



CONTRAIL

The Retired Staff Association Magazine for CAA & NATS pensioners <https://www.caa-rsa.org.uk/>

"All Members" Edition

RSA23 AGM and GALA WEEKEND, a grand time had by all



And good weather again

Except when this group photograph was taken 😊

RSA24

York Marriott Delta Hotel 26 - 27 April 2024



***Feeling neither up nor down?
Forget the Grand Old Duke and come and join us for a grand
time here in York for RSA24.***

***Relax in the comfort of York's Marriott Delta Hotel,
including Evening Entertainment and Saturday Programme.***

***Please note the date and look out for advance details in
Contrail and on the RSA website.***

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FROM YOUR CHAIR

Andy Maynard

The journey back from the RSA 23 in Bournemouth took almost 7 hours by rail, (*don't you just love rail-replacement bus services, Ed*) and this gave me plenty of time to reflect on the weekend. It was pleasing to see so many join us for the April Bournemouth event, including many new faces.

However, our local branches and our Central Committee are still suffering from a lack of volunteers to come forward and help in the functioning of the association.

If you are interested in helping, then please contact me or any other committee member.

I would welcome new people on board with fresh ideas since, as I have repeated many times, I am not adverse to reviewing and changing what we do and how we do it. Feedback is always welcome.

If you don't wish to volunteer then you can still help us by ensuring you subscribe to the £1 per month subscription (if you haven't already done so), or by receiving Contrail by email rather than a printed and posted version (you receive it quicker), or by updating your contact details with the membership secretary. Any or all of these will help us.

Once again Peter will have filled this bumper "All Members" edition with interesting articles, alongside AGM reports and news of the new Autumn socials. (*no pressure here then, Ed*)

Please note that only subscribing members receive the March, September and December issues of Contrail, so if you want all four editions, you know what to do!

As we go into summer, I do hope that you can, where possible, participate in local branch events and I look forward to seeing some reports of these in the September edition.

Have a great summer everyone.

Best Regards. - *Andy*

CAA – NATS RSA GDPR Contrail Reminders.

The RSA use a third-party organisation to carry out the e-mail distribution of Contrail. A benefit of electronic distribution is that it allows a reminder to be sent, after a short period of time, to those who have not made the download.

A number of members (<0.4%) considered the reminder process a nuisance or a misuse of their personal data and consequently, the process was discontinued pending a **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** investigation.

The use of e-mail data to remind members to download Contrail has been found to comply with the GDPR Legitimate Interest definition, therefore the reminder process will be re-instated from the June 2023 issue. The RSA acknowledges the right for members to object to the process. Members may opt out of the Reminder Process by sending an e-mail instruction to membership@caa-rsa.org.uk

The full text of this issue and the investigation has been published on both the privacy page and the Contrail page of the RSA Website.

Solution for March 2023 Crossword

Across:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1. Splat | 6. Madness | |
| 12. Tributary | 13. Mow | |
| 14. Yemen | 15. Tremble | 16. Emit |
| 17. Teas | 18. Sit | 19. Gory |
| 20. Fact | 22. Earn | 23. Vizer |
| 24. Provocatively | 27. Level | |
| 28. Lace | 29. User | 30. Bite |
| 31. Wet | 33. Mass | 34. Mace |
| 35. Assault | 37. Hosta | 38. Lie |
| 39. Stilettos | 40. Sceptic | 41. Where |

Down:

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Styes | 2. Premieres | |
| 3. Limit | 4. Abet | 5. Tun |
| 6. Maternalistic | 7. Array | |
| 8. Dyes | 9. Emblaze | 10. Sol |
| 11. Sweltry | 17. Torc | 19. Gaol |
| 20. Five | 21. Collector | |
| 22. Ever | 23. Vice | 24. Plurals |
| 25. Oversee | 26. Tats | 30. Balti |
| 31. Waste | 32. Tease | 33. Must |
| 34. Moth | 36. Sic | 37. Hew |

NEXT COPY DATE

Please ensure all contributions are with the editor by no later than

1 August 2023

For September 2023 issue

EDITORIAL



Welcome to the All Members edition, so hello to all you non-subscribing members, as well as the subscribing regulars. RSA 23 was a great success, with numbers of attendees back to pre-Covid levels. And thank you to all who took the time to have a chat about Contrail over the weekend - on that basis, the most popular article in Contrail remains the Obituaries - oh, we are a sad lot ☹️.

This edition obviously contains much on the RSA 23 AGM and gala weekend, with the formal parts of the AGM being summarised here whilst the full texts are available on the RSA website. However this edition also contains much produced by members of the RSA - your goodselves. This is brilliant, thank you so much, and do keep it up!

I was watching The Coronation whilst editing this column and, being a trumpet player, I was interested in the music used, and particularly the ceremonial trumpets (no split notes - well done chaps!). And it reminded me of a friend who was an army musician for many years. At one time he was in charge of the ceremonial trumpets for the regiment and, after a band engagement, they were packed away in their instrument cases and strapped securely on the roof-rack of his car. Or so he thought, because on the journey home, he saw them in his rear view mirror, bouncing down the road. Pulling over, he ran back and found the instrument cases lying in the road, seemingly intact. What a relief - until the HGV came round the corner and flattened them! Cue for much "mickey-taking" in the Sergeant's Mess, the embarrassment of filling out the insurance claim, and to cap it all he was put on a charge. Ouch.

And finally, for convenience, my wife and I travelled to RSA 23 on the Thursday, settling into a nice hotel room with a lovely sea view. I thought this might be a benefit of getting to RSA 23 early and, later in the bar, I shared this thought with Chair, Andy Maynard, only to be told - a little icily - , that his room had a great view **of the car park**. Ouch again.

Yours, nervously, Peter

I can be contacted on:
contrailpete@caa-rsa.org.uk

Notes from the CAA/NATS Retired Staff Association Annual General Meeting

Held on Friday 21st April 2023, 15:30, at the Carlton Hotel, Bournemouth.

- The draft minutes of the AGM are available on the RSA website. <https://www.caa-rsa.org.uk/ctty.html>
However, abbreviated notes of meeting are provided below, for those not wishing to access the website.
- The Chair, Andy Maynard, welcomed everyone to the meeting, and noted that RSA 23 will be the last event organised by Ted Tilly and Phil Holt. He thanked them and their wives for their years of running these events, noting that Ted was unable to attend due to being in hospital. Andy went on to welcome husband and wife team, Paul Clayton and Chris Whichello, who are taking over the organising role, starting with next year's RSA 24 in York. He further thanked Tony Cowell for his many years' service on the Central Committee and Tony Motture who is standing down as secretary. Andy also made reference to the passing of Anne Noonan in 2022, who had served as our Chairman for some years before standing down at the previous AGM.
- The 2022 AGM Minutes, Accounts and Annual Report were all formally accepted, with no matters arising. A question was raised as to whether, in the light of a gradual decline in membership numbers, the annual grants to Branches were to continue. The Chair stated that there are currently no plans to depart from the practice. In response to a second question, it was confirmed that the Association's funds are split between at least two banks, for financial security.
- The following Central Committee Officers and committee members were elected, all unopposed.

Chair – Andrew Maynard	Vice Chair – John Doig		
Treasurer – Matthew Baines	Secretary – <u>Position vacant</u>		
Duncan Boulton	Colin Chisholm	Peter Haigh	Tim Mackay
Vince Pritchard	Richard Wright	<u>Position vacant</u>	<u>Position vacant</u>

Two vacancies on the committee plus the post of secretary could not be filled.
- Ian Small and John Coulson were formally approved as Accounts Validators (*aka auditors, Ed*).
- Two motions, for amendments to the RSA constitution were presented to the AGM. The first was to adopt gender neutral terminology (typically, replacing Chairman with Chair, and Vice-Chairman with Vice-Chair throughout the RSA). The second was to change the Central Committee meeting schedule, from a fixed number to an agreed schedule, and to reduce the requirements for a meeting quorum to five voting members, two of whom shall be Officers (this reflects the reality that it has not been possible to fill all the committee posts). Both motions were accepted with the necessary 2/3 majority of AGM attendees.
- The AGM closed at 4:20pm, however the new Central Committee then held a special post-AGM meeting, at which **Richard Woodroffe** (Webmaster) was co-opted on to the Central Committee (*got you again Richard, Ed*).

The Annual Report,

The Annual Report presented to the AGM, is also available on the RSA website. However a few key points from each constituent report are presented here for those not wishing to access the website

RSA Chair Report

The Central Committee is depleted in numbers and lacking any female input .

We need more people to share the load and shape our future so, whether at Branch or Central level, why not put your name forward.

I have placed importance on reviewing everything we do and how we do it; including GDPR compliance, auditing membership records, and the annual reunions.

On behalf of the RSA, I would like to thank Ted Tilly and Phil Holt for organising the AGM and Gala weekends over recent years. They are both stepping down after RSA 23, however we are lucky to have two people willing to take over, namely Paul Clayton and Christine Whichello.

RSA Website Report for the year ending 31/12/2022

Over the last year, the website has been stable and has achieved a 100% up time.

There have been no malicious attacks by those who would attempt to hack into web sites.

Concern was raised during the year about the tracking of the email distribution of Contrail.
(*Those concerns have now been addressed, see page2 of this edition, Ed*)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT 2022 - 2023

Management of the membership records continues to be improved.

Our total membership has fallen to **4314**, a net reduction of **140** during the year, despite 13 new members. 65.5% of members now pay subscriptions, thus receiving all four editions of Contrail.

The membership of the remaining 6 Branches at the end of March 2023 was:

	Contributing	Non Contributing	Total
London and Home Counties	1178	725	1903
Downs	298	172	470
Northern Ireland	67	7	74
North West	260	130	390
Edinburgh (Inc W of Scotland)	484	206	690
Wessex (Inc Solent)	867	390	1257

Many members assume that we are notified of new contact details if they tell Pensions Branch - we are **not** notified routinely due to data protection legislation.

It would also help enormously if those members with a non subscribing spouse could advise me if they would like the subscription to be transferred to their spouse's pension or be cancelled following the members death.

We will need a new membership secretary from next year. Any volunteers?

PENSIONS REPORT AGM 2023

The RSA Central Committee was given two briefings by the CAAPS management team through 2022.

Both the NATS and CAA sections were reported as having 'weathered the storm' of the post COVID downturn and the Autumn 2022 market uncertainty. There are, however, continuing challenges – particularly for the less mature NATS section.

CONTRAIL REPORT

The magazine size has been increased from 12 to 16 pages, with 20 pages for the All-members edition, thus allowing more general interest articles etc, in addition to the "official" RSA content.

There is a cost associated with printing Contrail so, if at all possible, please opt for email distribution.

Entries in the Obituaries section of Contrail are normally produced from CAAPS reports. However, a revised process now allows reports from non-CAAPS sources (eg family members) to be included, once authenticity has been confirmed.

Travel & Social Media Annual Report 2022

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

Despite the pandemic and the cost-of-living situation, the travel industry is recovering, and all our travel partners remain in business. However some departments have slimmed down so response times may be slow - please be patient.

Details of the travel club, plus any updates, are posted on the RSA website and in Contrail. Leaflets are also available for distribution in pre-retirement packs sent to CAA and NATS employees.

Feedback on your experiences with the travel partners is always welcome, either directly to me or to Peter Haigh, Contrail editor, for inclusion there. Why not tell us about your trips?

If you are asked for your membership number when applying for discounts, and you don't know it, then please contact the Membership Secretary. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further help or information.

The RSA are not either directly, or indirectly, responsible, or liable for any of your travel arrangements. Members should not distribute or circulate discount codes /links to non-members, as this could compromise our agreements for other members. CAA NATS RSA do not receive any commission nor make any specific recommendation.

The RSA has a Facebook account on a closed group basis. Our Facebook group has 319 members (compared to 292 last year) and it can be followed by searching for CAA NATS RSA . All members are welcome to post, as are branch officials who may want to publish a local event. I am the administrator.

Non-RSA members are allowed to join the FB group, providing they worked at one time for the CAA, HIAL or NATS. The raison d'être being that having engaged with the RSA on social media, they might join. This has already proved successful, and a link to the new online membership form is pinned at the top of the group posts.

Answers to puzzles on page 11

Solution to Bobby Be Smart - Six and Twenty-Three (The cubes are 216 and 12167)

Answers to Change of State

Iowa, Ohio, Utah, Maine, Texas, Nevada, Oregon, Kansas, Alaska, Hawaii,
Vermont, Florida, Georgia, Montana, New York, Arizona, Wyoming, Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey.



PLEASE NOTE; Currently Newmarket are offering 10-15% discounts on new bookings to the public. Our discount cannot be applied in addition to this.

Full details are available on the RSA website
Or ask Andy: travel@caa-rsa.org.uk



The RSA has its own Facebook Group, currently with 313 members. If you want to join the FB Group then search for CAA NATS RSA. The group is operated on a closed group basis.



And now, the less formal bits of RSA23

WE CREATED – YOU CELEBRATED

RSA GALA FUNCTIONS 2018 – 2023

BY PHIL HOLT



It was in 2014 that the Central Committee decided to resurrect a tradition of making the AGM a weekend event. The Wessex Branch stepped up and offered to host the 2015 event in Bournemouth. A core team of Branch members led by Ted Tilly produced a programme hailed as a complete success. The 2016 and 2017 events were hosted by the Cotswold and Solent Branches respectively in Stratford And Portsmouth.

However, the Central Committee were well aware that the 40th Anniversary of the Association was looming for 2018 and it was decided at that point to appoint dedicated organisers. Remembering the success of the the 2015 event, Ted and Phil were approached to take on the task of "RSA Annual Function Organisers". They began work in 2017 by first of all deciding on a 40th Anniversary location. They wanted somewhere central in the UK and selected Chester. The pattern for the weekend was then established and would be carried forward for the next 6 years. Ted had worked with *Conference Call* of Macclesfield for GATCO, so they were once again brought on board. Three hotels would be researched and contacted by them, which Ted and Phil then visited. A special mention must be made of Sarah Churcher and Jo Jenkins whose advice and research were invaluable.

A good venue will ideally offer all of the following: a convenient location with plenty of parking, disabled access, attractive décor, good layout, rooms for the AGM, drinks reception and evening dining with entertainment and good quality accommodation (including disabled rooms). No pressure then!

The final choice was the *Grosvenor Pulford Hotel* only 6 miles outside the city. The stand-alone dedicated function suite was superb. This was a very nostalgic and special event so Ted and Phil set about creating a Friday evening entertainment. Phil put together a potted history of both ATC and the RSA and members of the audience were featured! Elvis made an appearance looking strangely like Ted! Saturday saw rides around Chester on a 1912 vintage bus and a trip on the Llangollen Canal across the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct – marvellous! The day was rounded off with a Gala Dinner (a popular feature carried forward to this day), with table decorations and a seating plan (responsible for producing many grey hairs over the years!). Thanks must go to another member of the team, Dave Hobday, for all his sterling work over the years in taking Ted's idea's and designing the menu cards. They have made the tables look very special.

Cont'd overleaf

RSA GALA FUNCTIONS 2018 – 2023, cont'd

This became the blueprint for the future with excellent help from *Conference Call*. It proved essential to have a two year “rolling road” going forward. Planning was put in place for 2019 and 2020 at Cheltenham and Bournemouth. Our aim was always to have contracts signed as early as possible. At this point we must mention another member of the team – Matthew Baines. Not only has he been invaluable in cross checking costings and contracts, and liaising with Hotel management, but as you will all know, he receives all bookings, collects money and produces a superb spreadsheet to record it all.

Cheltenham was a delight in 2019 at the *Hilton* just outside the city. A Night at the Races was the Friday entertainment, with table prizes and trophies for the winners. Saturday saw a coach trip into the Cotswolds, followed by another grand dinner, and Elvis re-entered the building, this time in the form of David Dixon “King of Diamonds”. Ted and Phil left Cheltenham happy in the knowledge that all was in order for 2020 in Bournemouth – **how wrong could they be!**

As mentioned earlier, a rolling road of venues was needed at any one time, so in November 2019 Ted and Phil set off to both Cambridge and Oxford, hotel hunting. By the end of the month, the *Belfry* at Camborne, Cambridge had been chosen for 2021. You can imagine the workload for Ted, Phil and *Conference Call* as Covid hit in spring 2020. The biggest headache were the cancellation clauses which had to be scrutinised so as not to incur losses for the RSA. Fortunately, the hotel industry realised that they needed to work with clients. The end result, as Covid continued into 2021, was to slip Cambridge into 2022 and Bournemouth into 2023. Great work by all.

What a relief to gather at the *Belfry* in April 2022 and hold a very successful event. It was during this time that Paul and Chris Whichello were brought into the fold, initially because they live in Cambridge and could come along to the meal tasting, but also because it gave them experience of the organisational background. They offered to take over after Bournemouth, so the way forward was secured, thank you Paul and Chris! Two trips were laid on, one to *Ely Cathedral* and one to *Vintage Fabrics* in Saffron Walden plus Duxford. Phil’s friend Clive Denny is a master refurbisher of vintage aircraft and also flies numerous aircraft for the Historic Aircraft Collection. He showed us around his facility then on to a tour of the HAC hangar. The Saturday Gala Evening featured a drinks reception Caricaturist (a great hit with the best ones featured after dinner!) followed by a “Sylvester Gold”, a fabulous singer / keyboard duo.

And so, our final “hurrah” arrived. It was fitting that it was Bournemouth, our home area. Ted did most of the leg work in the final few months, mainly liaising with the Carlton Events Manager, organising meal tastings and the coach transport. However, Ted was admitted to hospital following a heart complication during dialysis, in early April. He’d been on the list for a heart operation for quite a while and it was hoped that, as he was no longer an outpatient, the surgery could be organised fairly quickly. It wasn’t to be and he had to remain in hospital, finally getting it done the week following RSA 23. It was incredibly frustrating for him after all that work. Although the operational running of the event fell to Phil, if it wasn’t for the terrific attention to detail from Ted, his job would have been very much harder.

Bournemouth went very well as you can read elsewhere in *Contrail*.

So that’s it and despite the workload, travelling and frustration at times, it’s hoped you’ve all enjoyed them as much as Ted and Phil have in doing the organising. All that’s left to do is wish Paul and Chris all the best for the future and that you’ll support them in York.

Adios!

Plus a few additional words from Ted

Through *Contrail*, may I say thank you to all who sent cards and get well messages, following my recent enforced hospitalisation. Having spent the best part of two years helping to set up RSA 23, I was devastated having to miss the event but grateful to co-organiser, Phil Holt who over-saw the weekend single handed. For my part, what should have been a few days in hospital turned into the best part of a month, sorely testing my sanity and sense of humour. But on the plus side, I now have a new heart valve, can remain upright and am only breathless when I open the gas bill !



Team RSA 23 has now handed over to Paul and Christine for RSA 24 at York. But before signing off, I echo the thanks made to the silent members of the team who have constantly supported Phil and myself ; treasurer Matthew Baines, Dave Hobday with his computer graphics expertise and, of course, Sarah Churcher and her colleagues at *Conference Call* who helped to source venues and ensure that the hotel contracts were in order!

And finally, a few words from Paul and Chris

At RSA23, I had a quick conversation with husband and wife team, Paul and Chris, about volunteering to organise future RSA weekends and this resulted in the following comments.

What on earth have we let ourselves in for?

We were coerced.....

Can we have include Outward Bound type activities for RSA24? (No!!!, Ed)

Where is York? (You will be fine folks, just go with it, and see you in York next year. Just go North on the A1 and turn right, Ed)



RSA 23 – New Forest here we come!

Richard Wright



Driving to Bournemouth through torrential rain for the RSA 23 AGM and social weekend felt a bit like a self-inflicted wound: I'd had the car valeted the day before and that always does for the weather. But for a townie like me, the key point on any journey is when the air starts to smell of farms, not fumes, and the place-names get more interesting (well, anywhere that's not Croydon actually).

So I was delighted to discover from those who'd arrived before me that the weather in Bournemouth had been fine! RSA guests were greeted at the Carlton Hotel by hosts Paul Clayton and his partner Chris Whichello – and a very friendly receptionist. Paul was on car park duty telling RSA members not to pay for parking but to log their registration details when checking in. Just as well somebody's up-to-scratch on the details, eh? Our hosts were busy because about 90 RSA members were attending all or part of the weekend.

There is a formal report on the AGM earlier in this issue, but it was good to welcome Chair Andy Maynard to his first in-person AGM, as he was laid low by Covid last year. Sadly, at the same meeting, we bade farewell to former Vice-Chair Tony Cowell, and Hon. Sec Tony Motture. Both will be much missed for their unstinting efforts on behalf of the RSA. Also retiring – after many years – were our traditional AGM event organisers Phil Holt and Ted Tilly (cf. "Phil and Ted's Excellent Adventure" – or did I make that film title up?). Happily (for us RSA members), Paul and Chris have agreed to take on the task – and they're currently working on both RSA 24 (York) and RSA 25! Thanks to all of you.

The drinks reception before dinner - held in a lovely room overlooking the sea - was a great opportunity to catch up with former friends and colleagues, and enlivened by the genial presence of magician David Maidment, whose close-up card tricks intrigued us all. Happily, David re-appeared later in the evening.

Our Friday night dinner was a buffet – and a very good one at that: I love cooking but I haven't a clue how the hotel chefs could cook and present three choices (chicken and peppers, salmon and rice, and vegan), put them on hot-plates, call up a table at a time – and for the end result to be both moist and tender. As Tony Cowell's partner Sheena explained to me: "Commercial chefs know cooking and food presentation secrets they'll never explain to us". She's right.



We were entertained during the evening by a delightful duo called *The Land Girls*, who performed a wide range of 1940s 'big band' songs. Given that the girls looked scarcely out-of-college themselves, the sound was amazingly authentic – and very beguiling. Our magician David toured the tables during dinner with more tricks, before *The Land Girls* returned with a 1980s Abba-based set. Personally, I really enjoy close-up magic, because it's happening right in front of me and I still can't work out how its done. And the girls produced such an amazing sound. Well done all of you – and thank you.

Beaulieu and the New Forest

Some RSA members chose local visits on the Saturday, but most of us joined the coach for a visit to Beaulieu – *The National Motor Museum and Palace House* – via a journey through the New Forest: But I was a bit baffled by the 'New Forest' name because (frankly) there are thousands of acres of gorse (in glorious full yellow bloom at the end of April), but not that many trees. Here's why:

The area was (probably) first settled in the Bronze Age, with a favourable climate but poor soil. By Anglo-Saxon times it was mostly forested or used for grazing because the soil quality was too poor for conventional crop farming. Following the Norman Conquest, the whole area was sequestered by *William the Conqueror* in order to create a private hunting area for himself and his courtiers. It is mentioned in the 'Domesday Book' of 1087 as "Nova Foresta". This was not popular with the locals, as William evicted all the inhabitants across 36 parishes (without compensation).

But what goes around comes around – as they say – and two of William's sons (and a grandson) died in the New Forest. First was Prince Richard, who died around 1072 after being "blasted with a pestilent air". He was followed by William Rufus, who was struck in the chest by an arrow fired by his champion archer Sir Walter Tyrell (which had allegedly glanced off a tree before hitting the King). Tyrell fled to France, pausing only at a local blacksmith's to have his horse shod back-to-front in order to confuse anyone chasing him about his direction of travel. As it happened, he needn't have bothered: William Rufus was hated as much by his noblemen as he was by the locals, and the huntsmen went home without him, leaving a farmer to take the King's body to Winchester on the back of his cart. Meanwhile, younger brother Henry had galloped over to Winchester with his soldiers, claimed the Treasury (follow the money, anyone?) and had himself proclaimed King Henry the First. Soon afterwards grandson Henry was hanged accidentally when caught by the neck on an overhanging branch whilst hunting. Talk about 'bad karma'!

Although there was a network of rules allowing local residents to graze pigs/sheep and ponies, the forested area declined – particularly during the 18/19th centuries when ancient trees were felled to build warships (England's "wooden walls"). Grazing remains important and we saw plenty of ponies, pigs, sheep and flocks of wild deer – all very scenic!

The New Forest area in World War Two

But in the mid-20th Century, the New Forest took on a significant role in preparation for the Allies "D-Day" invasion of France, with almost 3 million troops encamped across southern England. There were several airfields constructed in the New Forest (thanks to Phil for his descriptions whilst we were on the coach), including RAF Beaulieu.

Cont'd overleaf

RSA 23 – New Forest here we come! cont'd

At Beaulieu, for instance, spies were trained to be dropped in enemy territories by the incredibly-brave members of Winston Churchill's 'private army' the *Special Operations Executive*. An embarrassing post-war revelation was that one of the SOE's Beaulieu spy trainers was a Soviet spy, Kim Philby. Much of this is documented in the Secret Army exhibition within the Beaulieu site.

If you are interested in the New Forest and its role in WW2 then more information can be found with these links,
<https://www.new-forest-national-park.com/new-forest-wartime-history>
<https://fonfa.co.uk>
<https://fonfa.co.uk/the-airfields>
<http://www.newforestexplorersguide.co.uk/heritage/history-in-the-landscape/second-world-war-airfields.html>

Beaulieu Estate and the National Motor Museum

We arrived at Beaulieu on schedule. The estate belongs to Lord Montagu and his family, but site was originally a Cistercian Monastery - the largest in in England before most of the buildings were demolished after which the estate was sold to the Montagu family's ancestors in 1538 at the Dissolution of the Monasteries. The footprint of the abbey is mostly visible as a series of 'lines in the grass', but the former monks' refectory is now the parish church, the gatehouse has been incorporated into the current 'Palace House' and a former dormitory is now a display building.

For centuries, Beaulieu functioned as a working estate but without the owning family being permanently resident. But when the estate was gifted in 1867 to a son (Lord Henry Scott) as a wedding present, he decided that the existing buildings were too small, so the famous Victorian architect Sir Reginald Blomfield was commissioned to build something more appropriate - i.e. gothic – but retaining the medieval vaulting from the former gatehouse. That's the Palace House we see today, home of the Montagu family. I travelled there on a replica WW1 'B' Type bus – great fun!



It would be fair to say that the Montagu's have included some delightful eccentrics: the 2nd Lord Montagu was a passionate campaigner for the motor car and the only member of the House of Lords who was also a qualified (steam) engine driver. But we have to thank his son, (the 3rd Lord Montagu) not only for what we can see at Beaulieu today, but for being a post-war pioneer of what we now know as the 'heritage industry':

In the early 1950s, three young men inherited historic estates, paying huge death duties and facing vast maintenance bills: the Duke of Bedford (Woburn Abbey), the Marquis of Bath (Longleat House) and Lord Montagu (Beaulieu). Each recognised that they needed to find new ways of bringing paying visitors to their estates, in order 'to keep the roof on'. Lords Bedford and Bath went for wild animal 'safari' parks, whilst Lord Montagu went for motor vehicles. They all succeeded, but Montagu went beyond the others to become Chairman of 'English Heritage'.

The 3rd Lord Montague was as car-obsessed as his father, and he built on the vehicle collection he had inherited, opening it to the public in 1952, later forming the 'National Motor Museum' charitable trust, The collections have continued to develop and were given 'National Status' official designation in 1997.



And this is where it gets personal: I've been a car lover since I was little – eventually swapping 'Dinky Toys' for the real thing. The phrase 'kid in a candy store' springs to mind.... Inside the museum, the only problem was where to start.

Phil Holt took us to the 'Record Breakers' studio, showing us a series of historic vehicles, each of which had held the World Land Speed Record. What a stunning ensemble, darkly lit and with an excellent commentary. Donald Campbell's 'Bluebird' reached 403.1mph in 1964.

Where do you go from world record holders? Just nearby stands the original 'Chitty-Bang-Bang' an Edwardian racing car fitted with a huge airship engine for the wealthy amateur racing driver Count Louis Zborowski, who lived near Canterbury. Better known as the star of the film 'Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang', a replica outside gives rides to children. What fun!

Then, I was torn between the familiar "my mate's dad had one of those", or "I had one of those – why ever did I sell it?", or "I want to put that in my pocket and sneak it home". In that order; an Austin Atlantic, Sunbeam Rapier Convertible and Lord Montagu's own vintage Bentley. And don't start me on the bright red Jensen Interceptor, or we'll be here for hours... But what struck me was how many of them are actually roadworthy, from the incredibly flimsy 1886 Benz 'Dogcart' that does the annual 'Old Crocks Run' from London to Brighton, to the 1914 Rolls-Royce 'Alpine' Silver Ghost that was driven from Peking to Paris only recently.

Cont'd overleaf

RSA 23 – New Forest here we come! cont'd

I bypassed the “Top Gear” hut - as you would – heading for the monorail. Oh what fun! It reminds me of the Docklands Light Railway in London before it got busy and big: tiny little carriages dodging around buildings on sharp curves. To do that on one rail (rather than the DLR's two) seems more exciting.

But eventually, we returned to our hotel via a very scenic coastal route. I'm so glad I wasn't the driver as the street market stalls in Lymington made things pretty difficult for our coach to navigate.

But that wasn't for everybody, as some of our members had opted for a 'free day'. Several visited the nearby Russell-Cotes museum and it would be easy for me (as a Londoner) to disparage regional museums. But not in this case because the Russell-Cotes is a 'cracker', housing an amazing variety of personal art collections and important items purchased during overseas travels. Now, it doesn't apply just to particular areas, we all know that our heritage is under pressure from so many 'adjustments' i.e. cuts, so please go out there and support your local heritage – your grandchildren will thank you. But who needs polemics when there's a Gala Dinner to attend:

After the customary drinks reception, we were all welcomed to the Dining Room by RSA Chair Andy Maynard. Our silver-service dinner was accompanied by the mellifluous tones of Frank Sinatra look-alike (and very good sound-alike) Scott Free. Scott returned later in the evening and got many dancing (no small achievement, given the amount many of us had been eating or imbibing). Thank you Scott.



Later, RSA President Bob Coles took to the microphone to thank attendees, in particular our retiring event organisers Phil and Ted. Bob formally welcomed Paul Clayton and his partner Chris, who have now taken over as the RSA AGM event organisers. As Bob Coles said: “We look forward to welcoming all RSA members and their partners to our next event: RSA 24 in York next year. See you all there!!” Toodle pip.



The Annual Social(s)

New for 2023, replacing the single London-based annual reunion, we are arranging two socials. To be nearer to our membership, we are offering a northern and a southern venue. You could of course attend both if you wish!

We welcome all members, (eligible) non-members and those that are still, or have been employees of NATS, CAA or HIAL (maybe you will join at the social?) Both socials are from 12 Noon until 4pm and a buffet will be provided along with a pay bar. Numbers are limited by venue capacity - please book early to avoid disappointment.

Northern venue, Thursday 5th October 2023 (Bookings close 18th Sept)

The Borough Hotel * :3 Dalton Square, Lancaster LA1 1PP

10-15 minutes' walk from Lancaster train station. Numerous council car parks are nearby. The Hotel also offers B & B for 5 Oct at a special rate of £90 per room including breakfast (Book direct with the hotel, quoting our social)

Lancaster offers good road and rail connections, plus nearby Leighton Hall, Lancaster Castle and Medieval prison, Williamson's Park, Judges Museum, St Peters Cathedral, and easy access to Morecambe and The Lake District.

**Note the social is upstairs, bathrooms are upstairs. The bar is downstairs, but waiter staff will be available for the pay bar.*



Southern venue, Thursday 26th October (Bookings close 5th Oct)

The King Alfred, 11 Saxon Road, Winchester, SO23 7DJ

The King Alfred is a haven away from the hustle and bustle of the city, yet only a 10-minute walk from the high street and the iconic Winchester Cathedral.

Winchester offers good road and rail connections and the hotel also offers some accommodation. Contact them directly for best rates.

***Limited capacity – book early to ensure a place,
pre booked and pre-paid only.***

(If you have any special dietary requirements please advise at time of booking)



Bookings for both venues are now open at a special reduced rate of £20pp.

Please contact Matthew Baines for details fo how to pay mjbaines@btinternet.com

RSA23 Photographs

For the Saturday evening, the organisers had kindly arranged for a professional photographer to be on hand to record the event, and a small selection of the photographs taken are included below. If you wish, the complete set can be accessed at <https://adobe.ly/3LbafxU>

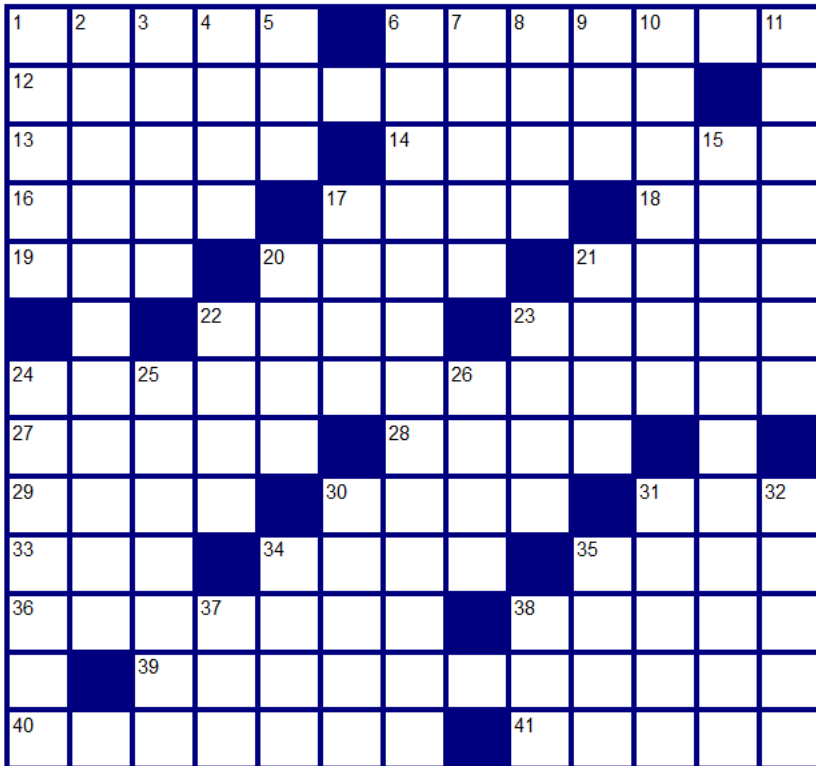
And thank you to photographer Tony Graham, of *Tony Graham Photography* (tgraham43.myportfolio.com) for making us all look so good. It was raining when he tried to take the group photographs, so we had to congregate indoors. There were a more than a few crossed fingers as he balanced precariously on various tables and chairs to frame the group photo. Well done Tony!!!!



Uncle Roger's Puzzle Pages.

Roger Myers' Crossword - June 2023

The answers will be available in the next edition.



Across

1. Misgiving (5)
6. Coward (7)
12. Impractical (11)
13. Sea (5)
14. Seraphs (anag.) (7)
16. Amphibian (4)
17. Grin (4)
18. Vietnamese festival (3)
19. Printers' measures (3)
20. Deceives (4)
21. Mexican pancake (4)
22. Coarse tobacco (4)
23. Engine (5)
24. Poor handling (13)
27. Sustain (5)
28. Seize (4)
29. Scare away (4)
30. Bridle (4)
31. Fasten (3)
33. Material (3)
34. Lantern (4)
35. Statistics (4)
36. Instruct (7)
38. Language (5)
39. Wailing (11)
40. Darling (7)
41. Flower (5)

Down

1. Estimate (5)
2. Sceptical (11)
3. Regions (5)
4. Heavy metal (4)
5. Person (3)
6. Separation (13)
7. Remains (5)
8. Celebrity (4)
9. Pour (3)
10. Chemical compound (7)
11. Bend (7)
15. Refurbish (11)
17. Lend (4)
20. Singe (4)
21. Grave (4)
22. Lewdness (4)
23. Represent (4)
24. Misconstrue (9)
25. Shoulder blade (7)
26. Clutch (4)
30. Speeds (5)
31. Courtyard (5)
32. Child minder (5)
34. Disabled (4)
35. Appointment (4)
37. Vehicle (3)
38. Circuit (3)

And for a bit more fun and frolics.....

Bobby Be Smart

Bobby was not the best at mathematics, in fact, to be perfectly honest, he hated figures, so when the teacher asked him to find the cube of a certain number, he was glad, as usual, to get the correct answer from the girl in the next seat.

He was less pleased when the teacher then asked him to find the cube of 17 more than the first number. The girl in the next seat refused to help him again this time.

In desperation Bobby wrote the 1 of the 17 in front of the last answer, and a 7 at the end of it. To his surprise, the teacher congratulated him on giving the correct answer.

Can you find the two numbers Bobby was asked to cube?

Change of State

How well do you know the 50 states of the USA?

In each of the twenty words given below, just two letters of each state have been changed, the remaining letters being unaltered in their positions.

For example, given NEW MEDICS, change the D and S to get NEW MEXICO.

All these words can be found in the dictionary. Can you find them all?

- | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Down | 2. Ship | 3. Stag | 4. Raise | 5. Mesas |
| 6. Levade | 7. Breton | 8. Manses | 9. Flasks | 10. Hawkie |
| 11. Ferment | 12. Florist | 13. Geordie | 14. Montage | 15. Newborn |
| 16. Trizone | 17. Zooming | 18. Farmland | 19. Virginal | 20. New Verses |

The answers to both puzzles are on page 4.

DOWNNS BRANCH

The following members were elected during the recent Downs Branch AGM

Chair - Bill Freeman, Vice Chair - Kevin Deasy
 Secretary - Ann Cox, Treasurer - Dave Cox
 Social Secretary - Pauline Chiappori
 And our new committee member is Colin Spriggs.

The Branch met for lunch at the Plough in Ifield recently (see photos below) and future lunches have been/are being booked in June, October, and December for the Christmas lunch (see Diary Dates).

A visit to Croydon Airport is being planned, details tba.

Ann Cox, Downs Branch Sec.



EDINBURGH BRANCH cont'd



Working Lunch and AGM at the Rustom, Haymarket, Edinburgh
 28 March 2023 – photo credit John Tierney

Agreed actions from the meeting include arranging bi-monthly lunches as much as is reasonably possible, and to use Howie's Waterloo Place, Edinburgh for our December Festive lunch.

Our second outing of the year will have taken place by the time you read this report. The lunch was to Vittoria on the Bridge, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh on 10th May. This was a new venue for the Branch.

A Branch Summer lunch is being planned for the City of Discovery - Dundee. (See Diary Dates)

The Branch are also making enquiries to see if an Autumn visit to the NATS Prestwick Centre is possible.

This outing, along with the routine lunches, when confirmed, are published on the RSA Web site – Edinburgh page, and the RSA on Facebook. The Branch also email members where this is possible.

This leads to the usual reminder that, if you use email and wish your name/contact to be added or updated to the RSA lists, please let the RSA Central Membership Secretary know.

membership@caa-rsa.org.uk

Our Branch Secretary advises that a small number of email messages sent out from our Branch routinely 'bounce', and a larger number of Branch members are without email, or at least not with the RSA, as they are not on our list!

Enjoy your Summer!

John Doig, Branch Chair

EDINBURGH BRANCH

Our first Branch event of 2023 was a working lunch combined with an Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the 28th March. For convenience, and previous usage, the Rustom (Indian) Restaurant, near Haymarket Station was chosen. Nine members attended. The following members were re-elected (unopposed) during the AGM part of the function to form the new 2023/24 committee:

Chair - John Doig Secretary - Colin Rodger
 Treasurer - Vince Pritchard
 Committee Members - Colin Hicks, Tom Ward,
 John Tierney
 (co-opted from the dormant WoS Branch)

LONDON (and HOME COUNTIES) BRANCH

A big "thank you" to those Members who completed and returned the Social Programme Questionnaire; the results are being reviewed at present and we anticipate publishing them in due course.

Our search for a venue for the Branch AGM continues. If anyone knows of a suitable venue, preferably in central London, could they please contact the Hon. Sec.

Paul Clayton, L&HC Branch Chair

NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH

There is no update available from the NI Branch this time.

Apologies.

Bob Connolly, for Ruby Irwin, N I Branch Sec.

NORTH-WEST BRANCH

The branch AGM at The Griffin Hotel, Heald Green was a briskly conducted business meeting followed by social chatter whilst enjoying the light buffet provided. The following were re-elected, unopposed.

Chair - Tim McKay

Treasurer - Barry Pratt

Secretary - Andy Maynard

The pub lunch back at The Romper in April saw an encouragingly good turnout with members looking forward to further good weather for more events.

The annual RSA AGM and Social at Bournemouth was well supported by NW members taking the opportunity to mingle again with former colleagues from all over the country.

Tim Mackay, NW Branch Chair

WESSEX BRANCH

Hi everyone,

Firstly, March saw our AGM at which all standing officers were re-elected unopposed. I wish to thank the re-elected members for their continuing support.

Chair – Phil Holt

Secretary – Ted Tilly

Treasurer – Chris Swinn

Social Secretary – Jocelyn Swinn

Minutes Secretary – Bob North

Webmaster – Stuart Clifton

Committee member – Paddy Pollock

The Branch supported RSA23 at the Carlton Hotel, forming a table of 9.

Our May event was a walk along the Southbourne Overcliffe, giving good views of the Isle of Wight and the expanse of Poole Bay. Lunch was taken at the “Spyglass & Kettle” just off the Overcliffe.

June will see us again take to the water for a trip from Poole to Swanage. Swanage is a delightful town with a “back in time” atmosphere, and this will be further enhanced by a trip on the Swanage Railway to Corfe Castle.

We shall be holding our annual garden party again at Romford Cottage in August, courtesy of Stuart and Vivian Clifton.

Please see “Diary Dates” for rest of our planned events.

Best wishes

Phil Holt, Wessex Branch Chair

Letters and emails.

Pete

I enjoyed the piece about the NMU in the latest Contrail. The photo of the Vauxhall Viva van was pretty rare. I am wondering if any ex-NMU guys have photos of the Morris Travellers used by NMU? I have a special interest in Morris Minors and have owned a couple for over 20 years including a van decked out in British Air Ferries colours to replicate the Vickers Viscount G-APIM that I help look after at Brooklands Museum.

I also attach a shot of the CAA Control Van (with a B-Cal DC10 in the background, itself in front of an Orion B737) that I spent many happy hours in at Gatwick in the 1980s while roaming the airfield on my break to take photos of the aircraft.

Cheers, Tom Singfield, ex ATCO II

(See also the review of Tom's latest book, Classic Gatwick Jetliners, on page 16, Ed)



BRANCH DIARY DATES

All dates continue to be subject to any Covid restrictions in force at the time.

DOWNS BRANCH

Wednesday 21 June at 12pm: Branch lunch.
Toby Carvery, Langley Green.

October: Branch lunch. Details TBA.

Wednesday 13 December at 12pm: Branch Christmas lunch.
Toby Carvery, Langley Green.

Possible visit to Croydon Airport. Details TBA.

Any queries please contact Ann Cox, pgreen.ann@gmail.com.

EDINBURGH BRANCH

Tuesday 4 July: Lunch in Dundee. The venue to be advised to members by email, published on the Web site and the RSA on Facebook.

N.B. It was originally planned to hold this lunch a week later on 11 July, in either Perth or Dundee. Please ignore the earlier email communication regarding this.

Wednesday 6 September: Lunch, location & venue to be advised to members by email.

For members who do not have access to the internet, please telephone the Branch, (see Branch Contacts) and leave a message, or alternatively text a message, and the Branch Chair or Secretary will get back to you.

LONDON (AND HOME COUNTIES) BRANCH

London and Home Counties Branch AGM and Reunion.
Date and venue to be advised.

The L&HC Social Programme.

To be advised once the views of members have been ascertained via the questionnaire - see Branch News.

NORTH-WEST BRANCH

Walks continue to be arranged on an ad hoc basis and we are always looking for people willing to lead them. They usually end at or near a pub where lunch may be taken.

Wednesday 14 June, at 11am. Crewe Heritage Railway Centre, £5 per person.

This is a private tour and should be around 2 hours. Please book early as numbers are limited, bookings close 31 May.

September. Stockport Town Hall. Details TBA.

We are hoping to organise a group tour around this fine building, probably in September.

Thursday 5 October, 12pm to 4pm, RSA NORTH SOCIAL

The Borough Hotel, Lancaster. Really good ales (& wines), on a pay bar basis, are available to complement the buffet provided. Pre booked only, £20 per person. Overnight accommodation is available (£90 - booked direct with hotel)

This is organised by the RSA Central Committee and replaces the annual reunion in London. A similar Social will be held in Winchester on 26 October and it is hoped these two events will enable more overall socialising.

(Attendance at both is possible for the enthusiastic!)

Monday 4 December. Festive tea Wilmslow Garden Centre. Details TBA.

For details of monthly walks and other events that may be organised please refer to the postings in the NW Branch section of the RSA website or contact Andy Maynard, nwrsa@caa-rsa.org.uk

Please contact Andy or any committee member if you have suggestions for walks or social events that could be held.

WESSEX BRANCH

Thursday 29 June. Boat trip from Poole to Swanage, with a trip on the Swanage Railway.

Thursday 3 August. – Annual Garden Party. Romford Cottage, Verwood

Thursday 28 September. – Coach trip to Gloucester Docks and city

Thursday 26 October. – Carpenters Arms, Bransgore meeting with speaker James Porter “The Channel Islands Occupation”

Thursday 23 November. – Skittles and Christmas lunch at “The Walkford”

For more details, or to book, please contact our Social Secretary, Jocelyn Swinn, at c-swinn@sky.com, marked “social”

PRESIDENT: R B COLES

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

CHAIR	Andy Maynard
VICE CHAIR	John Doig
SECRETARY	Vacant
TREASURER	Matthew Baines
MEMBERS	Duncan Boulton
	Colin Chisholm
	Peter Haigh
	Tim MacKay
	Richard Wright
	Vincent Pritchard
	Position Vacant x2

WELFARE COORDINATOR, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY and GDPR FOCAL POINT	Duncan Boulton
PENSIONS REP	Colin Chisholm
TRAVEL and SOCIAL MEDIA	Andy Maynard
OPA/NFOP REP	Richard Wright
WEBMASTER	Richard Woodroffe
EDITOR CONTRAIL	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 the new RSA Membership Secretary, Duncan Boulton, know if you have moved or any other personal details, including your email address, have changed:**
Duncan Boulton

E Mail: membership@caa-rsa.org.uk

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 rules.

Please DO NOT send address or personal changes to the editorial office.

BRANCH CONTACTS

COTSWOLD: TBA

DOWN

Ann Cox,



✉: pgreen.ann@gmail.com

EDINBURGH

(incl Highlands & Islands, and West of Scotland)

RSA Edinburgh Admin* ✉: admin@edinburghrsa.com

RSA Edinburgh Admin* Mob ☎:

** monitored & answered by a Committee Office Bearer – your email or call will be directed to a specific Committee member, dependant on the nature of the enquiry, their postal address may be given if this is requested.*

LONDON & HOME COUNTIES

For event bookings please contact the

Hon. Treasurer, Bruce Critchley,

✉: bookings.lhc@caa-rsa.org.uk

For event information contact the Social Secretary Paul Vidler, ✉: bookings.lhc@caa-rsa.org.uk

For all other matters

Paul Clayton,



✉: lhc@caa-rsa.org.uk

NORTHERN IRELAND

Ruby Erwin,

NORTH WEST

Andy Maynard,



✉: nwrsa@caa-rsa.org.uk

WESSEX (including Solent)

Ted Tilly,



✉: Howardtilly1942@gmail.com

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.

Holiday Let in Mauritius

This holiday villa in a complex with swimming pool, near Grand Bay in Mauritius, is available to rent. It is located in Pereybere, on the coastal road, directly opposite the beach, and is near restaurants, a supermarket, bus route etc.

The accommodation is on 3 levels:

Ground floor: verandah, sitting/dining room and kitchen

1st floor: balcony, 2 bedrooms, toilet and shower room.

2nd floor: balcony, master bedroom, washing machine, toilet and shower room.

Grand Bay is in the district of Riviere du Rempart at the north western part of the island, along a beautiful natural bay. It is about 25Km north of Port Louis, the capital of Mauritius. The drive from Grand Bay to Port Louis takes 35/40 minutes, whilst the drive to the airport is about an hour.

Grand Bay has a good bus route leading to key locations in Mauritius.

You can easily get the bus to Port Louis, venture across the island, and visit other cities.

For more information then please e-mail J S Naik (Jim) on: jsnaik@intnet.mu, or tel: +230 57627232



Book Reviews



Death or Grievous Bodily Harm, by RSA member Peter Cromarty



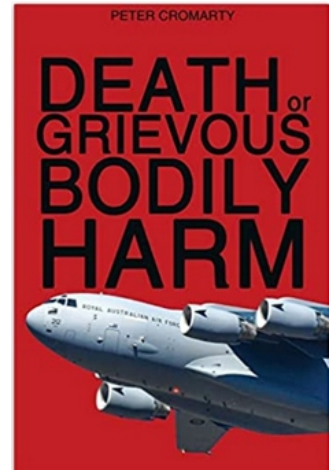
Death or Grievous Bodily Harm was published by Ocean Reeve Publishing in December 2022 and is available on Amazon as an eBook, and in paperback, priced at £13.99.

As advertised on Amazon; *Tobias Richmond is quietly enjoying his retirement – until he plays good Samaritan at his local shops. Soon, he and his family are sucked into the violent world of ruthless drug dealers, police corruption, and competition for the lucrative drugs markets of Southeast Queensland. This is a fast-paced story about a man drawn, against his will, into fighting for his life and the lives of his family. Not knowing whom they can trust or where to turn for help, the Richmonds face threats to their lives and take on the vicious killers who want what they know.*

The author, Peter Cromarty spent his paid working life in aviation, first as an air traffic controller and pilot, and later as an ATC safety regulation specialist and manager. He finished his aviation career with nine years as an executive manager at the Australian Civil Aviation Safety Authority. Peter is now a homemaker, aircraft builder, and writer.

(I have not read the book but, in brief correspondence with the author, I understand the story has an aviation element to it - the C17 on the front cover is a bit of a giveaway - and it draws on Peter's aviation background. However, I am also assured it is not based on any of his experiences in NATS or SRG, Ed)

And if you are interested, the author has started a *YouTube* channel about some of the air traffic control incidents/accidents/hijacks in which he was involved. It is available at:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC17q8x03K6veaQeVxeZzGFw>



Classic Gatwick Jetliners, by RSA member Tom Singfield



The first jetliner touched down on at Gatwick Airport on 16 November 1958, and over the next fifty years the airport grew to become Britain's second busiest airport, as well as the busiest single-runway airport in the world. Tom Singfield's book, *Classic Gatwick Jetliners* describes those early jetliner visits through to the bustling years of the late 1980s. Featuring aircraft such as the de Havilland Comet, the Boeing 707 and the Boeing 747 'Jumbo Jet', this is a fond tribute to a colourful period of Gatwick's aviation history.

As reviewed by the magazine, *Flypast*, those of a certain age may have fond memories of travelling with our parents to holiday destinations on jet airliners, types that have now been consigned to history. For some, the excitement of taking off in a Douglas DC8 easily outweighed the afternoons sitting around pools and beaches. Were these machines really more charismatic than the sleeker quieter jets of today, or is nostalgia playing with our heads? Either way, Tom Singfield's latest book is a welcome indulgence, feeding those memories with crisp colour images and plenty of data-led narrative.

A follow-up to his well received *Classic Gatwick Propliners*, this beautifully illustrated account focuses on jetliners of yore, from the DH Comet to the Boeing 747, and just about everything in between. As well as being a thoroughly good read, it's a pleasure to see such beautiful creations as the Caravelle, a smartly liveried Air Atlantic Boeing 707 and of course Braniff's brilliantly orange and memorably truncated Boeing 747SP. There types are just a few among more than 200 featured aircraft that comprise a fine tribute to a bustling period of Gatwick Airport's history.

The book is published by The History Press, priced at RRP £20 but is available at World of Books for £15.59
<https://www.wob.com/en-gb/books/tom-singfield/classic-gatwick-jetliners/9780750994248>

The author, Tom Singfield, started work as an Air Traffic Control Assistant at Heathrow Airport in 1969. He stayed until 1978 when he trained as an Air Traffic Control Officer. A devotee of aircraft spotting at Gatwick, he went on to work there as an ATCO until 1992 when the Approach Radar service moved to West Drayton. He retired after 37 years in 2005. An aviation writer and photographer with a collection of over 50,000 slides, he has also written *Classic Gatwick Propliners* for The History Press and lives in West Sussex.

OBITUARIES

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

In Memoriam

Codner, William Guy, SMG, CAA House, London, on 3 December 2022

Davies, John Reginald Robert, ATE 1, Birmingham Airport, on 6 January 2023

Turner, Grace Emily, Typist, Aviation House, Gatwick, on 26 January 2023

Russ, Ronald Keith, JMG 5, Sipson Court, West Drayton, on 25 January 2023

MacKinnon, Ian, ATCO 2, LATCC, on 17 January 2023

Chapple, Michael William Paul, SRG Level 2, Aviation House, Gatwick, on 3 February 2023

Russell, Brian Anthony, Band 8.2, Highfield Park, Heckfield, on 29 January 2023

Wood, Christopher Cardew, Band 10.3 (Flight Ops), Aviation House, on 21 January 2023

Soulsby, David Dudley, ATCO 1, LACC, West Drayton, on 6 February 2023

Mead, John Edward, ATCO 2, Manchester Airport, on 11 February 2023

O'Halloran, Denise, AA Contracts and Purchasing, CAA House, London, on 26 January 2023

Drapper, John, ATCO 2, LATCC West Drayton, on 2 January 2023

Easener, Richard Ralph, ATCO 1, LATCC, West Drayton, on 22 February 2023

Higgins, John Bloye, SATE, CACC, Heathrow Airport, on 11 February 2023

Bate, Philip Barry Robert, Manager AIS, Heathrow, on 18 February 2023

Lang, David Frederick, Senior Accountant, CAA House, London, on 3 March 2023

Jones, Brian John, ATE 1, Gatwick, on 3 February 2023

Jenkins, Jean Ann, JMG 3, Teesside, on 14 March 2023

Heslop, Ian, ATCO 2, Larkhill, on 21 March 2023

Surman, Joan Ann, Band 3, Cheltenham, on 24 March 2023

Wootton, Leonard Ronald, ATE 2, St Annes Radar Station, on 3 February 2023

Jacques, Barry, CAA grade not known, CAA House London, on 28 February 2023

Jamieson, John William Thomas, AFS Sub Officer, Sumburgh Airport, on 13 March 2023

Channing, Brian, ATCO 2, LATCC, West Drayton, on 9 March 2023

Henderson, Bruce Robert, Band 3, Dundonald Radio Station, on 3 April 2023

Cosens, Thomas Henry, PATE, Hillingdon House, on 31 March 2023

Davies, Bernard, ATCO 2, ATC Manchester Airport, on 2 March 2023

Simmonds, Reginald Keith, ATCO 1, LATCC, on 17 February 2023

Pannell, Michael Charles, grade not known, CTC, Whiteley, on 15 March 2023

Visram, Shaukat Roshanali, Engineering Manager, Swanwick, on 2 April 2023

McFarlane, John Gordon, ATSA 2, ScOACC Prestwick, on 7 April 2023

Jackson, Valdeck Constantine, ATE 1, Heathrow Airport, on 8 April 2023

Doyle, Michael John, SATCO, Heathrow Airport, on 1 April 2023

Hawkes, Richard Edward, OGC 62 FE/FOI, Stansted, on 20 March 2023

Wells, Arthur William, TTO 3, Clee Hill Radar Station, on 16 March 2023

Hardwick, Leslie, PATE, CAA House London, on 28 March 2023

Williams, Bryan, ATCO, Stansted Airport, on 16 April 2023

Stockham, Peter Derek, Band 3, Swingfield Radio Station, on 5 April 2023

Lambert, Peter Maurice, ATCO 2, LATCC, West Drayton, on 10 March 2023

Clempson, Mary, grade not known, Atlantic House Prestwick, on 6 April 2023

Stewart, Alexander, ATCO 1, Sc&OACC Prestwick, on 16 April 2023

Henderson, Donald, Flight Examiner (FCL6), Flight Test Centre, Bournemouth, on 20 April 2023

Please Note

Whilst every effort is made to identify the grade and location for each person in the Obituaries, sometimes that information is simply not available.

Search facility

Don't forget that the obituary archives page of the RSA website contains a search facility.

https://caa-rsa.org.uk/obituary_archives.html

Capt. Brian Morgan 1925 - 2023

By David Morgan (his son)



Brian Morgan, Captain, formerly a CAA Flight Ops Inspector/Principal Flight Ops Inspector at Aviation House in High Holborn until 1988, passed away in February this year.

My beloved late father, had joined the Board of Trade Civil Aviation Department Flying Unit, CAFU, in 1968. However, his flying career had begun on volunteering for the Royal Navy in 1944 while at school in Wales. His early flying training was in Canada, though he didn't have the 'opportunity' to fight, and was de-mobbed in 1947. Having acquired a taste for flying and service life, he went on to join the RAF, becoming a Meteor pilot on No. 263 Squadron and then an instructor. This latter nearly finished his flying career as to the repeated dives, to teach recovery from engine failure, led to inner-ear problems. The solution was a posting to RAF Defford to undertake flying duties supporting the development of radar at nearby Malvern. He went on to be a Hastings pilot at RAF Colerne from 1963 to 1966 and was fortunate not to be at the controls of the fatigued aircraft involved in the Toot Baldon accident of July 1965 (*all on the flight perished, Ed*).

After he joined the Civil Aviation Flying Unit at Stansted in 1968, I remember visiting as a young boy and being shown over the CAFU HS125 aircraft in the hangar. Mostly Dad didn't discuss his work, though I'm aware of a certain Minister of Transport who was firmly encouraged to leave the flight deck despite the HS125 being 'their' aeroplane – but not when airborne! His log book also records a flight from Aberdeen to Heathrow with a certain Rt Hon Edward Heath, Prime Minister, in 1970, though this was a one-off and the more regular passengers were 'just' Ministers or Ambassadors.

At CAFU he was also heavily involved in Instrument Rating Tests (IRTs) for trainee pilots and calibration of ground-based radars (*flying prescribed tracks to confirm the coverage of newly installed or refurbished radars, Ed*). When conducting IRTs, his log book records that in May 1973 he failed four out of five candidates. I do wonder if this prompted him to grasp the next opportunity, which was to the Flight Operations Inspectorate in 1976, at the old Aviation House in High Holborn. He very much enjoyed his work in this CAA branch. He was proud of his achievement in establishing and licensing Extended Twin Operations (ETOPS), including taking the HS125 to conduct appraisals of airports in Iceland and Greenland, assessing their suitability for diverted 'big twins'. He also set down the procedures for the carriage of racehorses by air – animal lovers please look away!

On retirement from CAA in 1988, he went on to be Flight Ops Director at Paramount Airways, in Bristol, and then to Airtours in Manchester. When these adventures ended so too did his involvement in commercial aviation and he then enjoyed spending time with his wife Dorothy and friends in Great Malvern, and at Tenerife. He supported his old school, the Vulcan To The Sky project, Paddle Steamer Waverley, Help for Heroes and a range of ex-service organisations.

Dad, wait for us, we'll see you in Arrivals.

Secret Britain – No.10

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Following the separation of Ireland, the British Government retained the use of a number of Irish ports, namely *Cobh (Spike Island), Berehaven and Lough Swilly*, referred to as the Treaty Ports. Under the separation agreement, these were handed over to the Dublin Government in 1938, on schedule, with Britain unaware that it was very soon to become involved in another World War.

When war broke out, the Republic of Ireland (RoI) declared itself a neutral country, with "Eire" painted in large letters on some areas of the coastline and on some of her commercial ships. This was in order that both the Allied and Axis forces were aware of its neutrality and that their military aircraft and ships should remain clear. The Dublin Government were no fools and realised that Germany, aided by the IRA, could invade the RoI as a stepping-stone to invading the UK. They were also very aware that in the early days of WW2, Winston Churchill was actively seeking the use of those the former Treaty Ports, to use as naval bases that would be closer to the theatre of action in the North Atlantic. The Dublin Government refused on the basis that any such agreement would compromise its neutrality and drag it into a war that it was little prepared for.

Churchill had two plans to attempt to secure the former treaty ports; the first involved London handing over sovereignty of Northern Ireland to Eire after the war, whilst the second was to take the Treaty Ports by force using forces stationed in Northern Ireland. Dublin was keenly aware of "*Operation Fork*" where, after the German invasion of Denmark in April 1940, Churchill had ordered an invasion of Iceland to secure its ports for Allied use before the Germans could seize them. Churchill eventually accepted that Ireland would remain neutral, and that threat disappeared.

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The RoI had another problem, in the form of Nazi spies; operating in Ireland since 1930, and sending information back to Germany that could be useful in the event of an invasion. According to a 2006 report in the Sunday Business Post, a fifty strong group of Nazi sympathisers living and working in Dublin, some in State paid jobs, could not be arrested or deported as they had not breached any laws. When war broke out, these Dublin based Germans became concerned at a possible British invasion of Eire resulting in them obtaining a negotiated safe passage back to Germany via the UK. In attempts to fill their intelligence-gathering gap Germany made at least twelve attempts between 1939 and 1943 to place spies into Ireland.

With the outbreak of war, the RoI was now fearing possible invasion by both Britain and Germany. As a result, they knew that they would have to keep their finger on the pulse to ensure that their neutrality remained intact. Dublin had developed its own intelligence service, G2, the equivalent of Britain's MI5, and their army also had its own intelligence section. In 1939 Germany caused consternation for both Britain and Ireland when it began propaganda broadcasts for fifteen minutes every Sunday night in Irish Gaelic by Professor Ludwig Muhlhausen. These broadcasts were not only being monitored in Ireland by G2 but also by British Military Intelligence and the BBC. London was convinced that these broadcasts contained coded messages and employed the services of a specialist from Glasgow University. In Ireland, the military at McKee Barracks, Dublin, also recorded the transmissions using their shorthand typists and linguists. G2 brought in their own specialist and so began the secret code breakers war on both sides of the Irish Sea.

Despite Ireland's neutrality this was also the beginning of strong links between the British MI5 and the Irish G2, and the constant secret exchange of intelligence information between the two agencies during the war. The release in 2003 of the "Irish Agents" files by the British National Archives clearly demonstrates the very close co-operation there was between Britain and Ireland. Items such as ciphers, photographs, maps etc were all copied to Britain by the Irish G2 intelligence service. There is also evidence of co-operation with the US, India and South African authorities by Britain and Ireland.

In 1940 British and Irish authorities became aware of "*Plan Kathleen*", a German plan to invade Ireland. While foreign delegations in Dublin were not permitted to possess radio transmitters the British Embassy in Dublin was quietly allowed to have a small transmitter. In the event of a German invasion of Ireland it was agreed that *Sir John Loader Maffey*, the UK Representative to Eire, would transmit the code word "*Pumpkins*" (later changed to "*Measure*"). This code word would be received by *General Sir Hubert Huddleston*, the General Officer Commanding (GOC.) Northern Ireland, and *General Sir Frank Franklyn*, the British Troops in Northern Ireland commander, and would trigger the invited British counterattack Allied troops stationed in Northern Ireland would flood across the border by road and rail to support the poorly equipped Irish defence forces repel the invasion. To facilitate this the UK lodged a substantial amount of money in a Dublin bank in order that their troops could be paid.



MAP KEY

1 Cobh	2 Berehaven	3 Lough Swill
4 Shannon	5 Baldonnel,	6 Gormanstown
7 Fermoy	8 Glenville	9 Ballintee
10 Edgeworthstown	11 Rathduff Golden	

The response to *Plan Kathleen* was not the only secret joint UK/Irish plan that was devised. At a time when it was looking highly likely that German would invade the south of England as part of their "*Operation Sea Lion*" the "*Doomsday plan*", officially called "*Plan W*", was formulated between Britain and Ireland. Under this plan UK forces could fall back to Ireland in order to re-group. The Dublin government would place a number of sites available for British land forces to occupy while preparing a counterattack. Initially it was agreed that three RAF Hurricane squadrons would fly into *Baldonnel Airfield*, southwest of *Dublin*, and two light bomber squadrons into an airfield at *Collinstown*, near *Mullibgar* in *Co. Westmeath*, to attack German troops in *Cork*. Members of the Irish and British forces secretly began searching Eire for suitable sites.

Initially the RAF sought a site on the southeast coast as it was felt that the current Irish airfields of *Rineanna* (now called *Shannon*) near *Limerick*, *Dublin airport*, and *Baldonnel*, the military airfield near *Dublin*, and *Gormanstown*, near *Drogheda* would cover other parts of Ireland - the southeast location would be best suited for launching RAF attacks on German-occupied Britain. Small airfields were located at *Fermoy*, *Glenville*, *Ballintee* (near *Navan*), and *Edgeworthstown*, *Co. Longford*. These temporary secret airfields did not have permanent accommodation but, importantly, the aircraft could be hidden in the surrounding trees.

It should be noted that the current airports at *Waterford* and *Cork* were not constructed until well after WW2. However, the Irish ruled this out on the basis that any German invasion would quickly overrun such a site. Eventually a site was found in the valley of the *River Suir*, in the south of *Co. Tipperary* and was given the code-name *Rathduff Golden*. *Rathduff* was a name that is common in various parts of Ireland; in fact, in *Co.*

Tipperary alone there is more than one *Rathduff*. This site also suited the Irish as they had constructed a new secret command headquarters a few miles away for use in the event of invasion and both sites were declared out of bounds for all normal military operations. In autumn 1942, after the threat of invasion had diminished the Irish Army decided to hold a major exercise to test the planning and training it had been undertaking for four years and the secret airfield was used by Ireland's 2nd Division during the exercise. This partially compromised the secret and soon the land was returned to farmland. Today nothing remains of this secret airfield.

Retired Staff Association - Who's Who



President Bob Coles

Elected Officers



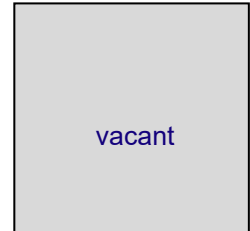
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Andy Maynard



Vice-chair
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Treasurer
Matthew Baines



vacant

Secretary

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Colin Chisholm
Pensions
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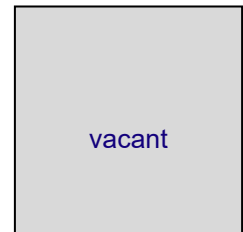


Richard Wright
OPA/NFOP Rep



vacant

Committee post



vacant

Committee post

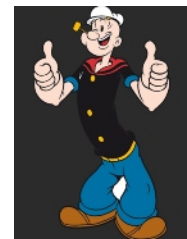
Co-opted Committee Members



Richard Woodroffe
Web Master



(Hang on, are you sure? Ed)



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9C Corbin Way, Gore Cross Business Park, Bridport, DT6 3UX, ☎01308 423411