



2018 40th Reunion Report – Liverpool 25-28 May

Friday:

The advance party of Lloyd & Anne Rosentall arrived Thursday; this was in order to attend a concert in Manchester via the train from very nearby (3 minutes walk!) Liverpool Lime Street. Lloyd also reported back on the adequacy of the free car parking arrangements. Those who travelled by car reported no problems securing this free (Secure) car parking, courtesy of the Liner Hotel. Ian & Wendy Waterhouse even managed to pre-book a parking space!

The rest of the group arrived throughout Friday afternoon - Carol Winnett, along with Dave & Maureen Pottage, elected to travel by train. Don & Jeanette Maciver, also arriving by train from Manchester airport, arrived after 1800 hrs: a commendation surely must be awarded to them for attending most of our reunions, despite having to travel from the other ends of the Kingdom, the lovely Western Isles.

Most of us decided to dine out nearby (Holiday Inn and Wetherspoons) although all managing to assemble in the Hotel bar afterwards. It was soon time to swap how kind, or otherwise, the last 12 months had been to us. Rose Stinson arrived hobbling on one crutch having had an unfortunate accident resulting in a broken hip, now repaired and on the mend. Other talk was of earlier reunions, especially the 2 Cosford ones which now seem a long way in the distant past and the 60th anniversary of joining as Boy Entrants in 1960 looming in 2 years. On these occasions, talk of dear absent friends always arises; we remember them on every reunion.

It was noticeable some people were looking at their watches at 2300 hrs, thinking of getting to their rooms when earlier reunions saw many of us in the bar until the early hours of the morning!

Saturday:

Many of us visited the Anglican Cathedral, which we all agreed was awesome, although one group were unfortunate to get a taxi driver who did not know where this major attraction was, although to be fair he was far from local! Liverpool Cathedral took 4 years to complete and is the largest one in the UK and longest in the World. Another unique feature is that the Architect lays buried close to the main entrance. Many of us decided to take a sightseeing trip (River Explorer Cruise) on the Mersey Ferries, lasting 1 hour. It was both informative and good value, especially with concessionary prices! After this, a few of the group visited a nearby museum, with others just sitting on the Waterfront.

Sunday:

The highlight of the day was doing the Fab 4 Beatles Taxi Tour (11 of us) lasting 2 hours. Others took the coach tour, taking in the same Beatles tour. We visited the former homes of Ringo, George, John and Paul; this along with many other important landmarks (Penny Lane & Strawberry Field) involved in their early years. We all agreed it was worth every penny. Most of us agreed that we would now appreciate the lyrics of the Beatles more, listening more carefully to words associated with the places we visited and learnt about.

The Fab 4 tour group got dropped off at the Philharmonic Pub, which is famed for being one of the most beautiful bars in England, originally designed by shipwrights who built the Lusitania. Many visitors, including women, marvel at the pink marble men's toilets, said to be the only listed heritage toilets in the country. Lloyd Rosental I took some photos of this, someone said on his return it was ornate and small, not Lloyd of course! Later, some of the group, including Ian and Wendy Waterhouse, Steve Lister and Dave and Maureen Pottage were fortunate in being able to obtain tickets to see the Terracotta Warriors at the World Museum.

At 1900 hrs we all assembled for the traditional formal dinner, all seated on one long table. Some residents were most interested in finding out why some of us in black tie, with medals. Unknown to the group it was Ian and Wendy Waterhouse's 51st Wedding Anniversary (congratulations to them both) and they kindly supplied the wine for the dinner, certainly a lovely gesture. The meal ran late and our bar time was cut short with early closing, not before Dave Pottage (who kindly organised a collection for staff, who had been first-class) got sidelined by a lady at the bar. We all left at a reasonable time for our beds, with some having to travel far in the morning.

Monday:

After breakfast it was the usual sad departures, although some had already left early with others to remain in Liverpool to see the Tall Ships sailing to take part in their race at 1100 hrs.

Finally, thanks for your attendance and support, hoping you can make it next years' Reunion, which will be held in Stratford upon Avon. Our Web Page will soon show a nominal roll for this, along with hotel booking details so please commit at the earliest to secure your room, which can always be cancelled if circumstances change.

Steve & Dave
40th

Postscript:

The 60th Reunion, to be held in 2020, is at an early stage of planning with the venue Most likely Cardington, Bedfordshire. As you recall, it was at RAF Cardington that we undertook our initial 2 day Selection process.

