

I don't know if it's just me but as time goes by it surely starts to fly. It only feels like last month when the last reunion took place not 2 years. This time the boys of 223 (yes we still feel like boys even though the bodies might disagree) descended on the hospitality of Lincoln and the Bentley Hotel and Spa.

There was a stalwart band of 28 including wives partners and the walking wounded who assembled to enjoy another weekend of reminiscing and revelry. Thoughts went out to absent friends who could not make it due to ill health including Bob Wilson , Gezz Goss and Keith Godden .Hope all goes well and we will see you all in the future.

As we started to arrive from all points of the compass we set up camp outside in the sun catching the new arrivals before they had time to refresh after their journeys. 1 table soon became 2 then 3 as the number of chairs increased, the beer started to flow and it was with great reluctance that the time came for us to adjourn to our rooms to get ready for the evening.

The evening kicked off as usual with a short welcome from Bob Rodham our organiser and the photograph for posterity or maybe Crimewatch! After the main course we were entertained by the nearest person to a local we could find Paul Pickwell who originally was from Boston. He tried hard to sell Lincolnshire as the next great tourist destination with what success I'm not sure. He then went on to stir up the grey matter with memories of our first days at Halton all those years ago, and our real reasons for enlisting, I'm still not sure what mine was but it worked out in the end and I have no regrets.

Dessert followed and the serious matter of the Charity raffle to contend with this year I think alcohol took centre stage a lot of which never even made it back to the rooms. Our Charity chosen this year was PROSTATE CANCER a very relevant and worthwhile cause especially for men of our years. We raised a sum of £270 including donations from Keith Godden, Paul Hayworth and Carl Reynolds in their absence - Thank you all.

It was then time to retire to the bar area to assist the bar staff in the removal of as much Black Sheep as possible together with more stories and memories into the early hours.

It was a leisurely breakfast before we all dispersed around the area to find all the places Paul had recommended. Well all but Shep and his wife who found 10am far too early, is this what its like to have retired.

Sunday evening continued with a traditional carvery, and even more traditional Yvonne`s Quiz. A close run thing but won by one of the other tables. As you can probably guess it was then back to the bar, although this was too much for some of the ladies who have probably heard all the stories before and as women remember them as well! So Jan set up a crochet training session with Yvonne and Irene as her captive pupils , who knows what raffle prizes there will be next time.

Well it is only 2 years until the next one when we will be celebrating 50 years since enlistment. As I said at the beginning doesn't time fly.

Davey Jones (DW)