



SILVER CITY ASSOCIATION

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SILVER CITY NEWSLETTER 2017

This Newsletter comes to all Citizens with best wishes from Sally, Keith and Paul and we hope that you are all keeping well and enjoying life. As always, we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Annual Reunion at Lydd on Saturday, 15th July.

2016 REUNION REPORT – SATURDAY, 9TH JULY

We were able to enjoy another fine day at Lydd. After lunch, Paul opened the proceedings by welcoming everyone to the Reunion, which was attended by just over 50 Citizens and their guests. He added that rumours had been circulating that this might be the last one but he assured everyone that this was definitely not the case!

Some of those who were unable to be with us but who had sent their best wishes were: Barry Thorn from New Zealand, Rene and Betty Leblanc from France, Audrey Kennard, Val Lipscombe, Eunice Musgrave, Margo Olley, Jay Ball, Mick and Sarah Beer, Les Dray, Malcolm Finnis, Richard Ames, Derek Cooper and his wife, Liz and Sue Bryan, John Shapland and Tony Francis, one of our Associate Members.

Paul reported that the website continued to bring in new enquiries and contacts from all over the world and we'd had some very appreciative comments about the information and assistance that the Association had been able to provide. We also continued to add to the Silver City Collection at the BA Speedbird Heritage Centre and our sincere thanks went to everyone who had donated items to the Association.

Paul then invited Keith to say a few words to mark the 70th Anniversary of the formation of Silver City back in 1946, which everyone then celebrated with 'bubbly' generously provided by Virginia Adams and three delicious cakes made by Sally.

Finally, Paul thanked Sally, Keith, Rae Bark, Frances Shilling and Joy Parks for all their help in making the day a success and on behalf of Sally, Keith and himself, wished everyone a safe journey home and said he looked forward to seeing everyone again for the 2017 Reunion.

DEPARTURE LOUNGE

Sadly, we have learnt of the loss of quite a few members since the last Newsletter appeared. We have been told of the passing of Kay Mummery (Tony's widow), Derek Sherwood (who passed away in 2011) and his widow (who passed away in 2015), Philip Holloway, John Lightfoot, Les Dray and Rene Leblanc. We were also sorry to hear that John Coker, who was a great supporter of the Association, had died shortly before the 2016 Reunion.

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. If we learn of a member's funeral in time and the location is reasonably local, we try to make sure that the Association is represented. We also send a card of condolence to the family.

SIXTY YEARS OF FERRY NEWS

Last year's selection of news items taken from the pages of Ferry News seemed to prove popular, so another selection (this time from 1957) is attached. Paul is still looking for a copy of issue No.42 (1959). Can you help? One of the items appearing in the selection from Ferry News is the filming of "The Birthday Present" starring Tony Britton. This film is available on DVD and can be purchased through the Amazon website.

"A WEDDING, NOT A FUNERAL"

This was how Hugh Kennard in Ferry News described the merger of Air Kruise with Silver City when the full integration of the two companies took place on 1st October 1957, from which date the Air Kruise name ceased to exist. He added: "There is no doubt that the decision to eliminate the company is necessary but none the less sad, particularly for all those members of staff who, over the past eleven years, have been responsible for the tremendous growth of its business since the early days at Lympe". A farewell party was given by the company at Lydd Country Club on 11th September 1957.

A BRISTOL FREIGHTER BACK IN THE UK?

Some of you may have seen reports in the aviation press that a scheme was launched by the Bristol Aero Collection Trust late last year to bring a Bristol Type 170 Freighter back to the UK. Of the 214 Freighters and Wayfarers built and delivered to airlines and air forces across the world between 1945 and 1958, only eleven complete examples survive and none of these are located in Europe. One of the last survivors has been standing at Ardmore airfield near Auckland, New Zealand, since 1978 and this is the one that the Trust wants to bring back to the new Aerospace Bristol museum and learning centre at Filton where they hope it will inspire the next generation of engineers.

This particular aircraft was one of twelve Mk31M military Freighters supplied to the Royal New Zealand Air Force in 1954. NZ5911 arrived at Whenuapai on 4th May that year and was used as a dual-control trainer. It made its last operational flight with the RNZAF on 14th December 1977 and was stored at Whenuapai until making its final flight to Ardmore the following year.

Bringing an aircraft of this size home is no mean feat and Aerospace Bristol need help to make it happen – and to cover the ongoing cost of restoration. If you wish to make a donation or can help in other ways, visit <http://www.aerospacebristol.org/freighter> or contact the Trust on 0117 931 5315. At the time of writing, the aircraft was being prepared for shipping to the UK and we are told that it may appear in Silver City colours!

'SILVER CITY AIRWAYS – THE FIRST 70 YEARS'

Paul's talk at the Royal Aeronautical Society in October was very well received and has led to bookings from other aviation societies, which all helps to keep the Silver City name alive.

2017 REUNION – LYDD AIRPORT, SATURDAY, 15TH 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 all 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 over 150 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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