

*Bradbury Mercury*  
1960s 16 Signal Regiment Reunion Club



Issue Number 27

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[www.the-60s-16ers.com/](http://www.the-60s-16ers.com/)

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### Our Front Page:

Top: Arrival of VIP 1969. Centre: Looking towards RHQ. Bottom Left: Guardroom from Kempener Allee prior to 1948. Bottom Right: Guard Room circa 1954. Original photos Mr R Hempstead, 2nd Bn Coldstream Gds.



### The Spire 4 Pillars Hotel, Oxford

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Our next re-union location—don't forget to book early.

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## A message from our Chair-Person.

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas with their families and loved ones and that you managed to access my Christmas message on the Web Site or received it via the Royal Mail.

I wanted to take this opportunity to send you best wishes for all health and happiness during 2011 and also to say how honoured I am to serve as chairman for the 60's 16ers for the next two years. I have hard acts to follow and I will do my very best to channel the group in a way that I feel Chris Bartlett would have wished. At this time of year we tend to look back and consider past experience and association, maybe sometimes with rose tinted glasses but I am convinced that the affection that Chris is held in by all of us was well earned and how I wish he could see us now. He would be so proud, what a great bunch he has brought together and I am proud to be part of the bunch.

I hope that you are thinking about the Reunion in Oxford in 2011. Please make booking for October a priority for the New Year, it would be wonderful to see more of you at the "next do". Tom and Ann have found a superb venue for us, not only the great hotel but so much to see and do in Oxford. Dixie and I are particularly looking forward to Bletchley Park but please all be aware that we need to know how many want to be part of that visit in order to book a tour and of course a coach (last minute is not good enough, we need to plan ahead in order to be sure of getting to see the things that interest us).

The visit to Weymouth promises to be fun and I believe about 20 people have booked to join us. It should be a "good party". If anyone who hasn't booked is interested in coming give us a ring and Dixie will arrange. (01935 474733)

Just one matter of business that I feel that I need to mention again and that is membership and subs, so here we go:

1. Subs are £10 per person (not per couple). All members are required to pay subs on an annual basis and if partners attend the Reunion regularly (more than once) they are welcomed into the club as members and are required to pay subs.
2. Each member is required to pay subs annually whether they attend the Reunion or not. This is to enable the day to day

running of the club, covering expenses e.g., postage, Web Page, The Mercury.

Subs are due from October (the Reunion) for the forthcoming coming year not the past year. If you are unable to attend the Reunion then you should ensure that your subs are sent to the treasurer for the forthcoming year and I am hoping this will serve as a gentle reminder to those who have not yet paid for 2011 (it would seem that even some of those attending the recent AGM failed to pay!!)

Bill White and your committee agreed an “amnesty “ last year so that lapsed members were not required to pay backdated subs. However, we now need to get things on a more businesslike footing or we will have the same situation again where regularly paying members subsidise others, which is just not fair.

In future we should all be clear that subs paid October 2010 will cover the year 2010/11, if payment for the present year is not received we will be liable for a payment of £20 (two years subs) for 2011/12 in October 2011.

I do hope this is clear and if you have any doubts or comments I would be happy to discuss, please give me a call.

You should have seen this before and I trust you all agree with the sentiments, they are not meant to offend rather to ensure that we all understand and that the 60’s 16ers move forward in harmony.

I couldn’t close without saying a great big thank you to the committee for their support and particularly to say how impressed I am with the Web site. Ted Hebden must spend most of his life working on it, I wonder if Hazel ever sees him!!



Take care all of you.  
Hope to see you in October.  
Noreen

## A Brief History of Bradbury Barracks—Krefeld



Bradbury Barracks, Krefeld BAOR looking across the barrack square towards the cookhouse and AKC cinema. Taken from HQ company block, home of the Signal Platoon 2 Coldstream Guards 1954. x marks the frontage of the Sergeants Mess. Y marks the drill sheds in front of 2 and Support Company blocks.



Original Photos by  
Mr Ron Hempstead  
2nd Bn Coldstream  
Guards.

**Did anyone notice  
something absent on  
our Front page?**

These barracks may have been named after the VC winner, Captain Edward Kinder Bradbury, Royal Horse Artillery. Used as a Panzer Barracks by the Wehrmacht, the barracks was originally named Neue Kaserne. This unimaginative name stemmed from the fact that the town already had a barracks when this one was built.

Home to:

1st Bn York and Lancaster Regiment ?-1948

1st Bn Manchester Regiment 1948-1950

2nd Bn Grenadier Guards 1950- Sep 1952

2nd Bn Coldstream Guards 1952-1955

1st Bn Coldstream Guards 1955-1958

No 2 (Line of Communications) Regiment Jan 1958-1960 (1)

10th Signal Regiment (Army Group) 1960-? (2)

16 Signal Regiment 1960-1994

7 Signal Regiment 1994-2002

Closed in 2002.

Designated 16 Signal Regiment (BAOR). The suffix (BAOR) was dropped shortly afterwards. 16 Sig Regt., left in 1994.

*60s-16ers Birmingham 2010  
A WALK IN THE PARK by Iain Haldane*

*On Sunday afternoon it was the most beautiful day, and we needed to go for a walk to exercise off our lunch and also get some fresh air.*

*We asked the receptionist how to get to the park, this was to turn right at the exit to the Hotel, then carry on down on the path through the housing estate. We followed these directions and went down the winding path,*

*eventually came to a big sports field where children were playing football. Walked across the field, climbed over a low wall then turned right towards the pond. Just off the path was a tree, the leaves full of autumn colour and loads of leaves on the ground, I could*



*not resist picking up leaves and throwing them over my head! Lots of other people were walking around this park, some feeding the ducks and Canada geese. As soon as we went past, all the ducks and geese were swimming over to us – too late, I said, we have ate it all and none left for a doggy bag!*



*Up a slight hill where we saw the red old fashioned bus, stairs up to the top deck and an open top. It was doing sightseeing tours of the park.*



*A honking noise caught our attention and there on the slope above the pond were about 30 Canada geese preening themselves.*

*Meanwhile down at the side of the pond a family was feeding the ducks and geese. All of a sudden the geese who were up the*

*slope went waddling down the hill honking as they went straight down to where their pals were getting fed.*

*All except one who turned and went back up the hill, he's going the wrong way I said. I spoke too soon as it turned around and waddled off the same way as the others had gone, faster and faster he went until he took off and landed in front of all the others.*

*Not so daft was it!*

*We took great pictures of the trees in the park with the sun shining through.. Then we strolled slowly back to the hotel*

*for yet more of their lovely food and the good company of our friends*

*.See You in Oxford.*



## THE PARK INN, WEST BROMWICH

### FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

Loaded up the car and set off for West Brom. Why is it on these reunion weekends we seem to take more luggage than we do for a fortnight? The M6 and M5 were pretty busy and we spotted Anne and John Hodkin driving in the middle lane waving like mad trying to get our attention. But, somehow we managed to arrive before them.

We congregated for afternoon tea and coffee to meet and greet all our friends and I think by late afternoon most people had arrived. Up to our rooms to shower and change for dinner and the food over the course of the weekend was pretty good.

There were discussions after dinner as to where we could go on Saturday and we decided to visit the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas. We had been before when the Royal Signals Memorial was unveiled by The Princess Royal but Margaret and Charlie Wickham hadn't seen it before so we thought it was a good opportunity to see what additions had been made in the last two years.



Pictures courtesy of Iain Haldane: In order from Top Left: Bill White, Jo Teague, Dave, Aldous, Hazel H, Ted H, and Peter Crane.

### SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

We set off after breakfast obeying the satnav!!! and as we had programmed in the shortest route we had to navigate a few country roads. It actually made it a rather beautiful drive with all the trees in their autumn colours.

Walking around, looking at all the memorials always brings a lump to my throat especially 'Shot at Dawn'. We were very impressed with the Polish Memorial that told the story of the Polish people and the part they played during WW2. The Far East Prisoners of War (FEPOW) is one you will never forget and Margaret and I needed plenty of tissues. Sadly the National Memorial in the centre will never be finished and the stonemason will have a job for life adding names of service personnel who have died on duty. But let's hope the Royal Signals Memorial will be improved because it must be one of the most boring and it tells no story at all. Personally, I think it does not do justice to all Signals personnel who have given their lives for this country.

Enough of my gripes, back to West Brom for the Gala Evening. I really enjoy this part of the reunion as it is one of the few times in the year that everyone can get dressed up. Ian Haldane and Peter Crane were doing the group photo, a thankless task trying to organise us lot!! The timers on the cameras started counting down and the sight of two men running, both dressed in kilts, brought a smile to all our faces. Dr. Jive was our live entertainment for the evening, everyone singing and dancing, absolutely brilliant. The raffle went very smoothly, thanks Nicole, and over the weekend we raised more than £300 for our funds, not bad considering there were only about 58 of us this year. Don't know what Charlie Wickham was on but he didn't go to bed till nearly 1 am., way past his usual time. But, I suppose I should also ask what Dave Aldous was on as he decided to strip with Lyn stepping in before it went further than it should. Oh Dave, I think Lyn is going to make you pay big time. for that!!!!



Pictures courtesy of Dave Walker. Far left: Dave getting down and dirty. Left: Ladies Dancing.

## SUNDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

Woke up to a beautiful day, blue skies and of course the A.G.M. It was great to have 5 venues to discuss for next year's reunion. It was decided that we would vote for the venues in the evening when everyone had had a chance to think about them all. By the time we finished the A.G.M and had lunch we decided just to have a walk out in the sunshine. We walked down to the shopping centre but many of the shops were shut and it was very quiet, unusual these days as most shopping centres are busy on a Sunday.

After dinner it was Jolly Hockey Sticks time and as usual many of the members really went to town dressing up. Ted H. and Reme, both turned up in full cricket gear, the Stig arrived, Moira made a cracking rugby player and she can sing too and Anne Hodkin in her boxing outfit looked ready to take anyone on. Many other sports were represented, football, karate,



Photos courtesy of Iain Haldane. Top: All those attending,  
Bottom left to right: Wayne and Brenda, Pete's harem, Chris and Mick,  
Anne and Sid, Iain and Jo.

snooker, rugby, cycling, running, horse riding, ice hockey, tennis, swimming and special mention to Sue Harper for not only dressing up in Hull City gear, but painting her face as a Tiger. The evening wouldn't be the same without Dave Aldous going to town, he came dressed as a matador. Don't know who the bull was!! It was great effort by all and helped to make the night go with a swing.

With votes cast, Oxford was declared the winner and I'm sure Tom and Anne will do us proud.

### MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

Monday morning and it's the end of another fantastic weekend. Thanks to Jo, Tony and all the entertainment committee for all their hard work and it's time to say farewell, safe journey and we'll see you all next year.

HAZEL HEBDEN

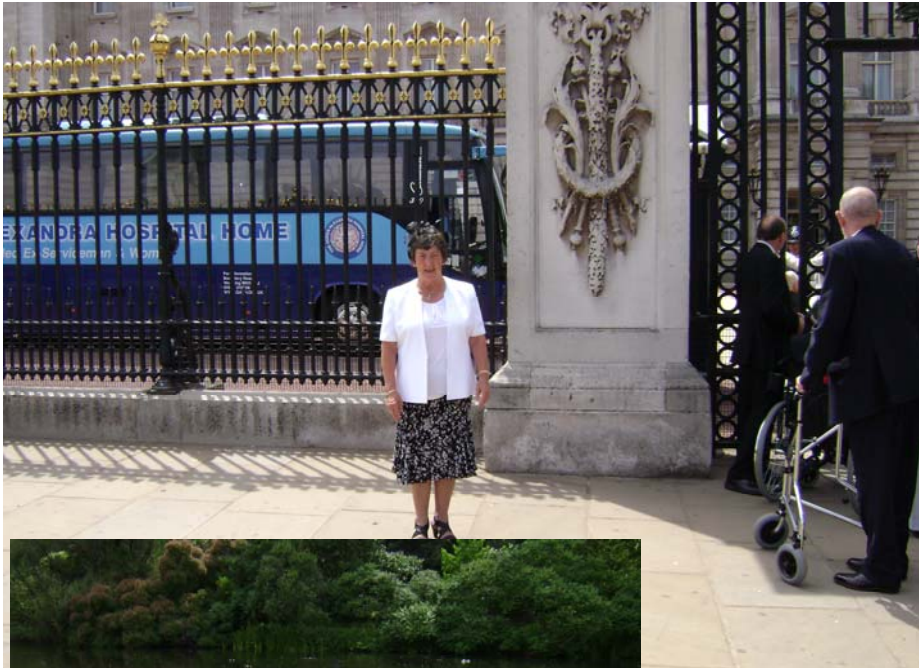




## The Garden Party

In June, along with six other members of the Cleveland branch of the WRAC, I was invited to attend the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. This set off a frantic search for posh frocks and hats (not my thing at all). However, I managed to find something suitable. We set off early on Wednesday morning, we were booked into the Victory Service club so we had a meal there on the night and a couple of drinks . On Friday after a morning of retail therapy we donned our finery and piled into the taxi bound for the Palace. When we entered the Palace I was gob smacked by the surroundings we were greeted by the staff and several ranking officers from the three forces and shown out into the garden where the band was playing and all the tables and chairs set out. There was a big marquee where you could help yourselves to all the goodies on offer and yes there were dainty cucumber sandwiches and cakes with a little gold crown on. The Royal on this occasion was the Duke of Gloucester and he walked through flanked by the Yeoman of the Guard in their colourful attire. He was then introduced to some of the guests, sadly, I didn't qualify for this honour but there was an awful lot of our brave injured boys home from Afghanistan also widows of some of the soldiers who lost their lives. That was the only sad part of the afternoon. There were many celebrities there and we met and had our photo taken with Jimmy Perry, the writer of Dads Army. He was full of praise for the bravery and courage of the Women in the armed forces. We had a walk round the garden, so colourful and well kept, then it was time for the march past and sadly time to go. We were some of the first to get back to the Gates and all the Japanese tourists started to take our photos I don't know who they thought we were but it was a great feeling. I can certainly say it was an experience I will never forget.

Audrey Grainge.



Photos courtesy of Audrey and Dickie. Top Audrey outside Buckingham Palace and left, waiting for the 'Posh Nosh'.

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## Las Vegas By Brenda & Wayne Edwards

September saw a group of us meeting up in Las Vegas for a small get together. Brenda and I set off from our home on Vancouver Island crossing over to the Washington State by ferry and then driving the length of Washington State to meet up with Lyn and Dave Aldous in Portland Oregon. Lyn and Dave had flown into Las Vegas from the UK and then up to Portland to meet



us and we would then drive down the Oregon and California coast before heading inland to Las Vegas to meet up with the rest of the group. Our trip down the coast was very interesting and we visited some beautiful places especially in Oregon. As usual we seemed to be laughing most of the time especially at some of the accommodations we looked at and also stayed at. The wildlife was quite scarce but we did manage to see harbour seals, sea lions, one grey whale, elk and some elephant seals. Driving across California and into southern Nevada proved to be a long, dusty, hot trip. We managed to keep our fluid intake up so we did not suffer from thirst for too long. Dave made quite an impression on the customers in Molly's Irish Pub in Barstow, California. After checking into a Motel for the night Dave went on a "Recce" and found the nearest bar "Molly's", later in the evening we all went over there and as soon as we walked in the locals were all welcoming Dave back to the pub. The clientele were an interesting group and as our guide "Dave" noted, the local police keep the place open so they knew where to look first when a crime had been committed". When we got to Laughlin Nevada the temperature was 115 degrees F, but not to worry, lots of air conditioning and plenty of cool beverages. After a few days in Laughlin we drove to Las Vegas where we were joined by Sid and Bridget Wilson, Ted and Hazel Hebden, Charlie and Margaret Wickham, Carl and Janis Braganza plus some American friends of Sid and Bridget and Ted's brother, his wife and their son.

The next day, Monday, was Labour Day which is a holiday in the US and Canada and I had arranged to meet up with the Veterans at the American Legion Post in Las Vegas. When we arrived at the Legion Post we were met by their Commander who made us very welcome and introduced us to their members. We soon found the bar and ordered up some beer and got the socializing underway. The barmaids told us that if we were going to drink beer it was more economical to buy it by the jug. So at Five Dollars a jug it made sense to buy 4 at a time. The beer was flowing, the music was playing, free hot dogs and hamburgers were on the BBQ outside, what a pleasant way to spend a Monday afternoon! We presented the Post Commander with a 16 Signal Regiment plaque which he will hang on the wall for all to see. At the



end of our visit he told us that we were welcome back anytime and looked forward to seeing us again. (I think the bar profits could use a little help) The rest of



the week, everyone went their own separate ways, some sight seeing around Las Vegas and others visiting the Grand Canyon. Friday was the last full day in Las Vegas as most people were heading either home or on to other destinations in Canada and the US for the rest of their holidays. Las Vegas is a great place for a vacation, it is busy, loud, non-stop and larger than life. After saying our goodbyes, Brenda and I headed North for the long drive back to our Island home. This was a great trip and I think everyone enjoyed their visit to "Sin City" thanks to everyone who made the trip, it was great to see you all on this side of the world. So if you ever find yourself in Las Vegas head down to the American Legion Post and tell them you were in 16 Sigs and check that the plaque is on the wall.

For all you Radio Hams out there, can you name these sets?



Wishing you all a Happy, Safe, and Healthy New Year

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 August 11 edition please submit by 30th Jun 11.**



**The 1960s 16 Signal Regiment**

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

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