

If:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z is represented as:  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26



Then:

H-A-R-D-W-O-R-K

$$8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11 = 98$$

## Sons of Halton

Dick Gurr

Jim Coombe



John Burgess

Pete DeClaire

Mick Hall

John Hannaford



Paul Benniston    Hugh Jupp



John 'Budge' 'Brass Band' 'Bedpack' Burgess



Michael 'Mick' 'Mooney' Mason



'Budge'

In 1975 my 12 year contract with the RAF expired. I always figured that someday I might try to document what I remember about my Halton Apprenticeship and the subsequent 14 years of wearing an RAF uniform. Throughout the course of my working life I have been amazed at how, from time to time, I have been drawn back to those

'heady' days of Halton, to my career in the RAF and how in post RAF years I have been prompted to maintain the links to Halton by various coincidental events.

In 1980 I returned on leave from a Civilian assignment in the Middle East and decided to spend four days walking on the Ridgeway Path. I arrived at Wendover on the fourth day, a Friday at 17.30 at the Shoulder of Mutton, where I had arranged to spend the night. To my amazement I learned that the following day the **1980 Halton Reunion** would take place.

In September 2001, whilst working for Lucent Technologies at Malmesbury in Wiltshire I learned that in two weeks time the **6th Triennial Halton Reunion** would take place.

In 2008 I decided to make sure that I attended the **9th Triennial Reunion**. An interesting result of posting an article on [www.xhaltonbrat65.com](http://www.xhaltonbrat65.com) was that some five months later I received the following e-mail from Mike Mason:



### 'Mooney'

On 08/02/2008, [Michrismason@at=aol.com](mailto:Michrismason@at=aol.com) wrote: Re- 98th Entry Halton

Although a member of the Association for many years I have never attended a reunion nor have I been back to Halton. I have started writing about my RAF career for my grandchildren and it was as a consequence of researching RAF Halton I came across your review. I wondered if I may ask if I could possibly have copies of one or two of the photos you included in your article; particularly, of the external view of the Mess Dining Hall, Kermode Hall and Barrack Blocks which I would like to include in my write up.



Route Lining, London



3 Wing, 1961



Pete Lake Mike Mason Andy Folliard

I retired from the RAF in 1996 so I stayed the course a bit longer than you John. When at Halton my friends were lads named Mike Ingham, Haggis McGovern (side drummer Pipe Band), George Crowe (Entry Drum major), Dave Molden, Chris Norman, Andy Folliard and Rob Holt. I wonder if the names ring any bells with you? Oh before I forget, I was a Rigger as were all of the above.

I have attached a couple of photos for you to look at. The first is of me marching in London during a route lining session - remember them John! Behind me is Rob Holt. Another is me outside Block 8 at No 3 Wing. Lastly there is a photo taken in the Airframe Workshops of me, Andy Folliard and one other, who's name I have forgotten. I think its an age problem! (Insert: [eventually remembered, confirmed by Andy Folliard on 8th March 2008, as 'Pete' Lake](#)).

Hope you don't mind me asking John, but if you don't ask you don't get, as they say.

Take care and I look forward to hearing from you, Mike Mason (687226).