

CONTRAIL

The Retired Staff Association Magazine for CAA & NATS pensioners www.caarsa.org.uk

ALL MEMBERS ISSUE

A GOOD AGM AND A GREAT 40th BIRTHDAY PARTY

Richard Wright

Almost ninety Retired Staff Association members and partners descended (or should that be ascended for southerners?) on the Grosvenor Hotel at Pulford on the outskirts of Chester last month, for the 2018 AGM and a social weekend that also included a celebration of the RSA's 40th anniversary.

The event was hosted by the indefatigable Ted Tilly and Phil Holt, ably assisted by Andy Maynard and other members of the RSA North-West Branch. In a 'first' for the RSA, the event was supported by Fred Olsen Lines and we are most grateful for their contribution. Their excellent display and publicity material attracted plenty of attention from RSA members and I hope that we will be seeing them again in the future.

As the arrangement had worked well in recent years, RSA 18 – as the 2018 AGM is known - took place on the Friday afternoon, leaving the weekend free for members and partners to enjoy the social programme, arranged for us by the organisers, before returning home.

The AGM was as follows:

RSA Chairman Anne Noonan reported that 2017 – the year under review – had been mainly a good year, with Ian Johnson replacing Ted Pillinger as Membership Secretary, and Richard Wright succeeding Dave Reeve as our representative on the Council of the Occupational Pensioners' Alliance. Bob Connolly continued his excellent work in producing "Contrail" whilst Richard Woodroffe continued to look after the RSA website.



Anne noted that Branch support was continuing to prove difficult, with Western Home Counties following Eastern Branch into the arms of London (now London & Home Counties) Branch. In Scotland, Highlands & Islands and West of Scotland – both inactive – were now reporting to the Edinburgh Branch.

During the year, Andy Maynard had spent much time and effort revitalising the Travel Club, which now offers RSA members a wide range of travel discounts. Andy has also established Facebook and Twitter accounts for the RSA, so we can now boast a 'social media' presence!

Treasurer Matthew Baines noted that although RSA membership had declined slightly (to 5022), the finances had improved, with a slightly higher percentage of members paying regular subscriptions. New members were encouraged to join RSA through pre-retirement presentations to NATS staff, and by letter to CAA staff, as the CAA no longer provided pre-retirement courses.

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FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Anne Noonan

Well, the 2018 AGM weekend will certainly take some beating - part business and part celebrating 40 years of the RSA it was well attended and everyone present seemed to enjoy themselves,

Very sincere thanks for all their hard work go to Ted Tilley, Phil Holt, Andy Maynard and David Hobday, with support from Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines. The excellent Grosvenor Pulford Hotel, located just outside Chester, was ideal and once Friday's business was completed, members attended a buffet supper, during which Phil Holt gave a fascinating insight into the RSA since its inception.

Open top tours of Chester and aqueduct boat trips took us a lot of time on Saturday and the evening saw our traditional Gala Dinner. During the evening our President, Bob Coles proposed a toast to our 40th and some excellent entertainment was provided by 'Forever' ABBA

So, all eyes turn now to AGM 41, to be held in 2019 - hope to see you there.

Anne Noonan

Wessex Branch showed a video at the RSA AGM in Chester and following many requests from Members wishing to order a copy the Branch has kindly provided the link below:

https://www.base.com/DVD/British-Air-Traffic-Control-1963-1973/9971003/product.htm?awc=2694_1523797416_92b4e6c78767f00f88245d4b0bcb22b6

My sincere thanks to all those who kindly supplied me with reports, photographs etc of this year's RSA Chester AGM and birthday celebrations. I would have loved to have been there but increasing mobility and pain problems make travel difficult. As it transpired that weekend I was confined to bed for two days due to severe leg pain.

Bob Connolly, Editor

RSA AGM 18 Report Cont'd

In discussion, members questioned the need for the RSA's financial reserves, and requested additional funding for the remaining active branches. Colin Chisholm, our Member Nominated Director on the Pension Scheme Board, defended the reserves and said that we needed a healthy balance in order to obtain legal advice against potential threats from employers or government, that could impact RSA pensioners. Colin's view was supported by Matthew and other members and strongly endorsed by our Vice President Leslie Priestley. Matthew then added – in response to the original question – that the RSA Central Committee had reviewed the level of Branch grants and agreed to further reviews in the future.

After further discussion, and approval of a revised Constitution, the meeting closed. And then the fun began...

We were staying in fine style: the Grosvenor Pulford Hotel is a handsome old building, constructed out of the local dark red sandstone. Formerly owned by Lord Nelson's descendants, it is now undergoing a £2 million refurbishment and extension programme – which made for some interesting journeys between the bedrooms and reception areas! Pulford itself is almost an 'estate village', situated on the edge of the Duke of Westminster's vast Eaton Hall estate, which stretches from the outskirts of Chester to the Welsh border. As a result of the family's name, almost *anything* in the area that could possibly be named is 'Grosvenor' something-or-other!

Our Friday evening began with an informal drinks reception, followed by a lavish buffet dinner in (you've guessed it) The Grosvenor Suite. We were amazed by the quality and quantity of the food on offer, which was very impressive, along with the excellent organisation that went with it. Well done Team Grosvenor!

Our hosts Ted and Phil took the stage after dinner, with a light-hearted review of the CAA & NATS over the last 40 years, including some of the more memorable personalities amongst the staff. There was also a table team quiz – sadly our table didn't scoop the excellent prize.

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EDITORIAL



Welcome to the 2018 "All Members" edition of "Contrail". This post AGM issue is jam packed with not only reports from the RSA 18 AGM weekend, but also a four-page pull-out of RSA 18 photos thanks to the Central Committee agreeing to expand this issue from the normal twelve pages to sixteen. The usual Branch news and information are, of course, included.

I am a member of the Patient and Client Council for Northern Ireland and came across an interest fact in one of their recent blogs. David Gordon the Department of Health's Director of Communications stated "*The Bengoa report (a recent report into the future of health care in Northern Ireland) noted bluntly: "In terms of costs, users aged over 65 account for more than two-fifths of HSC (Health and Social Care) spending – 42%, compared to their population share of 14%. Whereas the average cost of treating a 55-59 year old stands at £1,970 per head, this rises to over £6,000 for 75-79 year olds and £14,000 for the over 85's."* What the report, and David Gordon, failed to point out was the fact that, in general, those over 65 have financially contributed more during their lives than other age groups.

The next major RSA event is the popular Annual Reunion in London and a booking form for this event appears on page sixteen.

As usual, I can be contacted by email:

contrailed@caa-rsa.org.uk (please put "contrailed" at the beginning of the email subject line), or post to:

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NEXT COPY DATE

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

1 August 2018

for September 2018 issue

RSA 18 Cont'd

The evening ended with what must be called the "Ted and Phil Show". I can't think how Elvis came into it, but thanks to Ted, he certainly did – and to great effect! I don't know who writes their lines, but it was a great evening. Thankyou Ted and Phil.

We split up into two groups on Saturday, mine starting with a bus trip into the city centre to board our first outing of the day: a trip around the city on a 1915 open-top 'B' Type London bus. The bus-spotters amongst us (and we know who you are...) will recall that the 'B' Type bus became famous during World War One, taking our troops to the Front Line. (This one was originally built in 1964 as a single-deck Bedford coach for Wessex Coaches in Bristol. It was re-designed and re-built in 1982 by E. L. Farrar in St Austell, Cornwall and fitted with the present body, a hand-built replica of a London General Omnibus B-Type motorbus - Ed.) The more anxious of us were reassured to hear that the bus is fitted with a modern engine and brakes. We had an excellent guide, who pointed out in the Middle Ages, Chester was an important port – until the River Dee silted up!

A curious feature of the city is the blank wall on clock towers facing towards Wales: Chester had been raided by the Welsh so often over the centuries that the townspeople hated their Welsh neighbours, and left the Welsh-facing clock towers blank in order to deprive their neighbours of the time of day. The origin – so our guide explained – of the phrase "Not giving them the time of day". I'm just telling you. Don't shoot the messenger.

The centre of Chester is famous for its 'Rows' – medieval shops with galleried walkways on the first floor, enabling shoppers to perambulate without getting wet during showers. They're unique in England, their nearest equivalent being the "bastide" fortified towns of southern France.

In the afternoon, we boarded a coach for a trip on the Llangollen Canal. Used these days almost entirely for pleasure travel, the canal was originally planned in the 1790s to link the rivers Severn, Mersey and Dee, providing a trunk route for the north-west's coal and iron industries, and to transport limestone from quarries to limekilns along the route, which provided fertiliser for farmland.

Then, as now (seemingly), infrastructure projects were hampered by financial problems and not all the planned route was actually built. However, the parts that were opened achieved their aim of serving the coal, iron and limestone industries of the north-west before the railways made them largely redundant in the 1850s.

But the Llangollen Canal is more famous for its engineering, an achievement we can appreciate today. The canal had to traverse difficult territory, including crossing two river valleys: Chief Engineer Thomas Telford was a pioneer and his greatest achievement, the Pont-cy-syllte Aqueduct, (I had to look up the spelling...) is rightly regarded as one of engineering's 'Wonders of the World'. Taking ten years to build, the aqueduct took the canal across the Dee Valley – 130 feet above the valley floor - and opened in 1805. It is sometimes known as "the river in the sky".

That's enough history stuff! Our canal trip included crossing the famous aqueduct:



The sun was shining as we arrived at the canal wharf and, courtesy of "Jones the Boats", boarded the narrow boat for our trip. Threading out through a cluster of boats (is there a collective noun for narrow-boats?), we crossed the aqueduct. I can tell you that the view is fantastic, that the river in the valley is a long way below, and that the aqueduct is very narrow, with a footpath – originally a towpath for the horses – on one side only. Later, as we returned over the aqueduct, I had some sympathy with a lady who had been walking along the towpath across the aqueduct but was now standing and gripping the railings with white knuckles. I think I would have stayed on land.

We returned to Pulford via a scenic drive – and the scenery was magnificent – for (another) drinks reception and formal dinner.

Once again, our organising team and the Grosvenor staff had done an excellent job and we were well fed (and wined).

To mark the occasion of our 40th anniversary, RSA President Bob Coles gave a short talk outlining the RSA's development and some of the key characters who had been involved along the way. He'd obviously done lots of homework, because his speech was enlightening as well as amusing. Thankyou Bob.

Cont'd page 4

RSA 18 Cont'd

The evening concluded with two sets from Abba tribute band "Abbaforever". Some people might think that there are too many Abba tribute bands out there, but these guys (and girls) were seriously good, so if you see their name, I recommend that you book a ticket. Lots of people were dancing, several of whom were good enough to make me think – wow, now I know how you spent the 1980s!

To conclude, it was a really, really excellent event. If you missed it because you think AGMs are boring, think again. My personal thanks to all the organising team – those mentioned already, plus our Fred Olsen sponsors and our professional co-ordinating team from Conference Call. We're working on next year. Clear your diary!

In addition to the RSA 18 photos shown in this edition of Contrail all the photographs that were taken by the professional photographer, Eleanor from Stretton Studios, are available to view online by visiting <https://strettonstudios.pixieset.com/airtrafficcontrollers/> and entering the password **foxtrot**. Please note that all the images for viewing are low-resolution. If you wish to purchase particular images please use the shopping basket at the top of the page and images purchased from Stretton Studios will be high resolution.



Please note that the RSA accepts no responsibility for incorrect or incomplete photograph orders as this is a transaction directly between you, the customer, and Stretton Studios.



FOLLOW THE RSA ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER



Facebook has 2.2 Billion users and Twitter 330 million users around the world. Maybe you are one of them? Well if you are, you can now follow the RSA on these social media forums. Apply to join these groups via Facebook and/or Twitter and provide either your membership number or postcode so that we can verify that you are a member of the RSA. We operate both groups as **CLOSED**, which means: only members of the RSA Facebook group will be able to see our FB posts and they cannot be shared & only RSA members will see our Tweets and will not be able to retweet them. This is about as private and secure as we can make it. On Facebook search for CAA NATS RSA and on Twitter search @rsacaanats. Any questions on RSA social media, please don't hesitate to contact myself as the administrator for these accounts.

Don't know your What's App from your i-phone or your You Tube from your snapchat? Not a Tweeter or Facebooker? Then no worries as we will still be communicating by Contrail, RSA website, e-mail and even the Royal Mail if we need to. We aim to try our best to communicate with you the best way that suits you...



COTSWOLD BRANCH

Our first meeting of 2018 took place on 6 February, the Branch not meeting in January. Our viability as a Branch is coming into question with only nine members and friends present today. Margaret Chandler stood in for our Chairman, Jessie Strawson, this time, Jessie is intending to come to the Branch AGM next month, down from Leeds where she now lives. The meeting sent its best wishes to Geoff Stanford now in hospital and to our Secretary, John Ross, who is unwell at home.

Arrangements were made for the buffet at our AGM before the floor was given over to our speaker for the day, John Heathcot of the Woodland Trust. He spoke of the importance of woodlands, in particular what is left of our ancient woodlands where the biodiversity of wildlife is at its greatest. The only forests left since William the Conqueror's time are the New Forest and the Forest of Dean. Not only these but all the other small ancient woodlands must be managed and more recent woodlands promoted. The Trust's 700,000 members have planted 33 million trees. They are currently fighting the loss of forest to HS2.

Mr Heathcot is warden of Lineover Wood near Cheltenham which has SSSI status. Membership of the Trust is encouraged. He was given a small sum to cover his expenses in coming to talk to us, which he promptly said he would give to the Trust.

Cont'd page 5

The bad weather in early March sounded alarm bells for the AGM. It became apparent that, with various absentees, we would neither achieve a quorum nor even muster enough members and friends to make it worth meeting at all. Accordingly, the March meeting was cancelled. It was anticipated that, being so close to Easter, numbers expected to attend the April meeting, would be insufficient again to hold the AGM, so the Committee resolved to postpone the AGM until 1 May.

There were eleven present at the April meeting when ideas were put forward for our summer meal at the Clock Tower and another trip on the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Railway now it is open all the way to Broadway. Our speaker for this month, Arthur Ball, showing slides, did not arrive and our Secretary John Ross will be finding out why. Our deferred Branch AGM took place on 1 May, along with an Albion House buffet meal.

DOWNES BRANCH

Information for those Downes Branch members unable to attend our AGM as the weather was fairly bad on the day. Due to problems arising at the Ifield Barn, the committee decided that our lunches will cease, unfortunately, and replaced this year by a lunch at the Plough, Ifield on the same date, 11 April. If any member has a sensible suggestion for future Spring lunches, and enough members interested, please contact any committee member or myself, Mrs. Ann Cox, Secretary. The committee is sorry to end such long time enjoyed lunches by so many people and would like to thank everyone for their support over so many years. Personally I have only been attending and involved since Dave Cox retired in 1996, many of you long before that. I have enjoyed running them for the past 16 or so years with a band of enthusiastic, fun loving helpers, an extra big thank you to them. However onwards and upwards, we look forward to seeing as many as possible at whatever Spring, Autumn and Christmas lunches, held by the Branch, all are welcome.



A few friends celebrated Dave Butcher's 81st birthday. He is now disabled. Below - Back row l to r Annette Sheridan, Dave Butcher & Gaye Wilson. Front row l to r Ann Cox, Dave Cox & Liz Diamond.

It is with regret that the Branch has to report the passing of Mr Albert Moore. An obituary has been held over to the next issue of Contrail due to space.



EDINBURGH BRANCH

The Branch Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at Howies, Waterloo Pl., Edinburgh on 13 March. The AGM was preceded by a lunch. Eleven members attended the AGM. In attempting to run a democracy, the AGM decided on locations and venues for outings during this year's spring and summer season. The AGM also agreed that the routine start time for lunches would be 12:30 for those arranged in Edinburgh, and 12 noon for lunches held outside the City.

April took the Branch to Chaophraya's, (Thai Restaurant) Castle St., Edinburgh. This was a previously un-tested lunch venue for the Branch. The location and quality of the food were good; however, the service could have been better. It was fortunate that the lunch timing had been brought forward to 12:30, otherwise we may have been ordering High Tea! May took the Branch to the historic Star & Garter Hotel, Linlithgow, with a 12 noon start.

A reminder for Edinburgh members, (also those members from H&I and WoS) if you appear NOT to be on the Edinburgh Branch e-mailing list, having read about our past or planned events, and might be interested in attending a future outing please advise the Edinburgh Branch Secretary. (Branch contact information is listed in a separate section of Contrail).

LONDON (& HOME COUNTIES) BRANCH

SOCIAL EVENTS:

JANUARY LUNCH, COTE BRASSERIE, SOHO

The weather and travel disruption took their toll but those attending enjoyed a convivial lunch.

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

The Branch AGM and Annual Reunion were held in the Freemason's Arms again; 19 Members attended. Anne Noonan gave an update on RSA and Pensions matters which are in the AGM Report 2018 on the Branch page of the CAA RSA website.

Members reviewed and approved the new Event Booking arrangements (see below), received an update on the new Data Protection Act, and approved changes to the Branch Constitution.

The Hon. Social Secretary presented an excellent Programme (see below) and the Committee remained unchanged as its members were happy to remain in post. The Reunion was enjoyed by all.

LONDON (& HOME COUNTIES) BRANCH cont'd.

Please note the new Social Event Booking arrangements, below:

1. Members are encouraged to pay for social events by a Bank transfer to Account No 00615865 Sort Code 30-91-35. Please enter your surname as the reference. The application form (available on the website) should be sent to bookings.lhc@caa-rsa.org.uk or the postal address (below).
2. For booking by post, cheques payable to 'CAA-RSA (London Branch)' should be sent with the application form to the Hon Treasurer RSA - LHC, Bruce Critchley, Old Glanmire Farm, Rushett Lane, Epsom, KT18 7TR.
3. We want as many members as possible to attend social events and try to ensure venues can cater for people with difficulties - the Social Secretary can advise accordingly. If a member needs help, a helper or friend can accompany them although any entrance charges will need to be paid. That person will need to be present the whole time as we are unable to take responsibility for the member's care needs ourselves.
4. Entry to some venues may be the subject of special offers available to members who belong to other organisations. Those who wish to take advantage of these offers will be warmly welcomed. Please let us know so we can look out for you and reserve pub/restaurant places where appropriate.
5. Contacts - The email for information about any event is the Branch Social Secretary and for bookings the Hon. Treasurer, both can be contacted at bookings.lhc@rsa-caa.org.uk

NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH

Unfortunately, the Branch was unable to send anybody to the Chester AGM this year, hopefully next year. The Branch has not met since December, mainly due to our Chairman, Ruby Erwin, fracturing her wrist, but the next meeting, the AGM, was scheduled to be held on Friday 11 May. A report will be carried in the next issue of Contrail. Members were saddened to learn that Myra Hannon-Porter recently passed away. Myra was a regular at the Branch lunches until recently.

The photograph below, taken at RSA 18, shows Tim and Jackie MacKay along with Robin and Judy Morris who all first got to know each other at Aldergrove in 1972, a friendship that pre-dates the formation of the RSA. Thanks to Tim MacKay for the information.



NORTHWEST BRANCH

The Branch AGM was held once again at The Griffin Hotel, Heald Green. Business was conducted briskly and included discussion which led to a motion for increased Branch funding being proposed to the National AGM. Jean Pratt and Sylvia Walker were elected to fill the vacancies on the committee and so we now have a full complement. Following a reminder that the Committee is always looking for ideas on places to visit and walk leaders, plenty of time remained for members to enjoy lunch and socialise.

The 40th RSA AGM at Pulford near Chester had a record attendance. The motion asking for an increase in Branch funding was passed and so we will benefit from an increase to £500 this year. Reports back have all been very positive about the week-end of events put on by the organisers with some help from NW members, ten of whom were there throughout the weekend, and there was much reminiscing across the whole party of times spent in the various ATC and Engineering sites in the NW over the previous forty-plus years.

WESSEX BRANCH

We had a great start to 2018 at the "Lord Bute" in Highcliffe, where some two dozen or so members enjoyed good food and fellowship. So much so that the venue will be booked again to kick off 2019.

We have settled back in again at the Carpenter's Arms in Bransgore for our regular meetings and there we welcomed Stephen Robson, chairman of the New Forest Aviation Society, who gave an excellent presentation "Charles Rolls & the 1st International Aviation Meeting". Held in the summer of 1910 at Hengistbury Airfield, Southbourne, a venue only 2 miles away from the Carpenter's, it attracted aviators from Europe to great press interest. Sadly, Rolls, flying his Wright Flyer, suffered structural failure of the tail, diving into the ground killing him instantly. He was the first Briton to be killed in an aeronautical accident in a powered aeroplane. This led, briefly, to there being one black "R" and one red on the famous badge until Royce died.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in March and I'm pleased to report that a very enthusiastic committee, Treasurer, Secretary and Chairman stood for re-election and were voted back in. The Branch was reported to be in good shape. Yours truly gave a presentation at our April meeting on "Dead Men Can't Talk – But Can Lie". The story of how the creator of James Bond and MI5 carried out the most daring subterfuge of WW2 using the dead body of a Welsh tramp, creating the man that never was – Major William Martin RM. We look forward to the rest of the year with a good programme:

- 23 May** - Visit to Tangmere Aviation Museum.
 - 22 June** - Our annual walk along the river Stour
 - 18 July** - Garden meeting & buffet at the chairman's home
 - 26 September** - Speaker Shelly Lozano – belly dancer – fire eater "An Entertainer's Life"
 - 24 October** - Coach trip possibly to Poundbury, Dorchester
 - 28 November** - Skittles at 3 Legged Cross
 - 11 December** - Retirees get together at the Tyrells Ford
- Anyone welcome to join us, further details from our secretary, Catherine – caa-rsa-wessex@hotmail.com









BRANCH DIARY DATES

COTSWOLD BRANCH

5 June - Summer Meal TBA

DOWNS BRANCH

17 October : Autumn lunch is expected to be at the Toby, Langley Green. Date to be confirmed.

EDINBURGH BRANCH

20 June: Lunch at Tigerlily, 125 George St, Edinburgh EH2 4JN at 12:30 pm.

17 July: Lunch at Quins, 23 Market St, Galashiels TD1 3AD at 12 noon. (Quins restaurant is near to Galashiels railway station. For those intending to travel by train, the 10:54 service from Edinburgh (Waverley) arrives at Galashiels at 11:45) There is an optional opportunity to visit Abbotsford House after this lunch. Regular local bus services are available to/from Abbotsford.

August: Nil Programme

05 September: Lunch at the Stable Bar, 50 Mortonhall Gate, Edinburgh EH16 6TJ at 12:30 pm.

12 September: An 'Open day' Highland outing to the Strathspey Railway, Aviemore, for a steam train trip to Boat of Garten /Broomhill and return. It is planned to take the 14:45 train from Aviemore. (Afternoon Tea service!) This train arrives back at Aviemore at 16:23. As this is an 'open day' outing or get together for all members, (local or visiting) no advance booking is required. These timings have been chosen to fit in with main-line rail services at off-peak times. Members should book their individual requirements, concessionary steam train tickets (60+) and the optional Afternoon Tea with the Strathspey Railway, Aviemore, PH22 1PY.

Their website: www.strathspeyrailway.co.uk/

Although no booking with the RSA is required, expressions of interest from those planning to come along would be appreciated. This is mainly to look out for folks on the day! Contact & lead person, John Doig, email:

jasdoig@gmail.com or MOB: 0792 300 2647.

LONDON (& HOME COUNTIES) BRANCH

THURSDAY JUNE 14 - Guided Tour of Lashenden Air Warfare Museum, Headcorn near Maidstone
The Lashenden Air Warfare Museum is one of the longest established aviation museums. On the day of our visit Spitfires and Devons will be taking off, landing and manoeuvring. The guided visit costs £5 a head. We will meet at the entrance to the aerodrome, by the Wings Bar by 10:45 a.m. for an 11 a.m. start. A fully licensed restaurant is available onsite for lunch. Directions are available via the hyperlink below. If coming by car the Satnav code is TN27 9HX. If using public transport catch the No. 12 bus from Maidstone to Headcorn station and then a taxi.

www.lashendenairwarfaremuseum.co.uk/10.html

WEDNESDAY JULY 25- Visit to Postal Museum (Numbers limited to 10)

For nearly a century a postal railway network operated 21 metres below the streets of the city. On arrival at 11 a.m. we can tour the museum Gallery and Mail Rail Exhibition. We can then embark upon a specially made train to take a short journey through the original tunnels and platforms under Mount Pleasant. We will lunch at a suitable

stage post nearby (BYO). Our visit costs £13.50 a head; meet outside the main entrance in Phoenix Place at 10:45 a.m. www.postalmuseum.org/visit/plan-your-visit/getting-here/

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 12 - Guided tour of Royal Air Force Museum, Hendon

The museum has undergone a major revamp since our visit six years ago. Our guided tour costs £5 per head and, following lunch at the museum restaurant, (BYO) members will be free to tour at will. We meet at 10:45 a.m. outside the main entrance at hangar 1, for an 11 o'clock start. Please see the hyperlink below on how to get there.. There is a £4 parking charge for those arriving by car.

<https://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london/plan-your-day.aspx>

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 10 – Theatre Event

We are looking at several alternatives and ask you for your views. The event will be a daytime outing followed by good food and drink. An update will be issued later.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 22 - Annual Reunion. Please look out for full details in CONTRAIL.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 8 - Carols for shoppers concert St. Martin in the Field

Again we have a prime location at the front of the church. We will enjoy mince pies and mulled wine in the nearby Café in the Crypt from 2:45 p.m. and queue for the church at 3.30 p.m. for a 4 p.m. start. Later we shall dine at a nearby brasserie (BYO). Likely ticket price is £14.40 per head. Date, timings and cost subject to final confirmation by St.Martins later in the year. Tickets will be limited in number to around 12.

THURSDAY JANUARY 24 2019, Post-Christmas Lunch
Details of time and venue will be provided nearer to the day.

DATE TO BE ARRANGED - LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES BRANCH AGM. Probably taking place at the Freemasons Arms as before. Details of date/time later.

NORTHWEST BRANCH

Wednesday 23 May: Walk across to Hilbre Island.

Wednesday 13 June: Robinsons Brewery Tour, Stockport (pre paid & pre booked only) 1130

Wednesday 13 June: Robinsons Brewery, Unicorn Bar pub lunch (pre booked only). 1230

Wednesday 27 June :3-4 mile walk TBA.

Saturday 21 July: Steam train trip to Carlisle, £109 standard class. (1place left at time of writing)

Wednesday 25 July: 3-4 mile walk TBA

Wednesday 8 August: Pub lunch TBA

Wednesday 22 August: 3-4 mile walk TBA

Wednesday 26 September: 3-4 Mile walk TBA

Wednesday 10 October: Pub lunch TBA

Wednesday 24 October: 3-4 mile walk TBA

Wednesday 28 November: 3-4 mile walk TBA

Monday 3 December : Festive afternoon Tea Wilmslow Garden Centre.

There will be a **walk** of 3-4 miles every **4th Wednesday of the month to November 2018**. These walks are organised along with MACC Vets and give a good opportunity to chat with old acquaintances. There will also be **pub lunches**, mainly in the Cheshire area on the following dates : **8 August, 10 October**. (with Macc Vets) Details of North West events are available in the Branches section of the CAA RSA website and members may contact Andy Maynard for further information. His details are on the Branch Contact page.

Membership Update

Ian Johnson, Membership Secretary

In the last year there have been some changes and updates to the membership criteria. This article is to bring you up to date with these changes and perhaps remind you of the need to keep the me up to date with any changes to your address or other contact details. If you can't remember if you've already let me know, I'm more than happy to hear from you again. I also need to explode some assumptions about what I receive.

Four major updates this year have been approved by the Central Committee.

- 'Retired' in the organisation's name means anyone who has left CAA or NATS whether retiring, going to another job or for any other reason. You can be any age – all you need to do is pay your subs and want to keep in touch.
- You do not need a CAAPS pension to be a member. You can set up a Standing Order from your bank to pay the £1 per month. We will accept a cheque, but it is getting more difficult to get to banks to pay them in. If you pay this way, please consider switching to a standing order. Many new joiners without pensions, or by preference, are using this new method.
- The Travel Club discounts are a benefit to all our members and you are all members. New discounts are regularly added so keep in touch with updates in Contrail and on the CAA-RSA Website.
- If you stop paying your subs, then you are resigning from the organisation. Long term members who joined in the legacy life system do not have to pay subs unless they wish to do so. Switching back to non-paying is the same as resigning.

What's happened this year:

- We now have 5022 members - a net reduction of 78 over the year. About 60% pay subscriptions.
- Partners and anyone with a connection to CAA & NATS have always been welcome to join and we have updated our documentation to make this clearer
- The Central Committee have closed 4 Branches. Eastern Branch and Western Home Counties Branch members were transferred to the London and Home Counties (LHC) Branch. Highlands and Islands Branch and West of Scotland Branch were subsumed into the Edinburgh Branch.
- We have done lots of work to get our membership database and other records as up to date and secure as possible. Most is held electronically. Due to new Guidelines coming into force in May under the Data Protection Act, you should read the Data Protection article in this issue on what data we hold and what we do with it. This is important.

To correct, however, some misunderstandings:

- **If you let Pensions know your new address and email, they do not tell me.** If Contrail stops coming you have not let me know any new address or email! Please let me know when these change, not the Contrail Editor or Webmaster. The fact that you are seeing this means that you currently have an up to date address or email in our records! However, every time we send out Contrail I have returned copies or emails because you've moved or changed these details without telling me. Others may not be returned but simply binned.
- **We get no financial help from CAA or NATS.** It's only the contributing members that pay the running costs.
- **Subscribers get 4 Contrail issues per year.** Non-paying members get the June issue only.

We value your membership and hope that you get benefits from it. We are always looking for help to run the organisation. If you can spare a few hours a month, please get in touch with any member of the Central Committee to discuss the options.

Data Protection

Ian Johnson, Membership Secretary

You may not be aware that new Data Protection guidelines came into force in May to protect you from data misuse. Essentially this means that newer members have to opt in to their data being stored electronically, all members must be able to see what we hold on themselves on request and ask for it to be deleted. Please note however that we do not have a manual system for recording your membership so deletion has to be treated as a resignation.

So the answers to a few questions to explain:

What Data do we hold?

From Autumn 2016 the Membership Secretary holds an image of all new application forms and all the data you gave on it is held in a password protected electronic database. Members joining before this date have the same information in the database, but no application form image was stored. Except for an off-site backup with the Webmaster, only the Mem Sec has access to this database of your information.

Who else sees any of this data?

- Your contact details only (membership number, type of member, name and title, postal address, telephone No. (not ex directory) and email (where available and the date of joining, leaving and date of any change is also included.) are shared twice yearly with your Branch Secretary for their communications to you.
- Where you ask for a postal Contrail your name and address is provided to the printers for distribution, e-mail Contrail recipients have their email address provided to the Webmaster for that distribution.
- Name and address details are also given to the Webmaster to enable identification should the email with the link to Contrail bounce. The Webmaster uses an external company to distribute the Contrail, but only the name, email address and RSA reference number are held on that distribution database.

Cont'd page 13

OBITUARIES

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

William Henry Clark, ATSA 3 at Gatwick Airport, on 12 January 2018

Walter Kenneth Lewis, ATCO 1 at RSRE Malvern, on 26 December 2017

Geoffrey Walker Wileman, Grade C, CTO, London Airports, on 6 January 2018

Emmie Beryl Macmillan, Spec/Typist at CAA House, on 30 January 2018

Captain Robert Anthony Lister, SMG1, Head of Operating Standards Division, Aviation House, Gatwick on 7 February 2018

Roseline Myra Sherwood Hannan-Porter, ATCA 2 at Belfast Airport, on 10 February 2018

Andrew Eddie Pavord, Band 11.1 with Flight Ops, Aviation House, Gatwick, on 9 February 2018

Robert George Clarke, ATE 1 at Cardiff, on 16 February 2018

John Bradbury Allison, SMG, Aviation House, Gatwick, on 12 February 2019

Thomas Joseph Tipping, ATE1 at Manchester, on 18 February 2018

Lawrence Frederick John Duncan, ATE2 at Aberdeen Airport, on 27 December 2017

Cyril John Lofthus, ATCO 3 at Aberdeen Airport, on 21 February 2018

Jeanie McKeith, STOP at Glasgow Airport, on 3 March 2018

Kenneth David McDuff, PTO at Gatwick Airport South, on 2 March 2018

Jack Bisbey, ATCO 2 at RAE West Freugh, on 19 January 2018

Alan Henderson, ATCE 5 at Spectrum House, on 25 February 2018

Michael William Bragg, SATE at CAA House, on 2 March 2018

Winifred Lee, Clerical Officer at Manchester, on 11 March 2018

Gwendoline Mary Pain, PABX Supervisor at Gatwick Airport, on 14 March 2018

Thomas Kenneth Frost, Storeman at Gatwick, on 8 March 2018

Margaret Evelyn Bedwell, Personal Secretary at Redhill, on 3 March 2018

Alan Vernon Mavin, SRG Level 3 at Aviation House, Gatwick, on 28 March 2018

Raymond George Edwards, Chief Accountant at Gatwick, on 26 March 2018

William John Lyons, Section Leader, Fire Services (Airport) Tiree Aerodrome, on 22 March 2018

Maurice Stanley Wigg, ATE 1 at Bournemouth Airport, on 31 March 2018

Trevor Charles Wakely, B5 at CTE, Bletchley, on 26 March 2018

Mary Teresa Borland, Part-Time Cleaner at ScoACC, Prestwick, on 31 March 2018

Derek John Upshall, Craftsman at ATMDC, on 4 March 2018

June Patricia Bage, Band 4, CAA House, on 26 March 2018

John Tate, CACO 3 at Prestwick, on 8 April 2018

John Brian Tuke, ATE1 at Scottish Field Services, on 7 April 2018

Vimala Kittur, Clerical Officer at Space House, London, on 11 April 2018

Roy Biggs, ATCO 2 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 11 April 2018

Thomas Bradford, PATE at CAA House, on 13 April 2018

Thomas Albert Moore, SATE at Gatwick, on 16 April 2018

Phyllis Irene Leppard, EO in Safety Services, CAA House, on 5 April 2018

James Henry Ashdown, ATE 1 at Stansted Airport, on 25 April 2018

William David Gillies, ATCO 2 at Manchester Airport, on 18 March 2018

Data Protection Cont'd.

Why do we need this data?

Only for communication and record purposes. Your data is not shared with any marketing or commercial companies except for Contrail distribution as described above.

How secure is it?

The Data is held in a password protected Excel spreadsheet on a personal computer, the images and electronic copies of letters are on an external data stick so protected from any hacking. One of the provisions of the new Guidelines is that the software and data protection software must be kept up to date. The Excel database uses the latest MS Office version regularly updated. Two forms of the latest virus and hacking software is also used to protect your data.

Can I see what data you hold?

Yes. You can ask me at any time to print out and send you your data record. I will correct then any errors if your data has changed but we've not yet been informed. All changes in your information that you tell me about are corrected on the database as soon as possible.

Did I agree to this electronic data record and can you delete it?

Newer members since mid-2017 have signed the statement opting in as part of their application form. Older members do not have to retrospectively be asked to do so. However, any member can ask the Mem Sec to delete their data record at any time, but as stated we don't have a manual system for recording members so that will be a resignation from the RSA.

Any questions on this can be sent to the membership Secretary at the usual address or email in Contrail.

Solution to March crossword

Across: 1. Smite 6. Astable 12. Camaraderie 13. Orate 14. Violent 16. Figs 17. Lend 18. Lea 19. Foe 20. Mare 21. Pict 22. Past 23. Donee 24. Seductiveness 27. Atoms 28. Seed 29. Stop 30. Weir 31. Rim 33. Hem 34. Damn 35. Rota 36. Asinine 38. Basin 39. Nonentities 40. Suggest 41. Tense

Down: 1. Scoff 2. Marionettes 3. Image 4. Tats 5. Ere 6. Advertisement 7. Seine 8. Trod 9. Ail 10. Beeline 11. Estates 15. Necessities 17. Last 20. Macs 21. Pond 22. Pump 23. Deer 24. Sashays 25. Dooming 26. Vein 30. Wanes 31. Rosin 32. Manse 34. Dine 35. Rate 37. Nog 38. Bit

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 COORDINATOR	Duncan Boulton
PENSIONS REP	David Hobday
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Ian Johnson
WEBMASTER	Richard Woodroffe
MEMBERS	Sheila West
TRAVEL & SOCIAL MEDIA	Andy Maynard
PENSIONER MND	Colin Chisholm
	Ken Malcolm
OPA REP	Richard Wright
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 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.

BRANCH CONTACTS

COTSWOLD

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

DOWN

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 & HOME COUNTIES

For **event bookings** please contact the Hon. Treasurer, Bruce Critchley, Old Glanmire Farm, Rushett Lane, Epsom KT18 7TR.

email : bookings.lhc@caa-rsa.org.uk

For **event information** contact Paul Artiss, the Social Secretary at: bookings.lhc@caa-rsa.org.uk

For **all other matters** Paul Clayton, 177, Seren Park Gardens, Greenwich, London. SE3 7RS.

email: lhc@caarsa.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. 0794 1238579
northwestrsa@virginmedia.com

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

Catherine Spriggs. 283 Belle Vue Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH6 3BB
CAARSAWessex@hotmail.com

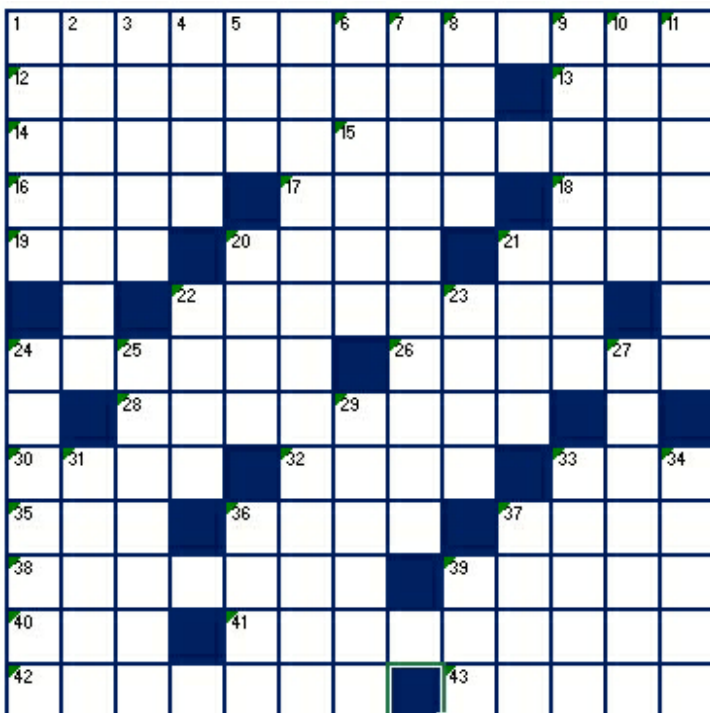
Roger Myers Crossword

Across

- Confection (5)
- Happy people! (7)
- Unyielding (9)
- Inlet (3)
- Competitor (5)
- Big cats (7)
- Bird (4)
- Rope (4)
- Grid (3)
- UK river (3)
- Jump up and down (4)
- Distance (4)
- Rather (8)
- Refurbish (6)
- Household items (6)
- Enchains (8)
- Tender (4)
- Beers (4)
- Blight (3)
- Curtail (3)
- Mocks (4)
- Part (4)
- Foolish (7)
- Flower (5)
- Stage (3)
- Demand (9)
- Most leisurely (7)
- Precious stone (5)

Down

- Principal (5)
- Ignorant (7)
- Rot (5)
- Valley (4)
- Auricle (3)
- Scapegoat (6)
- Modern cookers (10)
- Chilled (4)
- Vulcanite (7)
- Animal (5)
- Schemes (7)
- Grievances (10)
- Dogs (4)
- Planet (4)
- Rational (4)
- Hurries (4)
- Scoundrels (7)
- Faintness (7)
- Truth (7)
- Although (6)
- Bird (5)
- Tooth (5)
- Nauseate (5)
- Emerge (4)
- Decide (4)
- Container (3)





TRAVEL CLUB NEWS

Andy Maynard

Our 40th AGM in Chester marked something new for the RSA, where we had a commercial presence for the first time. Fred Olsen Cruise Lines sponsored some of our social events and in return set up an information stand next to the North West Branch welcome desk. Aside from the financial contribution, I also feel that members who attended found it interesting and informative without compromising our AGM business. I must also give our thanks to both Super Break Holidays & interline specialists Touchdown who both donated £100 travel vouchers, along with Rebound Tags (associated with Staff Travel Voyage) who also donated 10 micro chipped luggage tags, worth £250. These items were all given away as prizes after the Friday night buffet.

For those unable to attend the AGM, please see the cut out and keep flyer below for our full list of travel partners.



As a member of the RSA you can now access our travel deals. Updates can be found on the RSA website www.caa-rsa.org.uk and you can also find updates on our  and  pages.



Interline Travel Deals www.touchdown.co.uk

TEL: 0333 014 3600 Quote



Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines

5-10% Discount www.fredolsencruises.com/CAA TEL:

0800 0355 108 quote RSATS10 Telephone for best rates.



5-10% discounts. TEL: 0800 083 6612 quoting



Great hotel deals in Asia, Caribbean & worldwide. A2B airport transfers, Micro chipped Rebound luggage tags. www.stafftravelvoyage/special-offers.

(S U P E R B R E A K)

10% Discount on short breaks, theatre breaks, attractions, Eurostar, Rail, Hotels. www.superbreak.com/go/AF357 or Tel: 01904436002 quote



10% Discount on coach/rail/air holidays. Ocean & river cruises, escorted holidays world-wide, regional departures. www.newmarketholidays.co.uk/caa Check out discount code : CAA NATS or Tel: 0330 160 8064

The RSA are not either directly or indirectly responsible or liable for any of your travel arrangements. Members should not distribute or circulate discount codes & links to non members, as this could compromise our agreements for other members.

Donald Trump is walking out of the White House and heading toward his limo, when a possible assassin steps forward and aims a gun. A secret service agent, new on the job, shouts, "Mickey Mouse!" This startles the would be assassin, and he is captured. Later, the secret service agent's supervisor takes him aside and asks, "What made you shout Mickey Mouse?" The agent replies, "I got nervous. I meant to shout, Donald, duck!"

**Members website:
www.caarsa.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.

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 22 November 2018 from Noon to 4 pm

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.

For Sale:

**N0. 3 Dingwall Street. Rosehearty.
Aberdeenshire AB43-7NR**



This 2 bed semi-detached house and attached garage is easily recognized with the granite faced front and driveway leading to an established walled garden. Property has been extensively upgraded and refurbished over the past ten years and is in ready to move into condition. Located in the lovely coastal village of Rosehearty with regular bus services to and from Fraserburgh. Home report available. Offers over £120K. A value for money buy to let. Council Tax Band B. EPC Band F (35) Please contact:- **njmurdoch@btinternet.com** or tel. 01738- 441244.



Contrail 135 Correction to "Scams - Be Aware" article.

Thanks to John Wadney for the following correction:
"Normal internet addresses begin with https", should read http.

Despite this edition of Contrail being larger than normal there was still an enormous pressure on editorial space, not only to cover the RSA AGM weekend event in Chester but also due to the requirement to get important information out to all members regarding membership update, data protection and our travel club. As a result, some items have had to be held over until the next issue (September) of Contrail.

Contrail is always looking for articles about your interesting memories while working for CAA / NATS or perhaps you took up an unusual job after retiring. Don't worry if you feel that you are not capable of writing an article, let the editorial office have the "bare bones" and your editor will do the rest.

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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