

*Bradbury Mercury*  
1960s 16 Signal Regiment Reunion Club



Issue Number 31

Compiled by Iain Haldane

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*Loch Lomond, March 2012*

I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day --- but I couldn't find any.

Our Front Page:  
Duck Bay, Loch Lomond. Sunday 27th March 2012



Some thoughts about next edition. Should I put in the article about Glaswegian for Reme or just leave him in the dark? Answers on a £50.00 note please.

Do you want another Gals & Hunk photo page? Real ones not your Photoshop touch-ups. Remember the ethical modelling code, Show all the wrinkles. Remember you really have earned them!

Also Please, Please try to be on time for the Group Photo, too long from the bar and we (I) get a bit grumpy.

*Iain Haldane*

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## Our Chairperson's Letter



Well here we go again, another Mercury, how times seems to fly.

It is the last few days of May as I write this and at last we are getting some sunshine, I sincerely hope that when I see you all again in October we will have experienced a wonderful summer where we could lay in the sun, holiday in wonderful places and spend time with our friends and family.

October will soon come around (as most things seem to these days) and plans for the Reunion are well under way. It promises to be another great event with lots of fun and laughter. If Dave's plans for entertainment are supported we will be in great form from the start. I look forward to seeing what appears in the way of fancy dress on the Sunday evening; at our age we should have no trouble in finding the appropriate gear for the 40's.

I should remind you all again that your input into the AGM on the Sunday of the Reunion is invaluable. Decisions made there will affect every one of us so please consider your views and come with any suggestions/ideas that may enhance the 16ers. If you are unable to attend the Reunion and have issues you feel need raising please contact one of the committee or another member of the 16ers to do so for you.

Remember also that the Chairman and Deputy are at the end of their tenure and an election will be held for those positions. We should all be considering who would be appropriate and willing to fill those positions.

Finally, I thought I would tell you about my invitation from the RSA (Blandford). I was really touched to receive an invitation to their yearly dinner. It would appear they always contact recently bereaved women of RSA members and invite them this annual event in memory of the deceased. As I was a little anxious attending alone my daughter was also invited. We had a lovely evening, treated as guests of honour and made truly welcome. Another example of the forces family support that really makes a difference.

Looking forward to October and seeing many of you again.

Noreen

Two blondes walk into a building --- you'd thought at least one of them would have seen it.

## SRI LANKAN EXPERIENCE – MARCH/APRIL 2012

First the background, Lynnie and I are both big cricket fans and had experienced a great event at the Sydney cricket ground in Australia, Jan 2011, when England wrapped up the ashes series victory and we had great fun mixing with the Barmy Army. We then found out that England had a very short tour of Sri Lanka planned, just 2 test matches, in March/April 2012 and so the story begins.



Normally I do all the research and planning for our hols, going into great detail and expending far more time and energy with flight/hotel/itinerary searches on web sites than is really necessary but great fun none the less. This time, “**SHE** who must be obeyed”, decided to put us in the hands of the local Thomas Cook and Hayes & Jarvis agents!!

Our flight was booked with Sri Lankan Airlines, who? The first hotel was the Heritance in Ahungalla, where? The second, Hotel Dolphin, in a place called Waikal, another where? Hey ho let’s go for it she says and off we jolly well went.

The flight was brilliant, loads of leg room, looked after royally, I had tried to do the right thing by booking Lynnie a low fat meal in accordance with her 40 year diet. The meals arrived and she tried to negotiate a swap as mine was far more appetising, no deal. ☺

The Heritance was stunning, great location right on the beach, staff superb, great room, food wonderful and to cap it all both the England and Sri Lankan cricket teams were staying there as well, another ☺

The Hotel Dolphin was also top notch, we had a beach bungalow just steps from the ocean and again the staff and food were first class, have another ☺ Thomas Cook.

All in all, Thomas Cook and Hayes & Jarvis did good, looks like I’m out of a job!!



The First test was in Galle, a busy and bustling city, as they all are, in the south of the island, it was 35ks from our hotel and we had great fun and many scary moments travelling back and forth by Tuk Tuk, a motorised three wheeled sewing machine for two/three passengers, this is a must do for any brave visitor.

We also used the local bus service, 75p each, where the drivers have perfected the art of overtaking on blind bends and easily avoiding oncoming traffic, usually another bus. Driving licences are apparently issued with birth certificates!!

The cricket was really good and although England lost, we had a great time meeting loads of people, young and old, who were part of the Barmy Army brigade. The Sri Lankan cricket board had hiked up the ticket prices due to the large number of travelling England fans but with a nod and wink here and there, most people got into the ground quite easily at no, or little, cost.

Phone answering machine message: "If you want to buy marijuana, press the hash key."



We went out and about around the Ahungalla area, visiting a moonstone mine, the turtle hatchery, spice gardens and a scenic river cruise, possibly the best bit was when our guide, (Jackson) took us through some back streets where we could have easily disappeared never to be seen again and we ended up at his house to drink tea and meet his family. This was a really lovely experience and made us feel quite humble.

At the end of our 9 day stay at the Heritance we transferred to the hotel Dolphin in Waikal, which is about 40ks north of the Sri Lankan capital Colombo, where the second test was being played.

Prior to us arriving in Sri Lanka, we had decided to take a couple of days away from the hotel to go into the hill country and visit the city of Kandy and surrounding area, which harboured a number of listed must dos. This was a great trip.

The adventure started at the Dolphin with an early call at 0400hrs!!!! What holiday? The taxi driver had said we needed to leave at 0430hrs due to the horrendous traffic, to enable us to catch our train from Colombo to Kandy which left at 0700hrs, we arrived at the Fort railway station in the dark at 0530hrs!! No problem, brekkies in a local café. Well, I nearly died when Lynn timer spied the station eatery and suggested we eat there.

We have all been to some dark and dingy places as big brave soldiers in our lives but this looked worse than bad. In we went, the waiter guy immediately moved some locals to give us a seat, I went to the counter to order. 'Sit sir, sit' he says, 'I will bring it for you'. How did he know what we wanted?

We had been told that "short eats", a tray of different rolls and pastries, were served in lots of local establishments. Sure enough, up pops our waiter guy with exactly that. Lynn timer and I tucked into this



food with gusto, it was absolutely delicious, although curry flavoured bits and bobs for brekkies does take a bit of getting used to. We washed this down with a couple of cups of coffee and paid the grand sum of 90pence for the privilege. Lynn timer wanted to gee em a tip unall, L ah thowt that wor reight ower top ah did. ☺

We boarded our train and took our seats in the first class air conditioned coach for the

3&1/2 hour journey to Kandy and bugger me, there were 2 stewards serving complimentary tea, coffee and continental brekkies, this, after us shelling out dosh minutes previous, ah'll gooah tuh ahr ouse!!



The countryside was stunning on the way up to Kandy, very green, loads of tea plantations and rolling hills.

We stayed at the Mansion hotel which was approx 6Ks from the train station. It was a really fantastic old colonial style building, a real step back in time to the days of the Raj.

We actually hired a taxi for the day, this is the norm out there, where the driver just takes you to the sites you want to see, waits around and onto the next place.

My friend drowned in a bowl of muesli --- a strong currant pulled him in.

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

Unfortunately this guy was the worst driver I have ever met and scared Lynn and me to death on more than one occasion, not exactly a relaxing ride. ☹

We visited the Elephant Orphanage at Pinnawalla, the Botanical Gardens just outside Kandy, an indoor production of Sri Lankan culture/local costumes and dances which was really good and finally The Buddhist Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic. This is a really stunning place and of great religious importance to Buddhists worldwide.



The next morning, we had decided to take the 3 to 4 hour bus ride back to our hotel in Waikal rather than the train/bus back to Waikal via Colombo, this was another unforgettable experience of local transport. ☺

No first class air conditioned luxury ere my pals, not on your nelly. The bus was marginally bigger than the old green army ones we used to use with the pull type double hinged doors next to the driver and equally as old, but, with NO doors in place! Timetable? Don't be daft, it left when it was full, obvious innit? Whilst waiting to depart there were a multitude of local trades people coming through the bus selling their drinks, fruit, lottery tickets, clothing, kitchens and bathrooms you name it, this also happened when we made stops in any reasonably sized town/village en route. This was a long old trip in baking heat but fun none the less, having great contact with the lovely Sri Lankan people.

Our holiday was nearly at its end, the next four days were taken up travelling back and forth from our hotel to the second cricket test in Colombo which England managed to win quite easily. It did have its special moments with a great match winning innings from Kevin Petersen which kept the Barmy Army in good voice.

The bottom line is that we had a great, nay, fantastic holiday. We met loads and loads of lovely people, both local and tourists throughout our trip and once again I make no apology for repeating how welcoming and friendly the people of Sri Lanka are.

Remembering the words of some famous fella somewhere, MacArthur, was it? "I/We shall return". Go for it folks, great place, great people, cheap as chips, don't bother about the cricket!

And to cap it all, I reckon we woz being stalked by the England cricket team, they were on the same flight home as us but in the posh seats!!

All our love, Lynn and me. 😊😊

## Meeting the Chelsea Pensioners

Dick & Audrey Grainge

In March we attended the Annual general Meeting of the Royal Signals Association in London as a representative of the Middlesbrough Branch. Rae and Bill White were to represent Peterborough and Pete Weedon was there on behalf of the 60s-16ers.



As part of the Saturday morning meeting there was a presentation by two Chelsea Pensioners one of whom was Brian Cummins OBE and he was a former member of the 16ers and had attended the reunion at Alton the other was Mal Smart. Between them they gave a very amusing talk of life as a Pensioner. Brian told me he was enjoying a very full and enjoyable life. He very kindly had his photo taken with us.

**Congratulations to Yorky on his Last Posting. So where are the pictures?**

**Asks Rita in my ear!**

### British Army Answer Phone

Thank you for calling the British Army. I am sorry, but all our units are out at the moment, or are otherwise engaged. Please leave a message with your country, name of organisation, the region, the specific crisis and number at which we can call you.

As soon as we have sorted out Kosovo, Bosnia, Macedonia, Serbia, Iraq, Northern Ireland, Sierra Leone, The Congo, Afghanistan, marching up and down bits of tarmac in London as well as compulsory health and safety at work training, we will return your call.

Please speak after the tone or, if you require more options, listen to the following numbers:

- If your crisis is small and close to the sea, press 1 for the Royal Marines.
- If your concern is distant, with a tropical climate, good hotels and can be solved by one or two low-risk bombing runs, please press 2 for the Royal Air Force. (Please note that this service is not available after 1630 or at weekends.)
- If your inquiry concerns a situation which can be resolved by a warship, some bunting, flags, a damn good cocktail party and a first class marching band, please write, well in advance, to the First Sea Lord, The Royal Navy, Whitehall, London SW1.

Thank you for calling and if you are interested in joining the Army and wish to be paid little, have premature Arthritis, put your wife and family (or gay lover) in a condemned hut miles from civilisation, are prepared to work your balls off day and night whilst watching the Treasury eroding your original terms and conditions and promising a better pension, serving mainly in sandy climes, whilst picking up rubbish and putting out house fires all over the UK, while fireman and bin men have a little holiday; then please stay on the line.

Your call will shortly be passed onto a bitter, passed-over Recruiting Sergeant in a horrendously fronted, yet grotty little office down by the railway station.

Have a nice day and thank you again for trying to contact The British Army.

This message will now be translated into 27 different languages.

If you are Iranian, press 1235185714 & wait for the disconnect tone.

“Archie, tell me, am I the first girl you’ve ever made love to?” “Och! Don't tell me you are the same lassie I met behind the hanger at Glasgow Airport all these years ago.

“Am I the only man in your life darling?” “Of course you are, you silly billy. Why does every stupid man ask the same dam fool question?”

I told the wife to slip into something cool. Ten minutes later I found her in the fridge.

I always wished her eyes were close to mine. Unfortunately they were close to each other.

She wasn't all there, of course, but what was there was enough to make it interesting.

“Pardon me, may I have the next dance?” “Certainly, if you can find a partner.”

I wouldn't say she was a big girl. But I well recall once using her knickers for hang gliding.

I used to write her love letters in the sand. But it was an incredible hassle getting trying to get the sand into the letter box.

“There’s a helluva lot of jokes told in Glasgow that won’t remotely get a laugh in London.”

“Why is that?”

“Well they can’t hear you.”

## 60s-16ers Reunion 2012.

Moorside Grange Hotel, Higher Disley, Cheshire, SK12 2AP

<http://moorsidegrangehotel.com>

Our next reunion is at the Moorside Grange Hotel, which is a Best Western Hotel on the edge of the High Peak area and Cheshire. The hotel resides in the hills above a village called Disley. As well as boasting a fine fitness suite including, gym, sauna, swimming pool, 9 hole 'pitch and put' golf course - all included in your price, plus a beauty suite where the ladies can relax and have a facial or manicure. (Sorry but the beauty prices are extra.) The hotel is set between the countryside of Cheshire and the Peak District in Derbyshire. The scenery is stunning and there are many places to visit, including; Buxton (Spa Town), Bakewell (famous for its tarts), Chatsworth House (home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire - well worth a visit), plus many more, too numerous to mention. For those of you who like walking, there are great treks, including "Mam Tor" (the shivering mountain that is near Winnats pass), Kinder Scout, above the village of Hayfield, and many more, all within a 10 minute drive from the hotel



**Bakewell**



**Mam Tor**



**Buxton Pavilion.**



**Chatsworth House.**



**The original Farm House, still a part of the hotel.**

The Moorside was originally a dairy farm belonging to Lord Newton of Lyme whose neighbouring estate is known as Lyme Park. In the 1930s the farm was bought by a group of businessmen who turned it into a nine hole golf course. The golf course fell into disrepair and the clubhouse (the old farm) was turned into the Moorside Country and Golf Club, without the golf. It was not long before it degenerated into a late night drinking club and was raided and eventually closed in 1958. Sounds like our cup of tea, doesn't it? On one of our forays, we noticed that they do a cocktail called, the 'Wicked Wickham', but it very much depends on whom you're talking to as to which wicked Wickham it represents.

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### **How to Get There**

**By train** from Manchester Piccadilly to Buxton Line, Disley Train Station.  
(Taxi available at station).

**Driving - From M6 South**, leave the motorway at Junction 17, turn right and take the A534 towards Congleton. Follow the road, going through one set of lights. At the T-junction, turn left towards Macclesfield. Go straight across the next roundabout and through the lights. Once you go over a zebra crossing, get into the right hand lane and keep heading towards Macclesfield. Once in Macclesfield, the Flower Pot Public House will be on your left; go through the lights and onto the next roundabout, going straight over towards the Town Centre. Go over the next two roundabouts and, at the third one, turn left towards A6 Stockport. Get into the right hand lane at the lights and go straight across the roundabout, taking the B5470 towards Whaley Bridge. Approximately 8 miles out of Macclesfield, take the left hand turn signposted Higher Disley and Hotel. The Hotel is then two miles on the right hand side.

**From the M6 North**, leave the M6 at M61 for Preston. Follow the M62 for Leeds, joining the M60, heading towards Stockport and Manchester Airport. Follow the directions from M60 as detailed below.

**From the M60** exit the motorway at Junction 1. Take the 2nd exit at the roundabout signposted Town Centre until you get to a set of traffic lights, where the shopping centre will be directly ahead of you. Turn right on to the A6 Buxton and stay on the A6 for approx. 8 miles

passing through Davenport, Hazel Grove, High Lane Village, pass Lyme Park National Trust House. You will then pass Disley Train Station and enter Disley Village. At Disley traffic lights (with the Rams Head Pub on the right), turn right onto Buxton Old Road. Follow the hill for 1 mile, over some speed bumps. Take the 4th turning on the right into Mudhurst Lane (with the Stone Barn on the corner). The Hotel is half a mile on the left hand side.

**From the M1** leave at Junction 29 for Chesterfield. Follow the signs for A617 towards Chesterfield, then the signs for A623 to Chapel-en-le-Frith, then the A6 for Stockport. As you come into Disley Village, you will reach a set of traffic lights; turn left on to Buxton Old Road. Follow the hill for 1 mile, over some speed bumps. Take the 4th turning on the right into Mudhurst Lane (with the Stone Barn on the corner). The Hotel is half a mile on the left hand side.

**By Air**, from Manchester Airport, follow the signs to the M60, then as above on the M60. (A 'Severn Trent' bus Number 199, which runs from the airport to Disley and stops at the station, is also available).

The wife is doing bird impressions. Aye she is watching me like a Hawk.



## Moorside Grange Hotel & Spa



## Who is coming to Disley?

For those of you arriving on foot on the 12th, if you call my mobile (Ted Theis **07818 058306**), we will try our best to pick you up at Disley, but cannot promise.

Listed below are those confirmed of those confirmed as attending:

|                    |                      |                   |                  |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Mr & Mrs Abbott    | Mr & Mrs Aldous      | Mr & Mrs Aldridge | Mr & Mrs Birch   |
| Mr & Mrs Bowen     | Mr & Mrs Boizot      | Mr J Brooks       | Mr & Mrs Brown   |
| Mr & Mrs Buckley   | Mr & Mrs Cobban      | Mr & Mrs Crane    | Terri Crow + 1   |
| Mr & Mrs Conroy    | Mr & Mrs Deas        | Mrs H Dixon       | Mrs N Dixon      |
| Mrs R Ferguson     | Mrs A Ferrier        | Mrs S Firth       | Mr & Mrs Grainge |
| Mrs E Gibb         | Mr & Mrs Haldane     | Mr & Mrs Harding  | Mr & Mrs Harper  |
| Mr & Mrs Hartley * | Mr & Mrs Hebden      | Mr & Mrs Hearn    | Mr & Mrs Hodkin  |
| Mr Yorky Leyton ** | Mr & Mrs Nightingale | Mrs M O'Hagan     | Mrs B Robb       |
| Mr & Mrs Robinson  | Mr & Mrs Sparks      | Mr & Mrs Teague   | Mr & Mrs Theis   |
| Mr & Mrs Walker    | Mr & Mrs Watt        | Mr P Weedon       | Mr & Mrs White   |
| Mr & Mrs Wickham   | Mr & Mrs Wilson      |                   |                  |

\* (not booked in for Dinners) \*\* (via Late Rooms) Correct as at 31st July 2012

## Antiques R' Us?

A couple of weeks ago I was clearing out the china cupboard, and what did I find: various pieces of china that was bought by TM troop for our wedding present. That was on 25th June 1970. Paul Hartley was tasked with going in to Krefeld to buy this. After the wedding, he told me he did not know what to buy! He eventually purchased a Dinner Set. This is what I found, a large dessert dish, 3 saucers, one cup, a



coffee pot, well used in the earlier days and a flat platter meat plate. Of course, there could be more up in the attic.

Crystal or Christina, who worked in the camp NAAFI shop, gave us Jena Glass Teapot. I was a bit afraid to use it as it looks so fragile, so it stayed on display all these years. As with other items, it has travelled the world and touch, wood not been broken yet.

This set me wondering, does anyone else who was married during their tour at Krefeld have any of their wedding presents that were given by members of the Regiment? If there are, could you write an article with photo(s) for the next magazine please?

*Rita E Haldane*

## GENTLEMAN JIM



On Tuesday the 12th of June 2012, Chris Abbott, Pete Weedon, and I had the opportunity to go down to Sleaford, Lincolnshire, to the Royal British Legion. Lorna Almonds Windmill (ex Captain WRAC 16 Signal Regiment) gave a presentation on the books she has written, namely Gentleman Jim (her father) and A British Achilles (the story of George 2nd Earl Jellicoe). Her father Jim Almonds was one of the founder members of the S.A.S. and was a recipient of the Military Cross and Bar. George 2nd Earl Jellicoe was not only part of the Special Forces, but later was part of Margaret Thatcher's Government.

Lorna's presentation, which lasted 40/45 minutes, had the three of us absolutely enthralled throughout in its content and as a result the time simply passed without notice! Numerous photographs were shown on screen and showed the very guys who participated in the Western Desert during the earliest sorties that the S.A.S. were involved in and also showed the equipment that they not only used but in many cases they actually made both in the training and also in combat. Jim Almonds very much involved in the construction of much of the equipment!!



Lorna's knowledge gained by obviously listening to her father (who for many years didn't speak of his escapades) and she was also the beneficiary of her father's diary which he kept throughout his time in the Special Forces, (apparently the only one of its kind) and she also had the pleasure of interviewing many of her father's SAS comrades, not only privately but at many SAS reunions following the second World War. With her knowledge she is not only able to get her books published, but also to keep her father's memory alive and that of his comrades.

Chris, Pete and I having heard the presentation believe our membership may be as interested as we three were and I do believe that we could approach Lorna to re-do it for one of our reunions (what does our membership think?).

We were extremely well received by the Legions members and their committee and quite naturally shared a drink or two afterwards and also met a couple of ex Corps members which you may know and will be shown and named in the following photographs which were taken on the night.

Finally to all of our W.R.A.C. members: - Captain Lorna Almonds-Windmill did you PROUD!

Reme Harper. p.s. Get the books excellent read !

### Terry's Torch Triumph



The long awaited day was almost upon us when we arrived at Terry's Lincolnshire home where we received a warm and friendly welcome from both Terry and her beautiful huskies. We were there to support her during her Olympic torch bearing through Ingoldmells, just north of Skegness.

Ted and Hazel Hebden, Pete Weedon and Ann Ferrier arrived on the Tuesday afternoon with Chris and

We have stained-glass windows. These damned pigeons!

Sheila Abbott turning up later in the evening to take Terry up on her kind offer of accommodation. Hazel and Ann busied themselves cooking supper for us all and Terry proudly showed us the uniform she would be wearing while the rest of us sat around chatting, and of course sipping a few drinks.

Terry's itinerary meant she had to be up and ready to leave by 7:30 the following morning so we all kept out of the way until she and her carer, Anna, were on their way to the shuttle bus pick up point.

After breakfast the six of us set off in two cars, taking the scenic route in order to avoid any road blocks etc., and arriving about 45 minutes later. Having reached the outskirts of Ingoldmells and seeing that the crowds were beginning to gather, we decided to park the cars in a lay-by and walk into the town. We asked for directions a couple of times and managed to find Terry's starting point. Arrangements had been made with Syd and Bridget Wilson, who had been holidaying in their caravan near Bridlington, to meet us there. As the torch relay had begun in Grimsby that morning, we hoped they wouldn't get caught up in traffic on their way south. A quick telephone call confirmed they had already arrived but were at the opposite end of the town from us and had paid to park the car. They then decided to drive round to meet us but found they couldn't get through because the road had just been closed off and, unfortunately, had to pay to park the car again in another car park much to Syd's disgruntlement. All was not lost though as we managed to meet up at Elizabeth Crescent which was where Terry would alight from the bus. Her sister and other family members were also waiting there for her arrival and it was nice to meet and chat with them.

At last the cavalcade appeared, starting with the obligatory police outriders followed by the sponsor vehicles, and the bus carrying the torch bearers. It stopped and Terry emerged down the ramp on her mobility scooter, assisted by Anna and security personnel. We all cheered and waved our flags to let her know we were there for her. Photo shoots took

At the moment I am living outside Glasgow. But if I behave myself, they might let me in.

place and amazingly people she had never met before wanted to be photographed with her, such is the spirit of involvement and celebrations enveloping the country at the moment. Terry had managed to secure the Royal Signals pennant to the front of her scooter by borrowing some sticky tape from one of the officials, who turned a blind eye (no advertising is permitted so the pennant probably shouldn't have been on display either).

Within a few minutes the torch arrived at the relay point where the changeover took place. Terry's torch was lit and she was on her way, flame burning brightly. We jogged along keeping up with her scooter and cheering her along the route until reaching the end of her leg.



This was such a memorable day for us all and a wonderful achievement for an amazing lady who refuses to let anything stop her from living life to the fullness of her abilities. Well done Terry – we're all so proud of you!

Back at the house, Terry had organised a barbecue and we all gathered round on her ample patio where we relaxed in the sun and listened to the birds singing. She took her torch, which is surprisingly heavy, out of its protective cover and gave us the opportunity to handle it – poor Pete must be allergic to the metal as he developed a rash on his hand. We were joined by a couple more of her friends and a pleasant evening was enjoyed by all.



The only downer to the day was that Kita, one of Terry's beloved huskies, had been rushed to the vet by her other carer, Nancy, who had been left in charge of the dogs. She had become unwell but was allowed home following an examination and being given medication. We're happy to say that Kita appeared to be much better by the time we said our goodbyes in the morning.



Congratulations Terry – we love you - you're a star!

### A Tale of the Unexpected.....

Let us set the scene; last Christmas Iain & I bought our son Jonathan and his partner Lorraine a couple of vouchers to be used for two nights B&B at over 70 UK locations.

Lorraine & Jonathan had decided to take it the Chapel Guesthouse just outside St. Austell, Cornwall. They had the intention to visit The Eden Project in February and surrounding area. On Wednesday, the 15th February they had rang and booked in to the Chapel Guest House for the nights of 25th and 26th of February.

Their cat (Loki) had not been well for a couple of days and they decided to take her to see the Vet. She was given a dose of antibiotics and they were told to bring her back in a couple of days. Not any better by the Wednesday Loki was taken back to be seen by the Vet. He kept her in and put her on a drip. So we received this phone call to say they could not go (We always look after the moggie's when they are on holiday) Mum & Dad you will have to go. They would have lost the voucher if no one had gone to stay.



I rang my sister in Taunton and told her to put the kettle on about midday, as we would be there for coffee – a deathly hush on the telephone, until all was explained.

A frantic rush round for clothes (N.B. by Rita not Iain, he says men are always ready) etc. on Wednesday afternoon, case packed, car borrowed. We set off at 5.45 am Thursday morning in the wet and windy weather that did clear up until we were ten miles away from Birmingham!

Our journey to Taunton took a bit longer than expected due to some extensive road works.

We popped to Smiley's Plaice for a fish lunch. If you are ever in Taunton this is an award winning Cafe, it is in East Street, on the way to the motorway about a quarter a mile on from Sainsburys Town Store. A Plaice not to be missed!

We arrived at the Chapel Guest House about 4 pm. Put our luggage in the ground floor en-suite bedroom and went out again for dinner. The nearest Pub is called Sawles do not do meals on a Thursday, it is cooks night off. The Chapel Guest House owners directed us to the Carclaze Inn about 5 miles away. It is located next to the St Austell, Premier Inn. Iain had a Burger and I had a Pudding then we went back off to the Guest House and we slept like logs until morning.



Friday morning we were first down for breakfast. Well I say down but we were already on the ground floor as befits pensioners Everything in the dining room was laid out beautifully, tables for two or four depending on the people staying. Good choice of cereal, fruit juice, we ate the full English breakfast, the works-fabulous.

On looking at the various tourist attractions leaflets, I saw that the St, Austell Brewery did Brewery Tours. Iain tried three times on his cell phone to ring the reception to book a tour. He got through, but she could not hear him. In the end, the owner managed to get through on the landline. We got a booking for the 11 a.m. When we arrived for the event we found that there was six of us all told on the tour. Very

interesting we had a lot of stairs to climb up and down in the brewery as they guide took us through the stages of making a nice pint. Of course free samples were available, three different bottled versions of their cask Brews. I liked The Tribute (darker beer) best, and we brought home The Clouded Yellow (A nice Wheat Beer) and Proper Job.

We walked around St. Austell town, and then went for a drive up to Bodmin. We were heading for the Bodmin & Wenford Railway; unfortunately, the trains were not running that day, it was too early in the year. We had a look around and spotted old-time luggage



displayed on a flat-bottomed truck bed with handles. We spoke to a volunteer who said they sometimes bought these items or local people who found them in the attic donated the luggage and other memorabilia.



He would make somebody at wonderful stranger.

At about four o'clock, we started to think of where we would have dinner that evening. We remembered the Sawles Pub just up the hill from the B&B. So Iain drove the car up to the pub and we went in, after parking the car of course. It is a proper old-fashioned pub with a roaring fire in the grate, dark wood panelling, and loads of local pictures hanging on the walls. A bit of a deathly hush when we first went in – but we all soon got chatting, ordered our meal. Iain decided to take the car back down to The Chapel and walk back so he could safely. The locals told us that you want to be careful going down the road in the dark, lots of accidents, no pavements. A stream runs down beside the road - you would be a bit wet if you fell in there and you would have a job, getting out as it was a bit deep. We left when it was nearly dark, had to stand on the grass verge a couple of times with passing cars.

When we had stopped at my sister's house in Taunton on the Thursday, Iain had checked his email. He had one from Lorraine (Laurie Torrie). In replying, he told her where we were going to be staying for the next two nights. Due to work commitments, we did not get to meet until the Saturday. We met up at Indian Queens shopping Mall just off the A303. It was lovely to see her and when we came up for air we had been chatting for over 2 and half hours!!



It was so boring six empty seats got up and walked out!

We left Cornwall and we again stopped at my sister's in Taunton for a chat and coffee. Then we made our way to the Travelodge at Tewkesbury just off the on M 5. This is the first Travelodge we have been to that has a bar and restaurant. We had evening dinner and breakfast the next morning, then back off to Glasgow.

That's the end of the Unexpected Tale.....

*Rita E Haldane*



**60's 16ers Reunion Club**  
**12-15 Oct 2012 Moorside Grange Hotel & Spa**  
**Higher Disley**

**Weekend Order of March**



**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> – Meet and Greet**

1. Individual hotel check-in at reception.
2. Please visit our own welcome desk in the Rafters bar.
3. 1900-2100hrs Dinner in the hotel Restaurant - individual seating.
4. Evening drinkies in the Rafters bar seems like a dam good idea.

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> - Gala Dinner Night**

- 0800-1100hrs Breakfast in the Hotel Restaurant.
- 1000 Walkies, Ted Hebden reckons this is a good idea!!L. Will like-minded people mingle near reception.
- 1030-1600 Coach Trip, Pre booked personnel.
- 1815hrs Group Photograph-Iain Haldane.
- 1830hrs Pre dinner drinkies in the Pennine Bar.
- 1900hrs Gala Dinner in the Pennine and Alpine room.
- 2030hrs ish, Evening entertainment provided by Vegas headliners “The Seventies Express” guaranteed to give us a good time. (Reme says so)

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> - The 40's Night Sing-along, Disco & Karaoke**

1. 0800-1100 hrs Breakfast in the Hotel Restaurant.
2. 1000 hrs Coffee served in the Pennine room followed by the A.G.M. at 1030hrs.
3. 1830 hrs the Pennine bar opens for our private use.
4. 1900 hrs hot buffet dinner in the Pennine/Alpine room.
5. 2000 hrs ish, Disco/Karaoke once again provided by Cliff Summers.

**Notes**

- Please ensure that your Gala Dinner menu choice is sent to Ted Theis 2 weeks prior to the reunion weekend. This is very important. [ted.theis@btinternet.com](mailto:ted.theis@btinternet.com) Tel 01298 812501, Postal 1 St Annes Close, Chapel-en-le-Frith, SK23 9SG
- Due to limited restaurant space we cannot be seated en masse for the Friday evening dinner, therefore members are required to book a meal time individually through the hotel reception.
- **Raffle prizes can be handed to Nicole Crane or left at our welcome desk on arrival. Please, do not leave it until the last minute.**
- Please ensure that you make every effort to attend the A.G.M. This year we have the election of Officers to address, the normal presentation of venue's for next year's reunion along with other important club business.

**Your voice/vote is important.**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Dispersal (Boooo)**

- 0700-1000hrs Breakfast in the hotel Restaurant.
- Hotel check-out, by 1200hrs.



## 25 Lessons my Mother taught me!

1. My mother taught me: **To APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE.**  
"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."
2. My mother taught me: **Religion**  
"You better pray that will come out of the carpet."
3. My mother taught me: **TIME TRAVEL**  
"If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"
4. My mother taught me: **LOGIC.**  
"Because I said so, that's why."
5. My mother taught me: **MORE LOGIC.**  
"If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."
6. My mother taught me: **FORESIGHT.**  
"Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."
7. My mother taught me: **IRONY.**  
"Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."
8. My mother taught me about the science of **OSMOSIS.**  
"Shut your mouth and eat your supper."
9. My mother taught me: **CONTORTIONISM.**  
"Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"
10. My mother taught me about **STAMINA.**  
"You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."
11. My mother taught me: **WEATHER .**  
"This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."
12. My mother taught me: **HYPOCRISY.**  
"If I told you once, I've told you a million times. Don't exaggerate!"
13. My mother taught me: **THE CIRCLE OF LIFE.**  
"I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."
14. My mother taught me about **BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION.**  
"Stop acting like your father!"
15. My mother taught me: **ENVY.**  
"There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do."
16. My mother taught me about **ANTICIPATION.**  
"Just wait until we get home."
17. My mother taught me: **RECEIVING .**  
"You are going to get it when you get home!"
18. My mother taught me: **MEDICAL SCIENCE.**  
"If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to freeze that way."
19. My mother taught me: **ESP.**  
"Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"

*cont'd on page 20*

20. My mother taught me: **HUMOUR.**  
"When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."
21. My mother taught me: **HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT.**  
"If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."
22. My mother taught me: **GENETICS.**  
"I swear you're just like your father."
23. My mother taught me about my **ROOTS.**  
"Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?"
24. My mother taught me: **WISDOM.**  
"When you get to be my age, you'll understand."
25. And my favourite: **My MOTHER TAUGHT ME ABOUT JUSTICE.**  
"One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!"



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 2013 edition please submit by 30th January 2013.**



### **The 1960s 16 Signal Regiment**

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

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