



## SILVER CITY ASSOCIATION

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### **SILVER CITY NEWSLETTER 2021**

The annual Newsletter always comes with good wishes from Sally, Keith and Paul. This year, that applies more than ever. Who could have imagined what was ahead of us last time we were able to meet back in 2019? We hope that you and your loved ones have been spared the effects of the Coronavirus that has affected so many people and so many aspects of 'normal' life during the past year or more.

One of the reasons why this year's Newsletter is appearing rather later than usual is because of continuing uncertainty about what the future will bring and this has made planning for the 2021 Annual Reunion extremely difficult. We had intended that the Annual Reunion would take place at Lydd on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> July but this is only four weeks after the date when the Government expects to be able to lift the remaining Covid restrictions. We feel that trying to hold the Reunion in July poses too many risks and that many Citizens may not want to travel or to mix with others.

Having considered this very carefully, we are going to move the event (for this year only) to Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> September. However, even this involves some uncertainty as the Biggles Bar at Lydd has been used as a mass vaccination centre and we do not know whether it will be required for this purpose in September – particularly if there's a need to administer 'booster jabs'.

We feel that the best thing to do is to ask if you would intend to come to the Reunion if we are able to hold it in September. There's no commitment at this stage – we just need an 'expression of interest'. It will make life a lot easier if we only have to contact a relatively small number of people instead of having to send out a further communication to everyone. This year, we will not be making any charge for attending the event as a way of saying "welcome back" to those who can attend.

Please let Paul know what you think by the end of June. This can be by e-mail, phone or letter. We look forward to hearing from you!

#### **DEPARTURE LOUNGE**

We have heard that a number of members have passed away since the 2019 Newsletter was published. In addition to Audrey Kennard, whose passing was reported in Paul's letter last year, we have been told about George Austin, Jean ('Jay') Ball (also known as Jay Mackenzie-Mair), Bob Bovill, Robin Brodie-James, Albert (Allen) Edmonds, Yvonne Hamilton, Roy Hawkswell, Val Lipscomb (néé Bucknall), Gill Rowell (who was a stalwart helper at the Reunion for many years) and Christopher Strick.

I am sure that Citizens will also be sad to hear that Keith's partner of more than 40 years, Liz Watkins, passed away at the end of February. Although she did not attend our Reunions, she was a great support to Keith in all that he has done for the Association over the years.

Our sincere condolences go to everyone who has lost loved ones during the past year.

**PAUL'S TALKS**

Not surprisingly, the majority of Paul's talks about Silver City that were planned to take place in 2020 were cancelled. However, he was able to give a talk to members of the Romney Marsh Model Engineering Society at their Club House at Rolfe Lane in New Romney in January 2020 and to the Aviation Group of Maidenhead U3A at White Waltham in February. Paul has been booked to give his talk about Silver City to the Farnborough U3A Industrial Archaeology and Science Group by 'Zoom' on 13<sup>th</sup> July and he's already received two bookings for 'live' talks in front of a real audience(!) in 2022.

**A NEW MUSEUM FOR KENT**

**A little while ago, we were contacted by Deborah Holmes with news that she and her partner have plans to set up a display telling the story of transport in Kent.** The idea is to cover all aspects of Kent transport and to start acting as a knowledge hub, so that younger people can learn about the subject.

**They are keen to feature Silver City and the story of Ferryfield and have acquired an ex-Hunting Air Surveys de Havilland Dove which they plan to paint in Silver City colours. They have also obtained a David Brown Tugmaster and a Lansing Bagnall luggage tug, both of which are thought to have come from Lydd. They are keen to know more about their use (and liveries) so if you think you can help, please contact Deborah at [deborah7@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:deborah7@hotmail.co.uk), on 01233 714767 or 07799 586581.**

**SIXTY YEARS OF FERRY NEWS**

**There is no selection of items from Ferry News with this Newsletter because – as far as we know – Ferry News ceased publication with issue No.47 for August – September 1960. (Please tell us if you know different!) Paul is still looking for a copy of issue No.46 so do let him know if you have a spare copy.**

**2021 REUNION – LYDD AIRPORT, SATURDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER (12:30 – 17:30)**

Just a reminder to let us know if you hope to attend this year's Reunion in September. We will only contact those people who express an interest so do get in touch with Paul before the end of June. It will really help us with our planning and don't forget – no charge this year!

**AND FINALLY.....**

Thank you everyone for your continued support for the Association in these difficult times. We always welcome your e-mails and letters and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Lydd on 11<sup>th</sup> September. And don't forget to let Paul have any changes to your address – either postal or e-mail.

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