



# CHEERIOOO



The Newsletter of No 46 Squadron RFC and RAF  
Issue No 18 June 2013



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## OXFORD WINS AGAIN!

We had another great Reunion at Wolfson College. Smashing venue, lovely location, excellent food and wine but most importantly outstanding company. A number of new faces were there – Steve Garvin and Paul Osborn attended after an absence of over 25 years; Brian Meinke attended his first ever Reunion although having just had an op on his back he was only there for the pre-drinks as was the indomitable Pat Thomas. We welcomed our first daughter, Sqn Ldr Jemma Austin as well as 7 sons of members. Just a few short of 60 sat down to Dinner which is a very satisfying number. Thanks again go to our benefactors whose kind donations defrayed the admin and entertainment costs as well as providing free drinks all evening. Again a special thank you goes to Steve Day for his incredibly generous donation.

Photographs of the Reunion are at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/53681045@N07/sets/72157634343286260/>

Press Ctrl click to go there. Please add titles, comments tags as you wish.

**Next year's Reunion will be in the historic Rothschild mansion- Halton House Officers' Mess RAF Halton on Saturday 7 June 2014.**

### *Dinner:*

*The following members took dinner:*

- |                |              |                |                     |                |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Andy ADAMS     | David ADAMS  | John AUSTIN    | Dougie BARR         | John BARTRAM   |
| David BENNETT  | Jeff BETHRAY | John BOYD      | Andy CLARK          | Bernie DONNERS |
| Ian DOW        | Bob EVANS    | Steve GARVIN   | Colin GOWER         | Don GRAHAM     |
| Jimmy JAMES    | Eric KING    | Graham LAURIE  | Derek LIDDELL       | Derek LONG     |
| Eric MARSH     | Ian MASON    | Dougie MORGAN  | Paul OSBORN         | Stuart PRIEST  |
| Bob RICHARDSON | Steve ROBSON | Terry ROURKE   | Jeff SAUNDERS       | Keith SAUNDERS |
| Mac SIBBALD    | Paul SNOOK   | Freddie SOWREY | Rusty STEELE-MORGAN | Tony STEPHENS  |
| Ken TEAL       | Mike TOM     | Russell WILSON | Keith WILSON        |                |

**The following guests took dinner:**

Leslie W Stonnel		<i>Guest of</i>	David ADAMS
Jemma Austin	Toby Steward	<i>Guests of</i>	John AUSTIN
Giles Bennett		<i>Guest of</i>	David BENNETT
Stuart Donders		<i>Guest of</i>	Bernie DONDERS
Malcolm Bradford		<i>Guest of</i>	Eric KING
Miles Shea		<i>Guest of</i>	Graham LAURIE
David Long		<i>Guest of</i>	Derek LONG
Ian Salvage	Thomas Swincoe	<i>Guests of</i>	Eric MARSH
Alastair Mason	Cary Sand	<i>Guests of</i>	Ian MASON
Chris Saunders	Lise-Marie Collins	<i>Guest s of</i>	Keith SAUNDERS
Mark Sibbald		<i>Guest of</i>	Mac SIBBALD
Jamie Wilson	Tim Wilson	<i>Guests of</i>	Russell WILSON
James Barr		<i>Guest of</i>	Dougie BARR

**Supper:**

**The following Ladies took supper:**

Judy Bartram	Maggie Sibbald	Sylvia Teal	Caroline Wilson	Joanna Garvin
	Melissa Sibbald		Sophie Wilson	
Jimmy James	Daughter Sarah Archer-Palmer			

**Benefactors:**

**The following members kindly made donations:**

Andy ADAMS	David ADAMS	Chris ALCOCK	Dick ARSCOTT	Dougie BARR
John BARTRAM	John BOYD	John BRANSBURY	Dave BRAY	Chris CARRINGTON
Tim CARTER	David CARTER	Andy CLARK	Dennis CONSTABLE	
David CRWYS-WILLIAMS		Steve DAY	Bernie DONDERS	Ian DOW
Dave DRAKE	Geoff DRYLAND	Bob EVANS	Vic FAULKNER	Steve GARVIN
Don GRAHAM	Alan GREEN	Ian HAMPTON	Frank HUDDLESTON	Eric KING
George KIRK	Ian LASCHKE	Tim LILES	Derek LONG	Tony MALLETT
Eric MARSH	Don MASON	Brian MERRITT	Paul MINDNER	Kenneth NICHOLS
Denny O'BRIAN	Paul OSBORN	Alan PARKER	Stuart PRIEST	Bob RICHARDSON
Jeff SAUNDERS	Mac SIBBALD	Freddie SOWREY	Rusty STEELE-	Steve STEVENSON
Bill TURNBULL	Roger UNWIN	Dick WARD	Jim WHITE	Russell WILLIAMS
Russell WILSON	Keith WILSON			

**Regrets:**

**The following members were unable to attend:**

Chris ALCOCK	Dick ARSCOTT	Graham BAIRSTOW	Derek BENDALL	Peter BOLEY
Mike BOLTON	John BRANSBURY	Dave BRAY	Adrian BROWN	Roy BUTLER
Chris CARRINGTON	Tim CARTER	David CARTER	Don CHAPMAN	
Keith CHAPMAN	Dennis CONSTABLE	David CRWYS-	Steve DAY	Dave DRAKE
Geoff DRYLAND	WILLIAMS	Vic FAULKNER	Jim GATHERER	Mark GILSON
John GREEDY	Alan GREEN	Ian HAMPTON	Dave HIGGS	Pete HOOD
Frank HUDDLESTON	Mike KEMP	George KIRK	Ian LASCHKE	Tim LILES
Tony MALLETT	Brian MERRITT	Peter MILES	Paul MINDNER	Dougie MORGAN
Kenneth NICHOLS	Adrian OBERTELLI	Alan PARKER	Laurie POULTER	Les ROCKEL
Jenny SEDDON	Chris SIERWALD	Steve STEVENSON	Pat THOMAS	Bill TURNBULL
George TYLER	Roger UNWIN	Pete WALLINGTON	Pete WALSH	Dick WARD
Tony WARNER	Jim WHITE	Des WHITE	Russell WILLIAMS	Lefty WRIGHT

## **Obituaries :**

*It is with great sadness that we announce the death of :*

**Tony Wheeler.** One of our few remaining Dakota boys was killed in a fire at his home in August 2012, Tony or Sam as he was known by his friends flew Dakotas in India during the War and did heroic work during the tragedy of Partition. He returned to the UK and joined 46 Squadron at Oakington. Dick Arscott, Tony and their crews had the privilege of being the first Allied aircraft into Berlin after the Russians brought the barriers down a full 7 days before the official Berlin Airlift started. For his efforts during the airlift he was awarded an AFC. Tony left 46 to train on Hastings and managed to return to the Airlift just before it finished. He continued in the RAF on various transport and tanker aircraft including an exchange tour with the USAF.

**Al Brindle.** Andover captain 68 –71; died on 4 Nov 2009 after being bed-bound for some years. A great character and superb pilot, as anyone who had the privilege of flying with him will testify. He was an ex-Hunter pilot and it showed! Awarded the AFC and was one of the famous 22 Hunter formation that looped and rolled at the 1958 Farnborough Air Show.

**John Turner.** Andover co-pilot. Never came to Reunions and it was only through Pat Thomas's dogged searching for old mates that we know he died several years ago in Cornwall.

**Mark Andrews** a good friend of the Squadron who's brother was killed flying Hurricanes while serving with 46.

## **News, Gossip and Scandal :**

### **Members report :**

- Chris ALCOCK** Chris wanted to attend this year's Reunion but not possible - hopes to make it next year.
- John BARTRAM** John is still living near Keevil DZ in West Wiltshire.
- Derek BENDALL** Derek writes: Unfortunately I will not be able to make it this year as I will be sailing in Turkish waters
- Mike BOLTON** Mike is fully retired but keeps busy with, amongst other interests, 11 grandchildren!
- David CARTER** David is unable to attend as his wife is currently undergoing the rigours of post breast cancer treatment and we are hoping she will be well enough to go on holiday end of May/early June.
- Andy CLARK** Andy is still enjoying retirement. Having completed West Highland Way last year he plans to do Great Glen Way in May. Carolyn takes him Scottish country dancing 3-4 times a week!
- George KIRK** George is sorry not to attend but his good lady wife is not in good health and cannot be left. Have a wonderful time.
- Dennis CONSTABLE** Dennis sends his warmest and most sincere greetings from sunny Northern Ireland to all members
- David CRWYS- WILLIAMS** David is very sorry that he cannot make it this year but we are just off to drive across Namibia, the Kalahari, Botswana and then to Zambia on another of our Land Rover Rooftent adventures! keeping generally very fit and travelling much when my several charity duties allow.
- Ian DOW** Ian sees Adrian Obertelli at Oxford Aviation Gatwick where he does some ground school instruction. Ian instructs and examines on the A320 sims there too.
- Bob EVANS** Chris Hosea is recovering from prostate cancer, in France. He hopes to attend the reunion in 2014.
- Don GRAHAM** Sad news: Don's dear wife, Maureen, passed away last December. All very sudden and unexpected. Very much missed.
- Ian HAMPTON** Ian writes: I have been in recent e-contact with Pat Thomas and Mark Gilson with a bit of lamp-swinging and putting the world to rights (privilege of grumpy old men).A couple of weeks ago Louise and I managed to meet up with John and Carol Blenkinsop, which was a super day. John is now fully wheelchair bound which is a real nuisance, but he still gets out and about and has his own car with hand-controls. He drives around as fast as ever, which I found a bit disconcerting at first. A photo of the pair of us is at the end of the newsletter so you can see we are still alive (if not kicking). Pass on our regards to all and sundry please.
- Graham LAURIE** Graham will be running another 'Aircrew lunch' at The Black Horse, Abingdon on Friday 27

September 2013, 12:30. Full details and menu from graham@kitty4.co.uk

- Tim LILES** Tim is still climbing (crawling!) hills and playing croquet. Anyone down my way, Budleigh Salterton, Devon, do look me up.
- Tony MALLETT** Tony writes: Much as I was looking forward to visiting Wolfson College, I regret that we will be visiting old sailing waters in the South of France that week. Poor planning I know! We've sold the Brittany cottage so now are foot loose and fancy free! Both Fiona and I are in robust health, despite being almost 80.
- Don MASON** Don wishes us all an enjoyable time.
- Paul MINDNER** Paul writes -It's 40 years since I left Thorney Island - Lucy will be 41 next week -10 years since my retirement, the 'after-work-hammock' still fits perfectly. Good health to all of you!! Cheerio!
- Kenneth NICHOLS** Kenneth sends good wishes to all who are too embarrassed to admit ever knowing him!!
- Denny O'BRIAN** Denny was instrumental in making the initial contact with RAF Halton to ask if we could hold our Reunion there next year.
- Alan PARKER** Alan is sorry not to make it this year - dates clash with specialists and hospital treatment, but fingers crossed for next year.
- Les ROCKEL** Les writes: Pam & I have no plans to join the festivities until the big 100th in four years time. Having said that, you never quite know, these days, best laid plans can very quickly turn to custard rather quickly. Things are still going well for Pam & myself here in the far north of NZ, as well as the Air Patrol work, I am carrying on with my painting when I can & somehow I've found myself President of the Kerikeri Mens Probus Club for this year. So the odd bit of work & admin to take care off, quite often, but all great fun as well, most of the time anyway! Please do pass on my very best wishes to everybody at the Reunion, I'm sure it will be another super evening & the invitation definitely remains, for anyone who finds themselves down here, please do get in touch.
- Keith SAUNDERS** Keith did Wainwright's Coast-to-Coast walk (St Bees-Robin Hood Bay) in late October 12. Two hundred miles - tough at times but finished in good shape. Gave up sheep/small holding December 12.
- Steve STEVENSON** Steve writes: If all goes well there's a chance I may make it next year and rather than go up the chimney. The consultant tells me I'm in no danger of croaking in the near future. My Leukaemia is in remission, has been for quite a while but I have to have maintenance Chemotherapy every couple of months to keep it so. The difficulties come with the possible side effects of the two strokes I had last year, the second of which caused me to come face to face with Jim Reaper, but I was too much for him on account of my association with 46 Squadron and not good enough for that lot up there for the same reason. Anyway an emergency operation to open my skull and remove a blood clot from above my brain (apparently I do have one) saved me. I'm not allowed to drive any more, nor fly to exotic locations - any locations come to that. I am mobile to a certain extent and get around locally on my invalid buggy with my golf bag on the back as I'm hoping to get back on the golf course next week. The upshot is I do not feel up to attending this year. I enclose 10 drinking vouchers towards the festivities. Please give my best wishes to everyone and I hope to see you next year.
- Bill TURNBULL** Bill's son, Stuart writes that his Dad is now completely blind and chooses not to go out too often, but still wishes to be remembered to all his friends on the Squadron.
- Roger UNWIN** Nasty and Heather are still resident in Cyprus, although looking to return to the UK on sale of the villa. Heather is now on a 6-monthly regime of checks for cancer with Nasty recovering well from the removal of his prostate. Now only a 'honed affleet' unfortunately!
- Jim WHITE** From Jim - another year older, but probably not much smarter. Hope to see you next year, when we shall all be even older.
- Russell WILSON** Russell continues with full time employment (approaching 67 years). He now has 8 care homes plus new dementia unit. Still has 10 Cyprus villas to sell - down to £1 each now!
- Tony WELLER** Tony Weller, one of our few remaining Dakota boys was killed in a fire at his home, his wife survived but is obviously very shocked.
- Steve GARVIN** Steve left the RAF in 1975, then -Oil Industry Aberdeen to 1978; Britannia Airways to 1992 737 767; Training Captain with All Nippon Airways to 1995 767; EVA AIR (Taiwan) to 2000 on 757 767 747-400 ; AAI Trainer on 757,767 to 2008. Jumped to Globespan and went bust; Joined Qatar Airways and now am SFI on B777. Got four kids and live in Shropshire on a smallholding...Same wife and five grandchildren!!!!

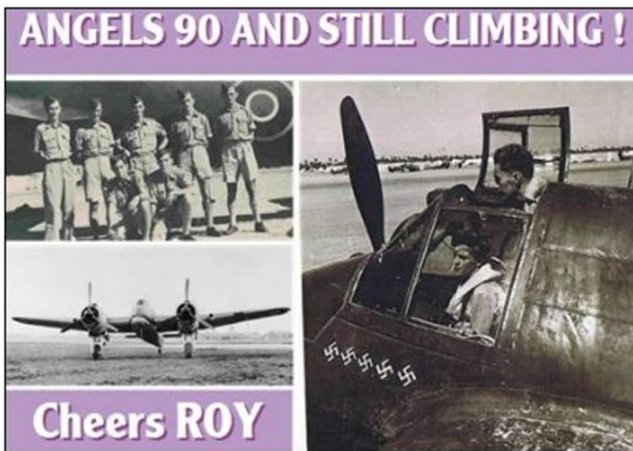
Other Stuff:



Eric MARSH	Colin GOWER	Rusty Steele- Morgan	Jimmy JAMES	Freddie SOWREY	Leslie STONELL	David ADAMS	Tony STEPHENS	Dougie BARR
Thomas SWINCOE	Keith SAUNDERS	Graham LAURIE	Bernie DONDERS	Keith WILSON	James BARR			
Ian SALVAGE	Lise-Marie COLLINS	Eric KING	Stuart DONDERS	Dai BENNETT	Giles BENNETT			
Chris SAUNDERS	Steve ROBSON	Don GRAHAM	Malcolm BRADFORD	Stu PRIEST	Toby STEWARD			
Ken TEAL	Mark SIBBALD	Brian MEINKE	Ian DOW	Paul OSBORN	John AUSTIN			
Paul SNOOK	Mac SIBBALD	Bob RICHARDSON	Jamie WILSON	Steve GARVIN	Jemma AUSTIN			
Andy CLARK	Bob EVANS	Timothy WILSON	Russell WILSON	Terry ROURKE	Mike TOM			
John BARTRAM	Jeff BETHRAY	Miles SHEA	Alastair MASON	Derek LIDDELL	David LONG			
John BOYD	Jeff SAUNDERS	Cary SAND	Ian MASON	Andy ADAMS	Derek LONG			

*The 96th Reunion Dinner of No 46 Squadron, Wolfson College Oxford 1 June 2013*

**Our Senior Member Reaches 90 on 19 March 2013**



Warrant Officer  
Roy Butler  
Distinguished Flying Cross  
Royal Air Force Retired

The Squadron sent this card to Roy as he celebrated his 90th birthday in Florida USA.

To our Senior Member

Happy 90th Birthday  
Roy

From your friends on  
No 46 Squadron  
RFC and RAF



Link to a video message from Roy:

This model of a Bristol Beaufighter Mk VI, was commissioned by the Squadron and is an exact replica of the one flown by Roy and his navigator Warrant Officer Ray Graham (deceased) on their DFC winning sortie. A vivid account by Roy of operations from Gambut during the second World War is contained in the Squadron Website at:

[http://www.46squadron.info/index\\_files/Page1345.htm](http://www.46squadron.info/index_files/Page1345.htm)





John Blenkinsop and Ian Hampton trying to prove they are still alive if not necessarily kicking!!!

### Parish Notices 2013.

- Her Majesty was gracious enough to reply to our Loyal greetings
- My personal thanks for the help and support of Louise Gordon, the Wolfson College Events Manager.
- Cholsey Silver Band, although we pay a fee, none of the players receive any money. A big thank you.
- The more astute will have noticed the new biblical quotes in the menu; here is one more. Luke 15 Verse 31. "And the Lord said it was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found." I refer of course to the 3 members who have returned to the fold after some time or in one case for the first time.
- Jimmy James a Javelin man and was temporarily CO of the Squadron before Freddie. His exploits in the Second World War have passed into legend as the pilot of a Bristol Bombay Transport aircraft that was carrying General Gott and was shot down in Aug 1942. There will be link to the full story on the website.
- Steve Garvin joins us after a lifetime of flying overseas in Japan, the Far East and the Gulf. Kanichiwa Steve
- Brian Meinke. This is Brian's first Reunion. Brian has also has a very successful career in Civil Aviation and was a leading light with BALPA.
- Every year I highlight the generosity of our benefactors whose contributions allows us to drinks at no extra cost. Many of them tell me how much they appreciate receiving defaced menus with messages from comrades. Benefactor's menus have a highlighter in the corner so please sign.
- Yet again I'd like to acknowledge the particularly generous donation of Dato' Steve Day a four figure sum which has made my book balancing task a lot easier.
- The single volume scrapbook, has been updated with pictures of last years Reunion and the addition of some historic ones that have been sent by Members. Please keep sending me your memories of 46. The book forms the basis of our website. It is available with lots of extra pictures on disk for £5.
- A new batch of Squadron cufflinks are also available for purchase at £10 a pair.
- Our last surviving Beaufighter member is Warrant Officer Roy Butler who lives in Florida. It was his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in March and we sent him a special card a copy of which is on the notice board. To celebrate we commissioned an exact scale model of the aircraft he flew on the most successful operational mission undertaken by No 46 Squadron on the first and second of October 1944

### Squadron Website

The Squadron website has been updated. In addition to t pictures from the 96<sup>th</sup>, there are some really interesting photographs of the Andover during Hot Weather Trials in Aden in 1966 taken by Chris Alcock. There are 4 pages of Andover photographs in various paint schemes and configurations. Finally, there is a page showing the Squadron silver. So please check it out at:

[www.46squadron.info](http://www.46squadron.info)