



# The AnyFace Association Newsletter December 2021



## A message from The Chairman.

*I felt that a note about the Association at the end of the year might be of interest - ideally it would be in the form of the first Chairman's Report at an AGM but that is not in sight just yet. Instead, it is more a 'how goes it' sitrep.*

*I was first aware of a possible Association when I met with an enthusiastic Serena about two years ago when she was canvassing interest and seeking possible members. I was an immediate supporter. As we know it went well and soon she had a website up and running and keeping us otherwise informed of the increasing momentum by email.*

*The timing could not have been more fortuitous. On 26<sup>th</sup> May last year Cdr Colin McGannity RN the then CO of 849 Squadron informed all that on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 'he was instructed to decommission 849' Squadron. A shock to many. Further on in his message after a brief history of the Squadron and its achievements said 'Unfortunately the current social distancing policy prevents us from marking the occasion in the traditional manner, so instead I hope that all those with affinity towards the 'AnyFace' community refresh their contact details with me or Serena.....' And many of you did, today we have some 260 members covering the span of years from the 1950's until now.*

*I would like to place on record at this point my own and I trust the thanks of all members to Serena for her recognition of a need of an Association and her enthusiasm and self-less dedication and effort in making it so. A BZ Serena from all.*

*The size and widening task of the Association called for shared management and responsibility. Following a call for volunteers we now have a valuable working committee of seven members drawn from the Skyraider, AEW Gannet, Sea King and Merlin eras - and all will be pleased to know that all are rotating both vertically/horizontally in sync and have already held two successful and very productive meetings.*

*It would be pleasing to report that we progressed thoughts on a reunion but sadly given the present situation and uncertain future nothing firm can be planned at present; however it is on the top of the 'to do list' once we see a clearance on the horizon. We have however progressed other basic but vital matters in establishing a new association such as Rules, Regulation and Membership. Rather than reinvent the wheel it was found that by*



minor amendment to those of the FAAOA they were fit for our purpose – digital copies will be sent to all members. On finances we reviewed and refined the proposed membership subscription and our treasurer will be informing members soon on preferred method of payment. We have reviewed and acted as necessary in attending to memorials associated with the Association and their future care. As all will know the Association was well represented and recognised at the RBL Whitehall Remembrance Sunday parade and at the Fly Navy Federation (of which we are a member) FAA Memorial Service. We understand that the Association can increase numbers at the parade next year and will be allocated a 'plot' at the Westminster Abbey Field of Remembrance.

On wider membership activity it was pleasing to hear that the web site is being well used. I encourage that and also please forward stories from your past for the Newsletter which again many report enjoying – your feedback and comment on Association matters is also very welcome. Hopefully next year we will have the opportunity to meet in person also – I look forward to that. In the meantime, keep fit and well and I wish you and your families Best Wishes for the New Year.

Yours aye,

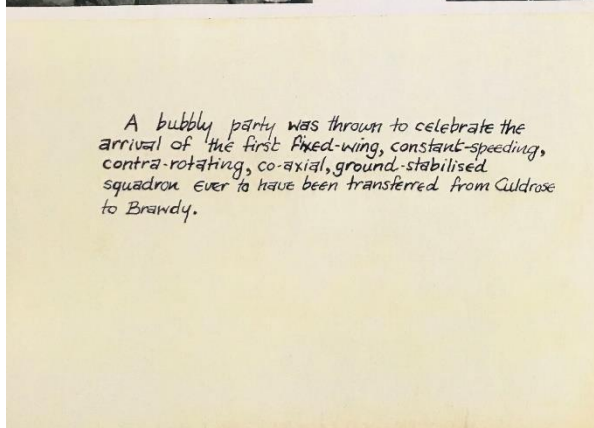
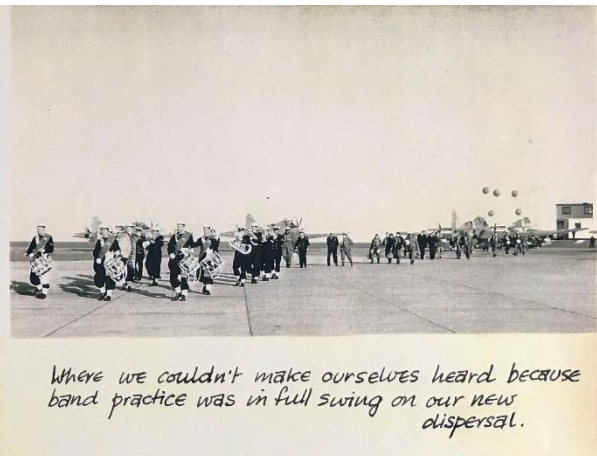
Mike R.

**Down Memory Lane.** December 1964 - 849 say goodbye to Culdrose...





....and hello to their new home in Pembrokeshire!



### **Dicky finally hangs up his (dodgy brown) flying boots!**

With over 5000 flying hours (and just as many dits), Lt Cdr Dicky Lewis has officially retired from naval service. Dicky joined the RN in 1981, initially as an Engineering Officer before transferring to the FAA for observer training in 1984. A stalwart of 849, Dicky served on both flights and on exchange with the USN on Hawkeye, before leaving regular service in 1997. His time in the RNR has included non-flying operational tours to Afghanistan and Bahrain along with augmentation support to 854 and 857 squadrons in the Middle East. Dicky was awarded the Queen's Volunteer Reserves Medal in 2011. His final years have been spent on 849 NAS - mainly ensuring the observers kept their Fighter Controller currency! A fantastic stint Dicky; many of our members will have benefited greatly from your expert instruction and mentoring over the years – enjoy your retirement!



### **Admin**

#### **AnyFace Association Tie – only 10 now in stock!**

A must have accessory for the AnyFace 70 reunion, we have around 10 ties in stock. Each tie is made from 2 plastic bottles so we're doing our bit for the environment! Cost is **£10 p&p included**. To purchase, just drop me a line [here](#)



**2022 Subscription** – Following the positive feedback from members, it was agreed at the last committee meeting that a subscription charge should be introduced for 2022 to allow us to cover the costs connected with running the Association, to cover upkeep of memorials/wreaths for Remembrance Day and also to subsidise members to attend forthcoming events. Full and Associate membership will be £10 and Overseas (outside UK) membership will be free for 2022.

**No action required as yet** – the Treasurer & Admin Director will issue an email in early January with further instructions for 2022 membership.

**2021 Membership List** – As promised in the last Newsletter, a full members list for 2021 follows. Please excuse all ranks, rates, pre & post nominals.

Thanks for all the support this year and hopefully we'll see you back in 2022!  
Admin Director



