

*Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association*



# LAA Newsletter

Serial 37

November 2003

## *HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE*

**COMMITTEE MEETING JULY 2003**

**AGM 2004**

**THE WAY WE WERE**

**2003 AGM FROM THE OTHER SIDE**

**WSM RENUNION 2003**

**OBITUARIES**

**REMINDERS**

**COMMITTEE LIST**

**30th Committee Meeting of the RAF Locking Apprentice Association held at RAFA Club Weston super Mare on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2003 at 13:00 Hrs**

**Chairman's Report.**

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The Chairman reviewed the action points from the previous committee meeting: -

Display Cabinet at RAFA Weston. The Chairman reported that a cabinet was in the course of manufacture now that the wood colour of light oak had been agreed by all concerned. He said that there would be a need for transportation to be arranged and some consideration given to insurance cover. It was also decided that once the cabinet was in-situ then an appeal for suitable memorabilia would be launched via the newsletter.

RAF Locking Site. Nothing further to report re the provision of a commemorative Plaque/Stone by N Somerset County Council.

Social Activities. TV Studio visit in course of organisation. Six names had been received and the general member was setting up the visit.

Audit of Accounts- Charles Hart reported that this had been satisfactorily carried out-item discharged.

**Treasurer's Report.**

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Tony Horry presented his report to the committee and distributed copies. The main points from the report were that Expenditure for the year was £6502.63 and Income was £4750.96. There was a cash credit balance of £8684.23. Following a discussion Tiny Khule proposed the committee accept the report and this was seconded by Dave Gunby: -All agreed.

**Membership Secretary's Report.**

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John Farmer distributed copies of the current membership list by Entry and Alphabetically. He said that membership was fairly stable at around 595. The Appbe web site was working to a degree but the webmaster was still having difficulty finding enough time.

John reported that the advertising for members via the RAFA magazine 'Air Mail' had been quite successful and he proposed to take out another one year subscription. Free advertising through 'Service Pals' and RAF News would continue.

John reported that there had not been any contact as yet from Colin Hinson (89<sup>th</sup>) who had volunteered to help with the creation of our own web site at the AGM. The Committee asked John to contact Colin.

## **Apprentice Records**

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With reference to the Apprentice records and following a letter to MOD from “an Enquirer” there had been an exchange of letters between a Mr Goode (MoD) and Gp Capt Lloyd (RAF Henlow). Although it was perhaps preferable that No1 RS become the custodians eventually, the records are to be transferred to the RAF Museum at Hendon who may then transfer them to RAF Halton Museum which is a manned office.

**This means that the RAFLAA are no longer responsible for their safekeeping.**

## **Appointment of an Almoner**

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Following a discussion it was decided that the Association did not want to appoint an Almoner. It was decided that any difficulties members (and non-members) were experiencing would come to the attention of the Committee by normal channels of communication. On hearing of any problems the Committee would hope to provide help including guidance as to any course of action that should be followed.

Members are reminded that the Association provides support and, where possible, relief to all past and present members of the Association and their dependents in times of need, hardship and distress. (Constitution para. 4e)

## **AGM 2004 AT NO 1 Radio School RAF COSFORD**

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The secretary explained that he together with the Chairman had attended a meeting at RAF Cosford on July 1<sup>st</sup>. This meeting was with Flt Lt Ian Cameron (Deputising for S/Ldr Andrew Greenway-sent to Basra until November) and Chief Tech Mick Gray. The secretary had presented a ‘wish list’ containing the usual things we did at our AGM/REUNION. Few difficulties were anticipated and Chief Tech Gray promised costings in time for our next committee meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> July.

The secretary distributed a discussion paper containing a proposed programme of events for AGM04 together with a review of accommodation in the area and approximate costings received just the day before from Ch Tech Gray. None of the hotels in the area that were large enough to accommodate us were prepared to offer any reductions in charges except the Telford Moat House. The Secretary was asked to reserve 20 rooms at the reduced rate of £34 (From £49) as soon as possible. These rooms would be available for both the Friday and Saturday nights (April 23/24<sup>th</sup>). There were several other organisational tasks for the secretary to perform and he would report to the committee by e-mail for opinions and decisions as necessary.

## **RAFLAA TROPHY**

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The secretary informed the meeting that during the meeting at Cosford on July 1<sup>st</sup> a nominee for the award of the RAFLAA Trophy in 2004 was requested and it was hoped that one would be forthcoming.

Whilst on the subject of awards Cosford staff suggested that we may like to think of a means of sponsorship for a badge of achievement for the students who had undergone a year of blackboard study in Basic Principles. They said that it would further motivate and improve the morale of the students. There were widely differing views amongst the Committee and a discussion was followed by the Chairman saying that this sort of award was discussed at the recent FABEA meeting and that he was liaising with Cranwell AA on the subject.



**Chief Tech Jon Lawrence receiving the RAFLAA Trophy from**

**Air Commodore Palmer at 2003 AGM**

## **Association Ties**

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A new supply of Association ties is now available. They are priced at £7.50 (inc P/P) and available from Andy Perkins. The availability of the new slightly redesigned and sized ties will be announced in the next newsletter.

**(£7.50 including Post and packing.)**

## **RAFLAA AGM2004**

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The 2004 AGM will be on April 24th.

Draft Programme of events:

Venue: RAF Cosford

Meet and Greet at Flowerdown Hall

Lunch at Officers Mess

AGM Flowerdown Hall

The evening function will be held at the Telford Moat House Hotel.

Tony Horry will be handling the bookings.

Rooms have been reserved at Telford Moat House (B&B).

Details of Costs and Application Forms as normal will be in the next edition of the Newsletter.

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**ROYAL AIR FORCE LOCKING APPRENTICE ASSOCIATION**

This display cabinet contains some memorabilia of the life and activities of the RAF Apprentices who received their training in electronics at RAF Locking.

Over 6000 passed through No.1 Radio School between 1952 and 1976.

The drum and pipes (a correct RAF tartan sleeve to be fitted later!) are a reminder of the Wing parades, and Freedom of Weston-super-Mare parades.

The textbooks, and relics from a Type 80 Radar are also shown.

## **The Way We Were**

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According to today's regulators and bureaucrats those of us who were 'brats' between 1950 and 1970 shouldn't have survived!

Our beds and lockers and most of the woodwork in rooms we inhabited and worked in were often painted with lead based paints.

When we rode bikes we wore no helmets or body padding, just shoes and uniform or sports kit! We often rode in groups of 5 or more and very often more than 3 abreast.

We rode in cars, vans, pickups, buses and lorries, very often without proper seating and almost certainly with no seat belts or air bags.

We drank water from doubtful sources (not from hygienic bottles) it seemed to taste just the same. We drank tea and sometimes coffee (but not very often) from enormous urns in which the beverage could stay for hours (sometimes days it seemed from the taste!) There were rumours of additives in the tea (especially 'bromide' to suppress our baser instincts!), if there was it didn't seem to have much effect.

We ate the most unimaginable stuff! Mountains of starchy/fatty food, dripping and potato chip sandwiches and breadding and butter pudding and drank gallons of fizzy pop with all sorts of sugars in it.

We often shared our snacks, taking bites from the same sandwich or bun or drinking from the same mug or bottle. Those of us that smoked often shared a 'fag' (down to the last drag!

We were always stripping off (our coats mainly although sometimes it went a little further), especially on hot days! Conversely we would still strip off on cold days, we were so active that we never got cold. In really cold weather you wore all sorts of clothing under your uniform (pyjamas were a favourite). The central heating came on 1<sup>st</sup> October and went off 1<sup>st</sup> May regardless of the weather

We would spend hours in the NAAFI (or a Pub sometimes) breathing in other peoples cigarette smoke and imbibing enormous amounts of unhealthy food and drink, or in case of the pub, scrumpy and red bidy (it was all we could afford.) On a good weekend you could go to the ASTRA cinema on camp or the Odeon down in Weston and spend a few hours drinking in that aroma of wet wool, sweat and cigarette smoke before a helping of greasy fish and chips or a coffee at Fella's and the mad dash for the last bus back to camp.

We left our billets early in the morning to go to work. We did all sorts of odd things. School work, drill, workshops theory and practice, drill, physical training, religious instruction, drill, equipment theory and practical, more drill, weapons training and so on. As long as we got back for meals it was OK. We even had time to go to the NAAFI in the evening, well some of us made time! We were kept on the hop all day.

We did not have Play Stations, Video Games, Video and CD players, not many channels on

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the Television, no mobile phones, no personal computers, no chat rooms, not much freedom (a few hours out in Weston of a weekend!). We did have lots of friends though and we stuck together like glue.

Most of us 'did' sport of one sort or another, football, cricket, rugby, basketball, tennis, cycling (a good one for getting out of camp!) athletics and the dreaded boxing with Percy Parks! Anything to get out of the way and avoid Cross Country Running.

Being confined so much, we had fights, punched each other black and blue sometimes, but we usually made up and were friends again afterwards. We often got cut up and grazed and sometimes even broke teeth and bones but there were no lawsuits! Perhaps some janker's but that was all part of the game.

Our clothing was 'uniform'. Not that there weren't variations! We 'bashed' our uniforms in many ways. Hats with bashed peaks were frowned on, but 'tailored' creases in the back of your tunic or greatcoat were unofficially sanctioned unless they got too outrageous. Hairstyles and especially the length were always a matter of conflict. The 'short back and sides' was officially what we were all supposed to have. However unofficially what was under your hat was yours and this did give rise to some outlandish creations none of which approached those seen today it must be said.

Our actions were our own. Consequences were very seldom expected or even thought about; if they were they were largely discounted. When they did happen we were sorry but we learnt quickly what was OK and what wasn't.

The idea of breaking the law wasn't unheard of and if we did break it we took the rap without our parents going into paroxysms of denial and blame spreading. They actually sided with the law, can you imagine that! The idea of a parent bailing us out was way down the line and definitely a last resort.

**This generation produced some of the best risk takers, problem solvers and inventors ever. The past 50 years has seen an explosion of innovations and new ideas. We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility and we had to learn how to handle it.**

**Congratulations you're one of us!**



## **The 2003 A.G .M. — from the other side**

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It *is* good to know that the spirit of the Reverend Charles Dobson, a.k.a Lewis Carroll, is still alive and well but is it really necessary for the Newsletter to fall back onto the dictum:

“And when I use a word”, said Humpty Dumpty in a rather scornful tone, “It means precisely what I want it to mean, neither more nor less”?

In particular I refer to the phrase ‘protracted debate’

It is clear to me that who-ever penned the report of the A.G.M used a dictionary other than the O.E.D. as that which followed the Proposal made by Mr. Mills was nothing more than a yahoo – a Committee Member – shouting down any possibility of a reasoned discussion. That Mr. Mills proposal was not put to a vote showed either ignorance on the part of the Chairman as to the conduct of meetings or a deliberate attempt to stifle debate. Whatever the reason, it showed a complete lack of courtesy towards Mr. Mills. Perhaps such behaviour was acceptable in the huts at Locking but is it so fifty years later on? Or am I expecting too much?

It is clear from the 1958 Public Records Act that the Lord Chancellor decides upon the disposal, dispersal and disclosure period of Public Records – in this instance the Apprentice Records under discussion. This function has not been devolved to the Chairman or Secretary of the LAA. By his own admission, the Chairman had not read the Act prior to the A.G.M. but he insisted that the Records were closed for 75 years. This means that the records of the last Entry of 1927 were closed until 1<sup>st</sup>. January 2003. How old will those men be now? Ninety-odd! Can you imagine how many of them who would wish to find old mates from that date?

It is the Lord Chancellor’s Office that settles the days for disclosure, not the LAA or the Henlow Museum. By the Chairman’s logic, any release of records of a more recent date, say, for example, those of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Entry, is against the 1958 Act. It is just possible that by ignoring the Act, the existence of the LAA has been placed in jeopardy should anyone refer the matter to the Lord Chancellor’s Office. What the position of individual committee members would be in such an eventuality is open to conjecture. As MoD (Air) is involved with this discussion, one cannot forecast the outcome from their point of view.

There is an old saying, “Ignorance of the Law is no excuse”. Remember it?

I must emphasise that the point has been raised in the interests of the LAA and it’s elected officers.

I understand that a ‘ledger’ was used to compile the now infamous database. The rationale for its use was that it was in a ‘poor condition’. Really? If we are talking about a ledger that I handled at Henlow two years ago, I can only say that it’s condition has deteriorated seriously. So much for the storage at Henlow that we hear so much about. Of course, it would suit the purpose of whom-so-ever removed the document – signed for or not

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– quite illegally, I must add, to make such a claim. I based my judgment upon the fact that I regularly handled documents at the PRO, Kew, some of which date back to 1506. In my experience, the ledger was in excellent condition 2 years ago.

As Ex-Servicemen, we know that Service property has a funny habit of growing legs and walking. It was with this thought in mind that a proposal was made at the beginning of 2001 that the records should be catalogued and assessed for preservation as necessary. The Committee refused to have the opportunity to have two volunteers to carry out the task. One can only speculate upon the reasons why the Committee never followed this through formally. It is probably too late to carry out the exercise at this late juncture, who knows? Unless it is done, how many more leaves will ‘fall out’ of books or file covers?

Former members of Cranwell entries to whom I have spoken on the subject are unhappy that their records are the playthings of a select few. It has clearly been overlooked by the LAA that the records refer to Cranwell and other training establishments as well as to all of those who pass through the establishments.

Closely connected to my preceding remarks is the subject of AGM, 2003. With the exception of the reports rendered by Messrs. Farmer and Horry – what a shambles! There are reasons for this; in part because committee members were scattered around the floor of the meeting, in part because the Chairman’s mind was on his afternoon tea and, finally, the inappropriate venue.

Mr. Holroyd’s rude interjection; I’m sorry, I meant to say, formally addressed proposal; resulted in many members being unsure as to which proposal was being voted upon. In part, this was caused by the supporting pillars obscuring the view and by the inability of the Chairman to conduct the meeting in a civilised fashion. I was approached after the meeting with this complaint from those who could not follow the proceedings. It must be noted that there was NOT a unanimous vote in favour of the shouted proposal from Mr. Holroyd as NO count was taken.

Expressions of disgust at the way in which the meeting was conducted filtered back to Mr. Mills after the meeting. One member used the expression, Going down the tubes to describe his feelings about the LAA. Well done the Committee!

As for more meetings at Weston, why? Locking is no more and a return to a Service establishment will presage a return to orderly, well run meetings. Or am I being too optimistic?

A final thought. Are Ex Apprentices so dim that they need a database that contains name, number and passing out information? A letter to PMA, Innsworth could tell them a lot more. Are Ex Apprentices so idle or ill informed that they cannot use the Internet, read daily national papers, scan magazines or journals or use the television? THIS is the inference one draws from the Secretary’s words. If this is not the situation, then it must be assumed that

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there is a hidden purpose for the compilation of the database about which we are not being informed. Could there be a situation where self-interest is being clad in the camouflage of the public good? Clearly, it is not only No 10 Downing Street where Spin Doctors live.

David Penberthy (71<sup>st</sup> Entry)

**W.S.M. Reunion 2003**

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Firstly I would like to thank all who took part in organising the reunion, it was the first time I have stayed over & taken part in the dinner dance.

Although none of my associates were there I 'fraternised' with other entries and had a very enjoyable weekend. 'Come on 93<sup>rd</sup> let's have some of you on parade for the next bash. What a lot of memories it brought back.- - -

I was in the 'Glen' at Bristol, dancing to a slow number 'Carolina Moon' under the flickering lights from the multi faceted crystal ball hanging from a ceiling sparkling with miniature lights, as stars in the sky.

So! I asked the DJ if he could find any of the old numbers I remembered so intimately: -

'Carolina Moon' by Connie Francis?

'Unchained Melody' Ricky Nelson?

'Save the Last Dance for me' Irish Show Band?

'You'll Never Walk Alone' Gerry & the Pacemakers?

Sadly he had none of these.

I always associate records with times & places: -

'Rubber Ball' by Bobby Vee & the Ventures – The first Juke Box I ever saw, at Newmarket in 1961.

'The Locomotion' by 'Little Eva' – Weyland Coffee Bar, Watton. (my first posting)

'Peter & The Wolf' by 'The Clyde Valley Stompers.' The Genuine Norfolk Stomp, as executed at various venues, from the Queens Hall at Watton on a Saturday night to the Grosvenor Hotel, Norwich with Chris Barber & Monty Sunshine.

I then remembered the first outing of the newly formed 'Furness & Gray' disco in front of the 'City Fathers' at the Sgts. Mess Episkopi (Cyprus) 1968. I retreated two generations further with such numbers as 'Red Sails in the Sunset,' and communal numbers as 'Dashing White Sergeant,' 'Under The Spreading Chestnut Tree' & of course a 'Paul Jones' & 'Snowball Waltz.'

As I retained a great number of the original 'Furness & Gray' records; I could probably volunteer to put on a half hour or so show at the next Dinner Dance - - - ?

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Back to the Glen; In order to ensure you were not 'late back' or unable to stay in Bristol for 'Extra Curricular Activities,' we had duplicate PP's, one in the box at Locking Guard Room, and one in pocket, 'Just in case.' This cleverly solved all eventualities, and even if forced to check in, the system could not work out that there were two identical PP's next to each other, merely taking care of the extra one until you booked out again.

My final memory of the Glen was when I was there with Dougie Blackburn & Taff Owen. Taff had unfortunately had too much to drink. During the inevitable regurgitation process in the gent's toilet trench, out came his false front tooth!

Taff gave Dougie the task of keeping all 'at bay,' whilst he went to find a stick to aid retrieval of the errant incisor.

Now Dougie was a very kindly soul, and when Taff returned with a stick, he found the trench washed clean! On being challenged by Taff, Dougie said, in his best northern accent; "I felt sorry for the poor bastids, they really did need to have a pee."

So Taff remained toothless until a replacement could be found.

The next memory was put in motion by the discussion concerning new ties at the AGM. I was back to my first 96-hour pass, and use of 'Official Civvies', proudly displaying our entry badge on the top pocket 'Fortuna Favet Fortibus' (fortune favours the bold.)

Our coach did Bournemouth, Southampton & Portsmouth. It was the trip back that was to be the difficult part; leaving Bournemouth at around closing time and picking up one or two more on the way.

The Senior Entries needed to be entertained! The rear of the coach belonged to them, auditions were conducted in front of the panel of judges occupying the back seat. Talent scouts were sent forward, if they caught your eye, you were next!

It didn't matter what you did, dirty story, joke, song etc. If it amused you escaped, if not, you forfeited the lower half of your tie; deftly snipped by the scissors man and handed to the judges as a trophy! If this had been practiced at the dance, it would certainly have used some of the new tie stock!

Apart from frequent stops heralded by the song 'stop the bus we want a wee wee,' the entry song was always spasmodically shouted: -

    'Old Macdonald had a farm Ei Ei Eio

    He called for his pipe in the middle of the night & he called for his AA's 3

    Work, work, work called the LA's

    Beer, beer, beer cried the AA's

For merry merry men are we; and there's none so fair as can compare with the boys of (entry number.)

There are several verses and I don't even know if I have the first one right.

The other song frequently sung was 'John Brown's body lies a mouldering in the grave,' with mostly non-standard words. I only remember one rather gory line, which usually appeared to come out as the coach descended through Burrington Coombe.

'They scraped him off the tarmac like a pound of strawberry jam, and his soul goes marching on'

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I would like to appeal to the collective ex App minds to recall the words to these and any other songs in the next issue of our magazine. It is our heritage and should be recorded lest it be forgotten.

This is my third or fourth bash at writing for the magazine (one untyped still being deciphered by the editor.) I am not sure what I have written before – It only takes a word, place or situation and the memories come flooding back as if only yesterday; and they are good memories.

It crossed my mind that it is perhaps time to gather all the published memoirs into a book form. Having said that, what about publishing? If we can rake up about 70,000 between us, perhaps following a typical entry, it could be a best seller!

If a Motion Picture, it would certainly outrank Police Academy! If successful it could certainly pay for a 'big bash' every year. More importantly it could provide some form of income for the needy ones amongst us.

Keep writing folks, and I will be wearing a bow tie to the next dance, avoiding a potential snip should I offend those more senior than I!

Mike (Bernie) Furness. (93<sup>rd</sup> Entry)

### **Paranormal Electrical Phenomena**

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#### **History.**

After the 'discovery' of Electricity, the great theorists surfaced; in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century all the 'effects' were investigated & the laws we still use today were formulated.

The gifted innovators & theorists gave their names to the laws they discovered. –

- George S. Ohm. Measurement of resistivity.
- James Clarke Maxwell. Laws of magnetic induction.
- Heaviside discovered the ionised layers of the atmosphere, which reflect radio waves. Faraday, unit of capacitance (Farad) & many others.

It is of current importance that various original formulations did not fully explain or take into consideration some theories (devised in a particularly onerous form of mathematics.)

Lorentz 'reguaged' the theories such that the 'minor irritants' were ignored, & no longer taken into consideration.

It is these effects, which are the source of much speculation as to be responsible for some of the inexplicable (by today's science), effects, which are alleged to have been demonstrated.

#### **Items for consideration.**

Although not immediately obvious, John Ernst Worrall Keely 1828-1898, managed to access the same goals as we are endeavouring, by vibration. He built many 'engines' of different size & complexity, parts of which survive to this day. (In the Smithsonian)

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Nicola Tesla, who invented A.C. (alternating current) was profoundly interested in these effects & defined ways of transmitting power without wires (Wardenclyffe Tower, Long Island) & accessing 'free energy.'

E.V. (Ed) Gray produced a motor that 'ran without input power', apparently using a spark plug to enhance it's output. **(so do we!)**

F. Sweet could 'condition' magnets such that they would give out vast amounts of power just by surrounding them with coils.

Prof. Stan Marinov produced 'free energy electrical generators', apparently still in use today & powering a private religious commune.

### **What happened?**

All of the people mentioned suffered untimely consequences; Keely & Tesla died 'broken men.' The rest suicide? Or inexplicable death.

### **Why mention these in particular?**

Because they all left books or detailed records. None have managed to duplicate their work successfully; volumes on these inventors are currently in print!

### **Question?**

Were they all charlatans?

Destroyed by greedy, incorrect or inadequate financing?

'Rubbed out' by the establishment, or other vested interests?

### **Opinion.**

I believe that these in particular were genuine, & because we are working in uncharted territory there is some small, vital, but apparently inconsequential element or dimension overlooked or missing which we are unable to perceive or apply.

### **My interest.**

Started in 1961 when I built a 'Dean drive' (Fantasy & Science Fiction, analysis by Prof. Isaak Asimov of a patent recently submitted)

The device, approximately described as 'rectifying centrifugal force', was very poorly constructed to my own design, from an old Gyro Compass. It rushed across the floor & fell apart. I had no more parts, & was not sure if it had really worked, or merely vibratory pressure against the wooden floor.

A similar situation reappeared approx. 6 years ago with a book by Ron Thompson & Sandy Kydd entitled 'Beyond 2001'

Their product was gyroscopic & vibratory, I devised a totally gyroscopic version & posted copy to myself where it resides unopened in my filing system!

My interest & knowledge has expanded dramatically in the intervening years, & I now lecture occasionally on this subject. I have bypassed interest in gyroscopic designs, simply because they require substantial input power, as do the wheels on a car.

A more recent personal experience, approximately 5 years ago, relates to a John Knopp, billed as the next Nobel Peace Prize winner by the 'Mail on Sunday', with whom I conversed,

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having had the same background & training (Royal Air Force, Radar Technician, served at RAF Sopley)

He told me that he had also invented Antigravity, **so easy to produce**, but dangerous because it 'lashed out in all directions, making heavy objects loose their inertia & wander about at will.' 'It could not be measured or controlled.'

I was invited to attend his premises to observe & discuss these effects.

### **Two weeks later he was dead.**

I have a lady friend who has had a 'Classic Close Encounter' with a UFO so I know they exist.

Ask yourself two questions.

If it took 2600 tons of fuel to put a man on the Moon, how do 30-foot discs manage to travel?

On the basis that there have been planets in our galaxy  $5 * 10^9$  years before our Solar System formed, and the sum knowledge of the universe is, say, a metre long, how much have we currently discovered, One Millimetre?

### **Recent Interest.**

A just published book now lists a new 'Unified Field Theory.'

One aspect of which I have proved, by obtaining D.C. from a coil suspended in a rotating Electrostatic Field

<http://www.seaspower.com> lists suppressed inventions & how they are intent on bringing them to fruition **for the benefit of all!**

### **I now know how to produce Levitation. (ANTIGRAVITY)**

#### **How do I know I can do it?**

I will refer you to my para. 6.1, I have been closely in contact with a colleague of 12 years standing, who-

Achieved 'free Energy' propulsion of an electric vehicle in 1976. (Met the witness, who was the driver)

Achieved Levitation in the manner of the enclosed notes.

Because the inventor is still alive & has passed his ideas to me for commercial exploitation, I know it will be successful.

There are little 'inconsequential elements,' which are not in the publication, & without which I would have only been an 'also ran' being very close & getting minor but not the major effects!

### **Funding.**

Referring to Seaspowers quite astronomical numbers: if our little idea is nourished and cared for properly, without greed, malice or aforethought, it will fundamentally change the world.

I estimate £50K and three months will produce a working demonstration.

Ongoing, again with a Seaspower type of structure, we will need to undertake a 5-year development cycle, firstly to define a reliable theory, mathematical models & formulae.

This will be coupled with prototype production, public education programmes & skilful financial & share management.

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At some time during the first three years the company will become 'self financing' through sales of shares.

Has the race begun? Are we Starters?

In conclusion - to be first is paramount, to be second doesn't even rate a booby prize.

"The Stone Age ended, but not for lack of Stones. The Oil Age will end, but not for lack of Oil."

**Mike J. Furness.**



**TREASURERS REPORT –  
COMMITTEE MEETING 18TH JULY 2003**

**ANNUAL ACCOUNTS -02/03**

Were audited and presented to the AGM in April

**INCOME/EXPENDITURE FEB 2003 TO JULY 2003**

**AGM** - The receipt of £1584.00 for advanced bookings towards the AGM weekend were included in the Annual Accounts for 02/03. This period shows that we received £3,349.50, making a total amount received = £4933.50. The final invoice from Daunceys Hotel was £5402.00 and includes the cost for guests. The cost of the AGM to the Association was £448.50. This was within the budget set for the event. Other expenses for the AGM - £50 to Jon Lawrence and £17.56 to Tiny Kuhle for the engraving of the Trophy (note: cheque has not been cleared through bank)

**PURCHASES -**

The Association has authorised the purchase of

- a) New supply of ties — invoice awaited.
- b) The Trophy Cabinet, being made by Jon Lawrence - £300 deposit has been sent to Jon — again this cheque has not been cleared through the bank.

**DONATIONS -**

During the period, donations have been made to:

- a) Jubilee Appeal For Commonwealth Veterans - £50
- b) York Cancer Care - in memory of Dougie Banks - £25
- c) Flowerdown House- use of facilities for last committee meeting -£25

Tony Horry  
Treasurer  
17<sup>th</sup> July 2003

## **Obituaries**

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It is with great sadness that I have to report the deaths of five of our members since the last Newsletter.

**Bob Scanlon** 103<sup>rd</sup> Entry

**Ron Holdsworth** 87<sup>th</sup> Entry

**Dick Cheeseman** 84<sup>th</sup> Entry

Dick was a Sqdn Ldr in 5 Block for some years and returned as a civilian, he still lived in Weston-super-Mare at the time of his death on 31st July.

**Colin Heasman** 76<sup>th</sup> Entry

Colin was born in 1937 in Ashford, Kent, but was living in Leominster when he joined the 76<sup>th</sup> Entry in January 1954. He passed out as a Ground Wireless Fitter, served at Kinloss, then on to Aden and Cyprus. In 1960 he was posted to Marham before going to Germany then a final posting to North Luffenham before leaving the RAF in 1967. He joined Marconi on the Earth Satellite Stations and then went to Saudi Arabia in 1976, only to return to Marconi again two years later as a Project Manager. He joined Mercury Communications in 1984. Colin joined the Association and had regularly attended recent AGM's. Colin, who had been married with two sons died on 9<sup>th</sup> September after a fall at home. Members of the Entry were able to join the congregation for Colin's funeral in Chelmsford when Colin was described as "a sincere jovial person of great integrity"

**Denis Grant** 76<sup>th</sup> Entry

Denis joined the 76<sup>th</sup> Entry in January 1954 from his home town of Forres, Morayshire. He passed out as an Air Radio Fitter with the 77<sup>th</sup> Entry but returned to civvy street in 1957 to work with Scottish Aviation but was unhappy with Trade Union problems so joined the Metropolitan Police in 1958 spending two years on the beat and on motorcycles, becoming a Detective Constable in 1962. He was promoted to Detective Sergeant in 1965 and spent 7 years on serious crime, including murders, robberies and hijackings. He enjoyed this work and did not seek further promotion, as that would only lead to 'pen-pushing'. After a further 7 years with the Flying Squad, Denis emigrated to Canada in 1979 and gained Canadian citizenship in 1983. When he returned to UK in 1987 he became a self-employed stunt and display driver with Ford. Unfortunately, Denis suffered from severe ill health from 1989 until his death from heart failure at Stevenage on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2003. He leaves two sons and two daughters.

*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

*Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association*

**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: - £ 100

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

<b><u>For Committee use</u></b>	<b><u>Comments</u></b>
Membership Paid .....	
Database Updated .....	
Acknowledged .....	
Tie .....	
Badge .....	

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

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## Reminders

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### Golf

I am pleased to say that the RAF Halton Aircraft Apprentices Association Golf Society (RAFHAAAGS. I know, don't say it ) have opened Associate Membership to Locking Apprentices. Interested members should either contact me, (LAA Golf Rep.) by email, or the RAFHAAAGS Secretary, Cyril Large, on [clarge67@currantbun.com](mailto:clarge67@currantbun.com).

Chris Inward

[Tristar@Engineer.com](mailto:Tristar@Engineer.com)

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### RAF Benevolent Fund

The RAF Benevolent Fund 'Gift Catalogue' is available from: -

RAFBF Enterprises  
Douglas Bader House  
Horcott Hill  
Fairford  
Gloucestershire  
GL7 4RB  
01285-713300  
E-Mail:- [postmaster@rafbfe.co.uk](mailto:postmaster@rafbfe.co.uk)

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### RAFLAA AGM 2004

24<sup>th</sup> April 2004

RAF Cosford

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### Display Cabinet

#### RAFA Weston Super Mare

**The Display Cabinet is now installed in the RAFA Club at Weston,**

Items of interest are required.

What about a superhet,  
or other electronic components (valves – remember!)

Anything contributed would be on loan, so that we could make the occasional change to the items on display.

*Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association*

**RAFLAA COMMITTEE**

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

*Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association*

Tech Rep	Andy Perkins	107Balmoral Way Worle Weston-s-Mare BS22 9BZ	(work ) (01934) 417323 <a href="mailto:aperkins@schaffner.com">aperkins@schaffner.com</a>	Sep 05	109 <sup>th</sup>
Newsletter Editor	Colin Ingram	Fairhaven Gooseham Morwenstow Bude Cornwall EX23 9PG	(01288) 331629 <a href="mailto:cwingram@aol.com">cwingram@aol.com</a>	Sep 05	88 <sup>th</sup>

*Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association*

**STANDING ORDER MANDATE**

To ..... Bank						<b>STANDING ORDER MANDATE</b>							
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			
<b>PLEASE CANCEL ALL PREVIOUS STANDING ORDER/DIRECT DEBITING MANDATES</b>													
<b>IN FAVOUR OF:</b>		RAF LOCKING APPRENTICE ASSOCIATION				Account to be debited			Account Number				
<b>UNDER REFERENCE No.</b>													
Special instructions													
		Signature(s) .....											
		Date .....											
<b>Note:</b> 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.													