

## Brunei reunion 9th of June 2007 in the UK

### Brunei 1965 - 1975

Lindy and Annette had organised a great location for us to stay. Sunningdale Park, Sunningdale, Berkshire. To get there quite some travelling was involved. Jo Brooks come over all the way from Texas. Brigitte van Dam and Florence Kranendonk got a lift from Jan Ros and Ellen van de Lint. They took the night ferry on the 7th from the Hook of Holland. Lindy was so kind as to put Brigitte and Florence up for a few the nights. Roel van de Lint took the ferry on the 8th and travelled the next day by train via London to Sunningdale. Ans (Bruggeman) & Richard Coleman flew down from France and stayed with their daughter for the night. Ria & Ineke Bruggeman, Hans Pieter van Not and Anneberdien Nieuwenhuijs flew down from the Netherlands. Peter Ball & Anita Snippe just drove down from home (they live in the UK). Ineke and Ria Bruggeman arrived the day before the reunion in Sunningdale Park hotel. They decided to go to an Italian restaurant about 20 minutes from the hotel. On their way back they got lost and it took them one hour to find their way back. Luckily enough a nice couple saw their desperate expression on their faces and understood that they were lost. They asked them where they wanted to go and to their surprise the lady was a friend of Lindy Cozens. Her husband showed them a short cut through the woods. It was not quite dark yet but it was scary enough walking through the wood at that hour. They were back in no time. Anneberdien decided on the day of the reunion to join the reunion and found out at Schiphol airport that her passport had run out. That didn't stop her and she showed up in time for the group photo that was taken just around eight.



**Who showed up:** Well off course the organisers Lindy Williamson, Annette Anderton. They did a great job getting this reunion organised! Also present were Dave Anderton, David & Graham & Teresa O'Keeffe, Karen & Janet Lamb, Alyson Harding, Jo Brooks, Mandy Jones, Donna Branton, Sandy Nixon, Kay & Gail Griffin, Linda Revie, Brigitte van Dam, Jan Ros, Ellen & Roel van de Lint, Ria & Ineke Bruggeman, Ans & Richard Coleman, Peter Ball, Anita Snippe, Florence Kranendonk, Hans Pieter van Not and Anneberdien Nieuwenhuijs. Sadly, Wendy Ellerker sadly didn't make it!

Quite a few of us had taken their photo albums. It was so much fun to see the old pictures. The photo albums were wonderful, looking at all the young faces made many memories come back to surface. Hans Pieter had a really great slide show of Brunei today! He had just come back from a holiday trip there. Fun to revisit old times. One story that came up; Linda's dart that penetrated Roel's arm! Was it in the nine's hole bar? Or one of the other bars, we could not remember. It was amazing to note that those of us that did not socialise together during the actual Brunei-time, but knew brothers or sisters that were not at the reunion, could connect together so easily. Somehow the fact that we share the same Shell-background creates a bond of its own! Even after the reunion the emails are sent to and fro and some of us are still finding out more about each other. For instance Linda Revie and Florence Kranendonk both work with teenagers, never got to talk about it during the reunion, but have emailed about it afterwards. The food at Sunningdale Park was great, but many of us were too busy talking to eat very much! Lindy and Annette were seen checking lists and the food and keeping an eye on everything. They did a great job organising this reunion on top of their busy lives and with Annette being busy packing and moving the weekend after! Many thanks to you girls!!!

Ria, Roel & Brigitte

## **It does take some organising**

The run up to the Brunei Reunion for June 07 was quite fraught! We had finally chosen where to have it and were praying that the weather would be good as the grounds are wonderful. The problems we had finding somewhere that was not too expensive for everyone! We had been writing to people for about 6 months beforehand trying to get people to actively look for others. Many thanks to Anita Ball (nee Snippe) for tracking down so many! Facebook and LinkedIn have proven to be invaluable!

The weekend finally arrived, and I had a couple of "old" friends staying with me as I live nearby Sunningdale Park. So Jan, Ellen, Dave Anderton, Brigitte and Florence and I spent a really wonderful evening down the pub on the Friday, reminiscing and sharing our journeys from the days in Brunei to that evening. Rather a lot was drunk, however one thing was apparent - we had a very common and deep bond to each other despite not having seen each other for years and having lived very different lives.

The morning of the Reunion was full of sunshine and we decided to go down to a local Cafe and have breakfast - again the friendships and funny stories kept coming! Everyone went off to explore the local area, some to Windsor, some to Richmond before heading up to Sunningdale Park. The evening seemed to go so fast....one minute Annette and I were sorting out where the food should go and opening a bottle of Champagne to celebrate the fact that "we had actually managed to pull it off" and then people started arriving....some faces were very familiar, some faces were familiar as they reminded you of the parents! - before long the noise levels were very high and there were introductions to partners and stories of long ago parties, and friends were being shared.

The laughter was great and it was a really lovely evening - the weather did hold - and we did manage to get our photographs, there some people there who kept saying "oh I remember....", "who is that?!" - some who brought videos and pictures of Brunei and what it looks like these days, and there some people who were remembered who sadly could not be with us...

I would just like to say to all those who are thinking of going to the next one in Holland in 2009, that you will not regret it one bit - in fact you will be filled with wonderful memories, you will reconnect with people who understand what your life was like back then, coming out for long summer holidays and signing bar chits, climbing Kotakinabalu, going on Safari and you will make new friends. All in all it is quite an experience and one to be treasured.

We would also like to thank David O'Keeffe for all his work on creating the site!

Annette and I both look forward to seeing you all in Holland in September 2009

Lindy