

RETIREMENT CLUB NEWSLETTER

June 2017 No 335

Manton Lane MK41 7PF

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May Walk - Keith Rose



16 of us met at the Crosskeys public house in Cranfield on a fine day for the May walk. Leaving the High Street we passed the parish church of St Peter and St Paul before heading along Rectory Lane to Rectory Wood. This is a new woodland on 70 hectares of land which was previously part of Rectory Farm and is now part of Marston Vale forest. The woodland was planted in 2003 and the trees are now well established. In a few years they will seriously limit the views we had over Marston Vale. The path we followed through the woodland had been constructed with a good firm surface to make it wheelchair friendly.

Marston Thrift, the next wood, was very different, it is an ancient woodland and an SSSI. We followed a narrow path twisting through the trees, then went along two wider straight tracks. Light aircraft practising circuits kept reminding us of our proximity to Cranfield Airport. On leaving Marston Thrift we walked beside a very recently planted woodland and listened to traffic on the A421 which was only a mile away. Then we went straight across the middle of an open field on a very narrow path. Approaching Charity Farm, we headed off along the wrong side of one hedgerow. Unable to exit the field at the end, we had to backtrack. The leader blames the Ordnance Survey for a 10 meter error in the positioning of the field boundary on the map, his GPS clearly showed the route of the reconnaissance on the wrong side of the hedge. The Marston to Cranfield road had at some time been re-routed near Charity Farm because for a short distance we found ourselves walking on the high quality asphalt of the now disused carriageway.

We continued heading North-East for just another 200m and then turned sharp left to start our return to Cranfield along another cross-field path. This was generously wide as we started to climb the hill back towards the Marston to Cranfield road. The footpath then followed the crest of a ridge past the aptly named Hill Farm. We enjoyed the panoramic views to our left towards Milton Keynes and stopped for the photograph along this section which took us back to Marston Thrift. After 200m of walking beside the wood, we entered it and enjoyed a wonderful display of bluebells. Although perhaps just over their best, we had 400m of a delightful little path meandering through the wood. Next it was a short sharp uphill section to get back to the top of the ridge. With views over Rectory Wood we were led back to Cranfield and walked through the playing field back to the Crosskeys and our promptly served lunches.

See: www.krose.plus.com/ARA_walks/ for details of this route and earlier walks - Ed.

June Walk – David Thomas

This walk will be on Wednesday 14 June, starting from the Three Cranes, High Street, Turvey, MK43 8EP. Please meet at 10:15 ready for a 10:30 start.

Visit to the Military Intelligence Museum, Chicksands - Ebb Smith

On Wednesday May 17th ARC members (15 of us in all) enjoyed an excellent visit to the Military Intelligence Museum at Chicksands. We met on a very wet day outside the gatehouse and duly signed in (the Museum is located inside a gated military camp). We were then escorted onto the site and into the museum where we hung up our wet coats and met our two very knowledgeable and friendly tour guides. The tour began with a short introductory video and we were then split into two groups and the tour began.

The museum displays key elements of the history of British Military Intelligence from the Boer War forwards. The major collections are on the Intelligence Corps Collection and the Medmenham Collection, the latter being devoted to aerial photography and image analysis. It highlights the use of 3D imagery, from WWI, WWII and the Cold War.

There are also two smaller displays covering the joint service British Military Mission in East Germany (BRIXMIS) intelligence-gathering mission. This was based in East Germany during the Cold War and the American radio intercept operations in Chicksands from 1950 until 1996. A further highlight is the Special Operations Executive (SOE) display housing a comprehensive collection of artefacts brought over from post-war France.

The museum houses a huge collection of artefacts and with two very informative and knowledgeable tour guides the visit lasted approx 2.5 hours. After perusal of the items on offer in the gift shop and having made some donations to the museum (visits are free), we gave our thanks and departed.

We all thoroughly enjoyed our tour and I would recommend a visit to this wonderful little museum. You certainly won't regret it. For more information visit <http://www.militaryintelligencemuseum.org>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS	
Wednesday 14 June 2017 10:15	Monthly walk - Turvey

Please send any copy for publication to me by the 15th of the month, Keith Rose
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The minutes of the recent AGM, held on 20 April 2017, are appended to this newsletter

**MINUTES OF THE 28th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ARA
RETIREMENT CLUB HELD AT THE WOODLANDS MANOR, CLAPHAM
THURSDAY 20th APRIL 2017**

Members Present: Bruce Price, Ebb Smith, Trevor and Christine Tumber, Aubrey Underwood, Marylyn and Ray Wood.

In the chair Bruce Price

Apologies for Absence

Gerry Pauley & Keith Rose

Approval of the Minutes of the 26th AGM,

The approval of the minutes of the previous AGM passed as an accurate record of the meeting with one amendment; the AGM took place in the Woodlands Manor, Clapham not the Queen's Head Milton Ernest.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report

The monthly walks continued to be well supported with up to 22 walkers attending. The informal meetings organised by Tony Dickason continued in Clapham.

In June a visit to the Ampthill Brewhouse, a micro-brewery took place. Thirteen persons attended and enjoyed sampling the brews available. The visit to the Chester Farm archaeological dig was poorly supported, with only 4 additional persons attending.

The visit to the Bedford Planetarium took place in February on the evening of storm "Doris", which meant that the observatory could not be used because of the high winds. There were 14 attendees.

A visit to the Military Intelligence Museum in Chicksands, Marylyn and Ray's Garden Party and finally a visit to the Panacea Society in Bedford are planned for this year.

Treasurer's Report

AIRCRAFT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION RETIREMENT CLUB (ARC) – ACCOUNTS 2016 – 2017

BALANCE B/F			485.17	28.48	513.65	
INTEREST	06/15	0.53	485.70	28.48	514.18	
INTEREST	12/15	0.54	486.24	28.48	514.72	
ARC LUNCH 2016	03/05/16	423.50	909.74	28.48	938.22	
T TUMBER (2016 LUNCH)	03/05/16	(442.00)	467.74	28.48	496.22	D Hunter free meal
AMPTHILL BREWHOUSE	15/06/16	168.00	635.74	28.48	664.22	
B PRICE (BREWHOUSE)	25/06/16	(168.00)	467.74	28.48	496.22	
R WOOD (NEWSLETTER)	16/12/16	(55.26)	412.48	28.48	440.96	
INTEREST	06&12/16	1.03	413.51	28.48	441.99	
BALANCE C/F			413.51	28.48	441.99	

Election of Officers and Committee members

members

The current committee was prepared to stay in post. Emrys Batchelor had also tentatively agreed to stand as a committee member. All were voted on by those attending the AGM.

The committee comprises Bruce Price, Chairman and Walks Coordinator, Ray Wood, Treasurer, Ebb Smith, Secretary, Keith Rose, Newsletter Editor, Marylyn Wood, Trevor Tumber, Emrys Batchelor and Gerry Pauley.

Future Activities

A number of events are already in planning for next year. These include

Twinwoods Museum visit

Evening Walks Foster Hill Road Cemetery

AGM & Annual Lunch (lunch will depend on this year's attendance figures).

Ghost Walk

Rennie Mackintosh House & Shoe Museum visits (Northampton)

Northampton Elevator Museum visit

(Post meeting note. BP has contacted the National Lift Tower regarding a visit/tour. Regrettably, they do not organise such events and cannot help).

Cosworth Engineering visit (Milton Keynes)

Airlander Tour (Cardington Hanger)

Bedford Mosque visit

Behind the scenes tour of Bedford Crematorium

Each has a nominated organizer. The committee will meet again in August to agree and formalise next year's planned events and will then inform members.

Any Other Business

The committee discussed the poor turnout for the Annual lunch and AGM and the general lack of support. It was agreed that Ebb Smith would contact Tony Dickason to see if more support could be garnered via the Senior's informal meetings.

As the ARA pension fund has now been transferred to BAE, the issue of maintaining contact with ARC members and keeping informed of member changes (including new members) was discussed.

Bob Boshier had attended the lunch and had confirmed that he was happy for ARA to continue to post the ARC newsletter on their website and to also ensure the committee were informed of ARC member deaths and new pensioners. Bob Boshier had also handed over a cheque for £100 to boost the

ARC funds. Bruce Price agreed to write a letter to Bob to thank him for the cheque and to ask him to formally confirm the ways and means of maintaining contact with ARC members.

The chairman then thanked the committee for their work during the last year particularly Trevor and Christine Tumber for organizing the Lunch.

Bruce Price was also thanked from the floor.

The Meeting was then closed.