

RAFLAA Newsletter

SERIAL 61

NOV 2011

IN THIS ISSUE

EDITOR'S NOTES	2
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	3
Fly past.....	3
Mobile Phone Extra	3
Pin number	4
NOTICES	5
National Arboretum Dedication Service	5
2012 RAFLAA Annual AGM and Dinner Dance	9
Our Event	10
Passwords	14
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES	15
Minutes of the 17th AGM of the RAF Locking Apprentice Association.....	15
GOLDEN 91ST ENTRY (A SNAPSHOT)	24
APPRENTICE DAYS	26
Better Late than Never	26
Food For Thought.....	27
TIT-BITS	29
RAF DAYS	32
Travels of an Air Radio Fitter	32
HUMOUR	35
LIFE AFTER THE RAF	37
Duke is Honoured to meet Ex-Apprentice!	37
MINUTES OF THE 46TH COMMITTEE MEETING RAFLAA	38
OBITUARIES	43
John Richard Sloley 5 th February 1944- 29 th June 2011	43
Michael John Robbins 27/4/37 to 6/7/11	44
Richard Putnam 1938-2011	44
588120 Michael Francis Clements	45
CJ Brown	45
CLOSING THOUGHT	46
The Charlie Schulz Philosophy.....	46
RAFLAA COMMITTEE	47

Editor's Notes

Hello to you all,

No sooner do we set a policy than it gets changed! There was some discussion at the last committee meeting in July about the publication of committee meeting minutes. It was decided that we should publish any minutes as soon as we can because they are more topical. Consequently readers will notice that there are two sets of minutes in this newsletter – for the 2011 AGM and for the July Committee Meeting.

The problem will come again for the March Newsletter. We always hold a committee meeting in the third week of February. We can't hold it earlier because Tony needs to get the accounts ready after year end and we can't send the newsletter out later because many of you wait for the March Newsletter for details of the AGM and dinner dance.

Next February, we have a committee meeting even later, on the 23rd, due to some committee members being away, so the March 2012 Newsletter is unlikely to carry the minutes. The newsletter will still carry details of the AGM and dinner/dance and I will try to add anything relevant that comes up at the committee meeting.

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It seems the tips on mobile phones and ATM pin numbers may be wide of the mark. Check out the comments from David Kitching 94th and Stan Pike 99th under Letters to the Editor. It does show someone reads the newsletter!

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After many years' effort, there is to be a memorial to us Locking Apprentices at the National Arboretum. This is due, in no small part, to much trouble and sheer persistence on the part of Dave Gunby. The memorial is to have a service of dedication in November and you are invited. See later in this newsletter for details.

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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 January 2012 for March 2011. Please send all comments, contributions, ideas and feedback to the newsletter editor. Soft copy preferred!

Chris Tett

Email: Chris@crtett.plus.com

Tele: 01908 583047

45 Chapel Street

Woburn Sands

Milton Keynes

Bucks

MK17 8PQ

Letters to the Editor

Fly past

From Brian Davies 76th entry.

Late in 1971 at the closing down parade at RAF Changi in Singapore, there was an amazing flypast of the strangest mix of aircraft you can imagine. Hastings, Britannias, VC 10s, Bristol Freighters, Shackletons, Hawker Hunters, Phantoms and others, with a mixed flight of helicopters - all at different normal flying speeds and in formation. A sight not normally witnessed.

Unfortunately I missed much of this flypast as I was on duty with the on-site air traffic controller organising the assembly of the aircraft and the spilt second timing of the flypast. I was looking after the aircraft control radio equipment and a mistake would not be forgiven seeing that viewing the parade and flypast was a plethora of VIPs.

Does anyone have a film or video of this unique flypast that I could copy or at least view? Over the years I have asked many people but to no avail.

I do hope someone can help. You can contact Brian by email at bmldavies2@yahoo.co.uk but please copy me. If you are not on email than please call or write to me. – Ed

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Mobile Phone Extra

From David Kitching 94th

The collection of four tips to enhance your use of your mobile phone, as shown in the July 2011 Newsletter, has been circulating on the internet for about five years. It is a good example of yet another urban legend which, sadly, gets blindly passed on without its authenticity first being checked. It took me less than 30 seconds of Google time to separate truth from pure fiction.

FIRST - Emergency

“The worldwide emergency number for mobile phones is 112”. Not quite. Throughout most of Europe and a few countries outside of the EU, using 112 will connect you to local emergency services. However, the number won't work in North America, or most of Asia and Africa. Many, **but not all**, mobile phone models will allow special emergency numbers to be used even if the phone lacks a SIM card and the keypad is locked.

And for those of you who are radar, as opposed to radio, experts - mobile phones don't work in coal mines.

SECOND – Have you locked your keys in the car?

Comforting though it may be to imagine you can unlock your car door in an emergency by receiving a distant signal via your mobile phone, it can't possibly work.

Your remote car key operates by sending a weak, encrypted **radio** signal to a receiver inside the vehicle which in turn activates the door locks. Since the system works on radio waves, **not sound**, the only conceivable way a signal from your spare remote could be picked up by one mobile phone and relayed to your car's on board receiver by another would be if both phones were capable of sending and receiving at exactly the same frequency as the remote itself -

which they can't. All remote entry devices operate at frequencies between 300 and 500 MHz, while all mobile phones operate at 800 MHz and higher.

It's apples v. oranges. Your mobile phone can no more transmit the type of signal needed to unlock a car door than your remote key is capable of dialing up your Aunt Mary ... though no one can predict what miracles the future may bring.

THIRD - Hidden Battery Power

On **some Nokia phones only**, users can punch in special codes and toggle between speech modes to (1) enhance voice transmission quality at the cost of diminished battery performance, or (2) enhance battery performance by decreasing voice quality. Apparently, some users have misconstrued the latter as "tapping into reserve battery power." On that score the claim is doubly erroneous because *3370# is the code for enhancing voice quality, so using it actually decreases battery life!

FOURTH – How to disable a stolen mobile phone

On some mobile phone models, but not all, pressing *#06# will cause the phone's 15-digit International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) to be displayed. Some service providers, **but not all**, can use that information to deactivate the handset. In any case, it isn't necessary to supply an IMEI number to cancel your mobile phone account in the event of theft. Simply call your provider, give them the appropriate account information, and tell them the phone has been stolen.

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Pin number

From Stan Pike 99th

Hello Chris, re the reverse pin number item. Having searched the Internet about this, it would appear to be an urban myth. The technology is available but has never been implemented for various reasons.

NOTICES

National Arboretum Dedication Service

Details from Dave Gunby 72nd

Many of you will be aware of the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, where the names of all servicemen who have died since the Second World War are listed. As discussed at the last RAFLAA AGM., there is to be a stone dedicated especially to all Locking Apprentices

There is to be a **Service of Dedication** for the Locking Apprentices Association Memorial, to be held at the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire, on Saturday, 19th November at 12 noon. The Reverend Allan Viller (79th entry) has kindly agreed to officiate at the service. Midday was chosen, so that members who had the furthest to travel would be able to make it in good time.

The location of the National Memorial Arboretum is easily found on Google, with explicit instructions on how to get there; just type in National Memorial Arboretum. For those of you with Satellite Navigation, the post code is DE13 7AR. The address and site map follows.

The NMA may well have other functions on the same day, and so would like to know the number of people expected. There could well be over 80 people attending so, **if you plan to be there and you have not yet done so, please inform Chris Bryan, the RAFLAA Secretary.**

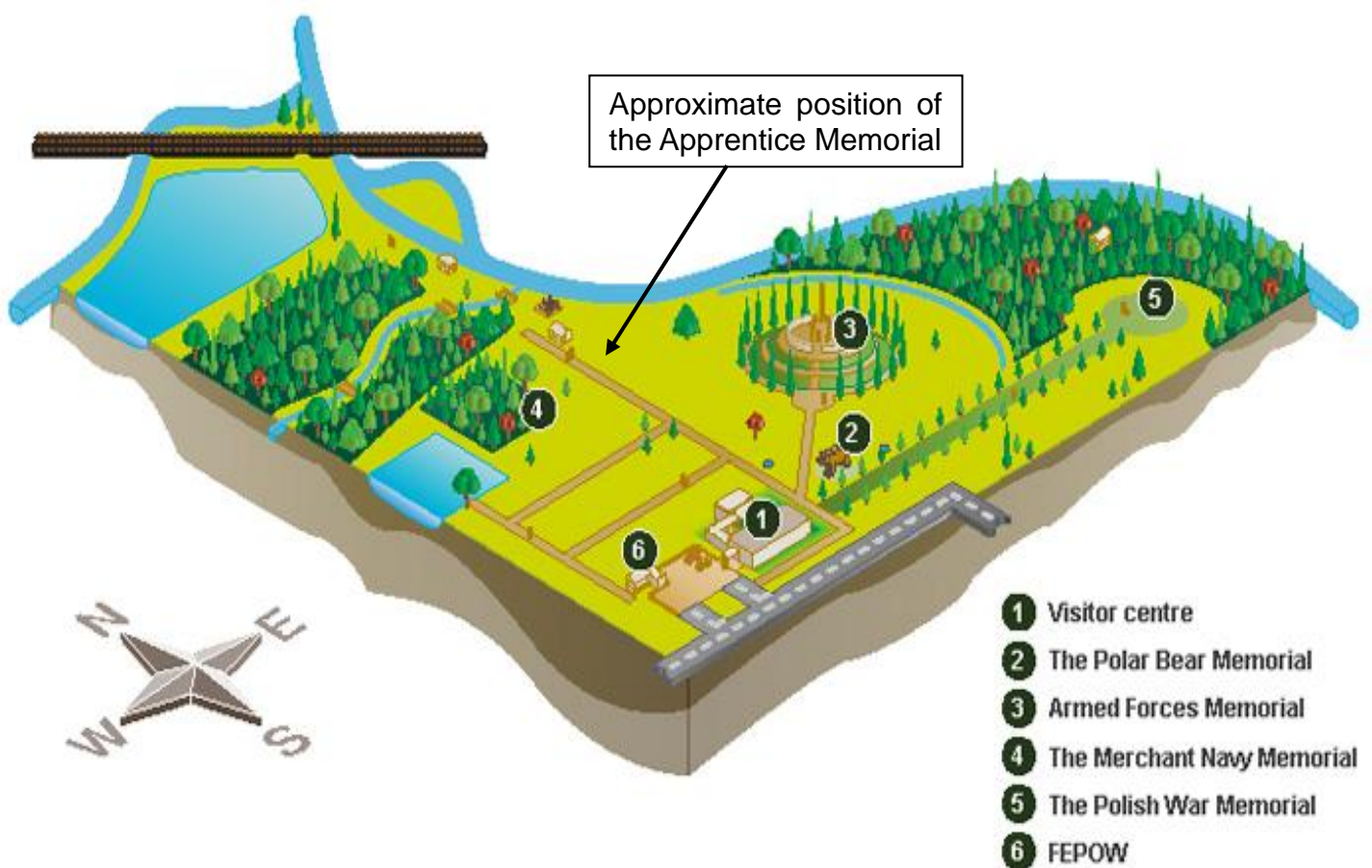
The RAFLAA will not be providing any food for this occasion.

Thanks to Ian Hardie of the 221st for this picture.



RAFLAA Memorial Site Map

The National Arboretum
Croxall Road
Alrewas
Staffordshire
DE13 7AR



Arrival at National Memorial Arboretum

Tiny Kuhle and Dave Gunby will arrive early. They will provide a sign to assist arrivals and a 'Check-in' service at a desk set up in the NMA Visitor Centre. Attendees are requested to check in there between 11:00 and 11:50 when they will be provided with an order of service and a site map.

The memorial is about five minutes walk from the Visitor Centre on the level and will have an RAF Ensign draped it.

There is a £2 parking charge at the NMA.

Order of Service

The next two pages show the Memorial Dedication Order of Service. This will be available on the day but it is also available on the RAFLAA Website and may be downloaded from there.



**Memorial commissioned by the
RAF Locking Apprentice Association**

**Royal Air Force Locking
Apprentices
1952-1976**



**Memorial Dedication
At 12 Noon
Saturday 19th November 2011**

**Welcome to the dedication service of the memorial to
commemorate the Royal Air Force Locking Apprentices**

Introduction

Chairman RAFLAA Hans Kuhle 87th Entry

Unveiling

President RAFLAA Air Cdre Martin Palmer 91st Entry

Service of Dedication

Canon Allan Viller 79th Entry

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

All: Amen

Maker of all, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: May we discern your hand in all your works and serve you with reverence and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things now and forever.

All: Amen

The Lord's Prayer.

Reading: Secretary RAFLAA Chris Bryan 87th Entry

Philippians Chapter 4 verses 8 and 9.

Brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise think about these things; and the God of peace will be with you.

Dedication:

We come to dedicate this memorial that there may be a place so that all who pass by, both young and old may know of the service those who we commemorate this day rendered to their country.

Almighty God, sanctify this place of memory for loved ones, friends and colleagues of all Royal Air Force, Locking, Apprentices. Bless this stone that has been carved to honour them, that it may stand as a memorial to their lives, their duty and their skills. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

All: 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

Tribute: Memorial Project Secretary Dave Gunby 72nd Entry

This Memorial stone stands proudly for all RAF Locking Apprentices. We will cherish it for as long as we are able and our heirs and successors will cherish it long after that. Certainly, to everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under Heaven; a time to be born and a time to die. A thousand ages in God's sight are but as yesterday when it is passed. But may our friendships of yesterday remain with us today and for all our tomorrows.

A short period of reflective silence

Blessing: Canon Allan Viller

The Lord bless you and watch over you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord look kindly upon you and give peace; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you and all whom you love, now and for ever more.

Amen.

2012 RAFLAA Annual AGM and Dinner Dance

The Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner for 2011 will be held at the Webbington Hotel, Loxton, Weston-super-Mare, BS26 2HU on [Saturday 21st April 2012](#).

Hotel



The Webbington is situated prominently on the southern slopes of the Mendip Hills, a short drive from the M5. Originally an Edwardian manor house, the hotel has been extended over the years to offer spacious grounds and accommodation, fully-equipped gymnasium, floodlit tennis courts, a heated swimming pool with adjoining sun lounge, sauna, steam room and solarium.

For more details see the hotel website: www.latonahotels.co.uk/best-western-webbington.html

Our Event

The subsidised bar will open at 11:00 and will be followed by a lunchtime finger buffet in the dining room before the AGM.

The AGM will be held in the Garden Suite in the afternoon and will be followed by tea & biscuits.

In the evening, the Dinner/Dance will be held in the Brent Suite, the cost of which will include half a bottle of wine per person. In addition, the hotel has agreed to make the Garden Suite Bar exclusively available for the RAFLAA event. Members and guests should assemble here before going through to the Brent Suite for the evening meal. The bar here will be subsidised all evening on Saturday 21st and this includes any additional bottles of wine that you may wish to purchase.

The lunch is priced at £10 this time which will include tea & biscuits afterwards. The dinner will cost £21 but for those attending the lunch, AGM and dinner, the combination is priced for 2011 at £30.

Hotel Bar

Following our tradition, there will be a subsidised bar in the Garden Suite (renamed from the Rowberrow Suite). A special price list will apply where all drinks will be charged at £1 less than standard hotel prices. In addition, bottles of house wine will be charged at £11.

N.B. Do not buy drinks or wine in the main hotel bar – you will be charged full hotel prices!

The Garden room bar will be available from 11:00 to 13:30 and again from 18:00 in the evening.

RAFLAA Lunch and Dinner Booking

If you wish to attend the lunch and/or AGM and/or the dinner/dance, please fill in the loose leaf booking form or download and print the separate form from the website. Please post the completed form to Tony Horry together with your cheque.

Please record your menu choices when you return the form.

Hotel Accommodation Booking

[Accommodation must be booked direct with the hotel and the hotel is accepting bookings for 2012 now.](#)

Please contact:

The Webbington Hotel, Loxton, Weston-s-Mare, BS26 2HU Tel: 01934 750100

Email: info@webbingtonhotel.ecilpse.co.uk

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.

Please contact the hotel direct and **quote RAFLAA** when you book to obtain these special low rates. No deposit is required as rooms can be held on a credit card. However, all accounts must be settled direct with the hotel

Ladies Coach to Bristol

Last year a coach was arranged to take the wives and partners to Bath. This was well supported and a similar coach will be laid on next year. In 2012 the coach will visit Bristol with two stops – one at the Historic Docks and one at the Cabot Centre for shopping so the ladies will have a

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

choice of where to spend the day. The charge will be the same as 2011, the realistic sum of £15. It will leave at 09:30 and return around 16:30.

We are able to book coaches of various sizes and it is unlikely there will be a spare place on the day so please ensure you reserve a place on the booking form.

Directions

Directions to the Webbington were published in the March 09 Newsletter. If you require directions please look at that issue, or download them from the Website. Or, if stuck, contact the editor.

Taxis

A taxi from Weston-super-Mare train station to the Webbington will cost about £15. For those that are flying in or coming by train, here are a couple of numbers of local taxis in case you want to book in advance. Airport Taxis in particular are likely to cost a lot more.

W1XEE taxis 0777390 6318 (7 seater)

Apple Central 01934 413413

WSM cars 01934 513333

ARC Taxis 01934 412222

Worle Cars 01934 513344

Woodspring Taxis 01934 414141

Music

Following the good reception in 2009, your committee has again engaged **Atlantic Crossing** to provide live music for dancing after the dinner. Mike & Linda have been working together professionally since 1971 and have performed in many top class venues.

With Mike on keyboard and Linda on bass guitar, the duo provide music with an individual sound and feel which is great for listening or dancing.

After the dinner, Mike & Linda will provide two one hour sessions with a break in between with taped music.



ATLANTIC CROSSING



RAF Locking Apprentices Association

Dinner Menu Saturday 21st April 2012

Cream of vegetable Soup

Smoked Mackerel

Served with tomato & pepper salsa with citrus dressing

Guinea Fowl, Prosciutto & Asparagus Pate

Served with tomato chutney & bread toasts

Caesar Salad

Smoked chicken with a Caesar dressing croutons & lettuce

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Supreme of Salmon

Wrapped in Filo Pastry and served with a watercress and orange sauce

Turkey Schnitzel

Breaded escalope, shallow fried, finished with caper and sage beurre noisette

Pork Loin

Served with cider & apple sauce & parsnip crisps

Roast Sirloin of Beef

Served with grilled tomato and mustard whisky sauce

Bean Casserole

Served with basmati rice

All Served with a selection of vegetables and potatoes

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Fresh Fruit Salad

Almond Tart

Homemade Raspberry Pavlova

Chocolate Brownie & vanilla Ice Cream

Selection of Cheese & Biscuits

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Tea and Coffee Served with Mints

**APPLICATION FOR RAFLAA AGM AND DINNER – 21st APRIL 2012
DINNER DANCE AND FINGER BUFFET**

Name:

Entry No:

Address:

Date:

I wish to book both lunch & dinner for myself and/or partner: Please provide tickets @ £30 pp £.....
 I wish to book the dinner/dance only for myself and/or partner: Please provide tickets @ £21 pp £.....
 I wish to book the buffet lunch only for myself and/or partner: Please provide tickets @ £10 pp £.....
 I wish to bring guests to the dinner/dance. Please provide tickets @ £31 pp £.....
 My wife/partner would like a place on the all day coach to Bristol @ £15. Please provide tickets @ £15 pp £.....
 (Applications for the coach must be in by 1st April 2012)

Total £

Please complete as appropriate.

Cheques to be crossed account payee, and made out to “RAF Locking Apprentice Association”

Please **post** your application to: **Mr A Horry, Hillside Cottage, Kewstoke Road, Kewstoke, Weston-super-Mare, BS22 9YD**

Tel: 01934 628383 E-mail: horrycorp@aol.com

Please complete the **total number** of each menu choice for all your party and return with your booking form and cheque.

Member Name	Starters				Main Courses					Desserts				
	Soup	Fish	Pate	Salad	Salmon	Turkey	Pork	Beef	Bean	Fresh Fruit	Tart	Pavlova	Choc Brownie	Cheese

Rooms at the Webbington Hotel For accommodation, please contact:

Webbington Hotel, Loxton, Weston-s-Mare, BS26 2HU; Tele: 01934 750100. email: info@webbingtonhotel.eclipse.co.uk.

Rooms will be charged @ £75 double, £60 single B&B per night for a 2 night stay but £85 double and £65 single for a 1 night stay. Please telephone the hotel direct and quote RAFLAA when you book to secure the reduced rates. **ACCOUNTS MUST BE SETTLED WITH THE HOTEL.**

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
JOHNF1/11	July 2011

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the 17th AGM of the RAF Locking Apprentice Association

From Dave Gunby, Secretary

Venue: Webbington Hotel, Loxton, Weston super Mare

Date: Saturday 16th April 2011 at 13:30 Hrs

Present:-

Committee:	Air Cdre Martin Palmer	91 st	President
	Tiny Kuhle	87 th	Chairman
	Dave Gunby	72 nd	Secretary
	Tony Horry	76 th	Treasurer
	Jim Doran	219 th	Membership Secretary
	Peter Crowe	95 th	AA Rep/Webmaster
	Andy Perkins	109 th	Tech Rep
	Chris Tett	92 nd	Newsletter Editor
	Graham Beaston	209 th	Craft Rep
	Rick Atkinson	91 st	Service Rep

There were 55 members in attendance.

Apologies	Joe Holroyd	85 ^{th t}	Life Member
	Will Scarlet	87 th	
	Brian Chillary	87 th	

Item 1 Chairman's Address

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 13.31 hrs with a reading of the Apprentice Prayer. He then referred to those members who had sent their apologies. There followed a minutes silence in memory of:

- John Farmer (77th) our Membership Secretary for many years.
- Bob Vicary (76th)
- Derek Smith (76th)
- John Smith (72nd)
- John Hollowood (102nd)
- Charles Cutland (66th)
- The passing of non member Richard Smyth (86th) was reported by John O'Keeffe (85th)

The Chairman then addressed the AGM thus:

This year has been quite eventful for your committee, perhaps not in the best of ways. I said last year that we needed new committee members, not anticipating the very sudden loss of John Farmer who died of a heart attack on the 14th February. This was just a week before we were to have a committee meeting, at which he would present his usual, meticulous report on the membership status. I cannot be sure, but I think he was working on that report at that time. John was active in a number of organisations, so he may not have been working on our figures, but he was working on his computer when he collapsed. So it is probable that he died in the service of your Association! A true Apprentice, in fact during his memorial service, his son spoke of the abilities of his dad to make things, mend things, and would either always know the answer to a question, or know where to find the information! John carried on that tradition of the training that we shared to the end. He is sorely missed.

Very fortunately we have a replacement, who stepped forward to work for your Association; Jim Doran, who's had to pick up the job on the fly. The intention was always to give the new chap a lead-in and on the job training, Jim has not had that benefit, so I'm sure you'll all give him the support he deserves, but Jim has already got stuck in processing new members.

As reported last year, Dave Gunby will not be seeking re-election, having done a magnificent job, and a new Secretary will be voted in later in the proceedings. He will be a hard act to follow, as he has been instrumental in several major projects for your Association. For example: design and installation of our Memorial window at St George's Church, Halton, and the design of our Memorial for the National Memorial Arboretum. I'll let Dave tell you more about that project, which will be installed in time for the 90th anniversary of the formation of Brat service, which will be at the NMA next year. Dave will tell you more about the time scale for the installation and dedication. Last year you voted for a sum of money for the project, however, by the time we could place the order, costs had risen, notably the increase in VAT, and material costs. There is always the possibility that material and transport costs could rise further, and that the stone mason requires a 3 month delivery date, we agreed in committee to place the order. I mention this as a prelude to the Agenda item, so that these things are a little clearer in the light of the omission of the committee minutes in the last NL.

Our President should have been able to present our trophy for excellence to this year's recipient unfortunately the recipient called me yesterday to apologise, but due to family circumstances is not able to be present. The award is highly regarded and appreciated by the School, as it is a good boost for the moral of the staff. And I'm pleased to confirm that RAF Cosford (or as it's officially now known as the DCCIS Cosford), will remain for the time being, and that the Annual Lunch will take place again in October when we will be able to present our trophy. So we will be maintaining our close association with the School.

The Chairman then introduced the Association President.

ITEM 2 President's Address

The president delivered his annual address in so doing thanking the Committee for their work over the past year. He said that although he did not attend meetings he always saw the minutes.

The President was due to present the RAFLAA Trophy to the No1 Radio School nominee Cpl Mackay, but as the intended recipient was unable to attend, he read the citation.

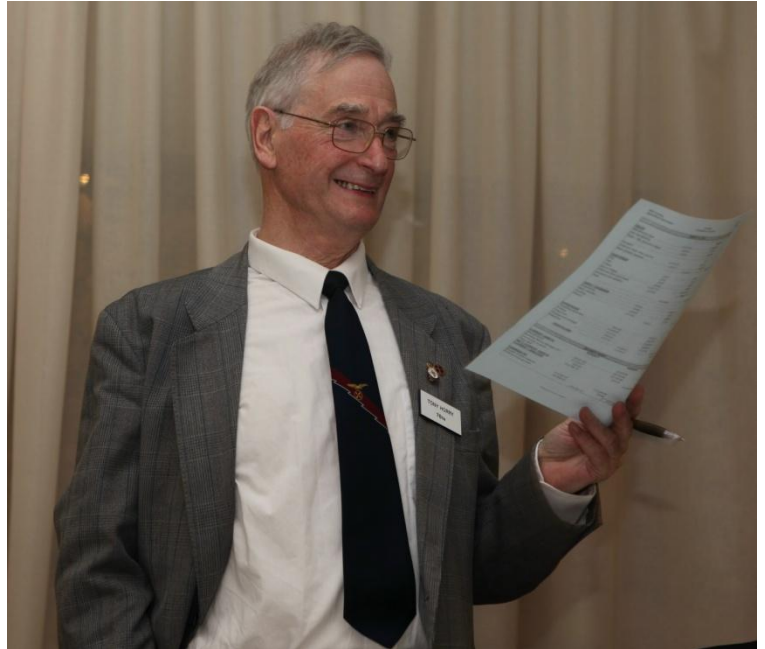
The Trophy together with the framed citation and a cheque for £50 will be presented at the No1RS annual lunch in October.

The Chairman then invited the Treasurer to present his report.



ITEM 3 Treasurers Report

A copy of the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ending January 2011 is available. The full accounts are here if anyone wishes to inspect them. These accounts have been audited and have been declared as a true and fair view of trading for the year and that the Balance Sheet is an accurate reflection of the Association's affairs at 31st January 2011



The balance sheet for the Association now shows assets of £10,754.10 (2010 = £12,453.44) a decrease of £1,699.34 compared with the previous year. There are several factors which lead to this:

- a) Membership income down
- b) Number taking out Life membership down
- c) Excess of Expenditure over income for AGM 2010 = £1454.54 (In 2009 it was £805)
- d) Small increase in the overheads
- e) Bank Interest Income down

In 2007 the AGM agreed to set aside £3000 towards the provision of a Memorial at the RAF Locking site. The Committee agreed that £5000 should be invested in the bond as we have a healthy surplus. Last year the Bond stood at £5,578.09 and has been re-invested on 3 monthly terms, as the interest rates remained very low (0.4% gross) the investment now stands at £5596.03. That sum has now been transferred back to the Business Money Manager Account pending the payments, which will be come due for the Memorial at the National Arboretum

Expenses

Donations		
RNLI (W-s-M)	50.00	In memory of Chris Horn (99 th Entry)
Waddington Unit CTF	50.00	In memory of Brian Cooke (83 rd Entry)
Britannia Preservation Society	50.00	In memory of Derek Smith (76 th)
Help for Heroes	50.00	In memory of John Smith (72 nd)
Help f or Heroes	150.00	Donation from AGM Fund Raising
RAFA Flowerdown House	80.00	Hosting Committee Meetings

Overheads

These remain fairly constant, although this year travelling expenses are up, partly due to travelling by our Secretary and Chairman who have been dealing with the National Arboretum.

I propose that the Accounts for the year 2010/2011 be adopted

Tony Horry – Treasurer

April 2011

Acceptance of the Treasurers report was proposed by Glynn Price (102nd) and seconded by Harry North (96th) there were no dissenters.

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

PROFIT & LOSS

<u>SALES</u>	2009/2010	
Membership fees	£2,650.00	£2,900.00
Life membership	£200.00	£700.00
Sales - ties, pins and videos	£15.00	£135.00
Donation		£0.00
AGM and other misc income	£2,543.00	£3,031.50
Bank interest received	£20.97	£232.67
	£5,428.97	£6,999.17
 <u>PURCHASES</u>		
Pins	£0.00	£0.00
Ties	£0.00	£0.00
Videos	£0.00	£0.00
Name badges	£18.40	£20.25
AGM and other purchases	£3,997.54	£4,112.01
Donations and wreaths	£430.00	£380.00
Other		
	£4,445.94	£4,512.26
 <u>DIRECT EXPENSES</u>		
Advertising	£34.00	£24.00
Bank charges	£0.00	£0.00
Auditing	£50.00	£50.00
Refund	£174.00	£77.62
	£258.00	£151.62
 <u>OVERHEADS</u>		
Travelling expenses	£693.90	£538.40
Printing	£1,058.00	£903.94
Telephone	£111.32	£140.61
Postage and carriage	£442.05	£446.89
Stationery	£119.10	£112.59
	£2,424.37	£2,142.43
<u>PROFIT/LOSS</u>	-£1,699.34	£192.86

BALANCE SHEET

	2010/2011	2009/2010
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
Deposit Bond		£5,578.09
Business Money Manager A/C	£9,311.50	£3,712.44
Community Account	£1,418.27	£3,138.58
Petty cash	£24.33	£24.33
<u>NETT CURRENT ASSETS</u>	£10,754.10	£12,453.44
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>		
<u>FINANCED BY</u>		
Brought forward balance	£12,453.44	£12,260.58
Profit and loss account	-£1,699.34	192.86
	£10,754.10	£12,453.44

As an integral part of the treasurer's report the following debate took place:-

“Charitable donations of £50 in memory of deceased members is unsustainable”

Andy Perkins introduced the debate most eloquently and with some gesticulation which prompted many suggestions and comments from the members. In summary there was general agreement that something needed to change and 2 alternatives emanated from the debate.

- 1) Andy Perkins proposed that a donation of £250 be made annually by the Association to a charity nominated each year at the AGM.
- 2) No money should be allocated.

In both the above cases the practice of sending a letter of condolence and entry on to the Roll of Honour would continue.

The Committee will decide which of the above to adopt at their next meeting in July and then there would be an amendment to constitution before the AGM 2012.

ITEM 4 Membership Secretary's Report Presented by the Treasurer

It was deemed unfair to ask the new Membership Secretary to give a report due to his short time in post therefore the Treasurer submitted the following:-

I volunteered to go to Minehead to recover all the records which John Farmer that has maintained in a well ordered system since the year 2000. In the time I have had the records; I have tried to learn a bit about Access, but also generated an Excel version – just in case.

If all else had failed we would only be 6 months out of date as John has always distributed copies of the database at Committee meetings in July and February.

It was fortunate that Jim Doran attended the February committee meeting and has volunteered to take over the role of Membership Secretary. Although we have been in communication it was only yesterday we met to hand over the files and folders.

Jim also generated an Excel version and has been dealing with enquiries from potential new members. In fact the latest members on the database are with us today. We welcome John Yates of the 78th Entry as Member 684 and John Curtis as member 685.

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

I have generated the reminders for subscriptions due in March and April and updated the Roll of Honour folder.

We now have 685 on the database and increase of 14 since the last AGM

During the year we have had 2 people take out Life membership – number now 79

One ex-member has recently rejoined

There are 248 paying by SO – but there is a query on the payments of 12 during 2010 which John would have started to follow up.

And as we have heard 6, have died over the last 12 months

Advertising

The association continues to advertise in the RAFA magazine.

Any suggestions with regard to any other (preferably) free advertising will be most gratefully received.

ITEM 5 Election of Officers.

Having already stepped into the post of Membership Secretary it was proposed by Peter Crowe (95th) that Jim Doran (219th) be appointed to the post and this was seconded by Richard Puttnam (78th) and all agreed.

Chris Bryan (87th) had volunteered and showed an interest in the post of Secretary. The present incumbent was serving notice but was prepared to stand down. Consequently Vic Gibbs (87th) proposed that Chris be appointed and this was seconded by Colin Hinson (89th) and all agreed.

Consequently the Committee list is as follows:

Appointment	Name	Address	Tel/e-mail	Re-Election Due	Entry
President	Martin Palmer				91 st
Chairman	“Tiny” Kühle	22 Tavistock Close Woburn Sands Milton Keynes Bucks MK17 8UY	(01908) 583784 hans.kuhle@btopenworld.com	April 10	87 th
Secretary	Chris Bryan	39 Fairfax Bracknell RG42 1YT	(01344) 304725 Suechris.bryan@googlemail.com	April 14	87 th
Treasurer	Tony Horry	Hillside Cottage Kewstoke Road Kewstoke Weston super Mare BS22 9YD	(01934) 628383 horrycorp@aol.com	Mar 10	76 th
Membership Secretary	Jim Doran	11 Saxonlea close Rushden Northants NN10 6BF	(01933) 317357 Jimdoran12@hotmail.com	Apr 14	219 th
Service Rep	Rick Atkinson	Gateway Cottage 1 Lake Walk Adderbury Oxon OX17 3PF	(01295) 812972 rick-jacky@lakewalk.wanadoo.co.uk	Sep 12	91 st

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

AA Rep	Pete Crowe	14 Hillview Road Weston-super-Mare N.Somerset BS23 3HS	(01934) 412178 peter@petercrowe.co.uk	Sep 12	95th
Craft Rep	Graham Beeston	87 Hornbeam Road Havant PO9 2UT	(023) 92346242 Work 0792 0038690 graham@mapleoak.co.uk	Sep 12	209 th
Tech Rep	Andy Perkins	107 Balmoral Way Worle Weston Super Mare BS22 9BZ	(01934)417323 am.perkins@virgin.net	Sep 12	109 th
Newsletter Editor	Chris Tett	45 Chapel Street Woburn Sands Milton Keynes MK17 8PG	(01908) 583047 chris@crtett.plus.com	Sep 12	92nd

ITEM 6 RAF Locking Apprentice Memorial

Dave Gunby spoke:

Locking Parklands.

Once again there had been very little progress in the redevelopment. There was a recent Parish Council meeting at which the developer's representative was due to give an update but he failed to turn up. The Locking Parish Council clerk is well aware of our interest (which centres on the retention of St Andrews Church) and she promises to keep the Association informed.

National Memorial Arboretum

The project has not been without its problems over the past year not the least of which has been the escalating costs. The Association is going to be paying several hundred pounds more than at first thought.

- There were issues with the Trustees which forced us to agree to a higher memorial stone.
- The rise in VAT at the turn of the year.
- Finally a rise in the cost of raw materials.

Installation is expected by June 30th. There will then remain a one off payment of £36 for the one square metre the memorial will occupy. Furthermore a historical note will be placed in the Arboretum Booklet.

The retiring Secretary would retain the file until completion. At their meeting in July the Committee will decide on a date for a dedication ceremony before the end of the year. A member's show of hands indicated that about 40 would like to attend such an event.

The retiring Secretary took the opportunity to thank fellow committee members and members in general for the support they had given him over the past 8 years or so. His Legacy would be the Window at St Georges, Halton, the Memorial at the Arboretum but more than anything the database of all the Apprentices who passed through the No1RS Locking which was painstakingly extracted from the dubious records from No1 Wing. He would be lending a helping hand to the new Secretary over the coming months and it would probably be September 1st before Chris was fully in the driving seat.

ITEM 7 FABEA

The Chairman and Secretary would attend the forthcoming AGM on 7th June at RAF Halton. At this meeting it is expected that more flesh will be put on the bones of the proposed celebrations at the NMA in May 2012. They would report to our Committee at the next meeting at Flowerdown House, Weston-super-Mare.

ITEM 8 Newsletter

Chris Tett thanked members for their contributions over the past year and appealed for more input. Details of the memorial dedication at the NMA would be published in the next newsletter.

This year the “wordsmith” award went to Tiny Kuhle (87th). The Chairman thanked Chris for his efforts in producing what is the Association’s main vehicle for communication.



ITEM 9 RAFLAA Website

Webmaster Peter Crowe reported all well with the website. No problems having been experienced during the past year.

A discussion took place with regard to the necessity of password protection. In general it was thought that it was necessary to protect the Newsletter but the AGM application form should be open. The Committee will look at this possibility at their next meeting.

The Chairman thanked Peter for his work.

ITEM 10 Venue and Format for AGM 2011

The Committee had pre-empted the discussion having provisionally booked the Webbington Hotel for the 2012 AGM/Reunion on April 21st and had also tendered a deposit. John Hall (92nd) proposed approval of the committee’s actions and Glynn Price (102nd) seconded. All agreed.

ITEM 11 Any other business

- a) Peter Bryant (89th) a local councillor pending re-election on May 5th said he would keep his eye on the Locking Parklands development in support of our efforts to arrange a memorial.
- b) The Chairman proposed that Dave Gunby be awarded a life membership of the RAFLAA Association in recognition of his work for the Association over the past 8 years. Harry North (96th) seconded and there was unanimous approval. Dave was honoured to accept the award and thanked the Association.
- c) Tony Horry introduced the existence of a book by a local author entitled "The Aeroplane" which was a history of Weston Super Mare and its association with the aeroplane. Copies of the book may be obtained through contact with Tony.

Golden Entries 89th, 90th and 91st

Ken Horn spoke for the 89th.

Ken gave the detail of the make up of his entry together with the numbers passing out. His Entry did not take kindly to their move to the new D Sqdn especially as they wore Brown hat bands. There were the usual tales of mischief especially at summer camp with the Army as neighbours giving rise to the shifting of a Howitzer. At locking their Sqdn Cmdr had a favourite piece of grass on which he usually parked his car. Somehow a tree appeared to have been planted overnight.

The 90th were not represented at the meeting.

Clive Crosby spoke for the 91st.

Clive entertainingly took us all back in time to the days of attestation. There many tales of derring-do. In fact far too many for this minute taker to keep up with. Clive's words were well received and he sat down to a fully deserved round of applause.

The Chairman thanked the entry representatives for their contribution.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 15.34 hrs.

A Group of 79th after the Meeting



Golden 91st Entry (a snapshot)

From Clive Crosby

Presentation Given at the March 2011 AGM

Gentlemen, I have been asked to say a few words on behalf of the 91st Entry. I have been told this is the graveyard slot – everyone's bladder is full or you need a drink or you are very sleepy. I should therefore add that there will be a short written test at the end of this presentation! These days, perhaps like most of you I only have a 10 second memory, however, today I would like you to travel back in time with me 50 years to a cold and frosty morning, you are wearing your Best Blue, greatcoats, flat cap, parade boots, white gloves and Blanco'd belt, you can even smell the Blanco! There is excitement in the air, you have been inspected half a dozen times - it's the passing-out parade 19 December 1961. Now I want you to take a quantum leap with me, we are going back another 3 years, this time it's Weston super Mare railway station; and it's raining. It's 21st January 1959. 136 boys are about to arrive to become the 91st Entry, some have only just turned 15, I am sure it would be child-abduction these days. We are from all walks of life and all over Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Southern Rhodesia and Malaysia. A fleet of RAF coaches take the boys to RAF Locking, their first contact with the Royal Air Force.

Two weeks induction, or thereabouts, Christian names all round, visit to the camp barber, jabs, sitting on a bench, shuffling forward, needle in each arm, issued with bits of uniform, dark green denims, 85th Entry nightly visits (they were not social calls), tipped out of bed - you know the rest. Then issued with our service number, 685211, I am sure you will all remember yours.

Eventually we signed up and took the Queen's shilling. We were perfect candidates, we had no hair, no clothes, no sleep and no name. The honeymoon was over. If I shouted at the top of my voice '**NCO**' I wonder how many of you would spring to attention (remember that?) and of course '**GOOD MORNING, GOOD MORNING THE TIME IS 0630**'. Never to be forgotten after 3 years of repetition.

So it began, marching everywhere, parades all the time. The only good one was Pay Parade 'Salute, Crosby 211'. Our drill staff were Cpl Bullock and Sgt Flapper Atkinson. They must have drilled us well as we won the annual drill competition at least twice. Rick Atkinson emailed one of his many encounters with Flapper as follows:

'Flapper never remembered our names and was a notoriously bad speller. My time came when he advanced towards me on the parade ground with notebook screaming "you lad, what d'ya think you're doing what's yer name, what's yer name?" and before I could get it out - "ow d'ya spell it. 'ow d'ya spell it? "Atkinson Sarge – A-T-K.....purple rage, screaming 2 inches away from my face "think I can't spell me own name lad!"'

You may recall that in those days FLOOR POLISH was close to your heart, along with all sorts of other polishes. Mike Ford emailed to say that Day and Martin made the floor polish and it's been around since Dickens' time – he even mentioned it in Pickwick Papers. Apparently, Day and Martin supplied the military with polish for over 200 years. If you remember, we all slid around on blanket squares under our feet, polishing the floor.

We lost our boots one night; they all finished up on the sports field forming a large apprentice wheel. I am sure someone else got my lovely boots! Mike Ford also said that if anyone wants to rapidly boil water in a china mug with 2 knives, he is the man to talk to. However, there are two caveats – you could electrocute yourself or at the very least burn your house down. Talk to Mike. The entry put on several comedy reviews – 'How Appsurd' and 'Appsent Without Leave', to name but two.

To digress a little, Rick had organised a large table in the dining room last night for the 91st, needless to say when we arrived it had already been taken by a SENIOR ENTRY who shall

remain nameless, nothing has changed really! During dinner, Nigel mentioned that he and others went to see the film Ben Hur whilst at Locking. He went on to say that Ben Hur spent a lot of time in the film as a galley slave and his stall number was 214 - Ian Davis's last three. This seemed to delight Nigel who obviously has an amazing eye for detail. Ben Hur's mantra apparently was HATE KEEPS YOU ALIVE. This all started because my room number at the hotel is 214!

Ian Morland was our Boxing Champion

Barney Harries was our Sports Victor Ludorum

SUMMER CAMP PENHALE – NEWQUAY

It wasn't a happy camp. Poor Chris Donnolly was killed falling from a cliff to the beach below; it's a long story and great shame.

After our 2 day hike Don Donovan returned to find his tent had burned down. The Fire Picket had sorted it all out, there was little fire damage but so much water had been used that all the kit was ruined and he spent the rest of the camp in borrowed clothes.

THE MINE

We had all noticed an old very heavy WW2 mine on the beach as we passed by during our beach runs. It was all Rick Atkinson's fault really, he decided with helpers to clandestinely move the mine into the middle of Newquay, with a great big 91 painted on the side. One very dark night Rick and mates 'borrowed' one of the RAF Landrovers and somehow loaded the mine and delivered it to Newquay Park, a bit of damage occurred to the Landrover but the mine was okay! As you can imagine, the next day all hell let loose. Our Flt Lt Camp Commandant better known as Black Jack; paraded the whole entry, as he was doing so, he was informed that the RAF Landrover had been used and damaged. Things became quite tense, Rick's thoughts at this time, he recalls, was a long stay somewhere at Her Majesty's pleasure before being kicked out of the Airforce. The entry came to his rescue, we owned up en-masse. Punishment followed, we dressed in Best Blue and were doubled into Newquay, however, the 92nd who were sharing camp, rang ahead to the local press, we were turned around at the outskirts and doubled all the way back. It rained the whole time.

We eventually returned to Locking but Rick couldn't forget the mine so a group of us with Rick went back and brought the mine home. It was cleaned up and eventually paraded at the annual Boxing night. Jim Jackson dressed as Boadicea and the rest of us as slaves wearing nappies and a towel on our heads. We received a rapturous reception from staff and apprentices alike. The mine was eventually cemented in near our lines.

So we come back to that cold and frosty morning 19 December 1961; Air Commodore Disbury is the Reviewing Officer. 110 apprentices of the 91st Entry are on parade, they are men now, the boys have gone and we parade and have a Graduation Dinner that evening. The next day we all leave Locking and join the Royal Air Force.

Well, did we earn the Queen's Shilling, of course we did. We serviced the missiles, radar units, helicopters, aircraft, even flew the helicopters and the aircraft. So we became the Royal Air Force and maintained its standards, the ones thrust down our throats at RAF Locking. When asked where I trained, I would proudly say Locking Apprentice but more importantly I was a member of the **91st Entry**.

Apprentice Days

Better Late than Never

From Mike Collier 76th

It is quite likely that those who were subjected to the baptism ceremony will have little or no recollection of the event. As the principle participant is of an age where the most important things in life are sleep and the input and output of food, a few drops of water on the head are of minimal significance. Thus, I consider myself not unique but certainly unusual, in that I remember my christening with a fair degree of clarity.

After a number of months at Locking, it seemed appropriate to look for some form of official skive. The most obvious one I could think of, was to join the church choir. This replaced church parade with a gentle amble down to the church. An added bonus being weekly choir practice, occasionally useful if an extra "bull" night was scheduled.

The padre (a Flt. Lt. Gardner, I seem to recall) was keen to ensure that all of his flock became committed members of the C of E faith. To this end, he ran confirmation classes. Unconfirmed choir members were obviously his first choice for candidates. I fell into this category. One prerequisite was to provide proof of christening. I wrote to my parents, requesting the evidence and was much surprised to discover that the act had not been performed. They were, they explained, of the opinion that they had no right to start me on a religious path, that subsequently I might not wish to follow" It would be more suitable, if I made up my own mind, when I was of an age to make such a decision.

Faced with this minor dilemma, the padre I assume, consulted his padre's A.P. and concluded that he could do the job himself. On the appointed day, we gathered in St. George's church at Locking. He did not seem enthusiastic about cradling a 5ft 10in, 10 stone Aircraft Apprentice, attired in best blue and bull boots in his arms, over the font. I was not too keen on the idea either. So the ceremony was conducted standing up. My parents were, not unreasonably, unwilling to make a 250 mile round trip for a 10 minute event. Thus, as there was no requirement for godparents, a couple of witnesses who's names are long forgotten, were the only others present.

The confirmation service took place a few days later in Christ Church, Frome. Subsequently, over the years, participation in the Communion service has introduced me to many fine people, a number of whom became firm friends.

Food For Thought

From By Brian Davies - 76th entry

My first meal in January 1954 at RAF Locking's Apprentice Wing Mess should have been a discouraging experience and a warning of a change in the way of life, as it was so unappetising and definitely not like home cooking, but it was not my first Service meal by any means.

As a member of the Air Training Corps, I had eaten at two summer camps of two weeks each at RAF Hullavington in Wiltshire and except for an excellent early morning, pre-flight breakfast in the Sergeant's Mess, had found the meals awful. A two-week ATC summer camp at RNAS Culdrose had been worse even if the naval experience was superb. As a group we asked why the sliced bread was always so stale, and were told it was to make naval ratings used to it at sea!!! Well that was what we were told.

At Locking however the Apprentice meal experience was mainly horrific, even if there was the occasional but rare good meal. We all remember the washing of our 'irons' in a vat of greasy boiling water after meals, and if you dropped a knife or fork into the super heated water, the trials of recovering it with the assistance of the unsympathetic catering staff.

For us young fellows there were many novelties: such as fishing out a square of butter for our bread from a large bowl of water, or the week that we were served steaks for lunch. However they were whale steaks – undercooked and tougher than boot leather, and hardly chewable. The plastic fried eggs and wet bacon at breakfast were also in a league of their own. Generally speaking the meals were terrible and complaining did not seem to make much difference. We seemed to be fed the poorest of quality of meats and vegetables.

A clue to the reason for this, could have been seen when the station catering officer's car was stopped at the Guardroom one day and the Service Police found in the boot half a side of beef that he was taking home. You can guess what happened to him. And was it imagination then, that the meals seemed to get a bit better?

One meal however at our Mess was excellent, and that was a hotch pot of tinned cabbage, corned beef and gravy boiled together and laced with plenty of salt and pepper. It may not have been good for us but tasted great. At least at Locking we knew that the cookhouse pots and pans were clean, as many of us on fatigues spent hours scrubbing them spotless and shiny.

The food at our spartan NAAFI was not much better, which was probably why in winter the cafes in Weston-s-Mare kept in business feeding hungry apprentices. It was amazing how we eked out our ten shillings and sixpence a week to include the occasional outside meal. The three Christmas meals in the Apprentice Wing were a novelty and just about acceptable.

On passing out from Locking my posting to Bally Kelly and, a few months later, as a newly promoted corporal, to RAF St Evel did nothing to enhance my service food experience. But in Northern Ireland it allowed me to find out about the famous and excellent Irish fry-up breakfasts available daily in small cafes in the back-streets of Londonderry.

A seven week detachment to RAF Gibraltar showed me that RAF cooks had little imagination as we were fed standard RAF UK food and nothing foreign, which disappointed me somewhat. The restaurant food in town and nearby Spanish La Linea may not have been much better, usually swimming deep in olive oil, but at least gave a taste of the Mediterranean.

On being posted to Christmas Island in 1958, I joined a batch of about 30 ex 75th, 76th, and 77th entry lads and we found the food in the junior ranks mess absolutely terrible. The army was

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

doing the catering and seemed not to care a damn what they served up either in quality or quantity. After about three months the RAF took over the catering and the quality and variety improved considerably. More fresh food (flown out daily from Hawaii), locally caught fish and even ice cream all in reasonable quantities.

The food at my next two postings (Locking as an instructor and Akrotiri at GRF) at first the Corporal's Mess then the Sergeant's Mess was adequate. But in Cyprus I seemed to mostly eat out in Limassol at the many restaurants serving excellent kebabs, curry, French cuisine or Greek or Turkish food. In spite of being very active at work, swimming every day and frequently out dancing with girl friends, I managed to put on one and a half stone in weight.

My next posting and seven months before getting married, was to RAF Lyneham (1965/66) where the food was superb: At lunch there was usually 7 choices of starters, 23 different choices of main course and 7 choices of dessert. Excellent.

Later postings to Muharraq, and Seletar then Changi rescued my faith in RAF catering with really good food, although times eating in at my last posting to North Luffenham left something to be desired. Short trips to Gan and Masirah proved that RAF chefs could cook well and delightful meals of barracuda or shark steaks were delicious.

Since leaving Locking as a J/T my RAF feeding experience has been wide and varied and mainly better than those first three years, although we all seemed to survive the trials of No 1 Radio School cooking and perhaps went on to eat greater things!

Tit-Bits

You think English is easy?

From Chris Lewis 92nd

Let's face it - English is a crazy language. Try these:

- The bandage was wound around the wound.
- The farm was used to produce produce.
- The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- We must polish the Polish furniture.
- He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- I did not object to the object.
- The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
- To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
- Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
- I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
- How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

Perks of reaching 55 or 60 and heading towards 70!

From Phil Marston 92nd

Someone had to remind me, so I'm reminding you too.

Don't laugh.....it is all true...

- Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
- In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
- No one expects you to run--anywhere.
- People call at 9 PM and ask, "Did I wake you?"
- People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
- There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
- Things you buy now won't wear out.
- You can eat supper at 4 PM.
- You can live without sex but not your glasses.
- You get into heated arguments about pension plans.
- You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
- You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room.
- You sing along with the music in the lift.
- Your eyes won't get much worse.
- Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
- Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service.
- Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
- Your supply of brain cells is finally down to manageable size.
- And you notice these are all in Big Print for your convenience.

By the way:

Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night!

RAF Days

Travels of an Air Radio Fitter

From Jeff Richardson 85th Entry

This is an enjoyable but long piece so I have split it up - Ed

After Passing-Out from Locking, in December 1959, as a 19yrs old Junior Technician Air Radio Fitter, I was posted to Lyneham, where I remained until 1965, working on the 'Rectifications' Flight. During those five years I was fortunate to see a lot of the World, courtesy of 'jollies'. These came about when Lyneham's Comets and Britannias were assigned to transport VIPs, participate in Exercises, or carry out Training Flights, when they took sufficient spares and groundcrew to keep the aircraft flying, hence the 'jollies' for people like me. Bearing in mind that package holidays were still in their infancy, and foreign travel was still mostly the domain of the rich, these 'jollies' were fantastic opportunities for a single lad to see the World (it was a tough job, but someone had to do it!!).

I had never been further away from home than Weston-super-Mare, but about a month after arriving at Lyneham, my first taste of foreign travel was a 2 week detachment to Nicosia, in February. My memories of it are of being in 'tent city' and of the weather being cold and windy. On the warmer days we were able to sightsee in and around Nicosia, and in the evenings to sample the nightlife.

My first real 'Jolly' was the trip of a lifetime! I was a 20-years old Junior Technician, less than a year out of training, travelling with the AOC Transport Command (The Boss) on his 'Round the World in 40 Days' Annual Inspection Tour, in an RAF Transport Command Comet 2. At that time we were still hanging on to the remnants of the British Empire, and the RAF maintained Staging Posts around the Globe to help preserve that image. This trip was to visit many of those Staging Posts. So, from Lyneham travelling eastwards, our route was El Adem (Libya), Entebbe (Uganda), Nairobi (Kenya), Khormaksar (Aden), Gan (Maldives), Changi (Singapore), Darwin (Australia), Adelaide (Australia), Canberra (Australia), Sydney (Australia), Wellington (New Zealand), Christchurch (New Zealand), Auckland (New Zealand), Fiji, Christmas Island, Hickam AFB (Hawaii), Travis AFB (California), Offutt AFB (Nebraska), Andrews AFB (Maryland), Maguire AFB (New Jersey), Goose Bay (Labrador), and back to Lyneham. It was customary for lesser mortals (like Junior Techs.) to have Acting Sergeant (unpaid) rank in order to have access to better facilities at US bases en-route. Other than at military bases, our accommodation was always in excellent hotels. Off-duty, our itinerary was usually pre-planned by our hosts, typically sight-seeing and enjoying the local night-life. So, in a nutshell, we had an excellent time globe-trotting at the tax-payers' expense, visiting attractions such as Kenyan Game Parks, Sydney Harbour Bridge, Waikiki Beach, the White House, the Empire State Building, Greenwich Village (after all, this was the 60s!!), to name-drop just a few.

Back to earth for a 2 week detachment to El Adem (Tobruk, Libya), again in February, again in 'tent city' and, again it was cold – I remember we had snow (in Africa?). Off-duty, Tobruk didn't seem to have anything to offer except a visit to the Tobruk War Graves Cemetery with over 2000 graves from WWII (some were of 14yrs old Polish soldiers), not any western-style night-life in Tobruk as far as I can remember. How the guys who did unaccompanied tours coped I do not know, the nearest bright lights must have been Benghazi over two hundred miles away – perhaps hitching a lift to Cyprus was the best option.

Every year, the Army undertook exercises in Canada, these were collectively known as 'Pond Jump'. The Britannia fleet were actively involved every year and required ground crew support at the far end. So, another detachment, this time to Edmonton, Alberta. The flight out included a refuelling stop at Gander (Newfoundland) which was a welcome chance to stretch legs on what would have otherwise been a very long flight. We were based at RCAF Namao, where their F104 Starfighters kept us awake at night with their distinctive 'howl'. One of the Canadian airmen was assigned to be our escort, probably because he was an ex-Brit, who invited us home to meet his family, and generally entertained us. The highlight was when he let us drive his brand-new, white, Pontiac Parisienne convertible – I remember it well, all chrome and tailfins. That was very brave of him since none of us had ever driven a left-hand drive or an automatic before, we had no experience of Canada's roads, and I had only just passed my UK Driving Test. Strange but, for some reason that I don't understand, he seemed much more protective of his teenage daughter than of his car. Overall, I think he was simply demonstrating how good his 'new life' in Canada was, compared to life for us in Britain, and was reassuring himself on his decision to emigrate. When a Britannia was to be despatched from Edmonton to pick up a cargo from Quebec, I welcomed the opportunity to go along for the ride. Unfortunately, after flying halfway across Canada, we found that it was 'Election Day', everything was closed, and no public transport. With Quebec being in French-Canada, we found the local taxi drivers to be deliberately obtuse when it came to speaking English, so we walked everywhere, saw a little bit of the old city, the Chateau Frontenac, and that's all. Returning to Edmonton, it was soon time to return to the UK. The flight back was about 12 hours non-stop, one of the longest I'd been on.

The following year, another 'Pond Jump' detachment, this time to the Eastern side of Canada - Fredericton, New Brunswick – another 2 weeks of Canadian hospitality.

In 1961 when Iraq threatened to invade Kuwait, myself and other Lyneham-based groundcrew found ourselves on-board a British United Britannia, destination unknown. Despite our repeated requests for information, the cabin crew refused to reveal our destination – perhaps they didn't know. We had all seen the news items, and the fact that we were all wearing Khaki Drills (KDs) suggested that we were going somewhere warm, so we guessed Kuwait was our destination. It wasn't until we were on the approach to Kuwait that this was confirmed by the cabin crew. This subterfuge of transporting us on a civilian marked airliner was intended to conceal our true purpose from Iraq, and others (I always found it amusing that our passports described our occupation as 'Government Official'). Kuwait airport was in the very early stages of construction, with a runway, shells of buildings, and little else. We were shown our quarters in one of those shells – no furniture, no electricity, no glass in the windows, no water, no toilet facilities, dirt floors – and told to make ourselves comfortable (?). Our task was to service the transport aircraft bringing in the necessities for the defence forces. This, obviously, was a 24/7 job and we duly knuckled down to it, subsisting on Army rations (canned meals, hard-tack biscuits, chocolate, etc.) and bowsered water. The skies were glowing red to the north, were they the glows from battle? - We had no idea! It transpired these were the glows of normal burn-offs from Kuwaiti Oilfields. Soon after we arrived, we were visited by an Army Major, there to reassure us that we were perfectly safe, that we were about 50 miles from the Iraqi border, and that 45 Commando was dug-in between us and them. Unfamiliar with Army-speak, we all looked at each other – only 45 commandos to protect us from the might of the Iraqi Army? It was either misplaced bravado or it was rather contemptuous of the Iraqi Army, so we were mightily relieved when he explained that 45 Commando consisted of considerably more than 45 men!

Working on the pan was unpleasantly hot and blasted by continuous dust storms, so we spent as little time as necessary outdoors. Unfortunately, one of our number had a very unpleasant accident. Britannias had reversible pitch props, both to assist braking on landing and to increase manoeuvrability on the ground. Our colleague was marshalling a Britannia to its parking position,

at night, when the pilot selected reverse pitch, throwing clouds of sand into the air; our colleague was blinded by the sand and walked into a prop. We were glad when it came the time to leave! At the completion of the Defence Operation, and after literally everything had departed on other aircraft, there was just one remaining Britannia to take us home. The Captain explained the situation to us. Normally, ground-based power supplies are used to start the aircraft engines but, on this occasion, all the power supply units had gone home and the aircraft needed to be started using internal batteries. He explained we had one chance to do that and we didn't want to miss it. Therefore we needed to maximise the wind effect to assist the batteries in getting the first engine's prop turning in the right direction (the Britannia had turboprop, not piston, engines) and to do that we needed to manually turn the aircraft into wind. So, aircrew and groundcrew alike, about 20 of us put our hands and backs to the task of moving this heavy aircraft. Tyres creaking and twisting, we eventually managed to move it sufficiently and we all got on board. When the Captain announced that he was about to attempt the engine start, there was a dread pause with everyone anxiously looking out of the window to see if the prop had begun to turn. There was a collective sigh of relief as the engine spun up, now we had sufficient internal power to start the remaining engines. We were going home!! Some weeks later we were somewhat surprised and disgusted to hear the subsequent Board of Enquiry's verdict of 'Suicide' on our unfortunate colleague!

The eagle-eyed among you will notice the bit about Kuwait was in the March 2010 edition but it reads well and I have left it in as part of the longer article. The next portion is saved until the March 2012 edition. - Ed

Humour

British Police

From Pete Crowe 95th

How do you tell the difference between a British Police Officer, an Australian Police Officer and an American Police Officer?

Answer: Pose the following question: You're walking down a deserted street with your wife and two small children. A man comes around the corner, locks eyes with you, screams obscenities, raises the knife, and charges.

You are carrying a Glock .40, and you are an expert shot. You have mere seconds before he reaches you and your family. What do you do?

BRITISH POLICE OFFICER'S

Answer: Well, that's not enough information to answer the question!

Does the man look poor or oppressed?

Have I ever done anything to him that would inspire him to attack? Could we run away?

What does my wife think?

What about the kids?

Could I possibly swing the gun like a club and knock the knife out of his hand?

What does the law say about this situation?

Does the Glock have appropriate safety built into it?

Why am I carrying a loaded gun anyway, and what kind of message does this send to society and to my children?

Is it possible he'd be happy with just killing me?

Does he definitely want to kill me, or would he be content just to wound me?

If I were to grab his knees and hold on, could my family get away while he was stabbing me?

Should I call 999?

If I raise my gun and he turns and runs away, do I get blamed when he falls over, knocks his head and kills himself?

If I shoot him, and lose the court case, does he have the opportunity to sue me, cost me my job, my credibility and the loss of my family home?

AUSTRALIAN OFFICER'S

Answer: BANG!

AMERICAN OFFICER'S

Answer: BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!
BANG! 'click'....

Daughter: 'Nice grouping, Dad! Were those the Winchester Silver Tips

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Paddy and Inland Revenue

The Inland Revenue decides to audit Paddy, and summons him to an appointment with the most thorough auditor in the office. The auditor is not surprised when Paddy shows up with his solicitor.

The auditor says, "Well, sir, you have an extravagant lifestyle and no full-time employment, which you explain by saying that you win money gambling. I'm not sure the Inland Revenue finds that believable."

"I'm a great gambler, and I can prove it," says Paddy. "How about a demonstration?"

The auditor thinks for a moment and says, "Okay. You're on!"

Paddy says, "I'll bet you a thousand pound that I can bite my own eye."

The auditor thinks a moment and says, "No way! It's a bet."

Paddy removes his glass eye and bites it. The auditor's jaw drops.

Paddy says, "Now, I'll bet you two thousand pound that I can bite my other eye."

The auditor can tell Paddy isn't blind, so he takes the bet. Paddy removes his dentures and bites his good eye. The stunned auditor now realises he has bet and lost three thousand quid, with Paddy's solicitor as a witness. He starts to get nervous.

"Would you like to go double or nothing?" Paddy asks. "I'll bet you six thousand pound that I can stand on one side of your desk and pee into that rubbish bin on the other side, and never get a drop anywhere in between."

The auditor, twice burned, is cautious now, but he looks carefully and decides there's no way Paddy can manage that stunt, so he agrees again.

Paddy stands beside the desk and unzips his trousers, but although he strains like hell, he can't make the stream reach the bin on other side, so he pretty much urinates all over the auditor's desk.

The auditor leaps with joy, realising that he has just turned a major loss into a big win. But Paddy's solicitor moans and puts his head in his hands.

"Are you okay?" the auditor asks.

"Not really," says the solicitor. "This morning, when Paddy told me he'd been summoned for an audit, he bet me £20,000 that he could come in here and p*ss all over your desk - and that you'd be happy about it!"

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Indian Cab Driver

From Martin Eversfield 92nd

If you've ever had an Indian taxi driver you'll love this one - Ed.

A drunk woman, stark naked, jumped into a taxi in Birmingham.

The Indian driver opened his eyes wide and stared at the woman. He made no attempt to start the Cab.

"What's wrong with you, haven't you ever seen a naked woman before?"

"I'll not be staring at you lady, I am telling you, that would not be proper, where I am coming from".

"Well if you're not bloody staring at me, what are you doing then?"

"Well, I am looking and looking, and I am thinking to myself, where is this lady keeping the money to be paying me with."

Life After the RAF

Duke is Honoured to meet Ex-Apprentice!

From Stan Murray 92nd

On 6th July this year the new Forth Valley Royal Hospital was due to be opened by HM the Queen accompanied by Prince Philip. Unknown to them of course was that it was a day that I attended for my weekly cardiac clinic, and the gym we use was on the itinerary for their tour of the hospital. As Her Majesty entered she gave me a smile but continued on her way. Not so Philip, he just could not resist stopping to have a chat with me. We chatted for about 5 minutes by which time the Queen was on the other side of the gym joking with the physiotherapists who look after us.

I found the Duke was very easy to talk to and he asked some very interesting questions, like, "Do you get Channel 4 on this thing?" and, "I like the T-shirt, where did you get it?" (For those who can't read the logo it says "Aged to Perfection").

The meeting was a bit more pleasant than the last time I had the honour of being in the Royal presence, in 1965, when they visited RAF Gutersloh and I was on Royal Car door opening duty when they went for lunch in the Officers' Mess. It was pouring with rain, I was soaked and missed my lunch. To crown it all Philip got out of the same side as the Queen and I was left with a Rolls Royce door in my left hand and a salute with my right hand, but nobody got out of my side and I ended up walking backwards till the SWO whispered in my ear that I could close the car door and stop saluting as the Royal party had gone.

I wonder when we'll meet again?



Minutes of the 46th Committee Meeting RAFLAA

From Chris Bryan, Secretary

Venue: Flowerdown House, Weston super Mare

Date: Thursday 21st July 2011 at 13.00 hrs

Present:

Tiny Kuhle	87 th	Chairman
Tony Horry	76 th	Treasurer
Chris Bryan	87 th	Secretary
Chris Tett	92 nd	Newsletter Editor
Peter Crowe	95 th	AA Rep/Webmaster
Graham Beaston	209 th	Craft Rep
Jim Doran	219 th	Membership Secretary
Andy Perkins	109 th	Tech Rep
Dave Gunby	72 nd	Retiring Secretary

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

Item 1 Apologies

Rick Atkinson 91st Service Rep

Item 2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the 45th Committee Meeting were reviewed and passed as read.

Proposed by Chris Bryan and seconded by Chris Tett.

Item 3 Matters arising

Dave Gunby and Tony Horry had visited John Farmer's house and recovered the computer files. The printer was left behind.

Peter Crowe stated that the domain address would remain for a further two years. He has received the email addresses of all Committee members.

Item 4 Treasurer's Report

The balance now stands at £9,278.92, a reduction of £1,475.18.

Lapel badges will now be purchased from the Halton Association at £3 each.

A donation of £40 to Flowerdown House for their hospitality in holding this meeting. Chris Bryan questioned whether this was sufficient but the Committee agreed that it was.

The ladies coach to Bath had been cost effective and made a profit of £10.

For the AGM, Tony Horry stated that the Group Atlantic Crossing would be booked for 2012 at a cost of £220 which is an increase of 10% on last year.

The Treasurer's Report was passed.

Proposed by Chris Tett and seconded by Jim Doran.

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

Item 5 Membership Secretary's Report

I have a lot to learn – there are many functions of the association in terms of Membership Secretary duties. I am *happy to report some very complimentary remarks from a good number of members in support of thanking me for stepping in to the membership secretary role.*

Membership details:

Latest membership number used is 686 – joined this month
16 new members since AGM 2010, 8 of those being the 97th Entry
The above figure includes 5 new members since the AGM April 2011. 1 joined at the AGM.

Membership Numbers – according to data I have there are 367 active members at this time.

Newsletter requests – Hardcopy and Electronic delivery

I have had a number of requests to retain hardcopy and a good number for electronic copy. I have defaulted new members to access via the website. For contacts I have had with existing members I have steered down the path of access to the newsletter through the website – some have converted but there are exceptions and there are those that still like the newsletter via email (this is still of benefit to the Association in terms of cost).

Database Issues;

System functionality – version compatibility. (Office 2010, Access 2010)

System Crash – probably incompatibility.

Existing system (by the late John Farmer) was well setup and many links and automations but trying to explain the system from error messages is tricky. Attempts were made at creating identical pathways but even creating a directory with the name John Farmer didn't provide any solutions to full functionality.

I am currently running the DB activity from Excel Spread sheet.

The Plan

- Rebuild the DB in the current version – need to plan regular updates going forward. Timescale dependant on my learning curve and current functional job. (Probably 6 months but certainly before next AGM). To be documented once complete so that anyone can pick it up.
- Continue with using Excel spread sheet assuming I can deliver what is required from that file system.
- **Data Security** – Access to the data and continuity of data going forward. CD copy of data as at 19th July 2011 and repeat for every meeting/gathering?

Life Membership Certificates and Golden Anniversary Certificates

Sample versions showed at the meeting and agreement reached on maintaining current design for the Life Membership Certificate (Landscape and as is) plus a heavier weight of paper/card to ensure the presentation of it is to the best standard. Golden Year Certificate – Size A5 agreed, colour to be as per sample shown at Meeting. Slight change made to design concerning applying entry with the number in numbers rather than spelling out the entry number. Additionally to add the First Name instead of just the initial was agreed.

Any death of a member should be notified to Chris Bryan who will write a letter of condolence.

Action: Chris Bryan

Peter Crowe suggested that when a member dies another member of his entry should be notified so that an obituary may be written.

Tony Horry requires a list of all members. Jim Doran will email all committee members. If they do not require this they should just delete it.

Action: Jim Doran

Jim Doran will rebuild the database which will be compatible with his computer. All membership details have been copied to a CD and passed to Chris Bryan for safe keeping.

Action: Jim Doran

Tony Horry had received a letter from the secretary of the Seletar Association to enquire whether we had any records of members but none was found. The SA wished to advertise in the LAA Newsletter for new members and this measure to be reciprocated with SA's Newsletter. Chris Tett to write advert for the LAA in the SA Newsletter.

Action: Chris Tett

Jim Doran showed an example of the Life Membership Certificate which was ideal except that it should be printed on thicker paper.

The Golden Entry Certificate design was approved and is to be printed on A5 size paper.

The Membership Secretary's reported was agreed.

Proposed by Peter Crowe and seconded by Graham Beston.

Item 6 Secretary's Report

Dave Gunby handed over the secretarial duties with immediate effect to Chris Bryan.

Chris Bryan had made enquiries about the Axbridge Trophy which was thought to be a sailing trophy from the Apprentice Sailing Club. Dave Gunby had donated the trophy to the Axbridge Sailing Club and the matter is now considered closed.

The Secretary had sent a letter of condolence to the widow of Robbie Robbins of the 78th Entry.

The Secretary also sent a letter of good wishes to the wife of Rick Atkinson wishing her a speedy recovery from her operation.

With regard to the 87th Entry membership of the LAA, after the 50th anniversary of the 87th passing out from Locking we had a reunion with over 60 members attending organized by John Trussler (87th). At the 2010 AGM which was held after the 50th anniversary, no new 87th members were present so the Secretary asked John Trussler to send a reminder to all 87th members that their membership of the LAA would be very much appreciated.

The Secretary's report was agreed.

Proposed by Jim Doran and seconded by Andy Perkins.

Item 7 Charitable Donations

This subject was included just to clarify that donations to chosen charities at deceased funerals would no longer be given.

Item 8 RAF Locking Apprentice Memorial

The Church is to be retained on the site Locking Camp and is to be refurbished at a cost of £100,000 and ground is being looked at on the site for burial purposes.

With regard to NMA, the apprentice stone should be installed by the end of July 2011.

It was proposed that a Service of Dedication by held in September 2011 and there would be a need to know how many apprentices would be attending. It was not clear how all members would be informed. Tiny Kuhle suggested that:

- (1) We offer a date or dates to the NMA for the Dedication Service
- (2) We send an email to all members and for those members without an email address a hard copy should be sent by post. At 36p for the second class stamp plus stationery, Chris Bryan queried the cost effectiveness of sending hard copies by post. Tiny Kuhle suggested responsibility for this task be split. Graham Beston to send the hard copies and Chris Bryan to write the email letters. Chris Tett suggested the post code DE13 7AR be included in the NMA address so that members could find this using satnav.

Action: Graham Beston, Chris Bryan

It was suggested by Dave Gunby that the 3rd, 10th or 17th September but this was to be changed later in the meeting.

Chris Tett suggested the month of November for the dedication service and dates suggested were 19th or 26th November.

The Padre to hold the service has yet to be nominated it being noted that the charge for the Padre at the NMA is £57.50.

Dave Gunby suggested that Rev. Allan Viller (79th) be approached for the task. It was also suggested that Robin White (86th) be approached but doubts about his health arose.

Dave Gunby suggested the time of the service should be noon to allow distant travelers to make the journey and return. Dave Gunby also stated that £36 had been donated to the NMA for the plot on which the stone is to be erected.

It was proposed by Chris Bryan and agreed by all the Committee that thanks be given to Dave Gunby for all his work as secretary of the LAA and for completing the task of the LAA memorial stone.

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

Peter Crowe and Andy Perkins thought that the food and service at the AGM were poor.

Item 10 AGM 2012 at the Webbington Hotel – 21st April 2012

The price of the rooms has increased for 2012. The cost per room for bed and breakfast will be £85 for one night and £75 for two nights.

Chris Tett said that subsidising drinks by £1 was very successful. There were no complaints by members and the bar bill was vastly decreased from the previous year, and so the same procedure would apply in 2012 by subsidising all drinks by £1 only in the Garden Suite.

Graham Beston requested the Committee's thoughts on the buffet's new location and all agreed that it was good.

The ladies coach will be booked and will visit Bristol with two stops – one at the Docks and one at the Cabot Centre for shopping. The charge will be the same as 2011, the sum of £15.

Item 11 RAFLAA Web Site

The same password for the website is to be retained until April 2012.

Tiny Kuhle thanked Peter Crowe for all his work on the website.

Item 12 FABEA 2011

At the last FABEA meeting the following points were agreed:

- 1) 90th anniversary of inception of RAF Apprenticeships. Further information will be available later in the year.
- 2) Venue for meetings. Halton Mess provided an ideal venue for the annual Federation meeting and that the RAFHAA were happy to make the necessary admin arrangements each year.
- 3) The term 'host association' should be dispensed with and in future all that was required was to rotate the Chairmanship of the meeting. Next year the RAFCAA would take the chair.
- 4) No date was set for the next meeting in 2012.

Item 13 Newsletter

There was a discussion about the timing of the publication of the AGM Minutes and it was agreed that they these would be published in the Newsletter as soon as they are available.

The last hard copy was being distributed to members who had not stated whether they required a hard copy or email. Chris Bryan requested that a note be made of this intention in the next Newsletter.

Item 14 Any other business (Committee Volunteers)

Jim Doran had recovered funds from John Farmer's estate for 55.45 and the Committee agreed that John's widow should receive a sum of money to cover receipts found. All agreed. Proposed by Jim Doran and seconded by Andy Perkins.

Graham Beston suggested that IT back up should be available for all Committee members.

Item 14 Date of next meeting

It was decided that the next Committee Meeting be held at Flowerdown House on Thursday 23rd February 2012. Tony Horry to book Flowerdown House.

Action: Tony Horry

Tiny Kuhle expressed his thanks to all those present and the meeting closed at 15.50.

Obituaries

John Richard Sloley 5th February 1944- 29th June 2011

From John (JB) Cairns 95th Entry.

John Sloley who died in June after a short illness will be remembered by everyone who knew him as one of the characters of the 95th Entry and as someone who loved life.

John was born in Cardiff in February 1944, but was a Devonian through and through, returning to his home village of Lamerton throughout his life, finally returning home on Thursday 11th August 2011.

During his time at Locking John built on his love of sport, at this stage hockey, honing the skills that resulted in him representing the R.A.F Juniors. When the 95th Entry were divided into classes, John became a member of 95WI, having the distinction of being the only member of that class to obtain NCO rank within the Apprentices.

John completed 24 years in the RAF retiring as a Chief Technician at the age of 40. During his time John served in Germany, Cyprus, the Persian Gulf and had a memorable stint at the MOD during the Falklands War. Like many of us, John liked to tell stories of his distinguished military career and John never ceased to remind me of his time at the MOD, when not only did the Queen Mother speak to him at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party, but Mrs Thatcher phoned him and invited him to number 10 to share some of her home made Christmas Cake.

On leaving the RAF, John joined Marconi and remained with them in their various guises until retirement. Building on his RAF experiences both technical and interpersonal John became a Trials Manager regularly travelling to Scotland and the American deserts to oversee equipment trials.

Outside of work John led a full and varied life. Staying with an Aunt in London in 1963, John met Jill “the girl next door” and a love affair developed. They married the following year and had a son Robert born in 1965 and a daughter Kate born three years later. John and Jill remained married for nearly 47 years until his untimely death. Rob and Kate subsequently married and John was an enthusiastic “Grandpops” enjoying time with his four grandchildren through to their teenage years.

When John hung up his hockey stick, he turned to administration and Friday evening and Saturday morning in the Sloley household was like a scene from “ Ever decreasing circles” with Richard Briers as John struggled to put teams together. John was a season ticket holder at Wasps supporting them both at home and throughout Europe for many years. He was like all



devoted fans a harsh critic of referees and we would spend many an hour discussing the rights and wrongs of decisions that were clearly biased against the Wasps.

In what was left of his spare time, John was a keen gardener. His garden in Harrow was always in pristine condition, his plant heights graduated as if on parade and not a weed in sight. On his retirement John took on an allotment and spent the last two years turning an abandoned plot into a very productive vegetable patch along with his fully equipped den and scare crow

John's untimely death at an early age will leave the World a poorer place. Anyone who knew him will remember a trusted reliable friend and mate who will be sadly missed but not forgotten.

Our thoughts are with Jill, Robert, Kate and their families.

Michael John Robbins 27/4/37 to 6/7/11

From Mike Keen 78th

The sad news was received from Robbie's wife Penny that he had passed away on 6/7/11, He had been ill for some time.

Robbie was one of many ex apps who originated from Pompy, the family home is in Waterlooville. He commenced his apprenticeship with the 76th entry in January 1954, was transferred to the 77th on 3/1/55 and the 78th on 7/6/56. He was a member of A SQN boxing team and the 78th 2nd eleven football team. What a character the 78th received, a great friend, a good laugh and one who loved to beat the system. We spent many hours together during our activities in Bristol especially at the Glen {dancing venue}. During my numerous UK visits I was always made welcome at his home, where I was continually entertained with his stories.

After graduation he served at numerous RAF stations, and while at Changi he was awarded the AOC's commendation for single handedly installing a new Com Cen radar system. In civilian life he was quite an entrepreneur, selling and advising servicemen on insurance, selling and installing games machines and owning a music shop. If ever there was a bargain to be had, Robbie would be involved. He joined the LAA in 1996 and attended numerous AGM's. He will be sadly missed.

Richard Putnam 1938-2011

From Mike Keen 78th

On returning from holiday early in September I received the very sad news of the passing away of a very good and loyal friend Dick Putnam. It seems only yesterday that he drove me to a pub in Lincolnshire for lunch with other ex 78th members.

Dick originated from the Sussex town of Lewes joining the 78th entry on September the 8th 1954. He was a very accomplished sportsman Fencing being his forte, his most satisfying accomplishment was when he beat the then station commander Group Captain Blair Oliphant in a fencing contest. Dick graduated with the 79th entry in December 1957, and as with most air radio fitters spent considerable time on squadrons before being posted as an instructor to RAF Cosford. This experience enabled him to pursue a civilian career in training and management. Dick had been a member of LAA for a number of years and made a great speech at the 2007 AGM in recognition of the 78th entries 50th anniversary. My wife and I had had the pleasure of Dick's and his wife's company during our last three trips to UK. He was such good company that his stories had me in fits of laughter. His death was very sudden while he was gardening. What a tragic loss to his wife, family and friends. He will be sadly missed.

588120 Michael Francis Clements

From David Gunby 72nd

Clem was born on the 31st May 1936 in Ismalia, Egypt where his father was serving in the RAF. He was educated at the Bath Technical College and at the age of 16 enlisted as an apprentice in the RAF. He was one of 112 members of the 72nd entry of apprentices who enlisted on 10th September 1952 at RAF Locking in Somerset.

Clem, as he became known to us, excelled in all that he did during his apprenticeship which he enjoyed. He valued the entry bonding and all that went with it - the friendships he made lasted all his life. Clem's leadership skills were soon recognised by his superiors and he was promoted regularly within the apprentice ranks. Because of these promotions Clem was rarely billeted with the 72nd entry, and this meant that he was unable to take part in some of our activities, which were mainly aimed either at undermining authority or aggravating those junior to ourselves.

Nonetheless he joined in our activities when he could and certainly did his bit to enhance the Entry spirit. That spirit lives on today amongst us. Clem enjoyed playing Rugby and was interested in all sports but he did not neglect his academic studies. At the end of his apprenticeship he held the rank of Flight Sergeant Apprentice. His achievements may be summarised thus:

Best Air Radio Fitter, Highest educational marks, Highest overall marks, Awarded officer cadetship, Awarded rugby colours. To cap it all he led the passing out parade in front of HRH Princess Margaret.

It does not get any better than that for a 19 year-old.

Clem was commissioned in 1958 and served for a further 16 years as an officer in the RAF. He was mainly concerned with the development of the nimrod project but managed to fit in obtaining an HND, a post graduate diploma in electronics and qualification as a chartered engineer.

Clem spent the next 22 years as a director of Carter Design Group a company which designed and manufactured three dimensional packaging for the wholesale and retail trade .It was during this period that he became interested in canals and canal boats.

Clem's time as an apprentice with the 72nd entry was never far from his thoughts. So when the 72nd Association was formed almost 30 years ago he gave it his full support. Over that period there have been many reunions and Clem together with Marjorie attended most of them. Friendships made in those formative years at RAF Locking have been rekindled and will live on forever. He will be greatly missed at our gatherings and none more so than next year when the Entry's survivors meet to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the day we met Clem.

A high achiever he certainly was. To us in the 72nd Association he was a great leader and friend.

Michael Francis Clements will live on in our memory.

CJ Brown

From Dave Gunby 72nd

We regret to inform you of the death of 588140 Brown C J of the 72nd Entry. He lives in USA with his wife Ruth so we had no attendees at the funeral. The 72nd have sent their condolences. He was a member of RAFLAA and enjoyed reading about our activities.

Closing Thought

The Charlie Schulz Philosophy

From Stan Murray 92nd

The following is the philosophy of Charles Schulz, the creator of the 'Peanuts' comic strip.

You don't have to actually answer the questions. Just ponder on them and you'll get the point.

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America pageant.
4. Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.



The point is: none of us remembers the headlines of yesterday. These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
4. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special!!
5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.

Easier? The lesson: the people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money or the most awards. They simply are the ones who care the most.



Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It's already tomorrow in Australia!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to you - Ed

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 2014	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
