

28 reunion – CLINT GURRY

Clint's first posting after completing 28 course was Northern Radar at RAF Lindholme. Clint was put up in RAF accommodation which he found quite difficult as he was assigned a batman to look after him. I was staying with his parents in Lincolnshire. We really loved living in Yorkshire and were disappointed when it closed down. I was listening in on headphones when the last movement took place. Steve and Val Hobbs and Martin Barrell were also posted to Lindholme so we used to have some great laughs. Clint had been told (should have got it in writing) that the posting was only going to be for a couple of years and then he would be sent back to LATCC.

In May 1977 he was told he was going up to SCATCC instead. He wasn't happy. We had gone with Steve and Val to have a weekend away in Norfolk to look at Eastern Radar. That will do we all thought. Wrong. I come from Troon and still had family there so it didn't bother me too much. Steve and Val had found a local builder who was starting a new development in Dundonald. We had a look and arranged for our house to be built across the road from them. It wasn't until I read Clint's book later that I realised how unhappy he had actually been during those years. Our first son Peter was born in 1978, 10 weeks early so we didn't get him home until he was about 6 weeks. Simon was born in 1980 and was nearly double the weight of his brother. We moved down south in 1982 and I would probably still be in Lightwater if I hadn't lost Clint.

Clint was lucky to get back on to his old watch, D watch, so lots of his chums like JN, Mickey Gale, Paul Lucas, Pete Hellier, Jonny Baker and Trev were still there. We again followed Steve and Val's move to lovely village in Surrey called Lightwater and we lived there until Clint's death in 2017. Clint really enjoyed his time on the TMA and his years at LATCC. It was a very different job then and lots of laughs and practical jokes took place. The 3 course meals on night shifts, or the curries that were delivered. You'll need to read Clint's book to jog a few memories.

From 1991 to 2002 Clint was in terminal control and they moved into the CCF operations room in March of 1991. Clint used to go on fam flights and his favourite one was on Concorde in May, 1992. It used to come over our

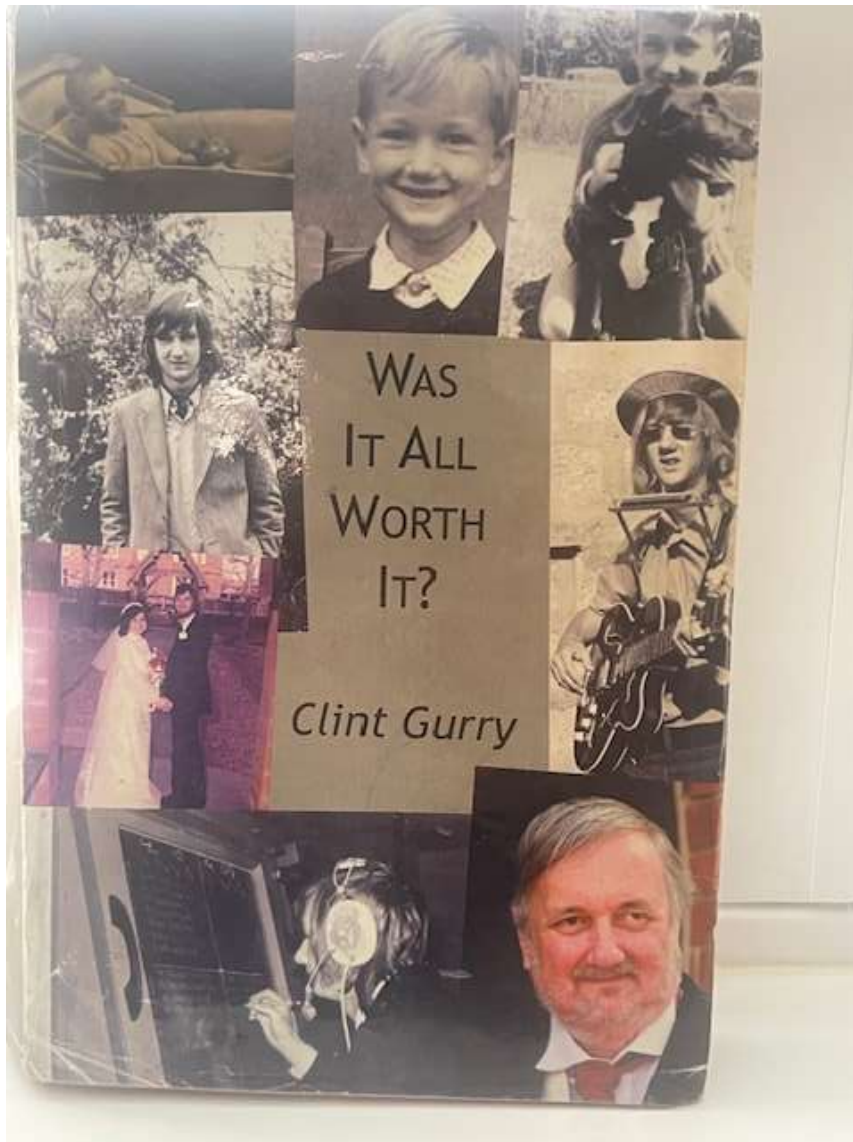
house every morning at 11.00am and about 6.00pm in the evening. Visitors used to love seeing it. The boys and I went up to see him take off

And when it flew over our house on the way back, the pilot was flashing his lights on and off for the boys to see. Quite a sight.

Unfortunately, Clint's health started to deteriorate. He had always had a delicate stomach and got an ulcer. Then years later he was diagnosed with Crohns disease. This is an awful thing to have and when he had a flare up, he was really poorly and often ended up in Frimley Park Hospital, luckily about 3 miles away. He had to have a lot of sick leave as the doctors at Gatwick didn't like the medication he was on.

I was made redundant from my role as Company Secretary and got a job at the local doctor's surgery. I started as a receptionist (rottweiler) and was soon practice manager. I had to give up my job as I became Clint's full time carer. He was very unsteady on his feet and used to fall over quite a lot. If he hadn't hurt himself, I used to call on very good neighbours to come and help him up. If not, it was another 999 visit to Frimley Park. On one occasion he was really poorly and fell down the stairs from standing up to lying on his back. Sod's law we had suffered a minor leak in our kitchen and they had to lift all the cushion floor and carpet in the dining room and hall to dry the ground out. The carpet was coming on the Monday and on the Sunday he had his accident. He was unconscious and bleeding profusely from the back of his head. He was stitched up and had scans etc but sent home as he had suffered no bleed on the brain or anything. About two weeks later, he started acting really strange before collapsing and fitting. He ended up in intensive care for about 6 weeks, having to have a tracheotomy and loads of treatment. He was unconscious and completely out of it. All the tests came back clear and scans showed nothing untowards. As a last ditch attempt they took fluid from his spine and found out he had a very rare disease called Bickerstaff's Brain Stem Encephalitis. Lots of doctors came up to read Clint's notes as apparently it is very rare with only about 80 cases a year worldwide. He eventually came off all the oxygen and although he survived, he was a bit forgetful and very immobile. He could manage around the house with zimmer frames and we had a stair lift but he would still fall over. He had a bad fall in April, 2017 and was

talking gibberish again. I asked the consultant if it was the Bickerstaff's back again as it was affecting his breathing. No, they said. My two boys and I had been with him and left at about 05.00 in the morning to come home and have a shower and get changed , but I was woken with a phone call at about midday to say he had just died. We were devastated.



I now live down in a little village in the Meon Valley called Swanmore and Simon and his family live around the corner. Simon and his wife Jen work at Swanwick. Jen was a Squadron Leader in the RAF but now works for NATS. She was in the RAF for 23 years and is now a manager. Simon joined in 2004 as an ACPO "blip driver" at West Drayton. He got the Data Systems Specialist role in 2006 working on the NAS system. It is still in service and is 51 years old now. He joined the union when he started and did a few

different roles before being elected into the Branch Chair role (ATM Section President) in 2008 where he remains today. The union is called PCS which is the new name for the old "non ATCO Union. He does the union work full time now but still keeps a validation on NAS as a DSS but all his work is union related. Prospect still represent the ATCO's and Engineers and he enjoys good relationships across the two TU's. Since Paul Winstanley recently retired, Simon is now the longest serving Lead Rep.

Peter once tried to explain to me what he did, but he completely lost me after a few minutes. He works for an American company which provide cyber security. He is a regional director and has big clients like Barclays Bank and has to travel sometimes.

Clint got to meet Peter's twin girls Annabelle and Olivia who will be 16 this year, but it is such a shame he never got to meet Emily(8) and Maisie (4)

While he was off sick for such a long time, Clint used to do lots of research and decided to write his autobiography. We only had about 12 copies printed but I will bring a copy to the reunion for you all to have a look at, if you like. My apologies if he upsets anyone. He did have a wicked sense of humour. Looking forward to seeing you all

Allisonx