



NEWSLETTER No 2 of 2016

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Pictured:

Front Row L-R

John Wilkes, Christopher Bean, Jon Dennison, Mike Tadman, David O'Neil, Boyd Pendennis

Back Row L-R

Mike Maude, Bob Carr, Derek Unwin, Gordon Samuel, Ken Wilkinson, Terry Young.

I have included only a photograph of the officers attending and a full set of photos of the event is available on the website, www.nypol.com.

GREETINGS

Greetings to all of you and as promised, I am submitting an account of the Reunion for you as soon as I can following the event last week. However, first to our other items.

VALE

We said farewell this year, since the last newsletter went out, to Rex Jones, John (Tennis) Parker and Harry Kingsland. Rex Jones I think was well known to many of you, John Parker, so called "Tennis" to differentiate from the other John A. Parker. Harry Kingsland seems to be very little known by any of our members although it seems he might have served one tour in Blantyre in Radio Communications. Jack Lane might wish to comment on this should he read this Newsletter. I have written to his widow and she has not replied so I am now dependant on Dutch Hullah, who gave me the news, to find out anything else he can. In any event, I duly passed on condolences from the Association to the families concerned.

AVE

Nobody new came to light in the period under review other than Gordon Samuel about whom more in my report on the Reunion.

THE 2016 REUNION OF THE NYASALAND POLICE ASSOCIATION.

This year's reunion again took place at the Coventry Holiday Inn on 14th July. It was attended by some 34 persons comprising 12 ex-officers, their wives and/or "children" and a number of "children" who attended of their own wishes. Amongst these were John Kirkham (son of Alan) and his wife Jenny. Ann Blackman, (daughter of "Matey" Martin) and her partner Paul Morris. Other "children" attending were Allan Bean, Lucy Bridgeman (Wilkes), Sue McRae (Samuel) and Vanessa Farmery.

I have said before, if the Association is to survive in any form for more than the next ten years, it will be due to the efforts of these "children" so their presence is to be encouraged. We won't be here, most of us!

A very successful innovation this year was the idea to have all the photographs in our Galleries converted to one massive slideshow which was on the large screen all evening. The images were much appreciated by all present and during the evening one could always hear a voice somewhere saying, "Oh, that's so and so" etc, etc. The event was clearly entertaining and we will probably repeat it next year. All the photographs are permanently available on the website but not everybody has a computer and even then, those who do, do not always search the entire website.

Terry Young proposed the "Toast to Absent and Departed Friends" and said a few words where he could, about those who for whatever reason are no longer with us. CMB proposed the "Toast to the Nyasaland Police" and preceded it by a short speech attempting to discover why Nyasaland was so special. He concluded by saying that whatever the reasons for its unique attraction we could all be thankful to the Nyasaland Police for giving us the opportunity to enjoy such a wonderful experience.

Thereafter, Terry Young ran a raffle, the prizes for which had been donated by persons wishing to remain anonymous, although Terry managed to name them, by mistake I doubt, as he went along. Tickets for the raffle were again sold by Vanessa Farmery and the raffle earned a very welcome addition to the Association funds, such as they are.

At her own request Kathy Carr then narrated a poem she had written called "The NYPOL Boys". She gave it in what we have come to learn is her own special delivery and it was very well received. I think she will have to become a regular performer at our Reunions! Although I do draw the line at a song which she threatened to produce for next year.

Before closing off this section of the Newsletter, I must tell you of the special effort Lucy Wilkes (as she was), made to attend the Reunion. It was due entirely to her efforts in persuading Sue Samuel (as she was) to bring her father and mother to the Reunion. Gordon Samuel has been out of sight for many years and it was a great pleasure to see him and his family at the Reunion. It appears that Sue and Lucy are great friends of long standing and after persuading the Samuels to come, Lucy felt obliged to attend herself, if for no other reason. To get to Coventry was no little effort as she lives in a small village in Brittany. So she drove to Dinard, caught a plane to the East Midland Airport, hired a car and drove to Coventry where she arrived to great applause at about eight o'clock. The following morning she reversed the journey and went back home to Brittany. It was great to see the reunion between the two girls, and Lucy's effort was surely beyond and above etc. Well done Lucy.

So, people wandered off to bed when they had had enough and without exception, they all told me that it was the best Reunion we had had ever. I find this difficult to accept but it proved beyond doubt that we do hold happy and successful Reunions.

A full selection of photographs taken during the evening is now up on the website, thanks to Terry and others who contributed their photos, and we will always welcome any more being offered.

REUNION 2017

A reservation has already been made for next year's reunion, again at the Coventry Holiday Inn on Thursday 13th July. Please put this date in your calendars for next year **NOW** and don't come up with any stories about "prior engagements!" I expect the costs to remain the same and will send out details with my first Newsletter in 2017.

OLD FRIENDS

Just so you know I have not been idle on your behalf, following are the names of those with whom I have been in contact with by one means or another so far this year. In no particular order they are: *Fay Antrobus, Paddy Chevallier, Mary Brill, John Clements, Allan Dew, Tony Drynan, Mike Garner, Trevor Gwyer, Mike Harper, Dick Lancaster, Jack Lane, Peter Ledger, Malcolm Llewellyn, Kevin McCann, Joe McElvenney, Bob Power, Ray Punter, Don Ruddle, Heber Russell, David Searle, Richard Smallshaw, Glynn Spurgeon, Bill Warren, Robin Stitchbury, Norman Anderson, Margaret Bacon and Bronwen Renno.*

If I have missed anybody out, please forgive me.

So. This brings this, for me a monster Newsletter to an end and I will produce one more towards the end of the year, which suddenly seems awfully close.

I wish you all well.

Regards

Christopher Bean