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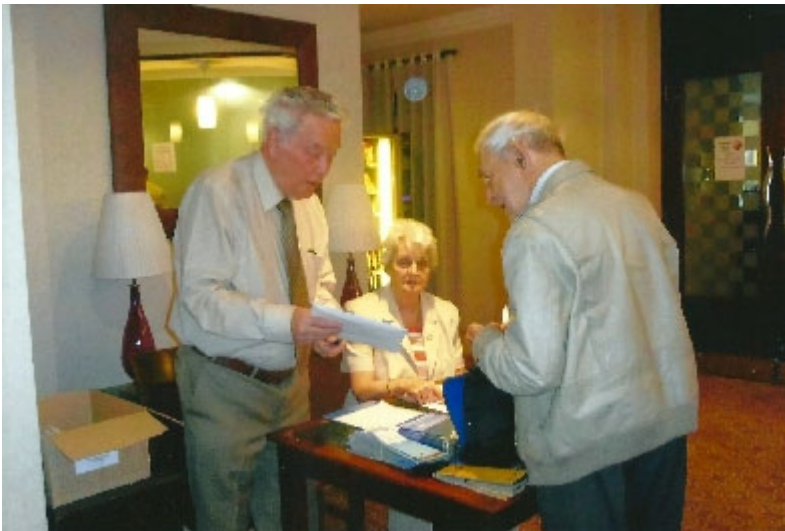
The Retired Staff Association Magazine for CAA & NATS pensioners www.caa-rsa.org.uk

ALL MEMBERS 2015 EDITION

2015 AGM “A GREAT SUCCESS” SAY MEMBERS LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The RSA's 2015 Annual General Meeting (known as RSA15), held at the Best Western Hotel Royale, Bournemouth on 24 - 26 April, has been hailed as “a great success” by those who attended.

Was it the sunshine, was it the location, or was it the superb efforts of our Wessex Branch hosts that made the weekend



so special? I'll start by saying that *my* vote goes to our hosts – but more of that later...

Last year, after some ‘austerity’ AGMs held at CAA House in London, the RSA Central Committee decided that our finances were sufficient to resume the tradition of making the AGM a weekend event – and not necessarily in London! Glasgow was our first port of call, and although that meeting didn't attract as many members as we had hoped, it *might* have contributed to ongoing efforts to revive one of the Scottish Branches. Watch this space...

The Bournemouth AGM trialled a new format, with Branch Delegates and Central Committee members meeting on the Friday afternoon, then a social programme for Saturday morning and early afternoon, followed by the RSA members' AGM later on the

Paddy & June Pollock help “man” the Meet 'n' Greet table

Saturday. This avoided what many delegates and members had felt was a morning/afternoon repetition of business, whilst giving time for them – and their partners – to enjoy the location.

And what a location it was! Everyone agreed that the Wessex Branch organisers (Mike Bartlett, John and Shirley Dack, Paddy & June Pollock, Dave Hobday, Phil Holt and Ted Tilly) had done a terrific job: and the Best Western Royale Hotel managed to combine comfort, style and friendly staff, whilst being ideally situated for both shopping and the sea-front.

More RSA15 coverage inside this issue.



Right: The Central Committee / Delegates meeting gets under way!

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FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Anne Noonan

Excellent is the best way to sum up the AGM, held at the Best Western Royale Hotel in Bournemouth over the weekend 24/26 April. Many thanks are due to Wessex Branch for breathing new life into the AGM weekend, with such innovations as 'Sound of Soul', a local singing group, to entertain after the buffet supper on Friday evening and a coach trip on Saturday to see the local Dorset beauty spots. And then there was the steam train trip.....

Unfortunately, our President, Bob Coles, was unable to attend because of a long-standing family commitment but we were delighted to welcome our Vice-President, Leslie Priestley, accompanied by his wife Audrey. Over 70 RSA members and partners attended, including some new faces, and the concensus seemed to be that everybody had had an enjoyable weekend. Now we look forward to AGM 2016 in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Over 1,300 replies in response to the survey on the future of the RSA were received and the sub-committee will now be thoroughly analysing the results and hope to report on the outcome and suggestions for the future in a reasonable amount of time. Meanwhile, more thanks are due, this time to our Welfare Co-ordinator, Duncan Boulton, aided I feel sure by wife Gillian, who arranged the mailing of the survey and the recording of the results. Duncan has worked extremely hard on the survey and we are grateful for all his advice and assistance.

An Independent Chairman of Trustees for the CAA Pension Scheme has been appointed. Her name is Joanne Matthews and she took up her position in April. She has wide experience of the pensions area and we wish her well in her new post.

Just a reminder that our next reunion will be held at The Freemasons in Covent Garden, on Thursday 19 November – hope to see some of you there.

Finally, a young lad asks his father

for a TV in his bedroom. Somewhat reluctantly he agrees and the TV is duly installed. Next day the boy asks "Dad, what's love juice?" Dad looks horrified but decides the time has come to talk about sex. The boy just sits, his mouth open in amazement. So Dad says "OK then, so what were you watching?"

"Wimbledon" came the response!

Best wishes

Anne Noonan

**Are you missing out?
Is this the only issue of
Contrail you receive in the
year?**

If you have answered "Yes" to the above questions then you are one of our non-contributing members.

Are you aware that for just £1 per month (deducted at source direct from your pension) you can receive all four issues of Contrail per year?

By becoming a contributing member you can keep up to date with the latest news and events affecting RSA Members throughout the year, along with interesting, regular welfare and feature articles. Contributing members who elect to receive Contrail via email also receive their copy of each issue at least a week earlier compared with those who receive it by post.

Interested in becoming a contributing member for just £12 per annum and not only receiving all issues of Contrail keeping you up to date with the latest news but also helping the RSA to continue to provide and improve its services to the Membership? The RSA has operating costs, despite it being as frugal as it can be, since the grants from CAA and NATS were curtailed a few years ago. A seperate income source is now vital to the RSA to enable it to continue providing essential services such as protecting your pension, welfare assistance and much more to all our members.

Contact the RSA Membership Secretary (see contact information on page 10) for more information and to keep yourself up to date with the latest RSA news.

EDITORIAL



Regrettably, I was unable to attend the AGM in Bournemouth this year due to a previously arranged family wedding that was happening the same weekend. In some respects I was disappointed as I like the Bournemouth area but family had to come first. As a result I put in place procedures to ensure that I had not only full coverage of the AGM and social events, but also photographs, for this issue of Contrail and the RSA website. My sincere thanks go to the Central Committee for ensuring that I received all the necessary reports. Sincere thanks also go to **Ted Tilly**, not only for his help and co-operation in preparing the AGM booking form carried in the previous two issues of Contrail but also for kindly providing the photographs of this year's **RSA15** event. My sincere thanks also go to **Richard Wright** for providing the report on **RSA15**.

The next major RSA event is, of course, the Annual Reunion that is held in late November. A booking form for this event may be found on page 12. Now that **RSA15** has proven so successful, planning has already started on **RSA16** that is to be held in Stratford-on Avon and coincides with the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare. A few years ago we visited Stratford-on-Avon for the AGM weekend and it also coincided with a Shakespeare's anniversary which attracted large numbers of visitors and provided an interesting day of activities for those not involved with the AGM proceedings.

As usual, I welcome all contributions for inclusion in future editions of Contrail. I can be contacted by e-mail at **contrailed@caa-rsa.org.uk** (please put "contrail" at the beginning of the subject line), or by post to:

**Robert Connolly
Contrail Editorial Office
21, Eleastan Park, Kilkeel,
Co. Down, Northern Ireland.
BT34 4DA**

NEXT COPY DATE

Please ensure all contributions are with the editor by not later than **1 August 2015**



Dear Editor,

With reference to Anne Noonan's reminder of favorite jokes, how about this one:-

Two caterpillars were out for a walk one day when a butterfly flew past overhead; one said to the other "They'll never get me up in one of those things"

Derek J James, High Wycombe

**George Leicester Chambers, ATCO 1 Air Traffic Control Research Unit, Hurn.
kindly provided by Kathleen Chambers**

George passed away on 12 February 2015. He began his working life in a bank, an experience he did not enjoy and escaped from by volunteering for war service in February 1943. He reported to the Aircrew Reception Centre in St John's Wood and then began his initial training in Torquay. George was already engaged so during a week's leave that summer he and Kay, who had joined the ATS as a wireless operator, were married at St Alban's Church, North Harrow, a marriage which lasted over seventy-one years.

George sailed on the Queen Mary to Canada where he qualified as both pilot and navigator. Once he took off on a solo flight and when he returned three hours later the control tower was flying a flag saying 'all flying cancelled'. As George said *'not much you can do about it if you are already flying'*!

He completed his training for Coastal Command on Liberators and then returned on the Mauretania to Liverpool. More training followed in Northern Ireland before he was sent to Iceland to join 53 Squadron. Within two months the war in Europe had ended so the squadron converted from Coastal to Transport Command bringing troops back from India. In 1946 the role of Transport Command was finished so the RAF retrained George as an Air Traffic Controller. When he was finally de-mobbed he obtained a post in civilian air traffic control and worked at Heathrow. For a while he was the Clerk to the Guild of Air Traffic Controllers, in which role he was able to demonstrate his excellent administrative skills.

The opportunity arose through his work to do a computer course at Brunei. As a result of the course George moved to Broadstone in Dorset working at Hurn Airport on the development of the first touch screen computer technology for use in air traffic control. When he retired he had risen to be number two at the research unit there.

Chairman's Annual Report

RSA Chairman Anne Noonan welcomed members and the AGM business went according to the agenda. In her annual report Anne stated "2014 was an interesting year with a number of changes occurring to the CAA Pension Scheme, not all of which were welcomed."

Pensions:

The Central Committee continued to maintain its rejection of any change of index linking of pensions, from RPI to CPI, for CAA and NATS pensioners. This has been accepted by NATS but still under consideration by the CAA, although it has applied RPI in the meantime. This may be of temporary comfort as both organisations have indicated that whatever they decide now may be revisited at some future date should they consider that the financing of the Scheme warrants it.

Changes in the nomination and selection process for Member Nominated Trustees (MNTs) were also implemented and gave us our long fought after objective of having a second Member Nominated Pensioner Trustee but at the price of losing our rights, as an organisation, to nominate a candidate and the right of veto. The Pension Scheme has also become a Corporate Trusteeship resulting in all individual Trustees becoming Directors of the Board of the Scheme.

Membership:

Current membership of the RSA stands at 5383 with 58.2% of members paying the small subscription of £12 per annum. While this is a good membership level we continue to encourage all non-paying members and non-members to support the RSA by subscribing, thus gaining access to all the information published by us, and supporting our pensioners aspirations and activities. Good news during the year was that Eastern and Solent Branches, both suffering from a lack of members willing to serve on their Branch Committees, managed to attract some new support which enabled them to continue operating, and we wish them every success for the future.

Annual reunion:

There was a good turnout for our Annual Reunion at The Freemason's Arms in November and this year's event will take place at the same venue on Thursday 19 November where we hope to see some new faces as well as the regular attendees; so a date for your diary.



BRANCH NEWS

COTSWOLD BRANCH

The first meeting of the Branch in 2015 took place on 3 February. We mustered only nine due to illness and people away on holiday.

Malcolm Ballinger called in to see us to say thank you to all members who had attended Josie's funeral and he was made very welcome. He also thanked Jessie Strawson in particular for staying in touch. Her efforts in this respect are an example to us all and do much to keep our small group together. Shirley Howard is now in the local Sue Ryder hospice receiving respite care. Our Chairman and two other members have visited her.

On a lighter note members were looking forward to hearing about Ron and Janet Russ' marathon holiday in Australia. Business discussed centred on the Branch programme for the first six months of the year.

There was a buffet meal at the Branch AGM in March, while in April Arthur Ball is coming to talk about and show slides on his Botswana Safari. This is much anticipated as the quality of his pictures is outstanding. We are booked in June to hear a talk by Ann Bishop on "*Using Pets as Therapy*". The last booking firmed up is for July when Marion Beagley will talk to us again, this time on "*English is a Crazy Language*".

The Branch AGM on 3 March 2015 was well attended, ultimately fifteen people being present. It was nice to welcome Malcolm Ballinger to the meeting. Among apologies was one from Shirley Howard, now in Cheltenham's Sue Ryder home. Several members have visited her and others did so after today's meeting. Shirley had sent us a donation for everyone present to have a drink. She was duly toasted with our thanks and best wishes that she should remain as comfortable as possible. John Ross circulated minutes of the last AGM and gave us a summary of the last twelve month's activities. Keith Plumridge presented the accounts which showed a satisfactory balance. Our grant from Central Funds has been a great help in carrying out a more ambitious programme in 2014. The funds also supported today's buffet meal. Jessie Strawson was returned to the Chair with acclaim and thanks for her continuing efforts in keeping the Branch together. Last year's officers and committee members were re-elected en-bloc. John Ross ran through our forthcoming events programme before a short talk by Ron Russ on his and Janet's recent holiday in Australia filled in the time before we descended on our buffet lunch.

Our April meeting could only muster eleven people, but it was good to see Margaret Chandler back and almost fit following her recent operation. The Chairman told us that Shirley Howard had enjoyed another birthday but was now in palliative care and having problems with nursing. Four Branch members are now involved in trying to help her.

With no other business, we settled to our entertainment. This month it was digital slides, presented by Arthur Ball, who had been on safari in Botswana, formerly Bechuanaland. People go there principally to see big game but Arthur is a bird watcher and opened the eyes of even the party's guide who saw only big animals! The resulting show he gave us was very varied animal and bird life, very comprehensive, expertly photographed and presented. We even had some sound! Arthur was paid his expenses and thanked warmly for a brilliant show.

The Branch mourns the passing of Shirley Howard on 29 April, not long after her 85th birthday. Shirley was one of the few remaining links with the CAA's long closed Printing and Publication Services unit in Cheltenham, which spawned the birth of the Cotswold Branch.

DOWNS BRANCH

A lunch was held on 15 October 2014 when seventeen members attended.

Twenty-six members attended the Christmas lunch which was held at Crawley College on 9 December 2014 and everybody enjoyed themselves.

At our Branch AGM on 25 February 2015, a presentation was made to Mr. Albert Moore in recognition of his hard work arranging Branch holidays during his many years in office as social organizer. He was presented with six mugs bearing various holiday photographs from some of those holidays.

EASTERN BRANCH

Much to the relief of the present committee members, the Eastern Branch managed to form a committee at our recently held AGM in April, which keeps the Branch alive, but this at the expense of our Treasurer, Mr. E. Pillinger, having to offer his services for another period of twelve months, while the Branch continues to search for new members to help out on the committee. It is a continuing problem that will have to be addressed if this Branch is to keep alive. It is noted that the Central committee see the problems that some Branches have in gaining new active members and EB welcomes the survey sent earlier this year. Eastern Branch hopes its members responded.

EDINBURGH BRANCH

The Branch AGM, preceded by lunch, was held at Howies Restaurant, Edinburgh on 17 March. Frank Neville stood down from the committee. Thanks to Frank for his work on behalf of the Branch over many years which included being Branch Chairman. Vince Pritchard was elected to take up the committee vacancy.

The AGM offered members the chance to suggest venues for our spring and summer outings. Listed as follows:-

- **April:** Lunch at Mumbai Mansion, Morrison St, near Haymarket, Edinburgh. This was a 'new' venue for the Branch. Based on feedback received this was a successful lunch based on the criteria of quality, location and price!
- **May:** Lunch at the Hawes Inn, South Queensferry.
- **June:** Lunch at Valvona & Crolla Ristorante, Multrees Walk, Edinburgh. This is another 'new' venue for the Branch

in a very central location off St Andrew Square.

- **July:** Lunch at the Four Marys Linlithgow. This restaurant is close to Linlithgow Palace.
- **September:** a visit to the National Mining Museum Scotland, Lady Victoria Colliery, Newtongrange, Midlothian. This visit is planned to coincide with the re-opening of the Borders Railway (Waverley Route) which will have a station stop at Newtongrange.

The Branch continues to be a 'link' with members from the dormant Highlands & Islands (H&I) and West of Scotland (WoS) Branches. Dates for future lunch and other events are circulated to Edinburgh Branch members who have provided email contacts to the Edinburgh Branch Secretary. In addition, **on application** to the Secretary, this e-mailing can also be sent to RSA members' who are listed in the H&I and WoS Branches.

If you have not previously provided an email to the RSA, you have recently changed your email, or for whatever reason you appear NOT to be on the e-mailing list having read about our past events, please advise the Edinburgh Branch Secretary. (Branch contact information is listed in a separate section of Contrail).

NORTH WEST BRANCH

At the Branch AGM held on 19 March at The Waggon & Horses, Handforth, Barry Pratt announced that the forthcoming year would be his last as Secretary. Andy Maynard will shadow him with a view to standing for election as Secretary at next year's AGM. There are still two vacancies on the Branch Committee with Barry Pratt covering the position of treasurer.

There was discussion about the festive lunch, traditionally held in December. Many members find their diaries to be full in December and there was support for the idea that there were good reasons why a lunch in January might be popular.

Eight members attended the RSA AGM and Social at Bournemouth and all agreed that it was an excellent event from start to finish. Six members went on the Saturday coach excursion and were particularly pleased with the full and enjoyable programme.

WESSEX BRANCH

The New Year programme got off to a 'flying start' with luncheon at 'The Jetty' in Christchurch, organised by Catherine Spriggs. This was followed, in February, by Robert Heaton talking about the 'Swash Channel', a watery feature on the approaches to Poole Harbour and the last resting place of many ships !! Detailed charts, historical documents and fascinating stories made it of interest to all who attended.

The Branch AGM in March was well supported and resulted in the election of new members to the committee – Catherine and Roger Spriggs, Chris Swinn and Stuart Clifton are welcome additions and promise to bring a new perspective to the Wessex programme. Once again the AGM was followed by a 'Fun Auction' of unwanted gifts / items – conducted by Chris Swinn, the Branch's guest auctioneer and natural fund raiser !!

April proved to be a 'hectic month' as the Branch finalised its organisation of **RSA15**, the Association's AGM weekend. A great success - all ran according to schedule and the weekend events are reported elsewhere in this issue of Contrail.

April was also marked with a great sadness when Wessex lost one of its popular members, Heather Nias-Cooper. Heather was a real character, full of fun and with a presence that gave a 'lift' to so many occasions. She will be sadly missed.

RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION TRAVEL SOCIETY (RSATS)

Our Membership Secretary has asked me to remind you of the availability of the Retired Staff Association Travel Society (RSATS). To become a member you must meet the following three conditions: (1) Membership of the RSA; (2) Membership of the CAA or NATS pension scheme; and (3) 10 years' service with the CAA, NATS or HIAL. RSATS has a Chairman and a Secretary both of whom are appointed by the Central Committee of the RSA. Membership of the committee may be increased or changed as necessary. A membership fee will be charged at intervals to cover administration of the society only. Two passport size photographs are also required to be submitted with the application form and once application is approved you will be issued with a numbered membership card. Application forms, terms and conditions and current concession details are available on the RSA website using the RSATS link.

It should be understood that RSATS involvement is limited to providing verification of the status of Retired Staff Association members in order that they may be able to take advantage of any travel industry or other concessions that may be available to them. RSATS stresses that all holidays and/or flights are arrangements that are contracts between you and the agency or operator. RSATS exists only to confirm your eligibility and cannot take any responsibility for these arrangements.

The following concessions are currently available to RSATS members:

BARHEAD offer affinity discounts 5% off ALL holidays and 10% off their own travel products to RSATS members.

TOUCHDOWN is the main agent for travel concessions for the travel industry. Find holiday flight or hotel on the Touchdown website. Concessions available to our members are listed under RSATS.

Coming soon: Fred Olsen are about to be offering 10 % off Cruises (above any other discounts) to RSATS members. If interested keep an eye on the website www.caa-rsa.org.uk/rsats.htm.

RSA AGM 2015 Elections:

Central Committee Officers Standing for Election:
Chairman - Anne Noonan; **Vice Chairman** - Tony Cowell;
Treasurer - Matthew Baines; **Secretary** - Robin Morris.

Central Committee Members for Election:
Ted Pillinger; Dave Hobday; Richard Wright; Richard Woodroffe; Sheila West; Barry Pratt; Colin Chisholm; Duncan Boulton.

All of the above were elected.

The Excursions

RSA 15 Photographs

The Gala Dinner



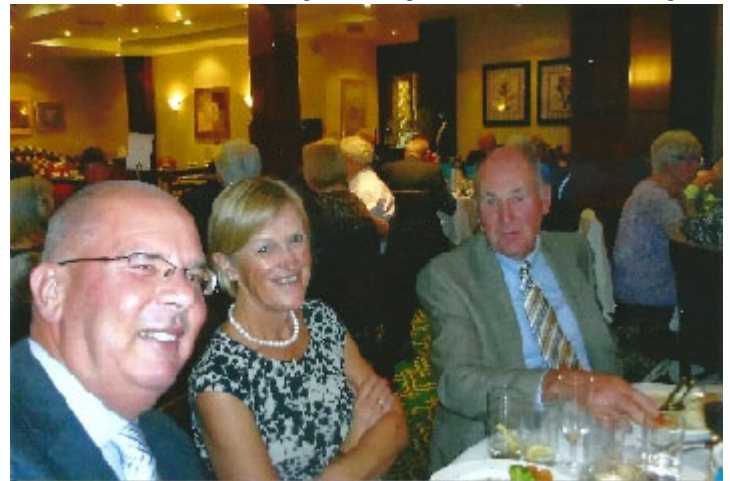
One of the two coaches filled by RSA Members



Vice President Lesley Priestly with his wife Audrey



visiting Corfe Castle



John Doig (L) with Lynn and Colin Chisholm



Boarding the coach for the Saturday excursion



The "Sound of Soul" choir provided the entertainment



Phil Holt, Tony Cowell & Alison Tilly at Lulworth Cove



Matthew and Linda Baines enjoying the dinner

RSA 15 - The Social Events by Richard Wright

Once checked-in (assisted by John & Shirley Dack and Paddy & June Pollock), the weekend began on Friday afternoon with the meeting between Branch Delegates and the Central Committee. The main business of the meeting was to consider the outcome of the mandate from the 2014 Glasgow AGM to "...communicate with RSA members to see how RSA (as presently constituted) is meeting – and can continue to meet – the needs of its members."

The popularity of this AGM event was demonstrated later on Friday evening when no less than 76 RSA members and their partners assembled in the hotel's dining room for an excellent buffet supper, followed by a recital from the "Sound of Soul" choir – a group of 20 or so ladies and one (very brave – or very lucky) gentleman! "Sound of Soul" is a Bournemouth charity aiming to provide instruments and musical training for under-privileged children. They don't take a fee but welcome donations, and the quality of their performance was such that they raised over £350 from our members!

There followed the usual late nights and tall stories in the bar – or so I'm told, as I was (of course) tucked up in bed with a good book...

On Saturday morning, our Wessex Branch hosts had arranged a 'mystery coach tour' to limber us up (or was it to soften us up...) ahead of the afternoon's AGM. Most members went for the tour, leaving our colleagues to explore the excellent cultural activities - and the shopping - near the hotel.

Expertly commentated by local Branch (and MACC veteran) Phil Holt, we toured Dorset's historic landscape, stopping first at Lulworth Cove before moving on to Corfe Castle. We didn't have enough time to fully explore the remains of the castle "slighted" by Oliver Cromwell during the English Civil War, but there was coffee aplenty and some of us (no names....) even managed to get in a Dorset Cream Tea..... IN THE MORNING?????

"This is what the RSA is about: combining business with social events"

Our next stop (for lunch, for those with any appetite remaining) was Swanage, a lovely traditional seaside resort with a sandy beach. And what could have been better than the first leg of our journey back towards Bournemouth and the afternoon's AGM: a ride on the steam-hauled Swanage Railway, chuffing back past the ruins of Corfe Castle and some historic steam railway locomotives and carriages. Ooooh, that smell of steam.....

Recovering from nostalgia overload, we returned to the 'Royale' for the AGM, re-united with our colleagues who'd spent the morning in the more recent tradition of up-loading their credit cards.....

"I've never been to an AGM before – but you can put me down for the next one"

On Saturday evening, we returned to the hotel's restaurant for a gala dinner, once again hosted by our Wessex Branch stalwarts, in particular Ted Tilly. Ted says he's shy, but I don't think that anyone who wears so many funny hats/ rings so many bells / tells so many stories can be all *that* shy (sorry Ted). And of course I need to thank our RSA Vice-President Lesley Priestley for his witty and gracious closing remarks. After an excellent weekend, everyone departed for home on the Sunday morning.

Oh dear, did I short-change the AGM? I don't think so: although the business of the AGM is really important to the Association, it is also an ideal opportunity for a social weekend, and I'm delighted to report that we had twice as many attendees as last year. That *must* be good news for all of us, as it's a sign of the organisation's health, particularly as there were several members who'd attended an AGM for the first time and wanted to come again.

"That was great – how on earth can you improve on it for 2016?"

More to the point was the question on everyone's lips: "That was great, but how and where can you improve on that for 2016 – and how can I book?"

So, where *do* we go from here? Well, to Stratford-upon-Avon, to be precise, for **RSA16** over the weekend of Friday 22 to Sunday 24 of April 2016. That weekend is the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death, so there'll be plenty of events on hand – apart from our own business, of course. And the secret weapon for **RSA16** is that Frankie and Jim Stuart have agreed to organize the event, with 'back up' from members of the Wessex Branch (thank you all so much!).

Early booking will be essential, so watch out for details in the next "Contrail".

RSA 2016 AGM: Stratford-upon-Avon, 22 – 24 April 2016

The next RSA AGM will be held at the Stratford Hotel in Stratford-upon-Avon from 22-24 April 2016. Business and social programme will be announced in the next issue of "Contrail".

Early booking will be essential – watch out so you don't miss out!

BRANCH DIARY DATES

COTSWOLD BRANCH

2 June - Talk by Ann Bishop "Using Pets as Therapy"

7 July - Talk by Marion Beagley "English is a Crazy Language"

4 August - Possibly a summer meal TBA

DOWNS BRANCH

14 October - Autumn lunch at Crawley College.

9 December - Christmas lunch at Crawley College.

EASTERN BRANCH

20 June — A **Car Treasure Hunt** followed by a Pub Dinner at the Swan Inn, Hilborough, Norfolk. **TREASURE HUNT:** Start point is the National Trust Wimpole Estate, Arrington, Cambridgeshire, SG8 0BW (not far from M11 J12). **Start time: 1200–1300. End time: 1700.** Peter estimates the journey to be no more than four hours with all the stops. End Point: HILBOROUGH, South of Swaffham. **PUB DINNER** The Swan Inn, Hilborough, Norfolk. **Meeting time: 1800.** The treasure hunt will be a very informal event with basic route directions and some questions to add interest. The main emphasis will be on meeting-up. Please advise me, Jim Fuller (01279 722 484), if you would like to participate in one or both of these events so that the organizers are aware of the possible participants and numbers. The EB Newsletter will give full details

5 September — the Branch is planning a **BBQ** for Saturday 5 September to be held at the Queens Head, Allens Green, Sawbridgeworth, CM21 0LS. Again we will want to know early the numbers wanting to come along so that the pub can arrange food. **Start anytime after 1230** on the day.

Eastern Branch Contacts:

Jim Fuller, 11 Luxford Place, SAWBRIDGEWORTH, CM21 9JB Tel: 01279 722 484 — j3rivers@gmail.com

EDINBURGH BRANCH

17 June - Lunch at Valvona & Crolla Ristorante, Multrees Walk, Edinburgh.

15 July - Lunch at the Four Marys Linlithgow.

Our current programme of events, along with any changes, can be viewed on the RSA Website. Look under Branches - Edinburgh: www.caa-rsa.org.uk/edinburgh.htm Members' are requested to book in advance of the event through the Branch Secretary. (Secretary Contact information is listed in a separate section of Contrail)

NORTH WEST BRANCH

The joint ventures with Maccvets are proving successful and continue to be included in the social programme.

Every 4th Wednesday of the month a walk of 3-4 miles with optional pub lunch afterwards. Details will be posted here: www.caa-rsa.org.uk/northwest_4.htm

July 17 - Murder Mystery dinner at The Plaza Café, Stockport. The Great Gatsby murder mystery performed by The After Dark Company. 3 Course meal. **7.30pm.** £35.75 pp

Details of events are available in the Branches section of the CAA RSA website. Contact Barry Pratt for further information, his details are on the Branch Contact page.

WESSEX BRANCH

Wednesday 24 June - Morning Walk & Pub Lunch.

Botany Bay Inne, Winterborne Zelston, DT11 9ET at 1030. Branch member, Roger Spriggs, will lead the annual walk which starts / finishes at the Botany Bay Inne – located on the A31 at Winterborn Zelston, mid-way between Wimborne and Bere Regis. Meet in the pub car park / stout walking shoes recommended !

Wednesday 22 July - 'Garden Meet'. **6 Ebor Close, West Parley, BH22 8LZ at 1100.** Once again, Diane and Phil Holt will host the annual 'Garden Meet' in the delightful surrounds of the West Parley home. Coffee / tea and a selection of cakes will be served, followed by an auction / competition in aid of a selected charity.

August - No Meeting

Wednesday 23 September - 'Pub Skittles'. A popular event in the Wessex calendar. Details of location / cost will be circulated in the Branch's Summer Newsletter.

Visiting / new members are welcome to attend any of the Branch meetings. For further details of the Wessex programme, please contact the Secretary, Wessex Branch on 01425 474504 or e-mail:

tilly@beggarsroost11.freemove.co.uk

Solution to March Crossword

Across: 1. Sages 6. Imparts 13. Pirate 14. Aerial 15. Arise 16. Bramble 17. Imperfect 19. Bod 20. Nee 21. Oath 22. Pong 23. Mint 24. Dense 26. Kedgerees 28. Edits 30. Romp 32. Lobe 33. Rite 34. Sic 36. Ebb 37. Financier 39. Abusing 41. There 42. Sitars 43. Meagre 44. Enzymes 45. Dread.

Down: 1. Spain 2. Airmen 3. Gripe 4. Ease 5. Steroids 7. March 8. Peat 9. Arm 10. Ribbons 11. Talons 12. Sledges 16. Bettering 18. Fang 22. Peep 23. Mete 24. Demented 25. Release 26. Kibbutz 27. Rota 29. Dobbin 31. Sierra 33. Rinse 34. Siege 35. Creed 37. Firm 38. Char 40. Say.

Motions to the CAA RSA 2015 AGM

Rule Changes 23rds majority required:

1) 'This AGM agrees to amend para. 2(b) by removing the words 'an early' so it reads 'Any employee of the CAA or NATS who anticipates retirement within two years.'

Central Committee. Motion Carried.

2) 'This AGM agrees that Clause 10.2 shall read 'In the event of dissolution, the assets remaining, after payment of all proper liabilities, shall be donated to an organisation, agreed at the time by the RSA Central Committee, as being most appropriate for the continuing support of CAA and NATS pensioners and their dependants.'

Central Committee. Motion Carried.

Motions requiring a simple majority:

3.) This conference agrees that the Central Committee should consider means of making the information on Central Committee dates, agendas and minutes available on either the RSA Web site or Contrail.

WHC Branch. Motion Carried.

OBITUARIES

We regret to report the following deaths, notified since the **March** issue of Conrail:

Douglas Wilely Smith, a Clerical Officer at Cheltenham, on 28 January 2015

Stewart Macfarlane Simpson, a PATE at Edinburgh, on 1 February 2015

Albert Martindale Thompson, C – Head of Statistics at CAA House, on 22 January 2015

Peter Gordon Manson, an ATCO 1 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 8 February 2015

George Leicester Chambers, an ATCO 1 at Bournemouth, on 12 February 2015

Nora Isabel Bishop, a Clerical Officer at West Drayton, on 16 February 2015

John Loosemore, an ATE 1 at TEE Gatwick, on 17 December 2014

Kenneth George Cooper, SATE at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 12 February 2015

Bernard Gordon Parker, Senior Craftsman, ATCEU, Bournemouth (Hurn) Airport, on 3 January 2015

Frank Sutton, HEO, Medical Department CAA House, on 5 March 2015

Frank Lord, SMG2 at Powerplant Office, in Derby, on 6 March 2015

Douglas John Beaufont-Bishop, an ATCO 2 at ATCEU, Hurn, on 12 March

Eric William Fox, a CACO 3 at Heathrow, on 8 February 2015

Matilda Mooney Fleming, a Telephonist at Belfast Airport, on 17 March 2015

James Joseph McCarthy, an ATE 2 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 20 March 2015

Jean Anne Campbell Feasey, STPO Tels at Glasgow Airport, on 21 March 2015

David Albert Hughes, an SMG 2 at Stansted Airport, on 21 March 2015

Muriel Jean Loft, an EO at CAA House, on 1 March 2015
Andrewina Menelaws, a Band 3 at Edinburgh Airport, on 26 February 2015

William James Saunderson, SATE at Birdlip Radio Station, on 12 March 2015

Derek John Weaver, an ATE 1 at CAA House, on 28 March 2015

Pamela Margaret Phipps, Tels WS at Heathrow Airport, on 30 March 2015

Joan Newman, a Telephonist at Manchester Airport, on 1 April 2015

Williamina Howie McCourtney, a Telephonist at ScATCC, on 2 April 2015

John Charles Robert Gladwell, an ATE 1 on B Watch at Heathrow Airport, on 1 April 2015 a

Desmond James Brankin, JMG1 in ERG at CAA House, on 4 April 2015

Andrew Morris, a SATE at Birmingham Airport, on 1 April 2015

Gwyneth Liddard, CAA Grade 9, location unknown, on 9 January 2015

Marie Alison Powell, a Clerical Officer at CAA House, on 13 April 2015

Alexander George Cargill, an ATCA 2 at Atlantic House, Prestwick, on 3 April 2015

Richard Herbert James, PADP(ATS), CAA House, on 20 April 2015

Patrick Shane Flynn, an ATCO at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 23 April 2015

John Ashley-Smith, FE/FOI 1 at Stansted, on 23 April 2015

Michael Ronald Groom Sex, a SATE at Gatwick Airport, on 25 April 2015

Derrek George Joyce, an ATCO 1 in ATC Training, CAA House, on 29 April 2015

AGM 2015 Reports

Secretary's Report

Action Taken AGM 2014: Motions 1,2 & 3 were approved, and the Rules were amended. Motion 4 was remitted, the Central Committee agreed to consider the points from the AGM debate and agreed to put a motion to AGM 2015. Motion 6 was approved, no further action as it is current policy.

The first subject of discussion at the Branch Reps. meeting preceding the AGM 2014, was the point that though retirees were willing to join the RSA there seemed to be little interest in becoming engaged with the Organisation and taking an active role at local level. It was agreed to ask the membership what it is that they want from the RSA but how were we to do this if we do not have reps from all of the Branches attending the AGM? At the pre AGM Reps meeting it was agreed that the Membership Secretary would provide a comparison of membership figures annually to the AGM, and that a continuing check be kept on the membership numbers to ensure that they do not fall below a level that would undermine the financial stability of the RSA. This is reviewed at each of the Central Committee meetings.

OPA Report

During 2014 the OPA Council had held a total of five meetings in London. Two new Councillors joined during the course of the year, Adrian Barnes, from the BAT Pensioners Association and Frank Gerschwiler from the Lucas/TRW Pensioners Association. The Mirror group of pensioners is considering joining and sent a representative to the November OPA Council Meeting. Three regional meetings had been held at Sunbury with presentations by representatives of the Pension Protection Fund, The Pension Regulator and Huw Evans an independent pension expert. Details of these presentations can be found on the OPA website. The OPA continued to be represented on the Price Indexation Working Group of the Royal Statistical Society which is reviewing both the CPI/RPI Indices and considering proposals for new price indices. Bill Pitt, an ex-MP who was seconded to the Council last year, continued developing the details of the OPA stratagem to present the interests of occupational pensioners to those standing for election in 2015. Much of this work involved data gathering from the member organizations.

Dave Reeve was invited to continue in the post for a further year and was co-opted to the Central Committee.

CAA /NATS RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT: R B COLES
 VICE PRESIDENT: L PRIESTLEY
CENTRAL COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN	Anne Noonan
VICE CHAIRMAN	Tony Cowell
SECRETARY	Robin Morris
TREASURER	Matthew Baines
WELFARE CO-ORDINATOR	Duncan Boulton
PENSIONS REP	David Hobday
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Ted Pillinger
WEBMASTER	Richard Woodroffe
MEMBERS	Sheila West
	Barry Pratt
PENSIONER MNT	Colin Chisholm
	Ken Malcolm
	Richard Wright
OPA REP	Dave Reeve
EDITOR CONTRAIL	Bob Connolly

(Elected members shown in Bold, co-opted members shown in normal print)



KEEPING IN TOUCH

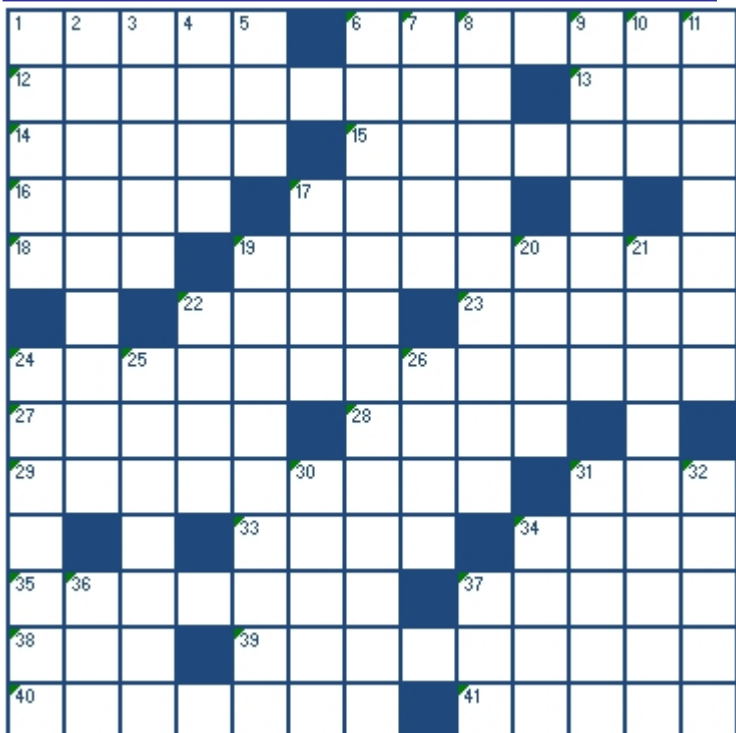
The RSA needs to know where you are so that you receive CONTRAIL and details of local activity from your Branch. **Please let Ted Pillinger, the RSA Membership Secretary, know if you have moved or other personal details have changed, for example your email address:**

Ted Pillinger,
17 Willow Grove, Welwyn Gardens, Herts, AL8 7NA.

E Mail: RSAmembershipsec@virginmedia.com

Remember to also advise Pensions Administration by post or email to pensions@caa.co.uk. You need to tell both the RSA and CAAPS as information cannot be exchanged because of Data Protection requirements.

Please DO NOT send address or personal changes to the editorial office.



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Roger Myers June Crossword

Across:

1. Work force (5); 6. Blocking (7); 12. Father murder (9);
 13. Digit (3); 14. Change (5); 15. Operation (7);
 16. Parody (4); 17. Grainy powder (4); 18. Raincoat (3);
 19. Send into the country (9); 22. Networks (4);
 23. Afterwards (5); 24. Physical flexibility (13);
 27. Egg-shaped (5); 28. Tax (4); 29. Confirms (9);
 31. Rotten (3); 32. Tidy (4); 34. Loathe (4);
 35. Component (7); 37. Paste (5); 38. Pole (3); 39. Plots (9);
 40. Partners (7); 41. Metric weight (5)

Down:

1. Fit (5); 2. Loquacious (9); 3. Top room (5); 4. Worry (4);
 5. Tree (3); 6. Uncouples (13); 7. Mature person (5);
 8. Cruel (9); 9. Repeat (7); 10. And not (3);
 11. Hot springs (7); 17. Barrels (4);
 19. Thinness of sound (9); 20. Containers (4);
 21. A witnessing (9); 22. Fragment (4); 24. Cabinets (7);
 25. Naval weapon (7); 26. Encounter (4); 30. Barrier (5);
 31. Bowl (5); 32. Impenetrable (5); 34. Champion (4);
 36. Cut (3); 37. Rodent (3)

AGM 2015 Reports Cont'd

RSA Membership Survey - Initial Report To AGM Delegates:

Following the Glasgow AGM a sub-committee was established, chaired by Tony Cowell, with the intention of reporting back to members at the 2015 AGM. As a member of that sub-committee, I can tell you now that the work involved was more extensive than we thought, and took longer than we wished – not least due to some delays beyond our control. The outcome was that the results of the survey we had undertaken were available only just ahead of the Delegates/Central Committee meeting.

Sub-committee Secretary Duncan Boulton presented the Friday meeting with the results of the survey – which we will go through in more detail in a future issue of “Contrail”. In summary, Duncan reported that:

- Almost 4000 questionnaires were sent out worldwide, using the “Contrail” mailing lists as a database.
- About 34 per cent of the forms were completed and returned (and in ‘questionnaire’ statistics, anything over 25 per cent is regarded as “very good”). So, the results were that:
- RSA should “represent members’ views which might impact their CAAPS benefits” received the highest ‘important or very important’ score of 96 per cent,
- Representing all the beneficiaries of CAAPS scored only slightly less at 95 per cent, whilst
- RSA acting as a link with CAA & NATS management scored 89 per cent,
- Producing “Contrail” to provide members with up-to-date information scored 86 per cent, and
- Encouraging CAA and NATS staff to join the RSA upon retirement scored almost 84 per cent.

Provision of an RSA website for conveying up-to-date information to members also scored highly, but after that, the votes fell away, so that:

- Providing help, advice (& visits if required) on welfare issues scored a 60 per cent ‘important or very important’ vote,
- Promoting social communication between members through regional branches received a 36 per cent vote, and
- Organising events for members through regional branches received a 35 per cent vote.

The survey showed also that only seven per cent of RSA members were regular attendees at Branch events, with a further seven per cent being ‘occasional’ attendees. The survey was discussed and delegates asked the Central Committee to ‘drill down’ into the results and come up with recommendations to a future AGM. An RSA Central Committee meeting later that afternoon formally requested the sub-committee to investigate and report back.

Membership Secretary’s Report:

Improvements to allow Branches to identify those that have resigned and died have been well received by the Branches. This has led to identifying further improvements which will be requested of the Webmaster in due course. Pensions Branch now checks lists of lost members on request and returns new information direct to the Membership Secretary. This makes things much more efficient as I no longer have to prepare letters to individual members.

Pensions Report:

The NATS Section has changed from RPI to CPI for active members, pensioners are still being indexed in line with RPI, which the employers could try and change at some time in the future. The CAA Section has not yet made a decision on the indexation of retired, deferred or active members. We continue to advise CAAPS management that in our view the change from RPI to CPI would be unfair and unacceptable.

The Pension Notice1/2014 changes the reference month from February to January. The RSA was not given any prior notice to this change when we last met the pension team so as yet we do not have a view on this.

MNT’s are now called MNDs (Member Nominated Directors) as the structure of the CAAPS Board has changed to a Corporate Trusteeship and that the makeup of the MNDs has also changed to 3 + 3, that’s three from the CAA Section one of which must be an active member and one must be a pensioner or deferred member of the CAA Section and only members of the CAA Section can nominated. Likewise, of the three from the NATS Section, one must be an active member and one must be a pensioner or deferred member of the NATS Section nominated only by members of the NATS Section. There will be at least two MNDs who are either Pensioner or Deferred member, it is a move in the right direction but the RSA can no longer put forward a candidate in its own right as they have to be nominated by the relevant Section members. All we can do now is to try and encourage RSA members to put their names forward and support those we think most suitable. We have also lost the ability to veto a candidate.

Tony Cowell, Robin Morris and Dave Hobday had a meeting with Jeff Butler and Lynette Hilton on the changes and put a robust case against the changes to the selection process but with no success.

NATS DB Pension Committee has started to meet again, after about two years, and we receive an invitation to attend its meetings.

**Members website:
www.caa-rsa.org.uk**

CAARSA YAHOO GROUP

Don't forget our Yahoo Group where you can keep in touch with fellow members on items of mutual interest and view past issues of Contrail. To join just send an e-mail to: caarsa-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Reunion time again!

It will soon be time for the Annual Reunion to be held in **Freemasons Arms, Long Acre, London**. If you wish to attend this excellent get-together please pre-book by completing the application form below. Please note the venue is just a few steps away from the old venue, "Charlie's", in the direction of Covent Garden underground station.

BOOK NOW, AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED!



ANNUAL REUNION BOOKING FORM
Freemasons Arms, Long Acre, London WC2
Thursday 19 November 2015 from Noon to 4pm

Name.....

Known as.....

Address.....

.....

Post Code.....

Telephone:.....

Cost: £10.00pp in advance; £11 on the door.
Excellent buffet lunch and cash bar
Please make cheques payable to the
CAA Retired Staff Association and send them to:
Matthew Baines,
16, Mossman Drive, Caddington,
Beds., LU1 4EX.

CONTRAIL SMALL ADS

Please remember that RSA members are permitted to insert up to two small advertisements in any twelve month period. These can be submitted either by email or post to the editor by using the address shown on page 2.

Apartment for sale in Northern Italy



Located in Villongo, a small town just a 5 minute drive from Lake Iseo, one of the most beautiful lakes in Italy. On two levels it has a kitchen/dining room and balcony,

lounge/second bedroom also with balcony, fully fitted bathroom and on the next floor a bedroom with terrace and fully fitted shower room. Double garage with all utilities and designated parking space. Villongo is near the lakeside town of Sarnico and is 15 miles from Bergamo airport which is served by low cost airlines. It is within easy reach of Verona, Venice, Milan and Brescia. Price of £110,000 includes all fittings with an option to buy the furniture. For further information including photos contact G.Sweet on 01606883257, c_g_sweet@hotmail.com



As has been mentioned earlier in this issue next year's AGM, **RSA16**, will be held in Stratford-on-Avon, a place where we held the AGM in 2009. Every year a unique event takes place in Stratford-upon-Avon to mark the birth of William Shakespeare. The two day birthday celebrations, held on the weekend closest to his birthday, April 23, brings together performers, artists, and ambassadors from around the world in a vibrant and colourful celebration of his life and works. Having previously seen this colourful festival it is an event not to be missed so start planning now for **RSA16**.



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