



# CHEERIOOO



The Newsletter of  
No 46 Squadron RFC & RAF  
Issue No 25. June 2019

## OUTSTANDING HALTON



We had a splendid evening back at Halton House Officers' Mess. Numbers were well up on last year with 70 Members, Ladies and Guests enjoying great food, fine wine, and lively company in idyllic surroundings. We dined in the glorious Salon with round tables of 7 which proved to be a very popular arrangement. Some found the 2 hour pre-drinks a little long so we will reduce this period to one and half hours starting at 18.00 and bring dinner forward to 19:30. Our President has sought permission for us to hold our next Reunion (Saturday 6 June 2020) at Halton

### ***Dinner:***

#### ***The following members took Dinner:***

David ADAMS	Andy ADAMS	John AUSTIN	Dougie BARR	John BARTRAM
Dai BENNETT	John BRANSBURY	Dave BRAY	Chris CARRINGTON	Keith CHAPMAN
Andy CLARK	David CRWYS-WILLIAMS	John DIMMOCK	Ian DOW	Geoff DRYLAND
Dick EASTMENT	Eric KING	Graham LAURIE	Derek LIDDELL	Tim LILES
Derek LONG	Tony MALLETT	Peter MILES	Richard MOORE	Paul OSBORN
Adrian OBERTELLI	Denny O'BRIEN	John PLUMLEY	Laurie POULTER	Stuart PRIEST
Bob RICHARDSON	Steve ROBSON	Jeff SAUNDERS	Keith SAUNDERS	Mac SIBBALD
Paul SNOOK	Tony STEPHENS	Jim TAYLOR	Ken TEAL	Ralf TOGNERI
Mike TOM	Roger UNWIN	Dick WARD	Russell WILSON	Chris TAYLOR
John BOARDMAN				

### ***The following guests took Dinner:***

Christopher BRANSBURY	Guest of	John BRANSBURY
Tim <u>HARDING</u>	Guest of	Derek LIDDELL
Andrew BIRRILL	Guest of	Adrian OBERTELLI
Marcus SAUNDERS	Guest of	Keith SAUNDERS
Wayne HOPLA	Guest of	The SQUADRON
Tim WILSON and Russell STANDLEY	Guests of	Russell WILSON
Matthew TOM	Guest of	Mike TOM
Doug ASH	Guest of	Dougie BARR

### ***Supper:***

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

Judy BARTRAM	Mavis HOPKINS	Maggie SIBBALD	Sylvia TEAL	Heather UNWIN
Melanie BARNETT	Jean HOPLA	Caroline WILSON	Liz PLUMLEY	Jean DIMMOCK
Amy WILSON	Linda STANDLEY	Penny OSBORN		

### ***Benefactors:***

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

David ADAMS	Andy ADAMS	Dick ARSCOTT	Dougie BARR	John BARTRAM
Dai BENNETT	Jeff BETHRAY	John BRANSBURY	Chris CARRINGTON	Keith CHAPMAN
Andy CLARK	David CRWYS-WILLIAMS	John DIMMOCK	Ian DOW	Dick EASTMENT
Steve GARVIN	Mike KEMP	Eric KING	Ian LASCHKE	Graham LAURIE
Derek LIDDELL	Tim LILES	Derek LONG	Eric MARSH (RIP)	Brian MEINKE
Brian MERRITT	Peter MILES	Paul MINDNER	Richard MOORE	Adrian OBERTELLI
Denny O'BRIEN	Paul OSBORN	Stuart PRIEST	Bob RICHARDSON	Les ROCKEL
Jeff SAUNDERS	Des SKINNER	Paul SNOOK	Freddie SOWREY	Keith WILSON
Tony STEPHENS	Jim TAYLOR	Ken TEAL	Pat THOMAS	Ralf TOGNERI
Mike TOM	Roger UNWIN	Dick WARD	Derek BENDALL	Jim WHITE
				Russell WILSON
Chris TAYLOR	John BOARDMAN	Paul MINDNER	David HIGGS	Rusty STEELE MORGAN

## ***Regrets:***

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

Chris ALCOCK	Bill ALEXANDER	Dick ARSCOTT	Jeff BETHRAY	Derek BENDALL
Mike BOLTON	John BLENKINSOP	Ian HAMPTON	Dougie MORGAN	John SCAMBLER
John BOYD	Geoff BRADSHAW	Adrian BROWN	Dennis BUCK	Mark GILSON
Roy BUTLER (RIP)	Dennis CONSTABLE	Steve DAY	Dave DRAKE	Steve GARVIN
Harry GRIFFITHS	Chris HOSEA	Frank HUDDLESTON	Ian LASCHKE	Eric MARSH (RIP)
Ian MASON	Brian MEINKE	Brian MERRITT	Les ROCKEL	Chris SIERWALD
Des SKINNER	Freddie SOWREY	Pat THOMAS	Des WHITE   Jim WHITE	Keith WILSON
Pete WALLINGTON	Bob PETERS	David HIGGS	Paul MINDNER	Rusty STEEL MORGAN

## ***Obituaries:***

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

**Warrant Officer Roy Butler**, age 96, passed away on May 2, 2019 in Florida. Born in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, Roy took his aircrew medical when he was 17 in 1940 and in March 1941 wrote to find out why he hadn't been called up. In May 1941 he began pilot training. He joined 46 Squadron in North Africa. During his time on the Squadron he took part in a series of raids on targets in the Aegean Sea for which he was awarded the DFC which he received from His Majesty King George VI in May 1945.

Roy wrote about the operation and his story is on our website together with a piece from the Luftwaffe pilot he shot down. Both well worth a read.

Following his service to his country, Roy sailed to America and settled in Michigan, where he had a very successful career at Ford Motor Company as an innovative Design Engineer. He returned to England in 1962 as Ford's Chief Engineer of Europe. Returning to the USA he continued with Ford before retiring to Florida.

**Leslie Robins** was, until his death on Christmas Eve last year, one of only two of our remaining members from the War in North Africa.

Les joined the RAF at the outbreak of War in September 1939. He joined 46 Squadron in Egypt as our Adjutant and stayed with the Squadron until it moved back to the UK in 1944. Our other "desert rat" Roy Butler remembers him fondly as a "good egg".

After the War, Les had a long and very successful career in the Inland Revenue. Les moved to Buckinghamshire in 1978 and was a stalwart of his village, The Lee, for the next 40 years.

In retirement he volunteered for numerous charitable jobs including 20 years with the Chesham Hospital Car Service. He once picked up a patient who said in a quivering voice as he got into the car, "I'm 83 you know" to which Les replied "Well, I'm 87". Les was a great and generous supporter of the Reunions and only ill-health stopped him attending.

**Eric Marsh** was born in August 1930. As a trainee draughtsman working on the 'Canberra' project Eric's 'National Service' had been delayed and his call up papers arrived on the day of his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Eric's Mum hid the notification from her son so that he could properly enjoy his celebrations!

He began his basic training in August '51. The 'Korean War' meant that many new pilots would be required, so Eric was offered an odd 'choice' of either a mess steward or training to be a pilot! Difficult decision. After gaining his wings, he flew Meteors for 4 years then joined 46 Squadron at Odiham operating the Javelin. Eric really enjoyed his time flying the 'delta winged' jets but if you read the book 'Javelin Boys' (available in the Squadron Library) you'll read that he had several very narrow 'squeaks'!!

On leaving 46 Eric stayed with the Javelin on 60 Squadron at RAF Tengah in Singapore. It was during the 'Indonesian Confrontation' where the Javelin was operated both as air superiority and low level reconnaissance - another odd choice of roles! From a Cold War to a hot one and he was soon to experience the uncomfortable sensation of having his aircraft shot at and hit!! Maybe being a steward was a better option after all!

In 1964 he joined 23 Squadron at RAF Leuchars flying the English Electric Lightning - not sure how he managed without a navigator!!! Later he qualified as a QFI and his last posting was instructing on Nottingham University Air Squadron.

In 1968, Eric joined BOAC flying VC10s and later the first 747s. Forced to leave BOAC at the ripe old age of 55, he then flew 747s for Singapore Airlines. He finally and reluctantly retired from flying in 1990 on reaching 60.

His happy retirement was interrupted a couple of years ago when he was diagnosed with Melanoma for which he underwent surgery and appeared to make a good recovery but it was not to be and he died on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March.

## *News, Gossip and Scandal:*

### *Members report:*

**John BARTRAM.** John is still living near Keevil and continuing to enjoy retirement. Not much air activity at Keevil these days. Whilst on holiday in Canada, found reference to 2nd Lt George Dowler RFC, No 46 Sqn. Good display in the Hangar Flight Museum, Calgary.

**Dougie BARR.** Dougie continues to work as a Programme Assurance Consultant for the Government, but business has been slow since it appears that every civil servant is working on BREXIT and nothing else! Dougie was diagnosed with bladder cancer in February. Fortunately, the op to remove the tumours looks to have been successful and he is coping well with the follow-up treatment although he has a pink chit to skip the week of the Reunion!

**Andy CLARK.** Andy and Carolyn still have the health and means to do the things they enjoy.

**Jeff BETHRAY.** Following his first wife's demise through dementia Jeff has remarried Dr Mary Crowther. They both continue to row, ski and hill walk, although at a much slower pace. They now reside in the leafy suburbs of north Oxford.

**David CRWYS\_WILLIAMS** Another year - thankfully - of blessed good health and plenty of travel, the highlight being Assam and Nagaland for three weeks. Bulgaria and The Falkland Islands next.

**Harry GRIFFITHS** From Cate, Harry's daughter. I'm sorry I had to tell you the sad news about our Mum who passed away on 24 July 2018. Dad is suffering from Alzheimer's and is now in a really nice nursing home. I know that he'd be very pleased to hear from anyone from 'the old days'...although I don't think he has the capacity to reply!

**Chris HOSEA.** As you are probably aware, Anne had a heart attack just before Christmas and then a further mild one just after the New Year. She is doing fine but tires easily and the progression to full health is slow. We were seriously considering coming to the Reunion this year, however we have decided that the "excitement" associated with the "rushing" around would not be in her favour so unfortunately, we will have to give this year a miss. God willing there will be next year and we will plan accordingly. Please pass on our greatest regards to everyone and we will raise a glass on the night. (Several in my case, water for Anne). With the kindest regards to all.

**Mike KEMP.** My children had tried for ages to persuade me to move "before it's too late", but I didn't want to go. However, I woke up one morning and admitted to myself that I was fast becoming unable to cultivate my beloved large garden properly or attend to house maintenance. So, I took a chance, started proceedings in mid- October and was in my new accommodation on 14 Dec. A hair-raising experience that I would not care to repeat but with my 85th on the horizon, I'm sure I made the right decision. I will not attend the Reunion Dinner, but I will be with you all in spirit and send my best wishes -together with a donation – for a highly successful evening.

**Eric KING.** "Young" Eric and family emigrated to New Zealand; long holidays in prospect. We are now settled in The Crook of Devon; visitors most welcome

**Tim LILES.** Tim has a few more aches and pains, but still doing plenty of walking and playing croquet. No mountains climbed for a year. Still managing to not get on top of the large garden. Cheerioooo 46!

**Tony MALLETT.** Tony and Fiona celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary in April at the RAF Club. He is no longer flying light aircraft but did sail aboard son David's offshore racing yacht. Not agile enough

to be in his race crew!

**Paul MINDNER.** The 1st of June is the wife's birthday and daughter is coming from Munich. Sorry, but I hope that is a good enough reason to miss this year's Reunion. Trying again definitely next year probably BEFORE Brexit comes into effect :-).

**Laurie POULTER.** Laurie is looking forward to returning to Halton for probably the last time as this is where he started in the RAF. Until then I will be swanning around the warmer parts of Europe in my motorhome.

**Rusty STEELE MORGAN.** Rusty is sorry to miss this year's Reunion and sends kindest regards to all. He will be 90 in October!

**Neil STEWART.** We heard from Shag Hampton that Neil's wife is terminally ill.

**Tony STEPHENS.** Tony has recently moved from hilly Wiltshire to chilly Norfolk to join family. Our travelling in recent years has been largely limited to visiting the Kiwi branch of the family in New Zealand and as a result the opportunity to visit Les and Pam Rockel. They live in a lovely spot.

**Jim WHITE.** Jim had hoped to make it this year, but something else cropped up. Y'all have a good night. He'll be thinking of you.

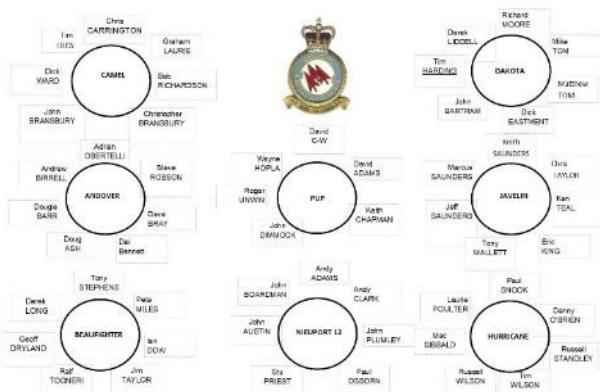
**Russell WILSON.** Russell continues to work full time with his UK Care Group and Cyprus Properties. He celebrated his Golden Wedding anniversary with Caroline at RAF Club with family and friends. Russell flew a Spitfire Mk9 in tandem with his son in a Harvard T6 over Silverstone. The two aircraft both flew over Silverstone in echelon formation, before Russell 'broke out' to complete his Victory Roll. He had been waiting 50 years to do that. His father then returned to base in formation with a second Mk 9 Spitfire for a 'run in and break' landing at Sywell.

**Steve GARVIN.** Steve is unable to attend this year's Reunion as they are travelling a fair bit and spending time with his 7 grandchildren. Steve has kindly donated the now customary bubbles in memory of Terry Rourke!

**Derek BENDALL.** Derek regrets he is not able to attend; he has pre-booked sailing commitments.

**John CLEMENTS.** John is still living in Llantwin Fawr the site of the first documented school in Wales. His bicycle remains his only form of transport. The wonderful view from his house is steadily being blighted by ghastly developments. Best wishes to all and he may see us next year.

**Dave HIGGS.** Loretta has sent me a lovely card wishing us great Reunion. No 52 Squadron is having its own Reunion in September and Loretta cannot put into words how unbelievably sad it is that David will not be able to take his place at the celebration of a squadron of which he was so proud. Loretta enclosed a very generous cheque for the Drinks Kitty of which she knows David would have approved. On behalf of all the members of No 46 Squadron who also served under such a great boss in Singapore, we share Loretta's sadness but we obeyed the last order and drunk his contribution with gusto.



*The 102nd Anniversary Reunion Dinner of No 46 Squadron, RAF, 1st of June 2019*  
*Halton House Officers - Mess, RAF Halton*







These photos and many more can be viewed and downloaded from:  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/53681045@N07/collections/72157633984549324/>  
 In addition, photos from each Reunion since 2006 are also available







**Court Circular**



**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
*June 1st*  
 The Queen, accompanied by Princess Alexandra, the Hon Lady Ogilvy, honoured Epsom Races with her presence today.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
*June 1st*  
 The Duke of York, Colonel, Grenadier Guards, this morning took the salute at the Colonel's Review of The Queen's Birthday Parade on Horse Guards Parade, London SW1.  
 His Royal Highness afterwards attended a Reception at Grenadier Guards Headquarters, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1.

*For more details about the Royal Family visit the Royal website at [www.royal.uk](http://www.royal.uk)*

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**Service dinner**

**No 46 Squadron RFC and RAF**  
 Sqn Ldr Graham Laurie was the speaker at the 102nd consecutive reunion dinner of No 46 Squadron RFC and RAF held on Saturday in Halton House Officers' Mess, RAF Halton. Air Vice-Marshal David Crwys-Williams presided.





