



The 'Never Again' News

An occasional newsletter for members of 225 Entry, RAF Halton, Nov 1971 – Oct 1973

No 19 – January 2021

2020 - A (NOT VERY) FUNNY OLD YEAR

I had anticipated that by the time that I was writing this edition of the newsletter I would have some concrete information on our 50th Anniversary Reunion in November, however, the dreaded Covid-19 turned up to ruin the chances of any early planning.

An alternative suggestion was to postpone until October 2023 and mark our passing out instead, but as that date means little to the ones who did not pass out with us, or in some cases had left the RAF by then, I would like to stick with November 2021 if possible. Therefore it is hoped that we can have a reunion, if any lingering Covid restrictions allow, on the weekend of 5 - 7 November 2021.

To that end Owl Hurst has volunteered to help look at suitable venues and other arrangements in the Midlands. His assistance is most welcome as unfortunate family circumstances over the past year have severely impacted on my own ability to spend as much time on the planning as I'd originally anticipated.

The initial ideas are to assemble on the Friday (5th), have a trip out (possibly to the museum at Cosford, with perhaps an alternative for any wives / girlfriends / partners who don't fancy that idea) and an evening meal together on the 6th. Then on the Sunday morning we could visit the National Memorial Arboretum to remember those of the entry who have died (two of whom are named on the Armed Forces Memorial there), before those who wish to do so disperse – or return to the hotel for another small glass of shandy before departing on the Monday. Any further ideas on the weekend will be welcome, but please submit them soon. Also volunteers to help with aspects of the organisation might prove very useful.

Obviously with the ongoing Covid-19 situation we will try to push out updates as the plans develop. One thing I am mindful of is that we will probably have to set a date in the summer for making the decision to call it off if there is still uncertainty over restrictions – we don't want to be cancelling at the last moment, especially as I am hoping that all the 'exiles' in foreign lands will make arrangements to return to Blighty for this special occasion.

Keep the 5th – 7th November free if you possibly can, and look out for updates via email or the entry Facebook page.

THE 'RE-BIRTH' OF THE HALTON APPRENTICES' ASSOCIATION

Since the last newsletter the fate of the HAA has been turned around! After a long period of doom and gloom, when the association was deemed to be 'dead', there has been a major shake-up of personnel and the new committee are determined that the HAA will not only continue but will prosper.

A large sum of money (over £200k), that had previously been transferred to the RAF Halton Apprentices' Trust, has been returned to the HAA and this will help put the association onto a sound financial footing while a recruiting drive for more members is organized, and other sources of income are investigated.

To enable the new committee to develop their plans I urge you to consider renewing your membership or join (or re-join) the RAFHAA. This is particularly important as Halton will be closing in a few years time and much work (and no doubt expense) will be needed to secure the physical parts of our legacy and heritage, such as the contents of the Trenchard Museum and the entry memorial windows in St George's Church. For further information on the HAA see their website at www.oldhaltonians.co.uk The association would also like to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer to help with its various projects.

A FINAL ATTEMPT TO FIND THE 'MISSING' ONES

With the reunion hopefully now only a little over 10 months away we need to have a last push to try and find the 'missing' members of the entry. Since the last newsletter my list is largely unchanged with contact only being established with Paul Deakin who joined us from the 223s for a few months (November 72 – March 73) before transferring to adult training. He now works as a flying instructor in Spain while living over the border in France; it sounds tough but I suppose someone has to do it!

Unfortunately some previous leads did not manage to establish contact, and in other cases messages left on Forces Reunited have gone unanswered. As I said last year: "While I understand that some may not want to get involved, it would be good to at least make as many as possible aware of our plans for 2021 so they can be given the opportunity to join us". The names of the 'missing' are below and if any of you know of their whereabouts please either try to make contact with them yourself (and let me know the results) or pass on what information you have to me.

If anyone would like to take on the challenge of trying to track them down over the coming months let me know.

Airframes: -

Robert 'Paddy' Coburn
G. Davey – Joined us from 224th Entry in Jun 73.
Anthony 'Russ' Fenn
Phil Green – Owl Hurst thinks he's living on Anglesey.
Jonathon 'Bob' Hope
Andrew McCormack
Dave McNeir
Trev Millard – Discharged Oct 72.
Dave Millington
Nigel Morse – left a message on our website in 2013, but didn't give contact details.
Dave Paterson – possibly in South Wales?
Robert Scales
Ken Scott – Discharged Nov 72.
Richard Tribe – Discharged Jun 73.
Graham Willis – Discharged Dec 71.
G. 'Mid' Myers – Joined us from 223rd Entry in Mar 72.

Armourers: -

Steven Barnard – Discharged Jan 72.
John Duncan – John Lawson may be in contact?
Paul Edwards
Andrew Gayfer
William Kane – Discharged Jan 72.
Brian Odell
Alan Parker
Steve Pritchard
Roger Taylor – Discharged March 73.
Nigel Winn

Ground Electricians: -

Gareth 'Stan' Kyte

AND FINALLY

At least in this edition I have not had to report on the death of any of our members, a feature I am more than happy not to have to include in the *Never Again News*. Long may the Grim Reaper stay away from our doorsteps - take care and make sure the bloody Covid doesn't get to you before the vaccine!

Best wishes to you all for 2021, and I sincerely hope that a large number of us can meet in November to mark our 50th anniversary of joining up at Halton – where has the time gone?!

Dickie Bird