

# MARCONI VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

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Dear Friend

First, let me wish all Friends a healthy and prosperous 2018.

At last year's Reunion, it was decided to invite Friends to the Annual Reunion and, so, I am pleased to extend that invitation to you. The Reunion will be held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018, and will be our 82<sup>nd</sup> Reunion. The venue will, as usual, be Hampton Sports & Leisure (ex-Marconi Club), Beehive Lane, Chelmsford, where there is ample parking for those who travel by road. The Member's Bar is to the left as you enter the Club and will open at 11.00 a.m. I would draw your attention to my article in the newsletter where I have given a brief description of the day's programme. Any changes will be advised to you with your ticket.

Whilst Friends are invited to the Reunion and Luncheon and are welcome to remain for the AGM, you are asked not to participate in the AGM discussions unless invited to do so. On the very rare occasions that a sensitive subject is to be discussed, you may be asked to leave the Hall for the duration of that discussion.

There will be various displays and the merchandise table will, again, be located in the hall. You will have plenty of time to enjoy meeting up with colleagues until it is time to take your seats for the luncheon. This will take place, as usual, at 1.00 p.m. with the Annual General Meeting and the Raffle concluding the proceedings. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to ring me on the above number.

We are, again, producing a commemorative Coaster and one per person is included in the ticket price. There will also be additional coasters, for sale, plus some coasters from previous years.

Our President for 2018 is Veteran Martyn Clarke, who is one of a number of ex-employees (mostly Veterans) who generously give their time to maintaining the Marconi equipment at The Chelmsford City Industrial Museum, Sandford Mill.

Joining the Reunion as our Honoured Guest is Dr. Paul Marshall who has built up an impressive collection of Marconi broadcast equipment.

This year, we have returned to the Standard menu: -

*Brussels Pate with Melba Toast and a Caramelised Onion Chutney*  
*Homemade Steak, Red Onion and Ale Pie*  
*Forest Fruits Cheesecake*  
*Cheese & Biscuits, Tea or Coffee*

We appreciate that some attendees may have special dietary requirements and would request that you indicate this on your application. We are able to cater for most requirements.

For Friends, the Ticket price for the Reunion is £33 whilst Subscriptions remain at £3.00. I am sure that you will agree that this is excellent value for a four-course meal with tea/coffee and wine. As the Association has a very limited income, and in order to keep our expenses to a minimum, receipts for Subscriptions and/or Donations will not be issued unless requested so we thank you in anticipation.

Those Friends who wish to attend are requested to apply to the above address at the earliest possible date but **not later than Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April**. We regret having to set this deadline but it is necessary to enable the caterers to source the ingredients for our meal. To reduce administration, please combine your ticket price, subscription, etc. onto a single cheque which should be made payable to '**Marconi Veterans' Association**'.

Please note that it is not acceptable for guests to bring their own drink or food into the Club. Please refrain from this practice as anyone doing so may be asked to leave the Reunion and could be refused a ticket in the future.

As last year, additional drinks can be purchased from the bar.

We often hear comments from Veterans that they would come to the Reunion but are afraid that they “would not know anyone on their table” or that “the speeches are long winded and boring”. If you feel this way, please read my article in this year’s Newsletter, speak to a Veteran who does attend or give me a ring. Then, if you’re still not decided, try it – if it really isn’t your ‘thing’ then there is no obligation to come again.

Your assistance is requested with the seating arrangements and we ask you to indicate, on your application, with which Company you would prefer to sit (i.e. Comms, Mobile, Radar, Badow, Basildon, Marine, MI).

We are compiling a list of forenames and nicknames in an effort to make the various lists less formal and enable people to distinguish between Colleagues with similar initials. With regard to the name tags, last year’s arrangements seemed to work quite well so we will, again, produce the name tags on A4 sheets which will be at the merchandise table so you can collect your label as you enter the Hall. When you order your ticket, please indicate, in the box provided, how you would like your tag to read. Please note that **THE DEFAULT WILL BE TO PRINT YOUR NAME AS IT APPEARS ON THE FIRST LINE OF YOUR ADDRESS LABEL.**

So please fill in the spaces on the Subscription/Ticket application form.

We are, as usual, inviting entries for the ‘Absent Friends’ book, containing messages from Veterans or Friends who were unable to attend. Two copies will be produced and prominently displayed at the Reunion. If you wish to place a message in the book, please use the space provided on the enclosed form. Entries will be identified by name but no contact details will be provided unless you include them within the message area.

We now have over 70 ‘Friends of the Marconi Veterans’ Association’ and would be pleased to welcome more. If you know of anyone who would like to attend the Reunion, or just receive the newsletter, please urge them to contact me, at the above address, as soon as possible.

I am often not informed when a Veteran or Friend dies, and in these circumstances, I would like to extend my condolences to members of the families who receive this letter and apologise for any distress or inconvenience caused. Should you be aware of any Veterans or Friends who have passed away recently, I would appreciate it if you would let me know so that I can amend our records and avoid any embarrassment.

I announced, at last year’s Reunion that 2018 would be the last that I would organise. At the end of the Reunion, I will be stepping down as Secretary and handing over to Veteran Colin Fletcher. I hope to remain on the Committee and will be attending future Reunions. It would be great to have a bumper attendance for my swansong so please get recruiting new members (Veterans and/or Friends) and convincing colleagues to attend.

We trust that you will accept this letter as a very cordial invitation to attend the Eighty-Second Reunion, but if, for any reason, you cannot be with us, the Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish you the very best of luck and good health for the future.

Finally, the 2019 Reunion will be on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April

I look forward to seeing you at the Reunion.

With kindest regards

Yours sincerely

*Barry Powell*

Veteran Barry Powell  
Secretary