

# **RETIREMENT CLUB NEWSLETTER**

MAY 2011 No 261

Manton Lane MK41 7PF

Tel: 01234 350681

*Dear Friends*

## **MAY WALK**

The May walk will be held on Wednesday 11th May and will be led by Tony Dickason (01234 824741).

Please meet at the Pavenham Golf Club MK43 7PE at 10.15 for 10.30am start after ordering lunch.

Parking is available at the golf club but please park at the far end of the car park to allow for the people playing golf to park in the parking places near to the club house.

The walk is fairly short but can be lengthened if required depending on speed of progress.

## **CURRENTLY PLANNED FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

Highgrove Garden Visit      This trip is now fully booked but just a reminder to those going that we will leave ARA at 9.30am on the 7th June and to make sure they have with them some sort of photographic ID, (passport or photo driving licence).

Marylyn & Ray's              The summer event to be held at the home of Marylyn and Ray Wood 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 or email malray@talk21.com 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.

## **One Hundred Years of Aviation May 1911 contributed by John Cherry**

1st              The Prime Minister Herbert Asquith was today among a distinguished audience of politicians that had assembled at Hendon aerodrome to witness various aircraft activities including 'bombing' using sand bags and flour 'bombs', message delivery and aerial reconnaissance. A 100-pound sand bag simulating a bomb was slung by ropes under the wing of a Farman biplane and was dropped onto a warship shaped target by the

daredevil founder of Hendon aerodrome, Claude Graham-White. The visitors including the former Prime Minister, Arthur Balfour and the home secretary Winston Churchill were suitably impressed.

Florence, Italy, The Coppa del Re (King's Cup) has been won for the first time by a female aviator Helene Dutrieu beating 14 male pilots.

5th Today Anthony Fokker flew his second 'Spinne' (Spider) monoplane fitted with a 50hp Argus engine.

In Japan Baron Sandji Narahara made a flight of 196.9 feet in a biplane of his own design fitted with a 50hp Gnome engine.

11th Today at Mourmelon, France, Edouard Nieport, a racing cyclist before he went into aircraft construction, set-up a new speed record of 74.4 mph flying his own Nieport monoplane powered by a 28hp engine.

The Army have received a Bristol Boxkite for army cooperation duties following trials during manoeuvres.

16th Today the passenger carrying airship, the Zeppelin LZ8 'Ersatz Deutschland' was wrecked whilst docking, there were no casualties. The LZ8 only entered service in March of this year.

21st The competitors in the Paris-Madrid air race, sponsored by the newspaper Le Petit Parisian, took-off from Issy-les-Moulineaux airfield outside Paris in front of a crowd estimated at 300000. Conditions were chaotic and take-offs were repeatedly impeded by groups of people wandering in front of the flying machines. Among those far too close to the action were a group of French politicians and officials including Prime Minister Ernest Monice and minister for war Maurice Bertaux. Unsurprisingly one of the aircraft got into difficulties, suffering a sudden loss of power. The pilot Emile Train swerving to avoid a troop of cavalry plunged straight into the crowd of dignitaries. The minister for war was killed outright and the Prime Minister seriously injured along with some 50 others including the aviation patron, Henri Deutsch de la Meurthe. Despite this incident, the race was restarted the next day and proceeded as planned. After many crash-landings and mechanical failures only one aviator reached Madrid, Frenchman Jules Vedrines who instantly joined the ranks of aviation celebrities

### **A VINTAGE OCCASION ( contributed by Gerry Pauley)**

Veteran pensioners will no doubt recall Jean Usher ( Aerodynamics Dept 1957 - 1963 ). We met recently at a Golden Wedding Celebration. She married Graham Greaves who taught at Brickhill School. His career took them to Berkhamstead and then later as a Headmaster to Buckinghamshire. After retiring Graham learnt to fly, and on the basis of experience gained in the RAF he is now an Air Traffic Controller at Peterborough Airfield. On a recent flight his aircraft developed engine trouble and he had to make a forced landing at Alconbury, where one runway still exists.

Jean is now aware of our Newsletter on the ARA website. She lives at Sawtrey. Hopefully we might see her at some of our events.

*Editors Note – Please let us know if you have news of other ex ARA employees so that we can share it.*

## **RETIREMENT CLUB AGM and SOCIAL EVENT**

### **MINUTES OF THE 22nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ARA RETIREMENT CLUB HELD IN THE CLUBHOUSE ON WEDNESDAY 16th MARCH 2011**

Members Present: Brian and Joyce Ashman, David Ashman, Russell and Alma Berrington, John and Doreen Cooper, Margaret King, Pete and Pam Marsden, Barrie Mason, Doreen Mudd, Mike and Chris Lock, Anne Pallister, Gerry and Joyce Pauley, Bruce Price, Trevor and Christine Tumber, Marylyn and Ray Wood.

In the chair Gerry Pauley

#### **Apologies for Absence**

Pearl Farr

#### **Approval of the Minutes of the 21st AGM**

The Minutes of the previous AGM as published in the May 2010 Newsletter were approved unanimously as an accurate record of the meeting. A copy was signed by the Chairman.

#### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **Chairman's Report**

The chairman spoke about the success of the various events throughout the year. The highlight had been the 21st Anniversary Lunch held on the anniversary of the first ever meeting on 6th October. Special guests had been Pete and Pam Marsden, Pete having been a member of the steering committee for the founding of the club. Dougie Hunter, the current ARA Chief Executive was also invited and stayed for the whole event. In all a great success and thanks were given to Trevor Tumber for his organization.

Other events had been the tour of Bedford cemetery with Richard Wildman and Margaret Carpenter on 26th May followed by a meal at The Park Inn organized by Chris Lock and the popular 'at home' at Marylyn and Ray Wood's home on 7th July with a talk on 'Bedfordshire Scandals' by the Bedfordshire Archivist Nigel Lutt, followed by a buffet.

The monthly walks managed by Brian Ashman are still the most popular activity with numbers still rising, and Gerry thanked Brian for his excellent organization over many years.

The chairman then spoke about the death of John King on 24th June 2010. John had been a great supporter of the club stepping in as Treasurer with Gerry as Chairman and Joyce Landon as Secretary at a time when it seemed the club was about to fold.

The chairman also stated that part time employees had never received the newsletter as they were not eligible for the pension scheme but asked that anyone who knew anyone in this situation to make them aware that the newsletter was available on the ARA website.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Anne Pallister presented the Financial Statement. The income for the year had been 5p bank interest plus a donation from ARA. Expenditures had been £78.97 for the Luncheon to cover extra expenses such as raffle prizes and honoured guests and AGM expenses of £40.99. The balance at the beginning of the year was £598.52 but now stands at £388.61. However £200 has already been paid out for deposits on Highgrove and the luncheon so the actual loss was £9.91.

The Accounts were approved by the meeting.

### **Election of Officers and Committee members**

Gerry reported that he was standing down as Chairman but was delighted to announce that Bruce Price, who had been acting as Vice Chairman since October 2010, had agreed to become Chairman. He was voted in unanimously.

There were no additional nominations and the rest of the committee were also unanimously voted in for another year.

The committee now comprises Bruce Price, Chairman, Anne Pallister, Treasurer, Chris Lock, Newsletter Co-ordinator and Secretary, Brian Ashman, Walks Co-ordinator, Marylyn Wood, Events Organiser and Trevor Tumber, Dining and Events Organiser, Gerry Pauley, Committee Member.

The committee were then all thanked by the chairman for their help and support throughout the year.

Gerry then formally handed the meeting over to Bruce.

Bruce thanked Gerry for all his hard work and a warm round of applause followed.

### **Future Activities**

Chris Lock reported that the visit to Highgrove on June 7th was over half full and that there were non ARC members wishing to go should we not fill it. The coach will leave ARA at 9.30 with the cost of the trip at £32.50.

Marylyn and Ray Wood will be hosting a talk, 'Tudor Times' given by Martin Sirot-Smith on Tuesday, July 5th 2.00 for 2.30pm finishing about 5.30pm, at their home at 5 Sandringham Close, Rushden. The cost for this will be £5 per head to include refreshments.

Trevor Tumber announced that the Annual Luncheon will take place on Wednesday, 5th October at Woodlands Manor, Clapham.

Brian announced that the walks leader rota for the year is complete except for November and Brian is still looking for a volunteer.

### **Any Other Business**

There was a general discussion re the newsletter and it was determined that only four people at the meeting had requested hard copy.

After thanking all present for attending, the chairman wished them well at the Social Evening to follow and formally declared the meeting closed at 8pm.

### **SOCIAL EVENT**

Once again the rest of the evening was enjoyed by all those present with a buffet provided by those attending, a glass, (or two), of wine or soft drink followed by a quiz with quiz master/mistress Trevor and Christine Tumber. After a hard fought battle the quiz was won by the team comprising Margaret King, Anne Pallister, Mike Lock and Chris Lock.

### **RETIREMENTS**

The following staff have recently retired from ARA.

Leo Hurn, Matt Bennett, Steve Gilbey, Jackie Emery, Daj Ubhi, Paul Saunders and John Carberry

<b>FORTHCOMING EVENTS</b>	
Wednesday 11th May	May Walk – Meet at Pavenham Golf Club at 10.15 for a 10.30am start.
Tuesday 7th June	Trip to Highgrove. Coach leaves ARA at 9.30am.
Tuesday 5th July	'At Home' with Marylyn and Ray Wood Speaker Martin Sirot-Smith – 'Tudor Times' 2pm for 2.30pm 5 Sandringham Close, Rushden
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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