

CONTRAIL

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

ALL MEMBERS 2017 EDITION

RSA 2017 AGM & Social Weekend – and a journey to the end of the line... (Richard Wright)

On Friday 12 May, CAA/NATS Retired Staff Association Members descended on Best Western's "Royal Beach" Hotel in Portsmouth (well, Southsea actually, as in 'Hove actually' – but does that count for Portsmouth?). Whatever, all those who attended had a really good time, thanks to top-class organisation from our RSA Solent Branch, in particular Dave Reeve, Martin Halverson and Graham Piggott. Here's what went on:

Continuing last year's innovation from the Stratford-Upon-Avon AGM in 2016, the actual business of the RSA's Annual General Meeting was held on the Friday afternoon, leaving the weekend free for members and their partners to enjoy the area before returning home.

The AGM was as follows:

RSA Chairman Anne Noonan reported that 2016 - the year under review - had been a 'year of mixed success' for the RSA: Whilst there had been positive meetings with CAA / NATS representatives on pensions matters, support from within the existing RSA branch structure was declining: Eastern Branch had not been able to form a constituted committee and were incorporated into the London Branch and, subsequent to the year in review, Western Home Counties Branch have also given up their independence to merge with what is now known as the 'London & Home Counties Branch following ratification by the Central Committee. The Chairman reported that RSA representatives had been invited to a very detailed briefing from the CAA Pensions Management team, following the Triennial Actuarial Valuation of each section (CAA and NATS) of the Pension Scheme, and that whilst both sections were technically in deficit (along with 80% of UK defined benefit pension schemes), Deficit Recovery Plans had been agreed with the employers.

The Chairman stated that although CAA-RSA accounts were currently in surplus, that reserve was essential to obtain legal advice when required against any future government plans to reduce occupational pension-linking from the present RPI to CPI - or another index less beneficial to those people whose salary deduction had been on the basis that they would, in retirement, be receiving an RPI-linked pension.

Vice-chairman Tony Cowell reported that RSA members continue to address NATS Pre-retirement Seminars in order to recruit new members, but there is no direct access to new CAA retirees, as the CAA no longer runs Pre-retirement Seminars. However, our information is available for new CAA and NATS retirees to access on-line, and with pre-retirement packs sent to them by the Pensions Admin Department.

Treasurer Matthew Baines explained (see above) that the RSA needed to maintain a healthy financial balance in order to obtain legal advice, suitable to meet potential threats from employers - or government - to RSA pensioners about future pensions indexation.

Report Continued on page 3





FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Anne Noonan

It doesn't seem possible that yet another AGM has been and gone but here we are looking forward to celebrating the 40th anniversary of the CAARSA at the AGM weekend in Chester next year.

And what a weekend we had in Portsmouth this year, all helped along with beautiful sunshine, a great hotel on the sea front, excellent (and plentiful) food and great companionship. Congratulations to Solent Branch and, in particular David Reeve, Graham Piggott and Martin Halverson, supported by Grenville Paget and Keith Charman. for all their hard work.

The business side of the weekend was completed on the Friday, leaving RSA members with a terrific selection of things to do on Saturday. These ranged from the Historic Dockyard, the Jutland Museum, Southsea Castle, the Spinnaker Tower, Gunwharf Quays (a great place to spend money) to a 10 minute crossing on a hovercraft to the Isle of Wight and a great chance to explore.

A gala dinner was held on Saturday evening, one of the highlights of which was close-up magic, demonstrated by a member of the Magic Circle. Members will still be trying to work out how he managed some of those tricks, right under their noses, this time next year. Very entertaining and great fun.

So why not join us in Chester in 2018 and make our 40th anniversary a really special occasion and an event to remember!

Talking of events – don't forget our annual reunion is at The Freemasons Arms, Long Acre, Covent Garden, on 16 November between noon and 4pm. Hope to see some of you there.

On a sad note we were very sorry to hear of the death of Jim Stuart on 25 April. Jim and Frankie Stuart were the organisers of the highly successful AGM in Stratford-upon-Avon last year and planned to be with

us in Portsmouth. We have sent condolences, on behalf of the RSA, to Frankie.

On a lighter note, some readers may recall a film called 'La La Land' which was highly recommended earlier this year. It seems it didn't appeal to everyone who saw it and I loved a response from one of the BBC commentators when asked whether the film was her favourite musical. "I would say second favourite" she said. "What's your first favourite" asked the interviewer. "All the others" came the reply.

Finally, a quote from one W C Fields, seen on a beer mat: "A man's got to believe in something. I believe I'll have another drink."

Anne Noonan

"YORKSHIRE PUD"

Many years ago, during a particularly vicious winter storm, an old widow living high up in the Pennines heard a scraping at her door. On investigating, she found an angel with a broken wing, barely visible under a blanket of snow. She took the angel in, and over the following weeks tended to the broken appendage, while sharing with the heavenly visitor what meagre food she had in her humble cottage.

Eventually it was time for the angel to return to heaven, but before returning to her celestial abode, in gratitude she gave the old woman the recipe to what they eat in heaven.

Three friends from the local congregation were asked, "When you're in your casket, and friends and congregation members are mourning over you, what would you like them to say?"

Artie said, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful husband, a fine spiritual leader, and a great family man."

Eugene commented, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful teacher and servant of God who made a huge difference in people's lives."

Al said, "I'd like them to say, 'Look, he's moving!'"

I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one!

EDITORIAL



The AGM weekend held in Portsmouth has proven to be another great success, especially with the actual business of the AGM being held on the Friday afternoon leaving Saturday for other activities that had been recommended. The Gala Dinner and its entertainment in the form of a close-up magician also proved to be very enjoyable for those attending.

Unfortunately, it was not possible for me to attend the AGM weekend and I am, therefore, greatly indebted to the Central Committee for ensuring that I received all the material necessary to produce this edition of *Contrail*. My special thanks go to, not only our Chairman, Anne Noonan, but also to Robin Morris for providing me with all the annual reports, along with Dave Reeve and Richard Wright who kindly provided me with the report of the weekend activities and photographs for inclusion in *Contrail*.

Next year sees another milestone in the history of the RSA with its 40th anniversary AGM being held in Chester, (see the preliminary advert in this issue), that will again have a full weekend of activities. This promises to be another popular weekend so early booking is advised. The booking form will be included in the December issue of *Contrail* and also available on the website.

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
(please put "contrail" at the beginning of the email subject line), or by post to:
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NEXT COPY DATE
Please ensure all contributions are with the editor by not later than
1 August 2017
for September 2017 issue



Dear Bob,

Members may be interested to know that the father of the three men who were killed in the North Wales helicopter crash in March while enroute from Milton Keynes to Dublin was Donal Burke. Donal was a lecturer at Bletchley Park for over twenty-five years, and I worked with his partner for twelve years, specialising in the Air Traffic Control system at West Drayton. Together we spent over sixty weeks there training the staff. Donal died in 2014, but I knew his children and he came to my daughter's wedding. It's all unbelievably tragic, I can't imagine how Donal's wife, Noeleen, must be feeling.
Roger Myers.

Dear Bob

Contrail Archive

Having been Secretary of the Eastern Branch for eight years and Central Membership Secretary (Memsec) for nearly five, I handed over the Memsec post to Ian Johnson last September. Ian, being a digital man, had no use for the 'useful information' I held in a store of 'useful information' in a filing cabinet. Well, I have held on to the lot for six months, but now it is gone – well almost. Your Chairperson felt it would be a shame to lose the Contrail Archive and said, 'I only have a small flat', so, in a moment of weakness, I find myself volunteering to continue to look after the 'Contrail Archive'.

On examination and after begging a couple of copies from your new Memsec I find I have just four issues that are not complete: No 53 Dec 96, No 109 Sept 2011, No 110 Dec 2011 and 111 March 2012. If any member has copies of the missing Contrails, or the earlier 'CAA RSA Newsletter' (c 1981), that they can bear to be parted with, could they please email and let me know. My email address is Ted.PCA@NTLWORLD.Com. Thankyou in advance.

Ted Pillinger

RSA 2017 AGM & Social Weekend Cont'd.

Andy Maynard (NW Branch) gave a short presentation about the work on-going to revitalize and expand the CAA-RSA discount travel scheme. This was warmly welcomed and Andy was thanked by members.

Anne Noonan (as RSA Chair) thanked members for attending. No 'Motions' had been submitted and the RSA Central Committee was re-elected with the exception of Richard Woodroffe, who had asked to stand down as an elected member of the RSA Central Committee whilst retaining management of the CAA-RSA's website. Richard becomes a co-opted member of the Committee. The next CAA-RSA AGM was confirmed to be in the Chester area in May 2018. See you all there, I hope!

AGM business concluded, the fun started, and the Solent Branch organisers had been working very hard at this. The 'Social Weekend' got off to a flying start with a drinks reception on Friday evening, accompanied by a live choir, in the shape of the local – and wholly appropriate for a retiree function - 'Fareham 50+ Singers'. Aged from 50 to 90+ - although anyone who watched and heard would be hard to believe the ages involved – the choir gave us a selection of George Gershwin numbers from Broadway's greatest hits, negro spirituals and some more modern songs. Led by the indefatigable Mrs Sheila Javes, the Fareham 50+ choir sing - as they say – for the sheer hell of it! And they raise money for charity too... In this case, knowing the fierce tides of the Solent Estuary, our chosen charity was the RNLI. Thanks to Sheila and her team, we raised almost £120 and have received a letter of thanks from the RNLI. So, for future retirees, if your time at Swanwick or CTC is coming to a close and you fancy some close-harmony fun – talk to Sheila!

The recital was followed by a truly excellent buffet dinner (much better than that available at some previous meetings). Personally, I think that the RSA members who undertake to organize AGM weekends etc, deserve our thanks: I know that as a Branch Chairman, I'd never have the time to organize what I know is being planned for you. **Cont'd page 7.**





BRANCH NEWS

COTSWOLD BRANCH

The Branch, by tradition, does not meet in January but thirteen members and friends made it to Albion House in Cheltenham for our first 2017 meeting on 7 February. Jessie Strawson, our Chairman, has moved to Yorkshire but came down especially for this meeting. Unable to be present at our Christmas lunch at The Clock Tower, she asked for feedback on the meal. Feelings were mixed, not as good as earlier ones, so we may look elsewhere this year.

John Ross, our Secretary, had nothing to report on the talk by Jerry Fitt which the speaker himself had postponed but we still have slides from Arthur Ball in May. The group was then entertained with a slide show (non-digital) from Ron Russ. He showed us a sequence taken thirteen years ago on a Cotswold Branch outing on a horse drawn barge on the canal at Kintbury. These were backed up with some similar vintage slides of a trip Ron had taken to Australia.

Our AGM in March got off on the wrong foot with an announcement that Albion House staff had not prepared food for us. Despite an entry in their diary, the person responsible had not understood it. As a result, we had to choose from their standard menu and fourteen meals were served to us during the meeting - somehow we coped!

Our Secretary, John Ross, welcomed Jessie Strawson down from Yorkshire and circulated his report on the year's activities. Treasurer Keith Plumridge published the Branch accounts which showed a healthy surplus of funds. Keith was supported at the meeting by his friend June who is helping Keith and his wife Jean through difficult health and domestic problems. All present thanked June for her valuable support and friendship to the family in time of need.

Jessie Strawson from the chair thanked the Branch Officers and Committee members for their support and the work they do for the Branch. Unfortunately, no-one was found to represent the Branch at the Central AGM at Portsmouth in May. Elections were quick, existing Officers being re-elected en-bloc. Jessie Strawson, although accepting to carry on in the chair, has now moved to Yorkshire and is unlikely to be present at every meeting. During absences Margaret Chandler agreed to stand in for her. The line-up is:-

Chairman :	Jessie Strawson
Secretary :	John Ross
Treasurer:	Keith Plumridge
Committee Members :	Ron Russ (reports for

Contrail)

The second committee post remains vacant

The meeting concluded with discussion on future activity, ideas being put forward for future meetings. Arthur Ball is due in May for one of his "professional" slide shows and "The Canterbury" at Tewkesbury is to be booked for our summer meal on 6 June.

Our Chairman was not present for the April meeting, attended by thirteen members and friends. Margaret Chandler led a lively discussion in her absence. Members had no special entertainment today but they are eagerly anticipating quite a busy programme over the summer. We have Arthur Ball's slides in May, a summer lunch in Tewkesbury in June and a talk in July. Janet Russ proposed we should have an outing on the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Steam Railway in September. This too is eagerly anticipated.

Due to sickness only eleven made it for our May meeting, when final arrangements were made for our summer meal to be taken at "The Canterbury" in Tewkesbury and the GWR steam train trip in September was further explored. It too will include a lunch, to be taken in the restaurant at Toddington Station. We were then taken to Galapagos by Arthur Ball, with his superlative quality digital slide show. His shows are always eagerly awaited and never fail to impress. He is a bird man but also covered the wealth of animal life in these unique islands, along with some lively commentary.

EDINBURGH BRANCH

The Branch has held two events during the Spring season 2017.

26 April, took us out of town for lunch at the Hawes Inn at South Queensferry, literally under the Forth bridge!

An outing on 7 June was also away from central Edinburgh. A day in Stirling. Lunch at Hermann's followed by a visit to Stirling castle.

Our routine reminder, 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 (& HOME COUNTIES) BRANCH

Following ratification by the Central Committee

SOCIAL EVENTS

A big "Thank You" to Members who have been providing details of email addresses and/or changes. Every time an email is sent out a number 'bounce back' because of an unknown/missing/invalid address. If you have provided the Membership Secretary - see Contacts page in Contrail - with an email address but are not getting any electronic communications from us could you please contact the Membership Secretary to get your address updated.

LONDON BRANCH AGM AND REUNION, THE FREEMASON'S ARMS, COVENT GARDEN

The Branch AGM and Annual Reunion were held in the Freemason's Arms again; 15 Members attended. In addition to the normal agenda Anne Noonan gave an interesting update on RSA and Pensions matters. (These updates can shortly be found in the AGM Report 2017 on the Branch page of the CAA RSA website).

The big news was that, unfortunately, the Eastern and Western Home Counties Branches had folded and were to

be amalgamated with the London Branch, the new Branch to be called the London and Home Counties Branch. The intention is to provide all Members with a good "home". Also to provide interesting social events and a forum whereby Members can continue to keep up-to-date with RSA and Pensions matters, and keep in touch with friends and colleagues.

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

The Northern Ireland Branch held its AGM and Spring lunch on Friday 19 May at the Templeton Hotel, Templepatrick, with twenty-one members attending. Treasurer Ellen McCann reported that the Branch finances were in a good state. The current Branch Officers were agreeable to remaining in post for another year and were all re-elected un-opposed.

Branch Patron – Bill Eames
 Chairman / Secretary - Ruby Erwin
 Treasurer – Ellen McCann
 PRO – Bob Connolly

Branch members send special birthday wishes to Bill Eames on his recent 94th birthday. Bill had been Branch Chairperson from 1983 until a couple of years ago and has rarely missed a meeting. Bill we wish you many more happy years to come.



Bill Eames



Northern Ireland Branch AGM & Lunch

NORTHWEST BRANCH

Monthly walks remain popular within the Branch, with recent visits to Macclesfield basin, Whitegate and Monyash. A recent lunch in April at Great Budworth attracted twenty-five members. Fifteen members recently enjoyed a backstage tour of the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester. Walks are planned to continue monthly with Macc Vets along with bi monthly lunches at local country pubs. It is also hoped to arrange a tour of the Thomas Cook Maintenance hangar at Manchester Airport for those with aviation withdrawal symptoms. Also many are looking forward to a visit to the Avro Heritage Museum in Woodford on 13 July



Members enjoy Afternoon Tea after a backstage tour of the Royal Exchange Manchester

WESSEX BRANCH

The Branch Year ended in March and, as expected, 'heralded' changes to the committee. After six years, Mike Bartlett has stood down as Chairman and is replaced by a 'willing volunteer' in the form of Phil Holt. Catherine Spriggs has taken-over from Ted Tilly as Branch Secretary and both John and Shirley Dack have, reluctantly, withdrawn from committee work.

The annual 'Auction of Unwanted Items' followed the AGM. Phil Holt handled the gavel and, with polished aplomb, raised more than enough to fund the Branch's May visit to the Boscombe Down Aviation Collection!!

The April meeting introduced a new speaker, Shirley Critchley, with a talk entitled 'Mayhem, Mutiny & Murder'! A story about the loss of a ship off the Chilean coast in 1741 and a modern expedition to find the wreck. Led by the famed Col. John Blashford-Snell, Shirley was one of the expedition team and her narrative and visuals of that experience proved both fascinating and unusual.

As usual, the Branch Committee has produced a comprehensive programme for the remainder of the year and will welcome new members / visitors to any of the planned meetings.

BRANCH DIARY DATES

COTSWOLD BRANCH

4 July - Talk by A McCauley – The Rock Project

1 - August - TBA

12 September - Outing on GWR Railway

EDINBURGH BRANCH

Wednesday 5 July, Lunch at Bar Frizzante, Lothian Road, Edinburgh, at 1pm.

August no programme!

Tuesday 5 September, Lunch at Howies, Waterloo Place, Edinburgh, at 1pm

Tuesday 10 October, Lunch at the Four Mary's, Linlithgow, at 12 noon. (note earlier start time!)

Tuesday 7 November, Lunch – venue to be advised in September.

(For ALL lunches please book in advance through the Branch Secretary)

LONDON (& HOME COUNTIES) BRANCH

Will you please contact the LHC Hon. Sec. by email, telephone or post - these are all in the Contacts Page of Contrail - to check availability of these events.

WEDNESDAY 28 JUNE - AVIATION EVENT SOUTH – GUIDED TOUR OF GATWICK AVIATION MUSEUM

This museum is located at Charlwood, near Gatwick Airport. It is relatively new, having only officially opened last year, and has a unique collection of British aircraft. We have arranged an exclusive tour for RSA members hosted and guided by the museum's experienced volunteers. We will lunch in the local village pub/restaurant which is of a high standard. The cost is £7.50 per head (excluding lunch which is BYO). Please arrive at or around 10 a.m. for a 10:30 am start. Parking is available on site, the Sat Nav post code is RH6 0BT. If arriving by train at Gatwick Airport a number 22 Metrobus provides a service from the airport to Charlwood. Please see the website for directions. www.gatwick-aviation-museum.co.uk/location.html

WEDNESDAY 19 JULY - GUIDED TOUR AROUND THE WALLACE COLLECTION

The Wallace Collection is an art collection housed at Hertford House in Manchester Square in the City of Westminster. It comprises a world-famous range of fine and decorative arts from the 15th to the 19th centuries (including the Laughing Cavalier). A private guided tour has been arranged at a cost of just £10 per head after which we will retire for lunch at the on-site restaurant (BYO). People will then be free to view the Collection at their leisure. Meet outside the entrance to the townhouse at 10:45 a.m. in time for an 11: a.m. start. The Wallace Collection is located a few minutes' walk from Oxford Street, Baker Street and Marylebone Village. Please see the website for directions. www.wallacecollection.org/visiting

WEDNESDAY 23 AUGUST - GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF CLERKENWELL

Numbers limited to 25 maximum

Clerkenwell is London's first village on the banks of the Fleet River. The tour will cover the justice, political and literary connections of this fascinating and hidden area of North London. This was once the most deprived of districts and there are many reminders and original features to

explore. This free tour will probably last about 1.5 hours but the distance covered is not onerous. We will meet at 11:15 at the entrance to the Prudential Assurance Building by Chancery Lane tube station. The walk will finish beside Smithfield Market where there is easy access to the Barbican tube station. Afterwards we will adjourn to a suitable hostelry for a BYO lunch. Please let us know if you would like to join us for lunch so that a suitable venue can be arranged.

WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER - AVIATION EVENT NORTH - GUIDED TOUR OF DE HAVILLAND AIRCRAFT MUSEUM

The de Havilland Aircraft Company has played an important role in the history of aircraft development in 20th century Britain and has created iconic aircraft such as the Mosquito. We have, at a cost of £14 per head, managed to secure a guided visit exclusively for our group. Afterwards we will be visiting a hostelry in nearby London Colney for a BYO lunch. Please arrive by 10.30 a.m. for an 11.00 a.m. start. The museum is situated just off Junction 22 of the M25, north of London. Please see the website for directions. www.dehavillandmuseum.co.uk/visit-us/how-to-find-us/.

Due to space constraints details of the following events will be published in the next edition of Contrail.

WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER - ENTERTAINMENT EVENT/ SHOW.

Tickets will be limited, likely to be around 10.

THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER - ANNUAL REUNION

Full details (including cost) on page 12

SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER - CAROLS FOR SHOPPERS

CONCERT St. MARTIN IN THE FIELDS

Tickets will be limited in number to around 12.

THURSDAY 18 JANUARY 2018 - POST CHRISTMAS LUNCH

TUESDAY 27 MARCH 2018 - BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NORTHWEST BRANCH

14 JUNE - Lunch at The Plough at Eaton near Congleton.

13 JULY - Avro heritage museum visit, Woodford-pre booked only.

9 - AUGUST - lunch at the Rope and Anchor, Dunham Massey.

3-4 mile walks, monthly, **4th Wednesday of the month.**

WESSEX BRANCH

28 JUNE - Morning Walk and Pub Lunch. Starting at 1100. Details of the venue / route will be circulated closer to the event. For more information contact Catherine Spriggs, 01202 426404.

26 JULY - Garden Meet. Gather at 1100. The annual 'Garden Meet', hosted by Diane and Phil Holt in the delightful surrounds of their West Parley garden, near Ferndown. Relax over a mid-morning tea or coffee with a generous helping of sandwiches and cake.

AUGUST - No Meeting

27 SEPTEMBER – Talk. Starting at 1100. Details to be circulated by e-mail and Branch newsletter.

Wessex Branch meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month and would be pleased to welcome new / visiting members to any of its meetings. Please contact Branch Secretary for programme details.

RSA 2017 AGM & Social Weekend Cont'd.

Saturday was a day for delegates and their partners to explore as they wished, using the very helpful list of things to do and see in the area, which had been prepared by the organizers.

Many guests went to the Historic Dockyard to see the *Mary Rose*, which ironically had capsized all those years ago very close to the hotel in which we were staying. The Dockyard's list of attractions includes Nelson's *HMS Victory*, *HMS Warrior* (the biggest battleship in the world when it was launched in 1860), and *MHS M33* (the only remaining battleship from World War One). Some of our heartiest members tried out the harbour tour by launch, to catch up with current RN ships that were in harbour.

Other RSA members tried out a very different form of transport, travelling by hovercraft to the Isle of Wight. I made the same mistake as other guests in thinking that hovercraft were an extinct species, but the one we went on was brand new, and very fast, taking 10 minutes for the trip from Portsmouth to Ryde. It was good to see some young dads out with their children as well – clearly, parenting is no longer a 'mums-only' business!

Ryde itself is a charming town with lots of independent shops, although I imagine it gets very clogged with traffic in the summer months. And then I discovered that the Isle of Wight has long had difficulty in transporting its visitors: At one point in Victorian times a horse-drawn tram took visitors to the nearest railway station (on the wrong side of town), and the tramway went right through the middle of a house! The house still exists, but the tramway arch has been bricked up and replaced by a bay window.

Eventually, Ryde Pier was replaced by a bigger and grander affair, with its own (electric) tramway, a full-size railway with its own station, and enough moorings to handle six passenger steamers at the same time. The pier railway was connected with the rest of the Island's rail network through Ryde tunnel, which was built with restricted headroom because the people of the town didn't want the gardens above it to be disturbed. As luck would have it, the tunnel flooded so frequently that many hundreds of tons of ballast were added to raise the tracks above flood level, further reducing the headroom, which meant that only 'shorter' steam engines and carriages could be used on the island ...

The current answer to the tunnel headroom problem was to purchase a small fleet of old London Underground trains – we travelled on one of them to the end of the line (Shanklin, eight miles or so from Ryde). The trains, which entered service in 1938 are now well past their best (as is some of the track) and it was a very bumpy ride! The trains were repainted in an old LT scheme of maroon and cream, which looks quite smart, but they appear to be fighting a losing battle with rust. It seems so incongruous to be travelling through leafy countryside in an old Underground train, but a couple of years ago the Wight Tourist Board painted one of the trains to look like a dinosaur (a happy smiley one, of course) for the benefit of younger visitors – which seems positively surreal! If you don't believe me you can look it up on the internet! That's enough about mad trains....

Once back at the hotel, all the RSA members and guests enjoyed pre-dinner drinks in the ballroom suite. The hotel was hosting two other functions that night; a wedding reception and a birthday party with a 'gangsters and molls' theme, so we had a great time working out who was with each group – except no gangsters in the RSA group – or were there?

Once again, the hotel put on an excellent gala dinner for us, as you can see in the accompanying pictures. We were entertained during the dinner by an outstanding 'Table Magician,' Colin Phillips, who is both a cabaret artist and a member of The Magic Circle. Colin's dexterity and sleight-of-hand was so good that the dinner was punctuated by rounds of applause as he worked his way round the tables. His achievements completely derailed the conversation as everyone was trying to work out how his tricks happened. Well done Colin, and thank you.

Sunday breakfast was the last chance for most of us to catch up with former colleagues and friends before returning home very tired but happy. Of course, some of the people who'd travelled the furthest stayed on another night, and no doubt have adventures of their own to tell us at some point. To finish as I started, it was a really excellent weekend, so my thanks to the Solent Branch organizers. If that's whetted your appetite, we'll see you in Chester in 2018.



2017 AGM photos



Please note that the editorial office has been tasked with holding the master disk of photographs taken at the gala dinner. These are higher resolution images than those above or on the RSA website. If any of those attending wish a high resolution copy of the photograph please contact the editor by email and also please include a small copy of the image required. Regretably they can only be supplied by email due to the cost of printing and postage.

OBITUARIES

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

David William Sames, PTMG Aerodrome Standards, Aviation House, Gatwick, on 1 January 2017
Elizabeth Smart Devlin, Band 2, Atlantic House, Prestwick, on 26 January 2017
Evelyn Mae Constance Kelly, Clerical Officer. Aviation House, on 3 February 2017
James McGough Taylor, PTO 1/7 at Heathrow, on 4 February 2017
Richard Noel Scarborough, ATSA 4 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 5 February 2017
Roy Herbert Hobbs, Clerical Officer at Brabazon House, Redhill, on 26 January 2017
William Albert Frederick Anderson, PATE, Chief Tels Officer, Scottish Field Services, on 4 February 2017
Norman Jarvis, ATCA 2 at College of ATC, Hurn, on 9 February 2017
Doris Brenda Wilson, JM8 RR, ATO HQ, Hillingdon House, Uxbridge, on 25 January 2017
Barry Tickle, ATSA 2 at Manchester Airport, on 9 February 2017
Ronald Milner Harrison, ATSA 4 at ScOACC, Atlantic House, Prestwick, on 9 February 2017
Geoffrey Rogers, ATE1 at Bletchley Park, on 29 January 2017
David Charles Robson, DP8 at CAA House, London, on 10 October 2016
Brian Barry Mack, JMG 3 at CAA House, on 14 February 2017
Olwen Jackson, Typist at Bletchley, on 21 February 2017
Kenneth Edward Stocks, Driver at Aberdeen Airport, on 1 December 2016
Tony Robert Hayter, ATSA 3 at Manchester Airport, on 22 February 2017
Maurice Stamford Ladd, ATCO 1 at Bournemouth Airport, on 24 February 2017
Michael John Hockley, ATSA 3 at LAC, Swanwick, on 19 February 2017
Walter Anthony Beal, BIO.3 at Aviation House, Gatwick, on 15 January 2017
Eileen Mildred Taylor, Typist at Aviation House, London, on 28 February 2017
Derek Edward Moreton, PCG at CTC, on 2 March 2017
Alan Wyndham Ginn, Band 12.1, Directorate of Aerodrome Standards at Aviation House Gatwick, on 7 March 2017
Lawrence Green, ATE 2 at Manchester Airport, on 9 January 201

Philip John Darke, ATCE 5 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 8 February 2017
Margaret Frances Joan Andrews, STPO at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 25 February 2017
Irene Reed, Telephonist at ScOACC, on 6 March 2017
Peter Wilson Berry, ATCO 2 at Atlantic House, Prestwick, on 17 March 2017
Ronald William Beckwith, ATE 2 at TEE Gatwick, on 23 February 2017
Anthony Nicholas Hall-Willis, ATCO 2 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 16 February 2017
Michael John Baker, ATCE 2 at Systems Control, London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 13 March 2017
Jean Margaret Moore, ATSA 2 at Thurleigh, on 20 March 2017
Doris Eileen Booty, Telephonist at CTB, Heathrow, on 4 February 2017
Robert Webster, Fireman at Wick Airport, on 26 March 2017
Bernard Kenyon, ATE 1 at Manchester Airport, on 29 March 2017
Grace Kelly Murray, Telephonist at ScOACC, Prestwick, on 24 March 2017
Brian Uriah Jeffery, OCC 30 SATE at CAA House, on 16 February 2017
Anthony Underwood, Band 3 Southern Area Maintenance Unit at Heston, on 27 March 2017
William Cowan Mitchell, TA3 at MSD, Aston Down, on 2 December 2016
John Dennis Jackson, ATE 1 at Manchester Airport, on 5 April 2017
Leslie Royle, ATCO at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 8 April 2017
Clinton Peter Gurry, ATCO 2 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 13 April 2017
Sylvia Joan Scarman, TA1V at Bletchley, on 16 April 2017
Mary Luke, Senior Messenger at CAA House, on 18 March 2017
Eric Edmondson, ATE 1 at Stansted Airport, on 13 April 2017
Audrey Lucas, Photoprinter 1 at ESC Gatwick, on 10 April 2017
Thomas Alexander Blair, ATE 1 at Belfast Airport, on 18 April 2017
James Gowans Stuart, ATCO 2 at CAA House, on 25 April 2017

[More AGM photos](#)



CAA /NATS RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

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(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 Ian Johnson, the RSA Membership Secretary, know if you have moved or other personal details have changed, for example your email address:**

Ian Johnson
9 Quarry Park Road, Cheam, Sutton, SM1 2DN
E Mail: rsamemsec@btinternet.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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WEST of SCOTLAND

As per Edinburgh Branch

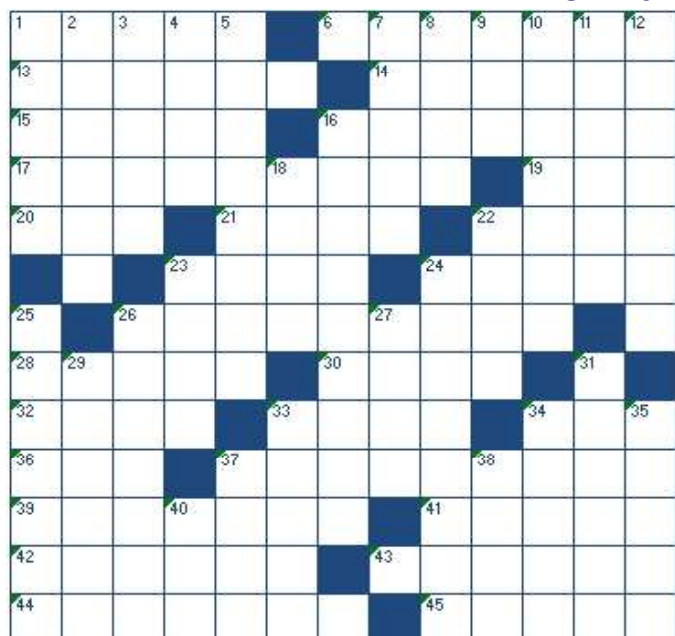
WESSEX

Catherine Spriggs. 283 Belle Vue Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH6 3BB
 CAA-RSA-Wessex@hotmail.com

WESTERN HOME COUNTIES

As per London Branch

Roger Myers Crossword



Across

1. Alloy (5) 6. Eastern garments (7) 13. Antenna (6)
 14. Office (6) 15. Overflow (5) 16. Methods (7)
 17. Offensive (9) 19. Swim (3) 20. Observe (3)
 21. Peace offerings (4) 22. Small (4) 23. Lewdness (4)
 24. More wan (5) 26. Legal (9) 28. Regularly (5)
 30. Non-amateurs (4) 32. Glitch (4) 33. Smudge (4)
 34. Negating word (3) 36. Soft roll (3) 37. Fruit (9)
 39. Utilize (7) 41. Relieved (5) 42. Depend (6) 43. Atoll (6)
 44. Derided (7) 45. Brackish (5)

Down

1. Stitch (5) 2. Settles up (6) 3. Originate (5) 4. Sediment (4)
 5. Rep (8) 7. Gulf (5) 8. Russian (4) 9. Scrap (3)
 10. Dyeline (anag.) (7) 11. Pert, boyish girl (6)
 12. Sigh, breathe (7) 16. One of seven (9) 18. Ruffian (4)
 22. Planet (4) 23. Pace (4) 24. Inadequacy (8)
 25. Thieves (7) 26. Paint in dots (7) 27. Constant (4)
 29. Light yellow (6) 31. Rational (6) 33. Newlywed (5)
 34. Of the nose (5) 35. Undergarment (5)
 37. Energetic person (4) 38. Festivity (4) 40. Remain (3)

CAA/NATS RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION



40th ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND & AGM

**Grosvenor Pulford Hotel & Spa
Chester**

13-15 APRIL, 2018



 **Character 4 Star Country Hotel**

Attractive DBB Rate 

 **Full Weekend Programme with
Evening Entertainment**

Saturday Afternoon Coach Trip 

***Join us for a Gala Weekend - RSA18 is the ideal opportunity to
celebrate our 40th Anniversary!***

Grosvenor Pulford Hotel is set in attractive landscaped grounds, located in the quaint and peaceful village of Pulford and surrounded by beautiful Cheshire countryside.

By car, it is just five minutes' drive from the centre of Chester and a local bus service operates every 15 minutes from a nearby stop to the City Centre!

North Wales is a 'stone's throw' away and the Saturday Afternoon coach trip will take full advantage of its proximity to view the scenic delights – and more!!

FULL DETAILS & BOOKING FORM IN THE AUTUMN CONTRAIL

ADVANCE INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM

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phil@highflyingtalks.co.uk

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andy2u@ntlworld.com



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.

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 16 November 2017 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

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.

Solution to March crossword

Across: 1. Smart 6. Aftmost 12. Miserable 13. Doe
14. Essay 15. Rissolle 17. Abed 18. Punter 19. Ret
20. Captivate 22. Most 23. Fetor 24. Basins 26. Liners
27. Evens 28. Lays 29. Merciless 31. Pew 33. Reseat
34. Tune 35. Spartan 37. Aorta 38. Eat 39. Evergreen
40. Dreaded 41. Acers
Down: 1. Smear 2. Misbehave 3. Asset 4. Read 5. Try
6. Abrupt 7. Flint 8. Testifies 9. Odorate 10. Sol 11. Teeters
16. Sevens 18. Pass 20. Consisted 21. Tormenter
22. Mincer 24. Bemused 25. Serrate 26. List
28. Leaned 30. Leave 31. Puree 32. Weans 34. Torc
36. Par 37. Aga



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 rsamemsec@btinternet.com

Please help us to help you – thank you.

While every care is taken in compiling this publication, the CAARSA cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. The opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the CAARSA. Any advice given or taken is general and not to be considered as specific or applicable to personal or particular circumstances.

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