

RETIREMENT CLUB NEWSLETTER

JULY 2012 No 275

Manton Lane MK41 7PF

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Dear Friends

Military Intelligence Museum, Chicksands (DISC)

There are still a few places left but this is your last chance to book

We have arranged for a party of up to 20 to visit the Military Intelligence Museum at Chicksands SG17 5PR on **Thursday, August 9th at 10.30am.**

Those attending will have to provide names and associated car registration details before we will be allowed entry, as the museum site is within the secure area of the Chicksands DISC base. Chicksands is located off the A600 Bedford to Hitchin Road between Haynes and Shefford.

Typically the visits last around 2 hours, and a word of warning, there is very little seating!

The displays address:-

- ▲ The Intelligence Corps museum
- ▲ The Medmenham Collection of air photography
- ▲ The USAF at Chicksands

Following the tour you can join us for lunch at The Greyhound, Haynes, a 10 minute drive from DISC. Last orders 2.15pm.

We will require the names of those wishing to attend with the relevant car registration number. You may book by phone to: Trevor, on 01234 381466, or, by email tandc.tumber@googlemail.com

Please book no later than 31st July

Entrance to the museum is free – but they greatly appreciate donations (it is suggested £2.50 per person).

Please indicate if you wish to partake of lunch as we can then reserve tables.

(DISC - Defence Intelligence and Security Centre)

Mick Finch Memorial Golf Tournament contributed by Marylyn Wood

A stableford full handicap allowance golf competition was played on Friday 8th June at Pavenham Park Golf Club.

Golfers young, and not so young, braved the stormy conditions on a course that held up well despite the recent rains.

The Trophy was won by Maureen Connolly followed closely by Andy, her husband, and Terry Holland (we won't disclose the scores but they were in double figures!) Nigel Corby won the longest drive but no one found the green to be nearest the pin! We were pleased to welcome Maureen Finch who awarded the prizes supported by her close family. An excellent meal finished an exhausting afternoon. Many thanks to those who turned out.

Marie Curie Charity Open Garden contributed by Marylyn Wood

Our thanks to all those from ARA retirement club and staff who supported our Marie Curie Charity Open Garden. The weather was unexpectedly good, we had summer for the three days we were open. We raised £1600 which included £100 from the proceeds of the sale of a jade eagle kindly donated by Sandra Fellows. It was hard work as all gardeners will know and we hope everyone enjoyed the garden and the event.

JUNE WALK contributed by Brian Ashman



Photo by Keith Rose

The walk on Wednesday 13th June was led by Brian Ashman. Nineteen of us met at The Crown Public House, Willington at the usual time of 10.15.

We walked to the Danish Camp with all its wild fowl then turned left along the 51 cycle way towards Bedford. Crossing over Elstow brook we continued to the River Ouse across a field passing a couple of lakes on the way. At this point we turned left again by the southern bypass viaduct and walked back round to the 51 cycle track, past the gravel extraction plant, back to the Elstow brook and then turned left back across the same field to the river.

On reaching the river we went right along a gravel path that Marston Vale has put down in the last couple of years. Then back by the river to the Crown at Willington.

The weather was fine and warm, we were lucky considering the weather we had had during the previous few days.

Seventeen of us sat down to a very good meal in the Crown. A good morning was had by all.

JULY WALK

The walk on Wednesday, 11th July will again be led by Brian Ashman, (01234 824036). Please meet at the usual time of 10.15 for a 10.30am start at the Prince of Wales, Bromham MK43 8PE

One Hundred Years of Aviation July 1912 contributed by John Cherry

1st Several thousand spectators watched in horror today as Harriet Quimby known as the 'Purple Lady' was killed during an air show at Squantum airfield near Boston USA.

Harriet you may recall was the first female to have flown solo across the English Channel on the 16th of April of this year. Harriet claimed never to have had an accident in the air due to her carefully checking every wire and screw before getting into her machine.

Her passenger for the flight around the Boston lighthouse at the end of the air show was none other than the organiser of the event, William Wellard, the father of Charles an exhibition pilot with the Curtiss team.

William was a large man, and was warned that any sudden movement of his bulk in the white Bleriot XI aeroplane would unbalance the aircraft. Neither Harriet nor William were wearing seat belts when the aircraft suddenly went into a dive from a height of about 1500 feet, at about 100 feet first William and then Harriet were thrown out of the aircraft, they both landed in shallow water and both died at the scene. The Bleriot ironically came out of its dive and landed with minimal damage, the cause of the accident is not known.

Two other women Ruth Law, who was on her first flight, and Blanch Scott were both in the air at the same time and witnessed the tragic event unfold.

Harriet was a New York journalist working for the 'Leslie's Weekly' magazine she claimed to have come from a wealthy Californian family and to have been educated in private schools both in America and Europe but was probably the daughter of a Michigan farmer.

5th In Maryland Captain Charles Chandler along with Lieutenants Thomas Milling and Henry Arnold were today presented with certificates qualifying them as the United States first 'Military Aviators'.

27th Lt John Rodgers and Ensign Charles Maddox flying a Wright model B1 'Flyer' sent the first wireless message from an aeroplane to a ship, the torpedo boat USS Stringham at Annapolis Maryland.

31st Lt T.G. Ellyson is catapult-launched in an aeroplane from a wall platform at Annapolis; this follows an earlier launch in September of last year from a ground platform.

Obituary

We are sorry to hear of the death of Lewis Page who died on the 15th June 2012. Lewis joined ARA as a Metal Model Maker in 1988 where he worked until his retirement in 2003.

We offer our deepest sympathy to all his family.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS	
Wednesday July 11th	July walk starting at The Prince of Wales, Bromham. 10.15 for 10.30am start.
Thursday August 9th	Military Intelligence Museum, Chicksands

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

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