



RAFHAA JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER

In the UK, at last we are seeing some sunshine as June has tried hard to lift our spirits. Most of us have now had both Covid jabs and the time feels right to socialise again. Next month, a bumper edition of the Haltonian will drop through your letter boxes and I am taking a break from writing the monthly Newsletter until August. Arrangements are well in hand for our virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 20th September 2022 at midday (1100 hrs Zulu). Full details on voting and virtually attending are contained in the Haltonian. In this letter, I refer to your feed back (or lack of feedback) several times. I cannot stress enough how important it is for your Council to hear your views on all the initiatives being taken. If you agree with what we are doing, then please let us know. If you disagree, please let us know how you would be doing things differently.

The inclusion of Clive Brooks (93rd) painting of a Harrier of 4 Sqn at the end our May Newsletter (as published on our website at www.oldhaltonians.co.uk) prompted correspondence on the artistic skills of ex-apprentices in all mediums. So much so, that the Council are agreed that pages on our website could usefully be allocated to Apprentice Art. Please let Clive have your contributions to these pages as soon as you can, email it@rafhaa.co.uk and we will include them in an opening event in due course. Paintings, drawings, photography, woodwork, sculpting, ceramics, modelling, books and stories are all acceptable. If your art is for sale, then we do not mind promoting your pieces so please provide contact details and indicative prices. If you receive any sales, a small donation to the Association would be much appreciated.

Jankers! At the last count there are 144 members who are defaulters in having not paid the full amount of this year's membership subscriptions. We have sent two reminders by email and letter post to those without email and the situation remains *gross*! Excuse the pun. Some of you may have forgotten about this year's Ordinary Membership increase from £10.00 to £20.00 to cover the rising costs of the Haltonian and other Association expenses. The next issue of the magazine is less than a month away. If you wish to keep receiving your copy of the Haltonian, PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE PAID IN FULL. If you are in any doubt about how much you have paid, contact Colin Ferrier (93rd) by email at membership@rafhaa.co.uk or by sending a note by post to our General Secretary Les Shardlow (103rd) at 1 Pipit Gardens, Watermead, Aylesbury, HP19 0GF. When our Association went through a difficult period a year or two ago, several members resigned. If you have colleagues in this category, please let them know of the advances that have been made and that they are most welcome to re-join the Association ready for next year's Reunion 22.

In the April Newsletter I asked members to give some thought to suitable receivers of charity donations. One of the key objects of our constitution is to provide donations to suitable causes. You may or may not be surprised to hear that we did not receive a single response to this request. Please give the matter some thought again, a small gift from the Association to someone in need really lifts the spirit of the person concerned. As you know, this year your Council reinstated the annual Charitable donation to the RAF Halton Charity Fund. Below is a photograph of a sprightly Min Larkin (63rd) presenting the Station Commander Group Captain Dan Startup with a cheque for £1000.



In the last few months, your Council has taken part in meetings with MOD Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), MOD Heritage, RAF Halton executives, Halton Parish Council and the Bucks County Museum to develop ideas for our heritage when RAF Halton closes in 2025. The important issues of relocating our Museum, our Archives and the exhibits in the James McCudden flight centre are becoming more pressing with every passing day. As I mentioned in the May Newsletter, your Council has tasked Focus Consulting with producing a sustainable business plan. Meetings have taken place to see what lessons may be learned from the development of Bentley Priory as a visitor's attraction and we are also assessing the viability of making the WW 1 Trenches at Halton a more exciting feature. Halton is nicely situated on the Aylesbury Gardenway, a proposed orbital route around Aylesbury for walkers, runners, and wheelers. Please see map below.



Another interesting facet is the progress of the nearby archaeological digs preceding the HS125 route preparation. Thousands of interesting artefacts have already been unearthed and a display of the exhibits at Halton could enhance the possibility of an all-encompassing Halton Heritage centre.

During our time at Halton, most of us would have been aware of the Neolithic long barrow located some 100m to the north east of Groves Road. The barrow, which is orientated east to west, stands on a slight spur projecting from the lower slopes of Haddington Hill, and would originally have stood out from the horizon when viewed from the valley to the south and west.

Thus, our right to be remembered in history is just part of the Halton story and your Council is mindful that our heritage is just part of a wider story to be told.

In previous Newsletters, I have mentioned and asked for members thoughts on producing a monument to the thousands of brats who passed through Halton. Ideas are now crystallising, and Council has decided to recommend to members that we rename the project “Trenchard’s Legacy”, featuring dozens of aspects of ex-apprentices lives

from training through to the aircraft and equipment they worked on. Currently, we are limiting work to the provision of sketches of what might be achieved if set in a sculptured bronze, as for now, we cannot predict if our proposal to use St Georges' Church will be accepted.

Following requests for Entry webmasters to make their sites GDPR compliant, we have had contact with some of those who are managing the sites and improvements are being made. Our own website at www.oldhaltonians.co.uk is now becoming a more frequently visited source of information where all recent Newsletters may be found besides correspondence relating to our heritage progress. Membership applications may be processed through the site and winners of the 500 Club lottery are published monthly. Shortly, we will be publishing our final draft of the new CIO Constitution and an application form for tickets to Reunion 22. It will not surprise you therefore that Council has been debating the need to password protect parts of the site which include sensitive information. At the May 22 Council Meeting, Council unanimously agreed that our IT Manager (Clive Brooks 93rd) should proceed with arrangements to protect the site. In due course, those members who are digitally connected with the Association will receive by email instructions on username and password to enter restricted areas of the site. The password will change every six months. Hence, it is vital that you let us know if you change your email address.

One of the pleasures attached to being a member of your Council is the arrival of unexpected emails from colleagues long since forgotten! I have received two such messages in the last month. First, was from a non-member who had picked up a copy of the Haltonian in a dental surgery! He said he recognised me as being OC Handling Flight at Leeming in the early 70's. He was a flight line mechanic at the time and went on to serve for over 30 years in the RAF. He relayed a story I was completely unaware of. Another Flem (whose name I do remember and now apparently deceased), received seven days restrictions from me for smoking in the Safety Equipment bay. Leeming was a MDA and handling flight was active 24/7. The most notorious event during my spell there was a wheels-up landing of a Nimrod on a bed of foam at 2.00am in the morning. The Flem caught smoking claimed in his defence that the events of the evening had caused him excessive stress and he had felt the need to relax with a smoke! Apparently, a book had been opened on

what his punishment would be and following his punishment he promised to get his own back on me. One week later, the Station held a family's day and my SD Cap mysteriously disappeared! With the message came a picture of my SD cap being barbecued with sausages and pork chops! The second email related to my time as OC APS at Abingdon in the early eighties. It was a hugely interesting job managing 18 Jaguars floor loaded in a massive hangar undertaking Majors and an extensive modifications programme. At AOC'S Inspection time, we made a big thing of having just completed the 100th Major and the AOC was invited to cut a ribbon across the bay to let the aircraft roll out for air test. He was invited to take a tool tag from the board and then a pair of scissors to cut the ribbon. The tag went well but when he came to take the scissors, some wag had superglued them to the board!! To roars of laughter, Chiefy gave him another pair and I thought that's my promotion done for! However, to my utter surprise, on leaving the AOC said to me, I find it very refreshing that your men are in such good spirits. Well done!

In the last issue of the Haltonian, we included a draft copy of our proposed new CIO Constitution and asked for feed-back. I am pleased to say several of you took time to examine the document thoroughly and we have received a lot of detailed and knowledgeable comment. We are fortunate that our Member for Governance (Barry Neal 103rd) has much experience in this field. Besides, your Council is determined to follow a wholly democratic process under the guidance of the Charity Commission to introduce this change of organisation and constitution. Hence, Barry collated every single comment our members made and offered appropriate solutions to an Extraordinary Council meeting held to discuss changes to the draft. The final draft has now been approved by Council and will be published on our website www.oldhaltonians.co.uk on 15th June 2021. Members will then have the opportunity to vote on the new Constitution before the next AGM on 20th September 2021 and full details for the procedure will be contained in Issue 83 of the Haltonian.

Planning for Reunion 22 on 20th August 2022 at RAF Halton is well on the way. We would like members to know that this Reunion also marks the 100th Anniversary of the first apprentices to be trained at RAF Halton. As such, your Council is determined that this will be a special event. While Workshops and the WW 1 Trenches are no longer available for viewing, we are hopeful of arranging some special events on the Henderson

Parade ground. We will try and book a premier military band, some elite drill demonstrations, and perhaps a gymnastic display or dog training programme. Besides these, the popular Golden Oldies and Vintage Car display are earmarked for inclusion. Additionally, we will apply for a World War 2 vintage aircraft display to take place in the skies above our alma mater. The usual Sunset Ceremony and March Past will take place and we are hoping to mark the occasion with the attendance of a very special Reviewing Officer. These are all tasters for you to think about; your Council are working extremely hard to make the event unusually special! Attached to this newsletter is an application form to attend the event. The form will also be reproduced on-line and in the next Haltonian. You will be pleased to know that Members will be entitled to bring a guest or carer.

Following last year's AGM, your new Council reinstated the Financial and General Purposes Committee (FGPC) in accordance with our existing Constitution. In depth examination of our financial affairs revealed that our investments with Salisbury Financial Services (SFS) and Davenport Financial Management (DFM) had not been reviewed since 2014 when first initiated. Our new Treasurer (Phil Sprinks 90th) advised the committee that he considered the Salisbury portfolio, which contained 42% of the Associations investments in American stocks, to be a "high risk" exposure. Further, the DFM HAA investments were in fixed interest "Bonds" and were poor investments when interest rates were extremely low. The value of the fixed interest asset amounted to over £100k or some 50% of the portfolio. The Treasurer felt that the current Independent Financial Advisers (IFA) could have managed the portfolios better. One IFA had made no contact for almost 2 years and the other was unaware of the name of the HAA investment account holder, just "Trustees". In January, the FGPC set about reinvigoration of our assets. Firstly, we cashed in our investments with SFS and DFM and then, following the low to medium investment requirement contained in our Constitution, we selected a new IFA offering the best opportunity for a five-year investment plan. The FGPC interviewed 4 IFA's and unanimously chose Old Mutual Wealth. While it is early days, the signs are that our investments are already making a much better return than they did over the past 5 years.

The 500 Club results for June are as follows:

1st prize of £620 goes to Robert Rodham, 223rd with lucky number 7
 2nd prize of £310 goes to Brian Foster, 106th with lucky number 52
 3rd prize of £155 goes to Alan Wicken, 210th with lucky number 214
 The Heritage Fund is the recipient of £465.

Our 500 Club organiser, Phil Sprinks, says the number of players continue to grow, with 12 new numbers allocated last month. Remember, you can hold a maximum of three tickets only, so the odds of landing a really useful win are very good. Email: 500club@rafhaa.co.uk for tickets or more information.

Many of you continued to respond to our Route Lining Table and I am grateful to Ron Priest for updating the detail again (attached).

From the foregoing, you will realise your Council remains hard at work in developing your Association. For my part, I am about to take a break for two weeks, returning to the county of my childhood, Somerset. Let's hope the weather stays fair.

Best wishes,

Frank Denton-Powell (90th)
 Chairman RAFHAA

Year	Entry	Location	Event	Occasion
July 1961	96	London	National event	Unveiling of Lord Trenchard's statue
May 1963	99	London	State Visit	King Baudouin and Queen Fabiola of Belgium
June 1963	99	London	State Visit	President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan of India
July 1963	99	London	State Visit	King Paul and Queen Frederika of Greece
1963	various	London	Royal Premier	Royal Premier of Great Escape. Trumpeters play Royal Fanfare for Princess Margaret
July 1964	99	London	State Visit	King Paul I and Queen

				Frederika of Gr
Jan 1965	102, 103, 104, 105, 106 plus ex 100	London	State Funeral	Winston Church Funeral 102 escorted th carriage
July 1965	103, 104, 105	London	State Visit	President Eduar Montalve of Chi
1965	202, 204	Windsor	Royal Event	Met with HM Q St Georges Cha
1965	106, 202, 204	Golders Green Hippodrome	Entertainment	1965 Gang Show
April 1966	203	London	House of Lords	Launched the El Island Project v Lord Shackletor
May 1966	205	London	State Visit	President Franz Austria
July 1966	106, 107, 202	London	State Visit	King Hussein I
Nov 1966	105, 106, 205	London	State Visit	President Ayub Pakistan
May 1967	107, 111, 206, 207	London	State Visit	King Faisal of S Arabia
1967	207, 208	Royal Albert Hall	Pop Concert	Halton Brass ba accompanied the Gee's in concert
Nov 1967	205	London	State Visit	President Cevde Sunay of Turkey
Aug 1967	207	Halton	Halton Parent's Day	Continuity Drill for Sir Douglas
April 1968	211	Abingdon	National Event	RAF 50 th Annive
July 1969	210, 213	London	State Visit	Pres. Urho Kekk Finland
Oct 1971	117, 218, 219, 221, 223	London	State Visit	Emperor Hirohi Japan
Dec 1971	218	London	State Visit	King Mohammed Shah Afghanist
April 1972	219	Windsor	State Visit	Queen Juliana Netherlands

June 1972	224	London	State Visit	Grand Duke Jean Luxembourg
June 1972	223	Windsor	Funeral	Duke of Windsor (Edward III)
Nov 1973	120, 121, 122, 231	London	Royal Wedding	RW Princess Anne Wedding
April 1973	231	London	State Visit	Pres. Luis Echeverria Mexico
June 1973	121, 224	London	State Visit	Pres. Yakubu Gowon Nigeria
June 1973	231	London	State Visit	Pres. Luis Echeverria Mexico
Dec 1973	123	London	State Visit	President Mobutu Sese Seko Zaire
April 1974	123	London	State Visit	Queen Margrethe II Denmark
June 1974	123	Windsor	Funeral	Duke of Gloucester
July 1974	224	London	State Visit	Yang di-Pertuan Agong Abdul Halim of Malaysia
July 1975	122, 124, 125	Edinburgh	State Visit	King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden
July 1975	123, 124	London	State Visit	King of Denmark
Nov 1975	123	London	State Visit	President of Tanzania
May 1976	123, 127	London	State Visit	President of Brazil
June 1976	123, 127	London	State Visit	President of France
May 1977	124, 125, 127, 129	London	Royal Jubilee	Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee
Nov 1977	128	London	Remembrance Service	Reveille at Cenotaph Parade
April 1978	130	Westminster Abbey	Church Service	RAF 60 th Anniversary
June 1978	131	London	State Visit	President of Romania
Nov 1978	128	London	Remembrance Service	Reveille at Cenotaph Parade
1978	128	London	Royal Event	HRH Queen Mother's 90 th Birthday outside Albert Hall
Nov 1978	127, 131	London	State Visit	President of Portugal
1978 & 79	130	London	Capital Event	Lord Mayors' Parade
June 1979	131	London	State Visit	President of Kenya

Sept 1979	130	London	State Funeral	Lord Mountbatt Funeral
Nov 1979	131, 133	London	State Visit	President of Ind
Nov 1980	131, 133	London	State Visit	King of Nepal
March 1981	131, 133	London	State Visit	President of Ni
29 July 1981	132, 133, 135, 136, 137	London	Royal Wedding	Charles and Dia wedding
March 1982	??	London	State Visit	Sultan Quaboos Said al Said of O
1984	140	Aromanche	WW2 Event	HM Queen Elizc II 40 th annivers D Day Landings
July 1986	144	London	Royal Wedding	Prince Andrew c Sarah Ferguson Wedding
Oct 1990	153	London	National Event	50 th anniversary Battle of Britain
April 1991	??	Windsor Castle	State Visit	President Lech Walensa Poland
2000	A Mech E course	London	State Visit	Queen Margret Denmark

**The RAFHAA Reunion at RAF Halton
Saturday 20th August 2022.**

Our President, Group Captain Dan Startup CBE RAF, has kindly granted permission for the RAFHAA to hold a Reunion on Saturday 20th August 2022, at RAF Halton. Your Council is keen to make this event as memorable as those in the past and we need your help to identify as early as possible the number of members and guests hoping to attend. Please complete your application for tickets as soon as possible. In due course we will publish a programme for the day.

The following points should be noted.

- 1. Security considerations preclude non-members of the RAFHAA booking for the event. If you are not a member, please contact the RAFHAA Membership Secretary for joining requirements.**

2. Barrack blocks that have been used at previous reunions have been shut because of Health and Safety considerations, and there will be no overnight accommodation available. Members should not try to book accommodation utilising the Station Accommodation Cell as all such requests will be refused.
3. Members can pay for and bring either one nominated adult, (guest or partner) or one adult carer with them on the day. Because of additional legal requirements, only guests over the age of 16 are permitted to attend.
4. Many of the areas that we have visited at previous reunions are closed for Health and Safety or operational reasons. These include the Old Workshops, the Airfield and the Trenches.
5. Parking and disabled parking will be provided in a designated parking area closer to the Henderson Grove parade square. If any member because of their disability requires access to Henderson Grove square in their vehicle, a separate note with full details should be attached to this application form so that their request can be considered.
6. Application forms can be either cut out from the Haltonian and sent to the General Secretary by post or downloaded, populated and submitted from the HAA website www.oldhaltonians.co.uk

Application for Tickets: The Association now can accept worldwide debit/credit cards for payments. These payments can only be processed by email invoice to the payee from the RAFHAA.

Please fill in the form below:

- a. Send a cheque by post with your application form to the General Secretary (address below) or
- b. Scan and email to reunion2022@rafhaa.co.uk whereupon you will be invoiced to pay by either debit/credit card or
- c. Submit from the RAFHAA website, www.oldhaltonians.co.uk and you will be invoiced as in b above.

First Name:

Last Name:

.....

Association Number:

Entry:

.....

Email address:

Telephone No:

Guest: (Required for Station Security purposes)

First Name:

Last Name:

.....

Members Attendance: £30.....

Guest/Carer

(16+ only): £30.....

I enclose a cheque for: £

Made payable

to: RAFHAA

(Cheques must be endorsed with Association No and Entry No on the reverse. Do not be concerned if your cheque is not processed immediately).

Please include a stamped self-addressed A5 envelope if possible.

I wish to be invoiced and pay by debit/credit card.....
(tick if applicable).

Tickets will be either sent as an e-ticket or by surface mail before the event. Please ensure you bring your ticket with you as it will be checked and processed before you are allowed admission to RAF Halton.

Signature:

Date:

.....

GIFT AID DECLARATION

I am a UK taxpayer and agree to the RAFHAA claiming Gift Aid in respect of this donation.

Please notify RAFHAA if your tax position changes or if you wish to cancel this declaration.

Signature:

Date:

For Office Use Only: Entered into Database: Date:

General Secretary RAFHAA Reunion 2022

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Watermead

Aylesbury,

Buckinghamshire,

HP19 0GF

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HALTONIAN – URGENT

Due to a fault on my system, I have lost all of

the information that I store on separate folders for inclusion in the Haltonian. Specifically - Entry reunion notices and Entry reviews. Can I ask those who sent in details to please resend again as soon as possible? Luckily I have sent all of the Letters, Articles, Obituaries and most Association matters to our designer and do not require them to be sent to me again. I will have to re-set all of the Anecdotes again, but that's my problem, luckily I had printed them, I just need to burn some more midnight oil!

Barry Hathaway. Editor.

Haltonian@ rafhaa.co.uk or call me on 01453 833702 / 07591 489190. Thank you.



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