

RETIREMENT CLUB NEWSLETTER

February 2014 No 294

Manton Lane MK41 7PF

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JANUARY WALK – Roger Taylor



FEBRUARY WALK

The February walk will be on Wednesday 12 February and be led by Russ Packwood and Tony Manning. It will start from The Crown at Northill, 2 Ickwell Road, SG18 9AA.

From Bedford, Northill is probably best approached by a right hand turn off the A603 just before Willington. Follow the road through Cople for approx 4 miles and at the T junction in Northill turn right. The Crown is directly on the RHS next to the church. The food is very good but slightly higher price than we often pay, with the cooked dishes being around £10 - £13 and sandwiches and baguettes (which are very large) at £6 - £7. The walk is flat and fairly leisurely at around 4 - 4.5 miles. As always the walk will start at 10.30, with food ordered beforehand.

Hope to see you there.

JOHN TAYLOR BELLFOUNDRY MUSEUM AND WORKS VISIT

This has now been organised for the 23rd October with the tour due to start at 1.30pm, the cost of the tour is £10. The visit lasts about 1.5 hours and involves a lot of standing and walking over uneven ground so strong shoes must be worn and open toed sandals are prohibited.

Thanks to those of you who have already registered. As places are limited could those of you who may like to go register their interest with Chris Lock (01234 353779 email chris.lock24@gmail.com) as soon as possible so that we have more idea of numbers. There is also a pub nearby and you may like to lunch there before the visit. Bookings are recommended.

One Hundred Years of Aviation

John Cherry apologises for the absence of this column in the last two newsletters which has been due to computer problems.

One Hundred Years of Aviation December 1913 contributed by John Cherry

28th Today another world record has been broken, again by a French aviator. Flying from St Raphael, France Georges Legagneux flying in a Nieuport II N climbed to an altitude of 20,079 feet becoming the first pilot to use oxygen in flight.

29th A triumphant welcome awaited Jules Vedrines today, when the French aviator landed his Bleriot XI in Cairo, Egypt at the end of a 3,356 mile-flight across Europe, Asia Minor and the Levant, the eastern Mediterranean.

It is another success for the celebrated Parisian whose background-working class and socialist-is untypical of most of the modern heroes of the air.

You may recall that Vedrines took-off from Nancy, France on the 20th of November. His main stops on route to Egypt were at Prague, Vienna and Belgrade his last stop in Europe was the Ottoman empire capital Constantinople, finally reaching Egypt by way of Beirut and Jaffa.

31st As 1913 draws to a close, French Aviators can look back on another brilliant year of achievement, with every important world record in their hands for the third year in a row. In the last four months especially, new records have fallen thick and fast.

One Hundred Years of Aviation January 1914 contributed by John Cherry

1st In St Petersburg, Florida USA today the St Petersburg/ Tampa Airboat Line commenced the world's first regularly-scheduled aeroplane passenger flights.

Just after 10am Tony Jannus took a Benoist flying boat into the air with passenger A.C.Pheil, the former mayor of St Petersburg. They flew the 19 miles to Tampa in 20 minutes, Pheil is one of the strongest backers of the airline which is the idea of Percival E Fansler, Pheil bid \$400 at an auction to be the first passenger.

The normal fare is \$5 one-way for a gross weight, including baggage, of 200 pounds, extra weight or packages will cost six cents per pound.

Four round trips a day are planned and Thomas Benoist, whose company operates the airline, hopes to add another aeroplane and expand the service to Brandenton, Sarasota and Tarpon Springs.

Today the Chinese have formed an Army Air Arm.

10th A communiqué received from Washington DC today states that the US Navy secretary says that "aircraft must form a large part of our naval force"

20th In Florida, USA today the first permanent US Navy 'aeronautics station' has been set up at Pensacola; the unit has transferred from Maryland, it has nine officers, 23 men and seven aeroplanes.

27th Harry Hawker has become very famous abroad, two weeks ago he returned to Australia and today flew over Melbourne.

One Hundred Years of Aviation February 1914 contributed by John Cherry

12th Today at Port-Aviation near Paris, France Jean Ors Leapt from a Deperdussin monoplane at an altitude of 1,640 feet to test a parachute of his own design. Using a cord,

he opened the parachute at 1,000 feet and landed safely just 39 seconds after leaving the aeroplane.

In Russia today Igor Sikorsky's giant, four-engined biplane, the *Ilya Muromets* took to the air. It is an improved version of last years *Bolshoi Baltiskii*. The aeroplane has a wingspan of almost 100 feet and a cockpit fully enclosed by glass for the two pilots, and instruments that show both speed and altitude.

The passengers have a heated lounge, or, for the brave an outdoor promenade deck.

14th Today Igor Sikorsky's giant aeroplane took-off with 16 passengers and a dog, climbing to a height of 6,560 feet to set a world record for both load and altitude.

23rd Today the first test flight of the new Bristol Scout biplane, or 'Baby Biplane' as it has been called was made by Harry Busteed at the Larkhill training centre in Wiltshire. This new machine is said to be capable of 95 mph.

RAeS Lecture

The next lecture is entitled '*Missile and Fire Control Products*' and will be given by David Wilson of Lockheed Martin. This will be held on Wednesday, 12th February at ARA. 18.30 for 19.00.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS	
Wednesday 12 th February 2014	February Walk
Wednesday 12 th February 2014	RAeS Lecture, ARA

Please send any copy for publication to me by the 15th of the month, Keith Rose

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