



RAFHAA Newsletter October 2021

Our AGM took place as a live zoom meeting on 25th September 2021. Fifty-seven members attended and 620 voting returns were received by post or digitally. We have uploaded to our website www.oldhaltonians.co.uk a video recording of the event, and a copy of the meeting transcript as a set of minutes. There is no doubt that the meeting was a great success, and may I thank everyone who attended for supporting the work we are doing. We were fortunate in having our President Gp Capt Dan Startup CBE RAF giving a short address and it was good to hear from our Vice-Patron Air Marshal Sir Dusty Miller KBE. Looking forward, it seems we could do no better than incorporate the live element of our meeting in a face-to-face AGM in the future and also offer the postal and digital voting features to ensure most members views are heard. In true brat style, some of our membership did not use their post-paid envelopes to vote but rather used it as a free post way of sending in their Reunion 2022 applications!! Approval of the CIO Constitution was a big step forward: your Council must now seek approval from the Charity Commission and undertake a raft of administration before the matter is finalised.

I shall keep this Newsletter brief because of the volume of information provided at the AGM; however, there are a couple of matters that need to be brought to your attention.

At the AGM I promised you further details in this Newsletter about our Remembrance service at RAF Halton on 10th November. Our President, Gp Capt Dan Startup, the station commander, has kindly agreed that the Association may hold our traditional Remembrance Day service at St Georges Church, followed by an Act of Remembrance at the Tribute on Wednesday November 10th, 2021. At this ceremony we pay homage to the 2000 of our fellow brats who gave their lives in WWII, the many who have been killed in other conflicts since 1920, and the several thousands who have

taken their last postings.

The service will start at 11.00 am in St Georges Church. Please be seated in the church by 10.50 am. There are limited parking spaces at the church. RAF Police will be on duty to direct traffic to alternative parking areas.

Dress for the occasion is smart. Please bear in mind that it can be chilly in mid-November. If you have any medals, please wear them on the left breast of your outer garment. You may wear medals awarded to close relatives on the right breast. The format of the day is as follows:

11.00 am Church service starts.

11.30 am approx. Ex-brats to parade in the church car park under the direction of the SWO.

With the Golden Oldies in the lead the parade marches to the front of Kermode Hall. (Guests make their own way there.)

11.45 am Act of Remembrance at the Tribute. The programme for this is in the order of service. During the Act of Remembrance personal wreaths and memorial crosses may be placed at the foot of the Tribute.

12.15 am Move to Sgts' Mess, about a 100-yard walk, for a finger buffet. Tea and coffee will be served, and a bar will be available.

The Golden Oldies pipe band are attending, and we have engaged a bugler to sound the Last Post. This is the first opportunity we have had post Covid to meet up at Halton and I am sure there will be lots of interest. Please let Les Shardlow General Secretary know if you wish to attend and if you want to bring friends or relatives. Relatives of deceased former brats are welcome. Use the email address remembrance21@rafhaa.co.uk to contact Les about this event.

Good progress is being made with the Reunion on 20th August 2022. The numbers applying to attend are already into triple figures. Application forms are available to download on our website www.oldhaltonians.co.uk.

I mentioned at the AGM that we are keen to develop a new tier of membership for "Friends of the Association". We are about to start work on investigating how best to do this. If any member has any useful ideas, then please let us know. We think that wives, partners, and families of deceased ex-brats might like to join the Association and receive the twice yearly Haltonian Magazine. On top of this, once we have established a Heritage Centre at Halton post station closure, we hope that many of these friends and families will want to visit what will be the heart of our Association. A difficult aspect of all this is tracing those who wish to join: we will certainly use the old boy network besides national and local press.

The results of the September 2021 HAA 500 Club Lottery random draw are as follows:

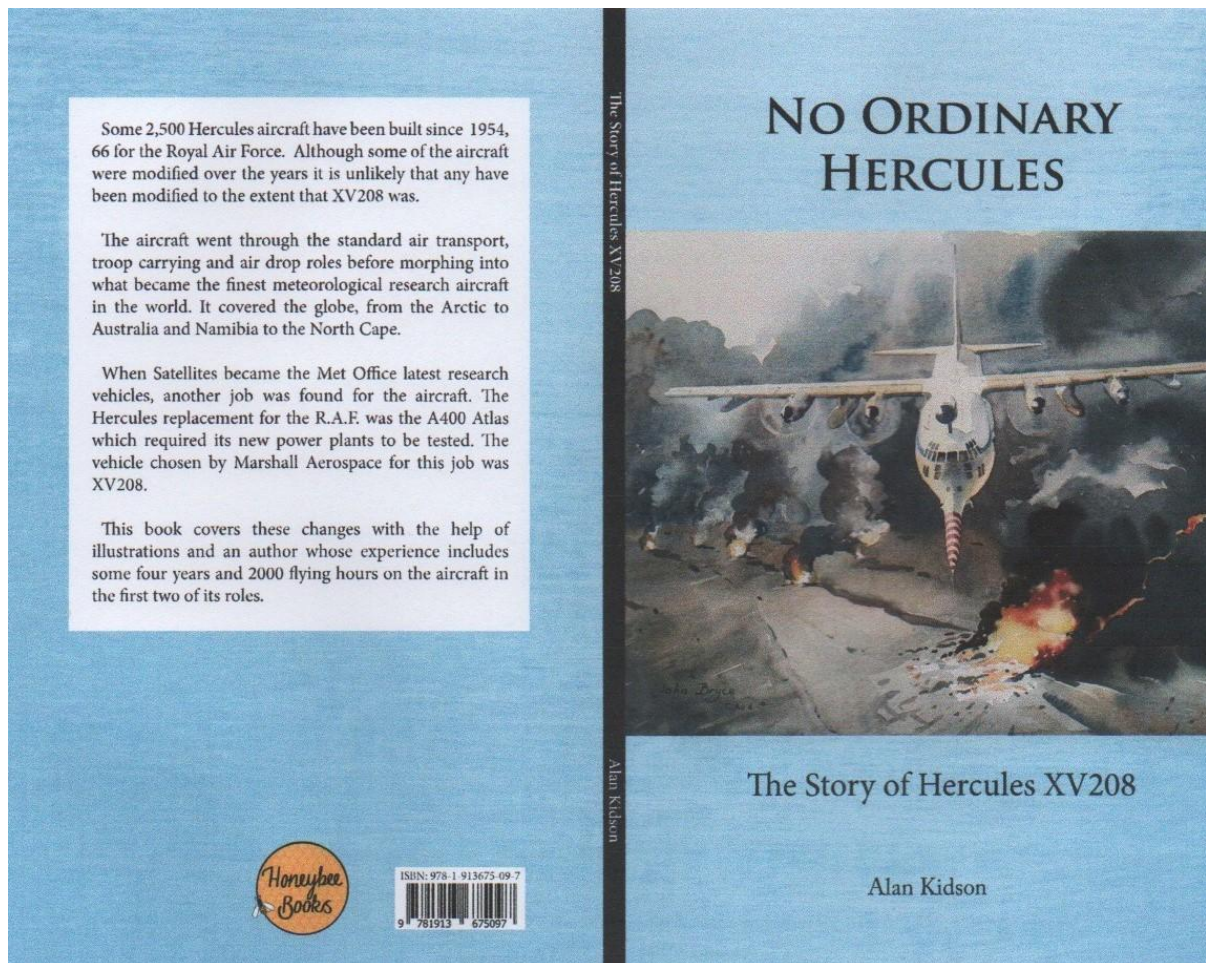
1st prize of £630 goes to Phil Mitchell 93rd with lucky number 4

2nd prize of £315 goes to Bill Affleck 92nd with lucky number 103

3rd prize of £158 goes to David Mitchell 51st with lucky number 261

The Heritage Fund is the recipient of £472.

Al Kidson (78th) has recently completed a small, illustrated book on the history of RAF Hercules XV 208 on which he had over 2000 hours flying as an Air Engineer. The cost of the book is £9.99 and £1.00 will be donated to the RAFA Wings Appeal. Al's email address for orders is oldpompey@gmail.com. A copy of the book's front and back cover are shown below.



Before I close this short Newsletter, I should once again like to send out a plea for fresh volunteers to help the Council. We have made enormous progress over the past two years and have clear plans. We are working hard to secure St George's Church as a Heritage Centre when RAF Halton closes and if we are not successful in this aim, there are other options open to us. Most of us believe the story of the Halton Brat in the UK's military history is a story worth telling. By keeping the Association live and energetic over the next few years, our heritage aspirations can be met. Please think carefully about what you can do to help. Halton gave you a successful career and it shaped the standards you have lived your life by. It created life-long friends and the humour we all share. Please drop me a line chairman@rafhaa.co.uk if you would like to help. And please do not forget the 500 Club which is raising funds for our Heritage. If you are not a player, please send Phil Sprinks a note at 500club@rafhaa.co.uk .

Frank Denton-Powell 90th

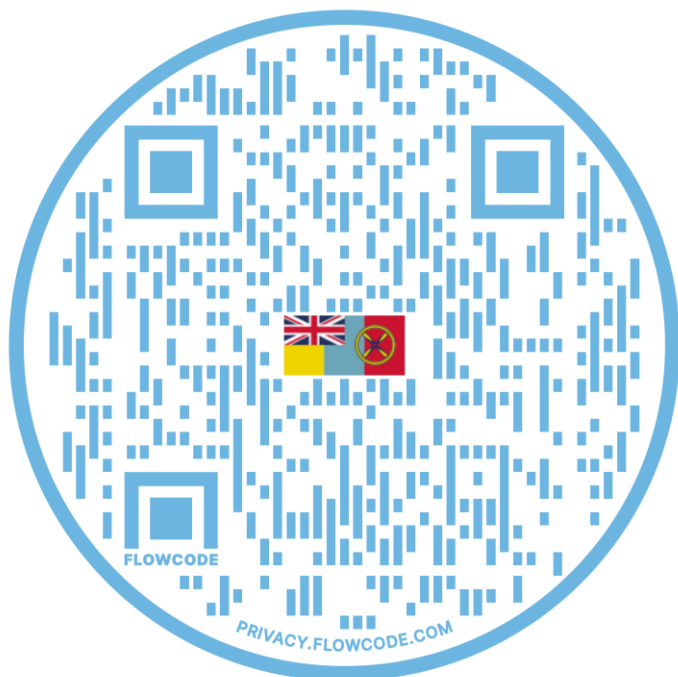
Chairman

RAFHAA

Footnote:

If you would like to join the RAFHAA Reunion 2022 Facebook Page:

The code below can be accessed by using your Smart phone camera, point the camera at the code and tap on the message that appears and it will take you straight to the site where you can ask to join.



Alternatively if you want to join via your Laptop/PC etc click on the link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/rafhaareunion2022>



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