

Issue 56

July 2023

Newsletter



Since our last Newsletter the country has crowned a new monarch, had 102 classes of gender accepted by the BBC and seen the last public performance of Elton John, who said Britain is a boring place?

Is our economy really shot away thanks to Brexit? I just returned from a trip to Mid Europe, most things were more expensive than in the UK and they don't have Brexit to blame. Petrol was about the same but I guess that is down to Mr Putin and Saudi Arabia.

The UK isn't a bad place to live.

In this issue we have some pictures from Jess Myers, the launch of an appeal for the RAFHAA and a reference to the C130 Hercules or Fat Albert whichever you prefer by Malcolm Watts

Just in case you missed my plea for interesting articles from the members in the past 20 editions, I ask again.

All the Best,

The Editor

Jess Myers has been sorting through his many photographs and has been generous enough to have them professionally digitised and shared them with us all. The people in them are all riggers (Jess was a rigger and Nick Pearson was Nav Inst, can you spot him?) but no doubt some of the other trades may well recognise those young men in the

pictures. The events and buildings will be remembered by everyone and some of the non-entry personnel in them as well. A big thank you to Jess for sharing with The Entry.

(Editor's Note. Please left click on the photo you wish to enlarge and then select the Magnifying Glass image. You may have to rotate a few photos to get them the right way up)



Sports



Route Lining



Aircraft





Does anyone else have any photos they are willing to share with us all?

This is a notice from our Association Secretary Les Garden

RAF Halton Heritage Day Sunday 10 September 2023

Halton House Officers Mess (HHOM) and the Trenchard Museum will be open to the public from 10 am till 4 pm. Entrance is via the HHOM entrance on the Wendover/Tring road. Transport between the venues will be provided. Entrance and transport is free.

Trenchard's Legacy

The RAF Halton Apprentices' Association have launched an appeal for funds and its aims and some history of the Association are well set out on their leaflet the front cover of which is displayed below. The full brochure is attached to this email.



BECOME A SUPPORTER OF THE TRENCHARD'S LEGACY 2023-2025 APPEAL

As a raw 15-year-old, I became a Halton Apprentice and followed the route of some 40,000 other young men between 1922 and 1993 in learning a trade, establishing a career, developing personal qualities, and creating lifelong friendships. Lord Trenchard's inspirational scheme led so many young men to high achievement, besides creating a backbone for the Royal Air Force (RAF), in World War II and the later Cold War period. Now, the present RAF Halton Apprentices' Association (RAFHAA), of which I am proud to be the Patron, plans to erect a magnificent bronze measuring 6ft wide at the Halton Grove in the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire, on which sketches of Halton apprentice training will create a lasting epitaph to the boys who became known affectionately as Trenchard's brats.



Ex-Trenchard brats and their families will identify closely with this Appeal, as will hundreds of aerospace companies world-wide who benefitted from employing ex-Halton apprentices when their military careers ended. To all of you, may I ask you donate generously to create this magnificent monument to be unveiled in Spring 2025.

Sir Dusty Miller

RAF MARSHAL SIR DUSTY MILLER KBE 210TH ENTRY
PATRON OF THE RAF HALTON APPRENTICES' ASSOCIATION



RAF HALTON APPRENTICES 1920 - 1993 TRENCHARD'S LEGACY APPEAL

The Halton Apprentice scheme was started by Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Hugh Trenchard in 1920, supported by the then Secretary for Defence, Winston Churchill. Boys aged 15 to 18 years of age from across the UK, were recruited and trained in aircraft engineering at RAF Halton, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. The emphasis was on quality professional training and the development of leadership and personal qualities. By the time the scheme ceased in 1993, some 40,000 boys had been trained at Halton. Worldwide, the exploits and achievements of Trenchard's Brats (as they became known) is widely recognised. Perhaps the most famous ex-brat is the inventor of the Jet Engine, Sir Frank Whittle.

The Old Haltonians, or the RAF Halton Apprentices' Association (RAFHAA), was formed to provide a focus for ex-Halton apprentices to maintain contact with friends made in the infancy of their careers. In 2000, a memorial to ex-brats who had taken their final postings was created at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) in Staffordshire. The centrepiece is a 60ft diameter Apprentice Wheel surrounded by a circular pathway. The RAFHAA Council now wish to create an additional memorial at the NMA featuring a large bronze sculpture by renowned military sculptor, Tim Potts, with engraved sketches depicting all aspects of Halton apprentice training throughout its history. What better name could there be for such an inspirational edifice than Trenchard's Legacy. Our Appeal aims to raise £100,000 to cover costs of design, production, installation, and maintenance of the 6ft wide bronze. Please give generously.



PLEASE DONATE TO:

- A. Bank transfer to Sort Code: 20-03-18. Account No: 83875628.
- B. Credit/Debit card by phone to: +44 (0) 1296 696 896.
- C. By cheque made payable to RAFHAA. Post to The Secretary RAFHAA, 1 Pipit Gardens, Watermead, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP19 0GF.
- D. Charities Aid Foundation see link and QR code to right.



www.cafdonate.cafonline.org/23376

NB – In all cases, please let us have your name and address so that you can be listed as a benefactor of the Appeal. Also, let us know if you claim Gift Aid on your donation.

RAFHAA 1 Pipit Gardens, Watermead, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 0GF
+44 (0) 1296 696896 | secretary@rafhaa.co.uk | www.oldhaltonians.co.uk

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Malcolm Watts has asked for the following to be published for the benefit of those with an interest in the Hercules C130 which is about to pass into history.

Farewell Old Friend.

As you all know, after 56 years, the Herc is leaving the RAF. This month, tributes are being made and events created to honour Fat Albert. On June the 23rd, a Brize Norton Hanger Bash was arranged for all personnel associated with the aircraft, including yours truly. At the Bash a video was shown created by Cpl Lee "Matty" Matthews who is happy to share it with any who are interested. It is brilliant and below.

It is a large file at 1.6GB but it is worth it: <https://we.tl/t-NtNIWkgDye>

It is also available on You Tube: <https://youtu.be/KNwr47nMdTM>

'Maritime Musings' by Ken Bannister

We had been tasked to do a Tapestry which involved checking fishing boats in certain areas to see if they were entitled to be there and to send the information back to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. This was usually an 8-hour sortie and our area this day was the Hebrides, the area around Ullapool and then round the top of Scotland back to Kinloss. We had been given permission to go out to the area via Loch Ness entering at Inverness and exiting round the Island of Mull and into the area. We entered Loch Ness and dropped down to 500ft to go low level down the Glen. About halfway down the Great Glen, a Buccaneer went underneath us, and we reckoned he was down at 200ft!!

We continued with our task and the job of the pilot in the right-hand seat was to identify the number and name of the vessel we were looking at. This wasn't too bad until we came across our first Russian fishing vessel. They were fishing the waters and then transferring their catches to the Russian fish factory vessels anchored off Ullapool. As we flew down the side of the first fishing vessel, the pilot in the right hand seat was supposed to have noted the name and number of the vessel. When asked by the Air Electronics Officer if he had noted the name and number of the vessel, he replied that he had been unable to do so because the details were written in **acrylic**. I will leave you to work out why there was an explosion of mirth from the rest of the crew who were listening in on the intercom!!

There follows an explanation of Cricket sent in by Chris Wales. It is intended for foreigners but will no doubt help the British amongst us who have never fully understood the rules of the game.

You have two sides out in the field one in and one out.

Each man that's in the side that's in goes out and when he's out he comes in and the next man goes in until he's out.

When they are all out the side that's out comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in out.

Sometimes you get men still in and not out.

When both sides have been in and out including the not outs -

THATS THE END OF THE GAME

Clear as mud eh???

Reunion 2025

The main topic of discussion at our last committee meeting was the next reunion. The survey that was conducted earlier in the year did not come up with any "golden nuggets"! Disappointingly, we did not get any responses from those other than our "regulars". Surprisingly, the general consensus was for a 2025 reunion to coincide with our 60th anniversary of graduation. So that is the plan. However, the RAFHAA is planning to unveil the Trenchard Legacy Appeal at the NMA on the 2nd July 2025; more information on that elsewhere in the newsletter. This means that we will be planning for an autumn 2025 date for the reunion; the actual date will be decided at our next committee meeting in December. Mick Woodhouse is already doing an initial review of available hotels. So, watch this space!!

Barry Neal

Notes from the Committee Meeting held on 18th July 2023 at Berinsfield

In addition to the reunion discussion it was reported that the RAFHAA had had a meeting with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation and it was confirmed that RAF Halton will be definitely closing in 2027. We decided that more publicity amongst Association members should be given to Pavers in the Halton Grove at the NMA; information elsewhere in the newsletter. Internet security was discussed and also the availability of discount cards, eg, Blue Light, Defence Discount Services, etc, which offer substantial savings/discounts for ex-servicemen.

Barry Neal

In-Memoriam Pavers in the Halton Grove at the National Memorial Arboretum

The National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) is a unique haven of peace, contemplation and hope for the future comprising of 150 acres of wooded parkland and upwards of 150 dedicated plots and memorials. It is also the site of the National Armed Forces Memorial which was opened in 2007. One of the plots at the NMA is the 'Halton Grove' which is dedicated to all RAF Halton Apprentices. The Halton Grove is approximately 900sq m in size surrounded by beech hedging and enjoys a prime location within the NMA grounds. At its centre is a 15m diameter 'Apprentice Wheel' surrounded by terracotta pavers reserved for the placement of In-Memoriam pavers, remembering those ex-Apprentices who have taken their 'Last Posting', plus individual Apprentice Entries.

If you are interested in having an In-memoriam or Entry paver laid, more information can be found on the Paver Order Form which is available from either myself or Les Shardlow. Alternatively, you can email pavers@rafhaa.co.uk.

Barry Neal

Chris Wales has also sent this help message and this will be of great benefit for those amongst us who are not very computer savvy.

Thanks Chris.

If you just send an email with everyone's address listed and any of those recipient's address book has been compromised, it is possible that the email addresses of other recipients could also become compromised.

If you send emails to many recipients in one go, it is best to send your email as bcc (blind carbon copy). This way, it is delivered to every recipient individually and doesn't show to whom else received it.

Also, if you receive an email that requires an answer, it is always best **NEVER** to 'Reply All' just use 'Reply'. This way only the sender will receive what you have to say not the other (1000!!) recipients.

You can also follow us on Facebook

Ton Threes

<https://m.facebook.com/profile.php?id=10003874764371>

Please Note Our new website **<http://www.103rdentry.org.uk/>**

If you have reached this far without nodding off or having some mental health problems then my job is done for now, but with a little help from my friends I will produce Edition 57 in about 6 months time. Take care and stay healthy.

Brian Lee

Editor

Committee Members:

Les Shardlow

Les Garden

Chris Wales

Barry Neal

Ken Bannister

Brian Lee

Malcolm Watts

Mick Woodhouse

Dave Post

Contributions, mail or abuse about the Newsletter to

The Editor

Brian Lee

Omaha House, London Road

Ipswich, IP2 0SS

Or e-mail: steam707@hotmail.com

Entry website

<http://www.103rdentry.org.uk/>