



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

EDITOR'S NOTES

Hello to you all.

Last issue Stan Murray (92nd) wondered if he was the swiftest overseas posting. As you can see in the Movements, the 76th now claim this dubious honour. But can you do better?

All contributions are welcome. I had a call from an ex-apprentice who said he had been lost *three* times. Please do put pen to paper. We would all like to know.

Please note the details for the next AGM and dinner dance in this issue. This is lots of notice so, come on, get your booking in now!

Deadline for next issues

To allow for printing and distribution, each newsletter needs to be completed well ahead of the nominal month of issue. If you have a contribution please ensure it reached the editor before the date set below.

23rd January 06 for March 06

23rd May 06 for July 06

23rd September for November 06

All comments, contributions, ideas and feedback to the newsletter editor:

Chris Tett

Tele: 01908 583047

Mob: 07796 428663

45 Chapel Street

Woburn Sands

Milton Keynes

Bucks

MK17 8PQ

Chris.tett@tesco.net

Soft copy preferred!

Members wishing to put propositions to the AGM or propose amendments to the Constitution should submit them to the Secretary.

Dave Gunby

Tele: 01522 525484

23 Toynton Close

Gregg Hall Estate

Lincoln

Lincolnshire

LN6 8AL

dpgraf72@btinternet.com



LAA Newsletter

Serial 43

November 2005

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

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 - ◆ CONTESTS
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 - ◆ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING APRIL 05 – PHOTO'S
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 - ◆ CALL TO EX-GROUND RADAR FITTERS
 - ◆ OBITUARIES
 - ◆ COMMITTEE LIST
 - ◆ FORMS
-

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To Bank						STANDING ORDER MANDATE																	
Postal Address																							
		Bank				Branch Title (not address)						Sorting Code Number											
Please pay		H S B C				WESTON-SUPER-MARE						40		-		46		-		18			
		Beneficiary's Name						Account Number						Quoting Reference									
for the credit of		RAF LOCKING APPRENTICE ASSOCIATION						4		1		3		6		8		8		7		7	
		Amount		Amount in words																			
The sum of		£																					
		Date of first payment		And		Due date and frequency				until		Date of last payment				and debit my/our							
commencing				thereafter every						further notice in writing or						account accordingly							
PLEASE CANCEL ALL PREVIOUS STANDING ORDER/DIRECT DEBITING MANDATES																							
IN FAVOUR OF:		RAF LOCKING APPRENTICE ASSOCIATION						Account to be debited						Account Number									
UNDER REFERENCE No.																							
Special instructions																							
		Signature(s)																					
																Date							
Note: The bank will not undertake to																							
a) make reference to Value Added Tax or pay a stated sum plus V.A.T., or other indeterminate element.																							
b) advise remitter's address to beneficiary. c) advise beneficiary of inability to pay d) request beneficiary's banker to advise beneficiary of receipt.																							
e) accept instructions to pay as soon after the specified date as there are funds to meet the payment, if funds are not available on the specified date.																							

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: - £.....

(£10.00)

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

Total Enclosed £.....

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

Return this form together with your remittance to: -

Mr A. Horry (RAFLAA Treasurer)
Hillside Cottage
Kewstoke Road,
Kewstoke,
Weston-super-Mare
North Somerset. BS22 9YD
Tel. No. 01934 628383
e-mail horrycorp@aol.com

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

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

Furthermore the Treasurer proposed and the Secretary seconded that the AA Rep Committee member, Peter Crowe, should become an additional cheque signatory for the association Bank Accounts held at HSBC, Weston-s-Mare. A new mandate to be completed to include other signatories, Mr Joe Holroyd, Mr Charles Hart and Anthony Horry. Any two persons to sign all cheques and instructions. The proposal was unanimously agreed.

The Treasurers report and balance sheet are attached to these minutes.

Action :- Tiny Kuhle, Tony Horry, Dave Gunby, Peter Crowe

ITEM 5 MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

General

There have been no changes in membership numbers since the AGM. There are 618 names (past and present) on the database. 360 are considered to be 'active'.

The number of members paying their 'dues' by Standing Order Mandate has increased to 239. Life membership has increased by 2 to 31. This leaves only 90 who pay by "other means". We have had our first member paying by 'E' transfer.

'Life Member' certificates

Prepared and dispatched

'Golden Years' certificates

Prepared and awaiting approval by the committee

Newsletters by E-mail

The last edition of the newsletter (and a 'short' membership list) was sent out successfully in part by e-mail. Several requests for back number by E-mail have been received and processed.

Appbe Website

No Change

RAFLAA Website

Suffice to say there are three persons interested in becoming web master and setting up and running the website. This will be discussed in detail as item 9 on the agenda.

The Chairman thanked John for his report and Dave Gunby proposed it be accepted. This was seconded by Pete Crowe and all agreed.

Minutes of the 34th Committee Meeting of the RAF Locking Apprentice Association

Venue: RAFA Club Weston super Mare

Date: Thursday 21st July 2005 at 13:00 Hrs

Present:-

Tiny Kuhle	87th	Chairman
Dave Gunby	72nd	Secretary
Tony Horry	76 th	Treasurer
John Farmer	77 th	Membership Secretary
Peter Crowe	90 th	AA Rep/Webmaster
Andy Perkins	109 th	Tech Rep
Rick Atkinson	91 st	Service Rep
Vic Gibbs	88 th	General Rep
Chris Tett	92 nd	Newsletter Editor

Apologies :-

Graham Beaston	209 th	Craft Rep
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The Chairman opened the meeting at 13.10 with a greeting to all followed by a reading of the Apprentice Prayer.

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES.

The Secretary had received an apology from Graham Beeston.

ITEM 2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.

The Committee reviewed the minutes of the 33rd Committee meeting and found them acceptable.

It was proposed by John Farmer and seconded by Tony Horry that the minutes of the 33rd Committee Meeting in February 2005 be accepted as a true record. All agreed.

ITEM 3 MATTERS ARISING.

The only matter rising was that of a visit organised by Vic Gibbs. Vic had arranged a TV Studio visit followed by a visit to the Uxbridge bunker to take place on Sept 21st. Names were to be with Vic by the 6th Sept and in view of the short time scale the Membership secretary would e-mail details to as many members as possible.

Action :- Vic Gibbs, John Farmer

ITEM 4 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer presented his half yearly report. The overall situation is that the Association has assets of £9156.81 as at 8th July 2005. He also reported that there was an overspend on the 2005 AGM/Reunion of £53.35. The Treasurer suggested a donation of £25 be made to the RAFA Weston wings appeal as a thank you for the use of the meeting room. Vic Gibbs proposed that the Treasurers report be accepted and this was seconded by Andy Perkins. All agreed.

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

RAFLAA COMMITTEE

Appointment	Name	Address	Tel/e-mail	Re-Election	Entry
President	Martin Palmer				91 st
Chairman	"Tiny" Kühle	22 Tavistock Clse Woburn Sands Milton Keynes Bucks MK17 8UY	(01908) 583784 Hans.Kuhle@t-mobile.co.uk	April 06	87 th
Secretary	Dave Gunby	23 Toynton Clse Gregg Hall Estate Lincoln Lincolnshire# LN6 8AL	(01522) 525484 dpgraf72@btinternet.com	April 06	72 nd
Treasurer	Tony Horry	Hillside Cottage Kewstoke Road Kewstoke Weston-s-Mare BS22 9YD	(01934) 628383 horrycorp@aol.com	Apr 06	76 th
Membership Secretary	John Farmer	8 Glenmore Rd Minehead Somerset TA24 5BQ	(01643) 705443 RAFLAAMS@aol.com	Apr 06	77 th
Service Rep	Rick Atkinson	1 Lake Walk Adderbury Oxfordshire OX17 3PF	Tel: 01295 812 972 rick-jacky@lakewalk.wanadoo.co.uk	Sep 08	91 st
AA Rep/ Webmaster	Peter Crowe	14 Hillview Road Weston super Mare BS23 3HS	01934 412178 peter@petercrowe.co.uk	Sep 08	90 th
General	Vic Gibbs	8 Old School Rd Royal Lane Hillingdon Middlesex UB8 3WE	(01895) 235 076 Gibbsvic@aol.com	Mar 04	88 th
Craft Rep	Graham Beeston	87 Hornbeam Rd Havant PO9 2UT	(023) 92346242 Work 0778 8795358 mapleoak@newnet.co.uk (home) graham@mapleoak.co.uk (work)	Sep 05	209 th
Tech Rep	Andy Perkins	107Balmoral Way Worle Weston-s-Mare BS22 9BZ	(01934) 417323 aperkins@schaffner.com	Sep 05	109 th
Newsletter Editor	Chris Tett	45 Chapel Street Woburn Sands Milton Keynes Bucks MK17 8PQ	(01908) 583047 chris.tett@tesco.net	Sep 08	92 nd

Obituaries

John Aston (681976)

3rd October 1940 To 25th November 2004

On the 9th May 1956, John was one of 64 young hopefuls who became the 83rd Entry of Aircraft Apprentices at RAF Locking, passing out on the 24th March 1959 as a Ground Wireless Fitter. John was a Drummer in the Band, and amongst other pursuits, he enjoyed caving in the Mendips and horse riding.

After a year at RAF Wattisham, John was posted to Henlow and joined a fitting party destined for Aden. Other postings included Singapore, RAF Episkopi and RAF Edzell, and in 1968 he purchased his discharge from the RAF to help his parents out with their toy shop in Henley on Thames. John and his mother continued to run the shop after the death of his father until his mother retired.

After the sale of the shop, John trained as a driving instructor, and taught driving for some 20 odd years. He married Sue in July 1972 and their son Paul was born in 1976.

John was a model aircraft enthusiast, building and flying radio controlled planes, a hobby that was over-taken by golf which he enjoyed playing, though not competitively. In 1987 he obtained his private pilot's licence flying Piper Cherokees out of White Waltham airfield near Maidenhead. John was a great 'DIY-er', totally refurbishing two houses, and was a self-taught computer buff.

In 1997 John and Sue bought a village shop and post office in Langton Matravers near Swanage which they ran for four years, but the physical side of it got too much after John developed arthritis in both knees and ended up having two total knee replacements.

Having sold the shop, they moved into a bungalow at Gillingham where John put in a new kitchen and landscaped the garden. He took up golf again but then became ill two years ago so walking around a golf course was too much. He had successful chemotherapy treatment for non-Hodgkins Lymphoma but once the treatment for that was finished, the thyroid tumour became evident; this one he couldn't beat and he died in Southampton Hospital on 25th November 2004.

John will not only be sadly missed by his family, but by those members of the 83rd entry who were fortunate enough to renew their friendship with him in the last two or three years.

Air Vice Marshall Nigel Blair-Oliphant

We also mark and regret the passing of Nigel Blair-Oliphant who died on June 5th after a distinguished RAF career. Many apprentices will remember that he commanded No 1 Radio School RAF Locking from December 1955 for some years.

ITEM 9 RAFLAA WEB SITE

John Farmer presented 3 costings for the setting up and running of the Association web-site. Two were from a Mr R Edwards and a Mr R Barker (each was for around £550) and the third was from our own member Peter Crowe. Peter had volunteered to be the Association's Webmaster at no cost to the Association.

After a short discussion Tiny Kuhle proposed that the Committee accept Peter Crowe's offer. This was seconded by Vic Gibbs and all agreed. The Secretary would write to the unsuccessful bidders.

The Committee list was also to be amended to show Peter Crowe AA Rep/Webmaster.

Action :- Dave Gunby

ITEM 10 RAFLAA WINDOW IN RAF HALTON CHURCH

The Secretary reported that following the installation of a commemorative window in RAF Halton Church by the Admin Apprentice Association he had been in touch with Cranwell AA to sound out their views on the joint provision of a window. The CAA secretary is in the process of consulting his committee.

Following a discussion it was decided by majority vote of 7 to 2 that the Locking Association would prefer their own window but would be in favour of a joint dedication service.

The secretary undertook to provide designs and costings to put before the next meeting of the Committee.

Action :- Dave Gunby

ITEM 11 FABEA 2005 Report

The Chairman and Secretary had attended the FABEA (Federation of Boy Entrants and Apprentices) held at RAFA Bedford on July 13th. Along with the other Associations the Secretary presented a report of our activities over the previous year.

Tickets would again be available for the Cenotaph parade in November.

FABEA will be celebrating the 90th Anniversary of Apprentice training in 2010 and were seeking ideas as to what form the celebration might take. Several Associations had increased their mileage rates following the continuing rise in the cost of fuel. The FABEA meeting was hosted by the Boy Entrant Association and next year it will be the turn of the Halton AA.

ITEM 12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The newsletter editor expressed a desire to set cut off dates for input to the newsletter. This was supported and Chris will set the dates in the next issue.

Action :- Chris Tett

ITEM 6 SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary gave a review of correspondence received since the last meeting. There had been some correspondence in respect of appeals for donations to various projects. It was agreed that in future the secretary would forward these to the Newsletter editor so that members could take action, if they so desired, on an individual basis.

Action :- Dave Gunby

The secretary reported that the Association had again been invited to send up to 3 representatives to the NO1 RS Annual lunch. This is to take place on Wednesday 26th October and the Association will be represented by the Chairman, Secretary and the General Member. The secretary will liase with RAF Cosford with reference to security issues.

Action :- Dave Gunby

ITEM 7 RAF LOCKING CHURCH

Once again there was no progress to report on this matter. The situation is that neither the Church nor the commemorative trees are to be removed without the knowledge of the Association.

Following a discussion it was decided that in order to move the project forward it would be better if the Association could present its own proposals regarding a design for a commemorative plaque mounted on a limestone plinth to the SWRDA.

It was decided that the Secretary would write to the SWRDA with this suggestion and copy the letter to North Somerset Council, Locking Parish Council and the Weston Mercury.

Action :- Dave Gunby

ITEM 8 AGM 2006

Chris Tett prompted a lengthy discussion by saying he had had complaints about last year's venue (Dauncey's Hotel). He asked if we were committed to using the hotel in 2006. It was pointed out that the venue had been suggested at the last Committee meeting and that funds had been reserved for the deposit. However the Treasurer, who had taken on the task of dealing with the hotel, said that the finer points of the booking had not yet been discussed with the Hotel and that no deposit had yet been sent.

After further discussion it was decided that Andy Perkins and Peter Crowe would have a look at the Royal Hotel to see if its facilities were up to our requirements. The Royal being the only other hotel in Weston big enough. It was agreed that Andy and Peter would take on the research with immediate effect and that they would report back to members via e-mail for a decision as to whether to change the 2006 venue. In the mean time Tony would not contact the hotel or pay a deposit.

Action :- Andy Perkins, Peter Crowe

RAFLAA Website

Users of the Web will be pleased that after all the problems with our old website, we have, at last, got our own RAFLAA website. It is not yet complete but it is up and running.

As you will notice from the minutes of the last committee meeting, Peter Crowe has kindly volunteered to become our new webmaster. Pete is still in the process of building the site but has put up a lot information in a remarkable short time.

You can visit your website at :

WWW.raflaa.org.uk

So take a look.

We would welcome any feedback on how the site looks to a user and how it might be improved. We cannot promise to meet every request but we will consider all feedback.

You can contact the Webmaster via the site or his email address which is on the committee page. You can also contact other committee members with your thoughts.

Please do help to make our site useful and attractive.

This page is intentionally left blank.

Contests

There will be a small prize at the next AGM for the best contributions to the Newsletter. The editors choice will be totally biased and final!

Swiftest Overseas Posting

This contest is to find out who holds the distinction of having the shortest time from passing out to be sent abroad.

In **Movements** last issue, Stan Murray has laid claim to the record with just six weeks before he was on a plane overseas. In this issue, Mike Collier in **Movements** points out that several 76th were out of the country in only four weeks after passing out. Any advance on four weeks?

So Mike Collier and the 76th are the winnersunless you know different!

Skives

When we were apprentices, we all tried at one time or another to get out of drill sessions, parades, bull and the like. I took up boxing and just having to go training was useful on occasion but I never managed any serious skiving. Did you? Please send any account of how you managed to get out of work or used the system against itself. ED.

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

Advertisements and appeals for donations mentioned in the Secretary's report would appear on the Association website in addition to the newsletter.

Action :- Peter Crowe

A proposal to increase the mileage allowance for RAFLAA duty journeys would be an agenda item at the next committee meeting.

Action :- Dave Gunby

A review will take place of the flow chart of procedure to be followed when processing new applications to join.

Action :- Dave Gunby, John Farmer

Following a couple of occasions during the past year of members becoming very seriously ill, the Association was able to send cards and offer support. It was agreed that when the Association hears of such events then this support should be continued.

Action :- Dave Gunby, Tony Horry

The Newsletter editor proposed to reward the best contributions to the newsletter with a small prize on an annual basis.

Action :- Chris Tett

Following the resignation of Joe Holroyd it was agreed that Peter Crowe would become the reserve signatory for cheque signing.

Action :- Tony Horry

ITEM 13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting to be held on 16th February at Flowerdown House Weston-super-Mare. Tony Horry will liase with Flowerdown House re the reservation of a room for the meeting.

Action :- Tony Horry

The meeting closed at 15.50 Hours.

AGM and Dinner Booking

Please book your places for the AGM and dinner using the form below and post your application to: Mr A Horry, Hillside Cottage, Kewstoke Road, Kewstoke, Weston-super-Mare, BS232 9YD Tel: 01934 628383:

E-mail: horrycorp@aol.com

Again it has decided to subsidise drinks purchased from the bar by charging just £1 a glass whatever its content. Wine will be provided at the dinner.

Application for AGM – 22nd April 2006

Finger Buffet and Dinner dance

Name:

Entry No:

Address:

	<u>Number tickets</u>	<u>Total</u>
I wish to book both lunch and dinner (dinner includes wine and disco to follow):	Please provide tickets @ £28pp	£.....
I wish to attend the dinner/dance (includes wine and disco to follow) only:	Please provide tickets @ £20.00pp	£
I wish to attend the finger buffet lunch only:	Please provide tickets @ £9-00pp	£
		Total £

Cheques to be crossed account payee and made out to the "RAF Locking Apprentice Association"

The hotel has asked us to provide information on menu choices. Please complete and return with your booking form

Name	Starter			Main Course			Dessert	
	Country Vegetable Soup	Seafood Cocktail	Fruit Juice	Roast Beef	Breast of Chicken	Vegetarian Option	Apple Pie + Custard	Fresh Fruit Salad+ Cream
1								
2.								

RAFLAA Annual General Meeting 06

Saturday 22nd April 2006

Next years AGM and annual get together will be held at the Royal Hotel, Weston-super-Mare. This Georgian building opened as the first hotel in Weston in 1810. The Hotel is situated in the centre of Weston, close to the Winter Gardens and the shopping centre. It has its own car park and has extensive views across the bay.

The format is the same as usual with a informal meet & greet over lunch, followed by the AGM in the afternoon and a dinner dance in the evening. A reminder will appear in the next newsletter but that will be sent in the month before the meeting so please get your bookings in now.

Provisional Timetable

Friday 21st April 2006	20:00	Informal Meet and Greet at the Aperitif Lounge, Bar, Royal Hotel
Saturday 22 nd April	10:30	Members commence arrival at Royal Hotel
	11:00	Bar facility opens – Aperitif Bar
	12:30	Finger Buffet commences
	13:30	AGM commences with Trophy presentation – Birnbeck Suite
	15:00	AGM complete. Tea served
	15:30	Members disperse
	19:00 for	Dinner Dance – Aperitif Bar and Birnbeck Suite
	19:30	

Accommodation Booking

All booking of accommodation **must** be made direct with the hotel:

The Royal Hotel ,1 South Parade, Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset, BS23 1 JP

Tel +44 (0)1934 423 100 . Fax +44 (0)1934 41513 5

Website www.royalhotelweston.co.uk.

E-mail: royalwsm@btopenworld.com

Please quote: "RAF Locking Apprentices Association Reunion AGM" when making reservations. Accounts must be settled directly with the hotel

All 37 rooms have been booked off for Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd April and are available at the conference rate, including breakfast. The hotel has a lift and disabled access and has one easy access room, but some rooms do have steps within them. A £10 per night deposit will be required per reservation.

Prices

The Royal have 27 newly refurbished rooms and 10 standard.

Rate are per room per night and include breakfast. They are:

Refurbished double £81.50

Refurbished single £41.50

Standard double £ £66.50

Standard single £ 36.50

Humour

From Mick Rafferty 98th Entry

Preparing for Winter 2005/2006

It was autumn and the Indians on the remote reservation asked their new Chief if winter was going to be mild, cold or very cold? The new Chief was a product of today's society and had never been taught the old ways and when he looked to the sky couldn't read any of the signs. Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, he guessed it was going to be cold and the tribe should start gathering wood for fuel.

A week later he had a bright idea, went into town and rang the National Weather Bureau. "Is it going to be a cold winter?" he asked. "Yes" replied the NWS "It looks as if it could be a very cold winter". So the Chief went home and told the tribe to gather even more wood.

A week later he again called the NWS. "Is it going to be a cold winter?" he asked. "Yes" came the answer, "It is going to be very cold indeed". So the Chief went back to the tribe and said "Gather every stick and piece of wood you can find for it is going to be a very, very cold winter".

Another week went by before he called the NWS again. "Are you sure this is going to be a cold winter?" he asked. "Absolutely" replied the spokesman, "It's going to be one of the coldest winters on record". "How can you be so sure?" asked the Chief. "Because the Indians are gathering wood like crazy" replied the weather man

From Stan Murray 92nd Entry

Away From It All

Tom had been in sales for 25 years. Finally sick of the stress he quits his job and buys 50 acres of land in Alaska as far from humanity as possible. He sees the postman once a week and gets groceries once a month. Otherwise it's total peace and quiet.

After six months or so of almost total isolation someone knocks on his door. He opens it and sees a huge bearded man standing there.

"Name's Lars, your neighbour from forty miles up the road having a Christmas party Friday night...Thought you might like to come. About 5:00."

"Great", says Tom, "after six months out here I'm ready to meet some local folks. Thank you."

As Lars is leaving, he stops. "Gotta warn you...There's gonna be some drinkin'."

"Not a problem" says Tom. "After 25 years in sales, I can drink with the best of 'em."

Movements

From Mike Collier 76th

With reference to Stan Murray's claim to the shortest stay in the UK after passing out from RAF Locking, I guess the shortest stay you could have would be to have been posted overseas immediately after completed the apprenticeship.

Twelve of the 76th Entry share this distinction. Ten went to F.E.A.F. (6 ARF and 4 GRF) All to Seletar I believe. 1 GRF went to M.E.A.F. (Akrotiri) and 1 GRF to Germany (Brogentreich). Additionally, one 76th GRF who passed out with the 77th also went to Germany (Udem).

The 76th passed out on 18th December 1956, and those above sent to the F.E.A.F. and probably the others too, were on a plane 17th January 1957; one month later.

Sorry Stan.

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association



Presentation of No 1 RS Plaque by Martin palmer to David Hunt of Dauncey's Hotel at the AGM 2005

Presentation of Plaque



Presentation of the RAFLAA Trophy to Chris Aitken, Civillian Instructor, No 1 RS, Cosford

Presentation of Trophy to Chris Aitken

Annual General Meeting April 05

The AGM for 2005 was held at Dauncy's Hotel in Weston Super Mayor. The minutes are available in the previous newsletter. Here are a few photos from the event.



Presentation of certificates for Honorary Life Membership to founder members, Joe Holroyd (85th) and Charles Hart (71st). They are flanked by Martin Palmer (left) and Tiny Kuhle.

Presentation of Certificates



Dave Gunby (Secretary) (left), Tiny Kuhle (Chairman) and Martin Palmer (President) leading the AGM - April 2005

The Team

Test for Dementia

Thanks to John Hall 92nd

Here is a fun test to see if you are still as smart as you thought you were. Below are four (4) questions and a bonus question.

You have to answer them instantly. You can't take your time, answer all of them immediately. OK?

First Question:

You are in a race. You overtake the second person. What position are you in?

Check the answer opposite:>

Answer: If you answered that you are first, then you are absolutely wrong! If you overtake the second person and you take his place, you are second!

Correct? No? Well, try not to screw up in the next question.

Second Question:

If you overtake the last person, then you are...?

Check the answer now:>

Answer: If you answered that you are second to last, then you are wrong again. Tell me, how can you overtake the LAST Person?

You're not very good at this! Are you?

Third Question:

Very tricky maths!

Note: This must be done in your head only.

Do NOT use paper and pencil or a calculator. Try it.

Take 1000 and add 40 to it.

Now add another 1000. Now add 30.

Add another 1000. Now add 20.

Now add another 1000. Now add 10.

What is the total? Check now:>

Answer: Did you get 5000?
The correct answer is actually 4100.

Don't believe it? Check with your calculator! Today is definitely not your day.

Maybe you will get the last question right?

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

Again, the big man starts to leave and stops.! "More 'n' likely gonna be some fightin' too."

"Well, I get along with people, I'll be all right, I'll be there. Thanks again."

"More'n likely be some wild sex, too."

"Now that's really not a problem" says Tom, warming to the idea "I've been all alone for six months! I'll definitely be there. By the way, what should I wear?"

"Whatever you want. Just gonna be the two of us!"

My thanks to Stan Murray 92nd Entry

Kids

Billy was at school this morning in the Australian outback and the teacher asked all the children what their fathers did for a living. All the typical answers came out, Fireman, Policeman, Salesman, Sheep Shearer etc, but Billy was being uncharacteristically quiet and so the teacher asked him about his father. "My father is an exotic dancer in a gay club and takes off all his clothes in front of other men. Sometimes if the offer is really good, he'll go out with a man, rent a cheap hotel room and let them sleep with him." The teacher quickly set the other children some work and took little Billy aside to ask him if that was really true. "No" said Billy, "He plays cricket for Australia but I was just too embarrassed to say."

Apprentice Days

Two apprentices went to a dance at the Winter Gardens. One went off, had a dance and came back beaming. "I'm alright for tonight. Why don't you go and ask a girl to dance?"

"Well I could but then I never know what to say to them"

"Oh it's easy", said his mate, "Just say something nice. Compliment her."

The apprentice went and then came back all crestfallen. "What happened?" " asked the apprentice.

"Well I did like you said, but it didn't work"

"Why? What did you say?"

"I just said 'You don't sweat much for a fat lass'"

THE 72ND ENTRY 'S 50th ANNIVERSARY OF PASSING OUT.

From Dave Gunby 72nd

The above celebration took place over the weekend 9/10th September coincidentally 53 years to the day that we enlisted.

The event took place at the Quality Hotel, Loughborough, Leics. and comprised an informal meet and greet during the Friday and a formal dinner on the Saturday. Friday's activities commenced around 2pm as people started to arrive and ended well after midnight. There was a short break for a carvery meal but even then the drinking continued with the wine accompaniment.

On Saturday the weather was awful and the organised walk in the Park didn't materialise as folk decided to do their own thing on the day.

At 6.30pm 40 members of the Entry together with 30 ladies sat down to a three course dinner with wine. The meal was preceded by the reading of the Apprentice Prayer together with grace said by the newest of our members the Rev Kenneth Britton. As coffee was served the speeches began with that of Chairman Dave Gunby who subsequently proposed the toast to 'Absent friends '. There then followed a humorous interlude when Ken Stephens read an adaptation of the old monologue "Braaaarn Boots".

The Chairman thanked Ken for his rendition and introduced the secretary Robby Packham. Robby brought everyone up to date with the finances and asked for ideas for subsequent reunions. Broadly speaking it was decided that as we were not getting any younger we would meet bi-annually for the foreseeable future. The meetings would alternate between formal Dinner and Buffet and would be held in the Weston-super-Mare area.

The Chairman thanked Robby for his organising efforts and proposed a vote of thanks. The final speaker was former Flight Sergeant Apprentice and Association Vice-President Mike Clements. Clem addressed us with great enthusiasm and thanked those whose efforts in finding former colleagues had resulted in such a fine turnout after 53 years. Clem proposed the toast "The Entry" and was roundly applauded. The evening then reverted to a more informal state and once again midnight came and went.

All too soon Sunday morning came and after breakfast the foyer became full of Chattering as we said our goodbyes. Here's to the next time in 2007.

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Once in the RAF – Always On File?

Stan Murray (92nd Entry) shows that we may be gone but we are not forgotten

I've read many interesting and humorous stories in the newsletter about things that happened to us all during our time in the RAF, but very few stories of things that may have happened after we left. Having written in the last issue about being "misaid" on two occasions by the MOD, I thought this little item might be of interest to some of you.

About a year after getting out, I was working in Cornwall and I shared a rented house with a local solicitor. Our social habits were fairly predictable and we could both be found in the local pub every Sunday lunchtime, or any other day for that matter. However, on one such occasion, a guy came in who looked vaguely familiar to me but he was a bit scruffy and looked like a construction worker who had just come off site. I could not remember where I had seen him before, so left it at that and ignored him to concentrate on my pint.

Just before last orders he approached me and introduced himself as a guy I had met in Cyprus. He had been in the Intelligence Corps at 9 Signal Regiment, based at Ayios Nikolaos and we had often chatted in the Mess on a Saturday night. We had a pint together and he explained he was working on the new motorway, linking Exeter to Plymouth, so I invited him home for a chat about old times.

Then the fear and panic began to take a grip! When we got home he told me he had been given my address and where I drank on a Sunday and he had to make contact, so that he could blend into the community as a friend of someone living locally. He also told me that he needed somewhere to stay, and that my mate and I were to offer him accommodation for as long as he needed. If we had any doubts, we were to ring a London number he gave us and confirm his identity and reason for being there. Obviously my pal and I were not too happy, but on investigation we discovered he was with the Security Service and was tracking a bunch of IRA bombers whose cover was the same as his, ie labourers on the motorway construction.

He never undressed, slept on our lounge floor and was up and away every morning before we even woke up. To crown it all, when I commented on how heavy his anorak was, he explained it was because he was armed.

One evening the Police arrived at our door to invite us to the Station for reasons they would not divulge. Now I was panicking, but my mate was a solicitor after all, so we had nothing to fear (I hoped).

On arrival, we were asked if we knew of someone in the Security Service, and did we know where he was that night. We obviously had to answer question one, but had no idea where he was. It turned out he had been arrested for acting suspiciously (whatever that means) and when questioned all he would say that he was staying with us. Eventually it was all sorted, after a few calls to London, and we went on our merry way - straight to the pub.

Fourth Question:

Mary's father has five daughters: 1. Nana, 2. Nene, 3. Nini, 4. Nono. What is the name of the fifth daughter?

Answer: Nunu?

Check:>

Answer: NO!
Of course not.
Her name is Mary. Read the question again

Okay, now the bonus round:

There is a mute person who wants to buy a toothbrush. By imitating the action of brushing one's teeth he successfully expresses himself to the shopkeeper and the purchase is done.

Now if there is a blind man who wishes to buy a pair of sunglasses, how should he express himself?

Check:>

Answer: He just has to open his mouth and ask, so simple.

Well how did you do? Perhaps you never were that smart!!

The Royal Air Force - Air Defence Radar Museum

Museum Friends

The Museum Manager
RAF ADRM
RAF Neatishead
Norwich, Norfolk.
NR12 8YB
Telephone 01692 633309

If you would like to keep in regular contact with the RAF Air Defence Radar Museum,
for only £12.00 a year you can become a "Friend of the Museum"

- * Benefits currently include:
- * Free access to the museum on open days.
- * Quarterly Newsletters featuring articles submitted by other friends and information concerning the future plans for your museum.
- * The opportunity to attend the annual friends open day.

The RAF Air Defence Radar Museum is entirely self-supporting. All subscriptions and donations go towards preserving and improving the museum.

Just write your details in the boxes below and post it together with your cheque to the above address.

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Postcode	
Date of Application	
Amount Paid	

Subscriptions are due annually on October 1st
Standing order forms and gift aid certificates are available upon request
Please make cheques payable to: Air Defence Radar Museum

Call to all Ex Ground Rader Apprentices

From Derek Foster 73rd Entry

Did you know about the Air Defence Radar Museum at RAF Neatishead in Norfolk?
Have you visited this wonderful museum?

If you have not been there yet, make a commitment to go... you will not be disappointed. Even if you are not Ground Radar you will still have a fascinating time.

Unfortunately, due to the imminent closure of RAF Neatishead, the future of this museum is under threat of closure itself. Urgent support is needed from all ex-Ground Radar and other interested personnel to ensure the survival of this excellent museum.

One way that **you** can help is to join the 'Friends of the Museum'. The cost is only £12 per year which gives you free access to the museum on Open Days plus a Quarterly Newsletter.

Go to the Museum website at www.radar.co.uk in order to get an insight into the qualities of the museum..... And then go to RAF Neatishead for an excellent day out.

You can join as a "Friend of the Museum" via the website or by completing the Application Form on the next page. Please do it now before it is too late!

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

and dashed off into the nearest bushes where followed much thrashing about accompanied by shrieks of delight culminating in a cry of positive exultation.

They returned to thank the Elf, he sweating from his exertions, she looking even more flushed but radiant with happiness. Their time together had obviously been well spent. The Elf on seeing their joy pointed out that they had only used up 15 minutes of the allotted time so if they wanted they could return for another go!!!!

They gazed at one another in renewed anticipation. Breathlessly he said "Shall we? "Oh yes!" she cried "only this time you hold down the bloody pigeon and I'll crap on it!"

.....

Armed with this you May never fear a trip with National Express and all those old kipper ties that you have been hiding from the wife will remain as Marks & Spencers intended, unblemished.

Were Apps taught Man Management?

Brian Davies (76/77th) wonders if the training gave us all we needed.

Except for valuable techniques gained during apprentice training by LAs, CAs and SAs, what training for management was given to the remainder of an entry?

It is a question that frequently crossed my mind in later years when, after excellent technical and educational training, the average apprentice was let loose on the Royal Air Force to find his way in this essential technique.

Were we filtered for an in built ability to manage others at the selection boards? I feel not. Many apprentices were shown to be deficient in this capability as they passed out as J/Ts then in a few months became corporals and 'immediately' became managers of men. Many NCOs and dare I say some officers never successfully managed the technique, relying purely on their rank.

Leadership should not be mixed up with management capability. The first is usually an in-built quality while the second can be taught or learned by example.

When I passed out as a Junior Technician and was posted to Ballykelly, I was put on a shift system in charge of mechanics, while the other shifts had corporals in charge. In a very short time I started to learn management methods as I pitted my wits against older more experienced National Service airmen who could not see why a J/T should be giving them orders.

Inevitably mistakes were made, but I quickly found out that it could be done without the added authority of the corporal's stripes which I received four months later.

Next morning when we went down for breakfast he had was gone. Nothing to show he had been and we never heard from or about him again.

I often asked myself in the following few years how the MOD could lose me twice when I was just doing my job, and yet when I had nothing to do with them they not only knew where I lived, but also where I drank. I moved about three times in the next eighteen months, through Leicester up to Edinburgh and eventually Glasgow. I was never contacted again, so I assume they had really lost me this time, or I was of no further interest.

Many of you will read this and think it is some fantasy from a book I have read, but it is not, it actually happened.

In the climate we live in these days I often wonder why our Security Service proved to be so efficient tracking me, yet don't know how many illegal immigrants there are in the country or how many of them are terrorists.

Remembering A Sprog's Life

Brain Chisum (92nd) thinks that an article got his brain cells ticking.

I was interested to read in Mike Collier's account of a day in a sprog's life a reference to not having to sing for the senior entry. When I was at Locking I was one of many who came from the Portsmouth area. So many in fact that we could fill a coach when travelling home. Now this was no place to be as a sprog because you were expected to entertain and if you didn't do it well they operated on your tie. They started by cutting off the triangle piece as a matter of course and ultimately you could have been left with just the knot. I always made sure that I was armed with a suitable ditty or story.

Stan Murray in his recollections mentioned that lessons he'd learnt as an apprentice had benefited him in later careers. I too can say that because those coach trips taught me always to be armed with a suitable story to lighten proceedings and one such story I believe ultimately led to my appointment to the board of directors of the company I worked for. I won't bore you with the details but I'll give you the story. You never know when you might be called upon to save your tie on a coach outing somewhere.

.....

An Elf was skipping through some wooded parkland one day. He was feeling at peace with the world, having just had his evil way with one of the fairies, when he came across a life sized statue entitled the Lovers. These two naked figures were entwined around one another but he noticed to his dismay that while they were puckered up their lips didn't actually touch. This affected him greatly and such was his good humour he decided to do something about it, muttered the magic words and the statue came to life. "Now" said the Elf to the two figures standing before him "You have 30 minutes to fulfil your wildest dream". He looked at her full of anticipation, she looked at him and a flush came to her cheeks, they linked hands

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

I found at this early stage that treating people in the first instance as normal lucid beings can work as long as they know that when they step out of line they will get penalised.

Over the next twenty or so years this technique worked well, and it was not until I had been a Sergeant for a few years that I was sent on a RAF Management course. If I may say, some eight years too late.

My man and woman management techniques (wives excluded) were developed the hard way but served me well in business when I left the RAF at 39 years of age.

