

# **FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION**

Peter Murray, National Secretary



## **ANNUAL REUNION – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> to Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

We returned to The Shire Kettering Hotel for another successful Reunion weekend. An opportunity for members to meet and relax with FAAA friends and colleagues, and enjoy the excellent programme put together by our Reunion Organiser, Brian Bingham and IOW Tours. During dinner on Friday we were entertained by the Sea Cadets Kettering Branch who are affiliated to the Fleet Air Arm Association, afterwards the young band members came to each table to chat. A Raffle had been organised and the proceeds of £160 handed to the Sea Cadets for their funds.

The AGM was held on Saturday morning, a positive meeting. Mike Foote stood down as Chairman following two years in the role, during his time in office Mike has taken the Association forward through some turbulent issues and leaves the Association in a positive position for the future. Brian Bingham was voted in as the new Chairman and Jim Moulson as Vice Chairman.

Saturday's Gala Dinner was a most enjoyable, convivial affair. Our guest of honour was Lt Marc Pether RNR and his wife Heather. Marc spoke after dinner about the 800 NAS Sea Cadet Unit which is the only Fleet Air Arm Sea Cadet Unit in the UK. You may recall Rear Admiral Blount visited the Unit to open their new boathouse. Sue Halladay donated a bottle of vintage Woods Rum for auction. Alan Key did a great job as auctioneer and raised the princely sum of £100 bid by Mick Wyatt, our Daedalus Branch Secretary. The funds were for Navy Wings (latterly Historic Flight). Alan followed the auction with a plea for members of our Association to become supporters of Navy Wings, as the MOD and Royal Navy are ceasing to fund this organisation they are in desperate need of money. It costs only £30 a year by Standing Order to become a supporter, just follow their website for joining instructions [www.navywings.org.uk](http://www.navywings.org.uk). Remember, this is the only legacy we have to pass on to future generations.

Attendance was 55 (lowest ever) 74 last year ..... A candle was lit in recognition of Absent Friends.

**In 2019 The Reunion will be held at Best Western Royale Hotel, Bournemouth 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> April**



**Kettering Sea Cadets Band**



**Gordon Pinkney & Committee Members Brian Bingham, Mick Wyatt, Peter Murray, Ben Worship, Jim Moulson and Alan Key**

# ***FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION***



**Heather Pether, Brian Bingham, Lt Mark Pether RNR and Blenda Bingham**



**Mike Foote presenting Gordon Appleby our Standard Bearer with Life Membership**



**Sheila Styles, Joan Larbalestier, Kath Turner and Sue Halladay.**

**Our Birmingham Belles are the widows of Birmingham branch members, sadly deceased. Peter Styles was the Chairman and joined in 1974. Terry Larbalestier was a founder member in 1970, Roy Turner a committee member and Alan “Doc” Halladay a founder member, Treasurer and Secretary. The Birmingham Branch dissolved in 2015.**