



The 'Never Again' News

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

No 3 – March 2010

TRIENNIAL REUNION

The details of the 10th Triennial Reunion at Halton have now been announced and I thought you'd all be interested to hear what is planned - apologies to those already HAAA members as you will have hopefully had notification already.

The Triennial will be held on Saturday 25th September 2010 starting at 1000 hrs. There will be a range of displays, lunch will be provided, and the Apprentices Museum will be open all day. There will be a sunset ceremony at 1520 hrs and a parade to the front of workshops (obviously there's some allowance for our age as it'll only mean marching downhill!). At 1600 hrs there will be a service in St George's Church to dedicate the completed stained glass windows (made up of plaques etc. from entries who've commissioned them) and also to celebrate the forthcoming 90th anniversary of the apprentice scheme (in 2012, some way off in reality but before the next triennial).

Wives / partners / girlfriends are not eligible to attend the main part of the reunion, but can join for the sunset ceremony and church service. To cater for them during the rest of the day a separate programme will be laid on that will include a visit to Halton House and the museum, and arrangements will be made so that they can purchase refreshments along the way.

Now to the painful bit - the costs!

HAAA members who pre-book will only have to pay a very reasonable £18.

HAAA members who arrive without having pre-booked will have to pay £22.

Non-HAAA members can attend but the cost will be £60, however, this price does also include a 3-year membership of the association (or £130 to include lifetime membership).

For current HAAA members, or those that join soon and pre-book for the triennial, accommodation can be booked for the Friday night at a cost of £20 – and it'll be in single rooms rather than the 14-man rooms of the 'good old days', although there is a limited number of rooms available and I suspect they'll be snapped up pretty quickly.

As to my own plans I have already booked a flight from Inverness to Luton and will pick up a hire car so that I'm mobile over the weekend. Still being an ID Card carrying member I've booked into the Sgts Mess for a couple of nights (did I hear cheapskate being mentioned?!) but hope that if others are also staying in the area we can make arrangements to all meet up somewhere on the Friday or Saturday evenings. Let me know what your plans are and we can go from there.

So, I hope that as many of you as possible make the effort to come to the Triennial – obviously joining the HAAA beforehand has several advantages. Also can you try to make contact with any of the others you know of who are not listed on the email addresses used to send this newsletter and encourage them to make contact with me as soon as possible.

WHO'S THIS?

I have been in contact with a chap who has been involved with the Ten Tors walks for decades and is trying to compile a history of the event. When I told him of my involvement he forwarded me a copy of this picture – one that I don't remember being taken or seeing before. So, here we are in May 1973 – I can only presume that with the smiles and the ability of some to bend their legs to kneel down, it was taken before we did the 45 miles across Dartmoor. It is worthy of note (and to blow our trumpet again after 37 years!) that the weather was really bad over the weekend (in similar conditions today it would probably be cancelled by the elf and safety brigade) and we were one of only a handful of senior teams to finish the event with a full complement, despite both Taff Desborough and myself being under 18, the minimum age for the senior route.



L to R Rear: Kev Feeney, Dickie Bird, ? Edwards.
Front: Taff Desborough, Doug Swayze (119 Entry), Martin Crown.

All the best

Dickie Bird