



RAFHAA NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2022

STOP PRESS

DEAR MEMBER, UNFORTUNATELY, DUE TO RAF HALTON SERVICE COMMITMENTS, THE DATE FOR THE 2022 RAFHAA REUNION AT RAF HALTON ON SATURDAY 20th AUGUST 2022 HAS CHANGED.

**THE NEW DATE IS SATURDAY
6th AUGUST 2022.**

We apologise for this change, but as you will appreciate, Service commitments must come first. Members who have already registered and paid, please contact Les Shardlow (secretary@rafhaa.co.uk) or call 07885273399 for a full refund if they are now unable to attend.

A belated Happy New Year to all! This month marks the 100th anniversary of apprentice training at Halton. Quite a milestone. And our founder, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Hugh Trenchard would have been hugely proud that his grandson The Right Honourable 3rd Viscount Hugh Trenchard had agreed to take the salute on our Sunset Ceremony March Past at our coming Centenary Reunion in August. For many of us, the presence of Viscount Trenchard at this years' event will be a poignant reminder of one of the greatest chapters of British military history, Trenchard's Brats. More on our reunion plans later.

Your Council has been working hard to update our Old Haltonians website. We are pleased to announce that the new site will launch on 14th February 2022, same URL as before, www.oldhaltonians.co.uk The front end of the site will be open to the general public but there will be a RAFHAA Members Log In page for more sensitive association content. To access the members only pages you will need to supply your email address or use your Facebook or Google account and the site password. We will change the password every 6 months or so and this will be advised in our Newsletter at the appropriate time. The launch password is “213hornet”. Besides all the features contained by the present site, we now include a “Discussion Forum” for members use. So that your contributions are organised in a logical way, we have introduced seven discussion topics. They are:

General Discussion

Question and Answers

Apprentice Training Days

In-service Times

Civilian/Retirement Experiences

Aircraft Engineering Past and Present

Searching for lost mates

When using the discussion pages please moderate your language, respect each other, and refrain from offensive comments. No Spamming. The Forum will be moderated, and unacceptable remarks will be deleted. Try it out, let's get communicating with each other! I have opened each room with a post, please respond where you can.

Another new page is the Donations Page. Here, the public and members may donate to the Association through two links. The first link is via the Just Giving Platform and donations may be made easily by using a debit or credit card. The second platform is by Wonderful and here donations may be made by using bacs or a private bank account transfer. In both cases, we will claim

Gift Aid (if applicable). The Just Giving platform allowing use of cards charges a small handling fee while Wonderful and bank transfers are totally free.

Please let us know how you find the new website and any ideas you have for improvements and or additional content would be well received.

On the 1st January 2022, we launched two new categories of membership to align with the new CIO Constitution that you approved at the 2021 AGM. In summary, Full Membership remains the same as before and is open to all who served an apprenticeship at No 1 School of Technical Training (“the School”) including those who came from the Commonwealth and foreign countries. Associate Membership is open to those who were either directly or indirectly involved in support of apprentice training at the School RAF Halton; Boy Entrants and apprentices from any RAF Station may be awarded Associate Membership. Friend Membership is open to the next of kin of all deceased ex-Apprentices. Social or Student Membership is open to those who are generally interested in the activities of the RAFHAA. This is a new category approved by membership at the 2021 AGM. The Annual Subscription for Full, Associate and Social Membership is £20. Friend Membership is £10, all payable by Standing Order. There has been lots of interest from wives and partners, and families of our deceased colleagues. Many want to attend the reunion in August and are especially pleased that they will now receive copies of the Haltonian and our Newsletters if they join the Association. Please spread the word and encourage the loved ones of our departed friends to join. An application form is attached. And while on this subject, we have seen an uptake in new members recently with non-members realising they are missing an opportunity of a lifetime not to attend this year’s Reunion! Sadly though, over 100 existing members have not increased their Standing Order payments for membership as approved by the membership at the 2020 AGM. Please note that

Issue 85 and future editions will only be distributed to members whose fees are up to date.

As mentioned earlier, plans for the Reunion in August are proceeding well and we hope Viscount Trenchard (Lord Trenchard's grandson) will take the salute on the Sunset Ceremony March Past. It is likely that the Queen's Colour Squadron will attend, and the No 1 S of TT Colour is likely to be paraded by the current keepers, RAF Cosford. A fly past in some form is also very likely. We hope to have a book stall where you will be able to purchase books relating to the RAF and other military subjects. A display featuring a full-size mock-up of our planned bronze known as Trenchard's Legacy will be displayed together with opportunities to purchase RAFHAA memorabilia. Arrival arrangements, including car parking and a disabled access will be advised through this Newsletter in advance of the day. Nearly 400 members and their partners/carers have already applied to attend. We attach an application form for those who have yet to apply, and we urge you to make your booking as early as possible to help us with the administration.

On 10th January, Sir Mike Penning, MP for Hemel Hempstead, tabled a question in Parliament about the closure of RAF Halton in 2025. I copy below his question, and the Defence Secretary's reply (from Hansard).

Sir Mike Penning. If the closure of RAF Halton gets the go ahead—frankly, I do not think it should—the largest town in Hertfordshire will have no military capability on its boundaries. Is there any way we can have a reserve capability—we need the reserves as we go forward—at RAF Halton for the Army and the RAF?

[Mr Wallace \(Secretary of State for Defence\)](#). My right hon. Friend makes an important point. I have asked to look again at that and some of the rebasing options.

In the last Newsletter, we touched on the news about the development of Wedgetail for the RAF . From down under we received the following note and photograph from Bernard Horton (86th).

G'day Les, thank you for the Decembers Newsletter. An update on the subject: 20th May 2012 there was an open day at Pearce Air Force Base, about 35 kms from Perth at Bullsbrook. They had on display a Wedgetail and I attach a picture of it with myself and the 2 grandchildren. The oldest has now left school and the other about to go to university.



Issue 84 of the Haltonian Magazine will be dropping through your letter boxes any day now. It is another marvellous piece of work

by Barry Hathaway (100th) our Haltonian Editor assisted by professional designer Brian Wilson of Lavenham press. We are indeed fortunate to have such dedicated printing professionals willing to give their time to produce a high-quality magazine that is distributed worldwide. For your information, our Summer 2022 Issue 85 will be distributed in June so that it contains the latest information on our Reunion. It will also contain information concerning our AGM 2022. Please note that the deadline for articles for Issue 85 is early May 2022. Keep your articles and letters coming, they are the life blood of the magazine.

We do not normally use these pages to announce last postings of our members. However, we think members should know of the passing of John (Chan) Channon (97th) who has died following a road traffic accident close to his home in Scotland. John was the current Pipe Major of the Golden Oldies. This sad and tragic news is a huge shock to all who knew him, and we have sent our sincere condolences to his family. RIP Chan.

Our Council Member for Governance has been working hard preparing our CIO Constitution for submission to and approval by the Charity Commission. An unexpected delay has surrounded our use of the word "Royal" in our Association name, and in the use of the name "Royal Air Force". We have had to apply to both the Cabinet Office and MOD to obtain approval. Meanwhile, Council have prepared a complete list of our assets ready for submission to the Commission in the final phase.

The Results of the January and February 2022 500 Club draws are shown below.

January 2022

First prize of £730 goes to John Horan, (84th) with lucky number 114.

Second prize of £365 goes to Colin Ferrier (93rd) with lucky number 77.

Third prize of £180 goes to Chas Challenger (100th) with lucky number 55.

February 2022

First prize of £730 goes to Roger Miller of the 204th with lucky number 209.

Second prize of £363 goes to Brian Foster of the 106th with lucky number 319

Third prize of £182 goes to Tony Green of the 216th with lucky number 241.

Our thanks once again to Phil Sprinks (90th) for taking care of the 500 Club in his inimitable fashion. The odds of winning a nice little earner are exceptionally good. Contact him at 500club@rafhaa.co.uk to join the club.

Recently, Council needed to contact the RAF Church at St Clement Danes in London. While doing so, we came across the following piece that we think you might find interesting.

St Clement Danes Church was destroyed by fire in the London Blitz of May 1941 and rebuilt, largely by public subscription, in 1958. The church was re-consecrated on 19 October 1958 as the Central Church of the Royal Air Force. In doing so it became the 'Spiritual Home of the Royal Air Force' in central London. It still contains the 'Oranges and Lemons' bells for which St Clement Danes is famous.

Each member of the RAF who has passed away during their service is recorded in the 'Remembrance Books' and an annual service in November recalls the lives of all those who have lost their lives in the previous 12 months. Each year St Clement Danes also celebrates a significant number of weddings and Christenings for past and present members of the RAF and their families, as well as daily and weekly acts of worship for the various faith groups across the RAF.

St Clement Danes is a focus of 'Value, Hope and Resilience' for

the RAF. Its memorials enshrine the 'Value' and contribution of the past and current service personnel, its ongoing activity and engagement represents the renewing 'Hope' of the RAF family, and its regular pattern of 'prayer, worship and reflection' helps to develop the 'Resilience' of those who serve and support the RAF in so many ways.

The opening news about the change of date for the reunion will affect many of you particularly the entries who have planned for a long weekend in pre-booked hotels. I know you will all understand that Service commitments must come first, and we remain very grateful to the Stn Cdr RAF Halton for agreeing the earlier date.

Best wishes

Frank Denton-Powell (90th)
Chairman RAFHAA

**Click the link below for the HAA Reunion 6th August 2022
Application Form**

https://mcusercontent.com/b2639fb6ea45e44c2829a5366/files/4be64eea-a579-b237-0011-32702cc118e7/REUNION_2022_APPLICATION_FORM.01.pdf

**Click the link below for the new Joining the HAA form which
includes Friends and Family category**

https://mcusercontent.com/b2639fb6ea45e44c2829a5366/files/3e9723cc-fd36-eef6-55c7-5da1f40e7651/New_App_Form_Final_Jan_22.pdf



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