



## SILVER CITY ASSOCIATION

President: Mr. K. Dagwell, 31 Exmoor Drive, Salvington, Worthing, West Sussex BN13 2PJ (01903 261514)

Chairman: Mr. P. Ross FRGS, 20 Fishery Road, Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP1 1ND (01442 267160)

Secretary: Mrs. S. Maycock, 14 Prescott House, Rolfe Lane, New Romney, Kent TN28 8JR (01797 366346)

### **SILVER CITY NEWSLETTER 2015**

We hope that you are all keeping well, despite the usual mixture of winter weather and the coughs and colds that always seem to appear at this time of year. It's a good time to look forward to the summer and the annual reunion at Lydd.

As before, if you have received this Newsletter by post instead of by e-mail as you may have done in previous years, then perhaps you have changed your e-mail address and not told us? Please help us to keep our records up to date and let Paul have your new details. Paul expects to change his e-mail address soon, so please use the address shown at the end of this Newsletter to contact him.

#### **2014 REUNION REPORT – SATURDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

The day started grey and overcast but slowly improved during the afternoon and finished warm and sunny. We were delighted to see some members who hadn't been able to attend recent gatherings and over seventy-five people were present. Thanks to record-breaking sales and raffle proceeds, the Association received a welcome boost of £421.12 to its finances. Paul thanked everyone who had provided raffle prizes, particularly Steve Hogarth. Many people commented favourably on the buffet which this time included a sweet.

After lunch, Paul extended his usual warm welcome to members and their guests. He remarked that sixty years before, many people would have been very busy preparing for the move from Lympe to Ferryfield and that the following day was the sixtieth anniversary of the first flights from the new airport. The current owners had made sure that the anniversary had been well publicised and a news item was being recorded that afternoon for ITV Meridian News. Paul added that final approval had recently been given for Lydd's expansion plans.

Paul also reported that the transfer of the Silver City collection to the British Airways Heritage Centre had been completed and had been reported in the aviation press. The website continued to result in contacts from around the world and more material would be added to it during the coming year. He added that any donations of artefacts, documents and photos to add to the collection would be very welcome.

Paul ended by thanking Sally, Keith, Rae Bark, Frances Shilling, Gill Rowell and Malcolm Finnis for their help in ensuring that the Association had enjoyed another very successful reunion.

#### **DEPARTURE LOUNGE**

We reported in the last Newsletter that Cliff Melhuish had passed away in February 2014. His son, Tony, had arranged for Cliff's ashes to be scattered over Lydd at 15:00 on the afternoon of the reunion. A Harvard aircraft (the type on which Cliff had done a lot of his RAF flying training) flew in from Biggin Hill exactly to time and a large number of Citizens joined Cliff's family outside to say farewell to Cliff. His seven-year old grandson, Benedict Winter, touchingly referred to it as "Granddad's Last Flight".

We were sorry to hear of the passing of Brian Powell (a non-member) on 27<sup>th</sup> June at the age of 92. Since then, we have also been told of the passing of Ron Blake, Alan Kerry, Tony Mummery, Pat Waddell and Anna Wetherby. Our sincere condolences go to all their families and to any other Citizens who have lost loved ones recently.

### **NEWS FROM LYDD**

At the end of 2014, London Ashford Airport (better known to us as Ferryfield!) announced that construction work on the airport's runway extension would begin in 2015. The airport's new Chief Executive Officer, Charles Buchanan, said: "We are in the final stages of preparing the project that will see the runway extended and ultimately a new terminal built. This will give a major boost to our ambitions, increasing the airport's operational capabilities and attracting more aviation-related businesses." Capita, part of the design team for London's £14.8bn Crossrail transport scheme, is managing and designing the 294 metre runway extension, plus a 150 metre starter extension. Pre-qualified contractors were due to submit bids in January.

### **READING MATTERS**

Many Citizens have an interest in aviation history – not just Silver City. A recent addition to the range of magazines and other periodicals now available is The Aviation Historian, described as "the modern journal of classic aeroplanes and the history of flying". We haven't managed to get Silver City into its pages (yet!) but a fascinating article about Hunting-Clan's Safari Services to Africa appeared last year. More information is available at [www.theaviationhistorian.com](http://www.theaviationhistorian.com), from TAH, PO Box 962, Horsham, RH12 9PP or on mobile number 07572 237737.

### **CARDS, BOOKS AND PRINTS**

We still have a few cards and prints of 'Crossing in Style'; cards are £1 each or £5 for six and £10 for 15. The large prints are £15 each. Contact Keith or Paul for details.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Attached to the Newsletter is a collection of (we hope!) interesting stories relating to Silver City. We thought this would be something different for Citizens to read and, who knows, it may prompt more of you to send in your stories and anecdotes.

### **PLEASE REMEMBER US**

The Association is always very pleased to accept donations of items and memorabilia relating to Silver City and its associated companies. Sadly, there is sometimes a risk that other family members may not appreciate the significance of such material so although it's something we don't always want to think about, please remember the Association when you are making your will. This will ensure that any Silver City items you may have will go to a good home – and not into the bin!

### **2015 REUNION – LYDD AIRPORT, SATURDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> JULY (12:30 – 17:30)**

The Reunion will once again be held in the main lounge where there will be a cold buffet and bar: the entrance fee will be £12 per person. As usual, just turn up with your wives, husbands, partners or friends. If you would like to donate a raffle prize, please bring it along with you.

Once again, our sincere thanks to you all for your continued support for the Association either by coming to the Reunion or through your e-mails and letters. We look forward to seeing you in July.

Keith Dagwell (President) [keith.dagwell@ntlworld.com](mailto:keith.dagwell@ntlworld.com)  
 Paul Ross (Chairman) [chairman@silvercityairways.com](mailto:chairman@silvercityairways.com)  
 Sally Maycock (Secretary) [whitewash22@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:whitewash22@hotmail.co.uk)