

# CONTRAIL

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

## ALL MEMBERS ISSUE

# Covid Strikes Again!!

## RSA21 Cancelled



Despite intense forward planning and ensuring a raft of safety measures, the RSA Central Committee was left with no option but to cancel the **AGM Gala Weekend**, scheduled for April at the Carlton Hotel, Bournemouth.

Everyone is aware of the devastating impact that the Covid 'second wave' has taken on all aspects of the UK's daily life, including the hospitality / hotel industry. The 'roll-out' of a Covid vaccine has been welcomed and, given time, should lead to a resumption of normality. In addition, some relaxation to Covid restrictions is expected around Easter 2021 but, in all probability, will be too late and insufficient to facilitate RSA21 taking place.

**But it's not all bad news!** In co-ordination with the Events Team at 'Conference Call', an alternative date has been negotiated for the Carlton Hotel, Bournemouth, at similar rates as advertised for 2021!! **So, with Cambridge set for 2022 and Bournemouth now re-scheduled for 2023, we can continue to look forward to a Spring AGM and Gala Weekend.**

**RSA22** 21 - 24 April Double Tree by Hilton Cambridge Belfry Cambourne  
**RSA23** 20 - 23 April Carlton Hotel Bournemouth

In the meantime, members may rest assured that the Gala Weekend Organisers will continue to work with the Central Committee and hotel venues to ensure that the above programme is delivered **'safely and in style'**

## The search is on

For health reasons, Bob Connolly, long term editor of Contrail, will be retiring from his role with the publication of the December 2021 issue. Sadly, the search is now on to find his replacement.

Contrail is the quarterly newsletter of the RSA and, together with our website, is a vital way of keeping in touch with our membership, at home and abroad. It is really important that we find a replacement for Bob as soon as possible, not only to ensure that we can keep Contrail going but to allow for a smooth handover.

Bob will be available to advise anyone who volunteers and will make sure that he or she is fully trained up in the requirements of commercial printing and the structure of the publication.

Surely there is someone in our membership who would and could do the job.

If so, in the first instance, please contact me at [chair@caarsa.org.uk](mailto:chair@caarsa.org.uk) I look forward to hearing from you.

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## FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

*Anne Noonan*

Welcome to this, the first issue of Contrail for 2021, a very unpredictable year so far. I hope everyone is coping well in these strange times we find ourselves in.

I'm afraid I'm the bringer of more bad news in that with the December issue we will be losing the valuable services of our long-term editor, Bob Connolly. Both Bob and his wife Diane have serious health problems and Bob has to devote more time to looking after both of them.

Bob has done us proud as editor of Contrail and the Central Committee, on behalf of our membership, would like to thank him most sincerely for all his efforts over the years. Not only has he edited and prepared each issue for publication but has also contributed to its contents.

So, between now and December we are faced with the difficult task of finding a replacement editor – not an easy task in what seems to be the age of non-volunteering. Initially, if you or anyone you know might be interested, please get in touch with me at [chair@caarsa.org.com](mailto:chair@caarsa.org.com). Thank you.

Let's finish on a lighter note – two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were so chilly they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too. Or, how about, if you jumped off a bridge in Paris you would be in Seine.

Keep well and stay safe.

*Anne Noonan*

### Solution To December Crossword

Across: 1. Crops 6. Scraped 12. Reprise 13. Inure 14. Ameer 15. Ringlet 17. Fore 18. Ranges 19. Transept 21. Lava 22. Inherit 24. Behind 27. Nicest 29. Insects 31. Dots 32. Ruleless 36. Cheery 38. Late 39. Upholds 41. Magic 42. Biers 43. Element 44. Streets 45. Wares

Down: 1. Craft 2. Remorse 3. Opera 4. Preen 5. Sir 6. Seraph 7. Ring 8. Angelic 9. Pulsate 10. Ere 11. Detract 16. Intently 18. Rendered 20. Sins 23. Rise 24. Bedaub 25. Hitcher 26. Inshore 28. Sistine 30. Curses 33. Llama 34. Eager 35. Sects 37. Else 40. Pit 41. Mew

The Central Committee is now looking for a new editor for Contrail as the current editor plans to leave Contrail later this year. This quarterly publication is a vitally important tool to keep our membership up to date with events concerning the RSA.

For the role of a new editor he/she should have working knowledge of the following:

- Word processing with Microsoft word and/or Libre Office including working with various fonts, colours and tabs.
- Microsoft Excel;
- image manipulation (cropping, re-sizing, enhancing etc).
- Some experience with desktop publishing using Publisher, Serif or Adobe software, including colour and tints.
- producing and working with pdf documents.
- some knowledge of the requirements for producing the artwork for commercial printing preferred but not essential.
- Ability to work to deadlines.

The current editor is willing to assist his replacement settle into the role and producing Contrail to the requirements of commercial printing etc. Ideally the new editor should take up the role by the time the September issue is ready to be produced (early August) and will work with the existing editor for that issue and the December issue, ready to go solo with the first issue of 2022.

If you are interested in this role please get in touch as soon as possible.

## EDITORIAL



As you can see from this issue I have taken the decision to make this my final year as editor of Contrail after fourteen years. It was not an easy decision giving up something that I enjoyed doing, despite occasional challenges, but when I took over the role as editor I believed in the importance of Contrail to members, something that I still believe in.

Unfortunately, my long term medical and mobility problems have become worse. In addition, my wife, who took seriously ill in the summer of 2019 never made a full recovery and her condition is deteriorating so I need to spend my time looking after both of us. In early January, I carried out a review of the various committees and directorships that I am involved with and took the decision to withdraw from the majority of them this year. This meant a reduction from ten committees down to two that I am under terms that still run until early next year. I was also considering finishing writing my monthly radio column for a magazine but was persuaded by my editor and the magazine publishers to continue for a while longer due to reader popularity. Over the last few years I have been writing an historical book that I have not had time to finish, and reducing my workload will allow me to do that.

As usual, I can be contacted by email, **but please note the new email address effective immediately (the old email address is no longer valid):**

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

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

### **NEXT COPY DATE**

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

**1 May 2021**

**for June 2021 issue**



# TRAVEL CLUB



## Andy Maynard

There has never been a better time to plan and book a holiday for 2021. There are so many offers around. All our travel partners have some great deals on for either last minute breaks or for 2021/22. Newmarket also have many escorted UK breaks to. The advantage of a package can be that cancellations or amendments are handled by one company rather than having to deal with airlines, rail companies & hotels separately. All our companies are still very much in operation & operate a range of cancellation policies.

For the latest travel information, follow the FCO advice:

Website - [www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](http://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) or

On Facebook, like the FCO travel page or follow the FCO on Twitter: @FCOtravel

**Please remember- The RSA is not either directly or indirectly responsible or liable for any of your travel arrangements.**

### Travel Club Discount Table:

 Interline offers on hotels worldwide	Online only. Register at <a href="http://www.stafftravelvoyage/special-offers">www.stafftravelvoyage/special-offers</a> Use ATC & retired in registration process.
 Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines 5 -10% Discount Boudicca & Black Watch have been retired and have been replaced by two ships from Holland America. These are Bolette & Borealis.	Discount code:
 10% Discounts Escorted holidays by Coach, Rail, Air, or Ship. UK & Worldwide with regional departures	Discount code:
 Interline deals on hotels/flights/cruises	Register <a href="http://www.touchdown.co.uk">www.touchdown.co.uk</a>
 5 -10% Discounts	



The RSA operate both Facebook and Twitter accounts on a closed group basis.

The Facebook group can be followed by searching for CAA NATS RSA and the Twitter group is located @RSACANATS

I was at the airport, checking in for my flight when an airport employee asked, "Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?" To which I replied, "If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?" He smiled knowingly and nodded, "That's why we ask."



## EDINBURGH BRANCH

The Branch has little to report on since the December 2020 edition of Contrail.

The Committee continues to operate in a caretaker role, communicating with each other by either email or telephone.

When Sc. Government Covid-19 Regulations permit, and regrettably this appears to be months away yet, it is the Committee's intention to hold a 'Re-start Lunch', combined with a Special General Meeting. It is essential that the Branch elects a future Committee when we do eventually meet up. There is currently a vacancy for the Secretary post and for one other Committee member. An expression of interest in taking over the Branch secretarial role has come from within the existing Committee.

Details of our 'Re-start' event will be emailed to members on our emailing list giving at least 6 weeks' notice. Details will also be published on the Edinburgh page of the RSA website and on Face-Book.

A further reminder, if any Branch member, including those members formally listed under H&I, would like to become more involved in assisting the RSA at Branch Committee level please let the Chair or any member of the Committee know. Committee members are listed on the RSA Web page under Edinburgh Branch.

In addition, if you wish to check on your details held by the RSA or wish to add your name/contact details to the Branch emailing list please contact the Branch Chair, John Doig. Contact details are listed under 'Branch Contacts' in a separate section of this edition of Contrail.

## LONDON (& HOME COUNTIES) BRANCH

Well, at last there is light at the end of the tunnel but it looks like it won't be safe to get out and about and meet up until late summer.

Realistically it won't be possible to organise 'physical' social events until we know what the red lines are going to be. And, in any case, unfortunately it won't be possible now to mirror events planned in the 2020 programme.

So, please keep checking the London and HC pages on our website ([caa-rsa.org.uk](http://caa-rsa.org.uk)) for anything we may be able to arrange.

It is with regret that the Committee has to announce that Paul Artiss has decided to stand down as Hon. Social Secretary. Paul feels that he has given as much as possible to the role and now is the time to hand it over. Paul has served the Branch well as Hon. Social Secretary for the last ten years. He has produced a well-researched, varied and interesting programme every year and been present to make sure the events ran well. Thank you Paul,

you will be very much missed.

So, this means that we are looking for a volunteer who would like to join the Branch Committee and take on the role of Hon. Social Secretary.

The role is an interesting and hopefully enjoyable one requiring some research, visiting prospective venues/locations, organising dates etc. and meeting colleagues. Expenses are paid. If you are interested, please contact the Hon. Secretary at [lhc@caa-rsa.org.uk](mailto:lhc@caa-rsa.org.uk). Stay safe.

## NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH

Due to ongoing Covid-19 lockdowns and restrictions the Branch has not met since early last year. With the ongoing vaccination programme and a review of the restrictions due to be conducted by the Northern Ireland Executive in the second half of February, there may be some light at the end of this long tunnel and, perhaps, the Branch will be able to meet again by the autumn, if not before.

In the meantime, it is with great regret that news of the death of former colleague, Peggy Williamson, in early January, reached the Branch.

## NORTHWEST BRANCH

Due to the ongoing pandemic our social events remain suspended. Fingers crossed we might be able to meet up in the real world later this year.

Our twice monthly Zoom chat meetings continue on the first Wednesday morning (11am) and the third Thursday afternoon (3 pm) of the month. Details from the Branch Secretary.

Our 2021 AGM will be held online via Zoom at 11 am on Wednesday 10 March.

A notice inviting members to attend has been circulated by e-mail to those we have electronic addresses for. If you have booked your place and not received your meeting link, then please email [northwestrsa@virginmedia.com](mailto:northwestrsa@virginmedia.com) as soon as possible.

## Seniors Golf

The Seniors section meets three times a year in the South East of England and is open to all NATS/CAA pensioners. Please contact [ted.pillinger@ntlworld.com](mailto:ted.pillinger@ntlworld.com) if you would like to join us.

## NATS National Golf Championships 2021

This event has been around for about 40 years and the 2021 event will take place at Goodwood, West Sussex on 18 June. This event is open to all NATS employees, both past and present.

Please access this link for more details and application form: <https://natschampionship.wordpress.com>

Sign in a cocktail lounge in Norway:  
"Ladies are requested not to have children in the bar."

# BRANCH DIARY DATES

## WESSEX BRANCH

Subject to any Covid restrictions in force at the time.

**24 March** - Branch AGM, Carpenters Arms, Bransgore, 11am followed by our famous auction!

**26 May** Lymington walk followed by pub lunch at the Chequers Inn.

**23 June** - Visit to the English Oak Vineyard, Lytchett Matravers, 11am

**July** - No meeting

**August (date TBN)** - Annual Garden Party, 11am (details TBN)

**September (date TBN)** - Day trip to Weald & Downland Museum (location for the Channel 4 series The Repair Shop)

**27 October** - Speaker meeting – Kevin Patience on the “1950 Air France Disaster”. 11am Carpenter's Arms

**24 November** - Skittles & pre-Christmas Lunch. Venue TBN

**December (date TBN)** - Branch Christmas get together, Scalpens Court Poole. Food & fun!

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## The 2021 CAA/NATS Retired Staff Association Annual General Meeting Friday 7 May 2021 1500-1800

This will be held remotely by Zoom.

In view of the current restrictions on travel and meetings and the fact that no AGM was held in 2020, the Central Committee has decided to hold the 2021 AGM remotely using the Zoom platform on the internet.

If you wish to attend, please send an e-mail indicating this to [honsec@caa-rsa.org.uk](mailto:honsec@caa-rsa.org.uk) by **Friday 30 April 2021**. You will then receive an invitation to attend with the necessary link to let you in.

The following members of the Central Committee have indicated their willingness to stand again for office:

Anne Noonan – Chairman  
Matthew Baines – Treasurer  
Tony Motture - Hon. Secretary  
Duncan Boulton  
Colin Chisholm  
Tony Cowell  
John Doig  
Ian Johnson  
Tim MacKay  
Andrew Maynard  
Richard Wright

Tony Cowell has indicated that, due to health reasons, he wishes to stand down from the role of Vice Chairman. David Hobday has decided to retire from the Committee. There will need to be an election to select a new Vice Chairman.

Any motions to be put to the AGM, together with nominations for officers and members of the Central Committee, with names of a proposer and a seconder, together with confirmation of the willingness of the nominee, should be sent to [honsec@caa-rsa.org.uk](mailto:honsec@caa-rsa.org.uk) also by **Friday 30 April 2021**.

Any motions that have been received for the AGM together with nominations received will be circulated along with the Agenda by **Monday 3 May 2021**.

Tony Motture  
Hon. Secretary

In the old American west, a .45 cartridge for a six-gun cost 12 cents, so did a shot glass of whisky. If a cowhand was low on cash, he would often give the bartender a cartridge in exchange for a drink. This became known as a "shot" of whisky.

During WW1 US soldiers were given life insurance policies worth \$5,000. This was about the price of an average farm, so if you died you "bought the farm" for your survivors.

# PENSION MATTERS

## RSA Pensions Rep.

The CAA Pension Scheme (CAAPS) was set up in 1973 and, after the Government separated NATS and the CAA in 2001, the Scheme was continued in two Sections - CAA and NATS, both of which are now closed to new members. Management of the CAAPS Scheme, its assets and members' benefits, is carried out by a Trustee body.

The Trustee is a company, CAAPS Trustee Limited. The Board of that company is composed of thirteen Directors with an independent Chair, six Employer-Nominated Directors (ENDs) and six Member-Nominated Directors (MNDs). MNDs are nominated by fellow members of the relevant section and are split, three from CAA section and three from NATS section. At least one MND in each section should be a pensioner or deferred member, but it could be two if appropriate candidates can be found.



MNDs are selected by a Selection Panel consisting of the Independent Chair, an MND of the appropriate section, a representative of the RSA (currently Dave Hobday from the Central Committee) and either a NATS Trade Union or CAA Employee Forum member. Once appointed, Directors must act impartially and in the interests of all members, including deferred members, pensioners and beneficiaries, as well as active members (current employees still paying into the Scheme) of both sections.

As the sections mature, there are significantly more pensioners in both Sections than actives and deferrers, so the RSA is keen to ensure that the available and potential pensioner MND posts are filled by suitable pensioners - preferably with some RSA connection to provide a link to other CAAPS colleagues. Currently, although there are three MND pensioners, only one, (Colin Chisholm), is an RSA member and he is due to end his third 3-year term in April 2022. This may seem a long way off but finding suitable candidates, preparing them and steering them through the selection process can take many months.

Being an MND of CAAPS is not for everyone but more people are probably capable of becoming effective MNDs than realise it. The main thing is to have a real commitment to the role and a willingness to learn and understand the complexities of running a Defined Benefit pension scheme in today's environment. Some financial background is useful, but it is certainly not essential, any more than background in pension schemes or acting as a Trustee. It can all be learned but that does require commitment and time (around 2 - 3 days per month on average) for which there is some financial recompense once an MND - and MND training is available.

CAAPS describes the skills and experience required of an MND thus: -

- A Trustee Director should be able to demonstrate some of the following:
  - Pensions knowledge, interest and awareness.
  - Knowledge of Trusteeship and the type of work undertaken by a Trustee body.
  - Understanding of financial risks.
  - A willingness and ability to devote a significant amount of time to Trustee duties, including becoming familiar with pensions legislation and the Scheme Rules.
  - Ability to assimilate a large amount of complex information.
  - Ability to interact appropriately with senior individuals.
  - Ability to act impartially in the best interest of the Scheme and all its members.
  - Completion of the Pension Regulator's Toolkit e-learning programme within six months of appointment.
- Do you feel you might have these skills and experience?
- Are you interested in becoming an MND - or at least considering it?
- If you are, we in the RSA would like to hear from you!

It is clearly in the RSA's, and also CAAPS interest to have suitably qualified candidates filling available posts as they become vacant. Sadly, in recent years it has been difficult to find suitable pensioner members willing to apply and thus we run the risk of losing the posts to deferred members - often with a personal, rather than collective, agenda. So, we wish to encourage interest and find the right candidates! Remember that the role of an MND may be challenging but it is highly satisfying and keeps you in touch with former CAA and NATS colleagues.

If you are at all interested contact Tony Motture at [honsec@caa-rsa.org.uk](mailto:honsec@caa-rsa.org.uk) in the first instance. He will put you in touch with suitable RSA colleagues with CAAPS background who can answer your questions and jointly decide whether to progress to an application when a vacancy arises. The RSA will try to ensure that you can make a decision in full knowledge and provide good preparation and nomination steers.

So have a hard think - could you see yourself as a CAAPS MND on the Trustee Board? Do you have the appropriate skills, experience and mostly determination to assist in safeguarding CAAPS member interests? If 'yes' or even 'maybe' then please make contact and we will take it from there.

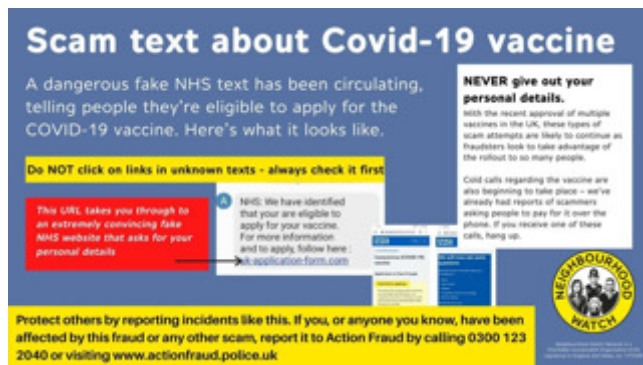
# Beware Scams

Bob Connolly

Scams have been with us for quite a number of years. However, since the first Covid-19 lockdown in March 2020 it would seem that more and more criminal elements are working harder trying to get their hands on your personal details, including your bank account information, and then ultimately your money. They do not care how old you are, in fact it would appear that the older you are the more they will try to scam you, probably on the grounds of them believing that your brain is no longer as sharp as it used to be and therefore you will be easier to steal money from.

Age UK reports that 43% of older people – almost five million people aged 65 and over – believe they have been targeted by scammers. Those with dementia are at particular risk. Older people are more likely to live on their own, and are often lonely - thus they become targets for fraudsters. Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic my wife and I were targeted by four different scammers in just a few hours. My wife received a text message on her mobile phone, supposedly from the tax authorities, stating that she owed income tax and to immediately contact the included link; failure to do so would result in her being arrested within a few hours. This caused her great concern as you would expect until she showed the message to me and I pointed out that it was a scam. About an hour later we received a phone call telling us that our Sky equipment insurance was due for renewal and they would offer an additional product for free. I was unable to recall off hand when my Sky insurance was due to be renewed but, thankfully, I keep all documents of that type in a filing cabinet so as they were talking I was going through the appropriate folder in my files to find that it was not due for renewal for another seven months – call terminated. Shortly afterwards I received a text message telling me that my mobile phone payment had not been made and to forward new payment details immediately. I knew that this was a scam as it was paid the previous week. Then we received another phone call telling us that our yearly gas heating boiler maintenance payment was overdue and asked me to provide payment details. For me this one was easy as we do not have gas heating, obviously another scam!

As I was preparing this edition of Contrail, I received a total of five automated telephone calls supposedly from Amazon telling me that my account has automatically been renewed at £79.99 and if I wished to cancel press 1 on my phone. According to my caller id the telephone numbers, all different, originated in Chicago. Each time I hung up, knowing that if I pressed 1, as it suggested, it would transfer me to a premium rate number. Each number was subsequently added to the blacklist on my call protect service.



Sadly, during this Covid-19 pandemic, where many lives have been lost and many more are at risk, the scammers are not giving up. In fact, quite the opposite - they are now using Covid as a scam. There have been reports of fake Covid test kits being sold but it does not stop there. There have been several media reports of elderly people being given fake vaccine injections and then having to pay £100 for it. Shortly after the distribution of vaccines being distributed the scammers quickly came up with another one. This involves sending out text messages under the guise as being from the NHS telling you that you are eligible to apply for you vaccine and to follow the included link. The link takes you to a very convincing fake NHS website that asks you for your personal details, including payment card details. Another variant of this

scam is a cold call from an automated source telling you that you can receive your vaccine and to ring a given telephone number where an operator would take your details and there would be a £50 charge.

It is very important to point out that the NHS will contact you when it is your turn to be vaccinated, either by a letter from your GP or, from the NHS itself or if you fall into certain current groups, you can book your test via a formal NHS online portal or phone line that will be announced by the NHS in the local newspapers or radio/television news broadcasts. In Northern Ireland the announcement of the NHS Covid vaccination on-line booking portal for 65 to 69 year olds was made available at the end of January and announced along with the website link on local news broadcasts and papers. The NHS are aware of these scams and it is very important to know that the vaccine is **FREE** to everyone and when it is your turn you will be contacted by the NHS or your GP.

Scammers have always been a problem but they seem to be working overtime at present so you must be on your guard. Don't open unsolicited emails, carefully check the spelling in suspect emails, be very careful answering phone calls and never give out personal, including your bank details, over the phone, text or email. Banks, police, tax authorities etc will never ask you for your bank account details. If you receive a phone call saying it is your bank and you are not sure if it is genuine, call them using a different phone on the contact phone number that you have for them. Do not use the phone you were called on as scammers are very professional in making you think they have hung up and when you dial the number you are actually still connected to them even if a different voice comes on the line.

When the internet was introduced it was an interesting safe place with no viruses or scammers. For the first few years after the introduction of the World Wide Web there was no need for antivirus software etc. Now a good up to date antivirus programme is essential as is a good firewall.

# OBITUARIES

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

**Dennis Holland**, ATE 1 at Manchester Airport, on 30 October 2020

**Anne Brenda Fairbank**, SRG Level 8, Secretary, at Aviation House, Gatwick, on 30 November 2020

**Marion Brenda House**, Band 4 at LACC, on 1 November 2020

**John Bernard Flanagan**, ATCE 4 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 11 October 2020

**Ernest William Langton**, ATCO 1 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 6 November 2020

**Maureen Lawson**, MSG 9 at ScOACC, on 9 November 2020

**David Jack Coates**, ATE 1 at Bournemouth, on 11 November 2020

**Michael Lyon Phillips**, JMG 5, Flight Ops at Aviation House, on 30 July 2020

**Richard Charles Aitken**, Band 4 at CAA House, on 7 November 2020

**Derek John James**, ATCO 1 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 22 November 2020

**Irene Bowen**, Audio Typist at Aviation House, Gatwick, on 26 November 2020

**John Duthie Strachan**, ATCE 5 at Spectrum House, Liverpool, on 24 November 2020

**Margaret Leggate McLaughlin**, based at Atlantic House, Prestwick, on 29 October 2020

**Rodney Bernard Morrison**, ATE 1 at CAA House, on 3 December 2020

**Margaret Rose Healy**, Band 5.2 at CAA House, on 16 December 2020

**John Maccorquodale**, based at CTC, on 5 October 2020

**Ronald George Boulter**, ATCO 2 at London City Airport, on 26 October 2020

**Rosemary Carolyn de Beer**, ATCA 2 at ATC, Hurn, on 27 October 2020

**William Joseph Eames**, ATE 1 at Belfast Airport, on 15 November 2020

**Helen Patricia Ketley**, Telephonist at Gatwick Airport, on 21 November 2020

**John Burns Malcolm**, ATSA 2 at ScOACC, Prestwick, on 17 December 2020

**Barbara June Burns**, JMG at OKS, London, on 18 December 2020

**Daniel John Crilley**, SE5 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 19 December 2020

**Eric Egley**, based at CAA House, London, on 21 December 2020

**Anton Grayson Spencer**, ATSA 3 at CACC-CTB Heathrow, on 22 December 2020

**John Frederick Perry**, ATE 1 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 26 December 2020

**Lindsay Robert Smith**, ATCO 2 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 9 December 2020

**Arthur Ronald Arnold**, ATCO 2 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 28 December 2020

**Paul Edward Stevens**, SMG 2 at CAA House, on 30 December 2020

**Margaret Helenor Marie Williamson**, ATSA 2 at Belfast Airport, on 3 January 2021

**Anthony Joseph Morgan**, ATSA 2 at Birmingham Airport, on 25 December 2020

**Peter Dowd**, ATSA 4 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 30 December 2020

**Roger John Swift**, ATCO 2 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 2 January 2021

**Charles Edwin Morris**, HEO, Finance, at CAA House, 7 December 2020

**Antony David Bridger**, ATCO 2 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 12 December 2020

**Norvin Benjamin McKoy**, STPO at Heathrow Airport, on 13 December 2020

**Sinclair Gray**, Fireman at Wick Aerodrome, on 5 January 2021

**Annie Edith Long**, CO in Personnel, CAA House, on 6 December 2020

**John Stephen Platt**, ATCO 1 at CAA House, on 14 January 2021

**Jean Graham Wood (Tansey)**, CA at Aviation House, Edinburgh, on 14 January 2021

**Sheila Henderson**, JMG 8 at Aviation House, Edinburgh, on 16 January 2021

**John Thomson Stewart**, ATSA 2 at SCOACC, on 16 January 2021

**Ian Charles Henry Bielby**, ATCO 2 at MOD(PE), Boscombe Down, on 5 January 2021

**Richard Armstrong Bishop**, PTMG, Flight Ops at Stansted Regional Office, on 16 January 2021

**John Gillan**, ATE 1 at Barnsford, on 18 January 2021

**Jack William Blanchard**, Deputy Director, Safety Services, Aviation House, on 7 January 2021

**William Frank Higham**, TA3 at Preston RS, on 11 January 2021

**Brian Leslie Widdowson**, Storeperson at Manchester Airport, on 22 January 2021

**John Bruce Philip**, Senior Accountant at CAA House, on 12 January 2021

**John Doherty**, ATSA 4 at SCOACC, on 27 January 2021

## £.S.D Quiz

15 February 2021 marked fifty years since Britain's coinage was decimalised. I wonder how many of you can answer the questions below on the pre-decimalisation money (pounds/shillings/pence).

1. What was the symbol for pence?
2. How many pennies in a pound?
3. How many pennies in a shilling?
4. How many shillings in a pound?
5. What was a "bob"?
6. What value was a crown?
7. What value was a half crown?
8. What value was a florin?
9. What value was a "thrupny bit or thrupence"?
10. What was a "tanner"?
11. What was a "Hay-pn'y"?
12. What was a "farthing"?
13. What value was a guinea?
14. What value was a half sovereign?
15. What was a quid?
16. What value was a groat?
17. What value did the 12 sided chunky bronze coin have?
18. What bank note did the 50p coin replace?

Answers: 1. D, 2. 240, 3. 12, 4. 20, 5. 1 shilling, 6. 5 shillings, 7. 2/6d, 8. 2 shillings, 9. 3d, 10. 6d, 11. Half penny, 12. quarter penny, 13. One pound one shilling, 14. 10 shillings, 15. 4d, 16. Pound, 17. 3d, 18. Ten shilling note.



# Secret Britain No 7

## WW2 Harvesting and the Processor

Bob Connolly

I am sure that all of you have heard of Bletchley Park and some of you have even worked there at one time. Its wartime role was as the National Code Breaking Centre where staff worked hard to break the coded signals intercepted between Germany and its forces and its role in breaking the codes sent by the German Enigma machine. However, I wonder how many of you were aware that the enemy transmissions were not exactly received at Bletchley Park but at special wireless intercept stations, referred to as Y stations located away from Bletchley. The RAF and Royal Navy had their own wireless intercept stations at Chicksands and Flowerdown respectively. However, what became the largest intercept team was probably Special Y Group (SYG), later called War Office Y Group (WOYG), that came under the control of MI8C and the Foreign Office.

SYG initially operated from a deep bunker that was constructed under Fort Bridgewoods for Y service work and this had direct telephone lines to Intelligence Service Headquarters in London. Many of the intercept staff who worked there were hand-picked by their commanding officer, Lt. Commander Ellingworth RN Rtd, who was given the rank of Major. My father had joined the Royal Navy in 1933 as a boy and became a wireless telegraphist, working mainly at shore stations, although he also spend some time at sea. He returned from a tour of duty in Aden in late 1938 to Chatham (HMS Pembroke) where he was married in the summer of 1939. According to his Royal Navy Certificate of Service he left the Royal Navy on 20 March 1940 and the reason stated on this document states "below naval physical standard", interestingly written in pencil. After a couple of weeks leave, he then joined Y Service at Fort Bridgewoods. Interestingly he still held his rank and was transferred to the Royal Naval Reserve. He remained with Y service until November 1946 when his period of naval service would have normally finished if he had remained with them.

A couple of things do not ring 100% true with his service record. Firstly, he was still physically fit and in fact after leaving WOYG service retrained as a primary school teacher specialising in physical training. Secondly, if he was actually not up to required naval fitness standard it is unlikely that he would have been placed in the RNR. Also being in the middle of a war, it is not likely the navy would have given him up easily for any voluntary transfer to Y Service. This would suggest that Ellingworth actually requested him join Y service as it seems likely that only Ellingworth himself could pull enough strings to allow this to happen.

In October 1940 the Fort Bridgewoods area was bombed and an oil bomb exploded at the entrance. This is one of the very few stories my father told me about his work with SYG. He was going on duty at the time it happened and apparently dived under a lorry for cover. There were a couple of lorries there that had just arrived, bringing the ATS girls for the shift change over. One of these suffered a direct hit killing a number of ATS girls on board. Following this incident combined with the increasing threat of invasion it was decided to move SYG to the RAF Y station at Chicksands. However, when they arrived there it was found that there was not enough operating space available.



As a result, Ellingworth travelled to London to complain directly to senior officials and it was then decided that a new station would be designed and rapidly built at Beaumanor, not far away. Beaumanor at that time was being used by the Army intelligence corps as an Intelligence School. The set rooms at Beaumanor were designed to look like buildings found on a normal country estate, for example cart sheds, workers cottages and the teleprinter room was designed to look like a cricket pavilion complete with false clock tower. The buildings were well spaced in case of bombing and the walls were blast proof up to above head height and had false windows painted on the exterior walls. The civilian wireless intercept operators were called Experimental Wireless Assistants (EWA). There was a walkway down the centre of the set rooms with a supervisor's desk at the end that had several telephones.



**Beaumanor**

Beside the Beaumanor site various antennas were located for the intercept work and they were also hidden from view. In fact, the RAF flight checked the antenna site to ensure that it was not visible from the air. It also had its own Adcock direction finder (D/F) antenna although it was directly linked to other D/F sites across the UK including Gilnahirk, a D/F and important comms stations for the North Atlantic, located just outside Belfast. At the outbreak of the WW2, it had been hoped that the Irish authorities would have permitted a D/F station to be located in Dingle, Southwest Ireland but it was refused.



**Examples of the disguised set huts used at Beaumanor**

Cont'd page 11

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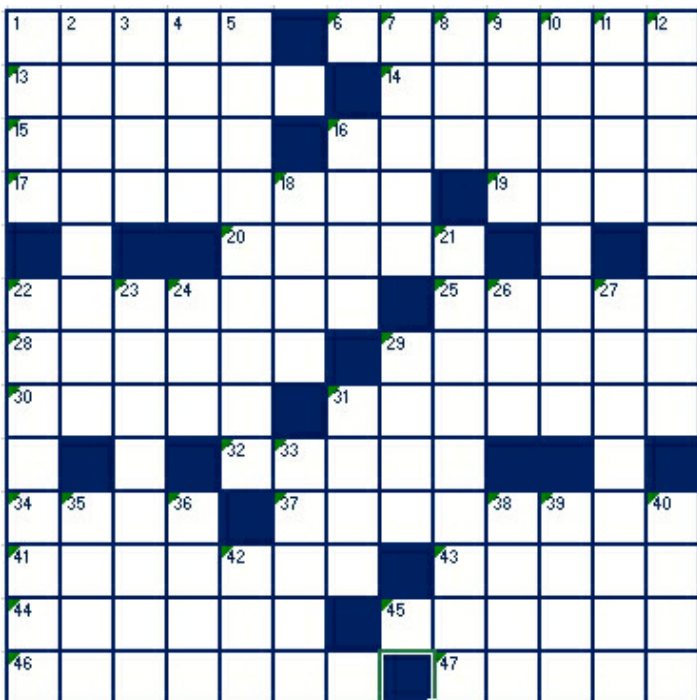
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**Roger Myers Crossword - March 2021**



**Across:**

1. Bedeck (5) 6. Features (7) 13. Counter (6)
14. Disreputable woman (6) 15. Modify (5)
16. Reddish-brown (7) 17. Covered cradle (8)
19. Chinese ounce (4) 20. Conclude (5)
22. Stole (7) 25. Employers (5) 28. Smoothed (6)
29. Fixed (6) 30. Cares for (5) 31. Larynx opening (7)
32. March (5) 34. Supports (4) 37. Go before (8)
41. Fading (7) 43. Unknown (5) 44. Swelling (6)
45. Accustomed (6) 46. Tripled (7) 47. Prophets (5)

**Down:**

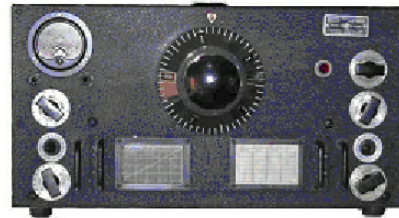
1. Cheerless (4) 2. Comparative (8) 3. Newts (4)
4. Prosecutes (4) 5. Harshes (9) 7. Closes (5)
8. Dance (3) 9. Formerly (4) 10. Purest (8) 11. Carry (4)
12. Artists (8) 16. Study (4) 18. Hardship (4)
21. Particular people (9) 22. Irritable (8) 23. Turncoat (8)
24. Also (3) 26. Harden (3) 27. Animals (8) 29. Chart (4)
31. Medal (4) 33. Female Indian title (5) 35. York (4)
36. Remains (4) 38. Indication (4) 39. Ireland (4)
40. Tips (4) 42. Poorly (3)

## Secret Britain No 7 Cont'd

Initially DST-100 Chatham receivers, designed to Ellingworth's specifications, were used for WW2 intercept work but these were later changed to American HRO receivers. Wireless telegraphy signals received were transcribed by hand while being received, collected for the operators by ATS staff and then sorted into priority with some being sent to Bletchley by teleprinter and more urgent signals being despatched by motorcycle courier. When a new signal was received, Beaumanor would immediately contact several D/F sites to tune into the signal and take bearings. Where the bearing lines crossed would indicate the location of the signal. Beaumanor and its out stations were, in essence, the ears of Bletchley, without them and the intercept out stations the code breakers would not have had many signals to work with. One could say that the intercept stations harvested the seeds for Bletchley to process.



**Chatham DST-100 Receiver**



**HRO Receiver**

The Beaumanor site became part of the GCHQ organisation several years after the war and eventually closed as an intercept station in the late 1960's. The site still remains in existence, complete with the spaced out set rooms, but is now an educational site that is not normally open to the public. However, I was fortunate to have been able to visit it several years ago with a couple of retired experts on a beautiful sunny spring day that, for me, was very emotional. It was a special day, not just for me but also for the site as it had just received listed status from English Heritage that morning.



**Author with guides at Beaumanor**



**Enigma Machine**

As we returned to the car park there was another surprise waiting for me. Another contact had arrived on site and opened the boot of his car to reveal an Enigma machine that he had recently purchased for his private collection. About two years later I had an email from my contacts telling me they were holding a small exhibition of spy radio transceivers in one of the rooms in Beaumanor hall. This inspired me for another trip to the site as I was not able to gain access to the manor house on my previous trip. On that trip I saw two wall murals in one of the main hallways that were a tribute to the war time work of WYOG (images below). BSM refers to the Beaumanor staff magazine that developed from a tongue in cheek typed single sheet of paper that one wit produced soon after the unit's arrival at Beaumanor and written in biblical form as "The Chronicles of St. Upid" The first four issues were produced this way before the official BSM was born. My father had fortunately retained his copies of the original four typed sheets.



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## CONTRAIL SMALL AD

### Holiday villa to rent near Grand Bay in Mauritius.

3 bedrooms villa in Pereybere, on the coastal road, opposite the beach, near restaurants, supermarket etc.

It's on 3 levels: sit/dining room & kitchen,

1<sup>st</sup> floor: 2 bedrooms, terrace, toilet/shower room.

2<sup>nd</sup> floor: master bedroom, terrace, toilet/shower room and washing machine.

Grand Bay is found in the district of Rivière du Rempart at the Northern western part of the Island along a beautiful natural bay. Grand Bay is situated about 25 km north of Port Louis, the Capital of Mauritius. It is found between the village of Pereybere (from the east) and Trou aux Biches (from the west). The drive from Grand Bay to Port Louis takes about 30 minutes, while the drive to the airport takes about 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Grand Bay has a good bus route leading to key locations in Mauritius. You can easily get the bus to Port Louis or to other cities such as Triolet, Goodlands, Grand Gaube and can easily venture further across the island.

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This 3 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 a coastal village with all you would expect in a peaceful and friendly atmosphere. Offers over £115K . A value for money buy to let. Please contact: [njmurdoch@btinternet.com](mailto:njmurdoch@btinternet.com) or tel. 01738- 441244.

### Forty Vehicles Quiz - Roger Myers

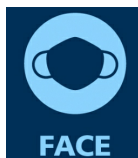
Given here are 40 anagrams concerning vehicles or cars and/or their makers. Some of the words or names are unusual, but they are all in one dictionary or another. Some of the models or makers names may be a little abstruse, but all of these vehicles are out there somewhere in the world!

- |           |             |             |               |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. East   | 11. Syria   | 21. Flacon  | 31. Engrave   |
| 2. Flog   | 12. Voice   | 22. Looted  | 32. Latrine   |
| 3. Loop   | 13. Vials   | 23. Mooned  | 33. Mingler   |
| 4. Yoga   | 14. Airers  | 24. Outran  | 34. Neutral   |
| 5. Brion  | 15. Airman  | 25. Pineal  | 35. Outrage   |
| 6. Cymar  | 16. Carotin | 26. Sector  | 36. Porches   |
| 7. Large  | 17. Clonus  | 27. Stripe  | 37. Amirates  |
| 8. Louts  | 18. Counts  | 28. Throne  | 38. Enchoric  |
| 9. Macro  | 19. Cranes  | 29. Carpets | 39. Oleander  |
| 10. Slate | 20. Daunts  | 30. Cointer | 40. Valorised |

And finally, which American car maker's name is an anagram of a Kia car model?  
Answers below:

Seat, Golf, Polo, Aygo (Toyota), Robin, Camry (Toyota), Regal, Lotus, Croma (Fiat), Tesla, Yaris, Iveco (Industrial Vehicles), Alvis, Sierra, Cortina, Consul, Tucson (Hyundai), Carens (Kia), Datsun, Falcon (Ford), Toledo, Mondeo, Touran (VW), Alpine, Escort, Sprite, Hornet, Spectra, Citroen, Avenger, Renault, Gremilin (AMC), Renault, Touareg (VW), Porsche, Maserati, Corniche (Rolls-Royce), Delorean, Silverado (Chevrolet), (Pontiac, Picanto (Kia))

### Answers



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