

The Stinger

Would I do it again,
'probably'

A rare newsletter for those of the
illustrious 223 members

No. 37½ February 2021

By General Major Editor in Indian
(not quite a chief) Taff Wilson Esq

Happy New Year to the
members of 223 entry, RAF
Halton and never forget
what it did for you, other
than making you a grumpy
old man with incontinence.

Do not forget the reunion
(50 years since Paul
Hayworth had a haircut).
http://223halton.hosting.idnet.net/reunion_2021.htm



At last, 2020 has gone,
hopefully never to be
repeated.

My isolation feels longer
than the two years at Halton
but the odds of you ending
up in hospital in 1971 was
about 10%, compared to
2020, when the odds are as
much as 50%.

I was one of the 10% on
two occasions, one of which
was a regiment thunder-
flash burning my ample
bum, in the Halton woods.

I never had piles since.

God bless all Rock Apes.

Rob asked for all to submit articles, photos and money to me but as usual, it is only the mouthy gits who have responded, which includes me.

One who got off his arse was Alfie Bass, who jumped on a bike for charity



Our conquering hero being held up by Sean

Alfie has completed a 60-mile charity bike ride and has the medal and sore bum to prove it. His sidekick Sean Waymouth is in the photograph (on the right), Alfie (on the left), Sean was treated for Non-Hodginson Lymphoma (one of my boys) and between them they decided to cycle, hitch, cycle, catch a bus, cycle and taxi the 60 miles, but unfortunately, all other forms of transport were being used by other cyclists and they had to travel the full distance on two wheels (no motorbikes).

It is a great achievement cycling 60 miles (especially for an old man) but an even greater achievement in raising £2,245 between them for the Lymphoma Research Trust.

A nice letter from the charity's Finance Manager thanked them both and explained where the money would go "Donations we receive go towards research being carried out at the Lymphoma Trials Office, under the leadership of Professor David Linch, in order to discover the most effective treatments for lymphoma, and to other universities and hospitals around the UK".

Anyone wanting to support this great cause, please feel to contact Alfie or the charity:

Lymphoma Research Trust, Trustees Department, 5th Floor East 250 Euston Road, London, NW1 2PG
Tel. 020 3447 9931

Another who clambered off his settee to send a complaint was Dave Sheperd, who states "However you forgot my award for being "First in the Queue" at the NAAFI wagon for 7 days

running at Halton during April 1973. Never equalled I believe!!!” The Editor and Chief UN Negotiator, Bob Wilson refutes this, as he states that he never left the NAAFI, which is why he was back entered. He is still there now.

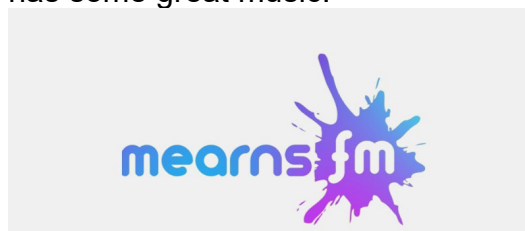
Paul Hayworth sent a photograph of himself in ~~HMP Mearns~~ Mearns FM, doing his Jimmy Saville impression (no, not what he would have been locked up for). He even played a record for me ‘when will I see you again’ by the Three Degrees, which touched me. It is a good sound to while away two hours.

His slot is on Tuesdays from 4 to 6pm on Rock Your Blues Away. On his info he states that his favourite gig was Pink Floyd at Knebworth (the Editor Supreme Commander’s was The Who in Swansea with the amazing Alex Harvey band).

I had to be careful with his photograph, as the ~~police were still chasing him~~ as his 60+ women listeners throw their long johns at him and I would not want the readers wives doing the same.



You can listen to Paul on:
Mearns FM <https://mearnsfm.org.uk>,
in fact you should listen to him, as he has some great music.



Still Gardening

Dave Squires is still Lead Gardener at Halton Grove at the NMA and we all applaud him for his voluntary work. I can rent him out to you for £1 an hour cutting grass, planting flowers, trimming bushes, etc



Before the efforts of Dave and his team



After all the hard work.

Flt Lt “Dolly” Gray 13th entry who was awarded the George Cross is one of the latest to have been laid

The Editor Supreme Commander Allied Powers (Retd) is glad he is not the head gardener ...



It is remarkable what we do as volunteers in our working or retired lives. If you are doing something worth mentioning, please let the Editor El Supremo know or contact Rob Rodham through the usual channels (BBC2, S4C & Grampian).

Well done to all that help in these trying times.

Dave wrote that the work has continued at Halton Grove, the white chipping which sheltered various algae and lichen was replaced with a resin material in the late Spring. So no longer spending most of our time reuniting the various colours to their respective home. Unruly children, ex apprentices and rabbits, unruly or not, do your worst!

Dave had the opportunity to meet up with Steve Coleman 127th entry who is now our voice on the Council. He is very enthusiastic and gets things done! Programmed this year is the cleaning of the now grubby pavers and the manufacture and laying of new pavers to tell our heritage and identify those that went the extra mile.

Further commemorative pavers to include apprentices who took part in The Dambusters, the

Further commemorative pavers to include apprentices who took part in The Dambusters, the Great Escape, Battle of Britain, etc. Flt Lt "Dolly" Gray 13th entry who was awarded the George Cross is one of the latest to have been laid. It is well worth an annual pilgrimage to see this wonderful tribute to Halton apprentices and to see the other wonderful memorials. Remember not to dance on the propellor wheel, with your mucky boots. Slippers are advised.

Dave explained his present from his grandson, who bought him the book Vulcan Test Pilot by Tony Blackman, in it is mention of Jimmy Harrison OBE ex brat from 1934 passing out as aircraft fitter later RAF Mosquito pilot and achieved Chief Test pilot for Avro on the Vulcan and later HS748 (Andover) and Nimrod. His obituary is available online and includes the saving of all his crew when suffering an electric failure at 200 ft after take-off from Woodford. So, another candidate for a paver.

Dave supplied the following information:

Date: 24-JUL-1959

Time: c. 11:40 LT



Type: Avro Vulcan B.1

Owner/operator: A.V.Roe (Avro)/MoA


Registration: XA891

C/n / msn:

Fatalities: Fatalities: 0 / Occupants: 5

Other fatalities: 0

Aircraft damage: Written off (damaged beyond repair)

Location: Near High Hunsley, 6 nm north of Brough airfield, East Yorkshire -  United Kingdom

Phase: Initial climb

Nature: Test

Departure airport: Woodford Airfield, Cheshire

Destination airport: RAF Waddington, Lincolnshire

Narrative:

Shortly after taking off on a test flight two of the Vulcan's generators failed and control of the aircraft began to be lost.

The captain, Avro's chief test pilot Jimmy Harrison ordered his all-civilian crew to abandon the aircraft. All landed safely under their parachutes. Whilst diverting to Waddington, the electrics were finally lost and, out of control, the aircraft went into a flat spin. Both pilots successfully ejected.

The Vulcan crashed in a flat spin to the right on open ground, near High Hunsley, 6 nm north of Brough airfield, East Yorkshire, and was completely destroyed by impact and fire. For an aircraft that size, its coffee bar was very small.

Gezz lets us know that he has a quiet year, except his eldest son responding well to chemo for Lupus and Gezz becoming one of the grey masses by retiring. We all send our thoughts and best wishes to the boy. There are a few of us in the chemo club.

Joke Time???

Are my testicles black?

The Editor in Chief, Chest Grand Master, 2nd Dan Flatulence belt, says his are black and they have been that way since 1971 when Jock tried to bull them up on a drunken evening, but they do look good.

A suspected Covid-19 male patient is lying in bed in the hospital wearing an oxygen mask over his mouth and nose.

A young student female nurse appears and gives him a partial sponge bath.
"Nurse," he mumbles from behind the mask, "are my testicles black?"
Embarrassed, the young nurse replies,
"I don't know, Sir. I'm only here to wash your upper body and feet."

He struggles to ask again,
"Nurse, please check for me. Are my testicles black?"

Concerned that he might elevate his blood pressure and heart rate from worrying about his testicles, she overcomes her embarrassment and pulls back the covers.
She raises his gown, holds his manhood in one hand and his testicles gently in the other.

She looks very closely and says, "There's nothing wrong with them, Sir. They look fine."
The man sighs deeply, slowly pulls off his oxygen mask, smiles at her, and says very slowly,
"Thank you very much. That was wonderful. Now listen very, very, closely:
Are - my - test - results - back?"

One Man? And his Dog

Rae Stevens seems to have issues with his dog, no wonder he has to get away from people by strolling the cliffs.



He and a Troll live under the bridge, waiting for Billy Goat Gruff. That's how he got his Springer Spaniel. He even sent a photo of a lovely red soft top car but the Editor, Poet Laureate third class, was too jealous to publish it. The colour green suits him.

Some unkind people will say that the dead grass behind Rae's dog, is actually from Rae, who has killed a few health tree and plants on his travels. The Editor, Multi-Channels including S4C (Welsh) and Disney- (he could not afford the +).



A Death to Sadly Announce

Phil Francis has sadly announced that his campervan has died of catastrophic corrosion (Bob Wilson said, "I have had that too"). He has celebrated his 33rd wedding anniversary in January a day after the Editor Supremo, Champion the Wonder Horse and bar says "these youngsters, as the current Mrs Wilson and I celebrated their 45th anniversary a day before him.

The Davidge Diaries

The photographs attached to Roy's wonderful write up could not be copied, so the Editor will include them in the next edition if he can send them to Rob as Jpgs.

Reunion

The secretary/treasurer/chairman of the reunion, has asked that those going are named and shamed:

Rod W, Steve B, Bob R, Bob W, Paul H, Keith G, Roy D, Ian Hovey, Davey J, Phil J, Jock K, Ken Ryan, Don T, Dave G, Chris L, Gezz G, Dick B, Terry H, Paul D, Rae S, Dave S, Carl R, Pete D, Paul P, Mick C, Keith B, Dave S, Jock S and Paul B.

Salesman Bob

Bob Rodham, the eternal salesman, wants to highlight the fabulous service crest page, you can find it on



This is Keith Bass, who couldn't even manage 30 years (only 29).

Service history can be added and compiled by Bob Rodham and Terry Hayward, so if yours is not there, speak to the Editors, fourth class, and get it sorted.

http://223halton.hosting.idnet.net/service_histories.htm

Bob & Terry, can you do the same for pubs and kebab houses visited? The Editor, Master of the Universe and Swansea, would need twelve A0 sheets, if you can print the pub and kebab houses very, very small.

The Editor Supreme, His Excellency President for life, Field Marshall, Al Hadji, Doctor, Bob Wilson Dada, VC, DSO, MC, CBE, Lord of the Earth and Fishes in the Sea, Conqueror of the British Empire in Africa, Commander in Chief of the Army, Commander in Chief and Marshall of the Ugandan Air Force and not a bad coffee maker, thanks everyone for their contributions and to confirm, Bob didn't volunteer for this, he was press ganged by BR.

Until next edition – Keep Safe!