



## **NEWSLETTER No 21 ~ 22<sup>nd</sup> JULY 2015**

### **GREETINGS**

Greetings to all our friends and colleagues who read this newsletter. I would like to say that here in the UK summer is upon us but it is difficult to say with any degree of certainty. The weather is unbelievably changeable and as I sit here now in the middle of what is suppose to be summer, it is quite cold. We have had extreme heat in very short bursts but they cannot be relied upon. However, having done the usual English thing and mentioned the weather, I will pass on to other matters

### **VALE**

It was with regret I reported earlier this year the death of **Joyce Tadman**, wife of Mike. Joyce was taken ill and hospitalised shortly after the Reunion last year and died peacefully on 23th April 2015. I passed on condolences from the Association to Mike and also forwarded many emails of sympathy I received for onward transmission to Mike.

### **AVE**

There is no “Ave” in this Newsletter because nobody new has swum into our world, or to put it more prosaically, come to light!

### **WEBSITE**

The website, under the very very able care of **Terry Young**, goes from strength to strength and I urge you to have a look at it on a regular basis. **Terry** very quickly puts up anything of interest which is sent to him and this includes especially photographs. Please help our website to remain a live and vibrant creation.

### **MISSING PERSONS**

We are frequently asked if we have information as to the whereabouts of various people. Some times we have and sometimes we don't. We have been asked quite a number of times recently for news of **Ron Mountford** and **Johnny Wiseman**. Nobody seems to have heard of or from them but if you have any information, please let us have it.

### **REUNION 2015**

The tenth Annual Reunion took place at the Holiday Inns Coventry on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015. It was by all accounts and in most expressed opinions, the best yet. Certainly the hotel did us very well. Service was excellent and the meal served in the evening was outstanding. Whatever their choices of main meals, everybody confirmed that their meal was delicious.

We had planned on having a Skype link-up with old friends in New Zealand and Australia but this fell away as one by one, they each expressed no great excitement at rising at their three or four in the morning to speak for ten minutes or so with their old colleagues in the UK. A shame really, especially for **Tony Drynan** in Perth, whose idea it had been in the first place and who tried hard to rally the troops, with no success. Perhaps next year.

A feature of this year's Reunion was the number of "children" who attended. It is gratifying that they wish to remain in contact with their parents' old friends, and often people they knew in their childhood and also who might have been their school mates. It is both a comforting and uncomfortable feeling to realise that in a relative few years, these people will be all that is left of the Nyasaland Police and if there is still any Association at all, it will be these people who will run it. There were actually only thirteen ex-officers present this year, although several gave last minute cancellation due to family problems – or their own frail health. I will append a photograph of those officers who did attend below and please note, that for some reason, he probably wasn't paying attention, Mike Tadman does not appear on the group photo although he is on the whole group photo which you will find elsewhere.



*For the benefit of those who can't identify the distinguished people above:*

*Front row L to R: Terry Young, Christopher Bean, Boyd Pendennis, Peter Ledger & Michael Thacker.*

*Back row L to R: Bob Carr, Mike Maude, Ken Wilkinson, Derek Unwin, David O'Neal, Don McCarry & John Wilkes.*

Thirty eight people attended the Reunion this year and until the late cancellations, I had actually forty six confirmations.

During the meal I proposed a toast to our departed friends and to those who could not be with us this year. The Toast to the Nyasaland Police was offered by **John Kirkham**, son of Alan Kirkham and dealt mainly with being a police "child" in Nyasaland as it was then. A most welcome change to our usual format.

Terry Young then announced the winner of the Photographic competition he organised this year and the well deserved winner was Don McCarry who submitted a very striking photo which he entitled "Mvula Akubwera". I am inserting the photo below.



The official part of the evening finished with an amazing presentation by **Kathy Carr** reading a piece which she wrote after attending the first Reunion in 2006. In common with a number of wives there then, she had never been to Nyasaland and so knew nobody except her husband. Her observations and feelings about the event were remarkable and delivered with great feeling. She received virtually a standing ovation. Well done **Kathy**.

A further innovation was the raffle organised by **Terry Young** with tickets being very persuasively sold by **Vanessa Farmery**. Although he denies this, I strongly suspect that the prizes were provided by Terry but however, he realised nearly £120 which he presented to the Association funds. Well done and thank you **Terry** and **Vanessa**.

After a very hearty breakfast the next morning, we all, in our various ways, wended ourselves homewards.

I have booked the Holiday Inns Coventry for our function next year as I feel we can do no better. I have to offer a word of warning though. The Events Manager **Kerry Bailey**, who has looked after us very well, advised me that the Holiday Inns have been bought out by an American company called something like “InterState” I think. They are in the process of reviewing their prices and costs so she was unable to give me any costs for next year until these are finalised. We have had a very good run and indeed we have paid the same price for this event for ten years in a row so we cannot complain. I hope the increases, if they occur, are not such that we do not feel inclined to pay them. I am certainly not at this stage, or my age, going to start shopping around for better deals! So fingers crossed people.

All in all, a very good “do”.

## **ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF POLICING IN NYASALAND/MALAWI**

I have been contacted by one, **Victor Sibale** who is Director of Planning in the Malawi Dept. of Education in Lilongwe. He has been tasked with organising a celebration of one hundred years of Policing in Nyasaland/ Malawi which is to take place in 2021, i.e., one hundred years after the formation of the Nyasaland Police. He asked for any help we could give to him and I offered to give him any support we, as an Association, could make. I made him aware of our website, of which he was unaware, and sent him a copy of "The Nyasaland Police Remembered". He is very excited to be in touch with us and I await further developments.

I think that is all I can pass on to you at this time so wish you all well until I send my next Newsletter, which will probably be closer to Christmas ( horrors) unless something momentous comes up.

*Khalani bwino*

*Christopher Bean*  
*22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015*