



The 'Never Again' News

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

No 8 – October 2011

THE REUNION, 5th – 6th NOVEMBER 2011

I am pleased to report that I have (with some very much appreciated help I hasten to add) rounded up several more of the entry and have added them to the list. It's not too late to locate some more of the 44 who've not been accounted for – if you have any leads whatsoever please follow them up now and try to make contact - then perhaps a few more can at least have the chance of coming to the reunion.

Dave Baines **	Chris Birch **	Dickie Bird *	Tony Borrett**
Glyn Casey **	Dave Cottrell *	Bob Couch	Martin Crown *
Pete Davies	Martyn Daynes	Chris Desborough x	George Fairbairn x
Paul Farrall *	Kev Feeney x	Pete Firth x	Gordon Graham *
Steve Hitchman x	Owl Hurst *	Dennis Kelly	Tony Killick *
Pete Knowles *	John Lawson**	Jim McWilliams **	Pat Minister *
Iain Montgomerie*	Dave Moore **	Colin Murray **	Mick Ogle *
Merv Roberts	Dave Rouget *	Pete Schneider	Derek Webster x
Ian Whappington **	Bob Wilson	Graham Wilson x	

Those of you who have confirmed your attendance (and hopefully booked a room at the hotel by now) will find a green star (two if you are accompanied) against your name. If the number of stars against your name doesn't tally with reality let me know as soon as possible.

Those with a red cross are the ones who have told me that they are not coming, but as most are living / working / holidaying in foreign parts we will let them off on this occasion!

If you have no marks against your name it means that I do not know your intentions. We have now reached the stage where I need to know whether you are coming or not as unused rooms will have to be handed back in a few days - thereafter you will have to take pot luck as to whether a room is available.

Bob Couch, Martyn Daynes, Dennis Kelly and Pete Schneider can ignore all the above as you have told me of your own plans and they don't fall into the neat categories I had anticipated!

THIS MAY BE A REPEAT BUT IT'S STILL IMPORTANT IF YOU HAVE NOT BOOKED YET!

PLEASE BOOK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. To make a booking you can go to the hotel's website at www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/aylesbury/aylbk/hoteldetail and insert the reference J1R in the box for group bookings. If the website doesn't show the prices I quoted in the last newsletter, or if you have any other problems, you can phone the hotel's reservation desk on 01296 734024 instead. If you are still having difficulties ask to speak to Jo Byron, Reservations & Conference Sales Manager, or phone her direct on 01296 734002. In both the latter instances please mention that you are booking as part of the 'RAF Reunion on 5th November' being organized by me – they know me by my real name, Derek Bird.

Once you have made your booking would you please let me know so that I can easily keep track of numbers and double check later with the hotel to ensure that everything tallies – see newsletter No 7 or contact me if you need clarification on any aspect of the reunion.

THE EVENING MEAL

Our Saturday evening meal (I am aiming for a 7.30 p.m. start) will be held in a private function room and, although it is too early for the chef to have decided the details of the menu it is likely to consist of a soup starter, meat main course and something like a cheesecake desert – there will also be a vegetarian option.

I will assume that unless you tell me otherwise you will have the meat main course, but if you do require the vegetarian option, or there is something you cannot eat (for medical / religious reasons rather than just being fussy like me!) please let me know.

THE FOOTBALL GLORY DAYS?



Thanks go to Dave Baines for this photograph. He says it was our football team (well most of it anyway) before a match against Comet Flight in 1971.

They are from back left: - Chris Birch, Merv Roberts, Jim McWilliams, George Fairbairn, Pete Davies (apparently with the only ball they had – hard times!), Ian Powell, Derek Webster, Ian Whaplington and Dave Baines.

Does anyone know the result of the match?



Chris Birch has kindly sent me this picture showing our Ground Leckies in all their glory outside Oxford Flight. They are from Left to Right, Rear Row: Pete Davies, Robert Newton, Martyn Daynes, Dave Phillips, Stan Kyte, Chris Birch, Dave Baines, Martin Walford. Front Row: Dave Moore, Jim McWilliams, Dennis Kelly, Colin Murray, Bob Couch, Derek Webster, Ian Powell, John Minshull.

I do not remember any similar photos being taken of the other classes, or even of the whole entry – is that a senior moment on my part or were some taken? If they were I would appreciate copies if anyone has them.

AND FINALLY, ALMOST

This will be the last newsletter before the reunion as I have a lot of other commitments to fit in before November, however, I will ensure that any important news regarding the reunion is sent out to you via email.

If you haven't already confirmed your attendance please do so as soon as possible and make your hotel booking, as I will be handing back any rooms we don't require to the hotel at the beginning of October.

Also, as mentioned earlier, please try to follow up any leads that you may have for any of the 44 of the entry that are still out there somewhere.

THE ENTRY STAINED GLASS WINDOW

As you can see from this initial colour sketch the design for the entry stained glass window is almost complete. All it needs now is some fine tuning when the artist who will be doing the painting meets with the lady who is putting the whole thing together to decide (with a few inputs they've had from me) on the level of detail on the Spitfire and ox.

The overall size will be just over 12" x 36" (32 x 93cm in new money!) and it should look really effective with the daylight shining through it.

Many of you have already offered to contribute towards the cost of the window, which is very much appreciated, and some have already asked about making payments. I am still happy to cover all the costs for now and wait until the reunion to collect your contributions – so don't forget your cheque books as I don't accept credit cards!

For those who are not able to come to the reunion, please don't let that stop you from contributing. Please contact me and we can work out a way to do it.



FINALLY

Just as I was about to sign off it struck me that between us we must have quite a lot of photographs of our time at Halton - so how about bringing some of them along to the reunion to help stir a few more memories?

Part of the church service on the Sunday will be the dedication of our window and they expect a short address saying something about the entry and our time at Halton. To save the disappointment of having to turn down so many volunteers I will do it, but I would appreciate some input from the rest of you. So, if you can think of any scrapes anyone got up to or funny moments (I can omit the names to protect the guilty!) that I can relate then let me know. Also did anyone stage an end of training stunt as I cannot remember one?

All the best and I am very much looking forward to seeing many of you next month.

Dickie Bird