

CONTRAIL

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

ALL MEMBERS POST AGM ISSUE

AGM Zooms Ahead

At the recent 2020 AGM, held on Zoom, there were several changes to the RSA Central Committee. Tony Cowell stood down as Vice Chairman but remains on the Committee and David Hobday did not stand for re-election. Following a vote, Vince Pritchard, formerly with NATS and an Edinburgh Branch committee member, was elected to fill the vacancy. Andy Maynard is now Vice-Chairman.

So, the full picture is:

Chairman	Anne Noonan
Vice Chairman	Andy Maynard
Treasurer	Matthew Bains
Secretary	Tony Motture



Committee Members:

Duncan Boulton, Colin Chisholm, Tony Cowell, John Doig, Ian Johnson, Tim Mackay, Vincent Price and Richard Wright.

Co-opted members:

Richard Woodroffe, Bob Connolly, Peter Haigh.

David Hobday, who stood down at the AGM, was co-opted to remain as Pensions Representative for the time being.

Very many thanks to both Tony Cowell and David Hobday for all their hard work, help and commitment to the RSA and here's to another year.

Two motions had been submitted to the AGM and these were as follows:

Motion 1 - That the RSA creates a new role on the committee for a 'Diversity & Inclusion rep'
A vote was held using the Zoom polling feature. The motion fell.

Motion 2 - That 'gender neutral' terminology be used for committee positions within RSA (eg Chair or Chairperson rather than Chairman).

A vote was held using the Zoom polling feature. While a majority was in favour, it failed to reach a two thirds majority as required under paragraph 9 of the constitution and so the motion fell.

The Zoom polling feature prevented the Secretary, as host to the meeting, from voting in any of the ballots. Examination of the votes cast showed that whichever way he voted would not have changed the outcome so it was agreed to count his votes as abstentions.

More AGM reports may be found throughout this issue of Contrail.

New Editor for Contrail

The RSA is pleased to announce that one of our members, Peter Haigh, has volunteered to take over the role of Contrail editor. Our current editor, Bob Connolly, will be helping Peter to settle into his new role over the next few issues to ensure the current standard of Contrail is maintained and developed in the future after Peter takes over and is settled into the position. Members may read Peter's profile on page 7 of this issue.

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FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Anne Noonan

Welcome to the AGM issue of Contrail and I hope you have all managed to stay safe and well through the last few trying months. Thanks to Covid restrictions, the AGM took the form of a Zoom meeting, replacing the Gala weekend we were looking forward to enjoying. So, it's fingers crossed for 2022 and an April weekend in Cambourne,

Moving on to later this year (and with fingers firmly crossed) we have the Annual Reunion on Thursday 14 October from noon to 4pm. It will be held as usual at The Freemasons Arms, Long Lane, Covent Garden, London - very close to Covent Garden tube station and a booking form will be found in this issue. Have no worries - however you pay, no money will be used in the event of cancellation. Do come along and meet old colleagues and maybe even make some new friends.

My apologies for the fact that my e-mail address was wrong in the last issue and on the website. If you wish to get in touch with me about any issues or items of interest, please contact chair@caa-rsa.org.uk

Finally, because they had no reservations at a busy restaurant, my elderly neighbour and his wife were told there would be a 45-minute wait for a table. "Young man, we're both 90 years old," the husband said. "We may not have 45 minutes." They were seated immediately.

And a sign outside a second-hand shop read "We exchange anything - bicycles, washing machines etc. Why not bring your wife along and get a wonderful bargain?"

Anne Noonan

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 if you would like to join us.

Centenarians

Colleague John Campbell writes that on 15 March this year Mr Geoff Large, who retired from A Watch ATC at Heathrow in 1981, reached the good old age of 100 years old. His question is "is he the only Centenarian in the history of CAA/NATS?" If you can confirm or perhaps know of any other former CAA/NATS staff who have reached this milestone, please get in touch with Contrail Editor, Bob Connolly. Thank you.

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. Raneer 35. Ebor 36. Stub 38. Clue 39. Eire 40. Ends 42. Ill

AGM Thanks

Ted Tilly reminded the meeting that Tony Cowell was standing down as Vice-Chairman after many years of service. Also David Hobday was retiring as an elected member of the Central Committee.

Tributes were paid to their contributions over the years and a vote of thanks was recorded.

Roger Myers Hidden Countries Quiz

Each of the following twenty-four words are embedded, unseparated by other letters, in the name of a country or territory: for example, 'Dust' is in Hindustan and 'Gent' is in Argentina. None of the words are at the start or the end of a country's name. How many can you find?

Aced, Bout, Crone, Dive, Done, Ether, Elan, Etna, Glad, Hail, Hell, Home, Lays, Love, Mini, Odes, Pine, Ragu, Rain, Rune, Star, Swan, Tens, Wand.

Solution page 5.

EDITORIAL



I am sure most of you have had at least your first Covid vaccination, if not both jabs, as we are slowly returning to life outside lockdown. By the time you read this issue of Contrail it may be possible not only to see family members that you have not visited for well over a year due to restrictions, but also be able to give your grandchildren a long-awaited hug.

Easing of restrictions will also allow us to have holidays at home, although foreign holidays may still be uncertain this year as countries on the Government's traffic light list change. Since the Covid-19 pandemic hit last year great use has been made of online services for not only social reasons but also for many who were working from home.

I cannot help wondering how society would have coped in this pandemic without the use of the Internet and electronic communications. Working from home would have been very difficult at best, keeping in touch with friends and relations would have been done by letters and telephone calls, and shopping online would have not happened. Today's technology has proved absolutely vital to the world of commerce and social contact, not to mention our mental well being.

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

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 August 2021

for September 2021 issue

Chairman's AGM Report

A quick look at the past year from the RSA perspective. In August we were very upset to learn of the death of Central Committee member, Sheila West. Sheila had been unwell for some time and unable to travel from Edinburgh for Committee meetings. Fortunately, John Doig, also from Scotland, was able to represent her at meetings and is now on the Committee.

In mid-November, Northern Ireland Branch reported the death of Bill Eames, founder of the Branch and long-term Chairman. For many years he represented the Branch at the RSA AGMs. A real gentleman, sadly missed,

Meanwhile the Central Committee carried on with business as usual - as far as possible - holding two meetings via Zoom. The September issue of Contrail announced that the RSA was going green. For those members requesting copies of Contrail by post, Membership Secretary, Ian Johnson, had negotiated a farewell to plastic wrappers and the introduction of new recyclable packaging,

During the year, NATS scrapped its pre-retirement seminars at which the RSA had a recruiting 'slot' (the CAA having done the same a couple of years ago). We have prepared new RSA recruitment material which is now being sent by the Pension Scheme administrators to all forthcoming CAA and NATS retirees. Additionally, we have developed an on-line recruitment facility which seems to be working very well.

There has been a complete rebuild of the database for which we owe Webmaster Richard Woodroffe an enormous vote of thanks, and a small sub-committee is working on ways to make joining the RSA more attractive to people eligible to join.

I must say my sincere thanks to my fellow committee members for all their support and efforts throughout a very difficult year. In particular to Richard Woodroffe, our extremely hard working Webmaster, and to Bob Connolly, who despite ill health for both him and his wife, Diane, has kept Contrail on time and as informative as ever.

Membership Update

Ian Johnson - Membership Secretary

What a year!

Highlights

- Like most organisations, lockdowns and the pandemic have curtailed our activities in the year. We really appreciate your understanding and continued support. Only 5 members actually resigned in the period.
- We have 4767 members - unfortunately a reducing number in this difficult year, and about 60% pay subscriptions.
- After the end of the reporting year an on-line membership application form has been implemented. Additionally, adverts have been placed in both CAA and NATS. This has encouraged a larger number of applications than normal at this time of year and we hope this will continue. Please tell your friends if they have not yet joined that the on-line application can be found on our membership webpage. Very easy!
- No members have asked to see the data we hold on them, nor have any asked to have contact details deleted.

Contrail

Email Contrail delivery continues to grow and a few new members asked for a paper copy in the year. The Central Committee therefore decided to make email the primary method of delivery in future. Printed Contrails are now delivered with paper wrappers instead of non-recyclable plastic film. This was however delayed to September due to lockdowns before the June issue. We encourage all who have the printed version to switch to the electronic version wherever possible to save cost and waste. Just email me to ask and I'll make it happen.

Branches

Helping to run a Branch does not need to be time-consuming. For the majority of volunteers, a couple of hours here or there is all that is required in a year. I think most members probably think it is an onerous task that would interfere with their 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.

Moving?

Following the March Contrail distribution, I have had to check over 140 addresses as the Contrails are returned as 'moved away' etc. My postman hates me I think! This does not include bounced emails either.

Pensions do not tell me if you have moved or changed contact details. **You** need to do that. That also applies for any changes in email, telephone contact or address however, Contrail is delivered. It is your responsibility to help me keep the database up to date. Email is the easiest way.

We do, however, value your membership and hope that you get benefits from it as we open up again.



EDINBURGH BRANCH

There are now two Edinburgh Branch members on the RSA Central Committee; this was effective from the virtual RSA AGM held on 7 May 2021. The Branch Committee continues to operate in a 'caretaker' role, communicating with each other by either email or telephone.

A 'Re-start Lunch', combined with a small amount of Branch procedural to re-elect a Branch Committee is the main action that the Branch needs to take when Scottish Government COVID-19 protection regulations permit. As previously mentioned, there is an expression of interest in taking over the Branch secretarial role from within the existing Committee. There is also a further vacancy on our Committee to fill.

Our Branch '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 web site and on Face-Book. If any Branch member, on reading this, including those members formally listed under H&I, would like to become more involved in assisting the RSA at Branch level, please contact any member of the Committee. Branch Committee members are listed on the RSA Web page under Edinburgh Branch.

Finally, if you wish to add your name/contact details to the Branch emailing list please contact the Branch Chairman, John Doig. Contact details are listed under 'Branch Contacts' in a separate section of this edition of Contrail.

LONDON (& HOME COUNTIES) BRANCH

Although we hope that our LHC Branch members will have had their second Covid-jabs by now, the process of unlocking 'lockdown' was still a work in progress as this edition of "Contrail" went to press. But it looks as if we can at least try to do *something*. So, our LHC Branch Summer 2021 Provisional Programme is offered subject to government guidelines. Please note that some of these events are "hopefuls" and dates are targets so members are urged to refer to the LHC pages on the RSA website for booking confirmation of the event and arrangements as they are made.

August: Guided walk through historic central London (to include lunch) date and arrangements to be confirmed.

September: Visit to the Biggin Hill Heritage Museum (postponed from 2020 due to lockdown): **September 15** guided tour (with lunch if requested).

October: CAA-RSA Annual Reunion: **October 14** at The Freemasons' Arms, Longacre, Covent Garden, London WC2 - to include a fork-buffet luncheon. (For information only, as this is a National event, it cannot be booked through the LHC Branch).

December: Our annual visit to the famous St Martin-in-the-Fields afternoon Carol Concert, followed by an early supper at a nearby restaurant.

Before then, we're aiming to hold an online LHC Branch AGM: Sorry we can't offer you a free lunch this year. If we have your email address we'll invite you directly. But if we don't, you may lose your opportunity to partake in the debate and vote. So, if we don't have your current email address, please email us at: lhc@caa-rsa.org.uk.

Sadly, our revered events organiser Paul Artiss has announced his intention to retire from March 2022, after ten years of organising brilliant events for our Branch, and we need to recruit a replacement for him. We thank Paul totally for all his efforts, but the world moves on - and so do our members. So, whether you're a long-established RSA member or a newly-retired CAA or NATS employee and you think "Well I could do that - maybe the same - or maybe differently" please let us know at: lhc@caa-rsa.org.uk

Best wishes - and hope to see you all when we're allowed.

NORTHWEST BRANCH

The organised Zoom meeting virtual 'coffee breaks' on the third Thursday afternoon of the month are continuing and are still popular in keeping contact amongst members.

NW Branch is hoping that, by the time of reading, the May 17 key date in the 'Roadmap' will have passed as planned and the first of the resumed monthly walks will have taken place on Wed 19 May.

Covid permitting, walks will then resume on the second Wednesday of every month. We also hope to be able to include pub lunches at the end of the walks from June or July.

Two more items are now on the social schedule for this year:- a Manchester City Centre 3 hour afternoon cruise with buffet at £32pp on **Sat 11 September** and an Autumn lunch at the Wycliffe Hotel, Stockport on Wed 6 October.

Details of monthly walks and other events that may be organised will be posted on the RSA website and/or available from Andy Maynard, northwestrsa@virginmedia.com

Bob's Tip

Unsolicited phone calls have reached epidemic proportions during lockdown. You block their number and they call you using another number. They are now even using fake mobile numbers to trick you. I think I may have found a simple solution. While I do not speak Irish Gaelic I strung three random Irish words together "Bord na Móna" (an Irish peat company), "Bhaile Átha Cliath" (Irish for Dublin) and "Fir" (men in Irish). Say the words together quickly and they hang up and don't phone again!

I have also used this tactic very successfully on holiday in Europe when I was being pestered by doggy street traders or illegal money changers who seem to have a basic knowledge of several languages. This leaves them totally puzzled and they go away. Any less common language produces the same result.

BRANCH DIARY DATES

WESSEX BRANCH

Subject to any Covid restrictions in force at the time.

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!



Corona Virus – special update

The travel club remains open to ALL members of the Association, - membership is automatic.

All our travel partners remain in business, however, many of their staff have been made redundant or on furlough. This means that departments like their Affinity group discount offices have temporarily closed down.

Our affinity agreements are usually renewed annually, but this is difficult to do when the relevant departments are currently closed.

Good news, **Fred. Olsen** have re-confirmed our discount scheme for 2021. The Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines concession was amended on 1 January 2020. New, first time cruisers will receive a 5% RSA discount. Repeat customers will receive the RSA 5% discount & a loyalty 5% discount. Very often, the best rates are obtained by telephone using the RSA code of RSATS5. You should get the discount over and above any current offer. Also note that they have taken delivery of two new ships. They are currently offering UK coastal cruises, with no port stops, for Summer 2021. Full offerings are bookable for Autumn 2021 & 2022, including around the world cruise. There are some pretty good offers at the moment with drink & tip packages.

Newmarket Holidays (escorted tours by land, sea & air UK & worldwide) 10% discount on their best offers using code CAANATS. However, at the time of writing this concession has not been re-confirmed for 2021. The web code no longer works for now. However, it is worth quoting our code in telephone bookings. Fingers crossed that Newmarket will be able to reconfirm in due course.

Interline deals are available using **Touchdown & Staff Travel Voyage** and these remain valid for 2021.

Barrhead Travel, online, in shop & telephone, offer a 5% discount on all package tours by most leading operators, 10% can be obtained if it is a Barrhead branded package tour. Quote code: Affinity RSATS. Again, we are unable to re-confirm this facility for 2021 yet. However, still quote the code and, hopefully, they will allow.

Details of the Travel Club along with any updates are posted both here and on the website.



The RSA operates 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 located @RSACANATS

Solution to Roger Myers Hidden Country Quiz

Macedonia, Djibouti, Micronesia, Maldives, Indonesia, Netherlands, Iceland, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Thailand, Seychelles, Dahomey, Malaysia, Slovenia, Dominica, Rhodesia, Philippines, Nicaragua or Paraguay, Ukraine, Brunei, Costa Rica, Botswana, Liechtenstein, Rwanda.

RSA22

AGM & Gala Weekend



DoubleTree by Hilton Cambridge Belfry Hotel
Cambourne, Nr Cambridge

21-24 APRIL

NOTE THE VENUE RESERVE THE DATE & BE THERE!!

More Details / Booking Form in the September Contrail

Treasurer's Report

INCOME

EXPENDITURE

Website Report

Over the last year, the website has achieved a 100 % up time. There have been no malicious attacks by those who would attempt to hack into websites.

The current cost of the website provision has now risen, the first time in 6 years. The current bill is £82.27 for the period 31/07/2020 – 30/07/2021. This includes domain charges. Next year's bill will be slightly different since there was a refund on some of last year's bill at the old rate. The cost of the forum is approx. £33 per year by an American forum provider, 'Website Toolbox'. (Higher than last year, but because of the exchange rate, not the company)

FORUM

The forum can be reached from the website address (<http://www.caa-rsa.org.uk/>) or can be accessed directly at <http://caa-rsa.forumcommunity.co.uk/>. The forum is not particularly well used but does have the advantage that it holds special offers for holiday trips. If you have items that you think would be suitable to be displayed on the website, please feel free to contact the Webmaster directly at the email address webster@caa-rsa.org.uk.

WEBSITE

Last year I reported about the redesign of the website and how it had been made capable of being viewed from smart phones and tablets. This year I have been able to put together a screen to enable an on-line application form which gets sent directly to the membership secretary. This had been attempted before but the external companies looked at all had issues with the way we would have had to achieve the requirement. This year, the membership secretary also suggested a company that I had looked at before and I initially turned it down. But, after further investigation, I discovered that they had changed their procedures which meant that the on-line form could work for us and I then designed the form under the guidance of the Membership Secretary. Since we are only using one form and only one email address, the system at the moment is free to the RSA. The website continues to hold an electronic version of the crossword published in each Contrail which will display a message if you successfully complete the crossword.

EMAIL CONTRAIL DISTRIBUTION

The email distribution of Contrail is handled by the Webmaster at a cost of only £7.41 per year via a distribution company. Since the September issue, I now dispatch the issue a second time, roughly 2 weeks after the first dispatch. This provides a second chance for those who have either forgotten, where the email did not arrive, or where the email has gone into a spam folder (hoping that they might see this issue before it is deleted from the folder). For example, for the December issue, sent out on 6 December 2020, 1329 emails were sent out but only 654 members downloaded the issue. The second mailshot I sent to those who had not downloaded from the first mailshot was sent out on 16 December and a further 242 people downloaded the issue. (A similar pattern emerged for the all members edition in March 2021 1439 sent out, 775 downloaded, a further 173 downloaded after the second mailshot)

PULSE

During the year, two editions of NATS Pulse have been forthcoming. January and February. For the moment, NATS are not producing anymore because of the pandemic.

INTRODUCING...



Meet Peter Haigh who worked for NATS in air traffic engineering from 1973 until he took early retirement in 2010. Peter has volunteered to become the next editor of Contrail and will be working in parallel with current editor, Bob Connolly, on the next two issues with the aim of taking over following the publication of the December issue.

Starting out as apprentice at Bletchley Park and following a stint at Aberdeen Airport and an Engineering Degree from Manchester University, Peter spent the next 18 years at CAA House. He worked on Nav Aids, Communications and Control & Monitoring systems, and eventually moved on to developing requirements for future systems. He relocated to West Drayton in 2000 and subsequently to CTC Whiteley in 2004, joining Systems/Enterprise Engineering there until his retirement.

In 2019 he completed an Arts Degree with the Open University and, in his own words "can string a few words together in a legible, understandable and, hopefully, entertaining form." As for volunteering to edit Contrail, "apparently a volunteer is someone who didn't understand the question!!!!".

Peter and his wife Julie now live in Glossop, Derbyshire, where, Covid permitting, Peter plays cornet (and, occasionally, trumpet) in a brass band. He is also tracing his family history and from time to time arranges music and edits sound recordings. He is looking forward to liaising with Bob Connolly and to another pursuit - that of editing Contrail.

How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?

I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.

OBITUARIES

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

Michael Heaton Woods, ATCO 2 at SCOACC, Prestwick, on 2 February 2021

Eric Horner, ATCO 1 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 7 February 2021

William Henry Hands, ATCO 2 at RAE, Bedford, on 6 February 2021

Derek John Manley, ATCO 2 at College of ATC, Hurn Airport, on 12 January 2021

George Henry Goldstraw, ATE 1 at Manchester Airport, on 18 January 2021

Dorothy Maud Smith, Telephonist at Cardiff Airport, on 21 January 2021

Derek Marley Corner, TA1 Senior Storeman at FCU Stansted, on 13 February 2021

Arthur William Smythe, ATCO at SCOACC, on 14 February 2021

Theresa McCaighy, Admin Assistant at Manchester Airport, on 19 February 2021

Stephen Robert Moore, SRG Level 4 at Aviation House, Gatwick, on 20 January 2021

Allan Norman Edwards, SATE at Sipson Court, on 25 February 2021

Brigida Petrazzuolo, Band 2.1 at Gatwick Airport, on 31 January 2021

Peter George Jones, ATCO 2 at Belfast Airport, on 19 February 2021

Marilyn Anne Basing, MSG 7 at Southampton Airport, on 4 February 2021

Henry Thomas Race, Band 5.1 at TEE Gatwick, on 28 February 2021

Anthony George Foord, Director of Information Devices at CAA House, on 2 March 2021

Peter Michael Gray, SMG 2 at Gatwick, on 2 March 2021

Michael Patrick Mansfield, Band 12.3 at CAA House, on 14 January 2021

Marie Rose Thorne, SMG 6 at Aviation House, Gatwick, on 20 January 2021

Mary Murray, ATCA 2 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 10 February 2021

Mary Alyson Bell, B3 at SAU, Edinburgh, on 14 December 2020

Josephine Violet Keats, Data Prop Operator at Aviation House, Gatwick, on 16 January 2021

Robert James Ivory, PTMG at LTCC, on 7 March 2021

Brian Woolliscroft, ATE 1 at Manchester Airport, on 13 March 2021

Alexander Robert Hunter Mackenzie, TA General Hand at Inverness Airport, on 23 February 2021

Tony Richard Tapsell, SMG at CAA House, London, on 12 March 2021

Mavis Cross, SP/Typist at Redhill, on 7 March 2021

John Stuart Earl, HEO at Aviation House, London, on 14 March 2021

Kathleen Francis McCarthy, Telephonist at Manchester Airport, on 17 March 2021

Irving William Graham, ATCO 1 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 1 April 2021

Valerie Ann Emerton, MSG 6 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 29 March 2021

John Clarence Flower, ATE 1 at TEE, Gatwick, on 31 January 2021

Dora Ward, Messenger at CAA House, on 13 March 2021

Robert West, ATSA 2 at Heathrow, on 27 November 2020

Robert Harvey Hutchison, JMG 8 (RR) at Prestwick Airport, on 4 April 2021

John Miller Bruce, Band 11.2 at Aberdeen Airport, on 10 April 2021

Michael Edward Yates, ATCO 3 at Aberdeen Airport, on 23 February 2021

Gordon Frank Hayden, JMG 1 at Cheltenham, on 3 April 2021

Kenneth Jagger, ATE 2 at Manchester Airport, on 14 April 2021

Winifred Doreen Fleetwood, EO at Steers House, Liverpool, on 14 April 2021

Raymond Anthony Church, TA3 at SAMU, on 20 January 2021

Lily Mary Bailey, Telephonist at Gatwick Airport, on 18 April 2021

Gerald John Took, ATCO 1 at ATC, London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 28 April 2021

James Leonard Curle, Managing Director at CAA House, on 20 April 2021

Sarah McGregor McLean Auld, ATCA 2 at Prestwick Airport, on 22 April 2021

James Winterford Phillips, ATE 1 at Pailton, on 24 April 2021

Rodents and Artificial Intelligence

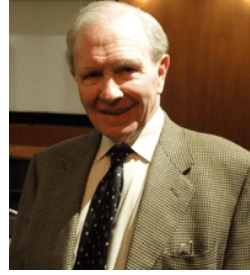
I began to work on the layout for this issue of Contrail and after a few minutes my wireless mouse froze and refused to move. Thankfully I know how to use a computer without a mouse and was able to shut it down without any data being lost. My first thought was its battery had failed, however, as my son had my multi-meter away for a job he was doing I was not able to confirm if this was the problem. As a precaution I decided to replace it and, although I normally keep a few AA and AAA size long life alkaline batteries in the house, for some reason I did not have any as during the full lockdown here in Northern Ireland no local essential business that were open stocked them. However, I did have a zinc chloride battery and put that into the mouse. Great, it worked for all of ten minutes then the cursor froze again.

Next came all the usual checks, uninstall the mouse driver and then reinstall it and opening the unit to give it a good clean. Again, it worked for five minutes or so before freezing. I tried various other things, including a part used long-life battery that I had come across, but the end result was the same. As lockdown restrictions had just been eased, we went to a larger supermarket in another town for our weekly groceries. While there I purchased a new wireless mouse in the belief that mine had just suffered too much use. I brought it home and set it beside the computer and tried my existing mouse. Since I set the new mouse beside the computer the existing mouse has worked perfectly. Artificial intelligence – no way. I am now convinced that the mouse quite obviously has a brain and feelings – just not as we know it!

Retired Staff Association - Who's Who



President Bob Coles



Vice-President Leslie Priestley

Elected Officers



Chair
Anne Noonan



Vice-chair
Andy Maynard



Treasurer
Matthew Baines



Hon. Secretary
Tony Motture

Elected Committee Members



Duncan Boulton
Welfare



Tony Cowell
Vice Chaiman
Emeritus



Ian Johnson
Membership
Secretary



Colin Chisholm
Member Nominated
CAAPS Director



Richard Wright
OPA Rep



John Doig

Photo not available
at present

Vince Pritchard



Tim MacKay

Co-opted Committee Members



Bob Connolly
Contrail Editor



Peter Haigh
New Contrail
Editor



Richard Woodroffe
Web Master



David Hobday
Pensions Rep.

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

CHAIRMAN Anne Noonan
VICE CHAIRMAN Andy Maynard
SECRETARY Tony Motture
TREASURER Matthew Baines
WELFARE COORDINATOR Duncan Boulton
PENSIONS REP David Hobday
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Ian Johnson
WEBMASTER Richard Woodroffe
MEMBERS John Doig
Tim McKay
Tony Cowell
Vincent Pritchard

TRAVEL & SOCIAL MEDIA Andy Maynard
PENSIONER MND Colin Chisholm
OPA REP Richard Wright
EDITOR CONTRAIL Bob Connolly / Peter Haigh
(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, including 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.

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BRANCH CONTACTS

COTSWOLD: TBA

DOWN

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)

John Doig, 1/26 Western Harbour Drive, Edinburgh, EH6 6LR.



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@caa-rsa.org.uk

NORTHERN IRELAND

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

NORTH WEST

Andy Maynard, 31 Edenbridge Road, Cheadle, Cheshire, SK8 5PX.



northwestrsa@virginmedia.com

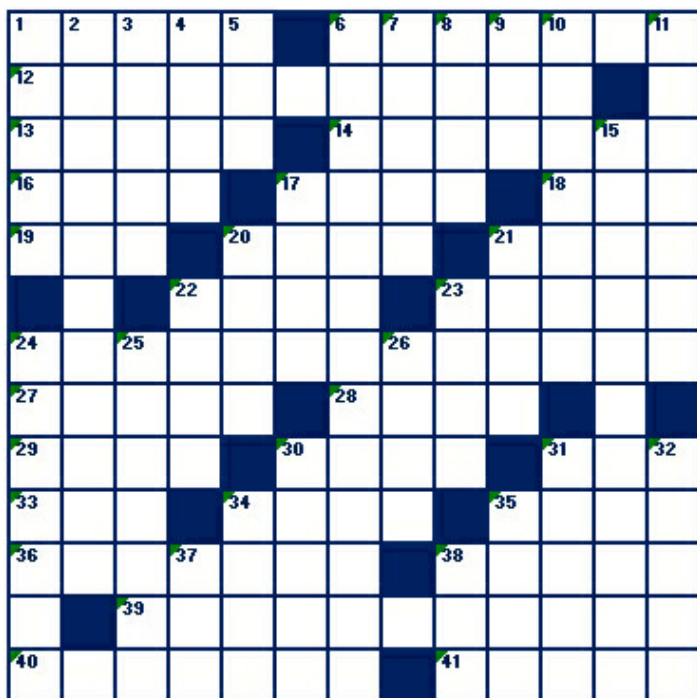
WESSEX (including Solent)

Chris Swinn. 3 Chrichel Mount Road, Poole, Dorset, BH14 8LT



CAA-RSA-Wessex@hotmail.com

Roger Myers Crossword - June 2021



Across:

1. Small fish (5)
6. Wild duck (7)
12. Forewarning (11)
13. Re-ignited (5)
14. Old hands (7)
16. Slightly open (4)
17. Cicatrix (4)
18. Carpet (3)
19. Man (3)
20. Burn (4)
21. Desert (4)
22. Spirit (4)
23. Group (5)
24. Peculiarly (13)
27. Sea (5)
28. Recommend (4)
29. Rice-like (4)
30. Sadly (4)
31. Tease (3)
33. Spoil (3)
34. A pair (4)
35. Instance (4)
36. Factor (7)
38. Stages (5)
39. 100-year old person (11)
40. Timidity (7)
41. Day-labourers (5)

Down:

1. Mine prop (5)
2. Harmful (11)
3. Pass on (5)
4. Muslim Prince (4)
5. Child (3)
6. Gets it wrong (13)
7. Fragrant oil (5)
8. Deceiver (4)
9. Record (3)
10. Flower (7)
11. Grimily (7)
15. Extravagantly humorous (11)
17. Spurn (4)
20. Think up (4)
21. Presented (4)
22. Remain (4)
23. Porkers (4)
24. Window types (7)
25. Concealment (7)
26. Jazz type (4)
30. Relatives (5)
31. Wireless (5)
32. Pulses (5)
34. Valley (4)
35. Heart (4)
37. Chaps (3)
38. Rubbish (3)

Secret Britain. Bob Connolly

It is easy for us in this day and age, with mobile phones, satellite television and the latest up to date media coverage of conflicts worldwide, to forget that during the Second World War none of these things existed. With regards to radio and the UK listener, the BBC was the only radio station operating in the UK. Families would gather around the radio in the home, or wireless as it was called in those days, to listen to the latest news broadcast on allied advances, air raid damage etc from the various war correspondents.

Being government controlled of course meant there were certain restrictions on the broadcasters and often news would be effectively watered down to reduce the possibility of the general public becoming demoralised by heavy loss at home and abroad. This was particularly relevant during the Blitz when the German Airforce was bombing cities across the UK and many civilians were being killed and injured. Newspapers were also controlled to a degree. When Germany was launching its V1, and later V2, rockets towards London, killing many civilians, the War Cabinet inserted fake obituary information in the press. They knew that German agents would be feeding information back to Berlin on how effective the V1 and V2 campaigns were, by obtaining information from newspapers. In an attempt to reduce the death toll caused by these weapons the War Cabinet placed not just fake death notices in newspapers but also fake locations by indicating that the rockets had landed north of London, when in fact they had not. The reason for this fake news was to try to convince Germany that their rockets were flying past London and hope that they would reduce their range. In reality, by doing this it would mean that the rockets would actually fall short of London causing less casualties.

Apart from those listening at home the BBC was also being listened to by our service personnel whenever and wherever they could. Again the watered down information was designed to keep their spirits up for the various battles to come. In effect, this was a double-edged sword but there was another reason for some control of the news and that was the Germans, who would also be monitoring the various broadcasts, would be lead into thinking that they were not doing just as well as their own people were saying. Keeping military personnel happy at training and holding centres around the UK was very important. If they believed things were not too bad then one had a decent fighting force ready to give its all when called upon.

The BBC was given what is now a well known role by using their broadcasts into Europe to transmit secret coded messages to our spies and resistance workers operating in the occupied countries. These coded messages were broadcast as seemingly innocent personal messages such as "auntie Mary's cat has had kittens". To our spies and resistance workers this would mean something entirely different, perhaps "we will drop your arms tonight" or "sabotage the railway line before daybreak". This was a very important role to transmit coded messages to the resistance fighters in occupied Europe - not just to disrupt the Axis occupation forces but also in preparing the way for Allied operations in Europe.

Another role that the Government gave to the BBC was in 1939 their monitoring service. The BBC Monitoring Service organisation was formed in 1939 to provide the British Government with access to foreign media and propaganda. It provided the government with valuable information during World War II, particularly in places where foreign journalists were banned. The organisation played an important role in helping observers keep track of developments during the Cold War, the disintegration of the Iron Curtain and collapse of the Soviet Union. Also monitored were the Yugoslav Wars and the Middle East. The service's first home, between 1939 and 1943, was at Wood Norton in Worcestershire before they relocated to a new headquarters in 1944 at Caversham Park. The BBC Monitoring Service is still functional today and has a signals receiving station Crowsley Park in Oxfordshire and remained based at Caversham Park until 2018 before moving their staff to London.

Today we are also very familiar with the term "fake news". The War Cabinet knew that radio was a vital ingredient to the relaxation of armed forces be they allied or enemy. With this in mind they built a number of top-secret broadcast stations across the southern part of England. These were to be what is now called Clandestine Radio Stations and their sole purpose was to transmit to enemy forces. Programmes were recorded at a secret location in London and transferred onto gramophone records and were sent by special courier to these secret radio station transmitter sites for broadcast. The plan was to convince the German forces that these were in fact radio stations transmitting to them from Germany and other occupied sites in Europe. Once the War Office had established this, they would move to the next phase of the operation later in the war by providing false information occasionally that would demoralise the enemy forces. For example, a message would be broadcast to Heinz, the commander of U Boat 123, congratulating him on becoming a father and having a new baby son. This seemingly innocent message would be heard by poor Heinz who has been stuck on his U boat for almost a year. Of course, poor old Heinz would get rather annoyed believing that his wife was being unfaithful to him and wanted to get back home as soon as possible to sort things out.

Later in the war these clandestine stations broadcast fake instructions on formations that various forces should adopt to indicate surrender to the Allies. They were designed to convince German forces into believing that these were genuine German broadcasts and these fake broadcast stations even went as far as causing sudden breaks in transmission to coincide with the allied bombing of the German cities they were pretending to transmit from. These stations formed another part of Project Ultra. This form of clandestine broadcasting is still used today by many governments during conflicts. An example of this was during the Iraq war when the Americans transmitted both radio and television clandestine broadcasts to the citizens of Iraq.

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. The venue is close to Covent Garden underground station.

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

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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.

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Please e-mail: jsnaik@intnet.mu
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The rain was pouring down outside O'Connor's Irish Pub. There standing in front of a big puddle outside the pub was an old Irishman, drenched, holding a stick, with a piece of string dangling in the water. A passer-by stopped and asked him, "What are you doing?"

"Fishing" replied the old man.

Feeling sorry for the old man, the gent says, "Come in out of the rain and have a drink with me". In the warm ambience of the pub, as they sip their whiskies, the gentleman, being a bit of a superior smart ass, cannot resist asking, "So how many have you caught today".

"You're the eighth", replied the old man.

I was at the airport, checking in at the gate 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."

A shopkeeper just tried to sell me Supergirl, Lara Croft and Wonder Woman. I think he might be a heroine dealer.

I went to the hardware store to buy a curtain rod and the manager asked me how long I'd want it; so I told him I'd like to keep it.

I've bought one of those memory foam cushions, but I can't remember where I put it.

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