

Bradbury Mercury
1960s 16 Signal Regiment Reunion Club



Issue Number 40

Edited by Iain Haldane
www.the-60s-16ers.com

August 2017



Ben Arthur a.k.a. The Cobbler.

This is a fly past in a seaplane operated by Loch Lomond Seaplanes . We took off from the River Clyde close to the City Centre. They are based at Culag on the west side of Loch Lomond about seven miles south of Tarbet. Our flight was late afternoon so we had to land on Loch Lomond and berth at Culag to refuel before taking off to land and dock at Cameron House, a 5 Star Luxury hotel at the south of the Loch.

The web address's for both are shown below.

<https://www.lochlomondseaplanes.com/>

<http://www.cameronhouse.co.uk/>

Hi All, my thoughts mumbles etc. After we let you leave Stirling in one piece complaining of the weather, N.B. We did not pick the date, it was beautiful the week before and the week after. Anyway Rita came off the Warfarin tablets under instructions from the doctor. All was well till the Wednesday 28th December. Rita has a sample of blood taken once a month to check that all is well. The Practice Nurse was concerned about how breathless Rita was during the examination. She immediately got her in to see the Doctor. He said he was referring her the Queen Elizabeth Hospital a.s.a.p. as it was possible that the blood clots were back. I took her there as soon as the letter from the doctor was ready. She was first in line at Casualty Referrals so got most of her test done that day. They said she had a chest infection and some small blood clots in her lungs. She was admitted and stayed for two weeks. This time she was put on Apixaban instead of Warfarin. For the chest infection she was given antibiotics, was also put on Oxygen. She was allowed home to rest and recuperate. Her health improved week by week so much so she was allowed to start back in the gym, just walking on the tread mill, slowly! Meanwhile we went down to York for the Recce then down to Taunton. When we came back I started to organise her Birthday party for the 1st of July. I managed to persuade her that we were going to have dinner for the both of us the Crowne Plaza and had also booked a room for the night. The sleight of hand was making her think her party was the Garden / SheShed Party on the 16th July. There were a couple of hiccups but Rita did not realise that the party at the Hotel was the big one till we got there. She was pleasantly surprised as you will read about it on pages 20 to 22. The Garden party was a great success even when the daughter of a friend took me to task and would not let me enter the SheShed. No Men Allowed!!!

Inside this issue:

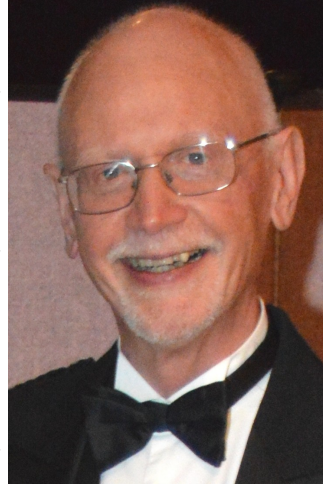
<i>Front Page, Iain's Ramblings, Inside this issue.</i>	2
<i>The Chairperson's Opening letter. — Peter Crane.</i>	3
<i>Erskine Hospital — Iain Haldane.</i>	4 to 5
<i>Tom Patrick — Courtesy of Erskine News.</i>	6 to 9
<i>Tom Patrick Paybook and Thanksgiving Service Booklet</i>	10 to 13
<i>Rent a Yacht — Peter Crane.</i>	14 to 19
<i>Smile! — Karen McLendon-Laumann.</i>	19
<i>Rita's 80th Celebrations — Rita Haldane.</i>	20 and 22
<i>The Incredible Shrinking Man — Kerry Stylianou.</i>	23
<i>North West Frontier Medal 1936 — Bruce Graham</i>	24
<i>Constitution of 60s-16ers — Committee</i>	25 to 27
<i>Tarbet Revisited — Iain Haldane</i>	28

Our Chairperson's Letter

I hope you are all well, and like me, looking forward to our 2017 Annual Reunion in York. By the time you read this, I am sure you will all have paid the balance of your hotel bill!

We had a good recce in the Spring and were well looked after in the hotel. As many of you know there is lots to do in York, so well worth an extra day.

Within this Newsletter is the proposed new draft of the Constitution. This has been read and discussed by the Committee at the Recce and amended in the light of these discussions. The reason for a new Constitution is there have been problems recently, not serious, but not covered by the original Constitution drawn up by Chris 20 years ago. This is not surprising as so much has changed over that period and an update was due. Please read through the Constitution carefully and you can email me or phone me with any questions you may have. My details are on the website. We will be voting on the adoption of this draft Constitution at the AGM on the Sunday of our Reunion.



This is my last newsletter Chairman's message to you all. 60s 16ers is an organization which I am proud to belong to and grateful to have been your chairman for the last 3 years. I thank you all for your support and look forward to seeing many of you at the Reunion.

Peter Crane

Last year at the Stirling Reunion, Peter Crane approached me on the Sunday night and told me that as the organiser for the Reunion Weekend I could choose the Charity to whom the Club would donate £200. My immediate thought was Erskine Hospital in Renfrewshire.

Brought up in Glasgow I knew about the existence of Erskine Hospital. I also knew its location having passed by many times over the years on my way to Erskine Chain Ferry. I never actually had any thoughts during this time of why Erskine Hospital still existed or why it was still open. If anyone had asked me, that question before I joined up I would have said it was a place for old soldiers, similar to the Chelsea Pensioners.

As soon as we could after we had returned to Glasgow from the York Reunion Recce we went to Erskine Hospital. We had been to the Gym in the morning and had had our post exercise refreshment, a pot of tea for Rita and a black coffee for me. The receipt and letter of thanks are shown on page 5 opposite.

Arriving at Erskine Hospital reception, we explained why we were there. Soon we were chatting with Karen McBeath, a Community Fundraising Manager. We presented the Cheque for £200 and received a receipt; a copy is shown after these words. I asked if it was possible to meet any chat with any of the veterans in Erskine Hospital. I said I would like to write about them and/or their experiences before they got to Erskine. Karen said that the Community Fundraising Officer was on holiday but she would let him know of my request.

I heard from Colin McPhail a few weeks later and we arranged a visit. When we got there Colin introduced us to Tom Patrick, he had his son visiting him. I had a good long chat with him and learned things about call-up in WWII. Erskine Hospital have kindly allowed me to published in this Issue of the Bradbury Mercury and extract from the Erskine News Issue 24 Spring 2017. I have been back twice and it has sparked an interest in me to write about the differences in training for the Royal Signals from before WWII until the current day.

On our latest visit to see Tom, he produced his **Army Book 64 (Part L) Soldier's Service & Pay Book**. He allowed me to take photographs of the Army Book 64. I have put them on pages 10 – 13 for you to peruse. He also produced a booklet of the Thanksgiving Service held to mark the end of the war in Europe. So far, my research indicates that the service was held at Luneburg on Sunday 13th May 1945 at 11.30a.m.

Iain Haldane

ERSKINE

Proud to care

THANK YOU
for supporting Erskine

01840

Temporary Receipt

Name: Mr Mrs I Haldane Date: 20/3/17

Organisation Name: _____

Title: (e.g. President, Treasurer) 07855105053

Address: 64 Househill Wood Crescent
Glasgow G53 6BG

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Amount Donated £ 200 Is this donation eligible for Gift Aid?

Raised as a result of 1960s 16 Bers Reunion Camp

For use as General/Appeal funds* _____ (*please state appeal)

(Collectors Signature) [Signature] has received this donation of behalf of Erskine.

Erskine, Bishopston, Renfrewshire PA7 5PU Tel: 0141 812 1100
Email: fundraising@erskine.org.uk Web: www.erskine.org.uk

Erskine is the trading name of Erskine Hospital, incorporated in Scotland as a non profit making company limited by guarantee no. 174103.
(Scottish Charity No. SC006609) Registered Office: 7 West George Street, Glasgow G2 1BA

RECEIPT BOOK PRINTING SPONSORED BY ACCOLADE OFFICE EUROPE WWW.ACCOLADEPLC.COM



Mr & Mrs I Haldane
64 Househill Wood Crescent
Glasgow
G53 6BG

24/03/2017

Dear Mr & Mrs Haldane,

Thank You!

On behalf of everyone at Erskine I would like to thank you and all fellow members of the 1960s 16 Signal Regiment Reunion Club for the generous donation of £200.00 which we recently received.

I will be in touch with you in the next few weeks to make arrangements for you to visit Erskine once our Recreation Manager returns from annual leave.

Every donation we receive makes such a huge difference and ensures that we can continue to provide a broad range of support and activities that enrich our veterans' lives. Physiotherapy, Speech and Language and Recreation Sessions are key elements of this support and without you we would simply not be able to provide this.

Erskine's strength lies in the fact that we not only care for our veterans – we care about them and without your fantastic support we would not be able to do this.

With best wishes and heartfelt thanks from all at Erskine.

Yours sincerely

Karen McBeath
Community Fundraising Manager

Patron: HRH The Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay
Erskine, Bishopston, Renfrewshire, PA7 5PU
Tel: 0141 812 1100 Fax: 0141 812 3735
Email: enquiries@erskine.org.uk
www.erskine.org.uk

Erskine is the trading name of Erskine Hospital, incorporated in Scotland as a non profit making company limited by guarantee no. 174103 (Scottish Charity No. SC006609).
Registered office: 7 West George Street, Glasgow G2 1BA



Erskine News

Together we can enable members of our ex-Service community to get the best care and support to achieve maximum quality of life



Issue 24 Spring 2017

“Erskine is my home and long may it be”

Tom Patrick, Royal Corps of Signals Veteran



MEET TOM PATRICK

Erskine resident, Thomas Patrick, now 92 years old, served with the Royal Corps of Signals.



Can you tell us a little about your military career?

I was conscripted in 1943 at the age of 18. Every man was needed. I was sent to Fort George for initial training but my medical showed I had a hernia so I was operated on before I could start training.

Fort George wasn't a regimental training base (it was a general army training base) – when a unit or a regiment needed men (due to loss of life or injury) soldiers were selected and allocated to a regiment.

You joined the Royal Signals. What do they do?

The Royal Signals is one of the combat support arms of the British Army. Signals units are often among the first into action providing battlefield communications. The corps has its own engineers, logistics experts and systems operators to run radio and area networks in the field.

Could you tell us about your youth?

I was born in Springburn in 1924. My first job after leaving school was at the North British Locomotive Company in Springburn. I was an office junior in the wages department. I can remember the postman coming in with a wad of Territorial Army calling up papers for the fortnights training. This was June 1939 and I got the job of going round all the departments and dishing out these conscription papers – with war being imminent I am sure they wouldn't have been called up for training and then sent home - I just wonder how many of those blokes came back home.

You were part of the force which landed in France after D-Day, can you tell us about that?

I transferred from ship to a landing craft off the French coast and headed to shore. When they dropped the door at the front, I drove a jeep into four feet of water - reality is what movies are based on!

Clear of the water we were directed up a road for a few miles and finished up in a field where there were guns firing into the city of Caen.



I was in the communications section and my unit's role was to get the artillery up to where it was needed to take over Caen (which was a sticking point in the invasion at the time).

Our role was to communicate between artillery - two batteries of American Long Toms and two batteries of 8" Howitzers (those things can fire up to 22 miles!) - and infantry.

The common assumption back home was that it would take a few days to take Caen and proceed further into France but the enemy held out for much longer than that.

Were you ever scared?

We were just kids, school boys remember. At only 18 years old, of course we were all nervous - there was a fear of the unknown, we were frightened and didn't know if we would return home or not.

Where were you at the end of the War?

When the war in Europe came to an end I was in a place called Luneburg Heath in northern Germany. That was where Montgomery signed the German surrender. I still have a hymn book from the church service held in Germany at the end of the war in Europe.

I then got seven days home leave. Japan hadn't surrendered at this point so I was shipped to the Far East. The ship I was on went through the Mediterranean, and when we got to the Red Sea, the Americans dropped bomb number two that finished the war.

Japan surrendered after that so our boat plodded on to Bombay and I was posted to India.

What was it like in India?

Whilst I was out in India I saw locomotives with wee brass plates on the side of them - built by North British Locomotive Company, where I had started – they sent engines all over the world.

I injured my big toe playing football and the surgeon who treated me was the same chap who had treated my hernia in Fort George – we both recognised each other from our first encounter.

I was in India for two and a half years during which time I was promoted to Sergeant. My 21st birthday was spent in India and my mum sent me a very special birthday present. She sent a ring with the inscription, "Tommy, Love Mother 31/10/45". I have worn the ring ever since.

You were demobbed in 1948, how did you find transition from military life to "civvy street"?

I found the transition easy, all my mates that hadn't been in the army had been out dancing at night and I had missed all that. Initially, I returned to my mothers home.

On getting word that I was to return home, my mother organised a party and invited as many females as possible from the local area! This is where I met my wife.

I was married 1949 and I started working for the Daily Record in 1952 and spent 35 years there before I retired.

My wife and I spent 50 joy filled years together during which time we had two children, a son and a daughter. We celebrated our silver wedding anniversary in San Francisco. My wife passed away in 1999.

You have experienced a lot, how has Erskine helped you?

I have been here at Erskine Bishopton for just over 18 months and it's been great. I have been to a couple of other homes previously and there were no activities at all, residents just sat in their room mostly.

I make sure that I take part in quizzes, attend concerts, play dominoes in the morning and there is a guy that comes faithfully every Wednesday and Friday to play us at cards. I very much enjoy the social aspect that Erskine offers.

My needs are met at Erskine. If a resident needs anything the staff go out their way to provide it, they are very attentive.

What does Erskine mean to you?

Erskine is my home now, and long may it be.



RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT AS AN ARMY TRADESMAN,
(For men in receipt of tradesmen's rates of pay only.)

Trade.	Group.	Class.	Remarks, e.g., On enlistment ; Re-classified ; Re-mustered, etc.	Date.	Initials of Officer.
DRIVER i/c DVR. MESH	D	II	Mustered Classified 2.T.B. 240 d. 1.12.43	9/10/43	[Signature]
Lineman	C	III	Re-mustered 2 man. v. s. f. 14.7.45 III 2nd Echelon PT 24.7.46 F.ORA 5281 of 2.4.46		[Signature]

105743

Army Form X 202B.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSFER to the ARMY RESERVE

Army No. 14554840 Rank A/SGT
Surname (Block letters) PATRICK
Christian Name(s) THOMAS
Regt. or Corps R. SIGNALS

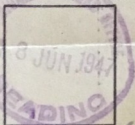
The transfer of the above-named to the appropriate Class of the Army Reserve (see note below) is confirmed with effect from 2.9.47

*The date to be inserted here will be that following the day on which Release Leave terminates, including any additional leave to which the soldier may be entitled by virtue of service overseas.

Note.—The appropriate Class of the Army Reserve is as follows:—

- (i) Royal Army Reserve—in the case of a regular soldier with reserve service to complete.
- (ii) Army Reserve Class Z (D)—in the case of a man of the Territorial Army, including those called up for service under the National Service Acts.
- (iii) Army Reserve, Class Z—in the case of all other soldiers not included in (i) or (ii) above.

Record Office Stamp.



For O. i/c R SIGNALS RECORDS.
Officer i/c [Signature] Records.

Date 17.6.47

WS 14

Warning—

Any alteration of the particulars given in this certificate may render the holder liable to prosecution under the Seamen's and Soldiers' False Characters Act, 1906.

If this certificate is lost or mislaid, no duplicate can be obtained.

WL 37285/50 1,000M 12/45 KJL/1516/16 Gp. 38/3
WL 40969/240 1,000M 2/48 KJL/1722/32 Gp. 38/3

As you can see Tom had a short varied career in the Corps as Driver, Driver Mechanic and Lineman. His enlistment date is the day he arrived at Fort George for basic training and he was not posted back to the Depot for discharge but a demob centre. There he got his Demob suit, Trilby and leave pass etc. He was given a form to take to the licensing office to get a Civvy Driving Licence. He thought I will not be able to afford a car so he tore it up. He had to sit his driving test again a few years later.

IDFH

THE PATH OF THE ARMY

1944

JUNE	6th	The Assault - NORMANDY
JULY	27th	The ODON
	9th	CAEN
	29th	CAUMONT
AUGUST	7th	MONT PINCON
	20th	FALAISE
	25th	The SEINE
SEPTEMBER	2nd	The SOMME
	3rd	BRUSSELS
	4th	ANTWERP
	3rd - 11th	The Canals - ALBERT and ESCAUT
	17th	ARNHEM
OCTOBER	17th - 29th	The Rivers - MAAS and WAAL
	22nd - 27th	'S HERTOGENBOSCH - TILBURG
NOV. 14th - DEC. 13th	The Rivers - MAAS and ROER	
DECEMBER	21st	The ARDENNES

1945

JANUARY	13th	SITTARD
MARCH	24th	The RHINE
APRIL	6th	The WESEER
	26th	BREMEN
MAY	29th	The ELBE
	2nd	The BALTIC

National Anthem

God save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King;
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us;
God save the King.

Then shall the Chaplain say

Lord, at the close of this campaign, we meet together before Thee to pour out our hearts in fervent thanksgiving for all Thy loving kindness to us during the long days of battle, and to dedicate ourselves afresh to the service of Thy Kingdom. We desire to thank Thee for the deliverance from the hand of our enemies; for the devotion, even unto death, of our comrades who have fallen in the fight; and for all the willing sacrifices made in Thy Cause. Grant to us, Lord, who have been preserved amid so many dangers, a due sense of all Thy mercies, that we may be unfeignedly thankful, and serve Thee faithfully all the days of our life.

Amen.

Hymn

Now thank we all our God,
With heart, and hands, and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In Whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Hath bless'd us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours to-day.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us;
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed;
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him Who reigns
With them in Highest Heaven;
The One Eternal God,
Whom earth and Heaven adore,
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

Amen.

The Blessing

PSS|SA|8.

Greek Sailing Trip

Time is November 1967

I had three weeks leave from my job in Saudi Arabia.

I found a yacht charter company in Greece from one of the UK Sailing magazines, wrote to them and booked a bare-boat (i.e. no crew) charter for 2 weeks with a 26 foot Dutch built steel yacht. I also advertised for crew (female) in the UK sailing press with no joy and one magazine wouldn't take the ad as they said "We don't go in for that sort of thing".

Therefore, what follows is my log/diary written at the time.

Interesting flight from Jeddah – along the Red Sea over Aquabar, Amman, and over the Dead Sea. From Beirut flew over Rhodes and then the beloved Cyclades.

Arrived in Athens on time but no messages waiting for me. Definitely looks like a touch of the Chichester's.

Taxi to the Royal Greek Yachting Club – of course Old Modinos was not there - they telephoned and he said that he would be along in 45 minutes. In the meantime I eat some beautiful fairly small red fish and drank half a bottle of light Greek white wine.

Modinos arrived and after spending 10 minutes walking backwards and forwards trying to decide whether to sign the contract, see the harbourmaster, or check the boat, we signed the contract over a bottle of beer, saw the harbourmaster, and checked the boat. A "Complete set of charts" turned out to be one but otherwise it was "normal charter conditions".

Whilst inspecting the boat, his pipe kept dropping out of his jacket top pocket - I kept picking it up for him. Finally, he dropped it whilst showing me how to operate the toilet – he picked it out himself.

Taxi to Athens – Constitution Square – no Tourist Office but plenty of offers of tourist attractions – "You wanna see nice girls, you English, first time in Greece".

Armed with a useless Greek/English phrase book, useless map of Greece, but very good "Athens Week" which incorporated the first two anyway) return in taxi to boat for stores (hopefully) Taxi drive on journey gives me

20 minutes lesson on the basic 400 Greek words every Englishman should know – very good.

The next morning the taxi driver was ill so he phoned a friend who obliges at 0627 – me having surfaced at 0620.

See Thonassis – get fuel and water and buy his charts from him. Weigh anchor 0945 – anchor fouled so leave anchor behind, “sail” at 0955 under power, put sails up outside harbour – absolutely still - - motor for 1 ½ hours - after 1 hour lower sails. At 1130 South wind starts - sails up by 1140 – Genoa and Main – sailing herself by 1145. Time for Sidiki and orange (Sidiki = Saudi homemade spirit) and Greek cheese,

Too good to be true – wind dies completely at 1245 – back to that noisy choking bloody engine.

1430 passed NW corner of Aegina – turned South into a beautiful South wind, Force 3 to 4 - only 1 mile to go so leave sails down.

The harbour is exposed – had a job mooring but an old boy gave me a hand, Until in shot a large ferry churning up the sandy bottom and causing my anchor to drag. I was then directed to the other side of the harbour, which was sheltered – but this time, no messing, I went in bows first. Must get large anchor, chain, and long warp tomorrow.

To fill the water tank required major dismantling of the cabin and floorboards – bit it was filled eventually. In addition, bilges pumped out and rubber dinghy pumped up. Hand wash and a cup of coffee.

It’s already becoming clear that during the next two weeks I will have learned more about sailing that I learned in the last 10 years.

Had half a bottle of retsina – then look for restaurant. Whilst drinking retsina ferries were in and out 19 to the dozen but only restaurant I found, looked at the menu, asked for squid (local speciality) and was offered steak – walked out. Had two Semiramis specials (I think this was what we, in Saudi, called doner kebabs – I think). I gave him the equivalent of 10 pence and got 3 pence change.

Acrobatic act getting on board, but made it.

Woke at 0430 – up at 0715 – coffee to shops at 0800 – spent 3 hours getting anchor. Chain, warp, fuel, water, provisions, etc.

Cooked 3 mackerel for lunch – had sleep from 1230 to 1315.

Coffee in afternoon and offered to pay for water got for me this morning – wouldn't take it.

1730 Cinema – Roman takeoff on James Bond – Perry Grant.

Now waiting for 2000 weather forecast. No joy with weather forecast – unsuitable for sailing.

Tuesday – rained all day – went for a walk in afternoon – got soaked. Evening in little café with some Greeks – eating chargrilled octopus and drinking Ouzo. One of the Greeks offered to go to Siphnos with me – the others (in English) told me not to take him. Got back to boat somehow that evening – half an hour later was sick over the side – no more octopus and Ouzo!

Wednesday morning – clear sky but still no wind. Tell harbourmaster that I am leaving for Siphnos. Just before I left, small fishing boat dropped his anchor over mine – I waited half an hour – then told him I was now ready to go. No real problem with main anchor but second anchor was definitely caught on some old heavy chain moorings lying on the bottom – I had to leave it there. Motoring away I couldn't get out of reverse – the gear lever moved but the gears obviously didn't. Drop anchor again, switch off engine and we get it out of reverse. \so at 1015 we are on our way to Siphnos, clear sky, no wind. Motor at 6 knots for 2 hours, try sails – still not enough wind for steerage way.

By 1300 Southerly breeze is strong enough for Genoa and Mainsail – making about 2-3 knots.

By 1530 breeze quite strong, but have not been able to get her to sail herself at all. Sea quite lumpy, sailing no longer comfortable. Lee rail permanently awash. Change to Jib – on way back to cockpit fall, and plastic mount of compass smashes. Still wind is too strong for comfortable sailing – wind speed is only about Force 4/5 but hull is hard chine and wind is getting under the chine, reducing stability quite a lot. By 1630 realise that I will not

be able to keep this up for the next 20 hours to reach Siphnos – decide to run North for the Marina at Vougliamani which is about 17 sea miles away (so far have covered 22 sea miles).

Even running, force of wind noticeable as even when past eye of wind, Main does not gybe.

1700 – trying to pick out Vougliamani from the contours of the background hills – not possible.

Then hear a sound like a deep bell coming from the cabin – look down into the hatchway and see the floorboards floating – and the noise was them hitting the steel sides of the cabin – first thought – steel doesn't float very well and we are in trouble. Quickly check toilet valve cocks and turn off fully – one was slightly on. The main bilge pump is useless, so use saucepan, but it has no handle, empty maybe 10 lots – water at least the same level – however boat is now broadside onto the sea and liable to broach-to so back to tiller. Keep alternating between bailing and steering until water level in the cabin has noticeably fallen.

Now dark and watching for lights – pick up offshore lights and work out my position as about 12 sea miles off the coast. Also pick out Vougliamani harbour lights.

Another couple of spells with the saucepan takes the water down to where the floorboards should be and it stays there. So concentrate now on sailing. Am getting tired and have been frightened, and am now still apprehensive as I have no large scale chart of Vougliamani Harbour.

The rolling of the boat increasing, difficulty in stopping gybing now, all motion quite violent.

1930 switch on engine and drop Mainsail. Motion improved, but we are a lot closer inshore so that will make a difference.

As we approach harbour lights, shoreline is totally different to chart! Obviously, the Marina/Harbour has been extended in the meantime. At left of harbour light is a rocky wall only 100 yards away – turn yacht sharp right immediately - think I am in shallow water even now, More small lights as I head in a quarter circle

around the main light which shows a harbour entrance facing East – not South as per the chart! Just then, a large flat-topped iron buoy slides past with the water swirling over its surface – probably 6 feet across – that would have been an appropriate ending to the day!

I come round to the entrance to the harbour, which is littered with large buoys. There is a sheltered jetty outside the harbour. I come alongside that with both fend offs on that side, moor up at 2030 hours and empty water from the boat until we are down at least a foot below the floorboards, Open up forward hatch and leave after hatch open (to let out diesel stench) – everything is covered in black bilge waste.

Collect wallet and away to find a hotel for the night. Harbourmaster's office is still open – check in and then up to the Astir Hotel on the hill overlooking the harbour – an imposing modern 4 star hotel.

Beautiful marble bath – cheerful music – quick check from balcony that boat is still OK and in comes a cold meat tray with salad and half a bottle of white wine – to bed by 22:00.

Thursday up at 0700, pay hotel bill – visit from police with my passport which I had left in the cabin! Complete formalities at harbour and by 0830 start cleaning up the boat. By 16:50 we are ship-shape – wash, shave, change and walk into Vougliamani for a meal – taxi back, arrange for taxi for 0800 Friday morning to get laundry.

Friday up at 0700 – nice to look around clean boat!

Taxi to G- – laundry will be ready at 1900 today! Walk up into hills – very pleasant – back to G- harbour by 1300. Would like to bring boat here, but not enough room unfortunately and cannot bring boat close enough to side because of rocks (rubber dinghy - 5 foot long – worse than useless),

Slept on bench beside the shore – then wrote this up.

Sleep must have done me good – decided to hire a car. Got an old Fiat 1100 that evening for US\$9 a day inclusive – cheap for

Greece – but then it was an old car!

Next few days spent using boat as a base – found Hotel Themis for good evening meals – used as an USAF family's transit hotel. On the second Friday I met an American girl who would just have loved to have crewed for me!

Handed boat over on Saturday – moved into Hotel Themis until Monday.

Peter Crane

Smile!

Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin.
When he smiled, I realized I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile, then I realized its worth.
A single smile, just like mine could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected!

Attributed to Karen McLendon-Laumann

Submitted by Sheila Bracey

The Big One!

We had been thinking for months to have a garden party in order to celebrate the Big Birthday and show off my SheShed to all our friends. I stockpiled the pantry, Fridge and Freezer with all manner of meats, nibbles, and desserts. I left the selection of drinks to Iain.

Iain had told me that he was taking me to the Crowne Plaza for a lunch on the actual day of my 80th birthday. He said it would be just the two of us. He had also organised a room for the evening so I could get my best outfit on for cocktails. Iain had given me the impression that we would put all the effort into the garden party to celebrate the big occasion.

I had been to the Hairdresser on the Friday 30th June so it would look nice for the Saturday lunch. We were on the way in the car to the Crowne Plaza when Iain's mobile rang. He answered and it was one of our friends, Barbara. Iain said, "I am on Speakerphone, and Rita is in the car with me". Barbara asked, "What time is it tomorrow?" Iain said, "12:30" Barbara replied, "OK see you then." When the call was complete, I asked Iain what was going on about our lunch for two.

He said, "It is just the Usual Suspects who will be there." The Usual Suspects are a group of friends who worked with Iain and all retired about the same time. We go for lunch once a month and have been doing so for the past seven years.

Next day we went to the Hotel arriving about midday, as we passed the main entrance I saw three more friends who were not part of the Usual Suspects walking towards the entrance. Iain said, "You've clocked it then!" As we walked through the hotel from the car park, all the staff were giving me their best wishes. Pamela, the ex-gym manager was in the Spa Office. I asked, "What



are you doing here?" Pamela replied, "I've come to see you!" Jade, a current member of the Gym Staff had bought her along as her plus one. By the time, I got into the restaurant a few more people I had not expected to see had turned up. In all, there were 43 guests plus myself and Iain in the hotel. I thought they were all bar one very good at keeping it quiet about this gathering. A delicious three-course lunch/buffet was had by all.

And of course Iain had organised with the hotel and had a lovely cake with some candles for me to lose my puff blowing them out.

There were many lovely presents plus a multitude of flowers.

It was good to see all of our friends and family and I had many chats in good company. Our son Jonathan and wife Lorraine took all the gifts and flowers home for me to sort out on Sunday.



As I said above Iain had booked a room, which had been upgraded to a suite by the Carole the General Manager.

P.S. We did have a garden party on the Sunday 16th July. Luck was with us as it had poured all day on the Saturday. Sunday was sunny with a breeze that died down as the day went on. We put up a Gazebo (First used 12 years ago for Iain's 60th Birthday party.) ably assisted by Jonathan and Lorraine. The SheShed was used to lay out the buffet with many hands of the various guests helping in bringing done the food and serving drinks. Even had German Style Shashlik and Curry Sauce from Lidl in Copenhagen.

Iain's youngest sister and husband are living there now. All attendees admired the shed; Iain had informed the guests that as it was a SheShed, Males were not allowed in the shed unless invited. He fell foul of that when our son's friend's youngest daughter would not

permit him to enter. Twenty-four friends and family came and much laughter ensued when Iain's middle sister added Prosecco balls and vodka jellies with the cocktails. Innuendos abounded by this time as many of the quests were very merry. I was given some more solar lights for the garden.

At the end of the party the Gazebo was taken down, fridge emptied and returned to its location in the house where it was refilled. Uneaten food taken upstairs and stored for later. Our friends had done most of the washing up before leaving so we just had some Lasagne and salad for supper. Sat down in the lounge, put the telly on and promptly felt like going to sleep. Managed to watch one program before retiring to bed. We awoke next day ready to go to the gym and found out as we creaked out of bed how much work we had actually done on the Sunday.

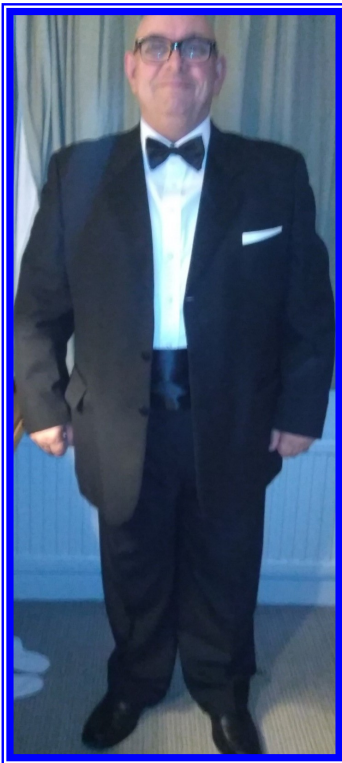


Rita Haldane

I was going to put a rant in here above ineffectual road works etc. Instead I will just put this under the Punny Roadside Signs label.

Yes I do mean Punny!





Christine and I joined Slimming World on September 9th 2016; I then weighed in at 18 stone and 10lb and was vastly obese.

Christine was 2 stone and 7lbs overweight at 11 stone and 3lbs, so we both decided to do something about it.

We weighed in today and, I am now exactly 14st having lost 4 stone 10lb, Christine is 9stone 1and 1/2lb after losing 2 stone 1 & 1/2lb, we have done this in 37 weeks.

I started the first week on our treadmill doing 30 minutes @ 2.5mph, burning 145 calories and a distance of 1.2 miles, 5 days a week.

I am now doing 1 hour and 20 minutes @ 3.8mph, burning 618 calories with a distance of 5 miles. This I do 5 days a week and I also do 9 miles per day

Saturday & Sunday weather permitting (I am a dry weather cyclist).



Christine does her own thing (approximately 3 miles 4 days a week) on the Treadmill while I am shaving and getting a shower.

My aim is to lose at least another three stone and Christine says another 5 & 1/2lb for her. A surprise for me at weigh-in today was that I was presented at our 8:30am group meeting with a Man of the Year 2017 award.

That is enough from me; I hope you see even less of me than in these photographs at the Reunion.

Many Regards to you all.

P.S. Pictures are Stirling last year and Eden Camp this year.

Kerry Stylianou

North West Frontier Medal 1936

I was always sure about having a long lost relative on my Grandmothers side in the area of Darlington County Durham, but what a strange way to meet up with what must have been a great uncle very much removed.

I was returning from a week's golf holiday in Scotland with my Royal Signals Pals when we called in to play the final round of golf at Brancepeth Castle golf club near Durham. We had an hour to spare before we could tee off on our round so I had a nosey at the photographs of various club captains through the years. One of the photographs bore a resemblance to my Grandfather Harry Carver. In fact, the name under the photograph was Doctor Harry Carver my long lost relative. Harry was at the time the club secretary, I went to his office alas he was away on holiday so I thought no more about it we played our golf and returned to Harrogate.

We went to Scotland the following year and on the way back had another round of golf to play, luckily it was on the same Brancepeth Castle course. However, my relative, who was no longer the secretary, was not at the course but I did manage to get a phone number.

On arrival back in Harrogate, I discussed the situation with Moira. We decided to try to contact the family, strange after all this time but as it happened, it was well worthwhile. We got in touch, had a long conversation, and decided to meet up and have a meal, which we did in a Cafe in the market place in Bedale.

We had a very pleasant evening after which we parted and thought we were pleased we made the effort.

Doctor Carver was in fact a stepbrother to my father who incidentally was a Royal Signals soldier; sadly, he was killed when playing hockey when I was but 2 years old.

Continuing the story, we had a phone call from Mrs Denise Carver inviting us for dinner at their home in High Coniscliffe near Darlington.

We had a lovely evening and not long before returning home, Harry said to me that he had something that I might like to have. What a pleasant surprise we got when Harry gave me my Fathers North West Frontier Medal that I did not know existed. I wear it each time I march in the Remembrance parade pinned to my right hand lapel just goes to show that golf has some rewards.

CONSTITUTION OF THE 60S-16ERS

Name

The association's name shall be "The 60s-16ers"

Formation

The association was formed from an idea by its founder, Chris Bartlett, in 1996 in Essex.

Aims and Objectives

To ensure that the 60s-16ers, also known as "The Reunion Club", continues in the same spirit as it was conceived by its founder:

By promoting the existence of the association for those who served within 16 Signal Regiment from 1960 to 1969, through word of mouth, media, printed and electronic means, and contacts via other sources.

By encouraging those who served with 16 Signal Regiment; all ranks, services and support, to become a member of the 60s-16ers.

By holding annual reunions in a place decided upon by a democratic vote at an Annual General Meeting ("AGM") by that membership present.

The Officers

The Officers of the association shall comprise a Chairman/lady, Vice-chair, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Almoner who will conduct the association's business.

Term of office shall be 3 years and the chair and vice-chair will retire in different years

Retiring Committee members may be re-elected without re-nomination.

Committee members will be nominated from those members present (or represented) at an Annual General Meeting.

The Chairman/lady will be responsible for representing the Association at all events, chairing General and Committee Meetings and leadership of the Association.

The Vice-chair will cover for the Chairman/lady in all situations where the latter is unable to attend.

The Honorary Secretary shall be responsible for preparing minutes of all General and Committee meetings; however they can delegate the process, but not the responsibility. The minutes, once approved by the Committee shall be available for all members to see. They shall also keep a record of all members in a database and liaise with the Honorary Treasurer over subscriptions'

The Honorary Treasurer shall keep a record of subscriptions made at the Annual General Meeting and throughout the year and shall issue a receipt unless the payment is an electronic transfer to the association's bank account. Accounts shall be prepared for the association each year by the Honorary Treasurer. The Honorary Treasurer shall collect and record the income and make payments in accordance with the rules in Paragraph 8 under Finances.

The Almoner is an honorary post appointed by the chairperson.

No two officers shall live in the same household.

The Committee

The Committee of the association shall consist of not less than three nor more than five members of the association plus the Officers of the association and the Reunion Organiser for that year.

One Committee member shall be the Entertainments Co-ordinator and will be empowered to co-opt on a temporary basis other members of the association to form a sub-committee to consider entertainment events at the annual reunions. The decisions of the sub-committee shall be ratified by the Committee before implementation.

Entertainment (sub)Committee

Shall consist of:

A Co-ordinator who will be a full Committee member

Four other member who may or may not be elected

Term of office will be for two years

The Entertainments Co-ordinator will be responsible for informing the Committee as to all decisions regarding arrangements and ideas for the annual reunions at which ever venue is voted on by the membership.

A member of the Entertainments sub-committee will liaise with the venue's nominated events person.

Any person(s) may be co-opted onto the Entertainments Committee by the Entertainment Co-ordinator.

Elections

The election of the Officers and Committee shall take place at the AGM.

Nominations for the appointment of Officers and for membership of the Committee shall be proposed and seconded by two members of the association, and the nominee must voice their agreement to stand.

The Committee shall be empowered to fill any casual vacancy occurring in the Committee or among Officers and any person so appointed shall serve until the next Annual General Meeting.

Finances

The Annual Accounts shall be audited in accordance with proper audit practice.

Auditors shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting for the current year. For example at the Autumn 2017 AGM auditors shall be appointed for the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017. Officers and Committee members shall not be eligible for appointment as auditors.

The accounts shall be ratified by the association at the AGM.

The property and funds of the association shall be held and administered by the Committee.

A resolution of the Committee shall be sufficient authority for payments or the incurring of liability for payments up to a limit not exceeding five hundred pounds. Payments up to one hundred pounds may be made by the Honorary Treasurer without prior approval of the Committee. Beyond five hundred pounds the Committee shall seek approval of such expenditure by the association either at the Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting.

The annual subscription of the association shall be decided for the ensuing year at the AGM but shall not be altered save by a two-thirds majority of the members attending such meeting. Subscriptions are payable by members and their spouses (if the latter attend the Reunion).

The Honorary Treasurer shall work closely with the Honorary Secretary to keep a record of all new members recruited throughout the year.

That a "Support Fund" shall be kept.

That a proportion of general funds be transferred annually into the Support Fund Account.

This fund will be used to help those members in need

And shall be available for the Almoner to use at their discretion, reporting to the chairman/lady in detail but only to the rest of the members by type of expenditure.

To finance any acknowledgements by way of cards, flowers or similar in cases of illness or death of members or any member of their families.

That the association will annually nominate a charity to which a donation shall be made. The recipient charity will be decided upon from a list generated from the membership of the association, by the then elected Committee members.

That the association shall undertake such fund-raising activity as is deemed necessary, in order to facilitate such charitable endeavours.

Membership

Membership shall be open to all persons who served in or with 16 Signal Regiment from 1960 to 1969, together with their current partner.

Those members without a partner may bring one person as a guest for the first year and as a member for subsequent years.

The one exception to the above is Tom Watt who was elected as a member at the Southend Reunion many years ago, for his service to the association.

All members may also invite 1 or 2 guests with the approval of the chairman for one reunion. This means that a couple who are members can only invite 1 or 2 guests between them. These guests will not be eligible to attend subsequent reunions.

In addition honorary members may be elected by the membership at an Annual General Meeting. Currently, 2017, these are the current RSM and CO of 16 Signal Regiment, and this changes as these appointments change. Also John Fradley who was so helpful at the time of Chris Bartlett's death.

Membership of the association shall be confirmed upon the payment of the first subscription and acceptance by the proposed members of the rules and constitution of the association.

Membership of the 60s-16ers will entitle all to attend and vote at the AGM and stand for election to the Committee or as an Officer, excepting honorary members.

Membership of the association shall terminate upon behaviour or conduct deemed unfit or unbecoming, or for non-payment of subscriptions for one calendar year.

For those members attending a Reunion, subscriptions will be due after the Annual General Meeting.

Lapsed members may be re-instated by paying one year's arrears in addition to the current year's subscription before being re-instated.

For those other, either lapsed members or new subscribers, subscriptions must be paid before the reunions.

Only those fully paid up members (and honorary members) shall be entitled to attend the annual reunions.

Members of the association shall endeavour to make known the existence of the association in order to publicise, and thus recruit, former friends, colleagues and those who worked at 16 Signal Regiment in the 1960s. Contact will be made to the Honorary Secretary of the association.

Meetings

The AGM shall be held not later than three ten months from the end of the financial year.

A reconnaissance (Known as "The Recce") of the venue chosen at the AGM shall be carried out by the Committee in the Spring preceding the Reunion. All members are entitled to attend The Recce. The Honorary Treasurer shall present draft accounts for the last financial year to the Committee at The Recce together with a draft Budget for the current year for discussion and approval by the Committee. This Budget will set the spend allocated for the Entertainment Sub-Committee for the ensuing Reunion.

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the association shall be convened at any time by the Honorary Secretary either upon the written instructions of the Committee or upon a written request signed by no fewer than ten members of the association.

Affiliate

The 60s-16ers is affiliated to the Royal Signals Association which is an association for all personnel who served in the Royal Corps of Signals throughout its history.



This is Tarbet from the air above Loch Lomond. If you look closely you can see the Tarbet Hotel. This is where we had our first Scottish gathering in October 2004. It is now called the Bay Tarbet Hotel as it is no longer a Sheerings Hotel.



The words, comments and articles contained in this magazine are written by club members and are for the sole entertainment of club members and in no way reflects, the views or opinions, of the club generally or its officers.

Any items for the February 2018 edition please submit by 31st December 2017



The 1960s 16 Signal Regiment

Please email or contact the person below with any items for future inclusion.

Email: iaindfhaldane@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 0141 876 1385

www.the-60s-16ers.com/

Webmaster: tedhebden@bigfoot.com