

RETIREMENT CLUB NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2011 No 258

Manton Lane MK41 7PF

Tel: 01234 350681

Dear Friends

JANUARY WALK contributed by Dave Smith



On a damp dull morning 10 people met at the Pheasant Pub in Brickhill, Bedford at 10:30 to carry out the first 2011 walk. After a weather assessment 4 of the walkers decided not to venture out but would be at the pub when we returned. On leaving the pub we cut down the bridle way and across the fields to the top of Cleat Hill. We then followed the

The Intrepid Walkers

road and reaching the bridle way we turned left and followed it up to Twin Woods Airfield. As the rain started to get heavier we took the track that leads towards Clapham and passed the side of the Golf Course. After about ½ a mile we turned left to the entrance, followed the path through the course into the fields by Clapham Woods. From there it was a short stroll around the edge of the wood and back to Brickhill. The whole walk took 2 hours and was about 5 miles.



The Four “Sensible” ones who stayed in the Pub

FEBRUARY WALK

The February walk will take place on Wednesday, 9th February starting at The Duke of Wellington, Stanwick near Higham Ferrers NN9 6PS and will be led by John Cooper and Ron Stone (01933 357170).

Coming from south, when you come to the outskirts of Rushden , turn onto the A6 bypass and follow this to the 3rd roundabout before turning right, signposted Thrapston, Oundle , Peterborough, A45.

At the first roundabout (A45), the sign on your left shows the entrance to Stanwick lakes. Take the right hand fork signposted Stanwick. Continue through the village

until you see the church in front of you. Bear round to the left of the church, the entrance to the Duke of Wellington car park is slightly obscured on the right hand side.

The walk is about four and a half miles long and will take in part of the Stanwick lakes. Please meet at the usual time of 10.15 for a 10.30am start.

FORDHAM ARMS, SHARNBROOK

Tony Dickason (01234 824741) has suggested the following dates for the informal gatherings on Monday evenings at the Fordham Arms.

Monday March 7th 2011, around 7:30 pm to 8:00

Monday August 1st 2011

Monday December 5th 2011

FEBRUARY RAeS LECTURE

The lecture on Wednesday February 9th is a joint lecture with Beds and Herts Mechanicals and is sponsored by Lockheed Martin. The talk is entitled 'Lockheed Martin UK Support to Operations in Afghanistan' and will take place at Lockheed Martin (formerly Hunting Engineering) at 19.00 for 19.30.

Note You must have identification i.e. driving licence or passport otherwise you will not be admitted. Also note that there will not be a buffet as originally stated in the program.

MEMBER CONTACT DETAILS

The committee would like to collect contact details of interested members of ARC so that you can be contacted with reminders of forthcoming events. Please fill in the form below and send to Chris Lock, 24 Fountains Road, Bedford, MK41 8NU or email the information to chris.lock24@gmail.com

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Name	Tel. No.
Address.....	Do you use the Internet?
.....	If Yes:-
.....	Email Address.....
.....	Are you likely to access the ARA website monthly?.....
Postcode	Can you open WORD documents?

Currently Planned Forthcoming Events

AGM, Buffet and Quiz	March 16th 2011 see next newsletter for further details.
Highgrove Visit	Hopefully in the spring but cannot be booked until February 1st. If this proves impossible then an alternative visit to Chicksands DISC will be arranged.
Marylyn & Ray's	Their 'at home' will be held in July, probably on Tuesday 5th but speaker and date still to be confirmed.
Annual Luncheon	Expected to be at Woodlands Manor on October 5th.

One Hundred Years of Aviation February 1911 contributed by John Cherry

1st Today in Massachusetts Burgess and Curtiss have become the first U.S. licensed aircraft manufactures.

The first powered flying machine to be built in Belfast Ireland, today completed its first season of flying. The machine was designed, built and flown by Lilian Bland who having attended an aviation meeting at Blackpool last October built a glider based on the Wright's design; Lilian then bought a 20hp engine and propeller from A.V. Roe for her powered machine which she named the 'Mayfly'. A 'Mayfly II' is now planned.

Today aeroplanes were involved in warfare for possibly the first time when the Mexican government hired the 'Moisant International Aviators' to fly from El Paso across the Rio Grande to spy on rebels on the Mexican side of the river near Juarez. Rene Simon along with fellow Frenchman Roland Garros became the Worlds first air mercenaries and the first to fly on a war mission. Flying their Bleriot's they did not come under fire mainly because the rebels were fascinated by the flying display and also because the airmen dropped cigarettes and oranges to them. It is feared however, that it is only a matter of time before they face rebel bullets. Lt Benjamin D Foulois and other officers are to work with the 'Moisant Flyers' on air reconnaissance.

5th Today Vivian Walsh made the first aeroplane flight in New Zealand.

7th The first French Military Flying Certificate was awarded today to Lt de Rose.

17th Today Glen Curtiss gave an official demonstration to the Navy of his 'hydro- aeroplane's capabilities by flying from North Island to the USS Pennsylvania anchored in San Diego Bay. Curtiss had dispensed with the under wing floats made from inflated motorcycle inner tubes in favour of a single central pontoon. The aircraft was hoisted aboard by crane and later lowered back into the water for the return flight to North Island.

The Navy Department has been awarded \$25000 for the 1911-12 fiscal years to specifically spend on three aircraft. A standard Curtiss 'pusher' as flown by Ely as a training aircraft, the hydro-aeroplane with modifications, as demonstrated by Curtiss and a Wright Flyer modified by the addition of floats. The modifications to the hydro-aeroplane are to include a retractable undercarriage; the aircraft is to be named the 'Triad' as it can operate in three ways, in the air, on the ground and on the water. Lt Ellyson and Ensign Pousland are to be taught by Glen Curtiss to fly all three machines.

- 18th Under the auspices of the British Army the French pilot Henri Pequet flew his Humber biplane from Allahabad to Naini Junction, India on the first official airmail flight.
- 22nd Henri Pequet and Captain W.G.Windham have begun a regular airmail service between Allahabad and Naini Junction to coincide with the Universal Postal Exhibition being held in Allahabad. The special envelopes carried are marked 'First Aerial Post'.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS	
Wednesday 9th February	February Walk – Meet at The Duke of Wellington, Stanwick at 10.15 for a 10.30am start.
Wednesday 9th February	RAeS Lecture at Lockheed Martin 19.00 for 19.30 No buffet prior to lecture. Please bring identification.
Monday 7th March	Informal gathering at The Fordham Arms, Sharnbrook Around 7.30 to 8.00pm
Wednesday 16th March	AGM, Buffet and Quiz at ARA Clubhouse 7.00 for 7.30pm

Please send any copy for publication to me by the 15th of the month. I will be delighted to receive any! Chris Lock

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