

RETIREMENT CLUB NEWSLETTER

May 2014 No 297

Manton Lane MK41 7PF

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APRIL WALK - Led by Marylyn & Ray Wood



Nineteen walkers met at The Royal Oak in Woburn for the April walk. The 4.1 mile route took us into the centre of the town where the house of one of Woburn's illustrious residents was pointed out. We then headed West on a triangular route over attractive countryside with perhaps more hills than we are used to in other parts of Bedfordshire. After passing Horsemoor farm we entered woods where we suspected that the concrete roadways dated from WW2. At Hundreds Farm we turned North-East and headed towards New Wavendon Heath and enjoyed a pleasant walk through these woods which led us across the A5130 and to Apsley Wood. Unfortunately we were denied glimpses of any locals at Mermaid's Pond - we were ushered back towards Woburn too soon. We were also whisked past the many enticing restaurants and tea shops in Bedford Street but we did pause outside the old Town Hall, now a fine art dealers, for a group photograph.

(Report by Keith Rose)

MAY WALK

The May walk will be on Wednesday 14 May and will be led by Brian Ashman. It will start from The Crown, 17 Station Road, Willington, MK44 3QH Please meet at the usual time of 10:15 for a prompt 10:30 start.

AGM and Social Evening ('Canine Partners')

The minutes of the AGM are appended to this newsletter

Social Evening Following the AGM

It was a shame that so few people attended the AGM as the talk following it was extremely entertaining and interesting. Canine Partners is a charity which trains dogs to assist people with disabilities, particularly those who use wheelchairs. They brought with them five dogs

at various stages of their training and demonstrated some of the tasks they were expected to perform for their disabled owners. Those that were nearing the end of their training performed the tasks, such as unloading a washing machine or picking up dropped coins, extremely well. Some of the others did not do so well and generated much mirth.

Following the talk and demonstration Canine Partners had a stall selling promotional items and everyone was very generous with buying goods or making donations. We then all enjoyed the tasty buffet supplied by the attendees.

'John Bunyan' boat trip



Following last years unsuccessful attempt to organise a trip on the new John Bunyan boat along the Great Ouse, your committee are having a second go at arranging this. The date will be Tuesday 24th June. The trip will start from Priory Marina at 2.00pm and will head up the river, passing through the Town Lock towards Kempston and returning to Priory Marina at about 5pm. The boat is equipped with an access lift and a toilet wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair.

The cost will be £8.00 per person. Cream teas will be available on board the John Bunyan, but must be booked in advance at £5.00 per head. Friends and family will be very welcome.

To book your places please fill in the attached form with your requirements and send to Anne Pallister, 1 Nightingale Avenue, Bedford, MK41 7JB. Please make cheques payable to ARA Retirement Club. Contact details are requested in case of last minute changes to the schedule. For any enquiries please contact Anne on 01234 272906 or by email at apallister8@gmail.com.

One Hundred Years of Aviation May 1914 contributed by John Cherry

2nd Today in Sydney, Australia, before a crowd of 60,000, Mr Maurice Guillaux looped-the-loop ten times in succession in his Bleriot monoplane. He has been giving exhibition flights in this same machine since April 20th

6th A report received from Mexico states that today, Mexican gunners hit a U S Navy Curtiss AH-3 flying boat that was on a reconnaissance mission. Neither the pilot, Lt PNL Bellinger, nor the observer, Lt RC Saufley were injured, this is the first military aeroplane to be struck by enemy gunfire.

It was Bellinger who made the first flight of the current US-Mexican hostilities on the 25th April, the first time US air forces went into combat, since then Bellinger has made regular reconnaissance flights in the area.

The US Navy brought a number of aeroplanes to Vera Cruz on board the USS *Mississippi* to support the US forces that were landed here last month in response to the arrest of

American sailors in Tampico, on April 10th. This incident has brought to a new head the growing tension in US-Mexican relations since General Vitoriano Huerta seized power in February last year.

The Tampico Incident

Some of Admiral Henry T Mayo's sailors from a motor whaleboat from the American warship *Dolphin* were arrested without a warrant he demanded an immediate apology from the Mexican government the failure of the latter to comply has lead to the naval occupation of the port of Vera Cruz.

Vera Cruz or Veracruz is a port in East Mexico it was founded in 1519 by Herncin Cortes (1485-1547) the Spanish conquistador. He invaded Mexico in 1519 and conquered the Aztec kingdom ruled by Montezuma. After destroying the capital in 1521 he reorganized the country as a Spanish province.

It was captured by the French in 1838 and by the Americans in 1847 under Winfield Scott and again this year under Henry T Mayo when President Thomas Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924) intervened by sending US Marines to prevent foreign supplies from reaching the Mexican dictator General Victoriano Huerta.

9th Mr W Newell has today become the first person to descend by parachute from an aeroplane in the United Kingdom.

22nd Another black day for aviation. Gustav Hamel the celebrated aviator left Villacoublay, France for England today in a new Morane monoplane, but after flying off over the English Channel he has not been seen, it is feared that he has crashed into the sea and lost his life.

28th Today at Hammondsport on Lake Keuka, New York, home of the Aerial Experiment Association, Mr Glenn Curtiss made a short flight of five seconds in Mr Samuel P Langley's full size Aerodrome after secretly removing the machine from the Smithsonian Institution and subsequently altering the design to that of a seaplane along with modifications to the important structural and control systems and the propeller.

The original Aerodrome had a wingspan of 48 feet a wing area of 1,040 square feet and was powered by a 52hp radial engine that was built by Mr C M Manly but designed by Mr S M Blazer.

Mr Curtiss and Mr Walcott, who is the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution are determined to prove that Langley's Aerodrome was "the first aeroplane capable of sustained flight with a man" in order to fight an injunction placed by the Wright Aeronautical Company thereby invalidating the brothers' commercially valuable patents. This is seen as a disgraceful effort by both Walcott and Curtiss who intends to continue with his testing.

| FORTHCOMING EVENTS | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Wednesday 14 th May 2014 | May Walk |
| Tuesday 24 th June 2014 | 'John Bunyan' river trip |
| Thursday 23 rd October 2014 | John Taylor Bell Foundry Visit |

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

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MINUTES OF THE 25th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ARA RETIREMENT CLUB HELD IN THE CLUBHOUSE ON WEDNESDAY 16th APRIL 2014

Members Present: Russell and Alma Berrington, Margaret King, Pete and Pam Marsden, Mike and Chris Lock, Gerry Pauley, Bruce Price, Keith Rose, Trevor and Christine Tumber, Marylyn and Ray Wood.

There was one visitor, Jackie Currie

In the chair Bruce Price

Apologies for Absence

Anne Pallister, Dave Thomas, Joyce Pauley and Brian Ashman

Approval of the Minutes of the 24th AGM

The approval of the minutes of the previous AGM as published in the May 2013 Newsletter was proposed by Marylyn Wood and seconded by Gerry Pauley and unanimously passed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report

The chairman spoke about the activities of 2013.

These included the abortive attempt for a boat trip aboard the new Bedford Community boat, the 'John Bunyan'. Unfortunately this had to be cancelled at the last minute when the boat sprang a leak. The trip has now been rescheduled for June 24th. Since 38 people are needed to cover costs, the chairman stated that friends, neighbours etc. would be very welcome.

There had been an open garden afternoon hosted by Marylyn and Ray Wood that along with other afternoons raised £3500 for Marie Curie Nurses. Marylyn and Ray were thanked for their efforts.

And finally the Annual Lunch that had been held at The Sharnbrook Hotel. This had been very well received by the twenty five who attended. Dougie Hunter, the Chief Executive of ARA joined us for lunch and gave a brief talk on the current activities and fortunes of ARA.

The regular monthly walks were well attended with about 15 to 20 persons turning up.

The informal gatherings continue under the stewardship of Tony Dickason.

The annual newsletter had been distributed in January giving as much information of forthcoming events as possible.

The Chairman reported that the Club had received a donation of £100 from ARA towards the Club funds, for which he would like to thank ARA.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Anne Pallister, Chris Lock presented the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement.

The balance at the beginning of the year was £350.84. £100 deposit for the Annual Lunch and £47 for the abortive boat trip had already been paid out.

The income for the year had been made up of £100 donation from ARA for the year 2012-2013 and 48p bank interest.

The expenses had been for the 2013 AGM and the annual newsletter mail shot. £105 has been paid out as deposits for forthcoming events, £77 for the boat trip and £25 for the bell foundry trip. The balance at the end of the year was £465.48. It should be noted that ARA has already made a donation of £100 for the year 2013-2014 but this was not received in time to be shown in these accounts and will therefore be shown next year.

The acceptance of the accounts were proposed by Pete Marsden and seconded by Trevor Tumber. The accounts were then approved unanimously by the meeting.

Election of Officers and Committee members

There were no additional nominations and as all members of the committee were prepared to stay in post they were proposed en bloc by Christine Tumber and seconded by Russ Berrington to continue for the next year.

This was unanimously passed by those attending the AGM.

The committee now comprises Bruce Price, Chairman and Walks Coordinator, Anne Pallister, Treasurer, Chris Lock, Secretary, Keith Rose, Newsletter Editor, Marylyn Wood, Trevor Tumber and Gerry Pauley, Events Organizers.

Any Other Business

Mike Lock asked how many have already been booked for the boat trip so far. Unfortunately this was only 10 but more were expected.

The chairman stated that any ideas from members for future events would be very welcome.

Chris Lock said that she was collecting money for the boat trip that evening and that 22 had already booked for the Bell Foundry on October 23rd but that more would be welcome. She will contact those who have booked nearer to the time with further details.

After thanking all present for attending, the chairman wished them well at the Social Evening to follow and formally declared the meeting closed at 7.50pm.

'John Bunyan' boat trip Booking Form

Tuesday 24th June at 2.00pm from Priory Marina

Please reserve:

| | £ Total |
|---|---------|
| _____ tickets for the boat trip at £8.00 per person | _____ |
| _____ cream teas at £5.00 per person | _____ |
| Total | _____ |

Name: _____

Address: _____

email: _____

telephone: _____

Please return to: Anne Pallister, 1 Nightingale Avenue, Bedford, MK41 7JB.

Please make cheques payable to ARA Retirement Club.

For any enquiries please contact Anne on 01234 272906 or by email at apallister8@gmail.com.