



Sri Lankan Apprentices' Surprise Appearance — After 41 Years!

71st Entry turn out in force for November dinner dance ' by Charles Hart

The Association held its Winter dinner dance on Saturday 2 November at Dance and Partyscene in Weston-super-Mare. Around sixty diners enjoyed an excellent meal and disco where more chat took place than dancing but we were none the worse for that, apart from the sore throats the following morning.



Anura and Manel Cooray with Duncan and Nimal Perera

Of particular note during the evening was the turnout of ten members of the first entry to arrive at Locking in April 1952, plus one member who came down from Cranwell in the same year. In the latter case, Duncan Perera (70th entry) from Sri Lanka accompanied by Anura Cooray (71st entry) also originally from Sri Lanka but now living in London, were the undoubted stars. Duncan, now retired, with his wife Nimal had stopped off in London for a few days before continuing his journey to the States and had his arm twisted to attend. Since he was to leave Heath Row the following afternoon, the schedule was just a little tight but hopefully he and his wife made their flight and also enjoyed the fleeting visit to Locking and their dinner that evening.

Anura Cooray's history is a delight. After three years apprenticeship at Locking he returned to Sri Lanka and served for five years in the island's Air Force before returning to the UK and the greater opportunity, he thought, in the RAF. However, the offer was not what he hoped for — "... entry as an SAC and you will be separated from your wife for quite a while!" So Anura decided on night school in London, followed by the grind of law school to qualify as a barrister. Even then it took him some years to become established and start to earn real money. Meanwhile his wife Manel ran a small business to keep the wolf from the door and look after their five children. Success, however, came with experience at the Bar and after becoming a stipendiary magistrate in the '70s he is now His Honour Judge Anura Cooray sitting at Knightsbridge Crown Court.

Not bad for an ex-ground radar fitter!

In this issue

In memoriam	2
Grovelling excuses	2
94th Entry news	3
Apps on the internet	4
Operation steamship cruise	5
Dinner dance pictures	6
Living in Helsinki	8
76th Entry reunion	9
Missing member found!	9
Letters	10
Membership matters	11
Caught on the Net	12

In memoriam
JOHN RICHARDSON WOOD
93RD ENTRY

It was with deep regret that I learned of the death of John Wood at his home town of Flint on Monday, 23rd September last.

John, a bachelor, died of a heart attack. He was a good friend who put himself out to help others, and was very close to his sister, Dorothy. He was involved with lot of charity work in and around Flint, and he will be sadly missed.

The funeral service at St. Mary's Parish Church, Flint on Wednesday, 2nd October was followed by Committal at Chester Crematorium, Blacon.

RAFLAA members from the 93rd and other entries who knew him might appreciate a mention of his passing in the next newsletter.

The above information was received from Phil Mills, secretary of the 90 A/A Association.

International Edition!

by Chris Horn

This issue has an international flavour to it which was sparked by meeting Duncan Perera (70th) at the November Dinner Dance. As mentioned elsewhere, Duncan and his wife Nimal had literally just flown in from Sri Lanka to visit his friend from the 71st, Anura Cooray and Manel and they had both made the dash down from London. Recognising a good story when it fell in my lap, I proceeded to interview the unsuspecting Sri Lankans! Unfortunately your hapless reporter had neglected to take pen and paper with him, and so I have to rely on a slightly beer fogged and reducing memory for this article. I may have got it wrong, but I understand that Duncan had seen a copy of the last News Letter which had made its way from Wales to Sri Lanka, and had timed his visit to England to coincide with the Dinner Dance which was featured. It seems that there is a flourishing association of ex-Apprentices in Colombo, and they are currently trying to make contact with other Apps who they believe to be living in India, Burma and Malaysia. Duncan has promised an article for the next News Letter.

To continue the International flavour, in August Charles Hart received news from Wellington, NZ,

about the Ex-Royal Air Force Apprentices Association in New Zealand. This letter was included a listing of their members which includes several Locking apprentices from the 68th, 69th, 71st, 74th, 77th, 86th, 89th and 96th. The next development in the story comes from the internet project which George Burville is running. After a slow start several overseas contacts have been made including Peter Floyd (89th) who now lives in Finland, and David Roforth Smith (91st) came in from Colorado where he now lives, and wants to join the LAA. Dave also mentions a member of the 99th who is out in Colorado. More on the Internet and other contacts later.

The latest information on overseas colleagues came from nearer home via Vic Ludlow (68th) and Mike Collier (76th). In addition to the already mentioned countries there are Apps in Australia, Canada, USA, Spain, France, Oman, Jakarta, Zimbabwe and the Philippines. Can anyone else expand that list?

Finally, Mike West has produced a membership listing classified by location which shows yet further ex-pat-apps in Eire, Channel Islands, Cyprus, Germany, Holland, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and the UAE.

Now, if we could get these guys to follow Pete Floyd's example and write us an article . . .

Grovelling Excuses Corner

Alright, I confess. Guilty as charged! You should have been reading this newsletter in November, and it is now January. I have obviously failed! However I would like the following heart rendering story to be taken into account before sentence is passed (especially that I now know my readership includes at Judge and at least one magistrate).

The sad tale started in October when Mrs H hinted that, considering it was our 30th Wedding anniversary and her (a significant number) th birthday, I might like to whisk her off on a surprise holiday. By sheer coincidence we went to Sri Lanka (and very nice it was too your honour!). On my return I had to go away on a training course, followed by some serious study for December exams. Production of the newsletter started immediately after my exams in early December, and for a while things went well. Then the fickle finger of fate (FFOF) poked its unwelcome nose in.

Since this is the 13th edition, I suppose that it was foreseeable that some thing would go wrong, but as they say on that advert, I wasn't expecting that! What happened first was my VDU went legs up. Bringing long archived skills to bear, I diagnosed a dry joint, and set to work with a soldering iron. Despite initial confusion, caused by a complete lack of valves (or any other recognisable component come to that), I eventually sorted out the problem. Production of the newsletter continued to the point where it was almost compiled. Then disaster number two occurred. My hard disk crashed, and in an attempt to recover it I deleted something called DBLSPACE.000. This appeared to be fairly final as far as recovery was concerned and now, and not only had I irretrievably lost all my hard work, but I wished that I had backed up my files. In the time honoured tradition I (finally, when all else failed) consulted the handbook which recommended that the best thing to do was to format the hard disk and load all the software again. What they didn't explain was how to get the software off the CDROM when all of the software, including the CDROM driver, About that time I discovered that the manufacturers of the PC, who were presumably holders of the master software, had gone bust.

By this time Christmas was fast approaching, and Mrs H was hinting that work needed doing in the house to make it fit to receive guests and family over the festive season. Why are women so unreasonable?

To cut an even longer story short, it has taken me up to now to celebrate a family Christmas, get back on the air and redo the newsletter. Sorry.

Anyway, on behalf of the committee as well as myself, I hope that you *had* a good Christmas and will have the sort of New Year that you would wish yourselves.

Can I go now please?

94th Entry Spirit Endures

Peter Purdy

The 94th Entry have been holding annual reunions since April 1998 when they were started by Graham Holbrook who is Entry archivist. We operate on a very informal basis, and responsibility for arranging venue, hotel, dates etc. is undertaken by members in turn.

These are very friendly affairs with old friend-

ships being renewed and new ones being made. We average twenty five members, wives, girlfriends etc.

This year we will be meeting in Peterborough on 21/22 March, the organiser being John Bates.

Since stepping off the treadmill into retirement, I have been trying to trace all of the original Entry members. We were sixty eight strong. Of that number seven are still AWOL. They are Bill Jarvis, Wilf Pinder, John (Fess) Parker, Al Bate, Chick Thompson, Len Kitching and Paul Godden (Rhodesian Air Force).

We still have 3 serving members, and one of these is, we believe, the sole remaining Air Radio Fitter in the RAF.

On a sad note, 'The Grim Reaper' has been active within the Entry, with six members having passed on. The latest of these being Dave Taylor (1995) and Alan Marshall (1996).

Any information, however small or seemingly insignificant, which may lead to the apprehension of our missing members will be most welcome. Please contact me by phone, fax, or letter at any time. I would also be very pleased to hear from anyone that remembers me and would like a chat please get in touch at 4, Hetherset Road, East Carleton, Norwich, NR14 8HX. Tel / Fax 01508 570432

Among our number was Cyril Siriwardana, a member of the then Royal Ceylon Airforce. Unfortunately, as a result of a motor cycle accident in the '70s, Cyril is paralysed from the waist down and confined to a wheelchair. In spite of this he remained in the Sri Lanka Air Force until he retired at the end of 1996 in the rank of Squadron Leader. In 1993 Entry members, in conjunction with the Hedley Roberts Trust for the Handicapped, raised enough cash by donations, car boot sales, reunion raffles etc. to fly Cyril to the UK for the reunion of that year in Nottingham. He was accommodated at a Winged Fellowship Holiday Centre in Nottingham which was arranged by Rod and Jenny Austin. Thanks to the efforts of many people Cyril had an excellent holiday, and the Entry (after many pints of bitter) even arranged a guard of honour and march past where he was invited to be the inspecting officer. Even after thirty years our drill skills were still razor sharp! Since then several members have holidayed in Sri Lanka and have enjoyed Cyril's hospitality.

Apprentices and Boy Entrants on the Internet

by George Burville (90th)

In April, on my return from another enjoyable weekend with 90th entry colleagues and fresh with ideas from a 90 AA committee meeting, I decided to explore all paths that could help us locate ex-90th apprentices. Publishing on the Internet was one of a number of ideas.

My Internet Service Provider, (ISP), gave me facilities to produce a web site. I decided what I wanted to do, created and published. Launch date was 25th May 1996. The home page Universal Resource Locator, (URL), is:

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/George~Burville/>

When you have access to the Internet you will use a browser program that allows you to type in URL's as above. When you hit the [Enter] key your browser will try to retrieve the index.htm or the index.html file at the URL location.

My web pages were dedicated to ex-90th and ex-Locking apprentices, however, from the start I intended to widen the field and invite other RAF Associations to take advantage of whatever I could offer.

Unfortunately what I can offer is limited firstly by my inexperience and secondly by ISP limitations. On the first issue I'm learning as fast as I can go, hence the on-going updates to the layout of my pages. On the second issue I'm looking for another ISP who will allow me to produce a bit more than the 'Hi I'm Joe Bloggs' type of site.

For those with access to the net, have a peep at my pages and give me some feedback. I welcome all criticism, suggestions, etc. At the end of the day my motivation comes from being an ex-90th Locking apprentice, what I produce will be determined by you guys.

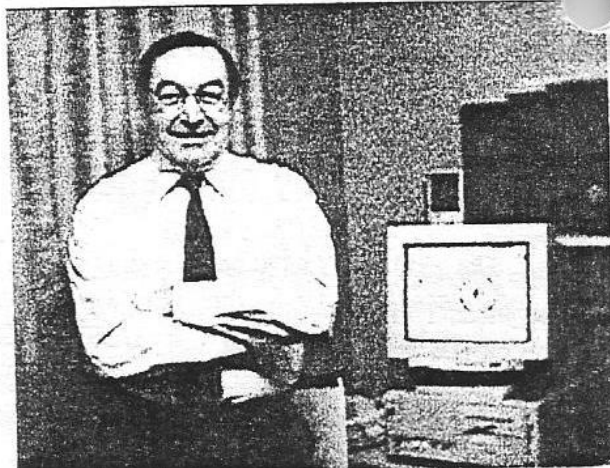
My present home page now contains a picture which I hope to make good use of when I have image mapping facilities. A site visitor will then be able to click on an image within the main picture to gain access to other pages. For regular visitors, (I should chuckle), the 'Wots New Page' allows them to browse without wasting time. I intend to include news snips as part of the editorial. The 'Apps and BE's On The Web Page' is a register of

Apps and BE's with Internet addresses. I'm hoping that this page becomes popular and encourages a flow of email between ex-apps/boy entrants. If you wish to be included on the page send me an email. Most good web sites include something of real interest, I've gone round in circles with all sorts of ideas. A friend of mine has given me an idea and I'm trying it out. I've now started an art gallery of RAF scenes, the pictures on the net are photo's of the original oil paintings.

In my other pages I've started publishing general information which, in the long run, I intend to fatten up and make more interesting.

Where do we go from here? In the not too distant future I will change my ISP. This will mean a change of URL but I'll keep both sites running together for a month and advertise the new URL in my editorial at the original site. At the new site I will update my pages and incorporate new facilities such as image mapping and interactive forms. Image mapping will allow me to create a homepage that doesn't need scrolling. Interactive forms will give me control over email information. What input do I need? For a start historical detail is essential, I am currently trying to list each and every Locking apprentice entry together with their joining and pass out dates. I would like a complete article on our mascots. I need information about ex-apps that would be of interest to a casual browser.

The more I consider what I want to do and what



George wearing a tie especially for this picture!

The more I consider what I want to do and what I have to do to achieve it, I begin to realise that I could do with a little help on the research side. If anyone out there lives near Weston, has reasonable computer facilities and a whole lot of time on their hands, I have a vacancy. Interested? Give me a call on 01563 820378. You *will* regret it!

At this point I want to thank the guys who have been in touch and given me feedback. Whatever you throw at me, particularly in these early stages of site development, is worth its weight in gold. The more I searched on the internet the more I realised that any ex-apprentice or boy-entrant (who was not 90th or Locking) would probably pass by without sending me mail, even though they may actually be searching for old colleagues. I changed the format of my pages to encourage the casual App/BE passer by to email me. Within a few days a BE contacted me. He had simply searched on 'Royal Air Force' and my page came up.

My ideas have changed as time has gone on. I think there will be quite a number of App/BE web sites springing up in the not too distant future. I see them all linking up to provide a good number of contact routes for apps and boy entrants. The ball is rolling, I've been in touch with two Halton apps who have web sites, our sites are now linked.

Creating a web site is one thing, letting others know that your web site exists is a matter of advertising. In the first instance one registers with web site search engines. All web users become familiar with and use web search engines, they simply enter the search criteria e.g.; RAF, and are presented with a list of internet links. If they click on the link they will jump to the appropriate web site.

My advise to any ex-app or ex-boy entrant out there on the internet with free web space and the enthusiasm to create an Apps/BE site, GO FOR IT. If you need any help I'm not an expert but I'll do what I can, just phone me.

What is the point of all this? The first time I went to a 90th entry reunion says it all for me. There is of course the inevitable end date of each and every association or entry group. In this day and age, the internet is probably one of the best and cheapest of advertising media. In my opinion we should make full use of it.

I do not subscribe to the one umbrella association for *all* ex-Apps and BE's, although in time, (when there are only three or four guys left), it may be the way to go. I do however, fully support

the ideas that on the internet; 1). The more the merrier. 2). It's no problem for an App or BE site to advertise all App/BE associations or entry groups.

To get in touch ... My address is 18 Carnalea Court, Galston, KA4 8HY, Scotland. Telephone and Fax 01563 820378, International +44 1563 820378.

Because of the delay in publishing, and the demonic speed at which George is developing his site, some of the above is a little stale. George has moved to DEMON and his new URL is:

george@gedb.demon.co.uk

Operation Steamship Cruise

Olly Oldman (78th)

My proposal to organise this came rather too late in the year, and as a result nobody asked to come along; so the party was to be four in number, Don Innes (78th) and his wife Morag and my wife Gertrud and myself. It wasn't long before we learned that Morag would probably be seasick and Gertrud couldn't see what there would be to do for three hours on the boat: so the number reduced to just Don and me. Two days before the cruise was due to happen, a relative of Don and Morag was taken ill and so instead of driving down to visit us, they drove up to Scotland to visit their sick relative (now well again I'm glad to say). So this just left me; I thought back to my colourful days in the RAF and remembered certain people being described as not being able to "organise a @##'@! up in a brewery". What I didn't realise at the time of course was that I was meeting one of them on a daily basis whilst brushing my teeth.

Not to be put off by one or two setbacks, I phoned Colin, a builder friend of mine who lives in the next village (he flies hang-gliders and micro-lites). So the cruise went ahead after all with the LAA representing fifty percent of my party!

I was surprised to see so many passengers on the boat; the weather was sunny and the cruise was enjoyable. We sailed from Clevedon, up the rivers Severn and Wye, went under the two motorway bridges and then returned. There was plenty

(continued on page 11)

1996 Autumn



Dinner Dance



What am I doing living in Hell(sinki)??

Peter Floyd (89th) writes in to explain how he now comes to be living in Finland.

OK, so there is only one 'l' in *Helsinki*, but when the average temperature in winter is around 15C, then the second 'l' is not just a spelling mistake! The airport ident. Code for Helsinki is in fact HEL.

The first time I arrived there, I looked up at the digital clock-cum-thermometer on the top of the multi-story car park near the airport arrival hall and watched it alternate between 22:35 hrs and -22C. I was in HEL and it was @#*!!% cold, and I have seen it as low as -30C! Ten years later here I am living and working here, a permanent resident of Suomi, Finland.

I hear some of you thinking already: "He always was a bit crazy, but now he has completely flipped." Others who know me a bit better may be thinking "I bet there is a gorgeous blond Scandinavian bird there to keep him warm!" Well, no comment, on the grounds that I might incriminate myself! (*BEG* for the net surfers out there). So how did I come to be here and what am I doing?

Well, from Locking there was Merve, Bill H-I and yours truly and we were all posted to Boscombe Down. (It is strange that all three of us are still listed in the current membership list). Seven years later I was still at Boscombe, one of the very few RAF fitters remaining at Boscombe, as A&AEE civilianised the Electronics Wing. In fear of being posted to an operational station I volunteered to go to CSDE Swanton Morley where I completed my RAF Career.

Civilian life took me first to Racal, and then to Marconi where I got drawn into the world of "Mobile Phones" or to be more specific the testing of them. My first visit to Finland ten years ago was to give a seminar on this subject to a group of engineers of the then relatively unknown company called Nokia.

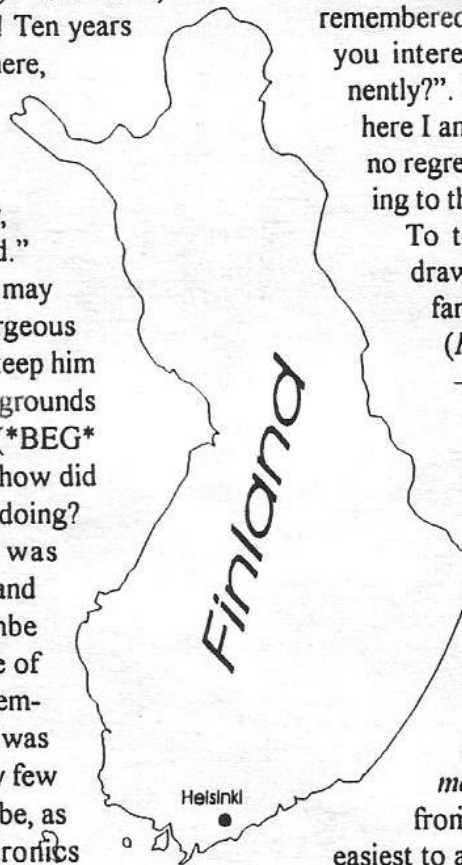
I quickly learned all about the Finnish sense of humour. For a Finn, the funniest thing possible is

to get a visitor so completely legless that he keeps falling over in the snow (after a sauna wearing just a small towel). I must have either impressed them with my seminar, or possibly by my falling over in the snow demonstration, because they invited me back again several times. I think that I made something like fifteen visits here at the start of the GSM boon.

Then one day, I was sitting at my desk at Marconi, when the phone rang. A familiar voice remembered from sauna parties said "Are you interested in moving here permanently?". I gave it a lot of thought, and here I am. After just six months I have no regrets, and no intentions of returning to the UK, other than for holidays. To those of you who have been drawn into the Internet, you will be familiar with the next line: FAQ (*Frequently Asked Questions* —Ed).

"Is Finland all saunas and sexy blondes?" ... "Is it always minus something horrible degrees?" ... "Do they pay well at Nokia?" ... "What are they like to work for?" ... "Any vacancies?" ... "Is the language difficult?" ... "What do I miss about England?" ... "Does Father Christmas live there?" (That one comes from my granddaughter and is the easiest to answer - of course he does!)

I have travelled to most corners of the World, and Finland for me is one of the most spectacularly beautiful at all times of the year — but in Summer and Autumn it is stunning. We have over 20,000 lakes all acting as nature's mirror. The trees are predominantly silver birch and their colour in Summer and Autumn are an artist's dream. From May until September the weather is predictable — clear, let's-have-a-barbecue-by-the-lake-again, blue skies! The only things bluer than a Finnish lake in Summer are the eyes of lovely female creatures that sunbathe beside them. 'Nough said on that subject — did I answer the first question?



Nokia do pay very well, and yes there are vacancies. They are great to work for, but ... and yes, there is a big BUT... the Finnish language is probably the most difficult and complicated language using European characters to learn. For a start it has fifteen cases of the noun; quick example:

Pullo = bottle, *Pullot* = bottles. Easy so far, eh? *Pullosi* = your bottle, *pulloni* = my bottle. *Pullossasi* = in your bottle and *Pullossasiko* = is it in your bottle?

That is just a very simple example of how you can often have a word of more than twenty letters. I have been an active student for about a year now and now manage to go shopping — and usually get what I want.

So, what do I miss about the UK? Easy, the village pub on a Sunday lunchtime. I can buy English beer in bottles at the local supermarket (it costs about three pounds for a 50 c.ltr bottle of Marstons Pedigree). But you can't buy the atmosphere and chit chat which is so much a feature of the British Pub.

There is one Brit who has been living here for about fifteen years. He is a presenter on Finnish TV and speaks the language fluently. He now rarely visits his native Newcastle, but still after fifteen years often talks of his desire to open a real British pub in Helsinki. The Irish (or rather Guinness) have done it and it nearly works if you like ice-cold Guinness. It is packed nearly every night. But attempts to do it with an British pub have failed. My "local" is called the Britannia; they even have a dart board and a mural of the Henley Regatta. But it has not got the local farmers with their dogs, or that old boy who always sits in the same corner of the bar and takes two hours to drink a pint (unless someone offers to buy him one).

So, if any of you are heading out this way, give me a call and we can share a glass of Lapin Kulta (Finnish beer and not bad if you like Stella Artois type beer). I have one of my firm's new GSM toys, I can even surf the net with it. From the UK my number is 010 35840 5811250. For the high tech. crowd, you can e-mail me at :

peter.floyd@ntc.nokia.com

Tervesin tielle kaiklle — good health to you all.

76th Reunion

Mike Collier

The reunion finally came to pass on the weekend of 28th September 1996. Neil Castle and Tony Harry (Organisers managed to get forty three people together in Weston, including representatives from Australia, France, Spain, USA, and Zimbabwe. It was based on Dauncey's hotel where the majority of people stayed.

A meet-and-greet on Friday night comfortably extended into the early hours of Saturday. Neil and Tony organised a guided tour of Locking and a bus tour of Weston, again with a guide, to explain away forty years of changes. This occupied most of Saturday afternoon. Dinner at Dauncys was the focal point of Saturday evening, with celebrations continuing well into Sunday!

On Sunday, Neil held open house for anyone who cared to drop in and was rewarded with a full house for almost twelve hours!

This was a superb occasion, thoroughly enjoyed by those attending. From the feedback I have received, the only complaint was that it was not long enough.

Len Kitching (94th) Found!

News just in from George Burville . . .

An email from Chris McBrien (Halton 99th) kicked off a series of events that led to finding Len Kitching in Canada. Chris saw Pete Purdy's, (94th Locking), advert on teletext and passed it to me thinking that Pete may be a new find. Of course Pete is a member of the LAA, but together with Graham Holbrook they are going all-out to locate their seven missing members (*see the article on page 3*).

This led to Pete giving me information to create a 94th page on my web site. The page went live on Sunday 5th January '97. The members to be located were listed on the page, the reference to Len Kitching mentioning that he had probably emigrated to Canada.

An earlier application for introduction to the HAAA had been made by a John Quin, (Halton 203rd), residing in Canada. John was browsing through my pages again and noticed the reference to Len. He searched the Canadian directory and found Len's address and telephone number.

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What a star! He sent me all details in an email and a very surprised Len was contacted at around 08:00 Canadian time on Tuesday 7th January. He confirmed that he was 94th.

In my book it just goes to show what could be achieved by ex-Apps and ex-BEs cooperating on the internet and is a marvellous indicator for the way forward.

In conclusion Chris McBrien and John Quin should be congratulated for their efforts.

Letters to the Editor

I contacted Mike Collier, who I know is actively tracking down members of the 76th, to see how the search is going. I mentioned that I was also interested in overseas colleagues, and he very kindly wrote to me a little later. Mike's letter contains a wealth of information which will be of interest to many of you, and with his permission I reproduce extracts of his letter here.

Sorry for the delay in writing, but one of the problems I have discovered with being retired, is that I seem to have nowhere near as much spare time as I did when I was working!

The 76th entry of A.A. at Locking (Jan 1954 to December 1956) initially comprised 94 students plus three Rhodesians. Subsequently we inherited 58 others from the 73rd, 74th and 75th entries, giving a grand total of 155 people who spent time with the 76th.

Shortly after the LAA was formed, a couple of them. Neil Castle and Tony Horry, came up with the idea of an Entry reunion. At that point I volunteered to try and locate those that were 'missing'. To date I have found 87 of them personally and others have produced another 30. So currently we know the fate of 117 of the 155. Of the 117, 8 are sadly deceased. Living or working permanently abroad are another 20. *(At this point Mike gave details of these)*

Unfortunately I am a computer illiterate and have only partially mastered the humble word processor. In any case I much prefer to use a fountain pen. If you are into the internet and glean any information on people / other overseas Apps organisations, I would be most grateful if you could provide me with the information, should any of my "still missing" be among them.

I guess it must be a problem to find articles to

fill a column or two in the newsletter. It occurred to me the other day that people are interested in what has happened to others (hence the large biography sections in the libraries) Would there be any mileage in doing a biographical profile of members in each issue — post Locking, stations served on, interesting jobs, interesting events, jobs after leaving the service, current employment, hobbies etc. Perhaps the feature could be called "The life and times of {name} {entry}". How about starting with our President and Chairman?

Thanks for all of the information and suggestions Mike. I have passed on the details of your missing members to George to put onto his web page, which will hopefully get some results.

Yes, it does require quite a bit of digging and phoning around to get enough copy (as we journalistic types say) to fill the news letter, and it would certainly make me feel much more comfortable if I always had some material in the back pocket to avoid that 'What the hell am I going to print this time' feeling! Your suggestion for biographical profiles is brilliant! I trust that the membership join me in challenging our committee to come up with their profiles to start the ball rolling. Mike's headings seem a reasonable skeleton to hang some meat on, so how about it guys? — Ed.

Chris,

Congratulations on your first Newsletter - well produced and interesting.

I was somewhat saddened when reading the story from Denis Hart (Pages 4 and 5), as I had been told only two days previously of his death on 27th August. The information was given to me over the telephone by an ex-Halton member of the 33rd Entry. Tempus fugit.

A small query — you urged us to pay our Subscriptions through the medium of Direct Debit and directed our attention to the form at the end of the Newsletter. The form turned out to be one for a Standing Order. Is the Standing Order actually the preferred method or should there have been a DD form? I have problems with the payment of my Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) Subscription by Standing Order, as each time the rate is changed, I have to advise my Bank so that the
(Continued overleaf)

(letters continued)

amount can be updated (usually 'after the event'). In fact I have just received a DD form from the RSGB and will be making that out in the hope of getting this year's Subscription right first time.

Yours fraternally, Vic Ludlow 68th Entry (Cranwell/Locking)

Thanks for your kind comments about the newsletter Vic, and to other members who have contacted me. I hope that the unfortunate timing of the publication of Denis Hart's article didn't cause offence. In the copy of the obituary from the Cranwell Apprentices Association Newsletter, which you sent with your letter, it is apparent that Denis was a very remarkable person who lived life to the full. The obituary mentioned that he served in combat areas of Europe, Africa and Italy during WWII, and his article showed that he managed to come through it all with a sense of humour. Although I never knew him, I understand that many of this Association did, and I hope that his article will be seen as a tribute not only to Denis, but to all of our colleagues who have seen active service — an experience which many of us have had the good fortune to miss.

On the question of the method of payment, the treasurer has already approached the Bank on setting up a direct debit arrangement, but because of the level of business that the Association provides as well as for other "commercial" reasons this is not actually an option.

Membership Matters

This is the last call for membership fees for 1996! Some members still are adrift with payments, and their names have now been removed from the lists, even though they will still be receiving this newsletter. Please pay up and let us avoid the extra administrative costs late payment causes.

We are having a rethink about publication of members lists, committee contacts etc. A possible method to be used in the future is an annual members book with listings by Entry and County. Updates only would be included in each newsletter. The main driver for this is the not inconsiderable costs of producing and printing repetitive information. More on this in the next issue.

In the last issue of the news letter we repro-

duced two completed standing order mandates, but because they were incomplete and unreadable they hadn't been processed.

Well, the good news is that one of them has been claimed, and he is back on the books. It has been suggested that the other one belongs to Bob Hogan, but we don't have that name on the records — a new member perhaps? So Bob, if you are out there, please get in touch with the membership secretary, Mike West. Just in case the signature is some one else's, the signature is reproduced below.

ACCOUNT TO BE DEBITED	ACCOUNT NUM
Signature(s) <i>R.A. Hogan</i>	
..... <i>17th MAY 1996</i> Date	

(Continued from page 5)

to see, including the engine-room, and we had a pint in the bar but spent the rest of the time on deck. We plan to go again next year on one of the other cruises.

I would be happy to organise one for LAA next year, so if you think you might like to attend please phone or write to me. It occurs to me that members may wish to organise a trip just for their own entry in which case the number to ring is 01446 720656. The company will then send you timetables etc.

My address is:

The Gallows House, Ryton, Near Dymock,
Glos. GL18 2DL Tel. No. 01531 890624.

Deadline for next Issue

Articles for inclusion in the next issue should reach me by April 5th.

Please send them to:

Chris Horn, 464 Locking Road,
Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset, BS22 8QX
Telephone 01934 511465,
Email 101617.524@compuserve.com

Many thanks for all contributions to this issue.

Caught on the Net.

At the risk of overcooking the internet topic, here are some (albeit cleaned up!) extracts that have been flying around the globe on the subject of Locking Apprentices.

From: William George Hercus,
To: Chris Horn
Re: 85th Entry Interest
Hi Chris, Found out about Locking
Apprentice Association from an ex
Nav (sorry about that!) mate.
Arrabest Bill Hercus

* * *

To: Bill Hercus
From: Chris Horn
Lo Bill.

I presume that you are 85th, but cannot see you on the membership list - are you a member, joining or what? I am about to put the next newsletter together and will be doing an update on 'Apps on the internet'. Can you give me some more gen about yourself, where you are from etc. etc.

From the tone of your last I get the feeling that you may have been Ground Wireless, if so KKK

From: Bill Hercus
To: Chris Horn
Hi Chris, yes I'm 85th and will join. I was the 'elite' Air Radio would you believe! Left Locking to Kinloss serviced Shacks, went to Gibraltar, serviced Shacks, did pilot training and then flew -- you guessed Shacks! Then became a QFI (flying instructor) then returned to the Kipper fleet and flew Nimrods; then retired from RAF became sort of airline pilot flew everything from Dakota to Gulfstream then went to BAE as commercial instructor then got grounded. Damn. Now teaching pilots here at RAF Kinloss (simulator and classroom) Great life. Proud of being an App -

many many of the best people are.

Regards Bill Hercus

* * *

To: Chris Horn
From: Bill Hercus

Hi Chris,
Thanks for all the information. By all means use my name to broadcast the 'net idea. I think it is an excellent idea and The Shackleton Association, of which I am a member, has also just recently produced a Website and publishes all email contactable people on it. To my delight, a couple of old flying mates from the past contacted me because of that. The 85th was a long time ago but who knows? The friend who put me on to you is one Dick Scrivener who was not only a junior entry, I can't remember which one, but also was my navigator on the Nimrod. Dick is with Westland and keeps flying. Anyway, best of luck with your efforts.

RE: Locking Apps.

From: David Roforth-Smith
Subject: Locking Apps.

I would love to join. I was in the 91st Entry I now live and work in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado USA. I hope you will allow overseas membership. Let me know how to join.

From George Burville
Richard Dawson (83rd) has called in from New Zealand. Wants to join. His details on my page or by phone etc.