



SILVER CITY ASSOCIATION

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SILVER CITY NEWSLETTER 2016

This Newsletter comes with good wishes from Sally, Keith and Paul and we hope that you are all keeping well. We are looking forward to seeing as many Citizens as possible at the Annual Reunion at Lydd on Saturday, 9th July. This is a week earlier than usual to avoid clashing with other events in the area.

This year marks the 70th Anniversary of the formation of Silver City Airways in 1946, so we hope members and their guests will come and help us celebrate this very special birthday.

2015 REUNION REPORT – SATURDAY, 11TH JULY

The day was warm and sunny but with a strong Marsh wind and once again, we were pleased to see some 'new' faces at the Reunion. Although numbers were down slightly on recent years with about 60 people in attendance, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. The raffle and other sales brought in over £250 and our sincere thanks go to everyone who brought along one of the 40 raffle prizes. It's this income that helps to keep the Association 'flying'. Particular thanks go to Wyndham Powell who kindly donated a case of '2 Up' Australian Shiraz.

Due to a misunderstanding in the catering department, there was no sweet with the otherwise excellent buffet. We will try to avoid a similar problem this year.

After lunch, Paul welcomed everyone to the Reunion and commented that the twelve months since the previous event seemed to have gone by in a flash – something he thought was a sign of getting older! Paul reported that the Association had added more material to the Silver City collection at the BA Heritage Centre and he added that the staff there continued to be amazed at what Silver City and its associated companies had achieved over the years. Paul also said that the website continued to bring in new enquiries and contacts from all over the world. He and Keith were frequently in touch to make sure that all these enquiries were dealt with promptly – although they weren't always able to answer questions such as which aircraft carried Dad's Morris Minor Traveller to France in 1960!

Paul then thanked Sally, Keith, Rae Bark, Sarah Beer and Malcolm Finnis for their help in making the Reunion a success. He concluded by introducing Wyndham Powell, who told everyone about his recent visit to the Australian mining town of Broken Hill – the 'Silver City' from which the airline got its name – including the local fascination with the game of '2 Up'.

DEPARTURE LOUNGE

Since the last Newsletter appeared, we have lost quite a few members and we are sad to report the passing of Hilary Parker, David Phillipson, Tony Lane, Cyril Boraston, Tony Maycock (better known to most people as Ted), James McKercher, Cyril Wadlow, André De-Beugny, Vic Heritage, Dave Belasco, Valerie Jones (née Sanders), Graham Provan, Richard 'Neddy' Parks, John Fugl, Hazel Shapland, Bob Large, Don Hyde and Tom Boulter.

As always, our sincere condolences go to all their families and friends and to any other Citizens who have lost loved ones during the past year.

CARDS AND PRINTS

We have now sold out of the 'Crossing in Style' greetings cards and we are unlikely to order more unless there is an obvious demand. However, we still have a few of the large prints for sale at £15 each. Please contact Keith or Paul for details.

'SILVER CITY AIRWAYS – THE FIRST 70 YEARS'

To mark the anniversary of the formation of Silver City, Paul has been invited to speak at the Historical Group of the Royal Aeronautical Society at 18:00 on Monday, 24th October at the Society's headquarters at 4 Hamilton Place, London W1J 7BQ. Full details will appear on the Society's website www.aerosociety.com. The date has been chosen because it is the 70th anniversary – to the day! – of the company's first flight when John Adams and Roy Day flew an Avro Lancastrian from London Airport (Heathrow) to Sydney via Johannesburg.

SIXTY YEARS OF FERRY NEWS

Attached to the Newsletter is a collection of news items taken from the pages of Ferry News, the company's staff newspaper that first appeared in March-April 1956. That was when there were four cinemas in Folkestone, two in Hythe and even one each in Lydd and Tenterden!

Issue No.1 featured a 'Ladies Only' section with Audrey Kennard contributing some advice on where to go for hairdressing and shopping needs for those who were suffering from the apparent lack of 'female facilities' in the area. Needless to say, the back page was devoted to sport with coverage of Ferryfield FC and the Ferryfielders Cricket Club, including the recent 'International' football match against Le Touquet.

Paul has an almost complete set of Ferry News but is missing issues No.42 (1959) and No.46 (1960). Can you help?

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

You will have seen the name of Tom Boulter listed in the Departure Lounge section. We are delighted to tell you that his widow, June, has kindly donated to the Association a large number of Tom's photos from his days at Blackbushe, together with a 1/72 scale model of a Handley Page Hermes in Britavia colours. We are very grateful for these valuable additions to the Association's collection.

We can also tell you that Ken Honey has been working on an article about Silver City's Libyan operations for the magazine The Aviation Historian, to appear later this year. Ken has put together some 50 pictures from the period and these will feature in an album that will be on display at the Reunion.

2016 REUNION – LYDD AIRPORT, SATURDAY, 9TH JULY (12:30 – 17:30)

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

AND FINALLY.....

Thank you all for your continued support for the Association. We welcome your e-mails and letters and we look forward to seeing you in July. Don't forget to let Paul have any changes to your contact details – particularly if you have changed your e-mail address. We are still sending out the majority of the Newsletters by Royal Mail so do let us know if you have an e-mail address that we can use and help save the Association money!

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