

Subject: RAFHAA NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2021
From: "Les" <secretary@rafhaa.co.uk>
Sent: 08/02/2021 09:02:04
To: robert.rodham@idnet.com:

RAFHAA NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2021



We are pleased to say that Issue 82 of the Haltonian has gone to print and we expect it to drop through UK letter boxes in the early part of March. When it arrives, do not throw away its wrapper, there may be important information contained on it! More inside the magazine! For those of you who like to know these things, the production costs for this issue are £2680 and the postal costs will be another four-figure sum. I have had sight of an advance copy and it is without doubt packed with fabulous articles that will keep you glued to the magazine for hours on end. Barry Hathaway (100th), our Haltonian Editor and his team have done another marvellous job. Its publication will give me a rest from producing the monthly Newsletters, the next one will now be scheduled for April. We receive good feedback about these letters as we do try to keep you abreast of RAFHAA developments as they occur besides passing on some of the more interesting comments that arrive in the mail bag. A few members have asked for backdated issues. Please note, all Newsletters from your present Council are now available on our website at oldhaltonians.co.uk

Last month, we continued the thread about car number plates owned by our members. Our Deputy Chairman, Chas Challenger 100th, messaged me to say his plate is much more egotistical.

"On my classic 911 I have CHA 50K and like the car I've had it for 35 years. Back in the spendthrift 80s I also had CHA 50Y on a Ferrari which was my alternative every-day driver alongside the 911. As Ferrari prices went stratospheric, I turned the red machine into money and the bloke who bought it was called Charles, so the plate sealed the deal!"

I must confess to treating myself to the number plate FDP 50 for my 50th birthday. When I sold the car three years later, the number plate certainly added value.

The results of the third HAA 500 Club Lottery that took place on 1st February and are as follows:

1st prize of £494.00 goes to Des Knowles, former treasurer (97th) with number 174

2nd prize of £247.00 goes to Alan Bennett (219th) with number 166

3rd prize of £124 goes to Paul Duvall (132nd) with lucky number 13

The heritage and general fund are the recipient of £370. Plenty of tickets remain available through Phil Sprinks (90th) 500club@rafhaa.co.uk

You will be interested to know that we have resurrected the Financial and General Purposes Committee

(F&GPC). One of the most important actions we agreed was a review led by our newly co-opted Treasurer Phil Sprinks (90th) into our investment holdings. We were surprised to learn that little had changed in our investment strategy since its inception in 2014. Of course, in the intervening period much has changed in the financial world, not least very low returns on bank deposits and bonds. Phil determined that the Association's investments in the previous year had provided us with no income whatsoever. We are now moving ahead with a new strategy that will see two thirds of your assets invested in fixed interest trusts providing a yield of around 5%, with one third invested into growth trusts. Investments will be in the low to medium risk sectors with a focus on the UK but also participating in global markets. The F&GPC will undertake informal monthly and formal bi-annual reviews of the trust's performance reporting back to the main Council.

Chas Challenger and I held a very positive virtual meeting with the vice chairman of the Halton Parish Council (PC) to discuss our respective Heritage plans following the closure of RAF Halton in 2025. It was enormously pleasing to note the synergy between our positions, and it is likely we will join a PC led working party to develop our heritage proposals. This month, we have also written to the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) to request that our Association has "stakeholder" status in any forthcoming discussions on the future of the estate, post RAF Halton closure.

We continue to look for new blood to join the Council in a number of roles. From the above, you will note we could really do with someone living locally to Halton to join the proposed working group and we have other interesting roles in Memorabilia development, Membership Expansion, Marketing and PR. We are a proactive team, working well together in a spirit of determination and good humour. Please do contact me if you have some time to offer.

In an earlier Newsletter, I asked you to submit to Steve Coleman (127th) at pavers@rafhaa.co.uk your designs for a paver to be added to our Halton Grove site at the National Memorial Arboretum commemorating ex Halton Apprentices Groundcrew who paid the ultimate sacrifice in World War Two. To date, we have received just one entry. We want to finalise our plans at the beginning of March, so if there are any further ideas out there, please submit to Steve as soon as possible.

Most of our members have been receiving their Covid jabs in the past month. Dave Blanchard (90th) reminded me of the vaccination parades that took place at Halton and how the needles always appeared to look so large (see the cartoon by Rob Knott (84th) below). Others recalled how the needles were reusable, perfectly acceptable for those with surnames beginning A to C but very blunt by the time AA Walters got his! Other friends recall rear end jabs! Made to stand on one leg relieving the tension in the other buttock – then they jabbed the leg one was standing on!!



Some of you have already noticed that the Shop has re-opened for Memorabilia in our oldhaltions.co.uk web site. We have re-photographed the products (prices have remained the same for 10 years!) and are in the process of looking for supplies of new products. If you have any thoughts on the products you would like introduced, then please send a note to memorabilia@rafhaa.co.uk

Too good not to share.

1. When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.
2. To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.
3. Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9pm is the new midnight.
4. It's the start of a brand-new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.
5. The older I get, the earlier it gets late.
6. When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago
7. I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.
8. I had my patience tested. I'm negative.
9. Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.
10. If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"
11. When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing," it does not mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing.
12. I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.
13. I run like the winded
14. I hate when a couple argues in public, and I missed the beginning and don't know whose side I'm on.
15. When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask "Why, what did you hear?"
16. When you do squats, are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on an aluminium can stuffed with celery?
17. I don't mean to interrupt people. I just randomly remember things and get really excited.
18. When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "east."
19. Don't bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring. Spend 30 seconds in my head. That'll freak you right out.
20. Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life out of nowhere, makes your heart race, and changes you forever. We call those people cops.
21. My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb.

Which one is your favourite?

I know you will all enjoy the next issue of the Haltonian, so keep an eye out for its arrival.

Stay safe.

With best wishes,

Frank Denton-Powell (90th)

Chairman RAFHAA

For your interest I came across this the other day and you'll be pleased to know that the train today is not much quicker than in 1928! And, the Flt Lt is only giving 4 days from the date of the letter to receive a reply to get a tea ticket! Royal Mail must've been on the ball in those days or do you think the RAF were playing a crafty one and being tight on the food?

No.1. Wing,
S. of T.T.,
Royal Air Force,
Halton Camp. BUCKS.

9th. July 1928.

Invitation Sports Day - Saturday 28th. July 1928.

Dear Sir or Madam,

As in previous years, it is proposed to hold Sports on Saturday. 28th. July 1928, when it is hoped that parents and relatives of Airmen and Aircraft Apprentices will be able to attend.

Arrangements have been made with the Railway Company to run Special Trains from Baker Street to Wendover at the following hours:-

	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.
Baker Street.....Dep.	11.26 ..	11.45 ..	11.56
Wendover.....Arr.	12.31 ..	12.46 ..	12.55
	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
Wendover.....Dep.	7.40 ..	7.55 ..	8.20
Baker Street.....Arr.	8.39 ..	8.53 ..	9.19

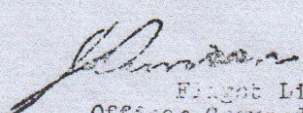
Special Tickets can be purchased at the reduced price of 4s. 3d., return fare and transport will be arranged between Wendover and Halton Camp.

If you are unable to come yourself and would care to nominate any other two friends whom you would like to send in your place, will you kindly let me know their names. Invitations will then be sent to them.

It is requested that your reply may reach me not later than Friday, 13th. July 1928 and should state numbers attending and whether you propose travelling by Baker Street.

Tea tickets will be issued to your son on receipt of your reply, but cannot be issued unless a reply is received by the date given above.

Yours faithfully,


Flight Lieutenant,
Officer Commanding "A" Squadron.

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