

Bradbury Mercury



Our Chairperson's Message

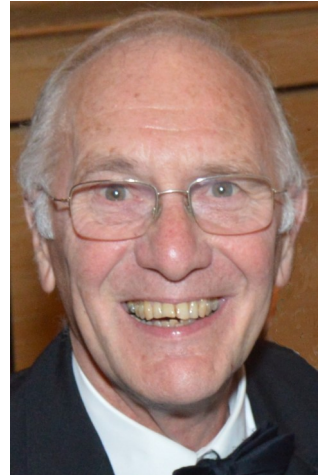
Another six months have flown by and I hope this finds you all in good health.

The committee have been busy behind the scenes since the last reunion and held a meeting at The Rendezvous Hotel in Skipton in May to discuss the Constitution and Roles of the Committee. There were two separate documents which, in places, contradicted themselves so we decided to combine them into one clear document. We intend to propose the amendments at the next AGM and I have asked Iain to include a copy of the amended document in the Mercury for

members' information.

Sheila and I hope you are enjoying the summer and look forward to seeing you all again in Bournemouth. For those who are going to the Bournemouth

reunion, there will be a small cost to cover the coach trip and entry fees to the the Royal Signals Museum of £15 per person. Please confirm with Dave Walker if you wish to go on the trip.



Chris Abbott

Posted on Facebook by Stuart Herrington RSigs(Rtd).

With no apologies to Reme who must have got the wrong recruiter.

On the day I attended the Army Selection Centre, I was able to spell my name... this exempted me from the Royal Pioneer Corps.

I had also washed shaved and could speak a known language...so Infantry Units were ruled out. I explained to the Interviewer that as I could mend a puncture on a bicycle, so overqualified for the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers.

I had no desire to jump out of a perfectly good aircraft, so the Parachute Regiment was out too.

I knew the name of my father, so the Royal Military Police were also out of the question.

I had turned up with the right kit at the right place at the right time... so the Royal Corps of Transport was

pointless. I disliked the thought of sitting in a metal box with four or more smelly men, playing cards all day, so this ruled me out of the Tankies.

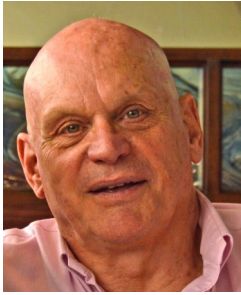
I explained I could boil an egg without burning the water, so Army Catering Corps was also out of the question. He asked me if I liked girls and as I had one or two on the go, I said I did, and he struck me off the Army Air Corps.

I could count to more than five, so no Royal Army Ordnance Corps. As I liked a drink or maybe a lot to drink, the Royal Engineers was put to one side, quick smart.

So, with a sigh, he duly opened his top drawer and took out a large golden envelope. It was marked "For Issue to The Most Magnificent Bastards Only" and he gave it to me.

There and then I enlisted into Her Majesty's Royal Corps of Signals and behold a Signaller was Born!!!! and I never regretted a single day.....

Iain's Ramblings



Hi All, Me again. You will see a report by Rita on page 26, makes for an interesting read. I must also thank Rita for being my proof-reader for the Magazine. You can miss mistakes etcetera when looking at the screen but these can be more easily picked up when you read the printed document.

So how shall I begin. During the last six months I kept having the oddest thoughts jump to prominence in my mind.. Oh Yes! do I have a mind. During the current heat spell (for Scotland that is any day when the temperature is above 15 Deg C, with light rain and no wind) I wore my shorts when going to the Gym. I remembered that I always wore shorts till I went to Secondary School. Or in my case Shawlands Academy. Two things I remember about moving up to the big school. First I arrived a day late, well I had a good reason. They had put the wrong date on my letter. It was a standard form letter with the date being typed in, maybe by a distracted clerk. The second was I turned up wearing short trousers. All of my friends wore long trousers. So mum had to get me new kit. I had wanted to play rugby for ages because my Uncle Sandy (Mum's brother) had played when he was at the Academy. I duly turned up for the first practice where the PE Teacher Mr McKnight put me in as a prop due to my lack of height (4ft11inch). That was my position till I left school. By then I was 6ft tall and a muscled sprinter/hurdler. In fact it was my main position in the Signals. But I also played in the following positions. Stand off, Scrum Half, Winger, Centre, Full Back and Wing Forward. Before Rita had her latest visit to the Hospital I had doing a lot of Family Tree Research. I have had help from two of my cousins. Found a few unusual job titles that I had to look up. Looks like an article for the next Mercury. Have any of you readers looked up your Family Tree? I found a lot of sadness as well as a pile of memories

which made me recall things I had forgotten about. My Dad's Sister got married and I remember going to the Reception. I thought it was 1950 but when I looked it up the actual date I found out that it had taken place in 1948. I was only 3 years age. Friends keep asking me how I remember these things. I can still remember my sign up and discharge dates. Also I can spout all my postings, courses etc. The trouble comes when I try to recall exact dates since I left the service. On Mayday 1995 I had to go to my doctor, my left leg was swollen around the knee joint. This was attributed to my knee operation in 1980 when I had part of my knee joint break off during a hurdle race. This also the year of our first trip to the USA. I now look at my passports for the entry stamps to find out when and where we have been. Well I know where went it is just the date and year etcetera.. Well that's it for July. I will print these pages off so that we can proof read to find all the mistakes.

Iain Haldane



This is the last flowering rose from our garden for the month of July 2019.

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A Love Story not separated by Death on the Battlefield

Not every love story has a happy ending. This is especially true of love that blossoms in wartime. In fact, many such love stories end tragically in death as the couples in the love stories are separated not only by the war but by many thousands of miles.



Ellen Gibson
 1915 — 2009



Robert Bell Hannay
 1914 — 1944

This is a story of love and marriage that stretched across 5,500 miles (8851Kms) across the world from the hills of Scotland to the hills of Nagaland. It is a story that took a young man across the sea in the company of tens of thousands of other young men from the United Kingdom to join with other tens of thousands of young men from India who then fought to the death with tens of thousands of young men from Japan.

It is also the story of a young woman who followed her husband from the west of Scotland down to middle England and who then followed his memory across the same 5,500 miles to kneel by his grave on the war torn hillside of the Kohima Ridge on Christmas Day 1945. Ellen Gibson was born at 14 Beechgrove Street, Glasgow on 22nd April 1915. She was the 6th Child of James Gibson, an iron driller and Ellen Gibson. Ellen met Robert (Bob) Bell Hannay at a local dance and after the appropriate courtship, they married on the 23rd August 1938 at Saint Mark's church in Glasgow. Robert was born in 1914 and at the time of his marriage to Ellen, he worked in a tobacco warehouse. Ellen was a clerk at a leather curriers. They started their married life together in their house in a district of Glasgow.

At the outbreak of war Bob Hannay immediately volunteered to serve his country and joined the Queens Own Cameron Highlanders and as 2937501 Private Hannay, he went off to war. Private Hannay used to use his contacts at the tobacco warehouse to obtain scarce pipe tobacco for the battalion padre. The Padre's favourite blend of tobacco was "Three Nuns".

Eventually, in May of 1942, Bob Hannay and his battalion, a part of the 5th British Infantry Brigade of the 2nd British Infantry Division landed in India. After much training in jungle warfare to learn the methods and tactics required to defeat the extraordinary fighting skills of the versatile soldiers of the Imperial Japanese forces, Bob Hannay moved to the front line.

It was on 18th March 1944, that the 2nd Division were ordered to concentrate at a small town called Dimapur in north east India. This required the approximate 16,000 men of the British 2nd Infantry Division to advance across some 2000 miles of India from the Belgaum area in the South west to Dimapur in the North east. There was a degree of urgency on this move as the Japanese 31st Division had already crossed the Chindwin River and were advancing rapidly westwards. They also totalled about 16,000 men but **they** only had just over 100 miles to travel. The orders given to the 31st Division Commander, Lieutenant General Kotoku Sato were simple – He was to cut the Dimapur/Imphal road to prevent reinforcements and supplies reaching Imphal and he was to keep it closed. He was to cut the road at a small hill station called Kohima.

The orders given to Major General John Malcolm Laurence Grover MC were equally simple. He was to open the Dimapur/Imphal Road to allow reinforcements and supplies to reach Imphal His Division was to advance to Dimapur and fight their way up the road to lift the Siege of Kohima and from there they were to gain control of the Kohima – Imphal road to allow reinforcements and supplies to get down to the beleaguered IV Corps at Imphal.

The first of the 2nd Division formations to arrive at Dimapur was the 5th Brigade, with the 1st Queens Own Cameron Highlanders, with Lance/Serjeant Robert Bell Hannay. They began their advance up the road towards Kohima. At milestone 37 near the village of Zubza, the 5th Brigade came into contact with the Japanese who occupied a position now known as Bunker Hill. On the 14th April 1944, in the process of successfully removing the Japanese from this position, the Queens Own Cameron Highlanders suffered a number of casualties. Amongst them was Lance Serjeant Robert Bell Hannay – Killed in Action!

The agony felt by Ellen Hannay can only be imagined as she eventually received the dreaded black edged telegram informing her in a necessary impersonal way that her beloved husband Bob was now lying dead in a foreign field 5,500 miles from her. She had joined the already large and growing band of war widows from countries around the globe. What could she do now? How could she reach her fallen hero? Ellen gave up her job as a clerk and joined the Woman's Voluntary Service (WVS) and contrived to get herself posted to the far east where at wars end, she assisted with the repatriation of the Prisoners of War back to the UK. By sheer persistence Ellen managed to get herself up to Kohima where she was probably the first British War Widow to visit the Kohima War Cemetery which at the time was still undergoing construction. Ellen Hannay never remarried and although she travelled widely, she still managed to visit the grave of her beloved husband Bob another 8 times. Because of the tense political situation that existed, each time she visited, she had to undergo extensive bureaucratic delays before she could travel to Kohima sometimes for as long as 7 days. She persisted and was successful each time. Because of her visits to Kohima, so remote from her home and so difficult to travel to in those days,



Kohima – 25th December 1945

she became friends of the Cemetery caretaker and his family. Perhaps in her own small way she helped to ease the tensions.

Ellen died in 2009. She had long expressed a wish for her cremated remains would be placed by her husband's grave at Kohima. Her nephew Jim Gibson had a mission. This was to take his aunt's ashes to Kohima and to inter them in the grave of her husband. First of all, Jim had to gain permission from the Indian Government, then the state government of Nagaland. In addition, he had to seek the permission of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. He also had to get permission from the airline to transport his Aunt's remains.

This was achieved and in company with the standard bearer of the Royal British Legion, Ellen Hannay, with due and solemn ceremony, was at last reunited with her husband, Robert Bell Hannay, 67 years after they parted.



Grave reference 5 – J - 3

BEATAE MEMORIAE: QUIS NOS SEPARABIT
Of Blessed Memory: Who shall separate us?

There is only one answer to that

“NIHIL ET NEMO”

“NOTHING AND NO ONE”



Jim Gibson – Centre. Kohima War Cemetery 2009



**Memorial to the
Queens Own Cameron Highlanders 1944**

Many thanks to Jim Gibson (Nephew of Ellen Hannay nee' Gibson) & the Kohima Museum, York for allowing The Bradbury Mercury to publish this Article.

Comy Dad Jokes We're Embarrassed to Admit Made Us Laugh

A ham sandwich walks into a bar and orders a beer.

The bartender says, "I'm sorry, we don't serve food here."

How many apples grow on a tree?
All of them.

I just watched a program about beavers.
It was the best dam program I've ever seen.

What do you call a fake noodle?
An impasta.

Kid: 'I'll call you later.'

Dad: "Don't call me Later—call me Dad.

What did the grape do when he got stepped on?

He let out a little wine.

Grocery store cashier to Dad: 'Would you like the milk in a bag?'

Dad: "No, just leave it in the carton!"

Two goldfish are in a tank.

One says to the other, "Do you know how to drive this thing?"

A furniture store keeps calling me.
All I wanted was one nightstand.

What do you call a fish with no eyes?
A fsssshhhh.

What did the pirate say on his 80th birthday?

"Ayy matey!"

Kid: 'Dad, what's this movie about?'

Dad: "It's about two hours."

I used to be addicted to the 'Hokey Pokey.'
But then I turned myself around.

Guess what time the man went to the dentist.

Tooth hurt-y.

I can cut wood by just looking at it.
It's true! I saw it with my own eyes.

Did you hear about the guy who invented Life Savers?

They say he made a mint!

Me: 'Dad, make me a sandwich!'

Dad: 'Poof, You're a sandwich!'

I heard there was a new store called Moderation.

They have everything there.

Why do crabs never give to charity?
Because they're shellfish.

A termite walks into a bar and asks,
"Is the bar tender here?"

What's the advantage of living in Switzerland?

The flag is a big plus.

How much does a hipster weigh?
An Instagram.

How do you make holy water?
You boil the hell out of it.

Why did the Clydesdale give the pony a glass of water?

Because he was a little hoarse.

I'm reading a book on the history of glue.
I can't put it down!

What do you call a cow with no legs?
Ground beef.

Kid: 'Hold on, I have something in my shoe.'

Dad: "I'm pretty sure it's a foot."

Did you hear there was an explosion at a cheese factory in France?

There was nothing left but de Brie.

Me: 'Hey, I was thinking....'

Dad: "I thought I smelled something burning."

How do you make a Kleenex dance?
Put a little boogie in it.

Two guys walk into a bar...
...the third guy ducks.

Did you hear about the restaurant on the moon?

Great food, no atmosphere.

Why don't skeletons ever go trick or treating?

Because they have *nobody* to go with.

What do you call cheese that isn't yours?
Nacho cheese.

I don't buy anything with Velcro.
It's a total rip-off.

This graveyard looks overcrowded.
People must be dying to get in there.

I thought about going on an all-almond diet.
But that's just nuts!

Did you hear about the kidnapping at
school?
It's fine; he woke up.

I needed a password that was eight
characters long.
So I picked Snow White and the seven
dwarfs.

My wife told me to stop impersonating a
flamingo.
So I had to put my foot down.

What's blue and smells like red paint?
Blue paint.

Why did they give the scarecrow a
promotion?
Because he was outstanding in his field.

I once farted on an elevator.
I was rude on so many levels.

Thoughts and Memories

Sometimes someone unexpected comes into
your life out of nowhere, makes your heart
race and changes you forever...

We call these people cops...

◆ ◆ ◆

When you do squats, are your knees
supposed to sound like a goat chewing on an
aluminium can that's stuffed with celery?

◆ ◆ ◆

I run like the winded.

◆ ◆ ◆

Don't bother walking a mile in my shoes
that would be boring. Spend 30 seconds in
my head, that'll freak you right out.

◆ ◆ ◆

I remember being able to get up without

sound effects...
Good times!

◆ ◆ ◆

My luck is like a bald guy who just won a
comb.

◆ ◆ ◆

When I ask for directions, please don't use
words like "East"

◆ ◆ ◆

The older I get the earlier it gets late.

◆ ◆ ◆

If you answer the phone with "Hello, you're
on the air!" most telemarketers will quickly
hang up...

◆ ◆ ◆

That moment when you walk into a spider
web and you suddenly turn into a karate
master!

◆ ◆ ◆

I don't remember much from last night but
the fact I needed sunglasses to open the
fridge this morning tells me it was awesome.

◆ ◆ ◆

I hate when a couple argues in public and I
missed the beginning and don't know whose
side I'm on.

◆ ◆ ◆

A Large group of people is called a "No
Thanks."

◆ ◆ ◆

I had my patience tested. I'm negative.

◆ ◆ ◆

To me "drink responsibly" means don't spill
it.

◆ ◆ ◆

Cop, "Please step out of the car."
Me, "I'm too drunk, you get in."

◆ ◆ ◆

When I say, "The other day," I could be
referring to any time between yesterday and
15 years ago.

◆ ◆ ◆

I don't mean to interrupt people; I just
randomly remember things and get really
excited.



When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.



I finally got 8 hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.



Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.



Sixty might be the new forty but 21:00 is the new midnight.



Interviewer: So, tell me about yourself.
Me: I'd rather not ... I kinda want this job.



When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why, what did you hear??"



If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"



When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing" it does not mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing.



It's the start of a brand new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.



I'm bored, I think I'll go the mall, find a great parking spot and sit in my car with the reversing lights on.



I'm sure the universe is full of intelligent life. It's just been too intelligent to come here. - Arthur C. Clarke

Office Rules.

- Never give me work in the morning. Always wait until 4:00 and then bring it to me. The challenge of a deadline is refreshing.
- If it's really a rush job, run in and interrupt me every 10 minutes to inquire about how it's going. That helps. Even better, hover behind me and advise me at every keystroke.
- Always leave without telling anyone where you're going. It gives me a chance to be creative when someone asks where you are.
- If you give me more than one job to do, don't tell me which is priority. I'm psychic.
- Do your best to keep me late. I adore this office and really have nowhere to go or anything to do. I have no life beyond work.
- If a job I do pleases you, keep it a secret. If that gets out, it could mean a promotion.
- If you don't like my work, tell everyone. I like my name to be popular in conversations. I was born to be whipped.
- If you have special instructions for a job, don't write them down. In fact, save them until the job is almost done. No use confusing me with useful information.
- Never introduce me to the people you're with. I have no right to know anything. In the corporate food chain, I am plankton. When you refer to them later, my shrewd deductions will identify them.
- Be nice to me only when the job I'm doing for you could really change your life and send you straight to manager's hell.
- Tell me all your little problems. No one else has any and it's nice to know someone is less fortunate. I especially like the story about having to pay so many taxes on the bonus check you received for being such a good manager.
- Wait until my yearly review and then tell me what my goals should have been. Give me a mediocre performance rating with a cost of living increase. I'm not here for the money anyway."

Being the only Matelot in the Association and up against so many talented communicators I put this review in your magazine in an effort to gird your loins to try the same.

I, in my wisdom, at the time, thought way back in the early part of 2019 to do something special on my eightieth birthday in May of this year. My original plan was to row the Amazon River but after exploring that avenue I found the cost exorbitant being in excess of ten thousand pounds, and the time too long at nearly six months. It would have involved Anne flying out a couple of times and it just was too ridiculous to pursue that avenue.



Bill before the jump.

I settled on a Sky Dive. A tandem Sky Dive. And the more I thought about it decided that was the ideal way to raise money for the Royal British Legion, Axminster Branch, and satisfy my need to remember my eightieth? *Why in the heck would anyone want to celebrate getting old, I ask myself?*

I settled for the 17th May but due to low cloud and high winds the jump was postponed until the 22nd May, at 10:00. Which suited me as it meant I could sleep easy for another few days as the nerves started to fray at the edges from all the stories I had started to hear about a jump.

The day came, Anne drove me to the Jump Zone. Sky Buzz, Dunkeswell Airport, Dunkeswell, Devon. The airfield used by the Canadians, Americans and British during World War Two. This is a going concern today and houses a business complex, a flying school and of course the jump centre. There are two restaurants on the airfield and we use the main one, The Aviator, for Sunday lunches, pensioners huc hum get a discount you see? I digress.

After a signing in, settling the invoice reality began to set in that I was committed to do this jump, my back in other words was against the wall, no escape. I was taken to a little wooden hut, just as if it were 1940 and in the war years. The tea urn in the corner and quite a few chipped cups and saucers lay about. I was sure the chips were from people's nerves and shakes clipping cup against saucer when trying to be suave, calm and collected. A few old leather chairs dotted about in front of a huge television that was locked onto SKY BUZZ Dunkeswell. Sheesh! this was getting to be no joke anymore? After a very brief security, Health n' Safety brief, and what language would be used in the aeroplane, and in flight, because voice contact would be impossible due to the aircraft noise and the wind noise when in flight, plus the leather helmet would be too tight to allow you to hear. I was taken to another War building to be fitted with a suit, helmet, gloves and eye protection goggles. And asked to pick a coloured stick from a jar. This I did taking Yellow, this denoted what/who I would have strapped to my back, and what colour parachute, so that family friends and Anne, would know which one was me of the five going up, when coming down. I was lucky I picked an instructor who had done over two thousand jumps, was big, strong as a horse and was gentle with it. I now felt safe and calmed down from gabbling like a blithering idiot, to everyone, Anne included. My only problem I had



at this stage was my tandem was scruffily bearded and I just hoped no kiss of life was going to be involved. I might be a sailor but there are limits? I then met my personal photographer and proceeded to be interviewed on camera, yes, the ugly one in the yellow suit is me? After that the airplane was the next step and I had no fears as Tandem Chappy just picked me up and threw me into plane saying "Too, Late now old chum." I quickly wanted to remind him I was

not his chum and not old but thought better of that....you see the brain was starting to work again. A fifteen-minute flight to 15,000 feet, about a bit over three miles up, this bothered me as



we were above the clouds. During this period of flight, I was again checked over for safety reasons, reminded of the hand tapping, knee squeezing orders and then the door opened. My photographer went out of the plane and stood on a ledge and I was pushed forward into a kneeling position and I thought of the guillotine at that moment. I may very well have wished it was a guillotine, I am not sure?

Then I was tapped on the shoulder and fell into an open space of mayhem. After ten seconds of free fall, my brain was scrambled, my body knowing nothing but the rushing air and an awful sense of falling to nowhere.... Was it just my head? Was there a guillotine? Where were my legs in relation to my head? What else at 125 MPH Ten seconds, one mile then another tap and the chute opened to bring me to an immediate halt and proceeding to throw me thirty foot into the air, where I had just come from, I might add, completely out of control, my genitals falling out of my plimsoles and all I saw was this package that had been with me for eighty years disappearing into the distant yonder, (and without a parachute) "Goodbye my life" I shouted to them. Hells bells that wasn't in the rule book, and my stomach going somewhere else.



Smile! You are on Camera.

But then this calm, this eerie quietness took over, I was taught how to fly the 'chute and for two minutes did just that. I could see Bristol, Wales, Penzance and the French coast line. This was awesome, this floating in what seemed a cocoon of sun, green fields and absolute heavenly quietness. This was worth doing the jump and the next seven to eight minutes was terrific. Floating about above the earth. The tandem bearded giant then said with taps

again, we are going for landing and to me the speed of approach made me think, Australia here we come, I'll be legless but don't worry it won't affect you, another tap on my thighs, meaning lift legs and we rose a couple of feet to be then deposited onto my posterior, as gentle as a feather. My words to the camera were: "That was brilliantly awesome."

If you haven't done it and want to remember a birthday, a certain age then I would say go for it.... BUT then, I would as I have done it, and got back safely. Of the 120, 000 jumps in the past two years there has never been an accident or a problem with safety, which is a priority, thorough out the pre, and flight itself. and never been a problem at this jump zone. Seriously the only words I can summon to explain the experience is "Spectacularly awesome."



Bill after the jump.

Would I do it again Yes! **most definitely.**

If you want to see this awesome flight click on the link below.

https://www.skydiveukltd.com/tandem-skydive-experience/2019-05-22_William-Sheppard

Bill Sheppard

My meeting with Mrs Theresa May the U.K Prime Minister.



I was asked by the local Conservatives that as a member of the Party, would I like to attend a Reception with the Prime Minister Mrs Theresa May, I jumped at the chance.

The reception was held on Thursday 25th April 2019 at Ramsbottom Cricket Club 17:15pm to 18:30pm.

When the PM arrived, she stopped and spoke to me. I introduced myself as a Veteran of the Royal Signals and a member of the 60s-16ers reunion Club.

The PM thanked me for my service and I asked her to please never let the country forget all its Veterans and Serving Forces Personnel.

Kerry Stylianou

Minutes of the 60s 16ers Reunion Club AGM

**Held at the Belfry Hotel, Thame, Oxfordshire
On Sunday 21st October 2018**

The meeting was opened at 10:30hrs by the Chairman, Chris Abbott, who welcomed both members and guests.

1. Apologies, Welcomes, and Bereavements.

Apologies were received from:

John & Ann Deas

Andy & Marion Heame,

Des & Sue Roberts

Bill & Flis Jack

John & Ann Hodkin,

Gwen & Ted Theis

Charley & Margaret Whickham.

Welcome to our new members attending: Brian & Barbara Peel.

Bereavements: None.

2. Minutes of the 2017 AGM

The Minutes of the 2016 AGM were approved.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Chris Abbott, thanked all attending members and the committee for their continuous support. Chris also thanked Tom Watt for his excellent work in organising this year's reunion.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Lyn Aldous, stated that the bank balance has remained steady at about £4,000. We had 110 paid up members last year and will possibly have 100 this coming year, which equates to £1,000 income. This plus the raffle, which is usually about £300, should cover any reunion expenses. There were several donations in the year to charities and these were explained to the membership. The Treasurer also mentioned that several gifts and cards had been sent to members who had been ill, but we could only send these if we were informed of an illness. The Almoner Bill White reiterated this. Lyn informed us that Club's charity donation this year will go to Haig Housing.

Income and Expenditure to 31 December 2017**Income**

Subscriptions	£1,480.00	
Raffle		£486.51
Donations*		£109.96
Total income	£2,076.47	£2,076.47

Expenditure

Reunion entertainment	£900.00	
Guest accommodation	£206.00	
Reunion prizes	£14.00	
Photo album printing	£28.30	
Website	£34.00	
Secretary expenses 2 years	£89.96	
Treasurer's expenses stamps/stat	£10.50	
Bereavement/flowers etc.	£280.55	
Erskine donation	£200.00	
Moonwalk donation	£100.00	
Broughton House donation	£200.00	
RBL wreath	£18.50	
Total expenditure	£2,081.81	£2,081.81
Loss in year		-£5.34
Add opening bank balance		£4,389.21

Money at bank 1 January 2018**£4,383.87**

Donations*	
Reme & Sue in lieu of Christmas cards	£30.00
Caroline Addison	£50.00
Pete Weedon	£20.00
Kerry Stylianou	£9.96

6. Secretary's Report

The Secretary, Kerry Stylianou, had nothing extra to report, other than to read out a letter from he had received from John Deas.

7. Entertainment Co-ordinator's Report

Dave Aldous thanked all who had helped with the organisation and preparations for the reunion.

Dave asked the members if they wished to continue with the Sunday themed night as he felt it had now run its course. He asked for a show of hands and as only six

members voted to continue it was decided that people were welcome to dress up if they wished but there would no longer be a themed night.

8. Mercury Editor's Report

Iain Haldane asked that all content for the magazine be sent to him in good time and that any photographs to be included within the text of articles should also be sent separately to assist him with editing and publishing.

9. Webmaster's Report

Ted Hebden pointed out that the Secretary now has control of enabling or blocking people from the website. He also pointed out the new calendar on the website which members may update if they so wished.

10. RSA & Welfare Almoner's Update

Bill White spoke in detail about a number of Almoner and RSA issues and events. He also outlined current planning and progress on the Corp's Centenary Celebrations for 2020. Some diary dates are:

29 February Salisbury Service of Thanksgiving

12 May London Centenary Officers' Dinner

27 June Blandford Centenary Review

August (dates tbc) Edinburgh Military Tattoo (Pipes & Drums)

5 September Alrewas NMA Re-dedication

7 November London Service of Remembrance

8 November London Cenotaph Parade

11. Election of Officers

The Chairman thanked Kerry Stylianou for having completed his three year term as Secretary.

As there were no proposals for the position, Hazel Hebden volunteered to become the new Secretary.

Kerry will continue working on the sub-committee as the Membership Co-ordinator.

12. Venue for 2019 Reunion

There were five proposals for the 2019 reunion.

Iain Haldane proposed The Crown Plaza in Glasgow and Stirling Court Hotel in Stirling.

Kerry Stylianou proposed the Novotel in Manchester.

Noreen Dixon proposed Warner Cricket St Thomas Hotel in Chard.

Dave Walker proposed The Royale Hotel in Bournemouth.

Following a vote by the members, Bournemouth was the winning venue for 2019.

All details will be published on the website as when they become available.

13. Any Other Business

Peter Crane proposed that, as most of the membership were now retired, we should also consider holding our Reunions midweek.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12:35 pm.

Thomas Carlyle (1795 – 1885) was most famous in the Victorian era, when he was known for his dense, thoughtful books on history and philosophy. The son of a strict Calvinist, Carlyle became a divinity student at Edinburgh University but eventually left school and turned to writing instead. He developed a stomach ailment, possibly gastric ulcers, which stayed with him all his life and helped give him a reputation as a cranky and somewhat disagreeable personality. His prose style, famously quirky and sometimes savage, helped cement that reputation. His made a splash in 1833 with the publication of the semi-autobiographical *Sartor Resartus* ("The Tailor Re-Tailored"). Other major works included his three-part history *The French Revolution* (1837), the six-volume *History of Frederick the Great* (1858-65), and his 1847 collection of Oliver Cromwell's letters and speeches. He also devised a series of public lectures culminating in his book *Heroes and Hero-Worship*, which still is regarded as a key text on the subject. (His fascination with heroes and strong leaders has given him a reputation as anti-democratic.) In 1827 he married Jane Baille Welsh, herself brilliant and difficult, and their 40-year marriage is remembered as a tempestuous affair.



Extra credit

Carlyle was the victim of a famous misfortune after writing the first volume of *The French Revolution*. He entrusted the manuscript to his friend John Stuart Mill for review; shortly afterwards, Mill's maid mistook the manuscript for trash paper and burned it. Carlyle was forced to rewrite the entire volume from scratch.

He was born in **Ecclefechan**, Scotland. This is your test for the Reunion. I would like to hear you pronounce **Ecclefechan** correctly.

As you can see from the treatment of Thomas Carlyle's Statue in Kelvingrove Park, Glaswegians like to see our various heroes modernised. For example, see what they do to the Duke of Wellington.

The equestrian Wellington Statue is a statue of Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, located on Royal Exchange Square in Glasgow, Scotland. It is located outside the Gallery of Modern Art near the end of Ingram Street. The statue was sculpted by Italian artist Carlo Marochetti and erected in 1844. Capping the statue with a traffic cone has become a traditional practice in the city, claimed to represent the humour of the local population and believed to date back to the first half of the 1980s, if not before. The statue is a Category-A listed monument, and is one of Glasgow's most iconic landmarks. Due to minor damage and the potential for injury that the placing of cones involves, the practice had been discouraged by Glasgow City Council and Strathclyde Police. In 2011 the Lonely Planetguide included the statue in its list of the "top 10 most bizarre monuments on Earth."



In a bid to reduce the cost of removing traffic cones from the statue, alleged to be £10,000 a year, Glasgow City Council put forward plans in November 2013 to double the height of its plinth as part of a £65,000 restoration project. The plans were withdrawn after widespread public opposition, spearheaded by a Facebook campaign called "Keep the Cone" (that accumulated more than 72,000 likes within 24 hours) started by Scottish musician Raymond Hackland and Glaswegian photographer Steven Allan. An online petition defending the cone received over 10,000 signatures. As the council indicated that action against the practice could still be considered, National Collective organised a rally in defence of the cone. In 2015, Glasgow City Council tested hi-tech CCTV software worth £1.2m by checking to see whether it could automatically detect people putting cones on the statue, which it could.

Oor Wullie's BIG Bucket Trail



How many of you remember the Beano and the Dandy comics? Were you allowed even allowed to have comics, or did you wish for a torch, so you read them under the bedclothes when you were supposed to be asleep? D.C Thompson is based in Dundee. Learned this at primary school and I have never ever forgotten, Dundee is famous for the Three J's, Jute, Jam and Journalism.

The first comic Mum let me read was The Eagle. Well she or my Dad bought it for me. I do remember that it was founded by a Vicar. Maybe that was the seal of approval for my Mum. N.B. Up here it is Mum or Maw if you are uncouth. I know I was younger than seven when I first got my hands on one. The Beano and Dandy were the other well known comics of the day. I have no idea of when I read my first Dandy or Beano, but I remember that I preferred the Beano. D.C Thompson also published one of my favourite papers for Sunday reading. i.e. The Sunday Post. In that was published the Comic Series of Oor Wullie and the Broon's. N.B. Not Our William or The Brown's. Annuals of the Oor Wullie and the Broon's were published every alternate year just in time for Christmas. Nowadays both Annuals are published every year.

Oor Wullie

He's the iconic wee Scottish laddie from the fictional town of Auchenshoogle, and some say the image of Wullie sitting on his upturned bucket, wearing his famous black dungarees is as familiar to Scots as Edinburgh Castle!



This year they are doing an Oor Wullie's BIG Bucket Trail. This is the first ever nationwide public art trail, on the streets of Scotland's cities for 11 weeks from 17th June to the 30th August.

Charities Supported

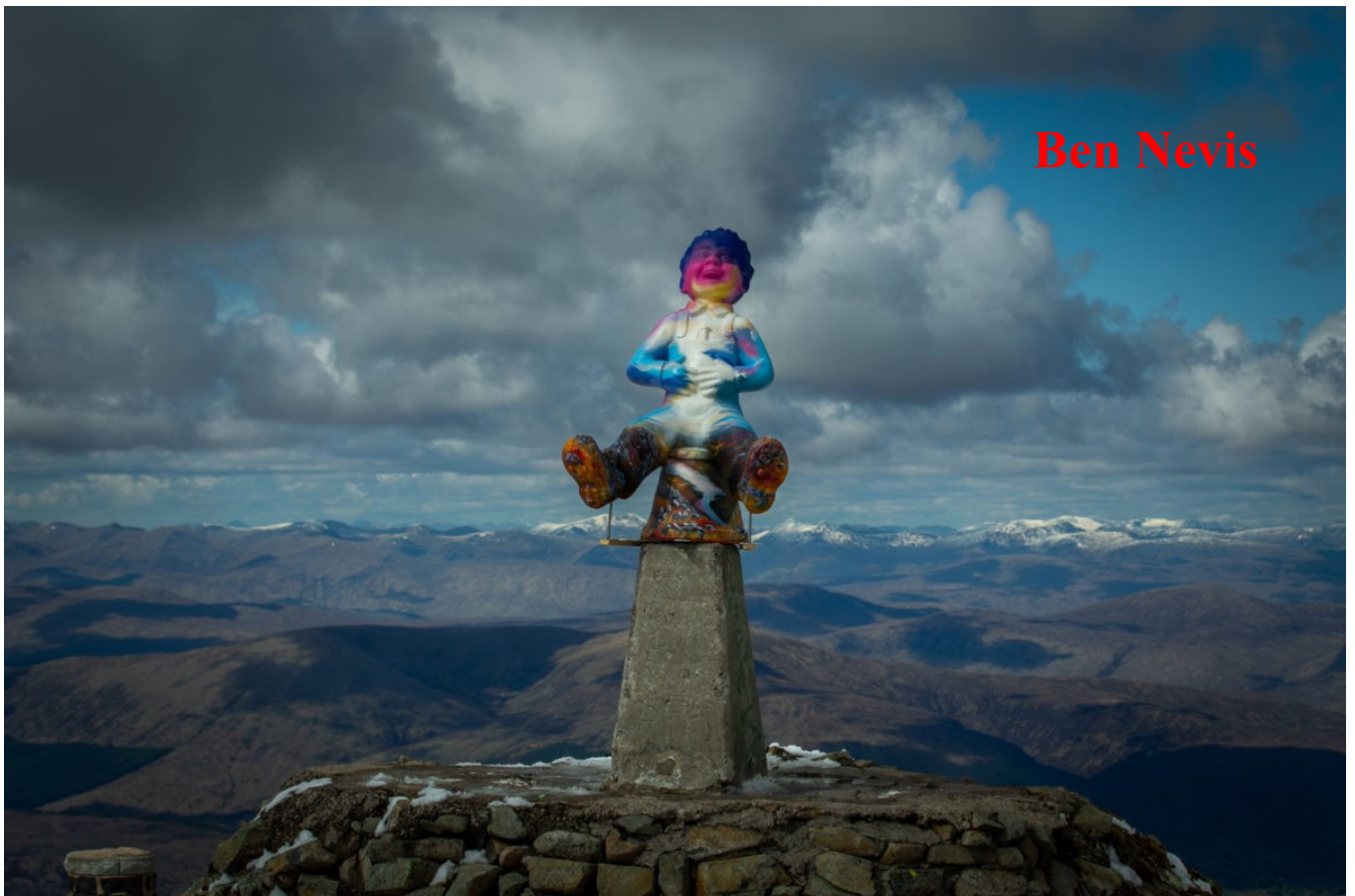
Funds raised through the trail will support Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity, Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity and the ARCHIE Foundation, helping children in hospital across the country.

I have scattered some of the 200 large and 350 small Oor Wullie creations.

Check the web site at: <https://www.oorwullie.com/> to see all 350.



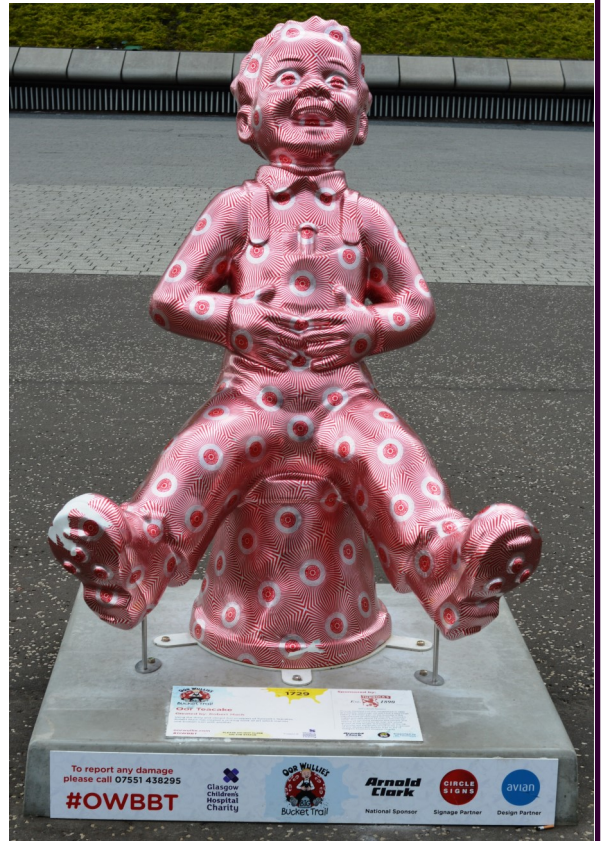
Oor Sherlock Holmes



Ben Nevis



Glasgow Galaxy
A Baseball Team



Oor Teacake
Like Tunnocks!



Oor Weeyins Banter



Oor Wellington



Wullie the Rascal



Oor Andy
Like Young Mr Murray

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION – CENTENARY UPDATE

TIER ONE EVENTS

Srl	Name of Event	Lead	Key Dates	Description of Event	Update	Remarks
1	Service of Celebration	Corps RSM	Sat 29 Feb 20	A cathedral based Service in Salisbury Cathedral. This will be led by the Chaplain General. A marquee will be used for catering for guests.	Second meeting with Cathedral staff has taken place with the involvement of 3 (UK) DSR staff. All positive. The task has now passed to the Corps RSM.	RSAs are invited to attend and send a contingent (noting that numbers are still to be confirmed). The event will start the 'official' Centenary celebrations and is expected to have VVIP attendance. The event will be free to attend but T&S costs will lie where they fall.
2	Corps 100 London Dinner	President Dinner Club/ Asst Regt Sec.	12 May 2020	A large Corps Dinner in the Grosvenor Hotel for all officers (3Rs). Will include partners and will have VVIP attendance.	Negotiations complete and booking confirmed.	I would really appreciate driving attendance at this event to the full. The dinner includes partners and the aim is to get 2000 people sitting down to dinner! To achieve this, we need 'local champions' to drive awareness of the event.
3	Corps Weekend 2020 and Corps Review	Blandford Gar Comd	27/28 Jun 20	This will take the form of an enhanced Corps weekend and will include a march through Blandford on the Sunday.	Plan now endorsed by Master of Signals. New plan with costings has been produced.	You all know this event well and please encourage as many as possible to attend. It will be bigger and better for the centenary; including VVIP attendance.
4	Project 204	Corps RSM	Over the weekend of 29/30 Aug 20.	A music festival type event for the whole Corps family.	1. Endorsed by the Master of Signals. 2. Guidance on scale and structure given by the Corps Committee.	This event is still in the planning stages, but the intent is to have a huge family extravaganza with headline bands and a weekend of fun.
5	Service of Remembrance at the NMA	Asst Regt Sec (support by 37 Sig Regt).	Sat 5 Sep 20.	Based on the annual NMA ceremony but larger. It is confirmed that 37 Sig Regt will do the support for the event from now on including 2020. They will be supported by 1 Sig Regt as required.	New visitor centre booked, to be used to supply light refreshments (tea, coffee, etc) after the service.	Again, an event that you all know well and are encouraged to attend. Let's make the Centenary NMA event the largest yet!
6	Corps Centenary Book	Nick Kendal-Carpenter	Publication date likely to be April 2020.	Produce a DK "coffee table" type book describing the history of the Corps	The text of the first 4 chapters is out for comment.	This will be an excellent update to the Corps' history and will be very competitively priced. The 'Dorling Kindersley' style will make it an excellent read for all ages!!

TIER 2 EVENTS

Srl	Name of Event	Lead	Key Dates	Description of Event	Update	Remarks
1	Participation in the Festival of Remembrance	71 Sig Regt		Ask for R SIGNALS to be the Lead Contingent of about 30 pers.		Once involvement has been confirmed we will get more detail out to you.
2	Participation in the Centaph Service.	Regt Sec	Nov 20	Request to have a larger contingent (150?) and to be lead contingent.	Email sent to RBL asking for advice on how to proceed.	Once involvement has been confirmed we will get more detail out to you.
3	Fovant Badges Society (FBS) Drumhead Service	Regt Secretary (4 Sqn 11 Sig Regt to support)	Jul 20	The Corps will take the lead for the annual drumhead service. Master of Signals will be invited to give an address.		Once involvement has been confirmed we will get more detail out to you.
4	Centenary Stamp Cover	Nick Kendal-Carpenter		There will be a first edition for both the date of the formation of the Corps and for the date of the granting of the Royal Warrant.		Will be made available through the Corps Museum.
5	Scottish Dinner	Maj Dick		Part of the Dinner Club events and will be held in Glasgow.	Will be held end of Oct beginning of Nov 2020	Open to the 3Rs community.

TIER 3 EVENTS

Srl	Name of Event	Lead	Description of Event	Update	Remarks
1	Special commemorative edition of the Journal	Editor, Journal	Production of a high-quality commemorative edition of the Journal, drawing old articles on a theme together in one volume (suggested theme: The Future)		
2	Centenary Gin	Capt Luke	Produce a Centenary Gin	Three options will be available.	Individually numbered bottles. Available through mail order.
3	Centenary Beer	WO2 Muers	Produce a Centenary Beer	A selection of three beers are now available via the brewery.	Craft beers. Available now. Will be on sale during the Corps weekend.
4	Centenary Wine	Lt Col Mason	Produce a Centenary Wine		Possibilities still being investigated but will include a sparkling wine.

Royal Signals App for IOS and Android.

Follow link and scroll down to the bottom of the web page and the picture shown below will appear just like magic.

<https://royalsignals.org/about-royal-signals/>

Royal Signals App

If you are a serving or retired member of the Royal Corps of Signals, or have an interest in the organisation, download this app to keep in touch. Use the app to stay connected to social events, sports fixtures and keep up to date with the latest offers and opportunities.

Having this app on your phone will mean that for the first time, you will be able to get instant notifications from Corps Appointments/Personalities, the RSA & the Royal Signals Museum.

Key features include: 360 Tour, Videos, Events, Push notifications.

To download, iOS users can scan the QR code with either the camera on their phone or QR Code reader. Android users can type 'Royal Signals' into Google Play Store or scan QR Code.



QR CODE

Use this QR code and download the Royal Signals App today!

Can't Scan, No Problem, Download It Here! – <https://askquickly.org/qr.php>

If You Are Having Any Problems Signing Up To The App, Please See This Handy PDF – Trust App

Alternatively you can Download the App direct from the Apple Store or Google Play Store.

CONSTITUTION OF THE 60S-16ERS AND ROLES OF THE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

1. Name

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

2. Formation

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

3. 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:

- a. 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.
- b. By encouraging those who served with 16 Signal Regiment within the above years, all ranks, services and support, to become a member of the 60s-16ers.
- c. By holding annual reunions in a place decided upon by a democratic vote at an Annual General Meeting ("AGM") by that membership present and by proxy votes.

4. The Executive Committee

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

- a. Term of office shall be 3 years and the chair and vice-chair will retire in different years.
- b. Retiring Committee members may be re-elected without re-nomination.
- c. Committee members will be nominated from those members present (or represented) at an Annual General Meeting.
- d. No two officers shall live in the same household.

Chairman/lady

The Chairman/lady will:

- Be responsible for representing the Association at all events, chairing General and Committee Meetings and leadership of the association.
- Undertake to always act in the best interest of the association and will have final say of matters relating to the running and membership of the association.
- Be guided by the wishes of the membership and when it is felt necessary will arrange for more complicated and controversial issues to go to a vote at the AGM (time permitting).
- Endeavour to keep the membership fully informed of issues relating to the Club and will liaise with other committee members to that end.
- Oversee and advise those people undertaking roles that are non-executive sub-committee roles, i.e. the Entertainments Co-ordinator, the Bradbury Mercury Editor and the Internet Webmaster.

Vice-Chair

The Vice-chair will:

- Offer advice and support the Chairman/lady.

In the event of the Chairman/lady being incapacitated and unable to continue in the role then the Vice-chair will take over until either the Chairman/lady is able to resume the role or until the next AGM where an election will take place.

Secretary

The Secretary will:

- Be responsible for preparing the 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 Treasurer over subscriptions.
- Ensure that the minutes of the AGM, which should include a copy of the association's annual accounts, are published on the website in order to keep all members up to date on issues regarding the association.
- Assist the Chairman/lady with written communication and arrange block mailing to association members when necessary.
- Keep an accurate record of the association membership and their contact details.
- Not divulge personal information to anyone other than Committee members. Any person wishing to contact other members on the database will need to go through the Membership Co-ordinator who will establish that the member is happy for personal details to be given to another individual.
- Encourage new members.

Treasurer

The Treasurer will:

- 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 Treasurer. The Treasurer shall collect and record the income and make payments in accordance with the rules in Paragraph 8 under Finances.
- Keep accurate records of all monies within the association and give an annual report to the membership at the AGM.
- Hold all bank details.
- Not make decisions regarding payments from the association's funds but will be guided by the Committee and ultimately the Chairman/lady.
- Accept annual subscriptions from members after the AGM. Those not able to attend the AGM should send payment directly to the Treasurer.
- Keep an up to date record of subscriptions paid.
- Prepare an annual budget to inform the Committee and enable financial planning for the year.

Almoner

The Almoner will:

- The Almoner is an honorary post appointed by the Chairperson.
- Acknowledge by way of cards, flowers or similar in cases of illness or death of members or any member of their families.
- Will co-ordinate with the Treasurer regarding the financing of the above duties.

5. The Non-Executive Sub-Committee

Shall consist of:

Entertainment Co-ordinator

The Entertainment Co-ordinator will be decided on a three yearly basis at the AGM by election from within the association membership.

The Entertainment Co-ordinator will:

- Be able to appoint up to four other Entertainment Sub-committee members, who may or may not be elected, to assist with organising the reunion entertainment.
- Book the required entertainment for reunion weekends in liaison with the reunion organiser and Entertainment Sub-committee.
- Liaise with the Treasurer regarding funds for entertainment.
- Liaise with the relevant hotel functions co-ordinator on health and safety matters regarding room/table decoration and entertainment issues.
- Be responsible for informing the association membership of the entertainment details in liaison with the Secretary.
- Be responsible for acquiring/purchasing all decorations required for the reunion weekend and providing the Treasurer with relevant receipts.
- Keep the Chairman/lady or Vice-chair informed on entertainment progression.

Internet Webmaster

The Internet Webmaster will:

- Maintain and upkeep/update the association website.
- Liaise with the Treasurer regarding funding for the website.

Bradbury Mercury Editor/Publisher

The Bradbury Mercury Editor/Publisher will:

- Edit and publish articles provided by the association members on a biannual basis.

6. Elections

- a. The election of the Officers and Committee shall take place at the AGM.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.

7. Finances

- a. The Annual Accounts shall be audited by an independent person in accordance with proper audit practice.
- b. The accounts shall be ratified by the association at the AGM.
- c. The property and funds of the association shall be held and administered by the Committee.
- d. 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 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.

- e. 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).
- f. The Treasurer shall work closely with the Secretary to keep a record of all new members recruited throughout the year.
- g. 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.
- h. That the association shall undertake such fund-raising activity as is deemed necessary, in order to facilitate such charitable endeavours.

8. Membership

- a. Membership shall be open to all persons who served in or with 16 Signal Regiment from 1960 to 1969, together with their current partner.
- b. Those members without a partner may bring one person as a guest for the first year and as a member for subsequent years.
- c. 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.
- d. All members may also invite 1 or 2 guests with the approval of the Chairman/lady 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.
- e. In addition honorary members may be elected by the membership at an Annual General Meeting. Currently, 2019, 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.
- f. 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.
- g. 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.
- h. Membership of the association shall terminate upon behaviour or conduct deemed unfit or unbecoming, or for non-payment of subscriptions for one calendar year.

9. Meetings

- a. The Annual General Meeting shall be held at the annual reunion.
- b. An Extraordinary General Meeting of the association shall be convened at any time by the Secretary either upon the written instructions of the Committee or upon a written request signed by no fewer than ten members of the association.

10. Affiliate

- a. 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.

Garden, Garden, Garden.

On Monday 20th May 2019 Iain and I rose as normal, had breakfast then I was chauffeured to the Gym (i.e. Iain drove the car to the Crowne Plaza.) We did our usual exercise routine, showered then went to the Hotel Bar where I had a pot of tea and Iain had his Americano. This followed by a chat with friends then we went off home for our lunch. After lunch Iain went off to B&Q to buy some builders sand to lay some slabs in the garden. I meanwhile was getting the water bottles ready for the garden. We live in the upper floor of a four-in-the-block and need to get a 100ft hose to run from the kitchen to the back garden. That raises a lot of logistic problems especially with the neighbours. So back to the tale. After Iain got back from B&Q I went down and opened my She Shed. Iain took the water and the sand out to the garden. I was feeling cold although it was a warm afternoon. Iain said if you are feeling cold go back upstairs so off, I went. I then parked myself on the sofa, next thing I remember was waking up in the hospital.

Iain.

I worked in the garden and laid 3 slabs, tidied up, closed the She Shed and went back upstairs to see how Rita was doing. She said she was still cold, so I got her a blanket. She also put on my big fleece hoody. By now it was around 4 o'clock. Tried to wake her up to see what she wanted for Tea. (Tea Scottish term for Dinner, Supper or main evening meal.) Could not make any sense of her replies. By now she was getting very warm. I then called 999 and asked for an Ambulance. They asked all the questions to determine the seriousness of my call. An ambulance turned up and were very helpful. Rita's initial diagnosis was a serious chest infection and she needed to be taken to A&E. I followed them to A&E and waited for a while in one of the family waiting rooms. Around about 3:30 I was told that Rita was awake I could go and see her. We chatted for a bit and the Nurse said that Rita was being admitted to the Acute Receiving Unit (ARU) for further tests to see what the problem was. By now it was about 4:30 a.m. on the Tuesday. The nurse said I should go and get some sleep and come back in the afternoon. So off I went home to bed. I packed a bag of all the necessities Rita would need for her initial stay and went back to the ARU and located Rita. First thing she said to me was, "Would you like my other sandwich?". She had been given two pack for lunch but could only eat one. She told me that she was scheduled for a scan in about an hour. Pointed out that her right leg was bright red from ankle to just below the knee. The Nurse had drawn a mark



around the stain so that it could be monitored to see if it got bigger or smaller. Just before Rita was due to go for the scan, I said I would go back home and get the extra items Rita said she wanted. I was planning on returning around 7 p.m. The phone rang about 5:30 p.m. It was the ARU; Rita had started to have breathing problems after she had the scan and had been taken back to A&E. I let my son know what was happening to his Mum. I went back to A&E. We got a brief from an A&E and an ICU doctor about Rita's condition. She was being put on a ventilator and was being given a broad band antibiotic. Initial Diagnosis was that she had a serious infection and they were taking blood samples to check the infection progress etc. We were taken up to the ICU to see how she was doing. When we saw her was when I really began to get worried. She had a breathing tube down her throat and what looked like a cable trail from her body to the monitors around the bed.

I phoned next morning (Wednesday) around 09:00 to find out how she fared during the night. All under control. Visiting hours for the ICU are 13:30 to 20:30, I was there at 13:30 on the dot. She looked much better. The nurse said they were keeping her on a low dose of anaesthetic like a light sleep and bringing her round to speak with her. She recognised me, no problem, but was frustrated because she could not speak because of the breathing tube down her throat. I could lipread some of what she was trying to say but it was difficult. Also, she would fall back asleep at odd moments. This continued till Friday. I was looking for her bed when I got into the ward, was worried when I could not see it. As I got closer, I could see the top of her head. She was sitting up in a wheelchair and breathing tube had been removed. I was very relieved. Rita could speak but with difficulty sounded like she had severe cold. The nurse told me that Rita was to be transferred to a ward for recovery and discharge. But the best thing Nurse did was to offer Rita, ice cream, yoghurt or jelly. She had ice cream and yoghurt and positively purred when it went down her throat.

Rita

I must thank the staff of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Glasgow for the great care they took of me, from the Ambulance Crew, A&E, and the Doctors and Nurses in ICU and the Geriatric Ward 8D. The family were very keen to point out that I was definitely not the oldest resident of the Ward. That was held by a lady of 101 years young. The view was fantastic looking north over the River Clyde. I felt like a pincushion, a bruised pincushion. I had all these attachments to drip feed me Saline solution and antibiotics. They also took blood samples at least four times a day. Was told that the reason for the bloodletting was to check the progress of the infection. They could not find the source of the infection. I had insect bites on my lower right leg. But they said that might be a diagnosis red herring. I was eventually told that I had had Sepsis and one of the main reasons I survived was because of my fitness. So, going to the Gym was good for me. One of my best visitors was my youngest son who flew over from New York. He went home relieved a day before I was discharged on Saturday 1st June. My stay in the Geriatric ward was interesting to say the least. Met some interesting new friends. At one point I had 8 visitors around my bedside. Not bad when it was supposed to be a maximum of two! I awoke one morning about 3:30. Could not get back to sleep so I began to read my book. There was knock on the door. It was the Nurse, she asked me what the matter was. Told her I could not sleep. "Would you like a cup of tea?" she asked. "Yes please." I replied. It soon arrived at my bedside along with a pack of biscuits.

I had two further weeks of antibiotics and some cream for the cellulitis I had developed throughout all this. Iain kept telling me to put my feet up on

the sofa. I kept wanting to get up and do work but Iain had been told by the doctors that it was ok for me to walk for a bit but that I had also to rest as much as possible. Had an appointment with my GP last Tuesday and he cleared me fit to resume training as long as I took it slowly and did not overexert myself. I am now up to 15 minutes exercise a day. 5 minutes each on the treadmill, static bike and the rowing machine. This is followed by 10 Pull downs on the weight machine.

Iain informed me that he had told our Gym that we would be unable to attend for a while as I was seriously ill. When he came in on the Thursday (23/05/2019) he had pictures on his phone of the flowers that had arrived at the house that day. They had been sent by the staff at the Crowne Plaza Glasgow.



Rita Haldane

Glasgow, 26th July 2019



What can I say Bill but very, very well done. You do not say if this was your first parachute jump. Is this a challenge to all us younger Oldies to pull something like this out of our bag when we reach 8 decades of healthy existence. I have even tried to get Rita to participate in one of these leisure activities like bungee jumping, snorkelling or even wire rides like that one in North Wales. You can easily guess what she said to that suggestion. She was very very polite about her reply, a resounding No!

Adventure Suggestions

Indoor Skydiving. Fly at Basingstoke, Manchester or Milton Keynes <https://www.iflyworld.co.uk/>

Look at Super Experiences for some suggestions e.g. driving, flying and wet and wild.

<https://www.experiencedaypros.co.uk/>

Three locations of **ZipWorld** in North Wales, Zip World Penrhyn Quarry,

Zip World FForest(Yes two F's), Zip World Slate Caverns <https://www.zipworld.co.uk/>

My local one is only four miles from here is **The Experience**. I have tried it out and I had a ball.

Indoor Electric Go Carts. <https://www.theexperience.org.uk/>

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 2020 edition please submit by 31st January 2020



The 1960s 16 Signal Regiment Reunion Club

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