

# CONTRAIL

The Retired Staff Association Magazine for CAA & NATS pensioners [www.caa-rsa.org.uk](http://www.caa-rsa.org.uk)

**ALL MEMBERS 2016 EDITION**

## “As you like it”

What have the following got in common: BBC television programmes “Countryfile” and “Doctors”, along with television news reports, HRH Prince Charles and the RSA AGM? The answer is, of course, the celebrations that were held in Stratford-upon-Avon to mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of William Shakespeare’s death.

Over eighty members took up the opportunity to not only attend the RSA AGM that was being held on the celebration weekend, but also to join with thousands of other visitors to witness the vibrant and colourful events staged in the town that marked this historic occasion. I believe that some members even managed to see HRH Prince Charles during his royal visit to the celebrations in the town.

The actual AGM was held on the Friday afternoon, leaving members then able to relax and enjoy the buffet supper. Having the AGM on the Friday evening allowed members to enjoy, with thousands of other visitors, the spectacle of the “Grand Parade”. Stratford-upon-Avon celebrates the anniversary of Shakespeare’s death annually with a colourful parade but with 2016 being the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary the organising committee really pulled out all the stops to promote this year’s event as extra special.

The excellent Gala Dinner was held on the Saturday evening and members attending were provided with William Shakespeare face masks in keeping with the theme of the weekend celebrations.

Normally the booking form is run in the December and March issues of “**Contrail**”, but this year’s AGM weekend proved even more popular than last year’s which was held in Bournemouth. The popularity of this year’s event was obvious by the fact that all the allocated rooms were booked shortly after the issue of the booking form in the December 2015 issue of “**Contrail**” negating the requirement to run the booking form in the March issue.

Thanks go to Jim & Frankie Stuart for all their hard work, before and during the weekend, to ensure that the AGM was a success. Often the people who attend events such as this forget about all the hard work done by the organisers in negotiating hotel rates and room availability along with catering, entertainment, handling bookings and not forgetting their valuable help in designing the promotion material for “**Contrail**” and our website.

Details of the 2017 AGM and its booking form will be published in the December issue of “**Contrail**” and will also be available on the website as usual. Let’s ensure that it is another great success by booking early for what we hope will be another enjoyable weekend.



(Left) Grand Parade  
Stratford-upon-Avon

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## FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

*Anne Noonan*

A weekend of sunshine and showers greeted the 400<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the death of William Shakespeare in Stratford-upon-Avon – and, coincidentally, the 2016 AGM of the RSA. The AGM this year was held on the Friday afternoon, a change which seemed to suit most people as it left Saturday free, until the evening, to join in the various special events being held.

Some 80 people attended the Stratford weekend including our President, Bob Coles with his wife Lesley and Vice- President, Leslie Priestly with his wife Audrey. Our very sincere thanks go to Frankie and Jim Stuart for all their hard work in putting it all together. And there was plenty to do – a street procession on Saturday morning, an optional hop on/hop off bus tour after lunch and plenty of time for shopping and sight seeing. A number of members caught sight of Prince Charles and I understand one member even shook the Royal hand!

The gala dinner on Saturday evening included a raffle for Alzheimers Research and winners were encouraged to pick up a booklet on dementia when they collected their prizes – appropriate perhaps! £350 was collected and Frankie and Jim Stuart would like to thank everybody who contributed.

So, a successful weekend, and a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and colleagues and meet with some new members. It is planned to hold next year's AGM in Portsmouth – another venue with a great deal to offer – and we hope to see as many of you there as possible.

In the streets of Stratford-upon-Avon, some shopkeepers and publicans got into the spirit of things too. One cheese shop had a notice in the window, reading 'to Brie or not to Brie' and a board outside a pub read 'Shakespeare used to drink here but now he's Bard'.

But I think I'll leave you with a quote attributed to 'the man of

Stratford'. My local pub is called The Shakespeare and on one of their walls is the following: 'Wine... it provokes the desire but takes away the performance'. Many a true word and all that!

Very best wishes

*Anne Noonan*

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## CUTTING COSTS

**A question raised by one of the delegates to the 2016 AGM was the high annual cost of mailing Contrail to members.**

**We do understand that some members do not have computers and others really prefer to have a hard copy of Contrail but, with the annual rise in postage costs, it is a considerable expense these days,**

**If you could receive Contrail via the internet then please, consider doing so as we try to keep costs as low as possible.**

**Also, if you already receive Contrail by e-mail and change your e-mail address, please don't forget to inform our Membership Secretary, Ted Pillinger by email to [RSAmembershipsec@virginmedia.com](mailto:RSAmembershipsec@virginmedia.com) or by phone on 01707 333688.**

**Please do help us if you can - thank you.**

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## Windows 10 upgrade

Just a quick reminder that if you have not already taken advantage of the free upgrade to Windows 10 from Windows 7 or 8 and wish to do so, the Microsoft free upgrade ends on 29 July 2016. After that date, if you decide to update, then you will have to purchase the upgrade.

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### Editorial Note:

**If you are reading this issue of Contrail on the RSA website all personal contact information has been removed in the interest of data protection. This does NOT apply to the email or printed versions**

## EDITORIAL



Once again it is time for the "All Members" post AGM issue of Contrail. Where does the time go as it seems

like just a few months since I prepared the last All Members issue. This year's AGM weekend appears to have been very successful once again although I was unable to attend. The last time the AGM was held in Stratford-upon-Avon it was an enjoyable experience and as the AGM weekend fell on the same weekend as the anniversary of Shakespeare's death I was able to see their very colourful annual tribute that attracts a large number of visitors. My thanks go to Jim and Frankie Stuart and Stuart Clifton for kindly providing the photographs of this year's AGM and gala dinner.

My thanks also go to those who kindly sent me information for John Levesley's project and I have passed the material on to him. If anyone has historic material regarding CAA/NATS and its predecessors that they think would be of interest then please send it to me and I will pass it on.

The next RSA event is the Annual Reunion held in London on 17 November and you will find the booking form for this on page 12 of this issue. This is another popular event where early booking is recommended.

As usual, I welcome all contributions for inclusion in future editions of Contrail. I can be contacted by e-mail:

**[contrailed@caa-rsa.org.uk](mailto: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

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**NEXT COPY DATE**

• Please ensure all contributions are  
• with the editor by not later than

• **1 August 2016**  
• **for September 2016 issue**  
•••••



Dear Editor,

Please be advised of the following death:

**Ian David Macey**, an ATCE1 at NATS Corporate & Technical Centre (CTC), Whiteley, near Fareham who died on 13 February 2016.

Ian worked for many years at various locations including LATCC, CAA House, Spectrum House (Gatwick) and, in his final years prior to retirement, at the NATS Corporate & Technical Centre (CTC), Whiteley, near Fareham. I am unsure which location you use for the entries for such persons in Contrail's obituaries, so I have included the most recent prior to his retirement. The same goes for his grade which obviously changed throughout his career.

John R F Guy (Dr.)

Dear Editor,

I always read Contrail from cover to cover, and was somewhat perplexed by an entry in the March issue from the Northern Ireland Branch. This described their enjoyable Christmas dinner, followed by an afternoon of good craic. As a naive English country boy, I am afraid that had me stumped. (They called me The Vicar when I instructed in Bletchley, but I have read The Khama Sutra and various other explicit manuals, but never came across a Craic). Please explain.

Dennis Starr

*Craic is a Gaelic word, with no exact English translation but basically meaning "an enjoyable time spent with other people". It is a very common word in Ulster and features not only in Irish Gaelic, but also in Scottish and Manx Gaelic. Sometimes in Scottish and Ulster Scots Gaelic it is spelt "crack" taken from the Northern English version, used predominantly in Cumbria. It is also frequently used as a greeting in the form of "What's the craic" roughly meaning "How are you" or "have you any news" Ed.*

## Chairman's Report



Chairman, Anne Noonan, welcomed all members to the Stratford 2016 AGM and stated that she hoped all attending would take the opportunity to talk to our RSA Central Committee members about their views and how the RSA can work better for the membership. She stated that this was the third recent AGM away from London and the Central Committee needed feedback to see if it is a format that can be continued.

She went on to say that after the AGM 2015 the 'Future of the RSA sub-committee' continued looking at the results of its survey, concentrating on the subject most respondents thought most important, that being communications. She stated *"It was decided that the RSA website was the RSA's best way of keeping the wider membership informed of the work done in their name and on their behalf. Thanks for the hard work of all those involved in the website changes. There are still some Branch Areas that need to be updated so the*

*work is ongoing"*.

The Chairman went on to say *"As a result of a discussion after the AGM 2015 the Central Committee re-wrote the RSA Constitution and it is presented to the AGM for approval"*.

She reported that a meeting with the new Independent Chairman of Trustees was held in December where we were able to stress our views on the present and future of the CAA/NATS Defined Benefit Pension Scheme, and we believe we persuaded the Chairman that we should have meetings with her twice per year and a presentation on the CAAPS Triennial Valuation.

The numbers attending the annual reunion were down a little this year but faces not seen before made an appearance and overall it was a good day.

Finally, she thanked everyone for the help and support provided to her and her colleagues on the Central Committee and to all the active RSA members in the Branches. She gave a special thanks to Ted Pillinger who has transformed the membership records but has now decided to stand down after 5 years in the post. He will finally step down after the AGM 2017 and the Central Committee is eager to find a replacement for Ted so that he is able to bring them up to speed before his departure.

## Election of Officers and Central Committee

The following Officers who were standing for election were all re-elected:

**Chairman - Anne Noonan, Vice Chairman - Tony Cowell, Treasurer - Matthew Baines, and Secretary - Robin Morris.**

After many years as a Central Committee member Barry Pratt decided not to seek re-election this year. He was congratulated and thanked for his service over the years to the benefit of the wider membership. Andy Maynard was nominated from the floor and elected to the Central Committee as a successor to Barry.

The following members of the Central Committee who were standing for election were all re-elected:

**Ted Pillinger, Dave Hobday, Richard Wright, Richard Woodroffe, Sheila West, Colin Chisholm and Duncan Boulton.**



# BRANCH NEWS

## COTSWOLD BRANCH

The Branch mustered thirteen members and friends for its 2016 AGM on 1 March. Our Secretary, John Ross, had produced comprehensive notes on the 2015 meeting which were circulated and agreed. Treasurer, Keith Plumridge, circulated Branch Accounts, also accepted. These showed the Branch in good health financially, allowing us to subsidise costs of the small buffet meal provided for us in-house at the AGM by the Albion Club in Cheltenham. There was no change in the Officers elected to serve for another year, except that Jean Plumridge has stepped down from the Branch Committee. She receives our thanks for her past services on the Committee but our numbers being low, it was decided not to fill the vacant post.

The Committee now comprises:

Chairman : Jessie Strawson  
Secretary : John Ross  
Treasurer : Keith Plumridge  
Committee : Ron Russ

A vote of thanks was passed for all the Officers and Jessie thanked everyone for their continued support. Ron Russ told the meeting there had been no progress regarding the garden seat to be fitted at St Christopher's Warden Hill in memory of Shirley Howard. Providing the base awaits better weather.

Jessie Strawson opened the April meeting with fourteen members and friends present. She confirmed our Speaker for May would be Ray Cordell who would tell us about Food Banks under the Gloucestershire County Community Project. Our summer meal is now confirmed for 3 June. It will be at The Clock Tower again but in a different area, avoiding the cramped conditions we experienced for our Christmas dinner. The Branch was very pleased to welcome Shirley Godfrey to the meeting. She joins us now as an active Branch member having been employed at Ashville, the old P&PS Stationery Warehouse in Cheltenham. A new member is indeed a red letter day for the Branch.

We were entertained in April with slides from Arthur Ball, on his third visit as a guest speaker. Arthur is a bird watcher and avid photographer, producing a high class digital slide show accompanied by an entertaining commentary. He took us on a group safari to India showing many colourful birds, some of which overfly the Himalayas on migration. We saw a wide selection of other wildlife, the highlight being a tigress up close with two cubs, rounded off with pictures of Indian life from the human angle. By the end we all felt we had been there!

## EDINBURGH BRANCH

Since the last edition of Contrail the Branch has held three events. The Branch Annual General Meeting (AGM) preceded by a lunch was held at Howies, Waterloo Place, Edinburgh in March. Eleven members attended. As usual the AGM gave the opportunity to members to suggest venues and locations for future lunch outings and other

trips. In April there was a Branch Lunch at Indio Yard in Edinburgh's West End. Thirteen members braved the rains that day to attend. A Branch 'open day' visit to The Forth Replacement Crossing visitor / Education Centre was arranged for May.

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 or planned events, please advise the Edinburgh Branch Secretary. (Branch contact information is listed in a separate section of Contrail).

## LONDON BRANCH

A big "thank you" to those Members who have sent in details of changed email addresses. Below you will find details of the excellent Social Programme planned by Paul Artiss, our Hon. Social Secretary, and approved at the AGM in March. The demand for tickets for some of these events has been very strong and the number of tickets left is limited. Please will you email me at london@caa-rsa.org.uk to check availability. When sending a cheque (the address is in the Branch Contacts list in Contrail) please make it payable to "CAA RSA (London Branch)". Thank you.

### Social Events

London Branch AGM and Reunion, The Freemason's Arms, Covent Garden : 23 March

The Branch AGM and Annual Reunion were held in the Freemason's Arms again; 21 Members attended. In addition to the normal agenda, Anne Noonan gave an interesting update on RSA and Pensions matters. (These updates can be found in the AGM Report 2016 on the London Branch page of the CAA RSA website). The Hon. Social Secretary presented an excellent Social Programme for the year (see below) and the Committee remains unchanged as all its members were happy to remain in post. We then moved on to the Reunion which was enjoyed by all.

## NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH

While the Branch has not met since the last issue of Contrail it would like to offer its congratulations to two of its members, Bill Eames and Fred Jennings, who were recently awarded the Légion d'Honneur for their role in the liberation of France during WW2, France's highest honour. The medals were presented by France's Honorary Consul in Northern Ireland at a ceremony held in Lisburn Co. Antrim in mid-February.



Image courtesy of French Embassy

## NORTHWEST BRANCH

The NW AGM at The Waggon & Horses in Handforth on 9 March saw the retirement of Barry Pratt as Branch Secretary. Everyone joined in thanking Barry for his many years' service in post during which he has worked very hard on behalf of our membership. Andy Maynard was proposed as Secretary and was elected by unanimous vote.

The April lunch at the Railway Inn, Mobberley was a great success due to enjoying mild air and brilliant sunshine (S Cheshire Riviera) enabling outdoor dining.

Seven members attended the National AGM and excellent weekend at Stratford on Avon.

## WESSEX BRANCH

The AGM heralded the Branch's Spring Programme and returned a full committee, including a number of new 'appointments'! The outline programme for 2016-17 was well received and, once again, the Committee has put together a series of monthly meetings to satisfy everyone and every taste! As usual, the AGM concluded with an auction of unwanted gifts / items and raised £70 for the Branch Funds - a tribute to both the generosity of the buyers and the inimitable skill of the Branch Auctioneer, Chris Swinn!!

April proved a busy month and began when a number of Branch Members attended the RSA Weekend in Stratford upon Avon; a 'highlight' of which was the 400th year celebrations of Shakespeare's death. Later in the month, Francis Burroughes, a retired school teacher and company director, attended the Branch Meeting to talk about his experiences as a Church Organist. His relaxed style, combined with a dry sense of humour and a wealth of amusing stories proved a great success and, hopefully, he will deliver another talk in a future Wessex programme.

The Summer months will provide an opportunity for 'outdoor' activities / meetings and details are available in this issue of Contrail or thru' the Branch Newsletter.

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## RSATS Report – Ted Pillinger

Following the inclusion of 'Fred Olsen Lines' among our providers, during the year, we decided to keep RSATS running and make it an RSA service. This necessitated a change to the membership form, a draft of which was quickly produced. Consideration of the update and the organisational changes at 'Touchdown' led me to enquire if they still required member information and if the identification by means of just a membership No could be substituted. We are still awaiting a reply.

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**A man got on the bus with both of his front trouser pockets full of golf balls and sat down next to a blonde woman.**

**The blonde kept staring at his bulging pockets. Finally he said, "It's golf balls." The blonde raised her eyebrows, quite puzzled.**

**After several minutes, not being able to contain her curiosity any longer, she asked, "Does it hurt as much as tennis elbow?"**

## RSA Secretary's Report - Robin Morris

### Action Taken AGM 2015

1. The two Rule Changes were incorporated in The Constitution. The revised Constitution was prepared for ratification at this the 2016 AGM.
2. As a result of passing Motion 3, see below, it was agreed by the Central Committee to publish the Central Committee Minutes on the Website, suitably redacted of any sensitive information.  
*2015 AGM motion 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 Website or Contrail.*

A point on 'voting rights' at the AGM, was raised and discussed at length but with no resolution reached. Out of this came the proposal that the AGM should be further altered and shortened. The main point of this was to include the 'Reps. Part' as an integral part of the AGM. As a result of these considerations the format of the AGM 2016 will have had two suspensions of Standing Orders, one after the presentation of the Annual Report, and the other after the presentation of the Treasurer's Report. This allowed all members to voice an opinion if they wished to do so.

## Membership Report – Ted Pillinger

Total membership stands at 5252, a net reduction of 131 over the year with 58.6% of members now paying the subscription. As expected, we are losing more non payers than payers.

There have been three updates of the Branch Membership list disseminated to all Branches during 2015 and the first of 2016 will soon be distributed. In the past year there have been updates in the quality of information held in the database, due to information gained in the membership survey and due to an in depth response by Pensions Branch to our enquiries on lost members.

The weeding out of the old membership applications has been completed during the year. The paperwork is now usually within 3 months of the current situation.

Last year I stated that I did not want to remain as Membership Secretary for longer than five years. I have now served four. Obviously I would help my successor in the handover and stay until the AGM 2017 if necessary.

I recently commented on possible difficulties in finding a successor and made the following comment which I consequently agreed to put in this report. "Any successor will have to be prepared to put in a fair amount of time". It would suit someone newly retired who had yet to gather other demands for time.

## Motions for 2016 AGM

The only motion submitted to the 2016 AGM was seeking the approval of the amended constitution. Following debate and amendments from the floor this motion was carried and the new constitution adopted.



# 2016 RSA AGM GALA DINNER



Do you recognise anybody?



Let's eat



Cherished moments



"The fish I caught yesterday was this big!"



Night of the round table?

## **Treasurer's Report – Matthew Baines**

### **The Future of RSA Sub-Committee Report**

Following the RSA Survey conducted at the beginning of 2015 the 'Future of the RSA Sub-Committee' was established and met on a number of occasions to consider the results obtained from the Survey questionnaires, and any changes of operation indicated. By and large the questionnaires supported the RSA's management by the Central Committee and its activities, but considered that communications could and should be improved throughout the organisation. The Central Committee decided that a review of all of its communications channels, including Contrail and the website, should be conducted by the Sub-Committee and updated. This continues to be undertaken and is an ongoing activity.

After the 2015 AGM it became apparent that the RSA Constitution was open to interpretation and needed to be reviewed. In view of this the Sub-Committee was given the additional task of reviewing members' voting rights at the AGM and possible constitutional changes. Bearing in mind that the majority of Central Committee members indicated their support for allowing all members attending AGMs or Special GMs to have a vote and participate in discussions prior to the vote, the Sub-Committee discussed how this could be achieved and what changes to the Constitution would be required. Following discussion it was agreed that this should be accommodated. This has been done and a revised Constitution, which encompasses the required changes and a number of further changes to update other aspects of the constitution which are considered out of date or no longer relevant, were submitted and moved for adoption at 2016 AGM.



# BRANCH DIARY DATES

## COTSWOLD BRANCH

**3 June** - Summer lunch at The Clock Tower

**5 July** - TBA

**2 August** - TBA

## EDINBURGH BRANCH

**14 June** - Lunch at Ciao Roma, 64 South Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1LS, at 13:00

*Note: The Branch Committee meet during June to review the social programme. Events for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2016 will be posted in the next edition of Contrail and on the RSA Website, see: –*

*<http://www.caa-rsa.org.uk/edinburgh.htm>*

## LONDON BRANCH

**Wednesday 15 June - Jack the Ripper Walk:**

We will be absorbing every last detail of those horrific Whitechapel murders under the auspices of one of London's most experienced and professional Blue Badge guides. The cost will be £17.50 a head; we are meeting outside exit 4 of Aldgate East underground station at **11:15 for an 11:30 start**. Our respite will be at the White Hart pub afterwards in Whitechapel High Street (BYO), a renowned establishment in the heart of Jack the Ripper territory, serving extremely good value quality food and a superb selection of ales. Thai cuisine is also available if desired.

**Friday 15 July - Summer Social – City of London Pub Crawl:**

An informal and low key outing in the middle of a (hopefully) hot and dry summer meant to be an unashamedly indulgent affair staged by the Branch Social Secretary. We will be sampling the merchandise of up to four character pubs inside the square mile, each with a slice of history attached to it, and going at our own pace. Meet outside Barbican underground station at **5:30 p.m. to start the tour** – no need to book, just turn up. Spouses, partners, relatives and friends will all be welcome. Along the way we can also take in some food at our leisure. If you are running late call Paul Artiss, the organiser, on his mobile 07971 661325, so we can wait for you.

**Wednesday 17 August - Visit to Clarence House:** Only open to the public in August, we have just a few tickets left for this event. Lasting for 90 minutes our visit will include a guided tour of the lower rooms of this famous residence for just £10 per head. Meet outside the visitors' entrance in the Mall, just up from Marlborough Street, between **11:00 and 11:15 for an 11:30 start**. Afterwards we will lunch at the Golden Lion in nearby King Street (BYO), a Greene King pub with an excellent choice of food and drink at competitive prices.

**Monday 12 September - Visit to Houses of Parliament:** Good news - courtesy of the Hon. Social Secretary's local MP, Alistair Burt, we have been allocated 25 places on a guided tour of the Palace of Westminster starting at 11:30 a.m.; there is no charge for this event. We need to meet promptly outside the Cromwell Green Visitors Entrance at **1045 a.m.** to allow good time for the airport style security check. The tour will last 75 minutes, following which there is the option to visit the nearby Jewel Tower. Entry is free for groups visiting the Palace of Westminster and the visit lasts 30 minutes. Lunch will be arranged at a nearby restaurant or substantive pub (BYO), details will be published in advance. Please book your places by Friday 19 August. Applications will be restricted to members and their partners; members from other Branches are welcome to

apply. Please specify when booking whether you wish to visit the Jewel Tower and whether you would like to join us for lunch.

**Wednesday 12 October - Theatre show – the Entertainer by John Osborne:** We have only a few tickets left for what will be the last of a series of plays at the Garrick Theatre staged by the Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company. Set against the backdrop of post-war Britain during the Suez crisis of the 1950's, John Osborne's modern classic conjures the seedy glamour of the old music halls for an explosive examination of public masks and private torment. Rob Ashford directs Kenneth Branagh who performs in person as the unforgettable Archie Rice. John Hurt and Greta Scacchi also feature. The tickets we have secured are for the matinee in the Grand Circle priced at £35 each; we will be meeting outside the theatre entrance at **2 p.m. in time for a 2:30 p.m. start**. As per usual we will be retiring after for a meal (BYO) at a quality restaurant in nearby Covent Garden (subject to booking and confirmation). Please specify when booking whether you will be joining us for a meal afterwards.

**Please also note the following dates in your diaries, details to follow later :**

**Thursday 17 November – Annual CAA RSA Reunion at the Freemasons Arms. See CONTRAIL for further details**

**Saturday 10 December - Carols for Shoppers Concert at St. Martin's in the Fields (tickets will be available from July when Members will be advised of the ticket price)**

**Thursday 19 January 2017– Post Christmas Lunch.**

**Thursday 23 March 2017 – London Branch AGM at the Freemasons' Arms**

## NORTH WEST BRANCH

Maccvets continue to invite RSA members to join the walks **every 4th Wednesday** of 3-4 miles with optional pub lunch afterwards. Details will be posted here : [http://www.caa-rsa.org.uk/northwest\\_4.htm](http://www.caa-rsa.org.uk/northwest_4.htm)

**Wed 13 July** - 90 minute guided tour to GMP Police museum, Newton St., Manchester. £1 donation per person . Pre book only. Optional lunch afterwards at Allotment Bar. (Jointly with Maccvets)

Details of other events are available in the Branch's section of the CAA RSA website. Contact Andy Maynard for further information. His details are in the Branch Contacts on page 10.

## WESSEX BRANCH

**June 22 - Woodland Walk & BBQ Lunch Starting at 1100 at 'Lyons Gate' near Cerne Abbas / Dorset.** Another 'First' for Wessex – courtesy of Roger and Catherine Spriggs. Once again, Roger has organised a late morning walk which, this year, is centred on a private woodland just 3 miles from Cerne Abbas. The BBQ lunch will, of course, be an 'al fresco' affair but with a personal twist – bring your own food and drink!! Full details / directions available thru' Roger or Catherine on 01202 426404 or from the Branch Secretary on 01425 474504

**July 27 - 'Annual Garden Meet' starting at 1100 / West Parley, Ferndown.** The annual 'Garden Meet', hosted by Phil and Diane Holt in the delightful setting of their garden at West Parley, near Ferndown. As usual, relax over tea/coffee with a generous helping of sandwiches and cake!  
Good Company,

**Cont'd page 9**



# OBITUARIES

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

- Joan Betty Foster**, Telephonist at Heston Aerodrome, on 18 January 2016
- Geoffrey Bertram Gurr**, Grade B, Commander CAFU, on 16 January 2016
- Doreen Elizabeth Skudder**, Grade AA at SRG, Aviation House, Gatwick, on 22 January 2016
- Thomas Hunter Currie**, CACO at ScATCC Prestwick, on 26 January 2016
- Frank Leeming**, ATCO 1 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 31 January 2016
- Brian William Bailey**, PPTO(A) at CAA House, on 23 January 2016
- Peter James Harper**, Test Pilot, Aviation House, Gatwick, on 29 January 2016
- John Mant Armour**, CACO 3 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 5 February 2016
- Santosh Kumari Gadhok**, Band 2 at CAA House, on 7 February 2016
- Ian David Macey**, ATCE 1 at CTC, on 13 February 2016
- Eleanor Platt**, Band 2 at Glasgow Airport, on 19 February 2016
- Elizabeth Mary Murdoch**, ATSA 3 at ScOACC, on 21 January 2016
- Joan Evelyn Hillier**, Clerical Assistant at Heston, on 24 February 2016
- John Edmond Silcock**, CACO 2 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 12 January 2016
- Herbert Samuel James Rust**, PPTO, A/C Systems at Redhill, on 12 February 2016
- Barbara Alma Connell**, CO, ATSA 2 at CAA House, on 7 January 2016
- Jean Mary Noverraz**, Telephonist at Gatwick, on 25 February 2016
- Bernard Joseph Hughes**, D/D CATO (2), Hillingdon House, on 4 February 2016
- William Francis Hayes**, SATE at Heathrow Airport, on 19 February 2016
- George James Poulter**, ATE 1 at Tels N, on 20 February 2016
- John Louttit Blyth**, ATSA 2 at Edinburgh Airport, on 2 March 2016
- George Trevor Knight**, ATCO 2 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 2 March 2016
- Peter Robert Linzey**, SATE at Tels Barnsford, on 6 March 2016
- Graham Bertram Isted**, ATSA 4 at Gatwick Airport, on 6 March 2016
- David Middleton**, A/SATE at Prestwick, on 7 March 2016
- Jack Albert Penfold**, ATE 1 at CAA House, on 14 March 2016
- John Stewart Lindsay**, ATCO 1 at Manchester Airport, on 17 March 2016
- Denis John Jelley**, TA 2 at Gatwick Airport, on 18 March 2016
- David Leonard Purnell**, ATCO 1 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 20 February 2016
- Penelope Jane Hunt (formerly Davies)**, MSG6 at Swanwick, on 19 March 2016
- John Stevens**, ATSA 1 at Edinburgh, on 21 March 2016
- June Rose Faull**, Photoprinter 2 at CAA House, on 22 March 2016
- Andrew Harrison Gibson**, TA 3 Driver at Lowther Hill LRRS, on 26 February 2016
- Eric Thomas Hanley**, OO1 Head of Ops Admin at CAA House, on 26 March 2016
- Thomas Trevor Hocking**, ATCO 2 at Bournemouth, on 27 March 2016
- Jeannie Ann Thomson Watt**, PBX Operator at Aberdeen, on 21 March 2016
- Peter Bonner Penrose Feast**, ATSA 2 at Stansted Airport, on 24 March 2016
- John Stanley Havers**, Principal at Airworthiness, Redhill, on 4 April 2016
- Arthur Frank Childs**, SATE at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 2 April 2016
- Ralph Bentham**, ATE 2 at St Annes LRRS, on 8 April 2016
- Albert Charles Marchant**, Deputy Director TELS at CAA House, on 11 April 2016
- Muriel Olive Cook**, Telephonist at Stansted Airport, on 6 April 2016
- David Emery**, ATE 1 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 26 March 2016
- Colin Gilbert Brown**, STPO at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 23 March 2016
- Alec Stephen Frank Bracey**, Executive Officer at Aviation House, London, on 13 April 2016
- Christopher Gene James**, ATSA 4 at Bournemouth, on 15 April 2016
- Maria Luisa Khan**, ATSA 2 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 15 April 2016
- John Sheddan Todd**, AO at Aviation House, Edinburgh, on 9 February 2016
- David John Lovelace Brayley**, DP8 at CAA House, on 26 April 2016
- Edward Strongman**, PTMG at Gatwick, on 26 March 2016
- Harry Edwin Winstone**, ATCO 2 at RAE, Larkhill, on 18 April 2016
- John George Spearing**, ATSA 2 at Boscombe Down, on 25 April 2016

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## WESSEX BRANCH Diary Dates Cont'd.

Good Scoff and Good Weather – all guaranteed!  
Details / directions in the Branch Newsletter or from the Secretary on 01425 474504

**August** - No Meeting

**September 28** - **Bedford Aeronautical Heritage Group. Starting at 1100 / Carpenter's Arms, Bransgore.** The BAHG preserve and promote the scientific and historical legacy of the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Bedford. Barry Tomlinson is a former member of RAE and will 'take to the floor' to describe the Establishment's involvement in all

manner of developments – from Micro Wave Landing Systems to VTOL.

*Visiting / new members are welcome to attend any of the Branch meetings. For further details of the Wessex programme, please contact the Secretary on 01425 474504 or e-mail: [tilly@beggarsroost11.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:tilly@beggarsroost11.freeserve.co.uk). Alternatively, contact the Secretary 'Elect' / Catherine Spriggs on 01202 426404.*

## CAA /NATS RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

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

<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	Anne Noonan
<b>VICE CHAIRMAN</b>	Tony Cowell
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Robin Morris
<b>TREASURER</b>	Matthew Baines
<b>WELFARE CO-ORDINATOR</b>	Duncan Boulton
<b>PENSIONS REP</b>	David Hobday
<b>MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY</b>	Ted Pillinger
<b>WEBMASTER</b>	Richard Woodroffe
<b>MEMBERS</b>	Sheila West
	Andy Maynard
<b>PENSIONER MND</b>	Colin Chisholm
	Ken Malcolm
	<b>Richard Wright</b>
<b>OPA REP</b>	Dave Reeve
<b>EDITOR CONTRAIL</b>	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.**  
**☎ 01707 333688**

**E Mail: [RSAmembershipsec@virginmedia.com](mailto:RSAmembershipsec@virginmedia.com)**

Remember to also advise Pensions Administration by post or email to [pensions@caa.co.uk](mailto: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.**

## BRANCH CONTACTS

### COTSWOLD

John Ross, 28, Abbey House, Cirencester, GL7 2QU.  
 ☎ Johnross2@talktalk.net

### DOWNS

Ann Cox. 47, St Michaels Way, Partridge Green, Horsham, West Sussex. RH13 8LA ☎  
 pgreen.ann@gmail.com

### EDINBURGH

Sheila West, 4 Ochiltree Drive, Mid Calder, West Lothian, EH53 0RX. ☎

### HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS

As per Edinburgh Branch

### LONDON

Paul Clayton, 177, Seren Park Gardens, Greenwich, London. SE3 7RS. ☎  
 london@caa-rsa.org.uk

### NORTHERN IRELAND

Ruby Erwin, 12 Grove View, Aldergrove, Crumlin, Antrim, NI, BT29 4EJ.

### NORTH WEST

Andy Maynard, 31 Edenbridge Road, Cheadle, Cheshire, SK8 5PX. ☎  
 northwestrsa@virginmedia.com

### EASTERN (Formerly Stansted)

Jim Fuller, 11, Luxford Place, Sawbridgeworth, CM21 9JB. eastern@caa-rsa.org.uk  
 ☎ 01279 722484

### SOLENT

Keith Charman, Nettlestone, Soames Lane, Ropley, Hants, SO24 0ER. keith\_charman@btinternet.com or graham.piggott@ntlworld.com ☎

### WEST of SCOTLAND

As per Edinburgh Branch

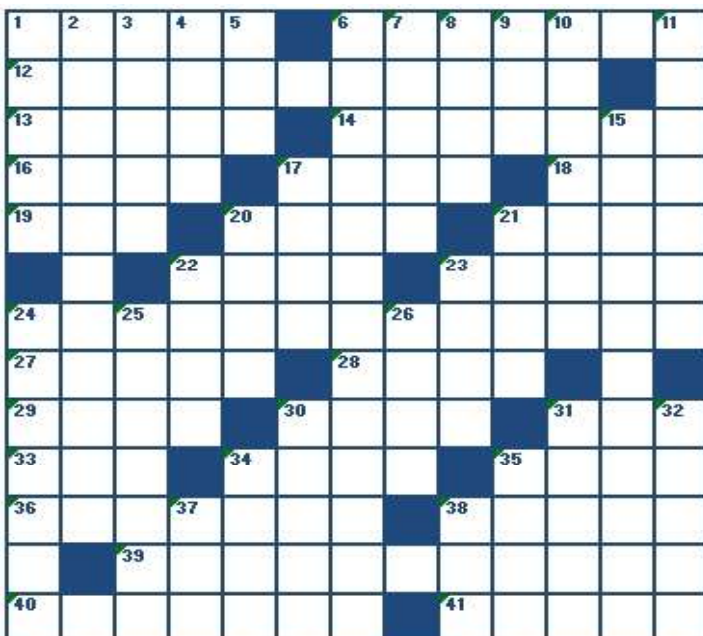
### WESSEX

Howard 'Ted' Tilly, 11 Davids Lane, Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 2AW. ☎  
 tilly@beggarsroost11freeserve.co.uk

### WESTERN HOME COUNTRIES

Ian Gelder, 19 Russley Close, Swindon, Wilts SN5 5AG  
 ☎ commsengone@cooptel.net

## Roger Myers Crossword



### Across:

1. Milk sac (5) 6. Honour (7) 12. Harmful (11) 13. Sag (5)  
 14. Record dissent (7) 16. Epic poem (4) 17. Movement (4)  
 18. Container (3) 19. Colour (3) 20. Part of a boat (4)  
 21. Brassica (4) 22. Irish islands (4) 23. Discourage (5)  
 24. Savagery (13) 27. Soothes (5) 28. Filter (4)  
 29. Public school (4) 30. Anonymous people (4)  
 31. Allow (3) 33. High toss (3) 34. Barriers (4) 35. Unadulterated (4) 36. Expunction (7) 38. Failure (5)  
 39. Refurbish (11) 40. Group of six (7) 41. Coin (5)

### Down

1. Spill (5) 2. Person responsible (11) 3. Rose (5)  
 4. Cupid (4) 5. Hint (3) 6. Filling again (13) 7. Join (5)  
 8. Put away (4) 9. Light blow (3) 10. Raise (7)  
 11. Wobbles (7) 15. Store employee (11)  
 17. Accomplishment (4) 20. Malay dagger (4)  
 21. English county (4) 22. Last word (4) 23. Violate (4)  
 24. Kitchen items (7) 25. Weather lines (7)  
 26. Competes (4) 30. Fortune-telling cards (5)  
 31. Flower (5) 32. Microscopic (5) 34. Leader or dictator (4)  
 35. Crown (4) 37. Harden (3) 38. Projection (3)

# Pensions Report

## **RPI/CPI:**

Both the CAA & NATS Sections have 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. We continue to tell CAAPS management that in our view the change from RPI to CPI would be unfair and unacceptable.

## **RPI Reference Month:**

The Pension Notice 1/2014 changed the reference month from February to January. The RSA was not given any prior notice of this change but we were subsequently assured that the changes made by the Government would have left little time to process the annual change in time for the April payment.

## **MNTs/MNDs:**

MNTs are now called MNDs (Member Nominated Directors) as the structure of the CAAPS Board has changed to a Corporate Trusteeship and 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 nominate them.

Likewise, of the three from the NATS Section, one must be an active member, 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 Pensioners or Deferred members. 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. Representatives of the RSA had a meeting with Jeff Butler, Pensions Director, and Lynette Hilton, Trustee Services Manager and Scheme Secretary, on the changes and put a robust case against the changes to the selection process but with no success.

## **NATS DB Committee:**

NATS Defined Benefit Pension Committee has started to meet again after about two years and RSA received an invite to attend the meetings.

## **CAAPS Independent Chairman:**

An Independent Chairman of Trustees for CAAPS, has been appointed Joanne Matthews. She took up her position in April and, though she does not have the 'City' experience of Roger Mountford, has a wide experience of the pensions area.

## **CAA Section 'Buy-in':**

It was reported that the Trustee of CAAPS, with the agreement of the CAA, had entered into a bulk annuity contract with Rothesay Life in respect of £1.6 billion of the liabilities in the CAA Section of CAAPS, 65% of the CAA Section of the fund. The 'Buy In' of part of the CAA Scheme fund, by Rothesay Life, does not in any way absolve the CAA from its responsibility to pay the pensions of scheme members. 'Longevity Risk' is what is passed over to Rothesay Life. Overall it is probably better than relying on the CAA to make good the big gap in funding and should be seen as a good move on the whole.

## **CAAPS Valuation:**

The next triennial valuation, based on the 31 December 2015, will start in 2016 and at the moment both CAAPS Sections continue to show a deficit.

## **Meeting with CAAPS Chairman:**

In December the Pensions sub-committee met with Joanna Matthews and Jeff Butler and were given the opportunity to ask questions on the Annual Valuation, a copy of which they were given before the meeting. They requested to maintain two meetings a year with the CAAPS Chairman. They also requested the restoration of the presentation of the triennial valuation to the full Central Committee. The quick response was that CAAPS would only be willing to give it to a small group, owing to the cost for a room of the required size. It was pointed out that the cost would be the same if it was 4 or 16 Committee members. The Chairman seemed to be more sympathetic to their request and Jeff Butler then asked if RSA could find a room. The Central Committee agreed that it is important that the whole of the Committee has the chance to see the Valuation Presentation and agreed to find and pay for the room if required.



## **VTOL Boeing 767?**

Has Boeing managed to develop a Boeing 767 with VTOL capabilities? Actually no, this aircraft was enroute in Ireland from Shannon airport to its final destination in Co. Sligo. The former Russian airline aircraft was purchased by an Irish entrepreneur who is developing a transport themed glamping site on the coast near Sligo, and the only way to get the aircraft there was by sea. It took four days to load it onto a barge, tow it over 250 miles up Ireland's Atlantic coast, and then lift it off at its destination. Its arrival by sea attracted a large number of on-lookers.



## 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](mailto:caarsa-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

### It's Annual Reunion Time Again!

It will soon be time for the very popular Annual Reunion to be held in **The 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**  
The Freemasons Arms, Long Acre, London WC2  
**Thursday 17 November 2016 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.**

**Members website:**  
**[www.caa-rsa.org.uk](http://www.caa-rsa.org.uk)**

## 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.*

### March Crossword Solution

**Across:** 1. Apron 6. Midwest 12. Grapevine 13. Vie  
14. Loved 15. Suspect 16. Omen 17. Suit 18. Wed 19. Pesticide  
22. Tree 23. Tuner 24. Pacier 26. Surges 27. Idols 28. Cite  
29. Centipede 31. Gel 33. Dune 34. Gene 35. Loiters  
37. Solid 38. Err 39. Neutering 40. Demotes 41. Wedge,

**Down:** 1. Aglow 2. Promenade 3. Raved 4. Open 5. Ned  
6. Misuse 7. Inuit 8. Destitute 9. Evening 10. Sic 11. Tethers  
17. Seer 19. President 20. Cure 21. Deepening 22. Tilt  
24. Pickled 25. Confirm 26. Side 28. Census 30. Puree  
31. Gelid 32. Ledge 34. Gore 36. Ore 37. Sew.



### Calling All Members

**If you are a non-contributing member you will only receive the June post-AGM issue of Contrail. This means that you are missing out on the other three issues of Contrail during the year (September, December and March). As a result you are not receiving the latest up to date news, information and interesting articles, including welfare articles.**

**For just £1 per month, deducted direct from your pension payment, you will not only receive the other three issues of Contrail keeping you up to date but also you will be helping the RSA to help you by contributing to its operating costs. For more information on how to become a contributing member please contact the Membership Secretary.**

**Would all members please note that if you have changed your postal and /or email address please ensure that you advise our Membership Secretary of your new contact details as soon as possible. The Membership Secretary may be contacted by email to [RSAmembershipsec@virginmedia.com](mailto:RSAmembershipsec@virginmedia.com) or by phone on 01707 333688.**

**Please help us to help you – thank you.**

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9C Corbin Way, Gore Cross Business Park, Bridport, DT6 3UX, ☎01308 423411