



## York Reunion Report

It was decided from the start that we would have no timetable of visits, there was just so many attractions on offer in York, definitely a real spoilt for choice City!

The first couple we saw, after booking in at the Hotel, were Dave and Maureen Pottage. Sadly, we had to go to the local shops as we had left our ablutions kit, along with other items, in a rucksack back at home, is this Dementia creep? Others quickly arrived whilst we were away, with Lloyd and Anne Rosentall finally arriving as we sat down to dinner at 1900 hrs – having had an arduous 5 hour journey from Weston-Super-Mare.

The evening meal saw us dining (1900 hrs) on 3 separate tables, with old friendships quickly rekindled. After eating, we all retired to either the lounge or bar area and talk was of the 40<sup>th</sup> entry, past reunions and next year's reunion in Gibraltar: the consensus being we need to consider 5 days, rather than 4 – something that will now be addressed, providing 'the price is right.' It was noticeable, that the whole group retired to bed before 0030 hrs. Our early reunions, one recalled, saw some of us at the bar until gone 0200 hrs on the first night!

On Saturday, with the weather not kind, a group went to the Railway Museum, which proved an excellent choice, although some of the wife's decided shopping was far better than choo choos, so took to filling shopping bags! The Pottages trekked the City Wall, whilst others just wandered around the City. The Railway children (en-route), with their soon to be shopping wife's, took in the sight of the Morris Dancers who performed in the City for the Festival of Dance. The Railway Museum was judged outstanding, free entry, too. The shopping wife's had yet to declare all their spending to their husbands, that would be fun!

We assembled (Paraded) in the bar area before dinner (1930 hrs) and this saw many of us in DJs, a tradition started many reunions ago and which greatly adds to the occasion; especially with Vern Phillips and Pete Stenning suitably kilted out. Colin Simpson attended the dinner and kindly said a few words; sadly his dear wife was on excused duties. The dinner was judged a success and the level of conversation reflected this. A raffle was organised and tickets kindly sold by Carole Winnett and Rose Stinson, raising £30 for SSAFA.

We all gravitated to the Lounge area afterwards, regaling war stories, along with pressing domestic issues, such as grand-parent duties! Along with this, conversation returned to two former reunion stalwarts, Eric May and Dave Lowe, who we felt sure were with us in spirit and certainly would not fade from memory easily. Once again, it was strange how we all decided on a reasonably early night - as someone said; it was like getting to bed before lights out!!

Sunday, for those who remained for the extra night, saw everyone going free-range, doing their own thing, although Pete and Pat Stenning made a day out hosting Colin Simpson and his wife. Weather wise, this was a good day and a group of us decided to take the boat trip up the River Ouse, which was most pleasant. Steve Lister had planned a visit to a heritage airfield, but had to abandon this because of road works of all things.

Sunday evening saw most of the remaining group dining out in a nearby pub, with Pete and Mavis Lyver, along with the Stennings deciding to dine in. The evening turned out to be a bit riotous for the pub group and carried on after returning to the hotel- although, it has to be declared, a reasonably early night it was when we retired, and someone did remark this would all have to change for the Gibraltar Reunion!

Departing, although very familiar to us with so many reunions behind us, is always a sad occasion but we gritted our teeth and braved the heavy construction traffic outside the Hotel to get to our cars. We left Vern and Pat Phillips as our small detachment for one more night. Terry and Carole Winnett were paying a visit to their one-time best man, who now lives in Hull, on the way home – it had been a long time coming, after 49 glorious years.

Finally, we just hope Done Maciver, who could not be with us, makes a quick recovery from his medical ordeal and both he and Jeannete are back with us next year for Gibraltar. Once again, a big thank you for all those who supported this year's Reunion and we hope to see you in Gibraltar.

Steve & Dave