

Bradbury Mercury



Our Chairperson's Letter

Welcome to the August edition of our wonderful Mercury Magazine courtesy of Iain and the work he puts into each issue.

I hope you are all enjoying the glorious summer weather, long may it last. How time flies - we will soon be meeting up again in Oxford for our 22nd reunion. If you have booked into The Oxford Belfry for the reunion, don't forget that the balance is payable by the 20th August. Having just spoken with Tom Watt, may I remind you to let Tom know your menu choices for the Gala Dinner as so far, at the time of writing this, he told me that only around 10% of those attending have done so (menu below for those of you who may not have seen it on our website).

I am pleased to announce that our official guests at the Gala dinner this year will be Brigadier Jim Richardson (Rtd) and his wife, Paula. Brigadier Richardson joined as a boy in Harrogate, was commissioned from Cpl after a tour of Cyprus and

went on to command 7 Sig Regt then was Commander of all UK Military Garrisons in Germany during the BAOR drawdown. He is now CEO of Haigh Housing looking after the needs of Ex Service families.

Kerry will be standing down as secretary at the AGM having completed his 3 year tenure so we will be looking for a volunteer to take his place. Don't be shy – think about putting yourself forward for this non-onerous position, the rest of the committee will be there to help and support you.



Chris Abbott

SATURDAY NIGHT GALA DINNER

Choose one of the following from each course

Starters

Cauliflower cheese soup

Chicken & terrine poached pear & parsley salad, shallot vinaigrette

Pear endive & Roquefort salad, candied walnuts & vinaigrette (V)

Prawn & crayfish cocktail, lemon & lime mayonnaise

Main Course

Roasted artichoke ravioli, wilted greens, chestnuts, sage & truffle dressing

Steamed fillet of rainbow trout, braised fennel & celery, sea salt Parmentier potatoes

Slow roasted shoulder of lamb, potato 'press', herb-baked butternut squash & pumpkin port & red wine jus

Breast of chicken, stuffed with almonds & apricots, roasted sweet potatoes, steamed greens

Desserts

Vanilla poached plum Eton mess with crushed meringue & sweet cream

Sticky toffee pudding, toffee sauce

Baked New York cheesecake, black cherry sauce

Fresh fruit salad

Iain's Ramblings

Now this is where I pontificate and waffle about things that interest or have annoyed me since the last time I put my feelings down on paper. I have been trying for a while to write my Ramble. I did a class in creative writing a couple of years ago and my instructor advised me to keep a writing pad close no matter what I was doing. She said you can have thoughts at any time about what you would like to write about. With the pad handy you could make notes even if you did not write the whole piece. Guess what? I Forgot! I got the rest of the Magazine ready with a week in hand but then I got writers block. So, the rant first. Only 12 pages this time. There have been only four submissions from the members for this issue. I again ask for members to submit articles. The two articles from me were put together triggered by a visit to the Kelvingrove Art Gallery in July. What to write? The list is endless. Visit your local park, museum, places of natural beauty, write about things you see and how you felt about them. I volunteered myself and Rita to oversee the editing of the Magazine at the October 2011 Reunion. This of course was the last time we were in an Oxford hotel. It was also the occasion where I went head over heels whilst taking the Group Photograph. I remember this was the first reunion that Beverley attended. If you wish to write an article for the next issue (No 43 due out on 1st February 2019) please email me, email address is on back page. If you have any suggestions for format or items for the magazine you can speak to me at the Reunion in Oxford. I will be able to help you out on subject matter and how to send them to me.



Well that is it for now.

Iain

P.S. I am submitting these two possible venues for the Reunion in October 2019.

Stirling Court Hotel, 18th-20th Oct 2019 (Only Dates Available). £60 pp DB&B or £45 for B&B, Single or Double Occupancy.

The Crowne Plaza Glasgow. Still in discussion with management, no dates confirmed.



I created this picture by using an app to convert from a Digital JPEG to a water colour sketch of the Yucca plant in 2006.

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The Actual Victoria Cross.

Having previously photographed the VC awarded to John William Harper and wishing to revisit the York & Lancaster Regiment Museum in Rotherham, I found, due to the value, that it is no longer on view and that I had to make an appointment to view it once again. On doing so the lady at the museum duly obliged and this time I had the honour and the privilege to actually hold the said Victoria Cross (photographs below). I cannot describe my feelings as I was actually born a few weeks after John was killed and I had great difficulty in holding back a tear or two. As the photograph shows I had to wear a rubber glove before being allowed to actually go anywhere near the medal. An experience I will remember forever.

Reme



For more information about the York & Lancaster Regiment Museum follow link shown below.

<http://www.victoriacross.org.uk/ccyandla.htm>

Anniversary Week in Somerset

On the 21st May 2018, Kerry and I set off for Somerset where we were celebrating our Golden Anniversary. This was courtesy of our three children, Paul, Suzanne and Helen – bless their little cotton socks.

We arrived in Somerset and, as arranged, we met up with Iain and Rita Haldane along with Rita's sister Jan at Sheppy's Cider Makers in Bradford on Tone. Lunch was had in their restaurant before sampling some of the cider – as you do, before we set off for Langaller Manor House. Our accommodation was in the Coach house, but breakfast was served in the Manor House. We asked about places to eat and were given a variety of leaflets but our go-to place was the Monkton Inn – a Bar-Restaurant run by a South African couple where there was a variety of English and South African dishes.

On Tuesday Iain, Rita and Jan came to meet us at Langaller Manor and off we went to Bristol to see Brunel's SS Great Britain – again it was something not to be missed. It is an amazing ship and at one stage Kerry, Rita and I got a bit lost. We thought we were going up but ended up in the ships kitchen and then through to the Steerage Section. This is where the poorest passengers spent their time on board. We had misplaced Iain and Jan earlier on but we found them in the First-Class Section. They had gone down by the lift as Jan was in a wheel chair. All of us went for lunch



1st Class Four Berth Cabin. Mother plus 2 children. Husband having a smoke? The bunks are as narrow as the bench that the suitcase is on. Also the length of the bunks were about 66 inches.

and then we all went off to our various accommodations.

Wednesday, Kerry and I had a bit of exercise – keep your minds clean. We were originally going to Wookey Hole and the Cheddar Gorge but as we were passing by Glastonbury Tor we decided to go there first before going on to our original destinations. We stopped for lunch at Cheddar Gorge and did a bit of shopping.

Thursday morning was spent visiting Barrington Court which is located near Crewkerne. This house was built in the 1550's. We walked through part of the gardens and then we went to view the interior of the House. It was restored by Colonel Abram Arthur Lyle and architect John Edwin Forbes.

Now that the rooms have been renovated it was well worth the visit. We then travelled to the Royal Oak Pub in South Petherton. We had arranged a lunch with Rita and Iain, also attending were Noreen and Hi Dixon.

Friday, the actual day of our anniversary. We met up with Rita, Iain and Jan at Bishops Lydeard Railway Station for a Steam Train ride to Minehead but ended up with a Diesel Train as said Steam Locomotive was having a tantrum and was refusing to cooperate. Regardless we all enjoyed the journey and the return leg was pulled by a Steam Loco. At Minehead station there was a second-hand book stall, I found a copy of *The Wind in the Willows* that only set me back £1. I had

never read the book, so I thought why not now. I have now read the book and it was well worth the expense. When we got back to the Langaller Manor we found that Nick and Tracey, the owners had left us flowers, chocolates and lovely home-made card. They are a very nice couple, kept our mini fridge stocked and Nick was a very cheerful host during our breakfasts, he could not do enough for you. To celebrate our Wedding Anniversary, we had arranged to meet Rita and Iain at The Monkton Inn for Evening dinner. Kerry and Iain had the Durban Spicy Beef Curry, Rita had Fried Strips of Beef in a Spicy Sauce topped with chips. I opted for the Sea Bass and vegetables. We all had a very pleasant evening. We wished Rita and Iain a good journey as they were travelling back to Glasgow the next day.

Saturday morning was a treat as Kerry and I went back into Taunton for a look around the shops. Later, we went back to Hestercombe House. We walked round the Georgian Landscaped Garden which seemed to go on forever, nevertheless we did enjoy our stroll. We then had some Tea, Cake and Ice Cream before returning to Langaller Manor House to pack up in readiness for the journey home on Sunday Morning.

Kerry and I would like to thank Rita and Iain for helping us to make this a wonderful anniversary week. We appreciated the time they spent with us to make it more memorable. Thank you both very much.

Christine.



Opening the Anniversary Gifts.



**Slimming Couple Of the Year.
Manchester 2018**



Diesel Locomotive for outward journey to Minehead and the Steam Train for the return to Bishops Lydeard.

A Friend Remembered.

It was 1963, and I had transferred from the R.E.M.E. and was hoping to become a T.G. operator!

Whilst completing the course, I still had to wear my Reme cap badge and a very different Forage hat. This was until the successful completion of my A3, then and only then, was I allowed to re-badge. Hence I became known as Reme (so nicknamed courtesy of Bill Robinson).

But I wasn't alone in transferring to the Royal Signals as another individual came over from Bordon to Catterick to complete a Linesman's course. His name : SAV (Sammy) Bondin. SAV had enlisted from Malta, and we were to become the greatest of friends!

At 24 Sigs; 36 and 48 hour passes were common-place and Sav would frequently come home with me. He became a firm favourite within my village, especially with my mother. This also led to a long lasting communication with our mothers who were to exchange Xmas cards for many a year.

Sav and I never met again after departing 24 Sigs. We were being posted to different units! Fast forward to our family regiment 16 Signal Regiment : 1970, I was to leave the regiment and finished up in 11 Signal Regiment. I was, many years later, to find out that Sav was actually posted in to 16 Sigs shortly after my leaving. Sadly, we were never to meet up again!

I was to learn from a friend of my sister, who worked with Sav in Shrewsbury (by now he was a civilian) that Sav passed away in the Spring of 1989. The photographs that were sent to me.

Some of you on reading this and whose time at 16 took them into the 70s would have remembered Sav/Sammy and I feel sure that you have also, some fond memories of such a Gentleman and colleague who was a true friend! A very good footballer, of Regimental standard to boot.

Reme



Yucca Magic

Two memories for us in 1993, first we moved to a new flat which needed a lot of TLC. The second happening was that Rita's sister in Taunton had given her a gift of a Yucca plant. Not knowing anything about this type of plant we put it in our front garden. It was facing the rising sun and was protected at the back and sides with hedges and trees. It was in a very wind free spot. There was no Google then so we had to find out all about the Yucca by asking questions and looking up gardening books.



2006 First and Last Photos.



The first flowering was in the summer of 1999. Rita contacted the Beechgrove Garden, the BBC Scotland gardening programme and sent them some of the photos. She was making an enquiry to see if they could give her any information about Yucca plants. They said it could not be a Yucca as they do not grow in Scotland. Go Figure. I took some photos, who me? yes me! I have misplaced them.

Not to worry I have the pictures from the 2006, 2014 and 2018 flowerings. In the 2006 photos you can see the hedge and trees that are around the Yucca plant. These plants have since been cut down by our Factor, the GHA (Glasgow Housing Association). They were replacing the fences around the properties and were cut



Compare foliage background between 2006 ↑ and 2018 ↓

2014 just beginning to flower.

down on the only day we were away that week. Rita got £50 worth of Vouchers to spend at a Garden Centre but well! It is a native of the southwestern United States, it thrives in soil that drains well and can be in full sun. It is also able to withstand temperatures as cold as 10 F. (-12 C.), so you can grow a yucca plant in many different climates. This information I have since gleaned from many sites that we Googled. The Yucca can flower every year but these plants are in warm places. Much warmer than a Glasgow summer.

Our Yucca has flowered four times, I thought that they dropped seeds and the new plant came from them. I have since discovered that it is a massive root shrub so the flowering part dies off and another root grows up. Some folk say you should do the equivalent of dead heading, you need to wear gloves as the leaves are sharp.



This year I took many photographs of the Yucca Flowering this year, from the 5th June right through the 8th July. The photo on the right was taken at the end of July when all the Flowers had fallen off. The picture on the left shows the flowers at about the halfway stage.

All this info is from our experience and observation of the life of a Yucca.

Fain.



Airth Castle & The Kelpies

Every so often I get the urge to look up DBB&B places on Groupon. Came across one for Airth Castle Hotel, located east of Falkirk and about three mile up from the Kelpies. I thought that the Castle had an unusual black colour, yes, I know black is not a colour. I chatted with one of my Gym buddies and she said the Castle is used only for events e.g. Weddings. The hotel is down a bit from the castle and is very nice.

Iain duly booked us in for Thursday 3rd April. We travelled through from Glasgow but as we were far too early to book in we decided to visit The Helix and The Kelpies. It was only a slight detour to get down to the Attraction. Visiting the kelpies was on our To-Do list, we had planned to do it when the Reunion was in Stirling but never managed to achieve our aim. The day was wet and cold when Iain parked the car at the first car park. We did not know it was the first until we walked past the second car park next to the Kelpies. The walk to the Kelpies took us up the path to the Forth and Clyde Canal. As we trudged up the sloping path alongside the canal we began to catch glimpses of the Kelpies over to our left. By the time we turned left



to the Lock we could see the Statues about four hundred yards away. I stopped at the Lock to get my wind back while Iain took photographs of my windswept appearance. This of course was just after I had had my hair done. Nevertheless, the Kelpies were awesome. I felt so insignificant beside them. They are located just down from the Lock that joins the canal to the River Carron and are situated of to the side of the Forth and Clyde Canal. There is a smaller side canal running between the Statues with two lock gates, so you can walk across the lock gates to get from one Kelpie to

the other. Luckily for Iain and I the coffee shop was open. Was so very glad to be out of the wind and easy access to the toilets. We had pepper and chilli soup for lunch before deciding to walk back to the car. The walk back was much easier as mainly downhill, although we did stop to watch a barge navigate the lock on its way down the Forth and Clyde Canal heading West. I was so very glad to get back to the car, so I could get warmed up.

We duly arrived at the hotel, was somewhat early but we got booked in, collected the keys and found our way to the room. Was very nice a bit dated but comfortable. Bigger than most we have been in lately, had a very comfortable two-piece sofa. After Iain brought the case and dress hangers in we decided to visit the Gym/Pool. I was used the gym,



but Iain went for a swim in the pool. Iain said I should have tried as it is the first pool we have seen for a while that you can walk into without going down stairs or steps. We had booked for Dinner at 18:30 hours, cannot remember what I had but Iain went for the Burger. Of course, he ate the lot. We retired to the bar for drinks then up to our room. Read for a bit then slept the good sleep, bed was very comfortable. Breakfast was the usual self service choice, back to room packed up, booked out and headed home.



Rita.

Mercury A.K.A. Jimmy

The good news we got in May was that our youngest son had passed his mechanical Engineering Degree Course. He lives in Mineola, NY and has been doing this course part time for a few years now. The second piece of good news he told us when he Skyped us at the end of June was that he had booked his flight and he and our grandson were flying over on the 11th July. We met him at the airport and duly transported them and their luggage to our oldest son's house. Once they recovered he wanted see a lot of the places he had been too before he and his wife left for the USA in 1999. One of these places is the Kelvingrove Art Gallery. This was reopened in 2006 after a three year refurbishment. Of course we Glaswegians had a few words to say about the changes, some good some bad. Anyway the most striking item is the Spitfire Mark F21 hanging from the ceiling. Details of that are on the back page. What I had forgotten about was the statue of Jimmy, sorry Mercury. It is a 19th century copy of the original model by Giovanni da Bologna. Once I saw this I had to do the research to find out if it was the same Jimmy that we wore. Well the Royal Signals Museum website has the words shown below : -

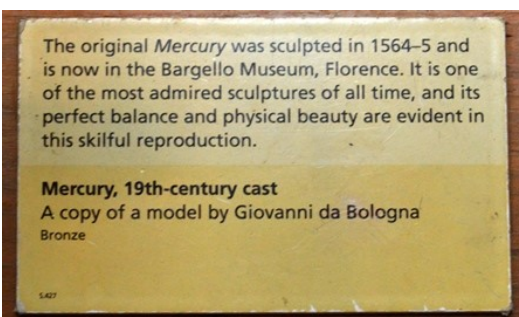
It is thought the inspiration for Mercury came to Major Beresford from the statue of Mercury that his father had probably purchased at the Great Exhibition at Hyde Park in 1851, a copy from an original sculpture in the Pitti Palace, Florence designed by Giambologna. This statue was subsequently positioned in his garden in Camberley.

Mercury is the Roman God of messages/communication (including divination) as well as the God of financial gain, commerce, eloquence (including poetry), travellers, luck, trickery and thieves (yes really!). Additionally Mercury is also the keeper of boundaries between the upper and lower worlds – something not lost in today's world of virtual reality!

Mercury was duly adopted, first appearing in the Battalion magazine Military Telegraph Bulletin, on 15 September 1884, and on its headed notepaper.

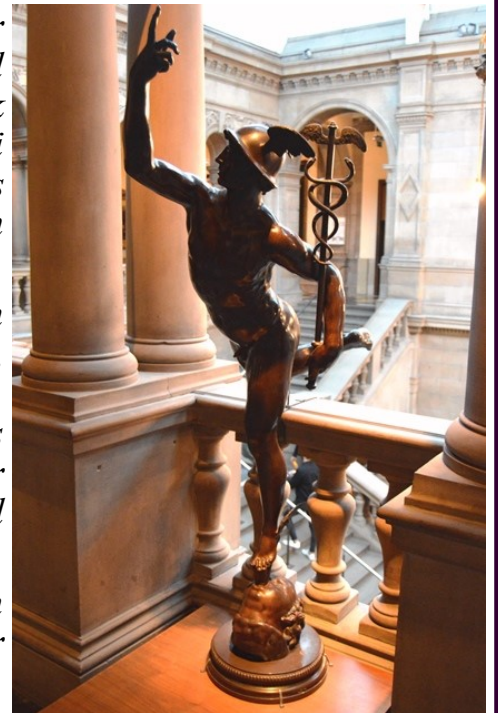
If you compare the names between Glasgow and the Royal Signals Museum you can see a similarity. Giovanni da Bologna and *Giambologna*.

Again resorting to Google this is an answer : -



Giambologna (1529 – 13 August 1608) — born Jean Boulogne (and incorrectly known as Giovanni da Bologna or Giovanni Bologna) — was a Flemish sculptor based in **Italy**, celebrated for his marble and bronze statuary in a late Renaissance or Mannerist style.

So now you know what you not have wanted to know. How many of you are like me who only just discovered this information and thought it was interesting?



My wife dropped her keys & said "What's WRONG with me?"

I named 6 things before I realized it was a rhetorical question.

Sometimes I'm right. Other times my wife is close enough to hear what I'm saying.

My wife asked me today if I would ever cheat on her. I replied, "Who else would I cheat on?"

I told my wife I wanted to be cremated. She made me an appointment for the next day.

I married my wife for her looks. Just not the ones she's been giving me lately.

What do elephants have for lunch? A half-hour, like everyone else.

First elephant: "I hear you've been tracing your ancestors on the internet."

Second elephant: "Yes, and it's a mammoth task."

Girl: "When we get married, I want to share all your worries, troubles and lighten your burden."

Boy: "It's very kind of you, darling, but I don't have any worries or troubles."

Girl: "Well that's because we aren't married yet."

I live in my own little world, but it's OK. Everyone knows me here.

I don't do drugs. I find I get the same effect just by standing up really fast.

I don't like political jokes. I've seen too many get elected.

The most precious thing we have is life, yet it has absolutely no trade-in value.

If life deals you lemons, make lemonade. If life deals you tomatoes, make Bloody Mary's.

Every day I beat my previous record of consecutive days I've stayed alive.

Marriage changes passion ... suddenly you're in bed with a relative.

Why is it that most nudists are people you don't want to see naked?

Snowmen fall from Heaven unassembled.

Don't argue with an idiot; people watching may not be able to tell the difference.

Wouldn't you know it! Brain cells come, and brain cells go, but FAT cells live forever.

Wives are magicians.

They can change anything into an argument.

Why do women live a Better, Longer & Peaceful Life, compared to men?"

A very INTELLIGENT student replied: "Because Women don't have a wife!"

Cool message by wife: Dear Mother-in-law, don't teach me how to handle my children. I am living with one of yours and he needs a lot of improvement!?

When a married man says, I WILL THINK ABOUT IT - what he really means is that he doesn't know his wife's opinion yet.

She says "Why don't you say you love me anymore?"

He replies "I said it once, I'll let you know if the situation changes."

So I asked my wife, "Why do you keep buying plants when you just kill them?"

She said, "To remind you what I'm capable of."

I'm not the athletic type.

I once sprained my wrist while reading Sports Illustrated.

I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colours yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what colour it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued.

At last, she headed for the door, saying "Grandpa, I really think you should try to figure out some of these colours yourself!"

My friend hates to exercise, which means the treadmill in her bedroom barely gets used.

Nevertheless, she swears by it.

"It really works," she told me. "I throw my jeans over it and they get smaller."

This blonde was selling her pet python on eBay. A bloke rang up and asked if it was big. She said, "It's massive". He said, "How many feet?" She said, "None. It's a flipping snake, mate!"

"You know, it's at times like these when I'm trapped in an airlock with an alien and about to die of asphyxiation in deep space that I really wish I'd listened to what my mother told me when I was young!"

"Why, what did she tell you?"

"I don't know, I didn't listen!"

I phoned the local radio station today.

"Congratulations, you're our first caller today, if you can answer a simple question you get to win our grand prize of the day; it's a math question, feeling confident?"

I said, "I've a maths degree and teach at a local school."

"OK then to win 2 VIP tickets to see Justin Bieber and meet him back stage - what is 2+2?"

"7" I replied.

The 60s 16ers Reunion Club



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Oxford**

Friday 19th October - Monday 22 October 2018

1. Apologies, Welcomes and Bereavements
2. Minutes of 2017 AGM
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Secretary's Report
7. Entertainment Co-ordinator's Report
8. Mercury editor's Report
9. Web master's Report
10. RSA Update
11. Election of Officers
12. Venues for 2019
Reunion
13. **AOB**



Glasgow's Spitfire "Coming Home" by Dugald Cameron

The Spitfire is a wonderful aeroplane, there is no doubt about it, and the more one flew it the more attached to it you became.

Air Vice Marshall Sandy Johnstone CB DFC AE DL
No 602 (City of Glasgow) Squadron Auxiliary Air Force

This Spitfire - number LA198 - flew with 602 (City of Glasgow) Auxiliary Squadron between 1947 and 1949. It's a F21 Spitfire, developed in 1944 towards the end of World War II.

The 602 pilots were the first part-time squadron to be equipped with Spitfires, on 8th May 1939. The squadron was disbanded in 1945, but reformed a year later. They continued to fly Spitfires until 8th May 1951, exactly 12 years after the planes first arrived.

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 2019 edition please submit by 31st December 2018



The 1960s 16 Signal Regiment Reunion Club

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

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