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I put a lot of time into producing these files which is why you are met with this page when you open the file.

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Hopefully after all that, I end up with a presentable file. If you find missing pages, pages in the wrong order, anything else wrong with the file or simply want to make a comment, please drop me a line (see above).

It is my hope that you find the file of use to you personally – I know that I would have liked to have found some of these files years ago – they would have saved me a lot of time !

Colin Hinson

In the village of Blunham, Bedfordshire.





# AIRWAVES

ROYAL AIR FORCE LOCKING

JULY 1992

FLOWERDOWN FAIR 92



*Photographs from this year's  
record-breaking event on page 18*



## EDITORIAL

### Flaming June !

**W**e have been lucky with the weather during the last few weeks, particularly as the Station is always extremely busy at this time of year. Following the successful AOC's Day and Freedom of Weston Parade, we had a record breaking Flowerdown

Fair. In addition, our trainees have also been on duty at the Boscombe Down Air Show and the St Athan Open Day. Congratulations to everyone concerned on a job well done.

*Brian Plenderleith, Editor*

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*Are the Kids fed up? Are you fed up?*

*Are they aged between 0-5 years?*

*If the answer to these questions is YES then why not come along to ....*

## **MOTHERS AND TODDLERS GROUP**

*Where? - Flowerdown Centre*

*When? - Mondays 13.30 hrs to 15.00 hrs  
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*Lots of toys and fun for the children.*

*All this for only 30 pence!*

*If you have any queries please contact :  
Erica Grieve (Tel : 820500) 8 Adastral Road*



## FOREWORD

### A Message from the Station Commander

**F**lamming June! The pessimists might say that it's the hole in the ozone layer and we're all doomed, but taking a parochial view the sun shone brilliantly on our three major events last month, contributing in no small measure to their success.

Through the medium of *Airwaves*, I would like to repeat the thanks I have expressed elsewhere for all the hard work and enthusiasm put into the last few weeks by everyone on the Station. The Annual Formal Inspection went very smoothly, and the AOC was impressed by the air of friendly efficiency which he found at Locking. The Freedom Parade was considered by many locals as the best anyone could remember; I am sure that those on parade felt proud (as well as hot!), and be in doubt about the goodwill which such an event generates in the local community. The same is true of the Flowerdown Fair. I know it seems that we spend almost the whole year planning and preparing for it, but as a public relations exercise it is unsurpassed and RAF Locking was seen at its best by a large and appreciative crowd. Neither should we forget the contribution to the weekend made by the Glenn Miller Dance in the Hangar, which was attended by many ex-Service people from as far away as the Midlands. Although the final tally is not yet known, the Station Charities Fund will have benefitted by at least £20,000, a

magnificent achievement and almost twice the previous record.

I hope you have noticed the change in style of *Airwaves* over the last three issues. We want to make it informative, readable, a record of life at Locking. Not only do we need contributions from **YOU**, but all readers out there must tell us whether we've got it right. The Editor is very broad shouldered and promises not to break down in tears at either criticism or (dare one hope) praise.

We can now look forward to the end of term and well deserved holidays, hoping that the start of Block Leave does not coincide with the annual rains. Once again thank you for your support, and enjoy the rest of the Summer.



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TAX PAID <input type="checkbox"/>	SAVINGS PLAN <input type="checkbox"/>	CAR INSURANCE <input type="checkbox"/>

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RAFLOCK/92



## IS LIFE AT LOCKING REALLY SO BAD??

Last month we printed the poem "Oh to be at Locking now that Spring is Here". Well, "Someone" has decided to reply showing, perhaps, that we all do care about the quality of life here at Locking.

*Poor dear Ann Onn, how miserable you must be.  
You have to make your own fun  
But few things in life are free.*

*Swimming pools are expensive toys,  
Much as we'd like one for all our boys  
And girls. But then there's Knightstone Pool,  
Churchill and now Hutton Moor(!)  
As well as Weston's sandy shore.  
And if you don't be in the swim,  
There's ladies keep fit and a gym.  
So who could really ask for more?*

*No cinema here, I do agree,  
But then there's Odeon 1, 2, 3  
and 4, and videos galore.  
The Theatre Club is trying its very best  
To entertain and amuse the rest;  
Did you go, or did the dreaded apathy  
Keep you at home because it wasn't free?*

*Of Families Club we've heard before  
But to last year's survey 2, no more  
Replied and only one in favour!  
Clubs and Messes all provide  
Some family fun, perhaps a summer barbecue,  
If you want more it's up to you  
To get out there and take a lead.*

*No bank - accepted - it's a hassle  
But if you ask 'em NAAFI and NONPAS'll  
Cash a cheque. And what of cash points?  
There's no need to keep your money 'neath the bed!*

*You clearly are quite unaware  
That all around are folk who care  
About our quality of life. But talking straight:  
There are those who will not lift a finger,  
And want things handed on a plate.*

*Royal Air Force Locking isn't perfect,  
Nowhere is. But it's a friendly place  
With lots to offer those who face  
Up to reality and their own responsibilities.  
So don't just sit there grumbling dear Ann Onn,  
Get of your \*\*\*\* and met your life head-on!*

*A CO whose name can be supplied on request*



## ROUNDEL CLUB

Charity Weekend : 15, 16 & 17 May 1992

*... As very few members can remember what happened this article is to remind those who attended.*

**T**he Roundel Club charity weekend was held on the above dates. The Club Committee decided that this year the proceeds would be donated to 2 charities. The first will be to assist the WRAF charities to raise money to purchase an incubator for Bristol Maternity Hospital, the second is to help the Bourneville After Schools Club. The club is for children between the ages of 8 and 13 and meets twice a week after school. The Roundel Club will, on the request of the leader of the After Schools Club, provide funds for equipment etc.

The weekend was organised by Chf Tech Gary Armitage and ably assisted by the Roundel Club Committee with a special mention to Cpls Al Mac, Dave Fagg and Keith James. The Committee worked hard throughout the weekend to ensure that a good time was had by all. The NAAFI staff were tremendous and the Roundel Club would not be as good as it is without them.

The whole event started with a bang, Blind Date. "Cilla" Astley-Jones was superb, more recognisable in his/her other life as OC Regiment. With long blond hair, revealing red dress, black stockings and DMS boots he looked better than the real Cilla. The contestants were understandably apprehensive but "Cilla" soon put them at ease. The questions and replies

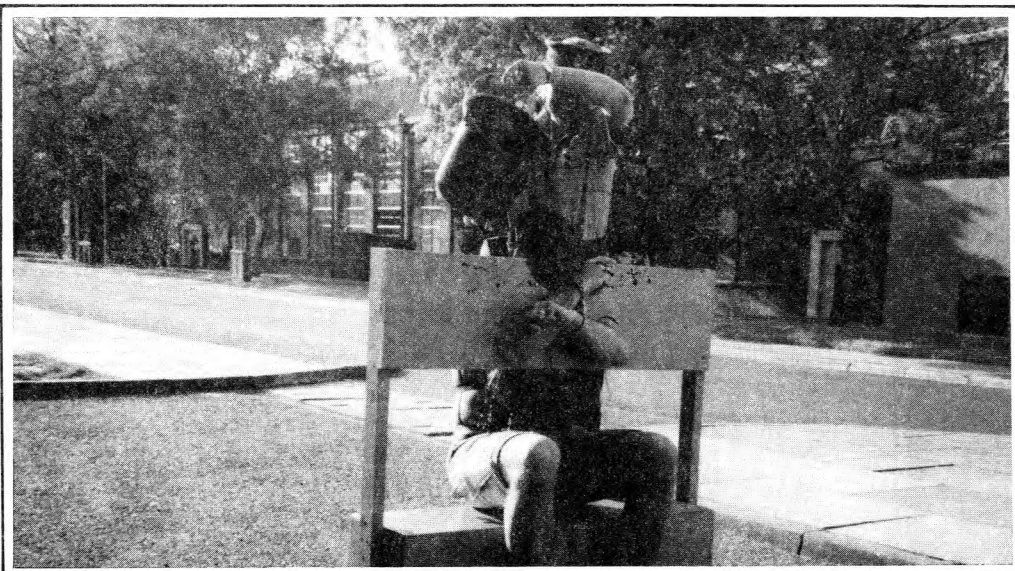
cannot be printed for obvious reasons. Many thanks to "AJ" for being an excellent sport (p.s. you didn't have to shave your legs).

Following on we had the Horse Racing, there were 1 or 2 thoroughbreds but as the punters found out the rest were donkeys. Dai Rees, Tazz Taylor and Dave Fagg were the course stewards. SAC Dave Fyfe won lots of dosh and we are still waiting for him to buy his round. The disco then started and kept on going and going and going (Dave and Scot you are insomniacs).

Saturday morning was beautiful and sunny, a pity the committee members weren't. They soon rallied round at the mention of bacon butties (has the chairman paid for them yet, Anne?). The car wash started and they even remembered to wind the windows up this year before going berserk with the hosepipes and buckets.

In the afternoon it was childrens party time (or kill the committee members). All the little ones had a good time but I am not so sure about the "big ones". Rachel Hercock (Rudolph's sister) was i/c the bouncy castle for the afternoon, a bit of an up and down job, but she said it was easier than looking after Skid and the rest of the crew from the top floor.

**"I didn't put you on Orderly Officer - honest!"**







**"Cilla" Astley-Jones**

**LOCAL BUSINESSES THAT DONATED  
GOODS FOR THE ROUNDEL CLUB  
CHARITY WEEKEND 1992 :**

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Pat & Fred Coombes, | Budget Jean Co.   |
| Newsagents RAF      | The Chalet        |
| Locking             | The Penny         |
| Courage Brewery     | Farthing          |
| Sandes Nightclub    | Cadbury Country   |
| Auto Lines          | Club              |
| Weston Motor Sports | Chris's           |
| Marcus's Store      | Restaurant        |
| NCC Games           | Sea Palace        |
| Freeman Hardy       | Debut Gift Shop   |
| Willis              | Shaping Up Sports |
| Weston Super Sports | Front Line        |
| Odeon Cinema        | Hairdressers      |
| Owen & Owen         | Robert John       |
| Avon Tandoori       | Hairdressers      |
| 10-15 Records       | Tropicana         |
| The Jewellery Store | Weston Playhouse  |
| Arass Book Store    | MacPhersons       |
| the China Basket    | Insurance         |
| The Coach House,    | Mr B's            |
| Locking             | Stars             |
| The Imperial        | Masquerade        |
| The London Bar      |                   |

At 1800 the fun started, the stocks were open. First in was the monster from the black lagoon. After being handcuffed, the mask was removed and surprise surprise, it was the SWO. FS Logue and Sgt Sehmi got drenched by students and families alike, Sgt (nice wig) Cox got the same but will Dave Spinks ever pass a fire inspection again. OC PSF got the icy water treatment (down the trousers) from the ladies in SHQ. OC P Ed was kidnapped and locked in so the students could get their own back for all the beatings her staff give out. Sgt Taylor from 4T will never "volunteer" again after the drowning he had. His students paid £21 for 1 minute with a hose pipe. On the Station we had some visiting Royal Marines, at the request of various WRAF members they had the trouser treatment as well. A great big thank you for all those who took part, your street cred amongst the troops has risen considerably.

The Karaoke in the evening was as popular as ever, its surprising who will make a fool of themselves after a couple of beers. Many thanks to Chuckles Gallagher (where did you get those shorts from?). Once again the disco went on and on, even the Milkman popped in for a bop.

Sunday morning, everyone is starting to feel the pace; thankfully it was a lazy day. Car boot sale, treasure hunt, B-B-Q, quiz and once again the disco.

During the weekend, Gary the Spiv held auctions of goods donated by local businesses and ripped off/conned/extracted over £250 from gullible unsuspecting generous members.

In total the weekend raised the grand sum of £2717.91p. The Club was open for 53 hours which, (as the chairman worked out), meant that on average money was coming in at a rate of just over £51 per hour.

On behalf of the Roundel Club Committee, I would like to thank all those that took part, those who donated items for prizes and for auction and to all those members for attending and spending so much money to enable us to raise the amount that we did. See you all next year, I'm off to bed now.

**GJA**

## BEST TRAINEE OF 1991

### Nice One Jason!

**Jason receives his award from Mr Fackrell**



*Jason is now based at Royal Air Force Buchan, as a watchworker on Data Handling Communications Flight. He has already established himself as a useful team member, and we wish him well for the future.*

The award for "Best Trainee of 1991", at RAF Locking, has been won by Junior Technician Jason McKelliget. The prize was a cheque for £100, and a Certificate of Merit, both donated by the Institution of Electronics and Electrical Incorporated Engineers.

The presentation was made by Mr Tony Fackrell, IEEIE Training Consultant, in the presence of the Station Commander, Group Captain Davison, and other Station representatives in the Officers' Mess at Royal Air Force Locking on Friday 24th April 1992.

Jason joined the Royal Air Force as an Air Defence Radar Mechanic on Training Course MAD 32 in 1990. During this phase of training, his results were such that he was transferred to a Technician course, DAD 112, from which he graduated in 1991. He obtained several BTEC Distinctions, and gained awards in Practical Skills and Leadership, as well as a Certificate of Merit for academic results. In addition, Jason was heavily involved in activities for the mentally handicapped in the local area, and still found time to pursue interests in surfing and sports-parachuting.

**Award Ceremony**

**Participants included:**

**Back Row (Left to Right):**  
 Sqn Ldr Harryman, Sqn Ldr Hart, Wg Cdr Longman, Sgt Carvin, Fg Off Gibson.  
**Front Row (Left to Right):**  
 Chf Tech Spinks, Mr Fackrell, Jnr Tech(W) Stewart, Jnr Tech McKelliget, Gp Capt Davison, Chf Tech Dormer.





# IEEIE

THE INSTITUTION OF  
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ELECTRICAL  
INCORPORATED  
ENGINEERS

"What can it  
do for me ....."

The Institution is a corporate body seeking to further the recognition of qualified personnel in a chosen engineering discipline. The IEEIE recognises many forms of allied disciplines, from Education to Mechanical Engineering, and membership of such a body is advantageous to both Serviceman, and Civilians alike.

As a trainee, undergoing an accredited Technician Course, you are eligible for Student Membership. Newly qualified Junior Magicians may qualify for Associate Membership, after six months seniority in the rank and register as an Engineering Technician.

Those with a BTEC qualification are also eligible for Associate Membership and registration. Personnel with HNC qualifications may be eligible for Corporate Membership - and registration as an Incorporated Engineer - if they have sufficient seniority and supervisory experience. SNCO's mostly qualify on these grounds.

With the advent of an open Europe, qualification requirements are being rationalised to put UK engineers on a par with their EC counterparts. This opens the possibility of employment abroad, and if you have a degree of fluency in French or German, then the prospects widen.

If you feel that the IEEIE may be of benefit to you, then contact the Station IEEIE Liaison Officer, Chf Tech Dave Spinks IEng FIEIE, for further details on Ext: 7439. Education and Industry need dedicated personnel, and a recognised professional qualification may assist you in later life.

## MAYORAL VISIT TO LOCKING

Mr Peter Bryant, an instructor in 2(T) Block, was inaugurated as the Mayor of Weston-super-Mare on 14th May 1992

**A**s a bit of a send-up he was invited to "work" on Friday 15th May in his Mayoral paraphernalia. Upon arrival at the camp he was ushered into the VCP where his car was searched.

After meeting with the Station Commander he then proceeded to 2 (T) Block where he was received by his fellow instructors, signed in the visitors book and was then presented with his new white dust coat, chalk, pointer and door plaque. The Mayoress, Elaine was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

To conclude the spoof the Mayor was led into a poor unsuspecting class of students and started to creatively explain the DRDF using strange graphic symbols! He then promptly departed to safer sanctuaries.

Peter Bryant was born on 17th July 1942 at Bapton, a small village in the Wylde Valley in Wiltshire, half way between Warminster and Salisbury.

His parents Roy and Gladys

Bryant ran the village shop and bakery, however, Peter at a very early age discovered that he must find alternative labour that paid real wages if he were to avoid working in the bakery for the love of the family only. Farm work came quite naturally to him and from the age of nine until he left school he was to be found doing many varied tasks on the local farms.

Peter attended the local village primary school at Stockton and the primary Close School Warminster. At the age of eleven his parents sent him to The Clevedon School, a private school in Salisbury.

It was during his very early teens that Peter took a keen interest in aircraft, Boscombe Down was only a few miles away, and therefore it was not surprising that he applied to join the Royal Air Force. The RAF offered him a twelve year contract commencing with a three year RAF apprenticeship in electronics at RAF Locking 1958/61, which he gladly accepted.

### Photographs :

Right

The Mayor's first lesson.

DRDF Integration?

Opposite Page

Top : Mayor & Mayoress

(with chauffeur) being

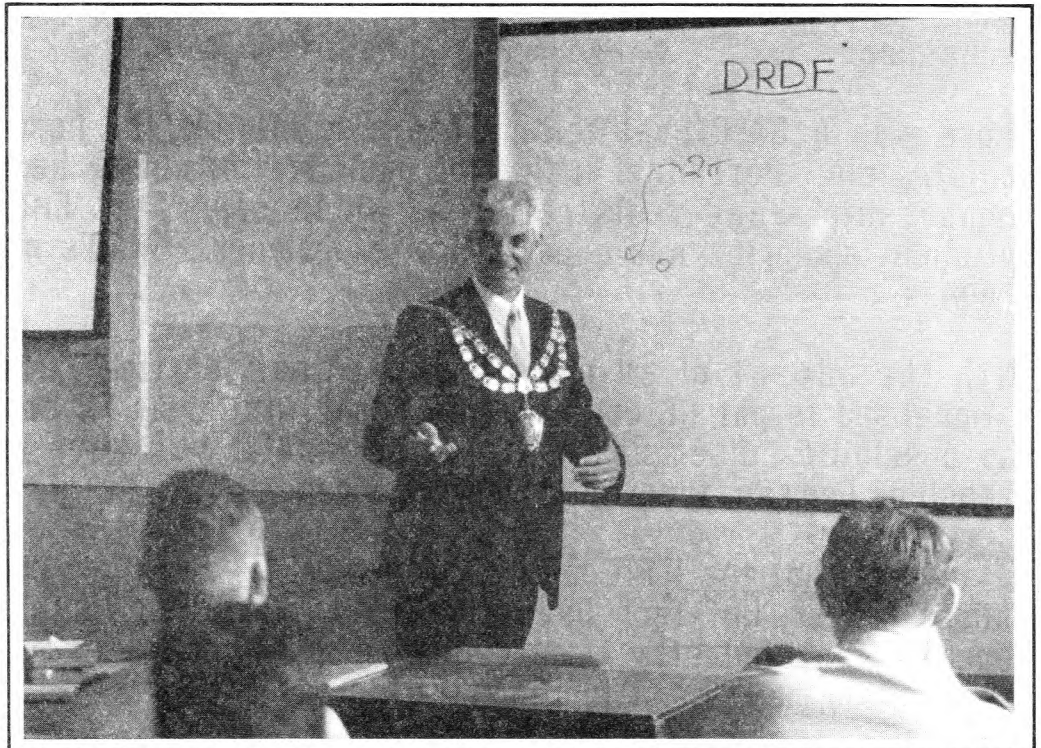
searched at VCP.

Bottom : The Mayor &

Mayoress being received

by fellow instructors from

2(T) Block.





**Service career:**

Joined the RAF in 1958 and started my career as an Aircraft Apprentice at RAF Locking.

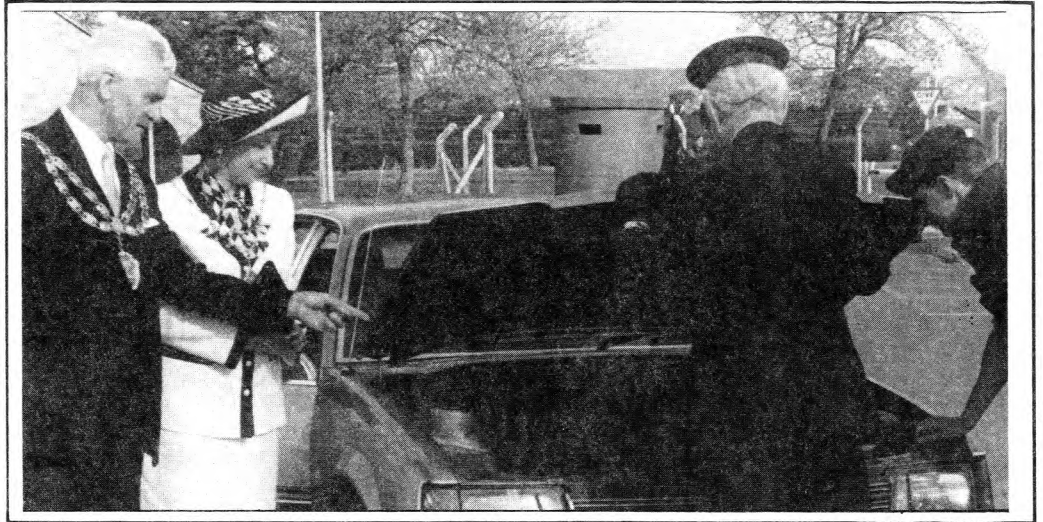
In 1961 I passed out as a Junior Technician Air Radio Fitter. My first posting was to RAF Ballykelly in Northern Ireland at a time when the residents lived in harmony with each other. Served two years on 204 Squadron which flew the much acclaimed Shackleton. Detachments included a number of trips to Bodo, North of the arctic circle and Gibraltar. Sailed for the first time.

Posted to RAF Lyneham in late 1962 and became acquainted with Britannia and Comet transport aircraft. Started at Swindon Technical College on day release to obtain an HNC.

An overseas posting came in 1964 when I was posted to RAF Muharraq, Bahrain in the Persian Gulf. Pilots are generally more superstitious than most people and so I was surprised to find myself posted to No. 13 Squadron, which flew the PR9's, photo reconnaissance Canberras. Hobbies then extended to photography and developing and printing. Started to teach for the first time and was responsible for all "O" level and RAF education maths taught at the Education Section. "A nice little earner", until caught by the tax man on my return.

Briefly returned to Lyneham in 1965, and then posted to Locking as a service instructor teaching the mysteries of ground radar installations. It was at Locking that I acquired my private pilots licence from the Achilles School of Flying that then operated from the airfield. Finally acquired an HNC in Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

1968 : posted to RAF Little Rissington which was then the Central Flying School of the Royal Air Force. Befriended the unit test pilot, drank at the same watering well, and consequently I became quite accomplished at aerobatics in Chipmunks and Jet Provosts. The highlight of this my final tour in the RAF, was to be presented to the Queen, the Queen Mother, Prince Philip and Prince Charles when the Queens colours were presented to the unit.



On leaving the RAF in 1972 Peter secured the position as Senior Radar Lecturer to the Singapore Armed Forces, and on his return in 1974 he purchased his first property, a guest house, opening for business on the first day with a family of three, and filled to capacity two days later with nineteen. In September of that year he commenced teaching at Weston Technical College.

In 1976 he left the College to become self employed in electrical engineering, and eighteen months later he had purchased a factory premises in Highbridge and found himself as an employer in steel fabrication. One of his major tasks, as a subcontractor, was to construct targets for Pendine rocket range for the MOD Navy, there were to simulate the hulls of Russian navy ships.

Peter missed the Air Force and teaching more than he realised and when a vacancy for an Instructional

Officer at RAF Locking was advertised he promptly applied and was accepted.

During the late 70's Peter converted his guest house into flats and has expanded with many similar properties throughout the 80's. Needless to say out of necessity, he has during that time become accomplished in many of the trades in the building profession.

In 1987, Peter was elected as councillor for North Ward Worle on Woodspring District Council and has served on most committees. His sports include dinghy sailing, and the occasional game of squash. he is a current member of the Weston-super-Mare sub-aqua club but has not dived for the past few years because of other time consuming pursuits.

Peter and Elaine were married almost three years ago and between them have three daughters and one granddaughter.



## THE VOLUNTARY BAND

### Who or what is the Station Voluntary Band?

*If you are interested in joining us, or just want more information, please contact SNCO IC the band, Sgt Jim Skinner CDS Ext 7326.*

**W**e are a group of amateur, and semi-professional musicians based at RAF Locking. At the moment we have a compliment of 20 players ranging from serving personnel to dependants and civilians.

The band's repertoire varies from classical numbers through to traditional brass band music, to modern popular numbers and show tunes. Since September 1991 we have supported numerous events around the West Country. These include concerts in the Grand Atlantic Hotel, Cadbury Garden Centre to school and

village fetes and of course our normal military commitments. Parades, dining in nights and church services. Future functions include high profile charity concerts in Bristol and Weston-super-Mare.

As you can see we are kept busy by both service and civilian sponsors. Although primarily a Brass Band, we also welcome woodwind players. In fact if you play anything that is blown we are always on the look out for new talent and you could enjoy yourself with us.





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# AOC'S FORMAL INSPECTION

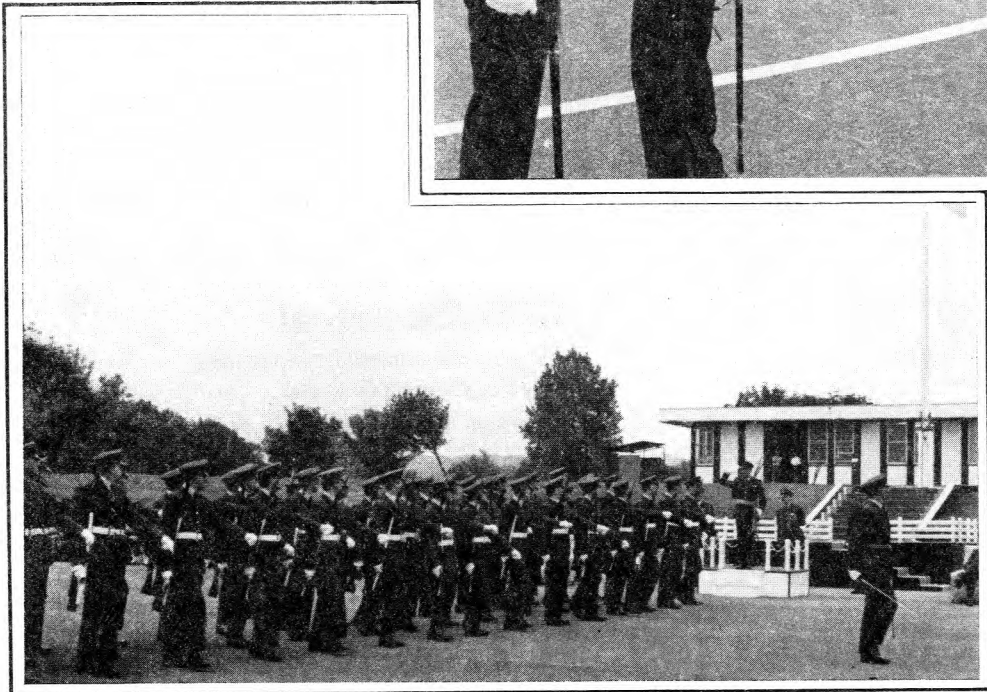
3rd June 1992



**TOP :**  
Meeting four members of The Royal Malaysian Air Force who are currently on a course in 3(T) Block.

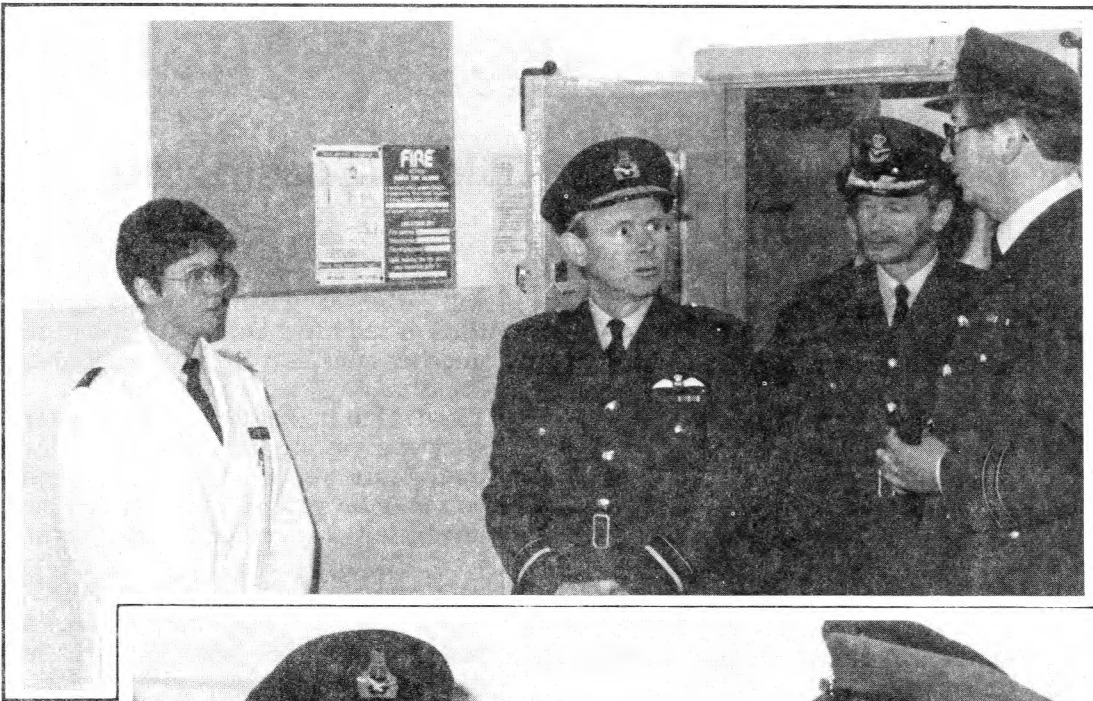


**MIDDLE :**  
Being introduced to 'Sparky', the Station Mascot.



**BOTTOM :**  
The Guard of Honour march past in line.





**TOP :**  
Visiting Comms  
Ops Sqn.

**MIDDLE :**  
Meeting FS Rees,  
Training Wing  
Adjutant.

**BOTTOM :**  
Reviewing the  
Guard of Honour.



## OUT AND ABOUT IN THE PUBS

### This month, The Red Tile at Cossington

By Cpl Rob Stanley

*Two of the best features are ones that you can't see, namely the non-existent jukebox and Fruit Machine.*

*Nothing ruins the ambience of a good pub more than the sound of "Right Said Fred" and the clatter and bleeping of a one armed bandit.*

#### HOW TO GET THERE

*Take the A370 from Weston-super-Mare. Join the M5 at Junction 22 Southbound and exit at Junction 23. Take the A39 towards Glastonbury and take a left onto the B3141 towards Woolavington. Just as you enter Woolavington take a right which puts you onto the road to Cossington (about 1 mile).*

If like me you are the sort of person who likes to spend their time during the summer getting out and about in the countryside, then over the next few months I'd like to introduce you to my favourite country pastime, the English Country Pub.

Some of the finest examples can be found in the attractive Polden range of Villages in the neighbouring County of Somerset. For my first review, I've chosen a particular favourite of mine, The Red Tile in the village of Cossington.

Cossington itself is worth a walk around, a very attractive village, largely unaffected by the large building programmes and urbanisation that affects so many of our English villages. Nestled in a hollow between the villages of Woolavington and Chilton Polden, Cossington is approximately 20 miles from Weston-super-Mare and about half an hour's drive.

On the day I visited the weather was hot and sunny, so living nearby I walked the 2 miles from my neighbouring village. It's a well known fact in the country that long, hot country walks make you thirsty, so I was in dire need of refreshment when I arrived. The Red Tile itself is just out of the village on the road to Chilton Polden, about a quarter of a mile and sited just off the road on the right hand side. There is ample parking space for parking your vehicle, both adjacent to the pub and to the rear.

Hosted by Jon and Chris Brinkman, the Red Tile is not just a pub. It is famed in the area for its fine cuisine. Whether it's a Bar Snack you want or a meal in the Restaurant, you will find the menu more extensive and interesting than most pub food. The Bar Menu includes a large variety of snacks varying from a simple Ploughman's to Lasagne (beef and vegetarian), rolls and sandwiches and a variety of salads. If you book a table in the Restaurant then you can treat yourself to all kinds of gastronomic delights. Especially recommended are the large variety of steak dishes which

will satisfy even the biggest of appetites. If red meat isn't your thing then another speciality is fish, particularly the Shallow Fried Pink Rainbow Trout. One tip before you go is make sure you are properly hungry because by the time you get to the Sweet Menu you may be struggling. I couldn't eat one but my wife recommends them!

The Red Tile's interior is typically charming and you notice the warm friendly atmosphere as soon as you go inside. The pub has two bars sandwiched between a utility room and the Restaurant.

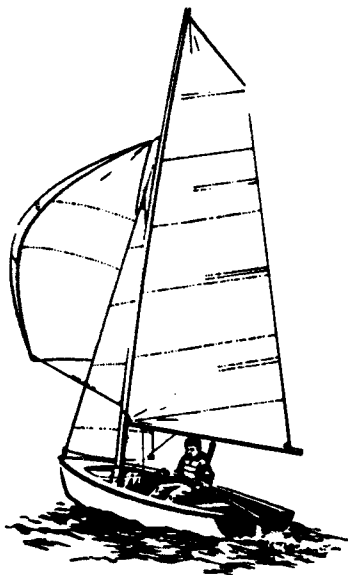
You may think that the main reason I enjoyed my lunchtime in the Red Tile was the food. Not so. It's the beer I go for and imagine my delight when I discovered a ping of hand-pumped Boddingtons Bitter, 200 miles away from its native Manchester.

Another of my favourites is Ruddles Bitter with its dark colour and hoppy taste. Along with that there is hand-pumped Tetley Bitter and more local brews which would grace the palate of any Real Ale campaigner. Lager drinkers are well catered for as well and for the trendy drinker there is a selection of "World Beers".

As nice as the Red Tile is inside with all those beers to choose from, the Beer Garden is the place to be on a hot sunny day. There you can sit and watch the smog rise over Weston-super-Mare as the fish and chip fryers fill the hole in the ozone layer with their salt and vinegar brand of pollution. The beer garden is surrounded by borders filled with summer bedding and within eyesight is a children's play area to keep the kids happy whilst you can get on with the serious business of testing the ale.

I thoroughly enjoyed my trip to the Red Tile and I think I'll find it hard to find somewhere of the same standard of cuisine and fine beers. That won't stop me searching though, there's always next weekend!





# SAILING WANTED

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week-end Sailing Expeditions.  
Blue Water Cruising Yacht Vancouver-27.  
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Telephone 823243 (evenings)

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## WESTON ROSE BED & BREAKFAST

Looking for reasonable, good quality accommodation? The Weston Rose offers Bed & Breakfast for £10.00 per night per person with an optional evening meal. Each room has tea /coffee making facilities and satellite TV. For station personnel, a FREE bottle of wine will be provided with every double booking.

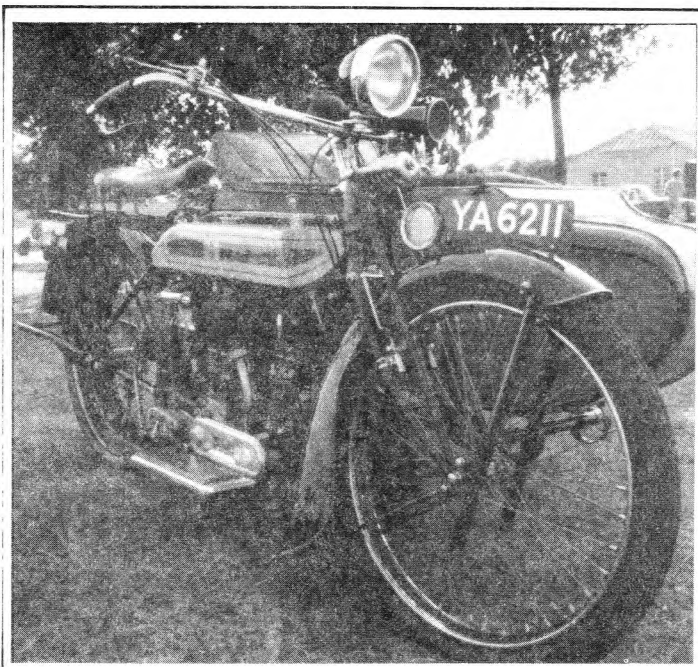
The Weston Rose, 2 Osborne Road, Weston-super-Mare. Tel : 412690

# *Flowerdown Fair*

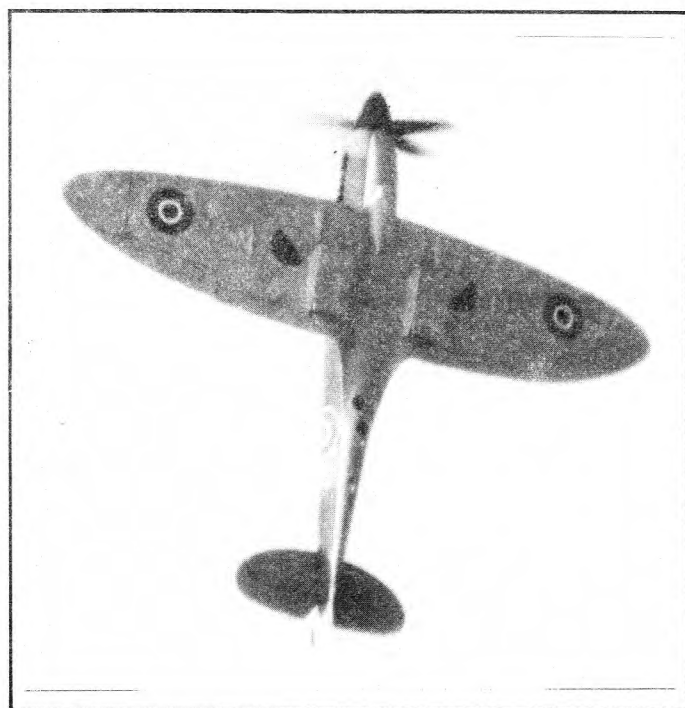
## *'92*      *20th June 1992*



**South Wales Police Motorcycle Team.**



**Just one of the Veteran vehicles on show.**

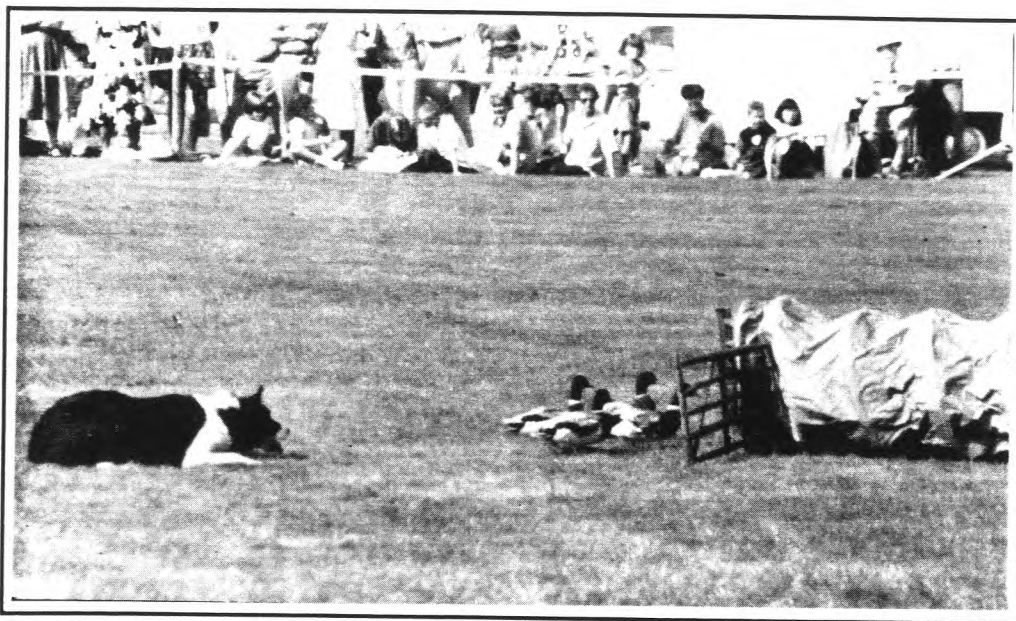


**Spitfire**



**The Western Band of the Royal Air Force**





An unusual sheepdog trial.



... And fun was had by all!



The Guard of Honour for the Closing Ceremony

## STATION FUN RUN

### The Comms Ops Sqn Station Fun Run

*Last years charity was The Guide Dog for the Blind Association.*

*The target was one thousand pounds, which enabled us to purchase and fully train a guide dog, aptly named Sparky. The actual amount raised was £1854.30, and so we were also able to make a donation to the Tristan Claxton Trust Fund.*



**T**he first Royal Air Force Locking Station Fun Run, organized by Comms Ops Sqn took place on Wednesday 7 August 1991. The event proved to be a huge success supported by nearly 400 station personnel, service, civilian and dependants alike.

The object of the Run was to raise money for charity and, of course, to have fun whilst doing this. Both objectives were achieved last year, as you can see from the photographs, and so it is proposed to hold another Fun Run this year.

This years run will take place on Wednesday 5 August 1992. The charities benefitting are Weston Hospital Leukaemia Unit Appeal and Somerset Court Autistic Community, Brent Knoll. Each runner participating in the run will receive a medal, there will also be prizes for best fancy dress, first male/female, best team, etc. Refreshments will be on sale and it is proposed to hold a disco in the evening this year. Watch this space for further details!





# FUN RUN 92

\*\*\*\* 5th AUGUST \*\*\*\*



## RAF LOCKING - COMMS OPS SQN

### Sponsored by: MD Macpherson & Partners

(Insurance, Pensions, Mortgages & Investment)

(13-14 Alexandra Parade, Weston Super Mare)



This years FUN RUN is being held on the 5th Aug, and it promises to be **even** better than last year !!!

Last year, thanks to the participation of so many, we managed to raise enough money to provide a "Guide Dog" for the Blind (£1000) and make a generous donation, with the remaining money, to the "Tristan Appeal" (£800). This year we know, with your help of course, that we can do much better....

With there being so many worthy charities to support our hardest task so far has been in deciding which one to support. So difficult was this task that we agreed to give our support



to not one but three worthy causes.

1. The Weston Hospital Luekaemia Appeal.
2. Somerset Court (Childrens Home - Brent Knoll).
3. Bay Tree Rd Special School (W-S-M).

So dont forget the 5th Aug, make a note of it in your diary and watch out for further details. But most important of all dont forget that it is your support that enables us to achieve our ambitions....

*For further information contact your Sqn Rep or Comms Ops Sqn Ext 7444...*

Have you paid your entrance fee (£2) and picked up a sponsorship form yet !!!



## BLAST FROM THE PAST

This month's "Blast" is from 1952

### Authority for sweet coupons to be amended

Cpl Commack stated that the question of sweet coupons had been raised by a number of airmen; was it possible for airmen to have sweet coupons under the same scheme as civilians. The S Ad O gave the answer to this question, saying the sweet coupon question was at the highest possible level and was still under active discussion.

### Entertainments in the NAAFI

LAC Phipps asked if it would be possible for more entertainments to be put on in the NAAFI as the pantomime put on at Christmas was very much enjoyed. The CO stated that owing to the period of court mourning, entertainments cannot be run as often as it would be liked.

### Payment for hire of coaches

WO Hill mentioned that coaches running between Plymouth and Manchester were doing the journey for the same fare as those running between Locking and Manchester, i.e. thirty shillings (£1.50p) and he wondered if some reduction could be effected. The S Ad O stated that the question of coaches plying between Locking and various large towns at holiday times was a very difficult problem as the Railways were constantly opposing applications for licences to do so, and he did not consider that it would be a good thing to bring too much pressure to bear on the companies now providing this service, as their fares were well below the rail fare.

### Late bus service

It was requested that the bus company be contacted to provide a late bus at midnight on Saturdays, to run from outside the Winter Gardens Pavilion to Locking Camp, for the con-

venience of airmen who attend the dances at the Gardens. The CO asked if the Bus Company have ever been approached in the past on this point and it was generally agreed that this had been done but the Bus Company had refused the request on the grounds that their employees did not wish to work overtime.

### Barber complaints

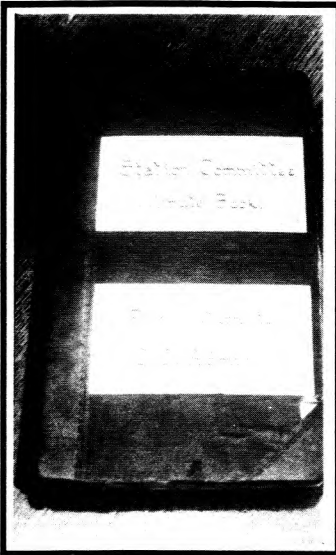
WO Chapman complained about the Station Barber. He stated that quite a number of personnel go to Weston-super-Mare for a haircut rather than go to the Station Barber. The CO replied that the fact that the barber gives a regimental haircut cannot be ground for complaint.

### Travel problems on Sunday evenings

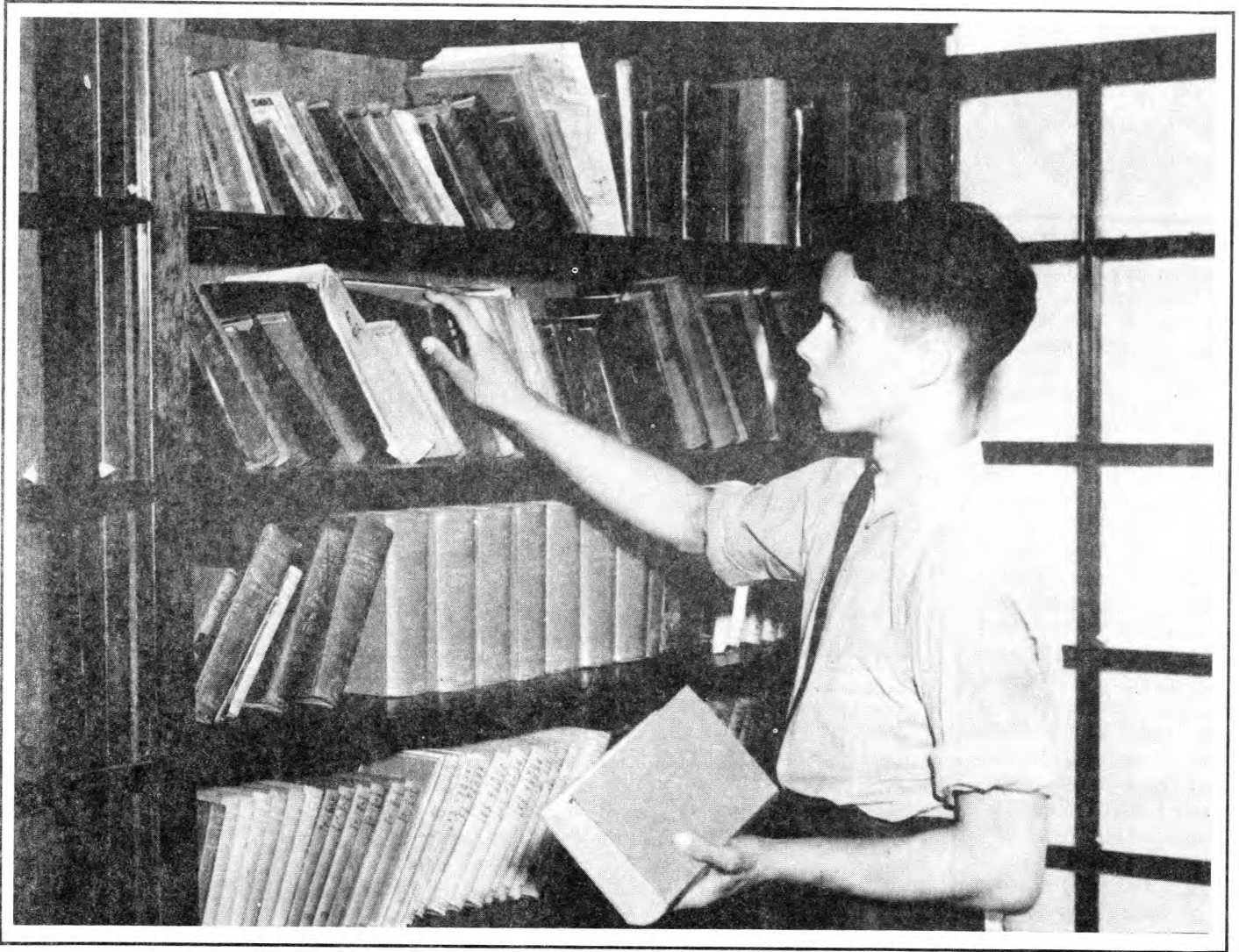
A query was raised regarding bus services when returning from "48 hour pass". Airmen returning from London on Sunday evening were unable to get any bus service back to the camp from Weston-super-Mare. The Chairman stated he would try to arrange with the Railway Company to get the 11 o'clock train from London to stop at Milton Halt. It can be reasonably expected that airmen will walk this distance.

### Boot repairs

AC Johnson complained of the standard of boot and shoe repairs on the unit. The Chairman told AC Johnson to take his boots to the Equipment Section where they would be inspected. He also instructed the WO IC Equipment Section to insert another SRO informing personnel that should they get their boots returned in an unsatisfactory state of repair, they were to return them to the Equipment Section.



*In 1947 Group Captain Parish, CO of RAF Locking, formed the "Station Committee" to deal with the broader aspects of Station life and take advantage of ideas originating amongst airmen and junior officers on the unit. The Committee was chaired by the CO and consisted of representatives from each Section plus members of the Station Institute Committee, including the Station Welfare and Entertainments Officer. Minutes of Committee meetings were kept which in those days were handwritten. The minute book shown left was maintained from the time the Committee was formed until 1956. Many of the issues raised during those days are now of historic interest and are often amusing. Here are some extracts from the Minute Book, together with some photographs, depicting life on the Station in years gone by.*



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(u/t Radio Fitter) in  
Apprentices' Library

## Face - 2 - Face

Professional Face Painter



Available for  
Children's/Adult's  
Parties  
Fancy Dress  
Halloween Etc.



Phone Marie (0934) 820988





## NEWS FROM THE HIVE

### The Hive's Easter Bonnet Competition

The 10th of April was a sunny day! I remember that because that was when the HIVE had its Easter Bonnet Competition. Seven little people turned up in their Easter Bonnets to be judged by Andy Roberts, the HIVE Liaison Officer, and Padre Ron Hesketh. They had a difficult task, especially as the contestants weren't very good at keeping still and one chap had to have his hat modelled by his mum! You looked great Georgie! In the end they chose three year old Jessica Halstead who was presented with an Easter Egg. Everyone who took part was given either a cream egg or chocolate buttons, even the mums, because their creations were all very good.

Jan Drew,  
HIVE Organiser

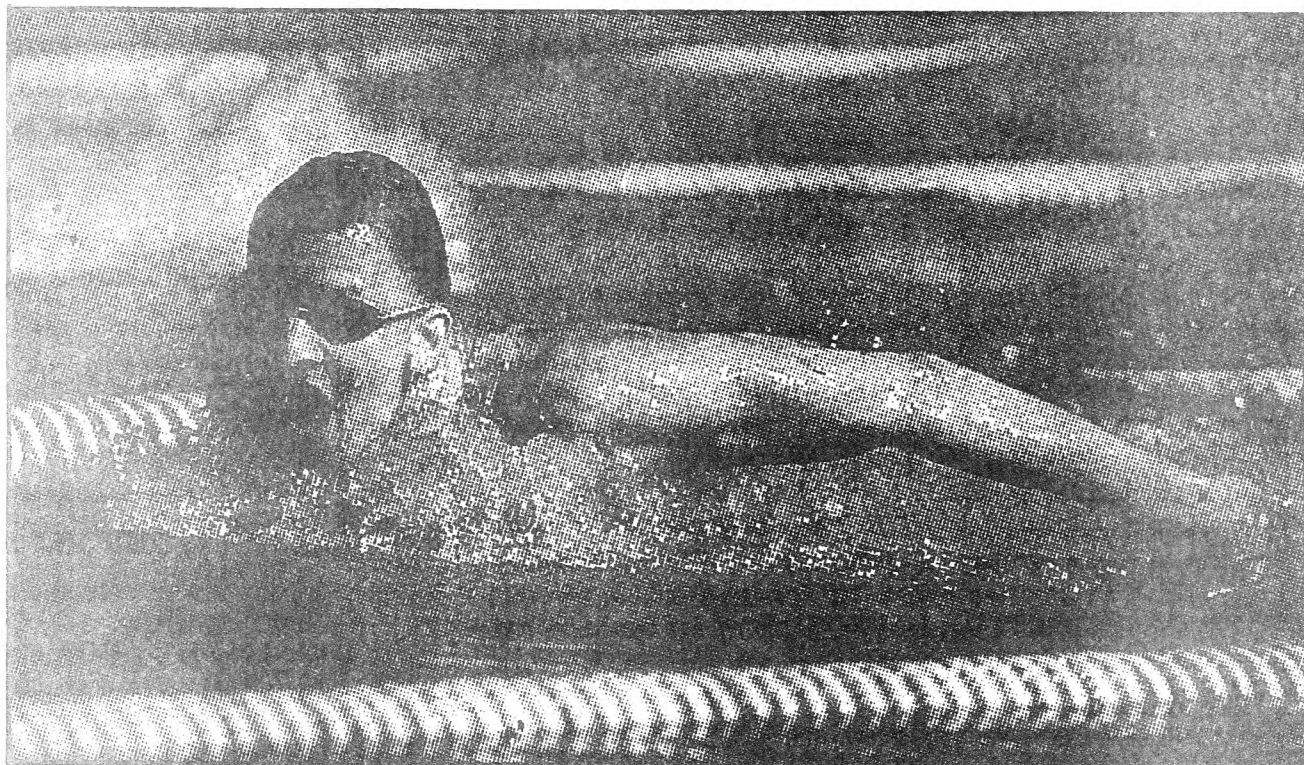


**TOP :**  
Andy Roberts with Jessica

**MIDDLE :**  
Back L to R -  
Jessica Halstead,  
Sarah Cole, Kerry Ballee,  
Elizabeth Anstey  
Front - Ellen Cole, Andrew  
Gaffney

**BOTTOM :**  
Georgie Gill in Andrew's  
hat!





**THE MOUNSEY  
TROPHY  
SWIMMING  
COMPETITION**

The competition is designed to foster the interest of swimming and to encourage all personnel to learn or improve their swimming.

The competition will be based on swimming tests shown below :

- a. A competitor will be required to swim continuously a maximum of
  1. 100 yards breast-stroke
  2. 100 yards backstroke
  3. 100 yards free-style (strokes other than 1 or 2).

- b. For every 25 yards completed on any stroke, one point is to be awarded.

A competitor can therefore obtain a maximum of 4 points using any one stroke; with an overall maximum of 12 points for completing the full distance in all 3 strokes.

**TRANSPORT/POOL TIMES**

The PEd Flt will arrange transport and pool time for your section, you may take your own transport if you wish. The coach will leave the gymnasium at 0745 hrs and return at 0915 hrs. Each section is to contact the PEd Flt (Ext 7242) and confirm the date they wish to attend.

**THE TROPHY**

The competition and trophy has been won by RAF Locking for the past 3 years. To enable the station to retain the trophy your participation is vital. The more permanent staff that compete, the better our chances are of winning, yet again. For further details contact Cpl Renton PEd Flt on Ext 7242.

**RAF  
LOCKING  
BADMINTON  
CLUB**

The RAF Locking Badminton Club has lost several players to posting this year. **YOUR BADMINTON CLUB NEEDS YOU.** Whilst the Club is still enthusiastically supported, new members are always welcome, so, if you would like to try some gentle exercise within a friendly group or would like a more serious game, then please come along and see what the Club has to offer. Club nights start at 20:00 hours on Wednesdays and are FREE!!! So there is really no excuse for not joining in. I hope that 1992 will see the Club expand, but this can only happen with YOUR support. We look forward to meeting you in the near future. If the above has raised your interest, but you still have questions, then please contact the P.Ed Flight or pop into the gym on a Wednesday night for a chat.

## CHURCH INFORMATION

The Chaplains  
are available to  
you at anytime :

Contact the  
Chaplains'  
Centre at the  
Flowerdown or  
ring Padre Ron  
Hesketh at home  
on 823071.

### THE CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, RAF LOCKING

**Christ the King is the Church just inside the main gate and is shared by all of us. The Roman Catholics have their Mass on a Monday night (see separate notice).**

#### **SUNDAY - 1030 Hrs**

Family communion & Sunday School. This is a C of E Service but all denominations are welcome.

On the first Sunday in the Month we will hold a **FAMILY MORNING SERVICE** at 1030 hrs. The children stay in Church for the whole service and young families are most welcome.

Our aim is to create a friendly atmosphere in which those who are new to the Church or perhaps have never attended for years - can come and comfortably explore the experience of worship. For many it becomes a focal point of the week.

The Padre is happy to visit those who would like to talk about Church, beliefs, baptism etc before visiting the Church.

He will also provide a confidential ear to anybody who feels that sharing a worry or burden would be a help.

A CSFC Chaplain visits Locking every Wednesday morning and welcomes callers through the Chaplains Centre at the Flowerdown.

### ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY

**MASS : MONDAY 1800 HRS**  
(This fulfils the Sunday obligation)

#### **OFFICIATING CHAPLAIN:**

Fr. Leslie Roberts OFM,  
The Friary, Clevedon.  
Tel: 91-873205

#### **CHAPLAIN'S ASSISTANT :**

Miss Janine Scothern,  
The Church Centre,  
The Flowerdown Centre.  
Tel : Ext 7360

#### **REASONS WHY SUNDAY MASS IS CELEBRATED ON A MONDAY**

Fr. Leslie is unable to come to RAF Locking on Sunday because of Parish commitments in Clevedon and Yatton. The local clergy are also too occupied with their own parishes on Sunday to be able to serve Locking. Consequently, the Bishop to the Forces has granted us a special dispensation to permit the Sunday Mass to be celebrated on a Monday and thus fulfilling the Sunday obligation.

If you wish to know more about the Roman Catholic Chaplaincy and the services it provides eg. Catholic instruction for children and adults, appointments for baptisms, pre-marriage courses and counselling etc, then for more information please contact Janine Scothern on Ext. 7360 or drop in sometime you will be most welcome.

Do you like  
singing in the  
bath - then  
why not join  
our **CHOIR**.  
Rehearsals  
1800 hrs  
every Tuesday  
in the  
Church.

## TONSORIAL AFFAIRS

### The Shaving of Derek

*Recently one of the stations more well known civilian instructors, Mr Derek (Prof) Shaw, decided that, if enough money could be raised for charity, he would reveal to the world the youthful looks that were currently hiding under his more infamous beard.*

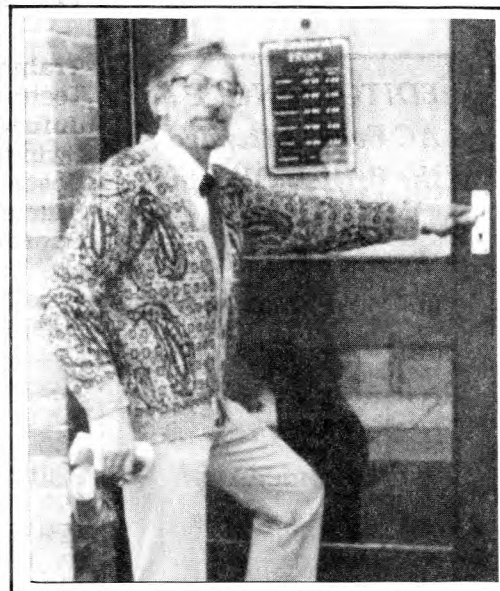
*(Last seen approximately 15 years ago!)*

The target was set, by Derek, at £50.00. The challenge was taken up, much tapping of keyboard fingers ensued as sponsor forms were made and Trev Bramwell and Keith James were to be seen scurrying around 4T Block collecting pledges. The target being achieved within the hour.

A date for the execution was set and further fund raising commenced.

On the morning of the 27th May the Prof was late, rumours abound. Had he chickened out? Had his wife locked him in the house to stop him having it done? No, he was simply delayed by the traffic coming to work.

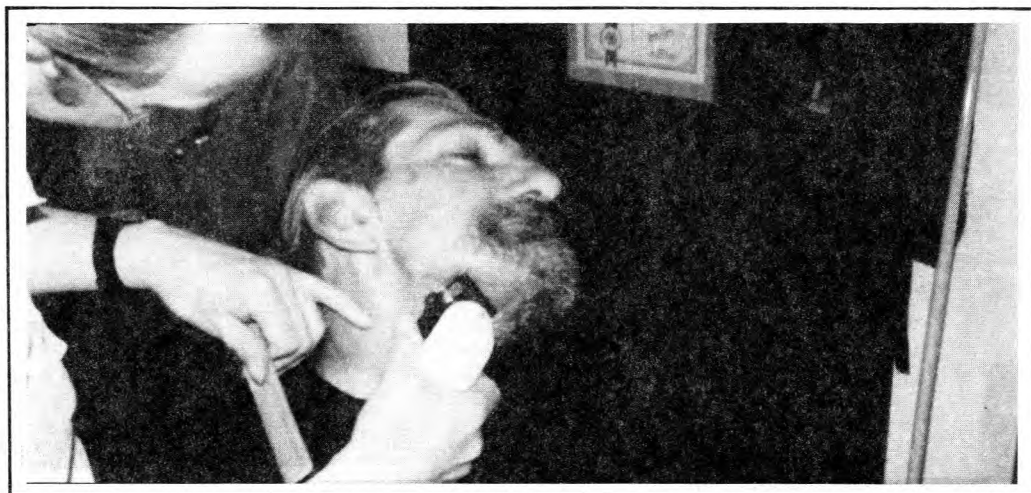
As the hour approached Derek collected his shaving gear and was dragged kicking and screaming to the barbers shop.



30 minutes later Derek (the Chin) Shaw emerged beardless from the shop. Fresh faced and freezing he headed back to 4T, where the younger looking Derek was told, "ooh you do look a lot more handsome!", (quote from Jan) and, "where did you get that chin".

Enough said, a total of £243.00 was pledged and to date a total of £150.00 collected. Derek, Keith and Trev thank all who sponsored the event and the station barber who gave his services for free.

PS. An added bonus for Derek is that it now takes him 2 min 34 secs less to cycle to work due to his sleek, more aerodynamic and less wind resistant profile.





## SPORTS PAGE

## This month's Sports Personality of the month is AC Martin Evans

**EDITOR'S NOTE :**

*AC Evans attended the British Olympic Team Selection at the end of May and unfortunately narrowly missed selection. He came fifth out of the 9 who attended with only the top three qualifying.*

**POSTSCRIPT :**

*AC Evans is now in the process of forming an Archery Club here at Locking. Anyone interested in joining, please contact AC Evans DAF 109.*

**Trainee** - DAF 109 (Airfield Technician)

**Joined Air Force** : 29 Oct 91 - Swinderby

**Posted to Locking** : 11 Dec 91

**Started Course** : 9 Jan 92

**Sports Played** : Archery, Archery, Archery

**Sporting Achievements :**

1989 British Junior Indoor Archery Champion

1989 British Junior Squad Member

1990 Junior FITA Star Champion

1990 Welsh Junior Team Member

British Team Member

1991 British Junior Squad

1991 British Junior Team

World Junior Team Bronze Medallist

British Junior Silver Medallist

Welsh Senior Team Member

1992 British Olympic Squad Member

British Senior Team

**Born** : Bury, Lancs

**D of B** : 25.4.74 (Aged 18)

**School** : Edward Jones High, Rhyl

**Single**

**Family background** : Brother in RAF (14 years) at RAF Cottesmore,

to a club, on the following Saturday I went to Colwyn Bowman Club and started my trail to the Olympic Squad. Started to practice and about 3 weeks later entered first competition - North Wales/Junior Championships!

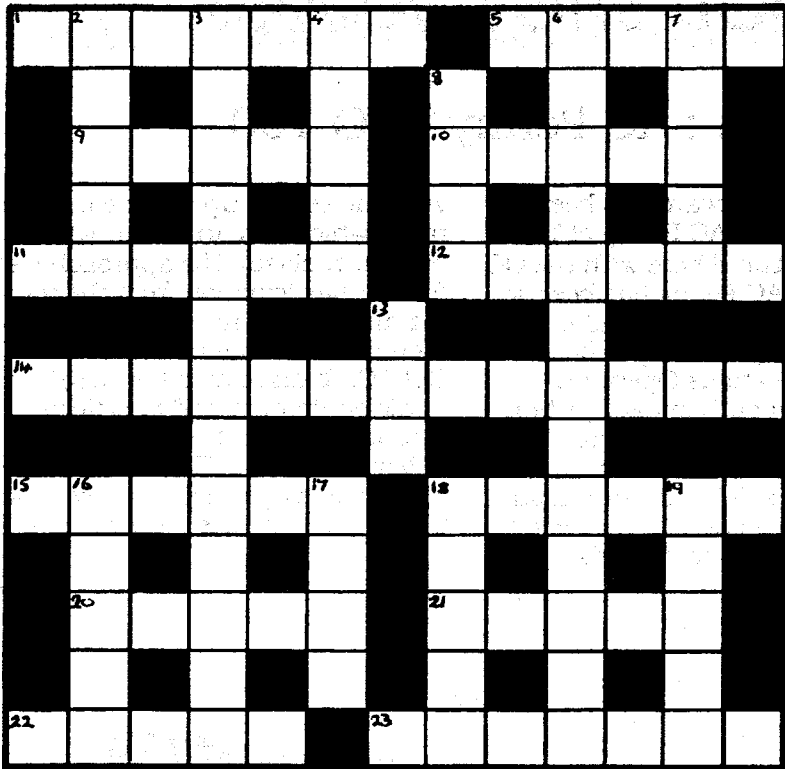
I finished last needless to say. The bow I used was borrowed but I had a go. The following year I won the event. Archery was only a hobby at this stage, my parents thought it was just a phase. My parents would not buy me any gear as they thought I would give it up. Three months later I started beating the other lads who joined the club at the same time so my parents started buying kit.

In 1989, on first entering British Junior Squad, I started getting sponsored with 25% discount on bows. In the space of three weeks my score rose from 934 to 1203, a feat not equalled by anyone else that I know of in the world.

Full sponsorship started with Olympic qualification. I will be working very hard now to make the British team for Barcelona. The team will be selected the last weekend of May.



AC Evans in action



CROSSWORD CLUES COMPILED BY SGT WALKDEN

**ACROSS**

- 1. Ideal (7)
- 5. This is Pats way of protecting shoes (5)
- 9. Floor covered, but not by carpet (5)
- 10. Roger will initially boot the machine (5)
- 11. Let the rain rollby, you're protected (6)
- 12. The club to start (6)
- 14. Promise to do this when you marry (2,4,3,4)
- 15. Is it true the RAC is totally against Ethnic Minorities? (6)
- 18. Sad that the tree has to cry (6)
- 20. I retired, in short, or at least made an effort (5)
- 21. Red Father became a man of the cloth (5)
- 22. When Ray sees the odds, he looks to God (5)
- 23. e.g. '76 or '78 (3,4)

**DOWN**

- 2. 10 about to go in (5)
- 3. Accept this if you're to blame (4,9)
- 4. Fetch and carry for a golfer (5)
- 6. OCU paid Billy H for time off (6,7)
- 7. 10% for the Lord (5)
- 8. How the Loaf was, so to speak, brought up (4)
- 13. It was cutting backwards (3)
- 16. Aircraft error came later (5)
- 17. Edit the rising and falling (4)
- 18. Western Pier used to clear a screen (5)
- 19. You would have to rope a pop singer into doing this (5)

SOLUTION ON PAGE 36

**Locking Rainbows**

Rainbows are a relatively new Baden Powell group which cater for little girls aged 5-7 yrs. We have a thriving Rainbow pack here at RAF Locking which meets in the Flowerdown Centre every Wednesday evening from 5.30pm to 6.30pm. It is run by Chris Smith and Erica Grieve and they desperately need help!!! So if you have some spare time and you would like to help out with craft work, games etc, please contact Mrs Chris Smith on 820627. No experience necessary, just a finely tuned sense of fun!!

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Do you know where it goes and why?**

Imagine a service that does this for you and provides a free, clear report covering your finances now and in the future.

You've just imagined the Allied Dunbar Financial Health Check!

For more details, complete the coupon below or phone me on 0272 732779.



To: **Bernard Andrew Thomas** Sales Associate representing Allied Dunbar Assurance plc, which is a member of LAUTRO Whiteladies House, 51-55 Whiteladies Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 2LY

Please contact me to tell me how Allied Dunbar can help me with pensions

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

## GOOD SHOW AWARD

This month : AC Penny TCO 100

*AC Penny is a valued member of Training Wing and Comms Ops Sqn feel that he deserves to be commended for his hard work and positive attitude.*

**A** Good Show Award has been presented to AC Penny of TCO Course 100 pictured here with the OC Support Wing. AC Penny has been at RAF Locking for 6 months and is currently undergoing training to become a Telecommunications Operator. Since his arrival on Comms Ops Sqn he has displayed excellent qualities during training, particularly in the corporate side of the RAF. On numerous Squadron social occasions, AC Penny is always in the forefront, assisting

with the setting up and clearing up; tasks which he carries out with obvious enthusiasm. His approach fosters further participation from the remaining members of his course. On numerous occasions he has assisted the Cpls' Club disco member to set up the audio equipment and his efforts throughout both the recent Glenn Miller Dance and Flowerdown Fair Hangar Party proved valuable - particularly during the clearing up operations that followed.





## RAFSC HALF MARATHON

### RAF Locking's challenge - 30th April 1992



**O**n 30th April 1992 the team from RAF Locking consisting of of Flt Lt (W) Kerry Ross, Chf Tech Tony Beckett, Sgt Barry Mitchell, Cpl Andy (the snake) Tindall, Cpl Perry Somers and SAC Simon McFarling, nervously trod the start line of this years Support Command Half Marathon. The weather was not being particularly kind with fine drizzle and a fairly strong wind, fortunately the rain was to stop fairly soon, unfortunately the wind strength seemed to grow.

After one false start the starting official managed to get the pistol to fire and they were off. The start being the usual cavalry charge, it took approximately a mile for things to settle down to some sort of order. Two athletes set the early pace and soon opened a 75 yard or so gap on a chasing pack of 4 containing Perry. There was a further gap to another pack of 6 containing Barry who was having a particularly good run. Further down the field Tony, Andy and Simon were running together trying to ensure that they each came up with a PB. Meanwhile Kerry was also having a very good run in the ladies race, especially as she had had a run in with a "bad bottle" of wine the night before.

By 3 miles the chasing pack had reeled in one of the front runners and were closing on the other whilst also managing to get away from the group containing Perry who was having a fine battle with the "flying rev" for the honour of first veteran runner.

After a further two miles the chasing pack was down to 3 with FS Pete Golding fading after a hard mile into a strong headwind, and two miles later the leader was also passed by the chasing group of 3 who again upped the tempo to ensure getting away.

Meanwhile Andy and Tony were doing far better than expected and were both looking at doing very reasonable times. Simon was going through a bad patch but was to recover and finish well and Kerry was having a great race being 2nd in the

ladies race and looking at also running a PB. 9 miles and the lead group is down to 2, Perry and one other, however the writing is on the wall as it is feeling harder with every step, and after 10 miles he is having to fight to hang onto 2nd place.

13.1 miles, the end and Perry is 2nd in 1.07.57 (later promoted to 1st as the winner is a Strike Command runner in a Support Command race).

Barry has a great run finishing 14th overall, 2nd veteran in 1-13-47. Next to finish is Andy (I think I will do 1-30-00 Tindall) in a great time of 1-20-8, closely followed by Tony in 1-23-00 and Simon in 1-25-00 both running PBs.

However all was not over, Kerry was having a strong run in the conditions to finish 2nd lady in 1.35 thus completing a fine day for Lockings Athletes who were also to finish 4th team.

Needless to say a few "wets" were enjoyed before, during and after the presentation and in this event Barry was the clear winner. Well done to everyone involved.

**Anyone of any standard wishing to represent RAF Locking at Roadrunning or Cross Country please contact either:**  
**Flt Lt (W) Bentley FTS**  
**Ext 7334**  
**or Cpl Somers 2 (T)**  
**Ext 7374**

## THE PADRE'S PAGE

### Our Father, Who Art In Heaven . . .



**R**ight, Lord here we are. I've successfully negotiated the conversations in the porch, picked up the weekly bulletin - (if there are any more puns from the Padre I'll scream) and I've chosen my favourite seat. Now, where was I? Right - Lord, I'm about to pray - what shall I say? My cold, Lord. It's getting worse. I'm into hankies like they are going out of fashion. Medical Centre - they can't even cure a common cold . . .

Oh, heavens, someone wants to come past. I'm praying, can't they see? Why can't they go and sit on the other side? In any case there's something very embarrassing about praying close to a complete stranger: you know what I mean - especially if they're not praying at the same time - might be timing my holiness. What's par for the course - 2 minutes worth? Anyway I shall and up, smile, let them in and then perhaps kneel down again

On the other hand, you have to admit that sitting is more comfortable, especially on chairs. But pews - give me pews any day for kneeling. You can really rest yourself on pews. But chairs - you're always worried in case you move them or, heaven forbid, knock your forehead against the back

of the person in front. It's so embarrassing . . . Lord, where was I?

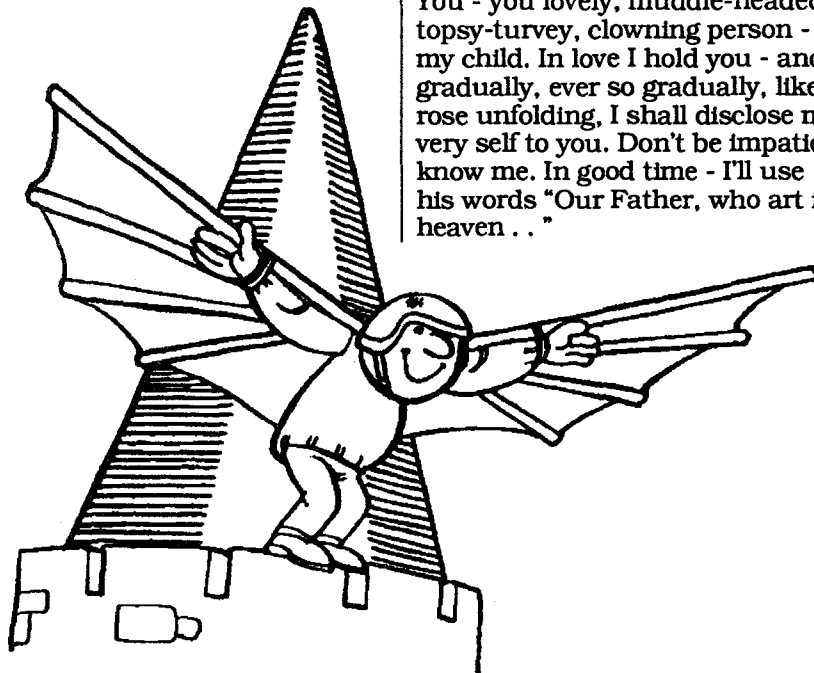
Ah, yes : praying. Right, Lord - here we go. "God" - no, "Almighty God" Better - more reverent. Like talking to the Queen. Isn't she lovely? And her mother? All those powder blues and yellows. God bless the Queen Mum. But why does she have those yapping corgis? A labrador, yes but not all those corgis.

Lord, here I go again, rabbiting on . . . I only came here to get a bit of peace and quiet and my mind won't stay still. My indigestion has settled down a bit now (but shall I unwrap the Rennie now or during the sermon?).

I'll try again "Almighty God" . . . if only the door would stop opening and closing. I could pray. I really could. But then, come to think about it, I've never been taught to. No one has ever said to me : "This is how you should pray". I need a course . . . techniques, deep breathing, concentration - that sort of thing.

#### **IF THIS IS YOU, I THINK GOD MIGHT REPLY:**

You - you lovely, muddle-headed, topsy-turvy, clowning person - you're my child. In love I hold you - and gradually, ever so gradually, like a rose unfolding, I shall disclose my very self to you. Don't be impatient to know me. In good time - I'll use his words "Our Father, who art in heaven . . ."



# WHAT IS A ROAD REP?

A Road Rep's smiling face should be one of the the first things you encounter when you arrive at RAF Locking! Their main task is to welcome newcomers to the married quarters and to pass on information and advice about local and station amenities and to give them the HIVE information booklet.

They are also the link between the Station's security, barrack and estates staff and the residents. Meetings are held regularly between the representatives of Estates Flight, Barrack Stores, Police Flight and the Road Reps to discuss any matters that are causing concern and to make suggestions that might benefit the community. For example, any safety, security or environmental matters which are causing concern.

Do YOU know who your Road rep is and where she lives? Look on the list and then , if you have any problems or queries, please contact her as she will be only too glad to help. She in turn may be valled upon by the families of- fice to contact you to canvas your opinion or gain information.

If you have any queries, don't hesitate to contact Sarah Longman, the Road Rep Co-ordinator on 823941 or Jan Drew at the HIVE on 822131, ext. 7239

## ROAD REPS

Canberra Crescent  
Mrs Taylor (12 Canberra Crescent)  
Anson Road 1-7, 2-40  
Mrs Murphy (12 Anson Road)  
Anson Road 9-51, 42-68  
Mrs Drew (33 Anson Road)  
Anson Road 53-71, 70-98  
Mrs Shackleton (53 Anson Road)  
Larkhill Road  
Mrs Russell (5 Larkhill Road)  
Merryfield Road  
Mrs Welsh (4 Merryfield Road)  
Woolvers Way  
Mrs Fleming (6 Woolvers Way)  
Oxford Square  
Mrs Muspratt (18 Anson Road);  
Mrs Allen(23 Anson Road)  
Varsity Way  
Mrs Dutton (16 Woolvers Way)  
Portal Road  
Mrs Smith (2 Portal Road)  
Trenchard Road 1-12  
Mrs Smith (2 Portal Road)  
Trenchard Road 13-27  
Mrs Frye (15 Trenchard Road)  
Pinetree Road 2,4  
Mrs Bailey (11 Tower Hill)  
Pinetree Road 1-15  
Mrs Frye (15 Trenchard Road)  
Flowerdown Road  
Mrs Longman (13 Flowerdown Rd)  
Broadway  
Mrs Farrell (21 Broadway)  
Mendip Road 10, 12, 14, 16  
Mrs Farrell (21 Broadway)  
Mendip Road 1-8, 11, 13,  
15,17,19  
Mrs Ross (10 Adastral)  
Adastral Road  
Mrs Ross (10 Adastral)  
Spinney Road  
Mrs Bailey (11 Tower Hill).  
Tower Hill  
Mrs Bailey (11 Tower Hill)



## TRAVELOGUE

### A Journey from Cyprus to the UK

(The hard way) *by Sergeant Mann, Comms Ops Sqn*

*Sometime ago, the family decided that it might not be a bad idea if, instead of returning to the UK the normal way by air, we'd travel back overland, camping on the way. I had already done the journey twice before so there was no real planning to be done. I knew exactly which way I was to travel, which cities to go through, the rough cost and the known pitfalls. The only thing I didn't count on was the civil war in Yugoslavia, this rather threw a spanner in the works; rather than risk getting involved, I now had to book an extra ferry from Greece to Italy with all the relevant extra expense. However, since we now had to travel via Italy, what a good idea to visit Pompeii, Rome, Florence and Venice in the process.*

**T**ickets purchased Limassol - Pireaus, Igoumenitsa - Bari and Dunkirk - Folkestone, all the foreign currency collected from the Bank, the travel insurance and the Green Card all arranged, all we had to do now was wait until our departure day. This tended to drag a little, you know what its like; something you are looking forward to, seems to take ages to arrive.

Eventually the day did arrive, Monday 12th August. We threw the last items of clothing into our bags and loaded the trailer up before checking out of the Hotel Miramarre. We'd had a good three days in the hotel at full board, eating everything that was going and visiting the local night-spots in Yermosoya, just a stone's throw from the hotel. I squeezed the last drops of petrol into the tank before heading off to the Limassol New Port. Incidentally, the last time I drove back from Cyprus, my car was loaded onto a pontoon, floated out to the boat, then loaded into the side, all a little precarious. These days the ships are more modern and life is much easier. All are now the drive on drive off variety, making life a lot easier!

On arrival at the Limassol Port, chaos reigned. There were about three or four different boats leaving, all near enough at the same time, at least two going to Greece. Nobody seemed to know where to send you for documentation, most of the time I was just greeted with the usual shrugged shoulders syndrome when I asked where I had to go. After three quarters of an hour waiting for a phantom customs man to turn up, I thought it about time to make a few inquiries myself. Would you believe, I found the Customs man, not in the logical place you would expect when leaving the country but in the Arrival Lounge! After much stamping of documents and passing from person to person I was finally told that I had to present my car to another Customs man outside who would check that I was indeed exporting the correct car in accord-

ance with the log book. All this nausea now behind me, all that was left to do was to drive onto the Ferry. The Silver Paloma was a welcome sight after all the messing about but this too seemed to have its fair share of chaos. People traversing narrow passage ways with large suitcases and children in tow, people coming down gangways whilst you're trying to go up them. With the help of a steward, we finally found our cabin. It wasn't too bad, however as it was an outside cabin on the upper deck passers-by did tend to stare in from outside as if we were inmates of a zoo or something.

The boat left dock at 1330 hrs by which time we were looking forward to our lunch. Marching into the Dining Room we promptly about turned and marched out again after looking at their prices, talk about having to take a mortgage out for lunch. The Cypriots in the cabin two down from us had the right idea; there seemed to be about 14 of them in the cabin and I think they had brought their own barbecue with them, they were certainly having a party, bags of the village red plonk, lots of haloumi, sheftalia and bread all swished down with a bottle or two of Cypriot brandy. They had probably heard about the prices before! We had a few items with us to eat which we made do with.

We found the crew very surly and unhelpful, the boat left a lost to be desired as well. To stop the "Deck Passengers" from entering the main boat, they had locked most of the fire exits, this meant to get outside onto the deck, you first had to wander around and find an exit that was open. I suppose if there was a fire you'd have to wait until one of the crew came along and unlocked it. In reality he'd probably be the first in the lifeboat and you'd still be finding your way out!

After a good night's sleep, we arrived in Rhodes. We had hoped to

spend six or seven hours here to do a bit of shopping and sightseeing etc. Not so! We were told that we were only going to be in Rhodes for a couple of hours as we had to make an unscheduled stop in Tinos. We landed on Rhodes at about 0700 hrs long before most of the shops had opened, the only shops open were the coffee shops and they seemed to be doing a brisk trade with the passengers from the Silver Paloma. Just time to catch the odd souvenir shops opening before heading back to the boat and the next leg of the journey to Tinos in the Greek Islands. Funny, there never seems much to do onboard when you are sailing, you walk around the boat, you read a little, you walk around the boat again and maybe sleep a little.

Much of the day was spent sunbathing on the top deck and watching the ships and the islands go by. At about 2100 hrs Tinos came into view. A very pretty looking island with plenty of night life by the looks of it. We were to spend a few hours here so we thought it a good idea to go and check out the local tavernas, besides we were quite famished by this time, what with the prices on board. Arriving at Tinos port was quite interesting, the Greek Navy was also trying to berth and with a quite strong cross wind, watching several thousand tons of boat trying to berth was an experience, much shouting and swearing (in Greek). Tinos seemed a busy little island full of tourists, mainly Brits but with a few Germans interspersed, plenty of touristic souvenir shops and loads of bright lights. We found our Taverna and settled down to a Mousaka or two. After sandwiches etc, this was cordon bleu and quite cheap as well. Just time to amble up the hill passing many glittery shops to the church at the top before returning to the ship. The church seemed to be a pilgrimage for very Arabic looking people, I never did find out why.

Wednesday 14th August saw us arriving in Piraeus, a beautiful morning with the sun

not long up. I've had experience of Piraeus and Greek Customs Officers before so I was somewhat apprehensive about our arrival. Nevertheless, unloading the car was painless for me, not so for the Cypriot in front, he crunched the wing of his brand new Mitsubishi Pajero (Shogun) whilst being marshalled off the boat! Oh! they don't tell you, you have to pay 2000 drachma (£5) for the privilege of taking your car off their boat, our Cypriot friend in the Pajero refused to pay, I wonder why? Going through Customs had the usual problems; go here, go there, get this stamped, take it elsewhere but all in all we got through the dock and Customs pretty quickly considering. It took a bit of time getting used again to the Greek driving and driving on the right hand side of the road including getting out of Piraeus but we managed it in the end.

We arrived in Varin Boldi around noon, a campsite just outside of Athens that I had used before, erected our tents and sorted out the bedding. Time was ours now, so rather than drive into Athens (total bedlam) we took the local train there, a wise decision as it turned out. For all five of us to go to Athens and return worked out to about £2.50, about ten miles each way. Everyone that visits Athens visits the Acropolis, so off we sent on a foot slog for about a mile in strength draining head eventually arriving at the entrance to the ruin. How about a drink I asked? Five glasses of lemon juice set me back £5, that wasn't all though, after getting over that shock, I enquired about the price of entry to the Acropolis. They wanted about £20 from us to look around some old ruins. Talk about paying for the Elgin Marbles! After telling them what they could do with their ruins, we marched on down to the market place. Some god bargains to be found here, especially in the way of leather goods. We bought my youngest son a leather school satchel for 3,500 Dr (£13), you can't get them in the UK now like that. Despite the prices, we had a good look around Athens before boarding the train again for the

campsite.

The campsite left a lot to be desired, not only were the staff churlish, rude and laid back but their dogs ran freely, cocking their legs up at any tent that should get in the way. The owner wasn't amused the next day when I suggested deducting 1500 Dr for the noise and nuisance that his dogs had caused the previous night, in fact he accused me of acting like a "Cypriot"! I informed him that they were better business men than he was. On the whole the campsite was expensive for a 1\* campsite but it was nice and handy for Athens and alleviated the problem of having to drive around Athens, an unfamiliar city.

Thursday 15th August and this was really the beginning of our trek back to the UK. We packed our gear into the trailer, made sure we hadn't left anything behind (including the kids) and headed off towards Rio via the Corinth Canal. An uneventful journey however, the Corinth Canal is worth a mention. The sheer engineering that must have gone into building this canal! It is a narrow channel just wide enough to get an average size steamer through it, the walls of the canal are sheer rising to about 200 feet either side and the length is about 2 miles. It is an amazing sight watching a boat passing underneath the bridge that you are standing on, about 200 feet below you. At Corinth, we thought it about time we stocked up with some of the local items from the Supermarket. After the well stocked supermarkets of Cyprus this was a bit of an eye opener, granted there was a civil war going on in Yugoslavia and stocks were perhaps not arriving by road but it appeared the shelves were not very well stocked at all. The shelves gave you the impression of being rather like the Russian supermarkets that you see on the television, not much meat, hardly any luxury items and pretty drab by any standard. Prices weren't too bad, so we bought some bread and some fizzy drinks and found ourselves a place to sit and eat

them before heading on towards Rio. Nothing fantastic with the scenery on the way to Rio, a few villas here and there, open fields and factories. We arrived in Rio by early afternoon and quickly found the ferry terminal to the mainland, not so much a terminal but a quay where several small ferry

type boats were picking up and dropping off passengers continuously one after the other. It was a sort of ferry commuter terminal. The ferry was crowded, it obviously wasn't built for comfort, however it was only a weren't a lot of campsites on this particular road. However, we found one

eventually at a place between Agrinio and Arta on a beach site, a little expensive for our liking (£10-90 per night) but quite acceptable, especially when you are tired. It gave us a chance to stretch our legs and walk along the beach and relax a little before pressing on towards Igoumenitsa the next day.  
*Continued Next Month.....*

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

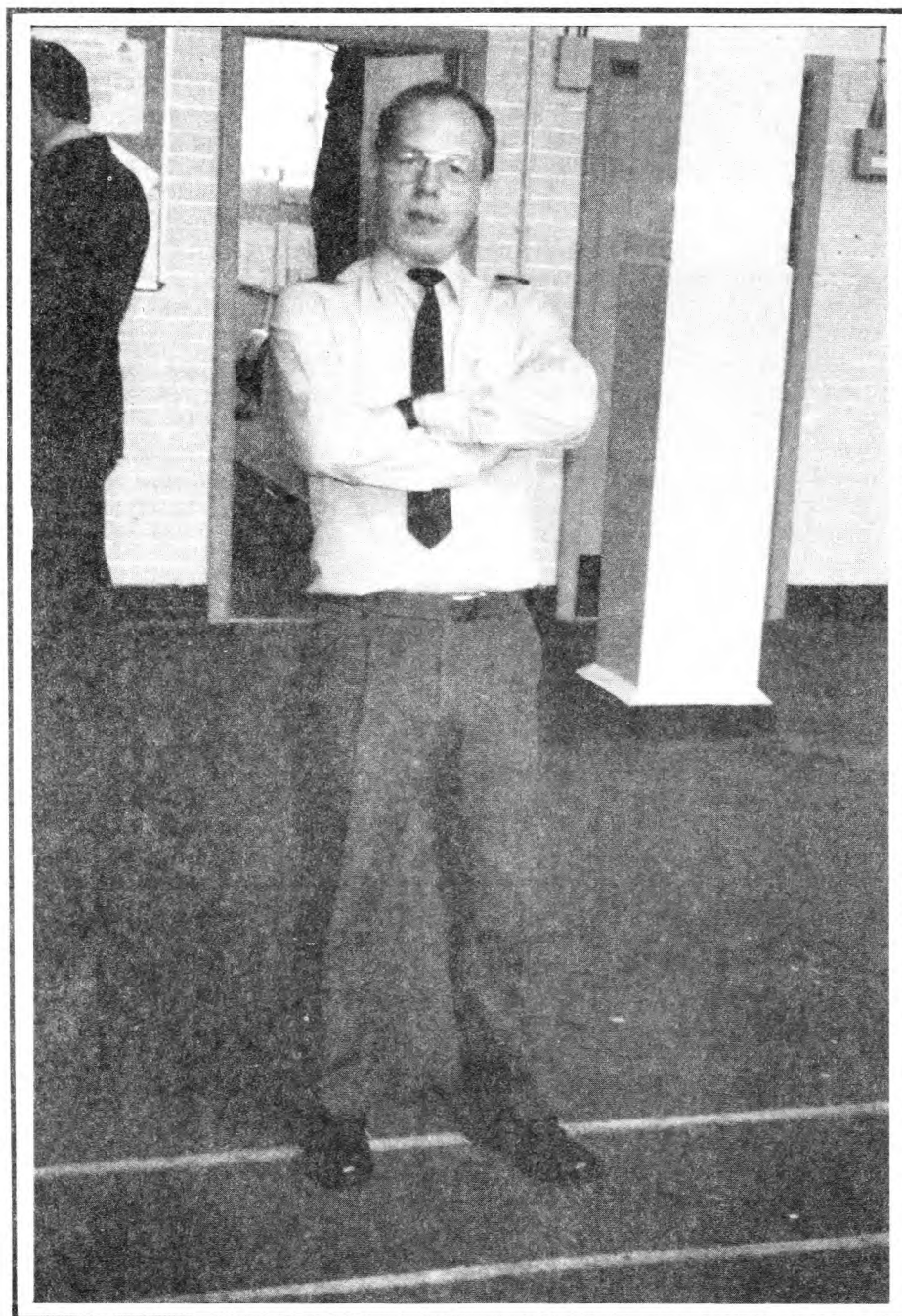
### ACROSS

1. Perfect
5. Spats
9. Tiled
10. Robot
11. Brolly
12. Driver
14. To Have and Hold
15. Racist
18. Willow
20. Tried
21. Padre
22. Prays
23. Dry Year

### DOWN

2. Enter
3. Full Liability
4. Caddy
6. Public Holiday
7. Tithe
8. Bred
13. Saw
16. After
17. Tide
18. Wiper
19. Opera

## CAPTION CONTEST



Send your entries to The Editor, Airwaves 4(T)





# Why?



Why is it, people come to me, to sort out trivial things,  
 and when I pack up, for the day, the telephone still rings?  
 Why is it, when I wash the car, to make it nice and clean,  
 the birds will always fly right past, and show me where they've been?  
 Why is it, that my neighbours, just never give a cuss,  
 they park their cars, and take up space, for elephant and bus?  
 Or leave it well out, in the road, where it may cause some harm,  
 then wake the dead, with warbling din, due to a cheap alarm?  
 Why is it, people sit outside, and shelter from the sun,  
 and play their Hi-Fi's ultra-loud, to deafen everyone?  
 Why is it, that my barbecue, steadfastly will not work,  
 it takes two hours, to cook a steak - it makes one feel a berk!  
 Why is it, when I cut the grass, it shoots up overnight,  
 to twice the height it was before - that really can't be right?  
 Why is it, that I cannot do, the things that I have planned,  
 yet everyone, expects me to provide a helping hand?  
 Why is it, "please" and "thank you", no longer have a place,  
 due courtesy to everyone, no need for lack of grace?  
 Instead of selfish action, we should communicate,  
 Why is it, no-one listens - perhaps, it is too late?



Penned by Tachyon

