



RAFHAA NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2020

The Council was delighted with the voting results on all motions at the 2020 AGM held on 19th September 2020. Our belief that the membership wished to continue the association was vindicated by the overwhelming votes in favour of all our propositions. Work now begins in earnest on the programme we set before you and I shall keep you informed on progress via these newsletters.

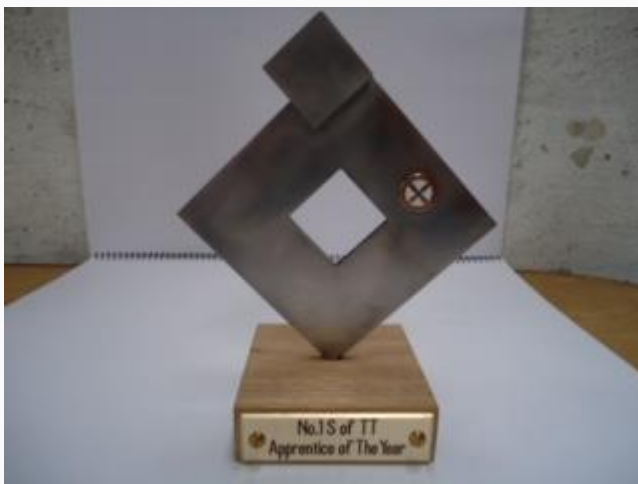
We are thrilled to announce that the new Station Commander at RAF Halton, Group Captain Dan Startup RAF has accepted our invitation to become President of the RAFHAA over the period of his command. In his letter of acceptance, he said "I am very aware of the issues that have beset the RAFHAA over the past few months and of the efforts that have been made to resolve them. I consider the invitation to become the President to be both an exceptional honour and a moral responsibility of this post. Your recent challenges have shown the strong support of your Association members and I would like to echo that sentiment by graciously accepting your offer."

At a Council meeting on 1st October, your Council adopted Barry Neal Wg Cdr RAF (R'td) (103rd) to become our Member for Governance. Barry has recent experience in working with the Charity Commission and his knowledge is bound to be invaluable as we develop a new constitution for the future, based on an Incorporated Organisation, as recommended by the Commission.

We are also delighted to welcome the assistance of Nick Kurth AVM RAF (ret'd) (231st) who has volunteered to steer our newly formed Heritage project team. Besides residing close to Halton, Nick has experience of working in MOD

Defence Estates and this will undoubtedly keep us on the right tracks. In an earlier Newsletter, I mentioned that we were drafting a Heritage Policy Statement. This is still moving forward, and I hope to be able to publish our thoughts before the end of this year.

Some of you may recall that a few years ago the Association produced a trophy to be presented to the Apprentice of the Year at No 1 S of TT (RAF Cosford) on behalf of the RAFHAA. We are pleased to have resurrected this annual award to the new breed of modern apprentice trainees. A picture of the trophy is attached below. Miniatures for recipients have been manufactured by Dave Payne (215th) and we are grateful for his work. We will keep you informed on the winners who are chosen by RAF Cosford.



In the last Newsletter, I let you know about the Commemorative Medal developed by the Admin Apprentices Association that may be purchased by all ex apprentices. A few members reminded us that commemorative medals are unsupported by MOD, such that they cannot be worn in the same row as Campaign Medals and Awards. However, they can be worn below official medals on the left side or on the lapel on right side. Attached is a leaflet on how these may be purchased. If you have any questions, please direct them to Award, the suppliers of the medals, and not RAFHAA. There has been tremendous enthusiasm for this project from our members, and I believe demand will be strong.

Last month I also referred to the possible data breach that occurred in August. I carried out an investigation and made a report to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO). The incident was found not to involve Trustees of RAFHAT, and the Council apologises if we ever gave the impression of RAFHAT involvement. The Council considered this was a one-off event and recommended that the matter be closed as the risk to personal data was extremely small. The ICO confirmed they were content with our existing procedures and that no further action was anticipated. Rob Knotts (84th) has volunteered to review and update our procedures and the Council is grateful to him for this work.

On 10th September at the National Memorial Arboretum, a service was arranged by Ron Priest to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Halton Grove. Our vice-patron, Sir Dusty Miller attended the event along with representation from your Council. The wives of former chairman, Ian Blunt (86th) (deceased), and former HAA activist Ian Sloss (105th) (deceased) also attended this poignant event. The Halton Grove gardeners made sure our memorial looked splendid for the occasion, and a full report and photograph will appear in the next issue of the Haltonian.

The next issue (82) of the Haltonian is already taking shape and we are planning to deliver to your homes in early February. There is still time for your news articles, photographs, and memories to be included, so please contribute as quickly as you can.

Group Captain D Startup, Station Commander RAF Halton, has kindly given us permission to hold a Service of Remembrance at St George's Church Halton on Saturday 14th November at 11.00am. Covid-19 restrictions have severely limited the numbers we can invite and unfortunately singing hymns is forbidden. We plan on going ahead with the event and will lay wreathes at the Tribute as usual. We shall replace hymns with a short talk by Min Larkin to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Apprentice scheme. A few places for members remain available but attendance is only permitted by invitation under Covid-19 conditions. Details on how you may apply to attend are listed under News on www.oldhaltonians.co.uk website.

Our Council member for Heritage, Min Larkin, recently contributed to a project launched by Bucks CC, known as 'Buckinghamshire in 100 Objects'. His

contribution on the Halton Apprentice Scheme was accepted and has been uploaded. Please click on the link below to view:

<https://buckinghamshireculture.wordpress.com/bucks-in-100-objects/halton-apprentice-scheme/>

As I said at the beginning of this Newsletter, the new Council have begun their work to re-establish your Association and create a worthy heritage programme in the name of ex Halton Apprentices. Please write to our Secretary, Les Shardlow (103rd), at secretary@rafhaa.co.uk with your own ideas about what we should be doing. We are waiting to hear from you.

Best wishes,
Frank Denton-Powell (90th)
Chairman RAFHAA

For the Apprentice Medal Application form please click on the link below.

https://mcusercontent.com/b2639fb6ea45e44c2829a5366/files/37498a7d-c328-406a-bcd4-2a9ceafacb45/RAF_Apprentices_Medal_Application.pdf

