



# CHEERIOOO



The Newsletter of No 46 Squadron RFC and RAF

Issue No 17

June 2012



## BACK HOME!

After our very successful Reunion at Wolfson College Oxford last year, we returned to the bosom of the RAF and the splendid Officers' Mess at RAF Odiham. It was coming home to the Javelin boys who were based there in the 50s. A remarkably fine turnout saw 63 for dinner and 11 ladies sitting down to Supper; our best attendance for 5 years. It was also nice that Terry Rourke and Pat Thomas could attend for pre-Dinner drinks.

The Mess staff looked after us splendidly and the Cholsey Silver Band continued their tradition of entertaining us extremely well.

I thought you would like to read what one of our guests wrote who incidentally had never been to a military function before: *"a very carnival evening of light-*

*heartedness, even silly at times, was punctuated with episodes of the reality of war, the responsibility you collectively shared in carrying out your duties for Queen and Country and the fundamental camaraderie which underpinned the unique Spirit of 46"*

More prosaically, recent decisions by MoD and Officers' Mess Committees, has meant that the costs of holding our Reunions in RAF Messes is now very expensive and without your extraordinary generous donations the cost would have been nearly £90 each; so thank you all. Nevertheless, I shall continue consider RAF stations for future Reunions if members think the extra cost of using a mess is worth it.

Photographs of the Reunion are at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/46-squadron/sets/72157630041752782/>  
Press Ctrl click to go there. Please add titles, comments tags as you wish.

Next year's Reunion will be back in Oxford at Wolfson College on the First of June 2013.

## Dinner:

### The following members took dinner :

Horst ABROMEIT	Andy ADAMS	David ADAMS	Dick ARSCOTT	Dougie BARR
John BARTRAM	David BENNETT	Dave BRAY	Chris CARRINGTON	Andy CLARK
Peter CROUCH	David CRWYS-WILLIAMS	Steve DAY	Bernie DONNERS	Dave DRAKE
Geoff DRYLAND	Dick EASTMENT	Vic FAULKNER	Jim GATHERER	Colin GOWER
John GREEDY	Dave HIGGS	Pete HOOD	Eric KING	Ian LASCHKE
Graham LAURIE	Derek LIDDELL	Tim LILES	Derek LONG	Tony MALLETT
Eric MARSH	Ian MASON	Peter MILES	Denny O'BRIEN	Alan PARKER
Laurie POULTER	Stuart PRIEST	Bob RICHARDSON	Steve ROBSON	Keith SAUNDERS
Jeff SAUNDERS	John SCAMBLER	Rusty STEELE-MORGAN	Tony STEPHENS	Ken TEAL
Pete WALLINGTON	Dick WARD	Jim WHITE	Des WHITE	Russell WILSON
Keith WILSON	Lefty WRIGHT			

***The following guests took dinner:***

Giles BENNETT		<i>Guest of</i>	David BENNETT
Tom BARR		<i>Guest of</i>	Eric KING
David LONG		<i>Guest of</i>	Derek LONG
Ian TYRELL-MARSH	IAN SALVAGE	<i>Guest of</i>	Eric MARSH
Cary SAND		<i>Guest of</i>	Ian MASON
Marcus SAUNDERS		<i>Guest of</i>	Keith SAUNDERS
Mark BARNETT		<i>Guest of</i>	Ken TEAL
Jamie WILSON	Tim Wilson	<i>Guest of</i>	Russell WILSON

***Supper:***

***The following Ladies took supper :***

Judy Bartram	Sheila Greedy <i>Sarah-Jane Greedy</i>	Barbara King <i>EILEEN BARR</i>	Olga Saunders	Sylvia Teal <i>Melanie Barrett</i>
Caroline Wilson <i>Sophie Wilson</i>	Sheila Wright			

***Benefactors:***

***The following members kindly made donations:***

David ADAMS	Andy ADAMS	Chris ALCOCK	Dick ARSCOTT	John AUSTIN
Dougie BARR	John BARTRAM	Derek BENDALL	David BENNETT	John BOYD
John BRANSBURY	David CARTER	Tim CARTER	Andy CLARK	John CLEMENTS
Dennis CONSTABLE	Peter CROUCH	John DANIELS	Steve DAY	Bernie DONDEERS
Bob EVANS	Alan EVANS	Don GRAHAM	Frank HUDDLESTON	Eric KING
George KIRK	Graham LAURIE	Derek LIDDELL	Tim LILES	Derek LONG
Tony MALLETT	Eric MARSH	Brian MERRITT	Peter MILES	Paul MINDNER
Alan PARKER	Stuart PRIEST	Bob RICHARDSON	Leslie ROBINS	Les ROCKEL
Jeff SAUNDERS	John SCAMBLER	Jenny SEDDON	Mac SIBBALD	Paul SNOOK
Freddie SOWREY	Rusty STEELE-	Steve STEVENSON	Mike TOM	Bill TURNBULL
Roger UNWIN	Pete WALSH	Dick WARD	Russell WILLIAMS	Russell WILSON
Keith WILSON				

***Regrets:***

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

Chris ALCOCK	John AUSTIN	Graham BAIRSTOW	Derek BENDALL	Jeff BETHRAY
John BLENKINSOP	Peter BOLEY	Mike BOLTON	John BOYD	John BRANSBURY
Adrian BROWN	Tim CARTER	David CARTER	Don CHAPMAN	Keith CHAPMAN
John CLEMENTS	Dennis CONSTABLE	John DANIELS	Ian DOW	Bob EVANS
Alan EVANS	Don GRAHAM	Alan GREEN	Frank HUDDLESTON	Mike KEMP
George KIRK	Brian MERRITT	Paul MINDNER	Dougie MORGAN	Kenneth NICHOLS
Bob PETERS	Leslie ROBINS	Les ROCKEL	Terry ROURKE	Jenny SEDDON
Mac SIBBALD	Paul SNOOK	Freddie SOWREY	Steve STEVENSON	Mike TOM
Bill TURNBULL	Roger UNWIN	Pete WALSH	Tony WARNER	Russell WILLIAMS

## Obituaries :

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

Bryan WILD 41-44  
Beaufighter

Colin EDWARDS 57-61  
Javelin

Terry JOHNSON 53-55  
Met

Mike RAYSON 66-67  
Andover

Darrol STINTON 57-8  
Met Jav

**Bryan WILD** Beaufighter 41-44 . His daughter wrote; I would like to inform you that my father, Bryan Wild, who served with 46 Squadron in North Africa, died last month aged 90. Though he served with numerous other squadrons throughout the war, 46 was truly the one that had a special place in his heart, and he remembered it with great warmth. He was stationed with the Squadron in North Africa, from July 12th 1943 until 28th March 1944. Most of that time was at Idku with a detachment to Nicosia in the middle of it. He attended several reunions after the war (he kept some of the menus which we have still) and kept in touch with a few others, most notably 'Doc' MacDonald, with whom he lived for a while back in 'civvy street'. I hope this information will be of some interest to those who still keep the Spirit of '46 alive

**Colin EDWARDS** Javelin 57-61 . Colin was a navigator on 46 at Odiham from 1958 to 61 passed away on 7 July 2011, after suffering from cancer for a little over two years. A stalwart of Reunions who will be sorely missed. Eric Marsh was at his funeral and wrote: Colin made his last trip and all went well. There was a quiet 'Cheerrrio 46, First To-day' on his departure. I was proud to represent the squadron.

**Mike RAYSON** Andover 66-67 . First Andover squadron commander. A great turnout at his funeral. Just before Mike died in August last year we received a letter from a very enthusiastic serving airman who was responsible for erecting a memorial to the 46 Squadron pilots who were killed while at North Weald. He had been asked by local people to design a memorial to Pilot Officer Peter Gunning "Blue 3" of No. 46 Sqn who was shot down and killed by Me109's during a dogfight over the Thames on the 15th October 1940; his Hurricane crashing into a chalk pit quarry in Grays, Thurrock; now the site of a housing estate. He sought a contribution from the Squadron so instead of sending flowers to Mike's funeral we agreed to pay for the memorial with the following added:

"Presented by No 46 squadron RFC & RAF Association in memory of Pilot Officer Gunning and of Air Commodore M J Rayson, 1928-2011, who was the first Andover C Mk1 squadron commander,"

His daughter wrote: I thought you and other members of 46 Sqn Association might like to know that last Saturday we visited the memorial and met with Rachel Umfreville, the organiser, and her family. Sadly the day was grey and dull but their hospitality was just wonderful and it was lovely to learn how the project started and to hear first hand all the effort that was put in to such a wonderful memorial. We were "fed and watered" and even watched a DVD of all the photographs taken on October 22nd at the unveiling - it was a very memorable day for us and on behalf of the Rayson family may I say thank you to you all again. Kind regards. Karen

**Darrol STINTON** Javelin 57-58. Darrol was born in New Zealand and grew up in England. His life in aviation began as an aeronautical engineering apprentice in 1944, with Blackburn Aircraft Limited of Brough, on the River Humber -. Blackburns taught him to fly. Around 1950 he moved to De Havillands, at Hatfield, from where he joined the RAF and No 46 Squadron in 1953, via the RAFVR. Aircraft, ships and water dominated Darrol's interests and, while still in the RAF, he trained as a Ship's Diving Officer RN. Urged by the team of RAF divers in the sub-aqua club, Seletar, Singapore, he used them to found the now large Royal Air Force Sub-Aqua Association – training the original team to work with the Navy in the event of aircraft accidents in water.

In 1959, Darrol had been accepted for the Empire Test Pilots' School at Farnborough, and from there crossed the runway into experimental test flying at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, where the work was most varied, from pure research and development, to in-flight accident investigation, and being a guinea-pig for the RAF Institute of Aviation Medicine. His test flying spanned 35 years and more than 340 types of aircraft, first as an experimental test pilot at Farnborough; then 20 years as airworthiness certification test pilot for the UK Civil Aviation Authority on light aeroplanes and seaplanes, before turning freelance. He has lectured regularly at the Empire Test Pilots' School, Loughborough University, the Royal Aeronautical Society (of which he is past Vice President), and the Royal Institution of Naval Architects. His company specialized in cross-fertilization between aircraft and marine craft design and operation.

**Terry JOHNSON** 53-55. Javelin. Terry joined the Squadron a week after it reformed in August 1954. A rare beast as a second tourist he proved to be a great mentor for both pilots and navigators. Like so many of that generation, he completed his short service commission and went back to civvie street where he had a very successful career in the insurance industry. He died in July 2011.

## News, Gossip and Scandal :

### Members report:

- Horst ABROMEIT** After making a superb speech and toasting the Squadron, Horst writes: "We are safe back in Old Germany and start to think about what we have seen in your country. It was a fabulous Reunion, I think. But not only I think that. Many of the Squadron members told me that this was one of the best reunions we ever had."
- Chris ALCOCK** The Queen and Chris's 7th daughter have between them blocked any chance of attending the reunion this year y their Diamond Jubilee and wedding respectively. He would much prefer to come to the Reunion but would never be forgiven!! Looking forward to next year.
- John AUSTIN** John was coming but he had to bring forward a holiday by two weeks owing to a last minute change of a cruise itinerary. He ran the London Marathon in April and is extremely grateful to all his backers who helped raise £1600 for his sponsored charity.
- John BARTRAM** John is back in Wiltshire, close to Keevil DZ.
- Derek BENDALL** Derek is unable to attend as he has bought a yacht and will be sailing around Marmaris in May and June. He wishes everyone a great evening.
- David BENNETT** Dai is still working!
- John BOYD** John writes: "It is with much regret that I have to cancel but there is no way that I could cope under my present medical circumstances. The dreaded cancer has really taken the stuffing out of me. I was probably being very optimistic even thinking that I could manage when I have trouble coping in my own home. I wish you all a most splendid evening, especially the Javelin chaps.
- Mike BOLTON** Sue and Mike are well and enjoying retired rural village life. Time is filled by family - 4 children and 11 grandchildren, golf, photography, very large garden and chair of local Parish Council.
- Andy CLARK** Andy is finding retirement good although it was quite a transition from operational flying over Afghanistan to nothing! However, he has now found the same as everybody else - retirement is busy! Life is good so far.
- John CLEMENTS** John is still unemployed, making the most of 2012. He is looking forward to the 96th in 2013. He sends all good wishes to all 46 and 84 members.
- Steve DAY** Steve travelled all the way from Malaysia to the Reunion. Not quite as outrageous as he was when on the Squadron, Steve was nevertheless great company. We are extremely grateful to Steve for a very substantial and generous donation. In addition to running his vast media empire, Steve finds time to organise the annual Malaysia International Gourmet Festival. Go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nclsLyk-nFg> to see his appearance at this year's final.
- George KIRK** George was unable to attend as his wife is seriously ill. He wishes you all a good party and hopes to join us one year.
- Dennis CONSTABLE** Dennis wishes everyone a very enjoyable reunion.
- David CRWYS- WILLIAMS** David is bearing up well considering and still travelling widely. Spent 3 weeks in Oman self-driving a Land Cruiser and sleeping on the roof; visited Firq, Saiq, Nizwa, Trumrayt and had 4 days on a much changed Masirah Island. Crayfish business still flourishes!
- John BLENKINSOP** John is now stuck in a wheelchair as a result of primary progressive multiple sclerosis. Not too easy to attend Reunions! All the best to everyone.
- Mike KEMP** Mike is still alive and kicking, but not quite as swift as he used to be.
- Graham LAURIE** Graham spent the week before the dinner with the Masons and Abromeits in Cornwall. Horst tried to drink St Austell Brewery dry! Graham is organising an Aircrew Lunch in the Black Horse, Gozzard's Ford near Abington in September. Details to follow.
- Tim LILES** Tim is still living in Budleigh Salterton. New hip being well exercised walking and hill walking. Won his first ever Croquet Association tournament - result!!
- Peter BOLEY** Peter has been unable to attend the Reunion for many years as it clashed with his wedding anniversary. Unfortunately even though the date has changed this year he is unable to attend as his wife's health has deteriorated dramatically to the point where he is 24/7 carer (Alzheimer's)
- Peter MILES** Both Peter and Gwen are fully retired - from paid work that is; Gwen is a trustee for a sailing charity in

Rickmansworth and does wedding flowers for a fee. Peter is a Rotarian and supports Princes Risborough local charities. He is also on the management committee as chief steward for the Kop Hill climb to be held at P. Risborough on 22/23 September 2012. See <http://www.kophillclimb.info>

**Chas MORGAN**

Muriel reports that Chas is in the early stages of Vascular Dementia which is apparently slightly different to the normal general forms of dementia. He very much regrets not being able to attend.

**Kenneth NICHOLS**

Following a marginal improvement in his health, Kenneth hopes to be on holiday in France on the occasion of the 95th Call to Arms. As ever his thoughts are with you all. He has such fond memories of his posting at RAF Odiham.

**Steve ROBSON**

Steve is involved in aviation organisations in and around the New Forest. One of these is RAF Ibsley near Stoney Cross where 46 Sqn spent a short time, see [www.ibsleytower.info](http://www.ibsleytower.info). Volunteers are being sought.

**Les ROCKEL**

Les sends kind regards to all - great time last year 2011. Please get in touch if you are ever down under or contemplating a visit to NZ - cheers Les

**Keith SAUNDERS**

Keith is still shepherding his flock of Jacob's sheep, running the Saddleworth Walking Club (150 members) and organising events. He is also doing the coast-to-coast walk in October.

**Mac SIBBALD**

Mac writes: "We are sorry we can't be with you this year but as you know I am nearly at the end of my treatment for a lesion on my pharynx. This involved me having 3 months of chemotherapy and radiotherapy. I have lost my hair and most of my teeth. I still have the front ones so am as handsome as ever!!!! Maggie says I look like a white Shrek!!! We will be there next year,. Maggie wants 2 bottles of champagne next year please!"

**Paul SNOOK**

Paul is sorry to miss the 95th Call to Arms due to a double booking. He hopes to see you all next year and already has it in the diary. Best wishes to all for a super evening.

**Freddie SOWREY**

The death of Air Cdr John Sowrey referred to the eight members of the family that had served in the RAF. This exercised a number of authors and Graham Pitchfork has written "The Sowreys" which is due to be published by Grub Street in June in hardback with 120 photos. 1901 Darracq still fighting its way from London to Brighton with a family crew each November.

**Jenny SEDDON**

Jenny is Peter Gifkin's daughter and writes "I have enclosed two silver decanter necklaces which are adorned with the Squadron crest and the number 25. I discovered them while clearing Mother's jewellery box. They were presented to Peter on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion he had organised. Not long to go till you match him Dougie! Please use the enclosed donation to drink the health of my father and mother who both loved the Squadron and the spirit of Reunions."

**Steve STEVENSON**

Steve writes : "As you may have gathered I've been quite ill. I had a stroke 2 days before returning from holiday from Sri Lanka but my wife and I were adamant we wanted to come home and I had enough control to persuade the doctor to let us travel or we would still have been there with all the insurance and admin. hassle. To be honest had Sri Lankan Airlines known how ill I was I'm sure they would not have taken me. In the event the travel company-Mercury Direct-whom I can't praise high enough, bent over backwards for us although a lot of extra admin fell on my wife. We had a 4 hour journey to the airport where they put me in a wheelchair in an airline office and left me to it while my wife did the admin. They then prioritised us through departures and left us in the departure lounge till boarding when we were put on first with an improved seat. We then had an 11 hour direct flight to LHR, although it went by in a haze for me. I do remember everybody around doing everything they could for us. We arrived at 8 pm and last off the flight got out of the airport at 9 pm to be met by a shocked son who was not aware of my condition. I was brought direct to our local hospital where I was almost directly into A&E at 11 pm at the end of a 21 hour day. They put me into a stroke ward at 0630 following morning with the plan to transfer me to a neuro-surgical hospital to have a blood clot removed but after 2 days I had started to improve and they decided it wouldn't be necessary as it was starting to disperse itself and co-ordination was returning. And that is where I am now with the stroke although they say it may take weeks or months to get back to normal and the consultant thinks I was lucky to survive the journey. The sad thing is that while carrying out the tests they discovered I have Leukaemia and that is now the long haul, and which has put the kibosh on our plans for the foreseeable future. I'm now in the Haematology Ward starting Chemotherapy, just had the first dose and been let home for the week-end. Back on Monday for a small Op. and more Chemo., but what the hell I'm home and alive." **Update 2 June.** "Just home from another 2 weeks in hospital having another awful dose of Chemo-therapy. Literally 8 days continuous infusion. Back again on Thursday for a shorter course of tablets so hopefully it will get better from here. Give my best wishes to the membership."

**Tony STEPHENS**

Tony writes after the Reunion: "Prompted by "Bones", Bernie Donders and several others, I spoke to Dougie Tew last week to pass on their best wishes; he was very chatty and Ronni and I hope to visit



him before long. Although, he was never on the Squadron he is still holds his links with great affection and appreciated the call.

**Bill TURNBULL**

Bill's son Stuart reports that Bill is almost totally blind now but he still enjoys hearing all the news. He sends best wishes to all.

**Roger UNWIN**

Roger and Heather are still enjoying Cyprus but are now considering returning to the UK after 22 ears in the sun. Heather is now well after receiving first class treatment from the health service in Cyprus for her cancer scare and Nasty is still a finely honed athlete!! Golden wedding this year.

**Russell WILLIAMS**

Russell continues as Vice-President of the Old Cranwellians Association. He has endured two or three trips into hospital over the last 18 months - broken bones etc. This has restricted his driving and golf. He sends best wishes to all.

**Russell WILSON**

Russ is full-time MD of expanding care home group. Recently opened new facility at Kidderminster. Cyprus properties available for sale at discount. He is staying relatively healthy with the help of a few spare parts and medical devices.

**Keith WILSON**

If anyone is debating whether or not to go rafting down the Grand Canyon - do it! A fantastic experience.

**Dougie BARR**

Dougie is still working as an IT consultant which is odd as he knows very little about IT. His place in the South of France has vacancies for August if anyone is interested at very good mate's rates.

Keith CHAPMAN

Keith is unable to make the Reunion this year as they are committed to hosting French visitors that weekend with their village twinning association

*Spirit of 46.*

The histories and scrapbooks have been combined into one volume which appears on the Squadron website (46squadron.info). I have now reformatted the website into landscape and with the generosity of Bob Richardson which we have printed it on top quality paper and bound in a very smart binder. I have made a PDF version of the "Spirit of 46" which, together with JPEG copies of all the photographs within it, is on a CD. If you would like a CD it will cost you £5 (to Sqn funds) plus P&P (about £1 for the UK). The binder is loose-leaf and therefore much easier to update than before. Please let me have copies of your photographs and memorabilia for inclusion. If necessary send me the originals and I will scan and return them.

### Website

We now have 3 addresses for the website:

[www.46squadron.net](http://www.46squadron.net);

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

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



Pete  
WALLINGTON

Colin  
GOWER

Dick  
ARSCOTT

Tony  
MALLETT

John  
SCAMBLER

David  
GW

Horst  
ABROMEIT

Graham  
LAURIE

Tony  
STEPHEN

David  
ADAMS

Dougie  
BARR

Ian  
SALVAGE  
Eric  
MARSH  
Ian  
TYRELL-  
MARSH  
Lefty  
WRIGHT  
Rusty  
Steele-Morgan  
Ken  
TEAL  
Mark  
BARNETT  
Chris  
CARRINGTON  
Vic  
FAULKNER  
Ian  
LASCHKE  
Denny  
O'BRIAN  
Ian  
MASON  
Cary  
SAND  
Timothy  
WILSON

Marcus  
SAUNDERS  
Keith  
SAUNDERS  
Pete  
HOOD  
Peter  
CROUCH  
Tim  
LILES  
Dick  
WARD  
Jeff  
SAUNDERS  
Geoff  
DRYLAND  
Des  
WHITE  
Laurie  
POULTER  
Jamie  
WILSON

Keith  
WILSON

Eric  
KING

Tom  
BARR

Peter  
MILES

Derek  
LIDDELL

Dick  
EASTMENT

John  
BARTRAM

Jim  
WHITE

Derek  
LONG

David  
LONG

Andy  
ADAMS

Dave  
HIGGS

Dai  
BENNETT

Giles  
BENNETT

Dave  
BRAY

Steve  
DAY

Dave  
DRAKE

Stu  
PRIEST

Andy  
CLARK

Bernie  
DONDER

Alan  
PARKER

Bruce  
GATHERER

Jim  
GATHERER

John  
GREEDY

Bob  
RICHARDSON

Russell  
WILSON

Steve  
ROBSON





Cheerioooo 2012

