

S61 CHIPPIES AND CLANKIES 49th REUNION 2016

9 to 11 SEP 2016 AT BALLOCH, SCOTLAND



Well, it's that time again: time to fire the starting gun for this year's mini reunion! Following on from the fiesta in the sun in the south of Spain in 2013, the caper in the Caribbean in 2014, and the jaunt to the jewel of La Gironde, Arcachon last year, by popular demand this year's celebrations will take place closer to home, in Bonny Scotland, at Balloch, by the beautiful southern shores of Loch Lomond.

Broad details are as follows:

Dates: Weekend 9-11 September 2016.

Location: Balloch, Loch Lomond, gateway to the Highlands and part of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. For more info on this popular spot see:

<http://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/balloch/balloch/>

Format: Tried and tested!

Friday 9 September: Having arrived at Balloch from all points of the compass, we'll meet together at a suitable watering hole, to find out what we've all been doing since we last meet, and generally share some banter, laughter and possibly a drink or two, to get us all in the spirit and mood for a great reunion weekend. During the evening we'll no doubt drink a toast to our 49 years of friendship, and a great time will be had by all.

The venue will be The Queen of the Loch, a spanking new Marston's pub restaurant, which ticks all the requisite boxes of space, cheap food, and a well stocked bar.

Saturday 10 September: We'll all be free to do whatever takes our fancy during the day. Experience suggests that most will wish to meet up at a mutually determined hostelry to admire the local scenery and continue where they left off from the night before. Others may wish to browse the shops at Loch Lomond Shores, take a stroll around Balloch Country Park, take a cruise up the Loch, ruin a good walk with a game of Golf, or pray for forgiveness at the local church! There's loads of choice, and something to suit everybody.

In the evening we'll all meet up at the Duck Bay Marina, where we'll celebrate our 49th reunion in a massive extravaganza of eating, drinking and raucous merriment, pausing only to toast absent friends, before carrying on till dawn - well, until the cocoa and biscuits is served anyway!

Sunday 11 September: Sadly, the reunion weekend will draw to a close and we'll all gather in dribs and drabs, probably at The Innkeeper's Lodge to say our fond farewells before heading off into the sunset, or, this being Scotland, into the mist.

Getting there: Well, it couldn't be more simple with easy access by road, rail or air! Wally Clelland will drive up in his Motorhome; Joe Dagnino in his car; Trev Payne and Steve Southern will jet in from the continent, and Iron Mike Deveira will no doubt be swimming across the North Sea from Holland.

Accommodation: There's lots of it, and it's only a Google away via the Visitscotland website: <http://www.visitscotland.com/info/towns-villages/balloch-p235111> or simply by searching for Balloch accommodation. I've already had several confirmed attendee's for this years event with four couples opting to stay at the Balloch House Hotel (a.k.a. The Innkeepers Lodge), where there are currently still rooms available. The accommodation annexe at the Queen of the Loch would seem ideal to me, too.

The single most important factor: Wonderful though Balloch may be, the best thing about the whole weekend, and the reason I can guarantee that you'll have a great time, is that you'll briefly be in the brilliant company of some of your old S61 classmates. These mini reunions are far more intimate than the 5 yearly celebrations, and you get much more time to enjoy each individual's company. Take a look at the website and read the reports for the Isle of Wight, La Herradura, the Carnival Freedom and Arcachon; each a legend in it's own right! Then strike while the iron's hot, and book!

What do I need to do next? If you intend to take advantage of this truly unique opportunity (it will never, ever, be repeated!) and wish to add your most welcome presence to our glorious gathering, then please let me know at your earliest convenience. After that, all you need to do is turn up!

If you can't make it for whatever reason, or it's not for you, then you need do nothing - other than read the report of proceedings which will be published after the event, which will be brimful of the usual embellishments, slander and distortion of the facts.

Remember, these mini reunions are very informal and take place with a minimum of organisation and hand holding; we're all big boys now! However, please feel free to call me on 07714 285482 at anytime and I'll do my best to help or answer any questions you may have, bearing in mind I'll be abroad from 30 March to 23 June, when it will be far easier to email me on davelenton47@aol.com.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Dave Lenton