

Reunion Report, Thirsk, 23-26 May 2025

Friday

We arrived after an awful journey of 5 hours, which should have taken us just 3 hours. Already arrived were Des and Carol Haines, along with Lloyd and Anne Rosentall who had arrived the night before. Much to our delight, sitting in the corner was Ian Duckham who was paying a flying visit after being brought along kindly by his 2 daughters. Soon Bob and Sylvi Menzies appeared, already having booked in earlier.

During the evening meal, talk was of politics and old 40th friends. We all retired to our rooms at 2215 hrs. When looking back at our early reunions, when we were much younger, the first night would still see us all at the bar until the early hours!

Saturday:

After breakfast in the hotel, with Ian Waterhouse, who lived locally, joining us, a group of us visited The World of James Herriot Museum in Thirsk. A most interesting place to visit, the birthplace of the TV series All Creatures Great and Small. All of us then gathered in the Three Tuns Pub, now a Weatherspoons, where it was said James Herriot used to drink.

During the afternoon, Ian Waterhouse gave myself and the Menzies a local tour of his Town, which was very informative.

The evening meal saw the men in black tie dress, with the ladies dressed lovely as usual on these occasions. With much talk and banter before we all retired to our rooms before midnight.

Sunday:

After breakfast, apart from Des & Carol Haines, we all paid a visit to Kiplin Hall & Gardens, a place full of history with the first family to occupy it said to have established the State of Maryland in the USA.

The afternoon saw us having a few drinks back at the Hotel. Ian Waterhouse then returned back home in nearby Northallerton.

Monday:

Breakfast Parade was 0900, after which we would all be departing for home. Agreement was reached that the Hotel was well positioned and served our reunion well. Those who attended were hoping they could be at our next reunion, which will be held at Cosford in June, 2026, to take in the Air Show. Although this reunion was small in attendance, the spirit of the 40th is still very much alive and it is hoped we can have more of the 40th parading in 2026 at Cosford, where we hope to visit the camp site during our stay.

Dave Stinson & Steve Lister
40th , Together We Served

