the squadron. The W.O. let me off the first night fatigues and the 1800 and 2100 inspections. Next day I did report for all the days' fatigues and inspections. This was no too onerous. Two days down and one to go (Thursday).

I reported to my assisting awarding officer and explained that there was a wing badminton match that night and I was playing for the wing. Another memo written by the awarding officer and delivered to the Wing W.O. This time he asked if I would make it for the 2100hrs report. I told him confidently that I would. This however did not happen as the matches were taking longer than expected and I had sandwiches to eat after the match. The O.C. Wing Badminton very kindly rang the Wing O.O. explaining the situation so I was let off the 2100 Hrs report.

My three days Jankers were over. It was not an ordeal but having spoken to Martin recently he was not too impressed how I worked it.

Then and Now

Dave Croft 98th sent some photos and writes:

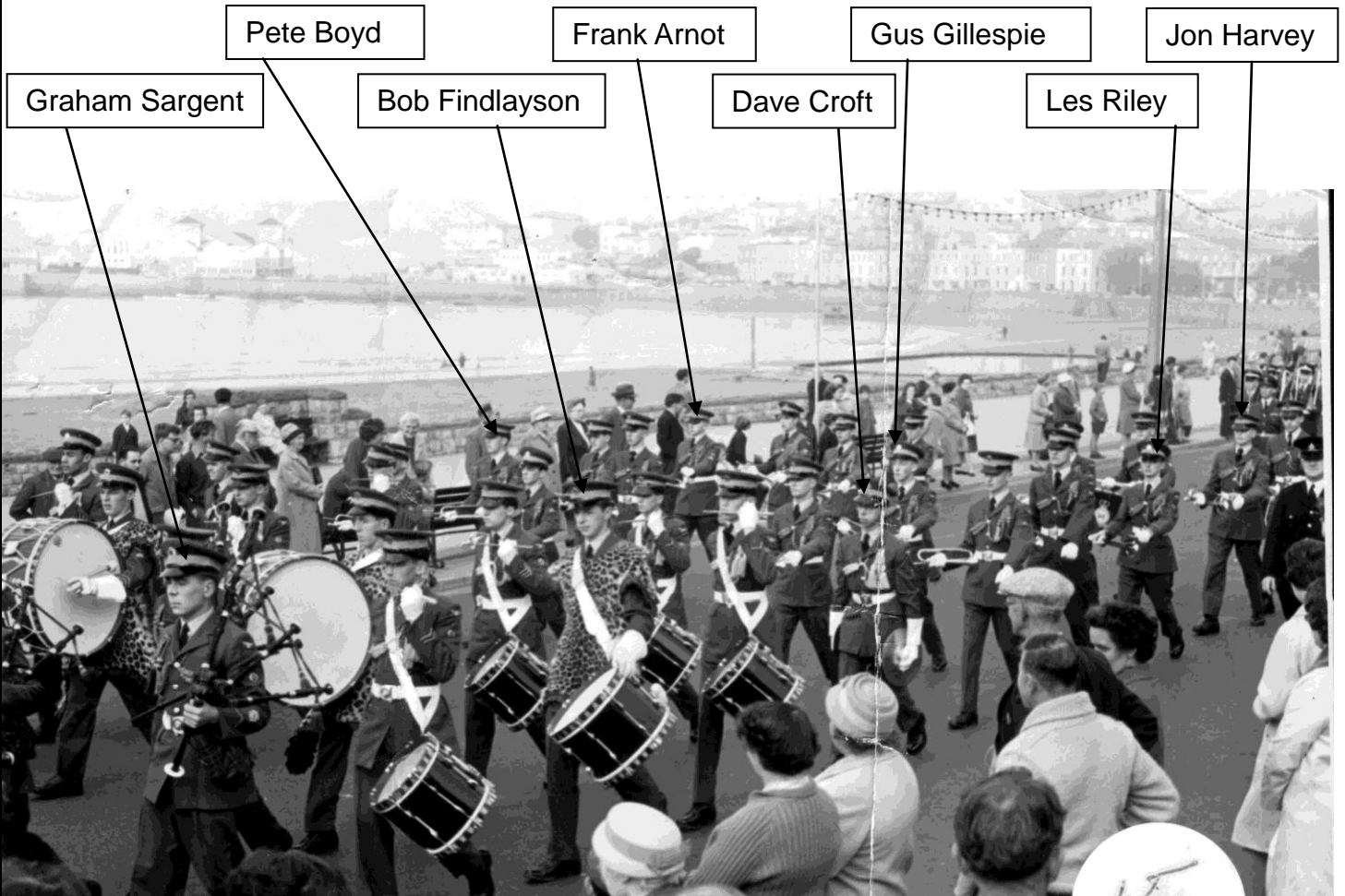
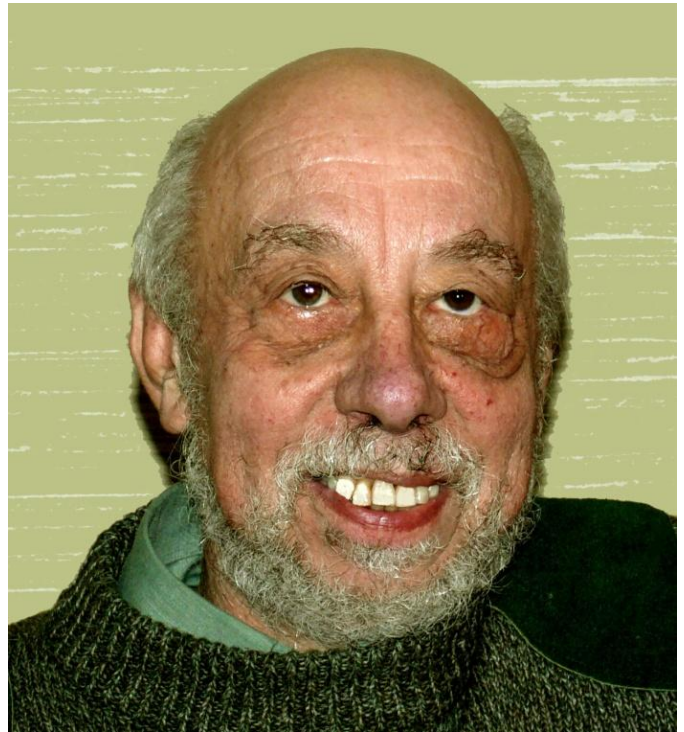
The photograph of Mick Rafferty on page 19 threw me. I just didn't realise how we have changed over the years (since 1964) and every time I recently e-mailed Mick (thanks Chris for your help in contacting Mick) I just had a vision of him as he sat for the entry photograph. But a closer look at the page 19 photograph and it was still the Mick Rafferty from the 98th that I remember!

I also had a look in the mirror at a youthful Dave Croft and saw someone different...but didn't escape the diligence of a colleague's wife at a RAFBPA reunion who recognised me immediately after all those years without contact. We (the young Sergeants) always referred to the more elderly Sergeants and Flight Sergeants, when in the Mess, as KOS's, Knackered Old Sods behind their backs, never thinking that one day we would reach this much respected pinnacle.

So thanks again Chris for the excellent newsletter.

Dave sent the 'then and now' photos on the next page. - Ed

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Dave has named some of the apprentices in the band. Can anyone add a few more? - Ed

Tit-Bits

Paul Challice writes:

Chris

I'm not sure if you can use this, but it genuinely happened recently.

Sure we can. We love all contributions - Ed

Alcohol and Eyesight

From Paul Challice 95th

I was sitting at the dinner table talking to my wife, when I noticed my eyesight had become all blurred. "But I can't be pissed", I thought, "I've only had 3 or 4 glasses of wine!" Then I realised I had removed my glasses to rub my eyes while we debated what to cook for dinner tomorrow. I picked up my glasses from the table, replaced them on my nose, and ... Bingo! I was sober again!

They taught me lots at Locking, but not how to deal with old age. And even if they had, would I have listened at the tender age of 17 or so? I doubt it. Now where did I put my socks?

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Fake Security or Antivirus Programs

From Geoff Richmond 92nd

I'm sure it's not just me but many of us get jokes and stunning pictures sent to them by their friends. Geoff has sent details of a problem he got via one of these and the potential solution on the next page. - Ed

It is quite possible that the virus did not come via the 92nd – though it is only from 92nd members that I was getting jokes. The problem with the Schmidt fraud virus is that it does not come in as a virus and therefore no antivirus software finds it. Rather, it comes in either from a jpeg attachment or through a website via an advert. It then, I understand, will sit innocently in the receiver's files and then be passed on by them innocently to addressees or will attack their own system. Because the initial software is not a virus it can get through ones system and it then disables the antivirus program and then calls in the Trojans. It is therefore particularly vindictive. It is actually hard to avoid it, but the best way is to avoid opening too many sources that could be used by a third party (such as jokes) to pass on to other contacts. Apparently the antivirus agencies wanted to put protection into their antivirus software, but the Ad agencies threatened to sue for millions of dollars if they did since the Ad industry uses casual boxes on many websites to advertise their wares.

I have enclosed an advice note on the subject that deals with it. In my case I had to pass my computer over to a specialist to get rid of it. Galling since I thought I had an impenetrable system and also have quite a knowledge about software!!!! Please feel free to pass on the advice in the attachment to other members if you wish.

Since the attack I have now separated out all internet activities from my admin programs and put all my data onto password protected external drives.

Geoff

Professional Note

These programs are designed to fool you into going to a website to pay between 60 and 90 dollars to disinfect your computer. This is a total con. You will lose your money and your credit card will be dredged. It is probable that the only virus you have is the one they put there. Do not pay.

They will show as a window in the centre of your screen showing a false report of multiple computer infections. They disable your legitimate antivirus program and make your computer virtually unusable. In some cases all you are able to do is open internet explorer which will only let you visit their website. These programs can be extremely difficult to disinfect.

To avoid the 'Smitfraud' or 'Zlob' fake security alert family of viruses: They first appear as a fake security warning at the bottom right of the screen. This is designed to look genuine and usually says something like 'Your computer may be infected'. The warning itself is not a virus and will be ignored by most security programs. It comes directly from an innocent website which has unwittingly been infected. This is a typical one:



At this stage almost anything you do onscreen will download the full infection. Don't try to close the warning box or click on anything on the screen. Physically disconnect your computer from the internet by disconnecting the cable or switching off the router. Now restart your computer and the fake warning should be gone. This works at the moment but the writers of this family of virus are a highly skilled and very well paid team of software writers and it is constantly being rewritten and developed.

When it's okay use the 'f ...' word

From Martin Eversfield 92nd







Mobile Phone Extra

From Martin Eversfield 92nd

I haven't tried these useful sounding tips. Do write and let me know if they work. - Ed

There are a few things that can be done in times of grave emergencies. Your mobile phone can actually be a life saver or an emergency tool for survival. Check out the things that you can do with it:

FIRST - Emergency

The Emergency Number worldwide for all Mobile Phones is 112. If you find yourself out of the coverage area of your mobile network and there is an emergency, dial 112 and your mobile will search any existing network in your area to establish the emergency number for you, and interestingly this number 112 can be dialled even if the keypad is locked. This works on all phones worldwide and is free. It is the equivalent of 000.

SECOND Have you locked your keys in the car?

Does your car have remote keyless entry? This may come in handy someday. Good reason to own a cell phone:

If you lock your keys in the car and the spare keys are at home, call someone at home on their mobile phone from your cell phone.

Hold your cell phone about a foot from your car door and have the person at your home press the unlock button, holding it near the mobile phone on their end. Your car will unlock. Saves someone from having to drive your keys to you. Distance is no object. You could be thousands of miles away, and if you can reach someone who has the other 'remote' for your car, you can unlock the doors (or the boot).

THIRD Hidden Battery Power

To activate, press the keys *3370# (remember the asterisk). Do this when the phone is almost dead. Your mobile will restart in a special way with this new reserve and the instrument will show a 50% increase in battery life. This reserve will get re charged when you charge your mobile next time. This secret is in the fine print in most phone manuals. Most people however skip this information without realising.

FOURTH How to disable a STOLEN mobile phone?

To check your Mobile phone's serial number, key in the following digits on your phone: * # 0 6 # Ensure you put an asterisk BEFORE the #06# sequence.

A 15 digit code will appear on the screen. This number is unique to your handset. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. If your phone is ever stolen, you can phone your service provider and give them this code. They will then be able to block your handset so even if the thief changes the SIM card, your phone will be totally useless. You probably won't get your phone back, but at least you know that whoever stole it can't use/sell it either. If everybody done this, there would be no point in people stealing mobile phones.

This secret is also in the fine print of most mobile phone manuals. It was created for the very purpose of trying to prevent phones from being stolen.

Also -ATM PIN Number Reversal - Good to Know!!

If you should ever be forced by a robber to withdraw money from an ATM machine, you can notify the police by entering your PIN # in reverse. For example, if your pin number is 1234, then you would put in 4321. The ATM system recognizes that your PIN number is backwards from the ATM card you placed in the machine. The machine will still give you the money you requested, but unknown to the robber, the police will be immediately dispatched to the location. All ATM's carry this emergency sequencer by law.

This information was recently broadcast on by Crime Stoppers however it is seldom used because people just don't know about it.

Please pass this along to everyone.

When Insults had Class

From Martin Eversfield 92nd

These glorious insults are from an era before the English language got boiled down to 4-letter words.

The exchange between Churchill & Lady Astor:
She said, "If you were my husband I'd give you poison."
He said, "If you were my wife, I'd drink it."

A Member of Parliament to Disraeli: "Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease."

"That depends, Sir," said Disraeli, "whether I embrace your policies or your mistress."

"He had delusions of adequacy." - Walter Kerr

"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." - Winston Churchill

"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure."
- Clarence Darrow

He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary."
William Faulkner (about Ernest Hemingway).

"Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it."
- Moses Hadas

"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it."
- Mark Twain

"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends." - Oscar Wilde

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend ... if you have one." - George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill

"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second ... if there is one."
- Winston Churchill, in response.

"I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here." - Stephen Bishop

"He is a self-made man and worships his creator." - John Bright

"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial." - Irvin S. Cobb

"He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others."
- Samuel Johnson

"He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up." - Paul Keating

"In order to avoid being called a flirt, she always yielded easily."
- Charles, Count Talleyrand

"He loves nature in spite of what it did to him." - Forrest Tucker

"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?" - Mark Twain

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork." - Mae West

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go." - Oscar Wilde

"He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts... for support rather than illumination." - Andrew Lang (1844-1912)

"He has Van Gogh's ear for music." - Billy Wilder

"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it." - Groucho Marx

RAF Days

Rockhampton Reminiscences – With 52

From Brian Colby 87th Entry

Watching reports of the horrendous flooding that many eastern parts of Australia experienced earlier this year, brought back memories of the kind people I met during a detachment from RAF Seletar to Rockhampton, and the amazing hospitality of its salt of the earth residents.

It all started after arrival at RAF Seletar in the November of 1966, where I initially worked with a team putting in wiring mods to beaten up ancient Wessex helicopters. After 2 months of this boring work I watched in envy the arrival from the UK of three more of 52 Squadron's sleek Andover C MK 1's and naturally wondered what it would be like to work on such a modern aircraft. My thoughts were answered when a few days later, after promotion to Sgt, I was then transferred to the Squadron, as NCO i/c the radio section. It was unknowingly to be the start of the best posting the RAF was to throw my way, with the added pleasure of meeting up with a number of ex Apps including 87th entry colleague Dave Ecclestone.

Most of the team who arrived with 52 had only a rudimentary knowledge of the equipments used on these twin engine turbo prop transports and as for myself, with all previous experience on fighters, the Cloud Collision Warning radar, ancient Rebecca 4, Collins HF, VOR/ILS, Decca Navigator and intercom system, were all completely new.

Thrown in at the proverbial deep end the years of training at Locking then proved there worth for, with a bit of studying of the appropriate Air Pubs and judicious use of the jolly old oscilloscope, the numerous teething problems that confronted us were slowly eliminated.

On each of the 6 Andover's the faults were mainly down to incorrect wiring within the aircraft, one causing intermittent bursts of noise throughout all the inter-comm positions, and another the Decca Navigator aerial system to continuously drift to starboard when flying over the sea. This elusive problem eventually pinpointed to an unused wire in a cable loom, soldered to the wrong terminal in a junction box, injecting noise into the aerial feedback loop. It was no surprise therefore when we learnt that the aircraft had been wired during production by young Hawker Siddeley apprentices.

As a result of our investigations Dave and I went on to enjoy many hours flying out to sea and over the island of Singapore, proving to the aircrews delight that we had indeed eliminated the problems they had endured since the squadrons formation.

The Andover's short landing capability and unique undercarriage system, which allowed the rear loading ramp to be adjusted over a wide height range, meant that the aircraft were in continuous demand for a wide variety of roles.

In the May of 1968 I was involved in ferrying tool kits around Nepal for returning Gurkha soldiers who were leaving the British Army. The kits, issued to help the individuals return to their villages, were initially transported from Singapore by Hercules to Kathmandu airport, whereupon it was then 52's task to fly them out on the last leg of the journey to the various high altitude airstrips such as Annapurna.

Taking at least 2 crew members to manhandle the kits to the end of the aircraft ramp, the heavy wooden boxes would be placed onto the back of a smiling Gurkha who, with a smile and wave, would start the journey back to the far flung village from whence he came. We were in constant

awe at the strength and stamina these small stocky ex soldiers possessed, and grew to admire these men from the hills.

It was a few months later that I then had the good fortune to be involved in the Sqdns detachment to Australia, when it took part in a large exercise 'Coral Sands' requiring 2 of the Andover's and a contingent of assorted ground crew.

With an overnight stop at Darwin and an amazing low level flight over the red vastness of the Australian outback, we eventually arrived at the small civil airfield of Rockhampton, a town on the east coast, where we were to be based for the duration of the 4 week exercise, fed and watered as guests of the Aussie army, in a large tented encampment 2 miles out of town.

The first encounter of the peculiarities of Australian hospitality ensued soon after our arrival when, after helping to unload the equipment from the aircraft, Pete an electrician and I wandered over to the small crowd that had come to view our exertions. To our utter surprise within half an hour of small chat and of course the odd 'Pommie Bastard' greeting, we both received invites to tea from a number of elderly couples, being handed addresses from complete strangers who wanted to welcome us to their homes. It was a foretaste of an amazing wall of hospitality that we were to experience during the remainder of our stay.

The exercise itself involved all arms of the various forces and the Andover's were in continuous demand, the ground crew kept busy servicing our own aircraft together with the opportunity to work on many visitors such as Navy Gannets and RAAF Caribous. I was intrigued to find out from Australian soldiers that they would be attacking an area on the coast that was in part defended by Gurkhas and not too surprised to find out a few days later that the exercise referees had judged in their wisdom that the use of sharpened stakes in the defensive positions around these warriors from Nepal was not really part of the rule book.

NAAFI breaks, taken in the airfields flying club, led to another example of the local's hospitality where befriending one of the regular visitors, he immediately invited Pete and I out to his farm the coming Saturday. Kindly driving all the way out to collect us from our encampment, we were then shown round the massive farm, which he owned with his brother, and helped in feeding their amazing herd of Brahman cattle, which up to then I had thought only existed in India.

Invited by his wife to stay for mid day snack, consisting of two small potatoes and a massive steak covering the entire plate, it was then off to the nearby cattle auction where the scene that greeted was straight out of a cowboy film.

Burly stockmen sitting astride the stockade hailed us in the expected bluff manner, as the dust and noise kicked up by the massive bulls mingled with the auctioneers raucous bellowing of prices. It was altogether an amazing scene followed by an invite to quench our thirst with them in the auction bar where, although greeted with the usual PB refrain, we weren't allowed to buy a single pint in return. A truly unforgettable day was then followed by our generous host inviting us to his daughter's engagement party, being held that same evening in a local hotel, where we were again made most welcome by all and sundry.

The following weekend, determined to sample a typical old fashioned Australian spit and sawdust pub, Pete and I met up with two young lads who amazingly insisted that they take us to meet their parent's, whereupon on arrival the dad immediately invited us, complete strangers till then, to join them to watch the final of the 'Aussie rules' football on TV with the rest of the family. A pleasant afternoon was then spent with the intricacies of this peculiar but watch-able sport explained by our hosts with of course many a 'stubby' (Oz for a bottle of beer) consumed into the bargain. The following day the same lads then generously invited us for a scenic drive along the

coastal highway to Yeppoon where besides seeing wallabies by the dozen, we were introduced to even more of their friends.

Even a friendly attempt to chat up two young ladies serving in Woolworths resulted in one of the husbands amazingly collecting us for an evenings get together, where sitting on their veranda quaffing many a stubby we reminisced and joked about their life this far side of the world.

With such open friendliness from all and sundry it was no wonder that most of us on the exercise were completely taken aback by the sheer range of acts hospitality that we experienced virtually every day, and far too many to relate in such a short note as this, but sufficient to realise that this was indeed the normal way of life for this warm hearted community.

I was therefore pleased when I had the opportunity to repay this kindness in some small way when, chatting to an elderly gentleman onlooker at the side of the airfield, I was amazed to find out that he been a volunteer member of the Royal Flying Corp flying over trenches during the 1st World War. The following day squadron members listened in awe as he regaled us with his war time activities, spanning time with the RFC and the formation of the Royal Air Force, and then marvelled at his photos of the ancient string-bags he had flown, events in his Log book and his hard won array of medals. After showing our wide eyed visitor around one of the aircraft, the CO then completed the honours as we all raised our glasses in a toast to this incredible Aussie veteran, rounding off an altogether incredible day for everyone involved.

'Coral Sands' sadly came to an end soon after this and with one aircraft due to complete a grand tour of the rest of Australia; I was one of the unlucky half to draw a short straw and return early to Singers. The highlight to end the exercise was however a military parade with all the participant forces marching through the streets of Rockhampton, to which luckily we were just spectators. Enjoying a final pint of Aussie beer together we stood with the cheering crowd as the Australian Army contingent lead the march-past when suddenly to my surprise the crowd grew silent and odd murmurs of "who allowed these Jap bastards into the country" could be heard emanating from the front. It gave me the greatest of pleasure to inform that the troops marching by were no other than proud Gurkhas, to which, as anticipated, the crowd responded immediately with typical Aussie gusto.

The following day the long journey back to Seletar started and although naturally keen to get back to the family in Singapore I left wondering if I would ever have the good fortune to return to Rockhampton. The many acts of kindness and generosity shown to all of us during our brief stay were quite humbling, and I for one have been forever grateful that the RAF gave me the opportunity for this once in a life time experience. Pragmatic in adversity our Aussie cousins are a remarkably good natured people and my heart goes out to what they have had to endure at the hands of Mother Nature.

The Horns of a Dilemma

This is a repeat of the article in the last Newsletter. I did get one comment and have added it and Mike's solution at the bottom - Ed

Sent in by Mike Collier 76th

I never rose to the dizzy heights of Apprentice N.C.O. rank at Locking. The "powers that be" obviously considered me too young and immature to be granted that status. In retrospect, they were almost certainly correct. I am sure that the occupants of any hut of which I was put in charge, would have lynched me within a couple of weeks.

On leaving Locking, I spent a delightful four months as a J/T in A.S.F. at Bassingbourn, doing second line servicing on Canberra B2 and T4 aircraft. Then, before I had reached the ripe old age of 18 ½, my tapes came through. Unfortunately, along with this event come a posting to Gaydon.

Here I embarked on what was, without doubt, the most awful job I had in my limited R.A.F. service. It involved booking in sick items of Green Satin equipment from all over the world and dispatching repaired replacements. It was soul destroying and could easily have been done by an AC2 clerk with half a brain. As I was a one man band, there was no chance to exercise any form of command authority.

Five months of that was more than enough and I got an exchange posting (with Joe Craig ex-75th) back to Bassingbourn. On returning, I found myself on "B" Flight dispersal in the middle of the airfield, doing first line servicing on Canberra B2's. But at last, I had a man working for me. He was a deferred National Service S.A.C. Air Wireless Mechanic. He seemed a pleasant enough bloke, though he did spend a lot of time reading magazines and articles about child birth. He also tended to levitate slightly, every time the phone rang. Apparently his wife was overdue with the birth of their first child. Generally, radio problems were relatively rare, then a couple of weeks after I got there, two aircraft returned almost simultaneously, one with a wireless snag, the other with a radar fault. I detailed the mechanic to go and sort out the wireless problem. Telling him to take a spare V.H.F., as that was the most likely cause of the symptoms described. Meanwhile, I went off to fix the offending radar. This proved a little more difficult than I had expected but eventually everything functioned correctly and I headed for the small encampment to sign the 700. The "Line Chief" told me that my mechanic had fixed and signed up his fault and could I over sign it. I told him I would just pop out to the aircraft to confirm everything was as it should be.

On the way to the equipment bay, I passed the crew room. As usual my mechanic had his bead in one of his publications. He probably knew more about the topic than the local midwife. I asked if the aircraft was O.K. and had he done a radio check with the tower. Without looking up, he replied "Yes Corp. It's all fine".

Collecting a headset, I strolled out to airplane and opened the hatch where the V.H.F. lived. It all seemed satisfactory. The box was securely fixed in its tray, all connectors correctly positioned and tight. I levered myself into the cockpit, plugged in the headset, operated the Ground/Flight switch, checked the V.H.F. controller was set to the tower frequency and switched it on. It was certainly one of the quietest V.H.F.'s I had ever listened to. There was no other comm's traffic so I hit the P.T.T. switch "Bassingbourn Tower, "B" Flight dispersal, ground radio check, over" Absolute silence! A repeat call elicited the same response. Very strange! Switching everything off I returned to the V.H.F. equipment hatch. Undid the four knurled screws on the front cover of the box and removed it. Facing me were 20 neat little round EMPTY holes, where should have dwelled 10 crystals.

I "hit the roof", rapidly retraced my steps to the dispersal huts and hauled the mechanic out of the crew room. Fortunately, R.S.F. had not been to do their daily collection of duff boxes. I ordered him to pick up the box and follow me. On the return trip to the aircraft, I think he guessed that I was not impressed by his performance. I stood over him while he pushed the crystals, one at a time into the already fitted box. Then sat him in the cockpit, where I could see and hear what he was doing. He did a hesitant but satisfactory check with the tower. Having over signed his entry in the 700, I dragged him outside, away from the dispersal huts and administered a severe b*****ing. Including that I was seriously considering charging him with "Signing a certificate relating to an aircraft without first ensuring its accuracy", contrary to the Air Force Act. He went a mite paler at that point and even more pale when I told him that I could guarantee he would get at least 14 days "jankers" from such a charge. As a parting shot, I told him I would decide what to do with him by the morning but it would be unwise to make any short term plans. I guess it was unlikely that he had ever been spoken to like that by someone at least 5 years his junior.

So here is the dilemma. On one hand, he was a National Serviceman with only a few weeks left to serve. He was somewhere he did not want to be, doing something he did not want to do. He was obviously very concerned about his wife. Only he and I knew of the misdemeanour he had committed. On the other hand, if I had gone ahead and over signed his work without checking and someone else had discovered the problem, it was possible that I could have lost my tapes or at least, got a severe reprimand on my record. Not good news for someone who at that point still considered that he had a future in the R.A.F.

I was not yet 19 years old a very inexperienced N.C.O. Should I follow the black and white principles that pertained to my Locking training? If you toed the line, did nothing wrong, you were safe. If you did anything wrong and got caught, you were charged. No shades of grey. Alternatively, should I heed the plea of Shakespeare's Portia and show mercy?

I would be very much interested to know what those in the readership think I should have done, in the circumstances described. If our worthy Editor is kind enough to publish this, he might also welcome any extra copy generated.

With reference to the article in the previous Newsletter, here is what Mike did - Ed

Horns of a Dilemma 2

Having given the incident a lot of thought, I decided that my original anger was a "knee jerk" reaction to my career being placed in jeopardy.

Most importantly, what he had failed to do had not endangered anyone's life, as the problem would have been discovered before the aircraft left the pan. He only had a few weeks left before demob., charging him would serve no useful purpose, other than cause him inconvenience and raise his stress level even further. If he had been a regular then I would most certainly have charged him, in the hope that it would persuade him to take a more responsible attitude towards his work. Additionally, only he and I knew of his failing, though I did check any other task he performed very carefully!

Consequently, on the following day I told him that displeased as I was with his performance, I was not going to charge him.

I also got this from Dave Croft 98th - Ed

I received the newsletter today and as always thoroughly enjoyed reading it.

Re: page 30 *Horns of a Dilemma* where we, the readers, are invited to make comment! Not something I normally do, but a young inexperienced corporal and an older NS airman preoccupied with other matters, but the NS airman was not doing his job within the team...a similar situation I came across once in my service career. Personally I think he was idle and couldn't care less about the possible outcome...he lied and that in my book is inexcusable. So my answer would be to throw the book at him, or if there is doubt (through inexperience), discuss it further with the section Flight Sergeant and act on his advice.

V & A Procurement

From Brian Davies 76th Entry

As a Corporal (later Cpl. Tech.) Instructor in the early 1960s I became the Entertainments Member on the Committee of the RAF Locking Corporals Club. (Ah, power!!)

It was a fun extra job to my busy instructing duties, but I enjoyed it especially as we got into the rhythm of organising function which were well attended and proved popular with the many corporals on the station - of which most of us were single.

The dances I organised went well, but previous to my election there was always a mass of lads with only a few females to dance with and many of those were wives of members. Needless to say the husbands after a while, grew a bit tired of sharing their wives with other dancers so something needed to be done. So I set about to procuring (in the nicest possible way), females for our functions.

Searching all the references (telephone books and libraries) and obtaining ideas from others, I set upon the idea of inviting young ladies from WSM Hospital, Winsford Nurses Home (near Bristol) and WSM and Bristol Teacher's Collages, also secretaries and the like from businesses in the area. (Only the best for our lads)

It meant going to all these places to encourage the people in charge that the lads of RAF Locking Corporals Club were good upstanding types, to be trusted (???) and arrange transport where required to ship the ladies in for the functions. It also helped me to meet a number of delightful girls who became my girlfriend at one time or another.

My greatest achievement was for a dance the Club organised at The Grand Atlantic Hotel in WSM. It was at this enjoyable function complete with live band, that I managed to procure partners, one for one for every corporal attending. Now that is what I call one of my life's successes.

Another time when I was on the Entertainments Committee of RAF Muharraq's Sergeants Mess in Bahrain, my success rate at procuring female dance partners for our unattached members at our frequent dances was naturally somewhat limited. The Manama Hospital European nurses did help out however and were very popular.

Humour

Three from Phil Marston 92nd

The Kiss

A tough looking biker was riding his Harley when he sees a girl about to jump off a bridge so he stops. "What are you doing?" he asks.

"I'm going to commit a suicide," she says. While he did not want to appear insensitive, he didn't want to miss an opportunity so he asked "Well, before you jump, why don't you give me a Kiss?"

So, she does.

After she's finished, the biker says, "Wow! That was the best Kiss I have ever had. That's a real talent you are wasting. You could be famous. Why are you committing suicide?"

"My parents don't like me dressing up like a girl..."

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Not All Seniors are Senile

An older, white-haired man walked into a jewellery store on late night opening Friday evening with a beautiful, much younger girl at his side. He told the jeweller he was looking for a special ring for his girlfriend. The jeweller looked through his stock and brought out a £1000 ring.

The old man said, 'No, I'd like to see something more special.'

At that statement, the jeweller went to his special stock and brought another ring over. 'Here's a stunning ring at only £20,000 the jeweller said. The lady's eyes sparkled and her whole body trembled with excitement. The old man seeing this said, 'We'll take it.'

The jeweller asked how payment would be made and the old man stated, 'By cheque. I know you need to make sure my cheque is good, so I'll write it now and you can call the bank Monday to verify the funds and I'll pick the ring up Monday afternoon.'

On Monday morning, the jeweller angrily phoned the old man and said 'There's no money in that account.'

'I know,' said the old man, 'But let me tell you about the GREAT WEEKEND I had!'....

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Education

A man is stopped by the police at midnight and asked where he's going.

"I'm on the way to listen to a lecture about the effects of alcohol and drug abuse on the human body."

The policeman asks, "Really?.....And who's going to give a lecture at this time of night?"

"My wife", comes the reply.

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A few quickies from Dave Newman 92nd

Laughs & some groans

Did you hear about the fat, alcoholic transvestite - All he wanted to do was eat, drink and be Mary!!

Got an e-mail today from a bored local housewife, 43, who was looking for some hot action! So I sent her my ironing. That'll keep her busy.

I got invited to a party and was told to dress to kill. Apparently a turban, beard and a backpack wasn't what they had in mind.

Paddy says to Mick, "Christmas is on Friday this year". Mick said, "Let's hope it's not the 13th then."

My mate just hired an Eastern European cleaner, took her 5 hours to Hoover the house. Turns out she was a Slovak.

Since the snow came all the wife has done is look through the window. If it gets any worse, I'll have to let her in.

I've been charged with murder for killing a man with sandpaper. To be honest I only intended to rough him up a bit.

Two women called at my door and asked what bread I ate; when I said white they gave me a lecture on the benefits of brown bread for 30 minutes. I think they were Hovis Witnesses.

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And more from Martin Eversfield 92nd

PONDERISMS

I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.

There are two kinds of pedestrians: the quick and the dead.

Life is sexually transmitted.

Healthy is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals dying of nothing.

Have you noticed since everyone has a camcorder these days no one talks about seeing UFOs like they used to?

Whenever I feel blue, I start breathing again.

In the 60's, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.

How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

Who was the first person to look at a cow and say, 'I think I'll squeeze these dangly things and drink whatever comes out'?

If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a song about him?

If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, then what is baby oil made from?

Do illiterate people get the full effect of Alphabet Soup?

Does pushing the elevator button more than once make it arrive faster?

Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?

A Leading Holiday Company - listing some of the guests' complaints during the season

From Phil Marston 92nd

1. "I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts."
2. "It's lazy of the local shopkeepers to close in the afternoons. I often needed to buy things during 'siesta' time - this should be banned"
3. "On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food at all."
4. "We booked an excursion to a water park but no-one told us we had to bring our swimming costumes and towels."
5. A tourist at a top African game lodge overlooking a water hole, who spotted a visibly aroused elephant, complained that the sight of this rampant beast ruined his honeymoon by making him feel "inadequate".
6. "The beach was too sandy."
7. "We found the sand was not like the sand in the brochure. Your brochure shows the sand as yellow but it was white."
8. A guest at a Novotel in Australia complained his soup was too thick and strong. He was inadvertently slurping the gravy at the time.
9. "Topless sunbathing on the beach should be banned. The holiday was ruined as my husband spent all day looking at other women."
10. "We bought 'Ray-Ban' sunglasses for five Euros (£3.50) from a street trader, only to find out they were fake."
11. "No-one told us there would be fish in the sea. The children were startled."
12. "There was no egg slicer in the apartment..."
13. "We went on holiday to Spain and had a problem with the taxi drivers as they were all Spanish..."
14. "The roads were uneven."
15. "It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England it only took the Americans three hours to get home."
16. "I compared the size of our one-bedroom apartment to our friends' three-bedroom apartment and ours was significantly smaller."
17. "The brochure stated: 'No hairdressers at the accommodation'. We're trainee hairdressers - will we be OK staying here?"
18. "There are too many Spanish people. The receptionist speaks Spanish, the food is Spanish. Too many foreigners."
19. "We had to queue outside with no air conditioning."
20. "It is your duty as a tour operator to advise us of noisy or unruly guests before we travel."
21. "I was bitten by a mosquito - no-one said they could bite."
22. "My fiancé and I booked a twin-bedded room but we were placed in a double-bedded room. We now hold you responsible for the fact that I find myself pregnant. This would not have happened if you had put us in the room that we booked."

They walk amongst us and they Vote!!!

Life After the RAF

Head Hunted

From Mike Collier 76th

A guest on a T.V. show I watched recently was described as a "Recruitment Company Head-hunter". I have no idea what qualifications were required for the job but it did occur to me to wonder what the reaction of the "hunted" might be. In my rather undistinguished working life, I can only remember a couple of occasions when it might be even vaguely construed that I was in that situation.

The first of these occurred whilst I was still in the service. Instructing at Cosford but living in a quarter at Bridgenorth with Bridgenorth camp itself having closed some years earlier. Here I was the organizer/player for a quarters based football team (R.A.F. Bridgenorth) playing in a local league. We were not particularly good, though it was a pleasant diversion on a Saturday afternoon. By far the best team in this league were a side called Brown Clee. They beat us 7 - 0 on our ground and 9 - 0 on theirs.

One summer evening, after the end of that season, I was in my quarter building a radio, from a kit, for my mother-in-law. A T.R.F., I thought it might provide her with some amusement, trying to keep it on tune. My front doorbell rang and the gentleman I discovered on the doorstep announced himself as the manager of Brown Clee football team. How would I like to play for them in the coming season? Now, as I had been the goalkeeper for our side and picked the ball out of my net 16 times in our two meetings, I found the offer quite amazing. Much flattered, I accepted and having completed the appropriate insurance and R.A.F. approval formalities, joined my new team. It took about half the next season for the manager to realise that he had made a terrible mistake and I was replaced by a more competent player.

The second example is even more tenuous. I had been instructing at British Airways for about 10 years, when my wife's health started to deteriorate. Simultaneously, I was becoming very unhappy with various things that were occurring at the B.A Training Centre. We decided that a change of scene might be good for both of us. The Thursday edition of the Daily Telegraph became compulsory reading. Eventually, I came across a recruitment advertisement for a lecturer at the B.B.C. Engineering Training Department at Wood Norton, near Evesham. Although I had no background in broadcasting, I had been teaching for 18 years or so and my basic electronics was in pretty good shape. Additionally, I was "moonlighting" two evenings a week at a local technical college, teaching Radio & T.V. Servicing and Computer Fundamentals. An application yielded an invitation to an interview. The school location was delightful. It was based around an old country house, situated on a wooded hillside overlooking the river Avon, with views to Bredon Hill and the Malverns. Certainly a vast improvement when compared to the site of my current job, in an outer London suburb, very close to the Hounslow end of Heathrow's main runways. The interview went well and I was subsequently offered the job. Unfortunately, the associated salary was substantially lower than my present one, greed prevailed and I turned the offer down.

Almost exactly one year later, on returning from holiday, I found a letter from the B.B.C. explaining that as the result of a pay review, they could now offer more money. For my convenience, rather than travel all the way down to Worcestershire, they arranged a second interview for me in Broadcasting House. The salary was still not commensurate with mine and as things had improved a little at B.A, I turned the offer down again.

A further 18 months elapsed, by which time I had failed to get a promotion I felt was richly deserved and had become totally disillusioned with the new training methods at B.A. In desperation, I wrote to the B.B.C. asking if they were still recruiting lecturers. The almost instant reply was in the affirmative and contained an invitation for a third interview, this time back at Wood Norton. Yet again, I was offered the job but this time, accepted. On the 15th November 1982 I moved into the wonderful world of the B.B.C. The first few months were a dramatically steep learning curve for my 44 year old brain but for the following 10 years I had a job which I thoroughly enjoyed.

So, I guess in both cases the "hunters" eventually got their man. Sadly, in the first case it turned out to be the wrong man. I wonder how often that happens!

RAFLAA

Minutes of the 45th Committee Meeting

From Chris Bryan, Acting Secretary

Venue: Flowerdown House, Weston super Mare

Date: Thursday 24th February 2011 at 13.00 hrs

Present:

Tiny Kuhle	87 th	Chairman
Tony Horry	76 th	Treasurer
Rick Atkinson	91 st	Service Rep
Chris Tett	92 nd	Newsletter Editor
Peter Crowe	95 th	AA Rep/Webmaster
Graham Beaston	209 th	Craft Rep
Jim Doran	219 th	
Chris Bryan	87 th	Acting Secretary

The Chairman opened the meeting with a greeting followed by reading of the Apprentice Prayer.

Item 1 Apologies

Tiny Kuhle wished to inform the Committee of the regrettable and untimely death of John Farmer. Apologies were received from Andy Perkins and Dave Gunby; whose wife was in hospital.

Jim Doran had offered to take on the role of Membership Secretary and Chris Bryan the task of Secretary. Help would be offered to new members of the Committee by the present members.

Action: All

Item 2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the 44th Committee Meeting were reviewed and passed as read. Proposed by Peter Crowe and seconded by Chris Tett.

Item 3 Matters arising

Tony Horry would pass computer hard disk information from John Farmer's computer to Jim Doran whose email address was required and given. Chris Bryan will be given assistance by Dave Gunby.

Action: Tony Horry, Dave Gunby

The 45th Committee Meeting had been due on 17th February 2011 but had been deferred to the 24th February 2011 at the request of Tiny Kuhle.

Last year a coach had been provided to take spouses to Weston super Mare during the AGM but had been poorly attended. This year a coach to Bath had been provided at £15 per head. 10 people had shown interest so it was to be booked.

Item 4 Treasurer's Report

Tony Horry stated that the accounts were in good shape and that they were to be sent to the accountant to be audited.

This year, excess expenditure over income was £1,699.34, whereas in the previous 2 years there had been a surplus in 2009/10 of £192.86 and in 2008/9 £1,561.07.

In 2010/11 the balance now stands at £10,754.10 from £12,452 in 2009/10, a balance reduction of £1334.71.

A donation will be made to Flowerdown House for their hospitality in holding this meeting.

Printing expenses were up £100 though most members received the Newsletter by electronic mail.

The Treasurer's Report was passed. Proposed by Peter Crowe and seconded by Rick Atkinson.

Tiny Kuhle proposed a vote of thanks to Tony Horry for his work in compiling this report.

Item 5 Membership Secretary's Report

There was no report because of the sad death of John Farmer.

It was thought that there were 683 names of members of John Farmer's database, and permission would be sought from John's widow to retrieve all LAA information from his hard drive.

Peter Crowe suggested that permission be sought from Ann Farmer to take the hard drive where all the relevant information would be stored.

Action: Tony Horry, Dave Gunby

Item 6 Secretary's Report

There was no report owing to the absence of Dave Gunby.

Item 7 Charitable Donations

In his absence, Dave Gunby had canvassed opinions via Tiny Kuhle and Dave Gunby investigated what other organisations donated and they are as follows:

RAFCAA. They operate much the same as us in that they donate £50 so long as they know before the funeral.

RAFHAAA. They have no fixed routine. If someone wants a donation to be made with respect to the death of a member then that request has to go before 'The Council' who say yea or nay.

RAFAAA. They donate £10 to the RAF Benevolent Fund for each passing member.

BRATS 192. They send a letter of condolence only.

RAFBEA. They do not react to the death of a member save to say they are remembered at their annual service.

Peter Crowe thought that donations at deceased funerals were unsustainable and should therefore be terminated. Chris Tett expressed the sentiment that they should continue (at present donations are up to £50). Tony Horry suggested it should be left to the AGM to decide. This was agreed by Tiny Kuhle.

It was agreed that there would be no retrospective donation. Chris Tett suggested that there should be no provision for flowers, but only charitable organisations, and that the subject of donations should be reviewed each year.

Tony Horry stated that the Committee had the right to vary donations and that Ann Farmer had requested a donation to the RAF Benevolent Fund.

Item 8 RAF Locking Apprentice Memorial

We have authority to spend up to £3,000 on memorial at the Arboretum in Staffordshire. The stonemason requires up to 14 weeks to complete the work. The cost has increased to £3,095.85 + 20% VAT = £3,715.02p and a deposit of 32% is required to commence work.

The 90th anniversary of the commencement of the RAF apprentice scheme is to be celebrated on 30 June and it would be best to have the stone installed by then.

Peter Crowe was concerned that the Committee had a mandate to proceed because of the increase in cost, which was shared by Chris Tett. It was agreed that work should proceed.

Proposed by Chris Tett and seconded by Graham Beaston and the vote carried.

With regard to the script on the stone, there was a discussion about the exact number of apprentices being deleted. It was agreed that the exact number was not important, but instead, the wording should be 'All Apprentices'.

Discussion also took place about the thickness of the wheel rim, and it was decided that the wheel rim should be thickened so that it was in the same proportion as the original wheel.

Tiny Kuhle informed the committee that the arboretum would like the script to have the minimum of gilt which was agreed.

Item 9 AGM 2011 at the Webbington Hotel – 16th April 2011

Tiny Kuhle had contacted the Webbington Hotel today to confirm that plans for the AGM were proceeding satisfactorily.

A buffet lunch would be the same as last year.

The Meet and Greet would be held at 11am on Saturday 16th April in the Garden Suite (Rowberrow Suite) with drinks subsidised by £1 per drink.

For the evening dinner, the bar would open from 1830 –1930 with each drink subsidised by £1, i.e. £1 off the price of each drink). The dinner would commence at 1930.

The hotel wines would be reduced to £11 per bottle in the Garden Suite only, and other drinks would be reduced by the subsidy of £1.

Tiny Kuhle announced that the Webbington would hold all rooms for LAA bookings up to 4 weeks before the AGM, and then would have to release them for other customers and late bookings to be placed on a waiting list and would be informed by the hotel should a vacancy arise.

The menu was deemed to be satisfactory, if as good as last years.

Addition to AGM.

Tony Horry asked if the author of 'Weston super Mare and the Aeroplane' a Mr Ted Johnson, could attend the AGM, with a number of copies of his book. It was agreed that Mr Johnson could attend the 'Meet and Greet' with a stall or table to exhibit his wears with a view to selling them to members.

AGM 2012. The Webbington Hotel was contacted with regard to the AGM in 2012. Saturday 22 April was reserved for this event.

It was noted that the Webbington values our custom as there are several spin offs with regard to entries having their reunions there, so prices should remain the same.

Chris Tett proposed booking 18 months in advance to guarantee the reservation.

Proposed by Peter Crowe and seconded by Chris Tett. Agreed.

Action: Tiny Kuhle

Item 10 RAFLAA Web Site

Peter Crowe informed the meeting that there were no problems with the site, and the domain should be registered for the next two years.

Action: Peter Crowe

Tiny Kuhle. In order to keep the last remaining Vulcan flying, members may look at Vulcan to the Sky and donate if they wish.

Peter Crowe required all members' email addresses otherwise the newsletter will be insecure.

Action: Peter Crowe

Chris Tett. It was mooted that members had their personal passwords for the website, but this presented difficulties, so one password would be adopted to give members' access to the Newsletter.

An email will be sent with password which would give access to the newsletter.

Item 11 FABEA 2011

At the last FABEA meeting points of discussion were:

- 1) 90th anniversary of inception of RAF Apprenticeships.
- 2) Will be handled by Halton at the Arboretum.
- 3) Proceeds to go to Halton Apprentice Association.

FABEA will be represented at the cenotaph parade on 11th November.

Item 12 Newsletter

Because of the previous commitments of the stand-in secretary, the minutes of the Committee Meeting No 45 could not be typed up and forward to the committee for 10 days. It was therefore decided that the forthcoming newsletter would be published without the minutes. These would now be published in the July Newsletter.

Even in the age of computers there are still 170 hard copies of the Newsletter which have to be printed and posted. It was decided that members who still required a hard copy would have to reply in writing to confirm that they still wished to receive it.

Tiny Kuhle extended his thanks to Chris Tett for his excellent job in producing the Newsletter, and to Graham Beeston for printing the hard copies.

Action: Tiny Kuhle

Item 13 Any Other Business (Committee Volunteers)

Chris Tett received a request from Mick Raferty (98th) that he be given the address of a fellow 98th member, Dave Croft. It was decided that Dave Croft be contacted so that he may decide if he wished to contact Mick Raferty.

Action: Chris Tett

Tiny Kuhle stated that he expected Dave Gunby to be in contact with the stand-in secretary.

Dave Gunby will write a letter of condolence to John Farmer's wife expressing the LAA's sorrow of her loss.

Action: Dave Gunby

Chris Tett asked the new committee members if their details may be published in the Newsletter. Agreed.

Item 14 Date of Next Meeting

It was decided that the next Committee Meeting be held at Flowerdown House on Thursday 21st July. Tony Horry to book Flowerdown House.

Action: Tony Horry

Tiny Kuhle expressed his thanks to all those present and the meeting closed at 16.00.

Obituary

ROBERT FRANK VICARY (2-12-37 to 6-3-11)

From Mike Collier 76th

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of Rob Vicary.

Rob originated from Sidcup in Kent. Having initially joined with the 75th, he moved to the 76th in April 1955, where he was one of the more subdued members of the Entry. Having successfully completed his Ground Wireless Fitter training, he embarked on a fairly hectic service career, particularly at the beginning. He had four moves in the first couple of years, starting at Abingdon, then Northolt, Hendon and back to Northolt.

Like most G.W.F. he also had a number of overseas tours with postings to Christmas Island, Singapore and Kenya. The gaps between were filled by Chigwell, Uxbridge and Stradishall. A final posting to North Luffenham completed his 12 years and he left the RAF on December 1967. Joining Marconi provided a much more settled existence, where he worked for 30 years before taking early retirement.

Rob joined the LAA in 1994 and remained an active member until his death. Unfortunately, in later life he became the victim of one of the debilitating diseases and sadly died on 6th March 2011.

We received this nice letter from Parkinson's UK, London SW1V 1EJ

The letter heading shows what they are about.

To find out more visit their website:

Parkinsons.org.uk

– Ed

PARKINSON'S^{UK} CHANGE ATTITUDES. FIND A CURE. JOIN US.

RAF Locking Apprentices Association
Hillside Cottage
Kewstoke Road
Kewstoke
WESTON-SUPER-MARE
Avon
BS22 9YD 563748

15 April 2011

To RAF Locking Apprentices Association,

We acknowledge with thanks your donation of £50.00 in memory of the late Mr Robert Frank Vicary.

We will also write to the next of kin to acknowledge this generous gift.

We have set up a Tribute Fund in the name of Mr Robert Vicary and will use these gifts to support our research to find a cure for Parkinson's, to provide more specialist Parkinson's nurses, and to sustain the information and support services we provide.

If you would like to know more about our Tribute Funds, please look at our website www.parkinsons.org.uk or call Chris Keating on 020 7963 9380.

With best wishes,



Benjamin Vickers
Supporter Services Officer

Closing Thought

From Martin Eversfield 92nd

Inner Peace:

If you can start the day without caffeine,

If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,

If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,

If you can eat plain food every day and be grateful for it,

If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,

If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,

If you can conquer tension without medical help,

If you can relax without liquor,

If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,



...Then You Are Probably The Family Dog!

And you thought Martin was going to get all spiritual didn't you..?

RAFLAA Committee

Appointment	Name	Address	Tel/email	Re-Election	Entry
President	Martin Palmer				91 st
Chairman	"Tiny" Kühle	22 Tavistock Close Woburn Sands Milton Keynes Bucks MK17 8UY	(01908) 583784 Hans.Kuhle@btopenworld.com	Apr 2013	87 th
Secretary	Chris Bryan	39 Fairfax, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG42 1YT.	(01344) 304725. suechris.bryan@googlemail.com	Apr 2012	87 th
Treasurer	Tony Horry	Hillside Cottage Kewstoke Road Kewstoke Weston-s-Mare BS22 9YD	(01934) 628383 horrycorp@aol.com	Apr 2013	76 th
Membership Secretary	Jim Doran	11 Saxonlea Close Rushden Northants NN10 6BF	(01933) 317357 Jimdoran12@hotmail.com	Apr 2014	219 th
Service Rep	Rick Atkinson	Gateway Cottage 1 Lake Walk Adderbury Oxfordshire OX17 3PF	(01295) 812972 rick-jacky@lakewalk.wanadoo.co.uk	Apr 2012	91 st
AA Rep/ Webmaster	Peter Crowe	14 Hillview Road Weston-super-Mare N. Somerset BS23 3HS	(01934) 412178 webmaster@raflaa.org.uk	Apr 2012	95 th
Craft Rep	Graham Beeston	87 Hornbeam Rd Havant PO9 2UT	Home (02392) 346242 Work 07920038690 graham@mapleoak.co.uk	Apr 2012	209 th
Tech Rep	Andy Perkins	107 Balmoral Way Worle Weston-s-Mare BS22 9BZ	(01934) 417323 am.perkins@virgin.net	Apr 2012	109 th
Newsletter Editor	Chris Tett	45 Chapel Street Woburn Sands Milton Keynes Bucks MK17 8PQ	(01908) 583047 chris@crtett.plus.com	Apr 2012	92 nd



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
