

RETIREMENT CLUB NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2011 No 260

Manton Lane MK41 7PF

Tel: 01234 350681

Dear Friends

MARCH WALK contributed by Keith Rose

The Turvey Walk held on 9th March 2011.



Nineteen of us met in the car park of "The Three Fyshes" in Turvey for a 5.6 mile walk through the fields in a South-Easterly direction towards Stagsden. It was a windy day, we kept a close eye on the clouds and kept our fingers crossed hoping to avoid rain.

We passed Nell's Well in Newton Lane. This was in use until it was closed in 1960 because it did not meet water quality standards. Leaving the village necessitated climbing over several stiles. At the first, the inside of the rotting post revealed an interesting pattern formed by the annual growth rings around a set



of branches, looking like screws.

A footpath diversion took us around Abbey Farm and a large indoor arena which is used for dressage events. As we passed beneath the route of the disused Bedford to Northampton railway line it was obvious that the Northerly winds were bringing some heavy showers with them. Luckily for us these passed by at a safe distance to

the West. We passed Hill Spinney and Davis's Spinney and continued towards North End Farm. A long track with a few muddy puddles led us towards Mount Pleasant Farm and Acre Spinney while more showers passed away to the west. Here we met the muddiest section of the walk, the ground had been severely churned up by vehicles. Returning to Turvey along a grassy track we did get caught by a short shower just before we crossed the old railway. We crossed Abbey Park and rejoined our outbound track to cross the stiles again on our return to the pub.

APRIL WALK

The April walk will be held on Wednesday 13th April and will be led by Marylyn Wood (01933 353517) .

Please meet at the Bedford Arms Oakley MK43 7RH at 10.15 for 10.30am start for a walk to and around Stevington.

WALK LEADER ROTA FOR THE REST OF 2011

May	Tony Dickason	01234 824741
June	Brian Ashman	01234 824036
July	Mike Lock	01234 353779
August	No Walk	
September	Dave Thomas	01234 301491
October	Bruce Price	01234 407255
November	Need Volunteer	
December	No Walk	

Brian is still looking for a volunteer for November. Please contact him if you can help.

APRIL RAeS LECTURE

The next RAeS Lecture will be on Wednesday 13th April with a talk following the AGM- 'The Berlin Airlift' - Speaker Alan Palmer at 7 for 7.30pm in the ARA club house.

MEMBER CONTACT DETAILS

We are still collecting details of interested members to add to our database. Please see the March newsletter for the form.

CURRENTLY PLANNED FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Highgrove Garden Visit There is still space on this trip but this is your last chance to book before it is opened to outsiders. Please let Chris Lock know by April 16th if you would like to go. Also all monies must be paid by April 21st as we have to pay Highgrove one month in advance or we lose the booking. Cheques should be made payable to ARA Retirement Club and sent to Chris Lock, 24 Fountains Road, Bedford MK41 8NU. The outing is on Tuesday, June 7th. The planned schedule is to leave from ARA at 9.30am travelling to Tetbury where there will be a stop for lunch. The actual tour is booked for 1.45pm and will take about 2 hours looking round the garden followed by time for tea/coffee etc. and the Highgrove shop. We will leave to return home at 5pm. The trip will cost £32.50 per head and is limited to only 26 people. Please phone Chris Lock (01234 353779) for further information or to reserve your places.
- Marylyn & Ray's Their 'at home' at 5 Sandringham Close, Rushden NN10 9ER will be held on Tuesday July 5th at 2.00 for 2.30pm finishing around 5.30pm and is limited to 30 people. The speaker will be Martin Sirot-Smith talking about 'Tudor Times'. He will be in costume and his talk has been highly recommended. The price this year will be £5 per head to cover the cost of the buffet and speaker fees. Please contact Marylyn on 01933 353517 if you would like to attend.
- Annual Luncheon Now confirmed to be at Woodlands Manor on Wednesday, October 5th. Further details will be published at a later date.

AGM AND SOCIAL EVENING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16TH

The main news is that Bruce Price was unanimously elected as chairman following Gerry Pauley's decision to stand down. The full report and minutes of this event will be included in the May newsletter.

One Hundred Years of Aviation April 1911 contributed by John Cherry

- 1st A new unit of the Army came into being today at Aldershot, and has been created by amalgamating No1 and No2 Airship Companies and is to be known as The Air Battalion of the Royal Engineers. Its formation represents a landmark in the long running debate over the value of aircraft in waging war; the more progressive pro- aviation officers have made a significant breakthrough. This battalion is the first to be organized specifically to conduct war from the air. General Douglas Haig and other officers are very sceptical as resources have not been matched by the

change in thinking. The new battalion has 14 officers under the command of a major, 23 non-commissioned officers, 153 other ranks (enlisted men) and two buglers. It has four riding horses, 32 draught horses and five aeroplanes, however, these aeroplanes are currently out of action or obsolete. The Governments Army Estimate for this year has allocated a mere £85000 for new aeroplanes and airships, although it has laid out £28000 for a new shed at the Army's old Balloon Factory.

- 11th Today the U.S. Army has set-up its first permanent flying school at College Park, Maryland.
- 12th Today Lt T Gordon Ellyson has become the U.S. Navy's first pilot.
- 12th Today Pierre Prier flew his Bleriot monoplane from Hendon to Issy-les-moulineaux non-stop in 3hours 56minutes.
- 24th Lts M. Longmore and C.R. Samson are the first Royal Navy officers to qualify as pilots after just one months training.
- 26th Henry Petre made the first test flights of the Handy Page Type E two seat monoplane today a Fairlop.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS	
Wednesday 13th April	April Walk – Meet at The Bedford Arms, Oakley at 10.15 for a 10.30am start.
Wednesday 13th April	RAeS AGM and Lecture 'The Berlin Airlift' by Alan Palmer at ARA 19.00 for 19.30 .
Tuesday 7th June	Trip to Highgrove. Please phone Chris Lock 01234 353779 to book and pay by April 21st.
Tuesday 5th July	'At Home' with Marylyn and Ray Wood Speaker Martin Sirot-Smith – 'Tudor Times'
Wednesday 5th October	Annual Luncheon at Woodlands Manor

Please send any copy for publication to me by the 15th of the month, Chris Lock

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