

RAFLAA

WELCOME

Welcome to the Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association.

The Association was formed on the 19th June 1993 for all RAF 'Apprentices' who served part or all of their training at RAF Locking, 1952 to 1976 in the following entries. AA entries 67 to 106, TA entries 107 to 109 and 111 to 122, CA entries 201 to 226 and entry 231 and MA entries 402 to 406.

The Association was envisaged as a focal point where Locking 'Apps' could locate and keep in touch with old colleagues. It was also envisaged that social events would be held where it was hoped that members would get together over a pint (or two) to swap a few stories and relive some of that special comradeship that developed at Locking. It was proposed that the association would form a link to other RAF Apprentice organisations and would prepare and distribute a newsletter with news and articles by its members.

All of this has been achieved. There are 664 names on the member's data base. 400 of these are 'active'.

An Annual General Meeting is held in April each year (normally) in Weston Super Mare and is followed by an informal social event.

There is an initial joining fee of £15 and an annual subscription of £10.00 thereafter. Payment of subscriptions may be by cheque or Standing Order Mandate (preferred.) There is also the opportunity to purchase Life Membership for a one off payment of £100.

Upon payment of the joining fee new members receive a copy of the constitution and a 'short form' list of current members, plus an Apprentice 'wheel' tiepin/lapel badge and an engraved name/entry badge for LAA functions. Further editions of the newsletter will appear on the website or may be received by post. Updates to the membership list will also appear on the website, or may be received by post. An Association tie may be purchased; the current price is £7.50.

The last AGM was held at the Webbington Country Hotel near Weston-Super-Mare in April 2009. Some attending members and guests arrived on Friday night for a 'meet and greet' session. Other members attended just the AGM which took place on Saturday after a buffet lunch. There were some 'vigorous' discussions aided perhaps by a subsidised bar and some reasonably contentious agenda items. The AGM ended with tea and biscuits. Members, partners and guests reconvened later that evening for a sit down dinner. Live music was provided throughout the meal. After the meal there was dancing for those who wished to participate, again to live music. The event eventually broke up somewhere (about) midnight. There had been lots of time to put the world to rights and dredge up old memories (and even dance with the wife!)

This was typical of the RAFLAA AGM. Lots of comrades getting together to do some reminiscing, perhaps a bit of networking but most of all enjoying the company of those that they shared quite a chunk of their early service life with.

Why not take advantage of the Association and relive and perhaps renew for a while some of that spirit that we all had in 'those days'.

For Locking 'boy trainees and apprentices' pre 2nd WW there is an organisation known as BRATS 192. Contact the Secretary for details.