

THE
CHINTHE
NEWSLETTER



Spring 2003

Contents

Secretary's report	3
Jubilee	4
Jubilee programme	5
Jubilee Instructions.....	6
Jubilee attendees list	7
Diary dates, Notices	8
Notices, New members	9
AGM proposals	10
Dishforth : Local Accommodation	11
Support our advertiser	Back cover

YOUR ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

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Secretary's report.

Firstly may I offer apologies to members who had made arrangements to attend the Jubilee on 31st May which owing to Service commitments has had to be re-arranged. Details can be found on page 5.

This year sees the 60th anniversary of the Squadron, which we will celebrate on **21st June**. Although many of our members have served with other Squadrons within the RAF/AAC they all tell me that their days with 656 were the most memorable. We can quite rightly be proud of the Squadron and its achievements during its time, mainly in the Far East but also in Rhodesia and the Falklands. I doubt if our 150,000 operational flying hours in one theatre will ever be equalled, nor the collection of Honours and medals bestowed upon members. Your Association is the envy of other Squadrons who have tried, but not succeeded, to have an Association of their own. The nearest is a few individual Flight members meeting each year for a dinner, and social evening, not that there is anything wrong in that.

The Association celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Squadron when they were based in Netheravon. A Drum Head ceremony was held, and the Association presented the Squadron with a silver Chintre to mark the occasion. Replicas of this Chintre is now sold in cold cast Bronze. (Picture and details on the back page)

Present day service commitments preclude such an elaborate ceremony, however I know the Squadron are putting on a very memorable celebration when we assemble at Dishforth. The Association will present the Squadron with a superb bespoke display cabinet constructed in Burmese teak, to a design by the late Nobby Clark. I look forward to meeting many of you June, and a successful day.

The list of attendees is on page 6, however this was compiled for the original date of May 31. Please check to see if you are on it, and if you now need to be amend it owing to the change of date. If you

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

are not listed and find you can now attend please phone/E-mail me ASAP.

Ted Maslen Jones has found that with other commitments his time is now more and more taken up, as such he has reluctantly relinquished the position of President. He hopes that a younger man will take over and continue the good work of the Association. He will “still be around to give help and advice” in the years to come. I’m sure we all wish Ted well, and know any projects he undertakes will be successful.

In April last year we announced the death of Frank Brown and said he had left 5% of the residual of his Estate to the Association. I am pleased to say that we should shortly receive £6,674.44. Perhaps others may like to put a bequest in their wills?

Finally, I have received complaints that there was no flying at our last reunion. Members must appreciate that *flying is a bonus*, should the Squadron be in a position to offer it, not a right as a member. Your committee has no control whatsoever over flying but rest assured, strong representation is made to the Squadron to do their utmost to get authority to have you airborne!

John.

Changes To Event Date

JUBILEE

Owing to operational commitments the Jubilee has been put back until 21st June, but still at Dishforth. The outline program is opposite. Members and guests of all ages are welcome to the afternoon event.

There will be a dinner dance in the evening at the Crown Hotel in Boroughbridge for members and their *adult* guests and any serving 656 personnel. This will be at 18:00 for 18:30 and a set menu, followed with a dance to a live band (not a disco) from 20:30.

The original intention was to hold an AGM in conjunction with the Jubilee, however as that will not be convenient it will now take place at Langport with the Burma luncheon on Sunday June 8th.

Jubilee Programme

“End of an Era”

- 10:30 Members arrive, met & greeted by Squadron.
- 11:45 Cabinet presentation and dedicated to Squadron
- 12:15 Program starts with brief history of Squadron while
- 12:20 Auster, Scout, Lynx & Gazelle parade and are hangared.
- 12:30 Apache arrives.
- 13:00 Group photo of Members bounded with Auster and Scout.
- 13:30 General get together.
- 14:00 IF flying is authorised then members are invited to fly.
- 15:30 Start to disperse.
- 16:00 End of afternoon meeting, members to be clear of airfield.

During the afternoon there will be a bar with snack items.

- 18:00 Crown Hotel, Boroughbridge
- 18:30 Members Dinner
- 20:30 Dancing to Premier Sound Dance band.

Dinner Menu:

Starter:

- 1) Cream of Vegetable soup..... or
- 2) Fantail of Seasonal Melon with Citrus Sorbet & Strawberry Coulis

Main Course:

- 3) Baked Supreme of Chicken, with bacon shallot and mushroom sauce..... or
- 4) Poached Fillet of Salmon, with a white wine prawn sauce

Sweet:

- 5) Home-made Apple Pie served with Custard.....or
- 6) Profiteroles with Chocolate Sauce.

Coffee and mints

ALL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

JUBILEE CELEBRATION & DINNER. There will be **NO costs** to members and guests attending, except your own Bar and hotel charges

DINNER. Please select which combination of meal you would like and reply **NOW**, but no later than 31st May. Keep a copy of your choices for your own reference later.

(Max capacity 140 people, first come, first served!)

Please advise me if you will attend

- A) Daytime program only
- B) Evening Dinner dance only
- C) Both functions.

A list of local accommodation is on page 11.

The Crown Hotel, Boroughbridge, (Best Western) is offering rooms to members at £79.20 double and £61.65 single, bed and breakfast.

Please note ALL rooms are NON-SMOKING. Bookings should be made urgently as there are two other functions going on at the same time!!

MEMBERS PLEASE CHECK

the following attendance lists carefully. I have been finding some of my mail is going adrift. If you have sent in your reply but it is not in the lists please ring me ASAP. Member who said they MAY attend should confirm now if they will attend.

SECURITY

All members attending the day event should advise me by E-mail or phone their vehicle registration numbers and make, and number of passengers as soon as possible, but no later than 1st June.

This will make Gate entry more streamlined.

E-mail: 656assn@Talk21.com Phone: (01249) 652922

Members and their guests attending the Jubilee.

Member	Guest
Alletson Mr W.	1
Bath Maj (Retd) K.C.	1
Beard Maj P.F.	1
Bennett Mr A.J.	1
Beveridge Mr K.D.	1
Boys Mr K.	1
Bradbrook Col B.H.	1
Brown Mr D.	1
Cottam Mr A.J.	1
Crookston Mr T.J.	1
Cubbage Capt M.J.S.	1
Donaldson Mr A.B.	1
Drummer Mr R.	1
Elliston Mr P.W.	1
Flint Mr A.E.W.	1
Foster Mr M.	1
Fraser-Pidgeon Mr F. StG.	1
Grogan Mr D.R.	1
Hall Mr B.P.	1
Hallam Mr J.	1
Harrell Mr W.M.	1
Heyes Mr J.	1
Howe Mr C.J.	1
Humphries Mr D.J.	1
Hunter Mr F.	1
Knowles Mr W.J.	1

Member	Guest
Lamb Mr A.D.	1
Laventure Mr N.I.	1
MacKay Mr J.M.	1
Maycroft Mr A.G.	1
McKie Mr G.W.	1
Moles Mr R.	1
Needham Mr P.	1
Pett Mr R.G.	1
Pickles Mr R	1
Reeves Mr J.D.	1
Robinson Mr P.W.	1
Rogers Mr R.	1
Simkins Lt.Col. A.J.N	1
Skingley Mr R	1
Slack Mr W.A.	1
Smith Mr J.J.G.	1
Tomey Mr R.	1
Staveley Maj.Gen R.	
Walker Maj. D.R.O	1
Ward Mr R	1
Warden Mr R.T.	1
Weaver Mr V.D.	1
White Mr G. A.	1
Willman Capt A.H.	1
Windscheffel Mr A.N.	2

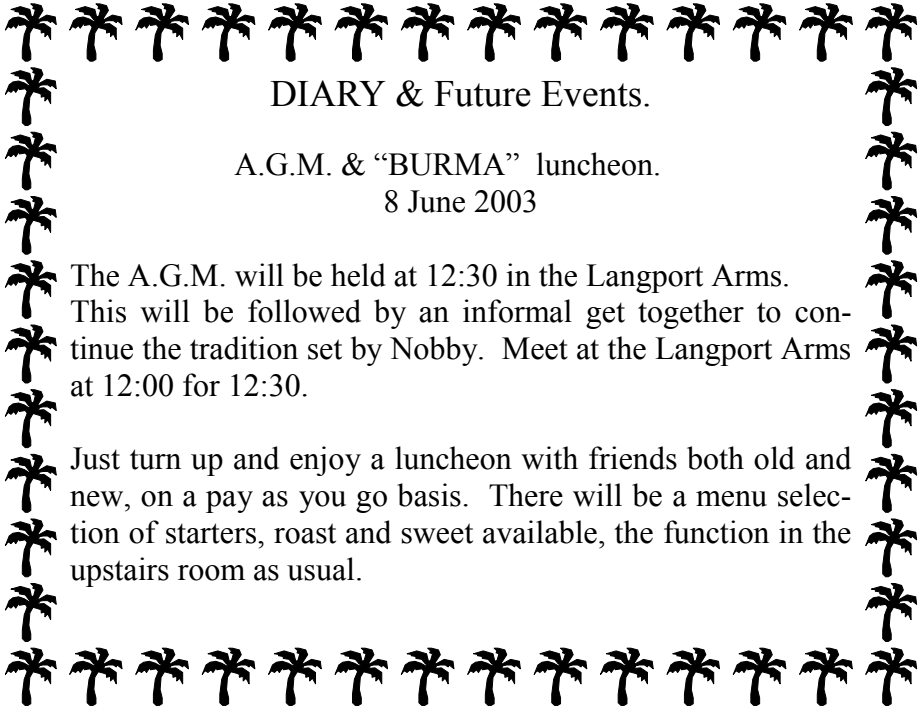
Members who said they MAY attend the Jubilee.

Member	Guest
Andrews Mr P.E.	
Collier Mr D	1
Cook Mr C.M.	
Cooper Sgt W.V	1
Cuppage Mr P.F.B.	
Danton Mr R.	1
Davies Mr G.A.	1
Dobson Mr A.	3
Frost Mr N.	1
Gower Col. R.N.L.	1
Hainey Capt K	1
Harris Col R.N.	1
Hulme-Atthis Mr T.	1
Kemp Mr D	2
Lacey Lt.Col T.N.W.	

Member	Guest
Lamont Capt I.R.L.	3
Lowe Mr A.	1
Maslen-Jones Capt E.W.	
Mortimer Mr P.	1
Pemberton Dr C.	1
Penfold Mr. F.	1
Proost Mr P.G.	1
Read Mr S.V.	2
Selwood Mr V.H.G.	1
Stirton Mr J.	1
Stubbings Mr N.G.	
Tucker Lt. Col A.	
Ward Mr W.J	3
Wastell Mr W.H.	
Williams Mr T.R.	1

NEW MEMBERS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

592	Capt Thackeray D	RAOC/AAC	63-66 Kluang, 16 Flt Ipoh, 7 Flt Sarawak, Beaver Flt
593	Mr Short P. SCM. JP	RA	52-55 KL, 1902 Benta & S'pore
594	Mr Ellwood-Russell R	Associate	Owner of XV130 (Ex Falklands Scout.)
595	Mr Kelly E	RA	63-64 Kluang SQMS



DIARY & Future Events.

A.G.M. & “BURMA” luncheon.
8 June 2003

The A.G.M. will be held at 12:30 in the Langport Arms. This will be followed by an informal get together to continue the tradition set by Nobby. Meet at the Langport Arms at 12:00 for 12:30.

Just turn up and enjoy a luncheon with friends both old and new, on a pay as you go basis. There will be a menu selection of starters, roast and sweet available, the function in the upstairs room as usual.

Deaths

Regretfully we announce the deaths of the following members, and offer condolences to their friends and relatives.

13	Whitehead Mr A.G.	RA	Died 4-Jan-2003
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A.G.M. Agenda

Current propositions are:

- 1) Proposed by Claire Clark. Seconded by Ray Pett. That Lt.Col Andrew Simkins AAC be elected as Association President.
- 2) Proposed by John Bennett. Seconded by John Heyes. A vote of thanks be given to Ted Maslen Jones on his relinquishment of the Presidency
- 3) Proposed by Ken Mattocks Seconded by John Heyes. That Brig. Colin Sibun be invited to be a Vice president.
- 4) That members agree to the positions of George McKie as treasurer and Ken Mattocks as deputy treasurer be exchanged. (Owing to pressure of work)
- 5) Proposed by George McKie Seconded by Ken Mattocks. That John Bennett be re-elected as secretary for a further term.

Finances. A balance sheet will be available at the AGM.

After a slight disagreement and misunderstanding on my part towards Maurice Haynes, I have offered my apologies to Maurice, and he has rejoined the committee.

Should there be no objections received prior to the meeting it must be assumed all propositions are carried.

Members wishing to have other propositions included please send them to the secretary.

On the opposite page is a list of Hotels, Guest houses and Bed & Breakfasts within 10 miles of Dishforth, for members wishing to stay overnight.

Your local Tourist Information Office can obtain the latest Yorkshire Visitors Guide if you want more details.

This is a selection of accommodation taken from the www.yorkshirevisitor.com website, where other places can be found.

Other accommodation can be found on www.smoothhound.com

Accommodation List

HOTELS

AREA	NAME	CLASS	PHONE
RIPON	Ripon Spa Hotel	★ ★ ★	(01765) 602172
	Unicorn Hotel	★ ★	(01765) 602202
	The Royal Oak	pending	(01765) 602284
BOROUGHBRIDGE	Crown Hotel	★ ★ ★	(01423) 322328
	Rose Manor Hotel	★ ★ ★	(01423) 322245
THIRSK	The Angel Inn, Topcliffe	★ ★	(01845) 577237
	Three Tuns Hotel	★ ★	(01845) 523124
	Golden Fleece	★ ★	(01845) 523108

GUEST HOUSES / B & B

BOROUGHBRIDGE	Arncliffe	◆◆◆	(01423) 322048
	Primrose Cottage, Grafton	◆◆◆◆	(01423) 322835
RIPON	Middle Ridge	◆◆◆◆◆	(01765) 690558
	Fremantle House	◆◆◆	(01765) 605819
	The White Horse	◆◆◆	(01765) 603622
	Crescent Lodge	◆◆◆◆	(01765) 609589
THIRSK	Spital Hill	◆◆◆◆	(01845) 522273
	St James House	◆◆◆	(01845) 526565
	Station House	◆◆◆	(01845) 522063
	Laburnum House	◆◆◆◆ (Silver award)	(01845) 524120



Replica of the Chinthe presented to the Squadron on the 50th Anniversary. Made in cold cast bronze they are available from the Squadron priced at £85.00 plus postage. If you would like one of these superb statues please contact the Squadron 2i/c

New Associate Member # 594
Mr Roy Ellwood-Russell

Roy has been accepted as an Associate member. He is the proud owner of Scout XV160, the last flying scout that served with our Squadron in the Falklands campaign. The aircraft is based at Thrupton (a few miles North East of Middle Wallop) Roy would like to hear from any Ex Falklands members who may remember this aircraft, and related experiences.

Roy hopes to bring the aircraft to Association reunions, and I am sure we will all look forward to that.



XV160