



NEWSLETTER 1/16

22nd JANUARY 2016

GREETINGS

A Happy and Healthy New Year to you and your families. To those of you who are not enjoying such good health, our deep sympathies.

You may note that I have started a new numbering system for my Newsletter. The last one in December past was No. 22 and I have suddenly decided that numbering them by year was more sensible. I am sure this will not present a problem for you!

VALE

Although I reported with some relief that we had suffered no losses in 2015, I fear I was a little premature. On 26th December 2015 Dutch Hulland, living in Harare advised me that he had just lost, that day, his wife Tina. They had been married for 63 years. I passed on the condolences of the Association . Our deep sympathies are with you Dutch.

AVE

On a brighter note, I established, with some help from our friends, contact with Gordon Samuels about whom I am often asked. I have always sent him our Newsletters since we started the Association but never got any response. Gordon's only excuse when I eventually spoke with him was to say that he hadn't bothered. I wonder how many others there are out there who receive the Newsletter, are happy to see what their old comrades are doing but just don't bother coming back to me. Many of us actually thought Gordon was dead. Anyway he is hale and hearty and promised to attend the next Reunion in July, accompanied by either one or both of his daughters. Welcome back to the fold Gordon.

REUNION 2016

I am now in a position to send out Order forms for our Reunion this year. Please find attached to this Newsletter. I have managed to contain costs with a very small increase, the first since we started eleven years ago. If possible, please let me have your bookings back as soon as possible. Inevitably as the date draws closer I know I will have to start ringing round people who have every intention of coming and simply haven't got round to putting pen to paper, or fingers to keyboards and telling me. People in Peebles might note this!! We were well pleased with the Holiday Inn the past two years we have used them and at this stage, I have little interest in shopping around trying to find a cheaper deal. In any event, they know us, are happy to accommodate us no matter how few we eventually end up and we are happy with the service they offer. So please help me by sending back your order form as soon as possible. You should know by now but I will repeat, you only need to send me a cheque for the function, not for the room, which you pay yourself on checking out. I now have to pay the full amount of the function in advance which is not really a problem but a change under HI's new management.

DONATIONS

Whilst you have your hand in your pocket may I ask those of you who have not supported us for some time, to make a small donation towards the running of the Association. A fiver is quite adequate if enough people respond. It might surprise you how few people in fact do respond to my request for help. I never ever disclose who supports the Association or how much I receive from them, I know that some people simply cannot afford a penny, but we do have basic expenses to meet to keep the thing going.

WORDS OF WISDOM AND/OR SOLACE

I received a letter recently from one of our old colleagues which contained what I thought were very sage words. I have since learned that he sent a similar letter to some other ex-colleagues and I am not going to mention his name in case the letters were confidential but I am going to repeat the pertinent part of the letter for us all to share. He said, and I do not apologise for repeating the entire paragraph, “ *All in all I have enjoyed another good year, in that the routine of my life has not been disrupted by any great adverse events but has continued more or less unchanged. For younger people that would spell B-O-R-I-N-G!! but the fact is that as we get older and slower, we tend to settle for stability and continuity, for the familiar and the tried and true. So I’m not into internet banking and still write cheques. I don’t have accounts with Facebook or Twitter and if I want to know something I ask my grand kids and they quickly “Google” it. I don’t have a ‘smart phone’ as such but I do have a very basic mobile phone purely for my own convenience, like calling the AA if I have a breakdown. I manage email to a limited degree but tend to forget about it and go for days without checking it! So, I know I am old fashioned and the butt of many good natured jokes amongst my workmates but am happy to remain so. As the product of a bygone era surviving in this modern world I am happy with my lot. As I see it, it’s a good place to be in and I consider myself to be very fortunate.*”

VARIOUS CONTACTS.

I have continued to remain in contact with as many of our old friends as possible and mention a few here. I speak to Paddy Chevallier quite regularly in Cape Town and she continues to be in relatively good health. As you know, she has plenty of very caring family around her to keep her occupied. I speak to Tony Drynan on Skype very regularly, to Jon Dennison. Mike Harper, Malcolm Llewelyn, Dot Farmery, Allan Dew, Boyd Pendennis, Eric Bult, Mike Maude, Mike Tadman and Trevor Gwyer. I hear by email from Brian Carswell, Derek Harling, Jack Lane, Kevin McCann and others I can’t bring to mind. My telephone goes regularly with calls from old friends or in some cases their wives.

Ray Punter, stuck out at the other end of the world, seems to get more than his share of visitors from our past. This last year he had a long visit from Tony Drynan, a brief visit from Sylvene Palliser and went out to dinner with Anne Binney and her partner Eric Robb (Ex-BSAP). I am glad to say they all reported Ray to be in extremely good health and spirits.

Again wishing all of you a good year,
Kindest regards

CHRISTOPHER BEAN