



RAFHAA NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2021

Most of you will have received your latest issue of the Haltonian through your letter boxes this month. I shall, therefore, make this Newsletter shorter than normal.

Next month, on Saturday 25th September, we are holding our AGM and all the details on how to join this event on-line are in the Haltonian. We hope it will be possible for members to seek clarification on the matters we discuss by using the text button during the virtual meeting. Although limited by time, we promise that unanswered points will be addressed in the Newsletter following the AGM. As I write, voting returns are being received and we encourage you to all exercise your right to vote for the motions proposed by your Council, details on which are also contained in the Haltonian.

I should like to place on record all our thanks to Colin Ferrier (93rd) who has acted as our Membership Secretary for the past 2 years. He has recreated an accurate data base of all our members and overseen the New Heritage Membership class besides introducing a new modern membership card. Colin has also been a major contributor to Council business and served on our Finance and General Purposes Committee always offering down to earth solutions to the many problems we have faced. Colin is standing down at the next AGM to devote more time to his family. We wish him and Peggy well and wholeheartedly thank him for his huge contribution to the Association. Work continues producing a draft Business Plan for a Heritage Centre at Halton in the future. Our Deputy Chairman (Chas Challenger 100th) and our Heritage Member (Min Larkin 63rd) visited Bentley Priory with the RAF Heritage Officer (MOD) to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the plans used to create the visitors centre there.

Lessons can always be learnt from others, and we are grateful for the opportunity to examine their operation. Once our BP is finalised, we will publish it on-line at www.oldhaltonians.co.uk. It will, of course, form the core of any submission we make to raise funds to create a suitable Heritage Centre reflecting the success of the Halton Apprentice scheme and also to support our bid to use St Georges Church as a focal

resource.

The August 500 Club draw had its first Aussie winner in Stan Craigie of the celebrated 102nd (his words). Stan joined the present 150 players just before the draw and immediately won 3rd prize. It remains a truism of Phil's that you must be "**In it to win it**"!

The draw results for August 2021 were:

First prize of £628 goes to Mike (Taff) Lewis, (90th) with lucky number 116

Second prize of £314 goes to John Channon (97th) with lucky number 127

Third prize of £157 goes to Stan Craigie (102nd) with lucky number 333

The heritage and general fund received £471.00.

The draw results for July 2021 were:

First prize of £602 goes to Robert Rodham (223rd) with lucky number 7

Second prize of £310 goes to Brian Foster (106th) with lucky number 52

Third prize of £155 goes to Alan Wicken (210th) with lucky number 214

The heritage and general fund received £465.00.

If you want to be a 500 Club player, just email Phil 500club@rafhaa.co.uk. It is as straightforward as winning!

Most of you regularly visit our web site at www.oldhaltonians.co.uk. The site is managed by Clive Brooks and he has recently introduced a new feature displaying art created by our members in many forms. I hope you agree this to be a valuable feature and if you have any contributions you would like to make then please contact Clive at it@rafhaa.co.uk. Our website is a valuable resource to many people especially those researching the service lives of their families. Clive receives many letters of thanks for his role as web master but none more interesting than the letter below from Steve Chamberlain in Canada.

To all Brats,

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SERVICE, then and now!

Although not ever a serving member of HM Air Forces in the UK or Canada I had the great pleasure to be instructed by former Haltonians during my Civilian Aviation training and also to serve under former Haltonians who were my supervising LAE's /

AE's Aeronautical Ground Engineers / licensed AMEs while working to attain my Civilian certificates and Government licenses here in Canada.

I read your History pages and was delighted to find so well documented and deserving a work explaining historical fact.

It took me a while to identify the "Trenchard Memorandum" during my own professional study however I was able to do so independent of your historical write up - although I came to the same document description re Parliament and from there knew what I needed to go looking for it.

I had soon located an original copy of "the White paper" and was able to purchase it some years ago. Upon receipt I scanned and PDF'd the document for upload to the online library "Archive.Org" so that ALL may be able to locate, view, read and understand the importance not only of the Trenchard memorandum in itself, but also its crucial importance to the training of service and civil aviation maintenance personnel throughout the nations of the British Empire and its' use as a standard by most of the rest of the world.

The link to the online PDF of "Trenchard's Memorandum" that I uploaded is located here: <https://archive.org/details/PermanentOrganizationOfTheRoyalAirForce1919>

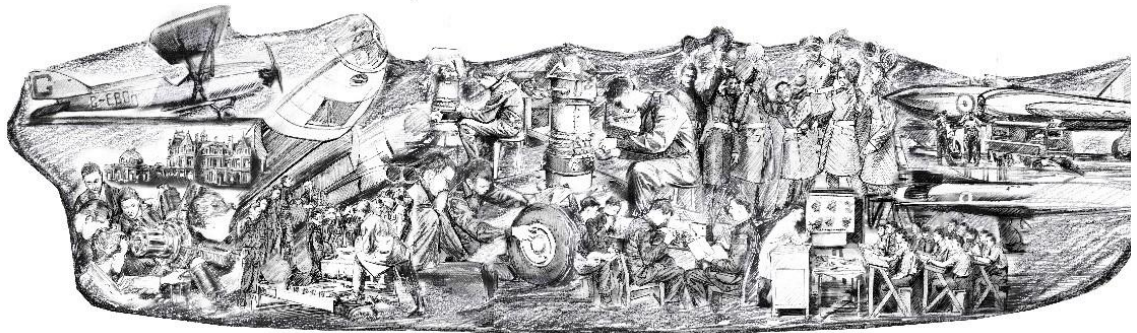
I would kindly suggest that a link to this document be created in your historical write-up on the Halton Apprentice program as well as within your Links page so that anyone who wonders "just what are these people talking about" in relation to the Trenchard Memorandum can better educate themselves by going directly to it.

I say this because the document is "frequently quoted, but rarely revealed/displayed" - especially by the pilot community that have used its content to plant the flag for their claim that "pilots demand and deserve the best and continuous training"

The civilian aviation technician programs- then and now - are generally seen as an afterthought - a "necessary evil" and not really worth investing in" by most business owners, academics, pilots and sadly, the legislators. How wrong / misguided those concepts are - Trenchard and Churchill knew it, as do we who fix and certify aircraft. In to-day's world of companies trying to dumb-down technicians and require the least possible technical training and ability I suggest that ALL of us, Service and Civil technical staff alike - come together and reclaim what should rightfully be our well earned spotlight - we need the same attention to be paid to our training - if not more training - than the pilots and flight-crew. Why? because their lives (and ours) depend upon it! and those coming into our trade and profession in the future as well as those who fly on the aircraft we maintain and the folks on the ground over which those aircraft fly need as much support as we can deliver.

With kindest regards,
Steve Chamberlain, L-AME
Alberta Canada

There has been some further development in our plans for a suitable monument for ex Halton Brats that we now call **Trenchard's Legacy**. While the final location will be dependent on our success or otherwise in obtaining St George's Church when RAF Halton closes, we have been working on the design of a bronze plaque likely to be attached to a substantial base on a plinth. Below is the design we are agreed on with one change that removes Halton House and adds the Henderson Grove parade square. Size has yet to be agreed but to provide a perspective, if the wheel in the centre is 3ft in diameter, then the width would be 36ft! Finance for the project will be essentially from donations to our Heritage Centre development that will be more clearly described in our Business Plan planned for September.





Plans for next year's Reunion on 20th August are progressing well and already over 100 attendees have registered. The Golden Oldies pipe band have confirmed their attendance. Our General Secretary, Les Shardlow (103rd), has set up a Facebook Page to keep members informed on reunion matters. You may join the group by visiting Facebook RAFHAA REUNION 2022.

Frank Denton-Powell (90th)

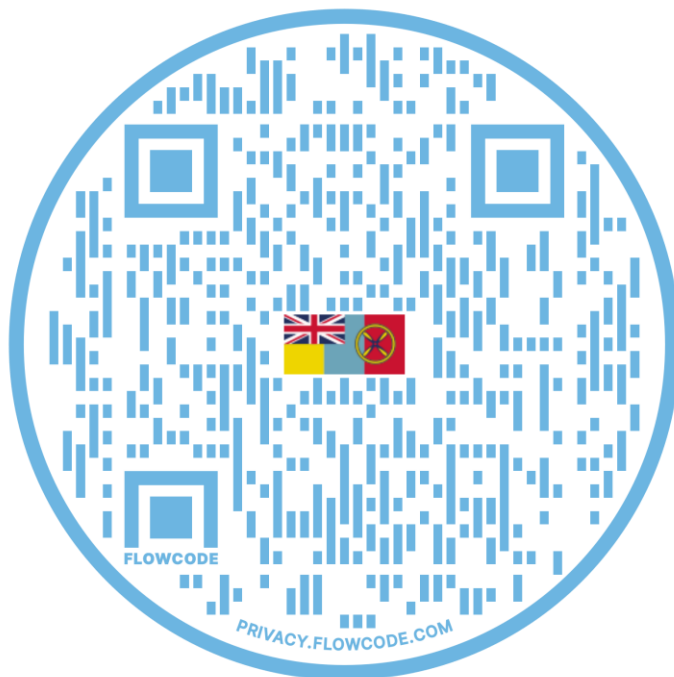
Chairman RAFHAA

chairman@rafhaa.co.uk

Note from General Secretary:

You can find the Facebook Group by scanning the QR code or following the link which is printed below. Once at the F/B page you will be asked three questions before you are able to join, two of them are simple, your name and Entry number and the third is your Association number. If you don't know your Association number please email secretary@rafhaa.co.uk. The reasons for the questions are straightforward, it allows me to check that the applicant is a member of the HAA before I approve their joining. The site has been set up for the Reunion 2022 but any members of the HAA are welcome to join in even if you are not coming along next year. The goal is after the Reunion to change the site into a RAFHAA Members F/B group. Just one word of caution, if you would like to invite your friends to the site do not use the "Invite" button on the F/B page as it takes them elsewhere and they will be rejected, please just send them the link below. The link will hopefully in time be on the website www.oldhaltonians.co.uk

The code below can be accessed by using your Smart phone camera, point the camera at the code and tap on the message that appears and it will take you straight to the site where you can ask to join.



Alternatively if you want to join via your Laptop/PC etc click on the link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/rafhaareunion2022>



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