

CONTRAIL

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

ALL MEMBERS ISSUE

RSA 19 – or The Sheep That Roared

By Richard Wright

“We’re off to the Shires” I told the sat nav. It blinked a couple of times, being uneasy about travelling beyond the comforting embrace of the M25. We set off for Cheltenham and the RSA AGM weekend anyway, using the AA route planner as a ‘belt and braces’ operation.

Once through the tedium of the Euston Road (and having paid both the Congestion Charge and the new Ultra-Low Emissions Zone Charge, I can tell you that the first isn’t working and the Euston Road is where TfL should be spending the second) things became much easier: A40, M40, A40 and straight on ‘til morning, as they say. Heading West, I’m always fascinated by the section of A40 where the lampposts get shorter and shorter as the road passes close to the end of the runway at RAF Northolt. If we’d been travelling on the upper deck of a bus, I’d have been quite worried!

Beyond Oxford the landscape began to change: more hills, trees and drystone walls. Did you know that an experienced ‘waller’ can build a yard of wall in a day? Actually, I *can* build a drystone wall (been on a course – of course), but if I managed a yard’s-worth in a day, it probably wouldn’t stay up for very long!

Eventually we arrived at our destination, the “Double Tree by Hilton” Hotel at Charlton Kings on the outskirts of Cheltenham. The extremely elegant hotel was originally known as Charlton House, built for a wealthy local family around 1790. We were checked in by our organizing team; Phil Holt, Ted Tilly and David Hobday, whilst our energetic Travel Club Secretary, Andy Maynard, was on hand to give out the latest travel brochures (and pens) from our travel club partners. If you’ve not used our travel club yet, do give it a look – it’s well worth it.



Continuing the recent innovation for a mostly social weekend, the formal AGM was held on Friday afternoon and went very smoothly. RSA Chairman, Anne Noonan, presented her review, which reported that two more Branches had closed or merged, not through lack of support, but because members were unwilling to accept the responsibilities of being a Branch Officer. Sad, but voluntary organizations up and down the country are facing similar problems. A sign of the times, I fear.

Cont’d page 6

Star prize winners (above), at the RSA AGM in Cheltenham, of Champagne and matching flutes donated by Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, were Graham & Carole Sweet from the North West Branch.

Coming Soon:

This year's Annual Reunion will be held on **Tuesday 15 October** from noon to 4pm at **The Freemasons Arms, Covent Garden, London**,
Booking form on page 16 of this issue and also available on the RSA website.



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FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Anne Noonan

Wonders never cease. Despite a truly awful weather forecast for the AGM weekend, with gale force winds and torrential rain, the weather stayed on the dry and cold side – although the forecasters weren't kidding about the winds!

Another wonder occurred when, having very sadly announced the retirement of Robin Morris, Central Committee Secretary as from the AGM weekend, a **volunteer** offered to replace him. Step up Tony Motture, former Personnel and Central Services Director, NATS, whom we are delighted to welcome to the post. There will be an introductory article on Tony, for those who have not run across him in the past, in the September issue of Contrail. The AGM done and dusted, we all gathered for a buffet supper and a 'Night at the Races'. No money changed hands but there were prizes for those tables who managed to find winning horses. We all agreed on our table that it was just as well none of us were thinking of taking up betting as a profession!

Saturday afternoon featured a delightful tour of the magnificent Cotswolds (and for a while the sun actually shone) and several people indulged in a cream tea (although how they managed to get through the Gala Dinner in the evening after that is a complete mystery!) Another lovely sign of Spring was fields of tiny lambs, gambolling in the sunshine.

Sadly, our President, Bob Coles, was unable to be with us this year as his wife Lesley is unwell. On behalf of the RSA we send them our best wishes and hope Lesley will be well again soon. Bob had been due to say a few words to the diners but, at the last minute, Vice-President Leslie Priestley, stepped into the breach. Our thanks to Leslie, who was accompanied by his wife Audrey. And then the final wonder happened when it was announced that Elvis Presley was in the building! Local entertainer Dave Dixon, had us singing and clapping along to a selection of well-known songs from

the 'King' and even persuaded a number of people to get up and rock. All in all a great weekend and one final 'thank you' to the main organisers, Ted Tilly, Phil Holt, Andy Maynard and David Hobday. Thanks also so to the helpful staff of the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, Cheltenham, for a very pleasant stay.

Finally, and completely unconnected with the AGM weekend, did you know that a chicken pie in Jamaica costs £2; a chicken pie in Trinidad costs £2.40 and a chicken pie in St Kitts costs £2.15? These are the pie rates of the Caribbean.

See you in Bournemouth at the Hallmark Carlton Hotel, 8 to 10 May 2020, for the next AGM and Gala weekend.

Anne Noonan

Solution to March Crossword

Across:

- 1. Dress 6. Aspects 13. Refute 14. Harlot 15. Alter 16. Russety 17. Bassinet 19. Tael 20. Cease 22. Pirated 25. Users 28. Evened 29. Preset 30. Tends 31. Glottis 32. Troop 34. Legs 37. Antecede 41. Abating 43. Alien 44. Nodule 45. Inured 46. Trebled 47. Seers

Down:

- 1. Drab 2. Relative 3. Efts 4. Sues 5. Strictest 7. Shuts 8. Pas 9. Erst 10. Cleanest 11. Tote 12. Stylists 16. Read 18. Need 21. Europeans 22. Petulant 23. Renegade 24. And 26. Set 27. Reindeer 29. Plot 31. Gong 33. Ranees 35. Ebor 36. Stub 38. Clue 39. Eire 40. Ends 42. Ill

Important

If you are reading this issue of Contrail on our website, please be aware that you will encounter some blank pages (pages 7 & 8) and also all contact information has been removed.

This is for data protection reasons and the fact that the information that was on the blank pages were benefits that are restricted exclusively to our membership.

If you are a retired CAA/NATS staff member and currently not a member of the RSA and wish to join the organisation then please contact our Membership Secretary for more information. Contact details are to be found on the website and page 15 of this Contrail

EDITORIAL



RSA 19 proved to be another great success. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend but I am indebted to those who ensured that I had

all the reports and photographs for this year's event. As you will notice, from our Chairman's column, next year the RSA AGM weekend is scheduled to be held in early May. In order to carry the full report and photographs of the weekend in the 2020 "All Members" issue of Contrail, I have agreed that the production schedule for that particular issue (June 2020) will be approximately three weeks later than usual. In practical terms this means that the June 2020 issue will not be available to members until the end of June. Note that the copy date for normal contributions will not change to allow me to produce that issue as quickly as possible after the AGM weekend.

I constantly remind you of the importance of our Branch structure and the need for volunteers to take over the role of running your local Branch to ensure that it does not close, as several have in recent times. I am pleased to see that our Membership Secretary, Ian Johnson, has taken up the baton on this topic with his article in this issue.

Finally, my thanks to Robin Morris, the RSA Sectary until he stood down at the AGM, for all his help and co-operation that he kindly provided during the years of his tenure.

As usual, I can be contacted by email:

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

Robert Connolly
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Kilkeel,
Co. Down,
Northern Ireland.
BT34 4DA

NEXT COPY DATE

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

1 August 2019

for September 2019 issue

Membership Update

Ian Johnson, Membership Secretary

This article is to keep you up to date with things that have happened this year to our membership and perennial challenges that continue to happen.

Highlights:

- We now have 4886 members - a net reduction over the year. About 60% pay subscriptions.
- Due to no volunteers coming forward to run them, Cotswold Branch has had to close, and Solent Branch is dormant, being run from Wessex. All Cotswold members have been transferred to Wessex on closure.
- No members have asked to see the data we hold on them, nor have any asked to have contact details deleted. One member did resign as they did not wish to contribute any more.
- We have worked to ensure that procedures are in place to protect the membership records and administration. This includes formal handover procedures approved by the Central Committee for my role.
- The membership and data protection areas of the website have been updated.

Branches:

As stated, two additional Branches are no longer functioning. The decision was taken with the Branch Committee of Wessex to run Solent from there for the time being. Cotswold Branch is closed, and all members were transferred to Wessex. Branch membership is not a requirement of being an RSA member. Any member can apply to me at any time to be removed from a Branch membership list if they so wish (or affiliated to another Branch).

Help running your Branch :

Helping to run a Branch does not need to be a time-consuming business and for the majority of volunteers a couple of hours here or there is all that is required in a year (one to eight hours a year only on Branch matters – and that includes our website!) I think most members probably think it is an onerous task that would interfere with other activities, but this is far from the truth. So, if you would be prepared to offer the occasional hour or so, please let me, any Central Committee member or any Branch Secretary know, and you will really be helping us keep the Association going.

Usual Reminders:

We continue to get communications to you returned because you have moved or changed email. Data Protection is not just about the RSA managing your data well, it is also about you ensuring we have the right information – hence notifying us of any changes!

➤ **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. My email address is: rsamemsec@btinternet.com. The fact that you are seeing this means that you currently should 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 four Contrail issues per year.** Non-paying members get the June issue only.

➤ **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.

We value your membership and hope that you get benefits from it.



FOLLOW THE RSA ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER



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 and 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.

DOWNNS BRANCH

Here are a few photo's of Downs Branch lunch at the Plough, Ifield.



EDINBURGH BRANCH

The Branch Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at Howies Waterloo Pl. Edinburgh on 5 March. The AGM was preceded by a lunch. Eight members attended the AGM. George Matthews stood-down from the Committee creating a vacancy, this was filled by Phil Jackson.

The AGM decided on locations and venues for outings during this year's spring and summer season up to and including July. (see under Diary dates).

April took the Branch to Rustom (Indian) restaurant, Haymarket, Edinburgh. This was a new lunch venue for the Branch. The location and quality of the food were good; ten members attended, including two from WoS.

May took the Branch to the Borders for lunch at Quins restaurant in Galashiels.

A reminder for Edinburgh and H&I members, (also those members listed under 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 contact the Edinburgh Branch Secretary. (Branch contact information is listed in a separate section of Contrail).

LONDON (& HOME COUNTIES) BRANCH

SOCIAL EVENTS

TUESDAY 26 FEBRUARY - 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; 16 Members attended. Anne Noonan and Colin Chisholm gave an update on RSA and Pensions matters respectively; these updates can be found in the AGM Report 2019 on the Branch page of the CAA RSA website. The Hon. Social Secretary presented an excellent Programme (see Diary Dates) and the Committee remained unchanged as its members were happy to remain in post. The Reunion was enjoyed by all.

NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH

The Branch Christmas lunch and meeting had to be postponed due to various reasons and was eventually arranged for the 10 May. Fifteen members attended the lunch that was held at the Ballyrobin. A number of regular attenders sent in their apologies due to being either away on holiday or having hospital appointments. The excellent food was enjoyed by all after a moment's silence to pay respects to two members who had recently passed away, namely Tommy Thomson and John O'Dea. It was decided to hold two more meetings before the end of the year, with the date of the next one to be arranged. The Branch Chairman issued a reminder that notifications of the lunches/meetings are only sent to those who attend on a regular basis, and she would, therefore, appreciate it if any other members who are interested in attending in the future would contact her (details on the Branch Contacts page) so they may be included on the list for future notifications.



Northern Ireland Branch May meeting / lunch

NORTHWEST BRANCH

The visits to Manchester Piccadilly Station signal box in February & March were well supported and very informative.

The Branch AGM was held on Wed 6 March and quite well attended. The Griffin at Heald Green has proved to be a good venue. This year there were no motions formulated for consideration at the National AGM but there was good discussion about Branch matters in general and a full committee was elected. The committee has agreed to see if an event can be promoted to mark the 10th anniversary in 2020 of the move of Manchester Area Control Centre to Prestwick.

Nine members attended the National AGM at Cheltenham and enjoyed meeting colleagues from other Branches. The excellent social programme included a coach tour of the Cotswolds on the sunny Saturday afternoon. In contrast it seems the Manchester area experienced continuous heavy rain that day!



WESSEX BRANCH

Our AGM in March got us started for the next twelve months at our regular meeting place of The Carpenter's Arms in Bransgore. I have to admit that I started the meeting in a somewhat nervous mood, but by the end was very optimistic for the future of the Branch. We now have a Social Secretary, Jocelin Swinn, ably assisted by a social committee of Alison Tilly and Lisbeth. Roger and Catherine Spriggs will carry on the jobs of Treasurer and Secretary and I'm pleased to say the rest of the committee are carrying on.

This was followed in April by the highly successful annual RSA Function in Cheltenham which saw our Branch, once again, well represented. Ted Tilly and I were very pleased with the way it went and judging from the comments we received I think everyone had a great time. In May we had a great visit to the Royal Signals Museum in Blandford followed by lunch.



RSA 19 – or The Sheep That Roared cont'd

A 'return to profit' was expected for 2019. Duncan Boulton explained that work was in hand to develop a new RSA website, with the aim of recruiting more, younger, retirees who expected everything to work on their smartphones (currently, ours doesn't). A trial run of the new website is expected in late summer.

The RSA Central Committee officers and members were re-elected, with the exception of Hon. Sec. Robin Morris, who stood down. Having worked with Robin for several years, I will miss his knowledge of committee procedure, as well as his sense of humour. Thank you, Robin.

It was really after the formal AGM had closed that the main questions from members began – very much following the outcome of the communications survey we conducted a few years ago: RSA members want to know how we're looking after their pensions. Our Member Nominated Director of the CAA pension scheme, Colin Chisholm, provided a comprehensive update on both the CAA and NATS sections of the scheme, and a background on occupational pension schemes within the UK. Notwithstanding the challenges faced by pension schemes (people living longer, low yields on low-risk investments etc) Colin concluded that CAAPS was one of the safest and best-run occupational pension schemes in the UK – which was good to hear. Thankyou Colin.



The RSA group met up again in the evening for a drinks reception before a buffet supper and a light-hearted "Night at the Races" organized by our hosts Phil and Ted. No money was to change hands but "sporting opportunities" to win table prizes were promised. Each table was given six race cards (eight runners on each) and invited to pick two horses, once their 'form' had been explained. It was great fun but, despite having racing regulars on our table, we failed to pick a single winner! However, since the consolation prizes included wine and chocolates, the evening ended very well.

Storm Hannah followed us through on Friday night: the wind howled, the thunder did whatever thunder does, keeping some of our visitors awake (despite the wine and chocolates...) but we all gathered at breakfast on Saturday, ready for the day's adventures.

First off for some of us was a short bus ride into central Cheltenham – and what a place it must have been in its Regency heyday, with fashionable people flocking there just to be seen, as well as taking the waters (alleged to cure almost everything – but did it?). On our visit, several people dived into shops to buy extra scarves and coats to shelter from the wind. But it's still a very elegant town, with beautiful buildings and an astonishing range of up-market boutiques and art galleries. Well worth a look – on a warmer day!

Personally, my last visit to Cheltenham was to meet with the CAA's Printing and Publication Services team at Greville House. What a wealth of knowledge and expertise we lost when it closed. If any P & PS 'vets' are reading this, "*Contraire*" would love to hear from you about your time there.

After lunch, we boarded coaches for a tour of the Cotswolds. On our bus, the team leader and commentator was Phil Holt (who should be doing this for a living) and I'm 'borrowing' some of his remarks (the cheque is in the post...).

"The Cotswolds" is the name for Britain's largest Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – ninety miles long by about twenty-seven wide. Heading towards Bourton-on-the-Water, Phil explained that the Romans were the first main settlers in the area – although I spotted a sign saying "long barrow" so I suspect some stray neolithics may have snuck in before them - however... we travelled for some miles along one of the Romans' most famous roads – the Fosse Way – still a major route, passing lots more drystone walls. Apparently, if you put all the Cotswold drystone walls into a single wall, it would be longer than the Great Wall of China. Just don't ask me how long it would take, OK?

Our first stop was at Bourton O-T-W and although the sun was shining, storm Hannah was hanging around, so we made our way to shelter in the Cotswold Motor Museum. Not optional for me as a 'petrolhead', but RSA Chairman Anne – who accompanied me - is a long-time survivor of my enthusiasm for anything with an engine and wheels (thank you Anne – yet again!). Actually, it was really interesting, with lots of supporting material to give added interest – including what's said to be the world's largest collection of enamel signs (anything from Pratt's Cigars to National Benzole Petrol). We both identified with cars we'd owned in the past: Anne with a Triumph Herald and Hillman Imp (which she says would change lanes on its own in a crosswind) and me with a Morris Minor Convertible, Sunbeam Rapier Series IIIA convertible and a Reliant Scimitar GTE. Guess who owned the sensible cars (i.e. not me)!



The Cotswolds is known for sheep-rearing, and it is said that – in the Middle Ages - the wool from Cotswold sheep was supposed to be half the wealth of England. I discovered that the Romans loved the area, but didn't like the wind and rain, so imported sheep to make woollen clothes to keep themselves warm. Romans – we are with you!

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Author with Sunbeam.



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Note that the RSA Travel Club is open to ALL members. The RSA are neither directly nor indirectly, responsible or liable for any of your travel arrangements. The Association acts merely to advise you of possible offers that have been made available to our members. The contract is between the member and the operator or agency.

Please do not disclose discount codes to non members as this could jeopardise our agreements.

Any comments or queries, please contact me: Andy Maynard northwestrsa@virginmedia.com

RSA 19 - Gala Dinner



RSA 19 - Gala Dinner



RSA 19 – or The Sheep That Roared cont'd

A favourite sheep breed evolved, known as the Cotswold Lion because of its long fringe and creamy-golden coloured coat. The breed was prized because it provided both wool and meat: the coat - when sheared, they left the 'lion' fringe – was treated almost like fine gold because of its quality (the cloth it was woven into didn't itch because all the hairs ran in the same direction) and the tender flavour of its mutton. But when did you last buy mutton, eh, and the Cotswold Lion is now on the 'species at risk' register? And it doesn't roar, either – sorry!

Phil commented that Cotswold stone varies in colour depending on the location of the quarry; it's all limestone, but varies from cream to buttery yellow, to beige depending on where it comes from. Happily, it looks great in any colour and is an intrinsic part of the region's special appeal. It's also easy to cut, so the region's buildings are almost entirely stone-built, with timber-framed constructions usually for 'cheaper' buildings such as barns (not that *they're* exactly cheap now, as any estate agent will tell you).

We drove through a landscape including villages and towns all in varieties of this wonderful honey-coloured stone. Phil remarked on local features such as the stone window frames and carved porches (well, the Romans discovered the rain, and as the region is relatively hilly and west-facing, any porch in a storm, eh?). Sorry!



We drove past Broadway Tower, a grand folly (unlike Brexit, of course) built by Capability Brown for a local landowner on top of a Beacon Hill (traditionally used to send messages like 'the Spanish are invading' or 'Liverpool FC are rubbish' etc) at the suggestion of a friend who wanted to see if she could observe a signal fire from the tower from her property in the next county. Sadly, history doesn't record if it worked... and if you're a Liverpool supporter, please don't shoot the messenger.

Our next destination was the private estate of Stanway, home to the Earl of Wemyss and his family. We drove through tiny lanes lined by some of the biggest and oldest oak trees I've ever seen. I was a bit worried about the intrusion, but Tony, our driver, said "our firm does the school run every day, so his Lordship isn't going to complain about us." Thanks Tony.

For me, as a building-lover, Stanway House is one of the jewels of the Cotswolds – still a private home but open to visitors during the summer months. And the gatehouse is the last word in Elizabethan extravagance – a must-see. But what really intrigued me was that Stanway House is surrounded to a huge extent by a very obvious medieval field system, known as 'ridge and furrow' cultivation, where villagers farmed individual strips in communal fields. This was standard across the country until the Black Death but started to be replaced by enclosed fields after the 1350s. It turns out that the Stanway estate belonged to Tewkesbury Abbey until Cromwell's intervention two centuries later – and I believe that the ridge & furrow system is so evident here because the monastic system held on for those two centuries more than elsewhere – and has not been destroyed by more recent commercial ploughing. Go look – it's amazing.

Happily, the Stanway estate keeps Cotswold Lion sheep in its fields and we saw lots of little lambs with their typical markings of black noses and knees. Still no roaring though – or from their parents!



Back at our hotel, we convened for (another) drinks reception before group photographs and a formal dinner. It was excellent, but perhaps the 'rump of lamb' main course gave a twinge to some of our more sensitive members – I can assure you that it wasn't the ones we'd been waving to earlier!



Our entertainment for the post-dinner evening was the excellent David Dixon, AKA Elvis tribute "King of Diamonds", who put in two sets. In between the two, RSA Vice-President Leslie Priestley took to the floor to thank the organizers for arranging a terrific weekend and encouraged members to continue to support RSA activities. He closed by welcoming RSA members in advance to the RSA 20 event, which will be held in Bournemouth on 8 – 10 May next year.

Later, some guests stayed in the dining room, some went to the bar, but, judging from the reaction at breakfast on Sunday morning, everyone had had a good time before they went home.

So, if you're reading this and didn't attend, you missed out. And if you're in that difficult position where you're now on your own – either as a member or member partner – please be assured that you are more than welcome to any and all of our events. Try us for 2020, eh?

BRANCH DIARY DATES

EDINBURGH BRANCH

June: At the time of Contrail edition 140 'copy date' an outing for June has not been arranged. An AGM proposal for an outing on the Steamer Waverley mid-June does not fit in too well with the vessel's time-table. The Branch Committee is working on possible alternatives. (see RSA Website under Edinburgh Branch for any updates)

23 July: Lunch at the Slug & Lettuce, George St. Edinburgh at 12:30.

August: Nil Programme – Edinburgh Festival period! The Branch welcomes any RSA member and accompanying partner(s) from wherever to join our outings, as for the most part they are self-supporting. (i.e. not subsidised!) The only requirement is that advance booking/notification must be made via the Secretary. (Branch contact information is listed in a separate section of Contrail).

LONDON (& HOME COUNTIES) BRANCH

A brief reminder regarding the Social Event Booking arrangements.

1. Members are encouraged to pay 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. 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

Tuesday 23 July – AFTERNOON TEA AT CLARIDGE'S

The menu faithfully follows the traditional combination of sweet and savoury - poached Scottish salmon, pastries that change to reflect the fruits of the season, and of course the tea! Why not indulge in sheer decadence and opulence in London's Mayfair? At £65 per head you could no doubt find a more economical way to spend an afternoon, but...! Meet in the hotel lobby by 2:45 p.m. The dress code is smart casual minimum to reflect the grandeur of the venue. For more details see the hotel website at www.claridges.co.uk/restaurants-bars/afternoon-tea. Please note the price may be subject to change. Destination Postcode W1K 4HR.

Wednesday 18 September - GUIDED TOUR OF THE GOLDEN HIND

The Golden Hind was the first English ship to circumnavigate the globe between 1577 – 1580, captained by Sir Francis Drake. This fully restored replica is located at the St. Mary Ovarie Dock on the south Bank of the river Thames. We have organised a 90 minute fully guided tour covering the ship's history; the cost is £10. Following lunch at a nearby venue we can return to the ship and browse at leisure. Meet at 10:45 a.m. outside the entrance to the ship. For more details see <https://www.goldenhinde.co.uk>. Destination Postcode SE1 9DE.

Tuesday 15 October - ANNUAL REUNION

Organised by the National Committee at the familiar venue of the Freemasons Arms, the date has been brought forward to October for people to participate whilst the days are a little longer and the weather a little warmer. Full details will be published in Contrail.

Wednesday 6 November - THEATRE EVENT

Either a top-quality show in London's Theatreland or a guided visit to a theatre of national renown; this will be followed by food and drink at a suitable establishment. Full details will be provided later.

Saturday 14 December - CAROLS FOR SHOPPERS CONCERT St. MARTIN IN THE FIELD

Again we look forward to enjoying the exquisite harmonies of the New London Singers. We will warm up in Café in the Crypt from 2:45 p.m. – the concert starts at 4 p.m. Afterwards we will repair to a suitable restaurant. The likely price for concessions is £16.20, tickets will be limited to twelve. Date, timings and cost subject to be confirmed by St. Martins later in the year.

Thursday 16 January 2020 - POST CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Details of time and venue will be provided nearer to the day.

February 2020 - BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Probably taking place in the Freemason's Arms as before. The date and full details (including agenda) will be given out early in 2020.

NORTHWEST BRANCH

Monthly walks are organised, along with MACC Vets, and give a good opportunity to chat with old acquaintances. They are usually of 3-4 miles every 4th Wednesday of the month.

Pub lunches, mainly in the Cheshire area, will continue to be organised on a quarterly basis, see website for details.

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.

WESSEX BRANCH

26 June - Annual walk & pub lunch.

July - no meeting

7 August - Garden Meet at the home of Stuart Clifton in Verwood

25 September - Carpenter's Arms meeting, 11am - presentation by yours truly on the making of the film "Battle of Britain" which was released 50 years ago this month.

24 October - Visit to Swanwick and possibly the College including lunch.

27 November - Skittles & Lunch

10 December - Christmas annual area get together
We are planning a Burns celebration in January next year and will give more details in my next Contrail report.

Further information on our programme can be obtained from our secretary, Catherine Spriggs CAA-RSA-Wessex@hotmail.com

Members website: www.caarsa.org.uk

OBITUARIES

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

Margaret Bryant, CO at CAA House, on 25 January 2019

Martin William Bransfield Lockley, ATCO 1 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 30 January 2019

Gladys Thornley, Clerical Officer at Pinner, on 27 January 2019

Roger Keith Wileman, ATE 1 at Manchester Airport, on 7 February 2019

Frank Alfred Way, SATCO at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 6 February 2019

Cyril David Pickering, Principle at Aviation House, on 1 February 2019

David John Hockings, based at Aviation House, Gatwick, on 9 January 2019

Elizabeth Wynne Wason, Band 4.2 at Aviation House, Gatwick, on 10 February 2019

Kenneth Ibell, SMG 1 at Hillingdon House, on 5 February 2019

Thomas Patrick Cleary, Patrolman Band 3 at CTE Bletchley, on 6 February 2019

Frank Pilling Thompson, Chief Economist at CAA House, on 8 February 2019

Anthony (Tony) Charles Eade, ATCE 4 at Aberdeen Airport, on 8 February 2019

Kenneth Lockhart Richardson, SATE at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 30 January 2019

Michael Thomas Calvert, ATCE4 at CTC, on 8 February 2019

Kathleen Susan James, Continuous Survey, Corp Band 3, home-based, on 10 February 2019

John Frederick Park, Band 11.1 at Bristol Area Office, on 24 February 2019

Nicholas David Whale, ATCO at ATMDC, on 10 February 2019

Colin John Payne, Band 3.2 at Gatwick Airport, on 21 February 2019

Archibald Brown Aitchison, ATCO 1 at Atlantic House, on 1 March 2019

Peter Brian Longland, SMG 2 at Luton Area Office, on 24 January 2019

Frederick Julian Brooke, ATE 1 at Hillingdon House, on 7 February 2019

Satpal Singh Hoonjan, ATSA 2 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 20 February 2019

Alan Thomas Kennedy, ATCO 2 at CATC Bournemouth, on 12 March 2019

Matthew Woodman, Senior Craftsman at Gatwick, on 14 March 2019

Josephine Mary Cree, ATCA 2 at College of ATC, Hurn, on 7 January 2019

Philip Frederick Thorpe, A/Bd 8.1 at Aston Down, on 23 February 2019

Bernard George Brown, ATCO 1 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 25 March 2019

Allan Laing Maitland, MSG 6 at Edinburgh Airport on 24 March 2019

Colin Warwick Martin, PTO at CAA House, on 7 March 2019

Hugh Joseph Nelson, ATSA 2 at SCOATCC, on 20 March 2019

Stuart Gordon Alfred Wright, ATCO 2 at SCATCC, on 24 March 2019

Jeremy John Cooke, ATCO at Birmingham, on 26 March 2019

Betty Catherine Ashford, Clerical Officer at Gatwick, on 29 March 2019

Nigel John Ashley, Senior Flight Examiner at Cranfield, on 29 March 2019

Rita Margaret Knight, Admin Officer Band 3.1 at Aviation House, Gatwick, on 8 April 2019

Rita Valerie Mandry, Band 3 at CAA House, on 27 March 2019

Leonard Turney Biggs, ATCO 2 at Boscombe Down, on 14 April 2019

Maureen Mary Barclay Minns, Band 4 OCG 2 at CAA House, on 7 March 2019

William Thomas Goodwin, TA 111 (Band 3) Driver at Edinburgh Airport, on 20 April 2019

James Sharp, Leading Fireman at Dalcross Aerodrome, Inverness, on 23 April 2019

Joseph Coverdale, STPO at Manchester Airport, on 24 April 2019

Graham Stevens, ATCO 1 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 19 April 2019

Advertorial

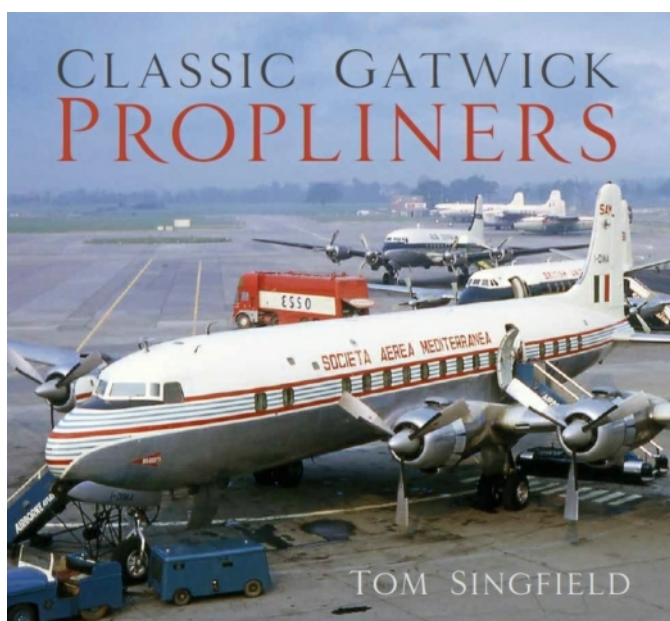
Tom Singfield is an ex-Gatwick ATCO and is an aviation historian, writer and photographer. After thirty years of searching out the very best colour images of that time, he has now published the results of his searches in his new book. Stunning pictures celebrate those wonderful times of the amazing "propliners" that operated from Gatwick for the first twenty years after its reopening in 1958.

Quotes from recent reviews:

"Great pictures from a bygone era of piston powered airliners, many not seen before."

"This is a very well-produced book with especially informative captions. Recommended."

Tom's new book, "**Classic Gatwick Propliners**" (ISBN: **9780750989220**) is now available from The History Press, www.thehistorypress.co.uk/publication/classic-gatwick-propliners/9780750989220 and also on Amazon.



CAA /NATS RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

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VICE PRESIDENT: L PRIESTLEY
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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.

BRANCH CONTACTS

COTSWOLD

TBA

DOWNS

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

EDINBURGH

(including Highlands and Islands, & West of Scotland)

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



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.



northwestrsa@virginmedia.com

WESSEX (including Solent)

Catherine Spriggs. 283 Belle Vue Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH6 3BB



CAARSAWessex@hotmail.com

More RSA 19 photos - "Gala Dinner"



A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

One particular four-year-old prayed, "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

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@yahogroups.com.

Members website: www.caarsa.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 by email or post to the editor at the address on page 2.

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**

Tuesday 15 October 2019 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.



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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