



RAFHAA NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2021

On behalf of the RAFHAA Council, I would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy new year 2021. Covid remains a difficulty for us all and we trust that you will all receive your vaccinations as early as possible.

In the last newsletter, I mentioned about a member who had a cherished number plate on his car incorporating his entry number. I was pleased to receive note from two other members saying they too had cherished number plates. Peter Hindley (88th) sent the attached photograph of his car and Mike Golding (90th) wrote to say that he had AA52RAF for many years. He said DVLA had the following available at £250: AA04HAA, 07,09 and 10HAA. At £399: AA16RAF, 18,19,20 and 21 and at £250: AA61RAF. Belated Christmas presents, perhaps?



Also, in the last issue, I made a plea for new candidates to step forward to serve on your Council from the next AGM planned for September. I am pleased to say, three members have contacted us, and we will be following up these responses in due course. Meanwhile, can I urge others to seriously consider joining our existing team of dedicated ex brats. Just drop me or General Secretary, Les Shardlow, a line.

I have mentioned in earlier Newsletters that your Council is working hard to prepare a Heritage Policy Statement in advance of the closure of RAF Halton that draws even closer. Besides working on this statement, before Christmas, our Deputy Chairman, Chas Challenger (100th), submitted a statement of interest to the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) who are developing proposals for future use of RAF Halton when it ceases to be a military facility. I attach our letter that covers all our present thinking.

Also, we have uploaded the DIO proposals to the front page (Halton Heritage Update) of our web site www.oldhaltonians.co.uk and we recommend those of you who are interested to follow their plans. Finally, on the subject of our heritage, your Council through Min Larkin (63rd) has made a contribution supporting the Buckinghamshire cultural project "Bucks in 100 items". To view our input please visit <https://buckinghamshireculture.wordpress.com/bucks-in-100-objects/halton-apprentice-scheme/>

The second draw for our 500 Club took place on 1st January 2021. The results are as follows:

- First prize of £490.00 goes to Kevin Hudson (139th)
- Second prize of £245.00 goes to Roy Shovelar (100th)
- Third prize of £122.50 goes to Les Shardlow (103rd)

The heritage and general fund are the recipient of £367.50.

Draw tickets remain available from Phil Sprinks (90th) email: 500club@rafhaa.co.uk

In the November Newsletter I reminded members that subscriptions were increasing from 1st January 2021. I am advised by our Membership Secretary that all members affected by this increase will receive either by email or post a new Standing Order Mandate. Once completed, please forward to your bank; at the same time, please remember to cancel your previous Standing Order to the Association. You should receive this communication approximately 2 months before your subscription is due. Members who pay annually by cheque or bank transfer will also receive a reminder note during March 2021. Any problems, please contact Colin Ferrier (93rd), our Membership Secretary (membership@rafhaa.co.uk).

Best wishes, Frank

Frank Denton-Powell (90th)

Chairman RAFHAA

Email: chairman@rafhaa.co.uk

LETTER FROM DEPUTY CHAIRMAN RAFHAA TO DEFENCE INFRASTRUCTURE ORGANISATION

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you in connection with the Public Consultation on the Defence Infrastructure Organisation's vision for RAF Halton. My detailed comments are below but can you please add me to the circulation list for updates as they arise and especially the proposed timetable for the process to move forwards. I am sure you will see from the below that we are extremely keen to participate and do our utmost to preserve the rich Heritage of RAF Halton and the RAF Apprentice scheme. I am greatly encouraged by the positive comments contained in the DIO vision regarding these very important matters.

Trenchard's vision in creating the RAF Apprentice scheme not only provided the necessary technical backbone to the newly created RAF but also presented opportunities for social mobility for almost 40,000 young men, many of whom had highly successful careers in the RAF and beyond that in the civilian world.

Here are my comments:

To create a Flight Heritage Centre for the people of Buckinghamshire and beyond incorporating broader community uses by following the objectives detailed below.

1. St Georges church (Building 326) – acquisition or prime tenant status for the RAFHAA so that they can undertake protection of the church especially the stained-glass windows, the Tribute (in front of Kermod Hall) and the First World War training trenches (listed status).
2. Co-operation with the DIO (Defence Infrastructure Organisation of the Ministry of Defence) the Wing Commander Operations and other senior officers of RAF Halton such as the Station Commander to bring about sympathetic transfer of Heritage assets to RAFHAA on closure of RAF Halton. Please see especially pages 121, 122 and 147 regarding how an expanded St Georges would sit within the proposed ‘green corridors’ referred to in the DIO document entitled ‘A Vision for Development at RAF Halton’ dated June 2018.
3. To work with Halton Village Parish Council towards implementing the expansion of the St Georges area as detailed in the points below.
4. Funding sympathetic development to the rear of the existing church (subject to planning permission) to create suitable areas for the transfer of a revitalised Trenchard Museum, the RAFHAA archive and the James McCudden Flight Heritage Centre (currently in Buildings 23 and 29).
5. To open this extended area of resource to the general public with a view to generating paying visitors, general use and income. Visitor numbers to the Trenchard Museum and St Georges run typically at a figure well in excess of 11,000 per annum with no promotional activity beyond the RAF family.
6. Within the proposed extended area to create a dedicated Flight Simulator room to attract visitors and generate additional income. The flight simulators are currently in place in the James McCudden Flight Heritage Centre.
7. Within the proposed extended areas to create suitable meeting rooms to enable youth groups to undertake meetings and training, such as the Air Training Corp (currently located on the RAF Halton airfield) and the Scouts for example and to generate additional income.
8. To expand the Cool Aeronautics programme currently operated by the Trenchard Museum for the Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) for 9-11 year old students. This will help address the extended waiting list this highly successful programme has generated so that the Government requirement to increase interest in STEM subjects is being addressed in Buckinghamshire. Currently this programme helps educate up to 1,000 children per year and is expected to generate a steady income from RAeS.
9. To engage with the Royal Air Force Association (currently located on the RAF Halton Airfield) to explore the opportunities for collaboration.
10. To create a memorabilia shop and café within the extended museum area to generate income.
11. To create a small private area of worship with piano etc, so that those who are wishing to use it can have access. This is especially relevant to those who have travelled to Halton to scatter ashes at the Tribute.
12. The areas to be added will also be available for hire for events such as choir practice, concerts, cocktail parties and Halton Apprentice Reunions to name a few.
13. To create local employment for museum staff in order to be open for longer hours than are currently possible.
14. [Please use this link to access our contribution supporting the Bucks Cultural project “Bucks in 100 items”- https://buckinghamshireculture.wordpress.com/bucks-in-100-objects/halton-apprentice-scheme/](https://buckinghamshireculture.wordpress.com/bucks-in-100-objects/halton-apprentice-scheme/)

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Trustee - RAF Halton Apprentices' Association – Registered Charity Number 292523

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