

RETIREMENT CLUB NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2013 No 282

Manton Lane MK41 7PF

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JANUARY WALK contributed by Roger Taylor

It was a fine sunny day when sixteen of us set out from the 'Half Moon' pub, Kempston. Taking the adjacent footpath between houses we proceeded to Kempston Mill. We then took the riverside path downstream on the Kempston side of the River Ouse, soon coming to the back of the 'Kempston Outdoor Centre', which is sister to 'Blue Peris' in Wales, an approved organisation for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

We carried on along the river bank across some rather 'damp' meadows. Continuing on until we crossed over Queens Park pedestrian river bridge, bringing us to an area called 'The Slipe', which gave us good views of the Sikh Temple.

We then continued on, taking the upstream path with meadow and woodland on our left and the new housing development of Great Denham on our right, soon coming to stretches of arable land, and then taking a small track to bring us to where we then walked across the new Western Bypass river bridge. From there we headed to the picturesque All Saint's Church.

Then we continued on along the riverside path with an avenue of lime trees, known locally as 'Ladies Walk' and on to Water Lane, finally taking us back to the 'Half Moon' for a welcome lunch after a two and a half hour walk.

FEBRUARY WALK

The next walk will take place on Wednesday, 13th February and will be led by Russell Packwood, (01234 771359) and Tony Manning, (01234 306482). Please meet at the usual time of 10.15am for a 10.30 start at The Pheasant, Kimbolton Road, Bedford MK41 8YR

Please note that this walk could be muddy if the wet weather persists.

RAeS Lecture

The next lecture is entitled 'The F-16 and its Evolution' and will be sponsored by Lockheed Martin. The talk will be given by Paul Livingston of Lockheed Martin and will be held on Wednesday, 9th January at ARA. 19.00 for 19.30 and will be preceded by a buffet.

Annual Newsletter

By now you should have received the 2013 edition of the annual newsletter either by mail, hand or e-mail. If any ARA pensioner hasn't received one and would like one, please contact me, chris.lock24@gmail.com 01234 353779.

One Hundred Years of Aviation January and February 1913 contributed by John Cherry

I must apologise for having to combine two months of reports due to circumstances that unfortunately were beyond my control. As you will no doubt appreciate, getting about by motor car has now become very expensive with petrol costing 1s/1d (13d) per gallon* and taxi drivers still on strike over this high cost of fuel, it is hoped that this strike will soon be resolved as some taxis were seen plying for hire on New Years Eve so a Happy New Year to all. (* £4.66 @ 2012)

January

- 1st A report by the International Federation of Aeronautics in Paris, France received today states that, by the end of 1912, 1972 pilots had been awarded licences: 966 in France, 382 in Britain, 345 in Germany, 193 in America, 58 in Belgium, 27 in Switzerland and one in Egypt.
- 6th A communiqué received from Cuba today describes how the US Navy has used aeroplanes on manoeuvres for the first time. An air camp has apparently been set-up on Fisherman's Point, Guantanamo Bay, where the entire US naval air fleet will be based for the exercise.
- 13th The first regular aeroplane cargo service has been inaugurated today in America by Mr. Harry M Jones who flew his Wright Model B biplane from Boston to New York carrying a cargo of baked beans.
- 20th Whilst attempting to establish a new woman's altitude record in New York, Bernetta Miller became covered with oil when the oil flow indicator in her machine smashed, although she was temporarily blinded by the oil, Bernetta managed to make a safe emergency landing.
- 24th It is sad to have to report so early in the New Year of yet another loss of life from an accident involving an aeroplane, for today the acclaimed pilot and aeroplane designer Charles Nieport along with his mechanic Guyot were killed at Etampes, France when the wing warping device on their machine failed.

24th A Swiss pilot named as Oscar Bider caused much excitement in Madrid today when he landed his Bleriot monoplane. Bider, having taken-off from Pau in southern France reached an altitude of 11,483 feet to cross the Pyrenees landing safely at Cuatro Vientos airfield in Madrid.

February

3rd A communiqué received from Gotha, Germany states that the two German engineers, Bothmann and Gluck who founded the Gothaer Waggonfabrik [Gotha railway wagon factory] in 1898, have opened an aeroplane division.

14th In London today the Aero Show opened. The Vickers shipbuilding company is exhibiting its Experimental Fighting Biplane No 1. This is an armed combat aeroplane that has been ordered by the Admiralty.

27th It is reported from Italy that the chief pilot of the Caproni Company, Slavorosov flew from Milan to Rome on a tour organized by the newspaper La Gazzetta dello Sport. Slavorosov flew over the principal towns en route to advertise the Caproni Company.

27th In London today the War Office has lifted its ban on the use of monoplanes by the RFC that was imposed in September last year after a spate of fatal crashes with this type of machine.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS	
Wednesday February 13th	February Walk at The Pheasant, Kimbolton Road, Bedford. 10.15 for 10.30 start
Wednesday February 13th	RAeS Lecture. 'The F-16 and its Evolution' by Paul Livingston of Lockheed Martin 19.00 for 19.00 at ARA with buffet prior to lecture.

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

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