

RETIREMENT CLUB NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2012 No 280

Manton Lane MK41 7PF

Tel: 01234 350681

NOVEMBER WALK contributed by Gerry Pauley



Clear skies and a temperature close to 15C. Was this really mid-November? Seventeen of us set off from the Bluebell pub in Bedford to reach Kimbolton Road via the green space at Putnoe and a glimpse of the green in Aspen Avenue. At the Gatehouse (still in use as a residence), of the carriageway that once led across the fields to

Clapham Park House, we turned to follow this old route. It is now a path that runs between hedges along the centre of Falcon Avenue.

After passing Beauchamp School we soon turned off right to follow a 'permissive path' that led uphill through woodland. This eventually brought us to the open fields above the House. We then turned left along the field boundaries to swing back towards Bedford as we worked our way around the grounds of the House. After crossing over the Drive that leads back to Clapham, we followed the footpath that passes the between the rear of ARA and the allotments. Next we walked down through the Cemetery on the path alongside Foster Hill Road and then swung left at the bottom to exit at the far end into Bedford Park and then to Brickhill Drive. A short way beyond the traffic lights in Kimbolton Road we turned into Nursery Gardens.

From there we followed Aspen Avenue to it's end, arriving back at the pub at 12.45. Here we enjoyed an excellent two course lunch priced at £4.95 before departing.

ANNUAL LUNCH

The annual lunch at the Sharnbrook Hotel was much enjoyed by the twenty four ARC members who attended. Everyone seemed to have enjoyed the food and company and declared it very good value for money.



We were joined by Rob Shribbs from ARA in place of Dougie Hunter who was unable to attend. After lunch Rob gave a short talk on the current activities and fortunes of ARA.

Bruce was thanked for organising this event and we all look forward to next year!

INFORMAL GATHERING

The next informal gathering for both old and new pensioners will be on Monday December 3rd at around 7:30 to 8:00 pm. Phone Tony Dickason on 01234 824741 for further details.

RAeS Lecture

The next lecture is entitled 'Europe Engaging in Aeronautical Research' and will be given by Dr Gill Richards on Wednesday, 12th December at ARA. 1900 for 19.30.

DISC

For those of you who are wondering what has happened to this event, Trevor is still trying to arrange a new date but encountering difficulties in communications due to increased security. We will keep you posted.

Looking for Help

Would you like to contribute towards the running of ARC? We are currently looking for a new Newsletter editor at next year's AGM. Please consider volunteering!

The 2012 ARA Christmas Buffet

Seasonal Best Wishes to all current ARA staff. For those able to attend, we look forward to our meeting together at the festive reunion provided by ARA on Wednesday, 12th December at 12.30.

One Hundred Years of Aviation December 1912 contributed by John Cherry

- 5th A Frenchman named as Jaques Schneider has announced today his intention to sponsor an International competition to encourage the development of seaplanes.
- 12th A device called an ejector seat by its developer, Baron d' Odkolek was successfully tested today at Issy-les-Moulineaux. A dummy wearing a parachute was ejected from the cockpit of an aeroplane in flight by using a small cannon to eject the dummy. The developer hopes that this device may save many lives when pilots find that they are unable to control their machine.
- 31st Count von Zeppelin's passenger carrying airship line DELAG, is celebrating two years of constant accident-free flying. The line based at Friedrichshafen on Lake Constance is confident of the future with the introduction of three new airships.
More than 8000 passengers have flown on its luxury flights between Germany's main cities, and today the Kaiser has instructed Admiral von Turpitz to order the first Zeppelin for the German navy, this gives one the impression that in the event of a war, the airship will play a major part.

So, another exciting year in aviation history draws to a close, a year that saw many air shows cancelled, rain and high winds making it impossible for many machines to take

to the air. However, those who braved the elements were well rewarded seeing, if not in the air, many machines of the future, machines such as:-

The AVRO Type G biplane, this is the first aeroplane in the World to have an enclosed cabin, sadly only one has been built.

At the Aeronautical Exhibition in Moscow young Igor Sikorsky won the top award with his R-6A biplane, whilst in Germany, Luft Verkehrs Gesellschaft produced the B1 biplane.

Shorts S45 biplane a large training machine has been fitted with floats.

The Handley Page Military Trials aeroplane designed by Henry Petre has a fully-cowled rotary engine. Another new biplane the BE2 was designed by Geoffrey de Havilland.

Maurice Farman displayed his standard training aeroplane the MF7 called the "Longhorn" it has an 80hp Renault engine giving it a top speed of 65 mph, Farman also displayed the sea plane that crossed the English Channel.

The Bleriot xxxiii is a strange canard design having a pusher propeller behind the conventional landing gear. His Type xxxvi machine has a 70hp Gnome engine and a streamlined monocoque fuselage.

Louis Bechereau designed the magnificent Deperdussin Monocoque Racer a mid-wing monoplane, it has a hollow streamlined fuselage made from plywood, glue and silk, with a fully cowled 160hp Gnome 14 cylinder twin row air cooled rotary engine giving it a top speed of 127mph.

The AVRO E Type biplane was first flown in March. The Handley Page Type E "Yellow Peril" took part in the Military Trials many feel that this was a far better machine than Cody's winning design that only won because of its powerful 120hp Austro-Daimler engine.

Whilst over in America, the A-1 Triad designed by Glenn Curtiss is a very successful sea plane along with his Type F flying boat that is powered by a 100hp Curtiss OX engine driving a pusher propeller, and "Silver Wings" is the name given by Clive Cessna to his Bleriot devised design.

Best Wishes to all for the New Year, looking forward to reviewing the exciting developments anticipated in 1913.

...and Finally

**THE COMMITTEE WISHES EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY
CHRISTMAS AND LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU ALL
AGAIN IN 2013**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS	
Monday December 3rd	Informal Gathering. 7.30pm to 8.00pm.
Wednesday December 12th	Buffet Lunch at ARA Social Club 12.30pm.
Wednesday December 12th	RAeS Lecture. 'Europe Engaging in Aeronautical Research' by Dr Gill Richards. ARA 19.00 for 19.30.

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

*Editor: Chris Lock - Telephone 01234 353779
E Mail chris.lock24@gmail.com*

*Deputy Editor: Mary Cook - Telephone 01234 324618
E Mail mcook@ara.co.uk*