



RAFHAA NEWSLETTER APRIL 2021

I am sure our thoughts and prayers are with Her Majesty the Queen on the death of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

Annual General Meeting 2021

The RAFHAA will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) and a Webinar via Zoom Video-Conference from

Midday on Saturday 25th September 2021

The AGM will consider agenda items submitted, the Minutes of the 19th September 2020 AGM, approval of the CIO Constitution, a report on the year's activities from the Chairman, Membership Secretary, Heritage Development Member, and Treasurer, presentation of the Accounts, and elections to the Council. Nominations for election to the Council should be forwarded to the RAFA Chairman no later than 30th June 2021.

Nominations for election to the Council must indicate that the member nominated is willing to serve, and give the name of a proposer and seconder, who must be current individual voting members of the Association.

Members may petition/request the Council by post up to, but not later than 31st August 2021 for matters to be included in the Meeting. Where 25 members or more Petition on a matter it will be included in the meeting agenda. Petitions of less than 5 members, and requests, may be included on the agenda at the discretion of the Council; if not included they will be replied to in writing and acknowledged at the meeting.

At the height of Covid, I received correspondence from several members about how best to make Bequests to the Association particularly regarding the creation of a successful Heritage programme for the Halton Brat. The Council has

agreed to place the following statement in future issues of the Haltonian and on our website at www.oldhaltonians.co.uk

“Over the years, some members have made bequests to our Association in their wills in preparation for their final postings. Recently, a member asked if we still accepted bequests or legacies and how he should proceed if he wished to make such an arrangement. Covid had concentrated his mind on a difficult subject.

Of course, it is vital that advice is taken from a qualified lawyer; but dealing with these matters is not expensive and gives one peace of mind. Our Association details are provided on the rear page of the Haltonian and are sufficient for most lawyer’s needs.

We all owe a debt of gratitude for the apprentice training we received at Halton. It is not just about the quality and depth of professional training but the development of personal qualities and friendships that have shaped the whole of our lives.

Halton made us the people we are today.

Your Association is determined that the role of ex-Halton apprentices in the military history of our great nation is recognised by future generations. Our Heritage plans are extensive and likely to be costly. You can help us achieve lasting recognition for ex-Halton brats by making a gift to RAFHAA in your will. Once you have catered for your loved ones, a generous bequest would help us achieve our Heritage plans. Your help would be gratefully received. Thank you.”

One matter that has been testing your Council for some time concerns General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). As mentioned earlier, Rob Knotts has taken up a newly established Council post as Member for GDPR. Rob has thoroughly investigated our GDPR arrangements, and we have modified the way we all work to be compliant in law. However, it has been noted that some Entry websites, to which we provide links from www.oldhaltonian.co.uk, are not wholly compliant. Entry web sites that protect personal information by using a password allocated by the entry webmaster are perfectly legal and we will continue to carry the links. However, there are a few Entry websites where personal information of Entry members is not protected, and we must ask that these sites be reviewed and modified. Rob Knotts (GDPR@rafhaa.co.uk) is happy to provide guidance to Webmasters and Chairman of Entry Associations, so please contact him if you need help. Unfortunately, we do not hold records of who these people are, (indeed they may not be members of HAA), so we ask that those who receive this message, please pass it on to entry colleagues with website

responsibilities.

Ron Priest (207th) is a member of both the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) committee and the local branch of the Royal British Legion. We are delighted to announce that Ron has been presented with the RBL Centenary Award for his work over the past 15 years with NMA staff at the Halton Grove. In accepting the award, Ron said that without the support of all the volunteers, Council members and Patrons he could not have achieved anything, it had always been a team effort.

Recently, on one of the Facebook sites covering RAF Apprentice discussion, contributors recalled their participation in route lining and other activities when undergoing training at Halton. Ron Priest has kindly produced a consolidated list of all the inputs, and it makes interesting reading. I attach the list that is likely to be incomplete and if you have any observations, please drop our General Secretary (Les Shardlow) a note at secretary@rafhaa.co.uk

Last month, the Council received a letter from one of our members about the way we are addressing the Haltonian carrier labels, particularly the exclusion of post nominal letters. We take seriously any comment made by members, especially when they make the effort to contact us, and we have been investigating this matter thoroughly. It appears that a previous Council took the decision to drop the post nominals from member's names, but we could find no certain reason why. In the eighties, serving personnel were encouraged to obtain civilian recognition of their skills and many joined professional institutes giving them the right to use post nominal like MIPM (Member of the Institute of Personnel Management) or MITD (Member of the Institute of Training and Development). On top of this, of course, some had academic post nominals like Dr or BSc, and some had post nominals for national awards like BEM or MBE. It is believed that the inclusion of post nominal letters on address labels was stopped because of lack of space on the delivery labels. Our investigations found that our data base included some post nominals, but the detail is far from complete. When the present Council took over last year, the Association had been preparing for closure and there is no doubt the data base had fallen into decay. Through the considerable efforts of Colin Ferrier, our Membership Secretary, the data base is now far more accurate although to be certain of the

accuracy of post nominals would take a huge amount of work necessitating every member to re-register. We believe this is unnecessary but would welcome your views. In the meantime, we apologise to those who wish to show their qualifications and awards but for now we will continue to leave them off our address labels.

Several members have asked us to reorder supplies of RAFHAA car stickers. I am pleased to say we have unearthed a supply of stickers and you will note that the Memorabilia list on our web site www.oldhaltonians.co.uk now includes the stickers. We will supply 2 stickers by post to a UK address for £4.00 including postage or overseas £5.00 including postage. Order as advised on the website.

The results of the fourth HAA 500 Club Lottery that took place at mid-day on 1st March are as follows:

1st prize of £514.00 goes to Ray Helliard (85/86th) with lucky number 139
2nd prize of £257.00 goes to Bill Affleck (92nd) with lucky number 103
3rd prize of £129 goes to Dave Parsons (90th) with lucky number 72

The Heritage Fund received £385.

The results of the fifth HAA 500 Club Lottery that took place at mid-day on 1st April are as follows:

1st prize of £568 goes to Alan Dyer, 99th with lucky number 120
2nd prize of £284 goes to Paul Sims, 217th with lucky number 54
3rd prize of £142 goes to Nigel Bacon, 82nd with lucky number 79

The Heritage Fund received £426.

Congratulations to all the winners, especially our Heritage Fund! Phil Sprinks says the numbers of players are increasing month on month and there are plenty of places still available. Your Council agreed that after completing a successful trial, the Lottery will continue under the present arrangements for the foreseeable future. You have to be *“IN IT TO WIN IT”*. Email Phil at 500club@rafhaa.co.uk to join the lottery.

Your Council has recently discussed how best we can fulfil our Charitable status

commitments. We have recently reinstated an annual grant to the RAF Halton Charities fund, and we are keen to do more and are asking for your help. The first Object of the Association Constitution states we are to provide for “The relief and assistance of past apprentice members of RAF Halton and their dependants who are in need by reason of poverty, disability, sickness, infirmity or otherwise”. We believe our members will know best if there are ex brats that fall into this category and need help. Often gifting books, music, puzzles, or plants etc can be uplifting for those who are unwell or in need. Or there may be a greater need that we can seek assistance from the RAF Benevolent Fund or the Royal Air Forces Association. Please write to me, chairman@rafaa.co.uk, in confidence and your Council will endeavour to help those in need.

Our General Secretary, Les Shardlow (103rd) has moved home and therefore our Association Headquarters address has also changed. Please note, our correspondence address and that of our General Secretary is now 1 Pipit Gardens, Watermead, Aylesbury, HP19 0GF

Please do not forget that for many of you the annual subscription increased to £20 this year. By now those that pay by standing order should have advised their bank accordingly and set up new mandates. Yearly payment members should send their cheque now to RAFHAA, 1 Pipit Gardens, Watermead, Aylesbury. HP19 0GF. If you are experiencing any problems in setting up new Standing Orders, please contact Colin Ferrier (93rd) at membership@rafhaa.co.uk

Since our February Newsletter, most of you will have received our Phoenix edition of the Haltonian. We trust you enjoyed all the articles it contained, and we are grateful for your feedback that was all positive.

This Newsletter is a bumper edition containing important news and information on the many projects your Council is involved with. We cover plans for the AGM in September, and we explain how you may nominate persons to stand on your Council and how to petition for an item to be included in the AGM agenda. As always, our aim is to keep you up to date with all Association news and developments using both this letter and our website at www.oldhaltonians.co.uk.

Recently, I have been asking for volunteers to join our Council. I am pleased to say that Rob Knotts (84th) and John Shelley (219th) have been co-opted to the Council as Trustees and GDPR Member and Marketing/PR Member respectively. We also welcome aboard Peter Kirkpatrick (133rd) as a Heritage advisor. However, other new Council members are urgently required. Some of our existing Council may be standing down at the next AGM and successors are needed. Please give serious thought to joining us and feel free to email me at chairman@rafhaa.co.uk for more information. I hope some of you will be inspired by the progress being made especially with our heritage plans and will offer the help we need.

Your Council recently published a Heritage Policy Statement which was distributed widely to those involved in deciding the future of RAF Halton post closure. You may view this document on our website at www.oldhaltonians.co.uk. Please look at this and other related letters so you are fully aware of how your Council is progressing our Heritage Programme, probably the most important matter we are dealing with. Your Chairman and Deputy Chairman are working closely with the Halton Parish Council and have meetings planned in April with MOD DIO and the Stn Cdr RAF Halton. We will report progress in the May Newsletter.

One important matter we have been progressing is the production of a Business Plan (BP) to support our ideas to re-establish the Museum, post closure of RAF Halton, in a centre near Halton village. The most obvious location for the museum would be in St George's Church where our stained-glass windows and the Tribute would feature as two significant attractions in their own right. We are supported in these ideas by the Halton Parish Council, but we have significant hurdles to cross if we are to convince MOD DIO of the financial and organisational sustainability of such a project. Your Council has decided that a comprehensive professionally produced BP is the best way forward. Such a plan would help us overcome the resistance mentioned above and provide us with a platform to mount a fund-raising programme to launch our Halton Heritage plan. An application to the National Lottery for example will need to show a well thought through business plan besides strong historical evidence, the energy, commitment, and determination to succeed. While your Council has masses of information and plenty of initiative, we do not have the time and expertise to

produce the standard of plan we aspire to. And we are all getting older and are not quite as dynamic as we once were!

We have therefore selected a company called Focus Consulting to undertake the work on our behalf. The company is a leader in its field and has produced outstanding BPs for other well-known organisations. The cost to RAFHAA is £12,000 including VAT. Your Council has approved the payment of funds from the Heritage and General Fund that is benefitting from lottery inputs and the introduction of Heritage Life Membership payments. The first stage of development will be the assimilation of information resulting in a report on the practicality of what we are seeking. A payment for this work (£5,000) will become due in July/August 2021 and has been costed into our budget for the 2021 financial year. The second payment of £7,000 will become due after the 2021 AGM when we hope that the new CIO Constitution will be approved. This level of detail concerning the financing of this project arises from Council's commitment to transparency at the last AGM.

As advised in last month's Haltonian, our AGM will be held on 25th September 2021 at midday. Your Council has decided to hold the AGM as a live virtual meeting using the ZOOM platform. In the July issue of the Haltonian, we will ask that members wishing to attend the meeting request a link from our General Secretary at secretary@rafhaa.co.uk . So that we can plan ahead for the numbers wishing to join the meeting, the cut-off date for link applications will be midnight on 31st August 2021.

Voting at the 2021 AGM will be by postal and electronic means. There will be no live voting. As last year, the voting returns will be scrutinised by independent auditors. This year, the General Secretary Les Shardlow (103rd) will be the Council member receiving the returns. Our Deputy Chairman will be the returning officer presenting the results.

We will publish the meeting agenda in the July issue of the Haltonian along with voting instructions which will mirror the arrangements put in place last year.

Meanwhile, if you are considering requesting/petitioning for an item to be included on the agenda, please note the requirements of both the existing constitution and the proposed new constitution regarding submission timelines.

Accordingly, we formally publish the calling notice below that has also been published on our website.

Many members appreciated the light-hearted jokes contained in the last Newsletter, so I thought I would include in this issue a few one liner's that might bring a smile to your faces!

- 1. I can't believe I got fired from the calendar factory. All I did was take a day off!**
- 2. Money talks. Mine always says goodbye.**
- 3. I went to see the doctor about my short-term memory problems — the first thing he did was make me pay in advance.**
- 4. I have a dog to provide me with unconditional love, but I also have a cat to remind me that I don't deserve it. It's all about balance.**
- 5. Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water.**
- 6. I find it ironic that the colours red, white, and blue stand for freedom until they are flashing behind you.**
- 7. There's a new restaurant called Karma. There's no menu. You get what you deserve.**

Please keep your photographs of cherished number plates coming in. The latest was sent in by John Player of 68th.



Much important information is contained in this Newsletter; remember, it is also available on our website with extracts featuring in threads that are especially noteworthy like the AGM Calling Notice.

With Best Wishes to you all.

Frank

Frank Denton-Powell (90th)

Chairman

RAFHAA

(chairman@rafhaa.co.uk)

RAF Halton Apprentice Route Lining and Other Events from 1961

Year	Entry	Location	Event
July 1961	96	London	Unveiling of Lord Trenchard's statue
1963	various	London	Royal Premier of The Great Escape. Halton trumpeters played the Royal Fanfare for Princess Margaret
July 1964	99	London	SV King Paul I and Queen Frederika of Greece
Jan 1965	102, 103, 104, 105	London	SF Winston Churchill Funeral 102 escorted the gun carriage
July 1965	105	London	SV President Eduardo Frei Montalve of Chile
July 1966	202	London	SV King Hussein I Jordan
May 1967	111, 206, 207	London	SV King Faisal of Saudi Arabia
1967	207, 208	Royal Albert Hall	Halton Brass band accompanied the Bee Gee's in concert
Aug 1967	207	Halton	Continuity Drill Display for Sir Douglas Bader
April 1968	211	Abingdon	RAF 50th Anniversary
1969	210	London	SV Pres. Urho Kekkonen Finland
Oct 1971	218, 219	London	SV Emperor Hirohito Japan
Dec 1971	218	London	SV King Mohammed Zahir Shah Afghanistan
June 1972	224	London	SV Grand Duke Jean Luxembourg
April 1972	??	London	SV Queen Juliana Netherlands
Nov 1973	120, 121, 231	London	RW Princess Anne Wedding
April 1973	231	London	SV Pres. Luis Echeverria Mexico
June 1973	121, 224	London	SV Pres. Yakubu Gowon Nigeria
June 73	231	London	SV Pres. Luis Echeverria Mexico
July 1974	224	London	SV Yang di-Pertuan Agong Abdul Halim of Kedah Malaysia
July 1975	125	Edinburgh	SV King Carl XVI Sweden
May 1977	129	London	Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee
Nov 1977	128	London	Reveille at Cenotaph Parade
April 1978	130	Westminster Abbey	RAF 60th Anniversary
Nov 1978	128	London	Reveille at Cenotaph Parade
1978	128	London	HRH Queen Mother outside Albert Hall
1978 & 79	130	London	Lord Mayors Parade
Sept 1979	130	London	SF Lord Mountbatten's Funeral
July 1981	132, 135, 136, 137	London	RW Charles and Diana wedding
March 1982	??	London	SV Sultan Qaboos Bin Said al Said of Oman

