

# **RETIREMENT CLUB NEWSLETTER**

AUGUST 2012 No 276

Manton Lane MK41 7PF

Tel: 01234 350681

*Dear Friends*

## **JULY WALK contributed by Brian Ashman**



On Wednesday 11th July, Brian Ashman led the ARC walk from the Prince of Wales, Bromham.

We started off along the old Northampton Road. At the Salem Cottages we encountered our first heavy shower and sheltered under the trees. We then carried on past West Lodge, passing through Salem Thrift Wood, where we saw a couple of orchids. This was all part of W.H. Allen's estate and home and later a mental hospital that was closed down a few years ago.

The walk then took us down then up through the wheat fields, over the top across the old Northampton railway, (now Stevington Walk), to Stevington. We walked through Stevington and then turned up by the windmill and whilst there we stopped for the photograph. That's when the heavens opened and we all got a soaking.

It was then a steady plod up over the railway again, past Skylark Cottage, (the line man's cottage), along the bridle path to Bromham. Once at the end of the bridle path we walked back to the Prince of Wales by way of the road paths.

Marylyn Wood got so wet she changed her trousers for a towel before going into the pub for her meal, however she refused to give us a twirl!

I think all in all it was a good walk taking into account some of the muddy patches, long grass and heavy showers with hail!

Seventeen of us went on the walk and sixteen sat down to eat.

## **AUGUST WALK**

There is no walk in August. The next walk will be on Wednesday, September 12th.

### **One Hundred Years of Aviation August 1912 contributed by John Cherry**

5th In Washington DC Congress has passed the Hardwick Bill, giving double pay to all U.S. army officers who volunteer to train as pilots.

10th Mr. F.K. Mc Clean flew under the Thames bridges in London today in a Short S33 pusher biplane.

13th The Boer War Veteran Major Hugh Trenchard has won his aviation certificate at the Larkhall training ground and has been posted to the Central Flying School at Upavon, Wiltshire as an instructor.

The first British military aeroplane trials have been held. The prize in the speed competition which is considered to be the most important has been won by Samuel Cody in his primitive but highly powered machine 'The Cathedral', although more advanced aircraft have been displayed.

15th At Chalons, France the Frenchmen Gaubert and Scott have won a 50,000-franc prize offered by the Michelin brothers to encourage the development of fighter aircraft.

Flying an Astra-Wright Type E aeroplane they dropped fifteen projectiles of which twelve successfully hit a dummy target only 66 feet across.

19th Today German pilots turned out in force to welcome the first aviator to fly from Paris to Berlin. The pilot, flying a Bleriot monoplane was none other than Mr. Edmond Audemars a Swiss from Geneva, he landed at Johannisthal airfield after a journey of 590 miles taking just two days, stopping overnight at Bochum in the Ruhr, however, mechanical troubles caused him to make unscheduled landings on route.

Mr. Audemars is a very colourful character with a toothbrush moustache and a bow tie. Last year he was one of the aviators who made up the travelling show team of 'Moisant's International Aviators' in the U.S. where he was nicknamed 'Tiny' due to his small stature, he was billed as the pilot of 'The smallest and most dangerous aeroplane in the world'

Audemars was in the company of Roland Garros (Fool Flyer) and Rene Simon (Cloud Kisser) in addition to an assortment of other aerial extroverts who thrilled the American crowds with their airborne bravado

The U.S. Army Signal Corps aeroplanes have flown for the first time during army manoeuvres.

25th Today above the beautiful countryside of Wiltshire, the brilliant naval pilot Lt Wilfred Parke survived one of the dreaded 'spins' or spiral dives that have to date claimed the lives of many aviators. Parke, who had a fellow officer as passenger was flying the new Avro Type G biplane that is fitted with a 60hp Green engine and has a streamlined fuselage, found that he could recover from the spin by pushing the joystick forward and applying rudder control

against the direction of the spin which has always seemed the wrong thing to do.

### **Fordham Arms Informal Gathering**

Just a reminder that the next gathering will take place on Monday, 6th August at about 7.30pm at the Fordham Arms, Sharnbrook MK44 1PX. Please contact Tony Dickason on 01234 824741 if you would like any further details.

### **Annual Lunch**

A date for your diaries. Advance notice that the Annual Lunch will be held on Wednesday, 7th November at the Sharnbrook Hotel at 12.30pm. The cost will be £17.50 to include a 3 course meal and tea/coffee and biscotti. A menu and booking form will be included in the next two newsletters.

### **Obituary**

We have received the sad news that Mr Maurice Keens died on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2012. Maurice commenced at ARA 8<sup>th</sup> February 1960 where he worked as an Electrician's Mate until his retirement in March 1986.

The funeral has already taken place. We offer our deepest sympathy to all his family.

<b>FORTHCOMING EVENTS</b>	
Wednesday August 6th	Informal gathering at the Fordham Arms about 7.30pm.
Thursday August 9th	Military Intelligence Museum, Chicksands 10.30am.
Wednesday, November 7th	Annual Lunch at the Sharnbrook Hotel.

*Please send any copy for publication to me by the 15th of the month, Chris Lock*

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