

Reunion Report, Edinburgh, Weekend 24th September, 2021.

Friday:

Arriving late on Friday (1700hrs); this after Mrs Satnav took us through the centre of Edinburgh with the only sightseeing was the many road works in the city to accommodate the new tram system. After booking in, we headed for the bar seating area of the Brewers Fayre (attached to the Premier Inn) to find the usual suspects having already arrived with drink in hand.

Ian Duckham had the privilege of having been chauffeured by his 2 daughters from Leeds. Don & Jeanette Maciver had flown in from Stornoway, with Lloyd & Anne Rosentall having flown in from Bristol. Mike Seward, who was now living in the USA, had scheduled us into his few weeks break in the UK. Soon conversation flowed about previous reunions, absent friends and of all things Jankers! The evening meal proved to be fine, apart from some having an inordinate amount of time waiting for their meal; included in this was Des & Carol Haines – Des always recalls good tales to tell from his Cosford days. After the meal, we congregated in the bar seating area, continuing with beer and banter.

Saturday:

A few of us in the group visited the Royal Yacht Britannia, berthed very nearby. The general comment made was how Spartan it all was. In the afternoon some of our group went off to Edinburgh City, some said many shops were closed in Princess Street, and the Castle could only be visited with a pre-booking. Terry & Carole Winnett, Ian Duckham, along with Rose and myself, sat outside the Premier Inn discussing PC and how the World was changing fast in this direction, with our children grandchildren accepting this, although not us always.

The evening saw us as a group (19) having a formal dinner at 1900 hrs, with some wearing Black Tie (and miniature medals) and the ladies elegantly dressed. Steve Lister, our Chairman, was appointed keeper of the RAF table flag. Thankfully, the group had a room assigned for dining, albeit with the group broken up on several separate tables. Ernie & Hilary Trimble were nearly late on Parade, say no more!

Once again, after our meal, we gathered in the bar seating area, with talk of our days in I.T.S. and beyond, that is until the bar shut at what we all thought was an early time – especially when considering previous reunions when, for example, dear departed Eric and Vernon would hold court until the early hours whilst standing at the bar.

Sunday:

Fourteen of us had pre-booked a 3 Bridges boat trip on the Firth of Forth, which left just after 1100 hrs. This was a thoroughly enjoyable trip, perhaps with too much commentary, some said, but certainly gave us a close up of the 3 iconic bridges, with the Forth Bridge setting the bench mark for the other two. After this, it was free range for our group, some of us taking tea and scones by the bridges, others walking on the beach further up the Forth.

Some of us (Don & Jeanette, Paul & Elaine Justice, Ian, Rose & Dave) sat outside in the garden area of the Premier Inn, overlooking the water discussing holidays and shopping.

The evening saw us once again in the bar seating area in 2 groups after dining with much laughter and merriment, that is until we were told the bar shut at 2130 hrs, a real disappointment. This will certainly be avoided on our next Reunion, where we are staying at a hotel in Bedfordshire, close to former RAF Cardington.

Monday:

The group slowly departed, apart from the Don & Jeanette Maciver who had another day before flying back to Stornoway. In all, the weekend was a success, despite the many road works in Edinburgh, along with the early closure of the bar. It is hoped that those who can attend our next Year's Reunion in Bedfordshire will be with us: we need to keep going as long as possible, as dear departed Vernon often said.

