



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 2018

This Newsletter comes to everyone with best wishes from Sally, Keith and Paul and we hope that you are all keeping well. As ever, we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Annual Reunion at Lydd on Saturday, 14th July. This year's event is rather special as it coincides with the 70th Anniversary of the start of the Air Ferry service from Lymington on 14th July 1948.

2017 REUNION REPORT – SATURDAY, 15TH JULY

We were pleased to welcome some 50 Association members, family and friends to the 2017 Reunion. Paul said that there was always a great atmosphere at the reunions and he was very pleased at the numbers who had made the effort to come – some from as far afield as Devon.

Several Citizens were unable to join us and good wishes had been received from Ken and Beryl Honey, Barry Thorn in New Zealand, Eunice Musgrave, Audrey Kennard, Jeremy Dixon, Glyn Evans, Peter and Betty Hunt, Liz and Sue Bryan, Betty Leblanc, Phil Rix and Frances Shilling.

After a very enjoyable buffet lunch, Paul brought everyone up to date with the latest Association news and related the story of Glyn Evans, a former Silver City pilot now living in Florida, who had been reunited with his pilot's Log Book which had been lost in Trinidad in 1964 when he was flying for British West Indian Airways! This had all been thanks to the Association's website (www.silvercityairways.com) which continued to attract interest from all over the world.

Paul thanked Keith and Sally for all their hard work and support during the year and added that Kate Adams had joined the team as Assistant Secretary to help Sally when required. Paul also thanked Rae Bark and Kate for their help in making the day a success. On behalf of Keith, Sally and himself, Paul wished everyone a safe journey home and hoped that he would see everyone back at Lydd for the 2018 Reunion.

DEPARTURE LOUNGE

A number of members have sadly passed away since the last Newsletter appeared. We have been notified of the passing of Ron Townsend (in August 2016), Dave Jennings, Ron Leach, Terry Murphy, Ron(?) Jones, Suzanne Smith, Michael Liddiard (in October 2016), Laurie Ingleton and Charles Oman.

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

A BRISTOL FREIGHTER BACK IN THE UK!

In last year's Newsletter, we mentioned that there was a plan to bring an ex-Royal New Zealand Air Force Bristol Type 170 Freighter back to the UK for eventual display in the new Aerospace Bristol museum. The Freighter (which is a military Mk31M) made it back to Bristol in December and the dismantled airframe is now in store in the Brabazon Hangar at Filton.

It will be some time before work can start on the restoration of the aircraft and it will have to wait until Phase 2 of the Museum development has been completed before the aircraft can be displayed. Aerospace Bristol have confirmed that, when complete, the restored aircraft will be finished in its original RNZAF colour scheme, as it left the Bristol factory in 1954. However, they are very interested in telling the story of the Freighter's civilian activities, so there will be an opportunity to present the Silver City story in the display.

TALKING ABOUT SILVER CITY

Since Paul gave his talk at the Royal Aeronautical Society in October 2016, he has received a number of invitations to repeat it for other aviation societies. So far, he has spoken at the Aero Section of the City Livery Club in London, the Milton Keynes Aviation Society, Brooklands Museum and the RAeS Heathrow Branch. Other bookings for 2018 include the Chiltern Aviation Society at Ruislip, the West London Aero Club at White Waltham, the Handley Page Association at Radlett and a U3A Group at Leighton Buzzard.

The usual comment that comes after each talk is "I never knew Silver City did so much"! Paul's talks help to spread the Silver City story to a wider audience and also bring in useful contributions to Association funds.

AIR FERRY 70TH ANNIVERSARY

As already mentioned, our 2018 Reunion coincides with the 70th Anniversary of the start of commercial operation of the Air Ferry between Lympne and Le Touquet on 14th July 1948. The inaugural flight with Bristol Freighter G-AGVC was commanded by Captain 'Storm' Clark (a former Avro Lancastrian pilot with British South American Airways) with 'Jerry' Rosser as his co-pilot. The fare from Lympne to Le Touquet for a medium-sized car and up to four passengers was £27 – equivalent to over £700 today! – and 174 cars were carried in the ten weeks that the service operated that year. I wonder if anyone realised how the Air Ferry – and Silver City – would develop over the following years?

2018 REUNION – LYDD AIRPORT, SATURDAY, 14TH JULY (12:30 – 17:30)

As usual, the Reunion will be held in the main lounge 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.

DATA PROTECTION

New regulations to safeguard personal data are due to come into effect in May this year. The Association holds records of members for the purpose of distributing the Newsletter and other communications – both by post and e-mail. Paul keeps the records (name, postal address and - where applicable - e-mail address and telephone number) in a card index. He also keeps e-mail addresses on his computer for those members who receive their Newsletters by e-mail, together with names and postal addresses to facilitate the printing of address labels. The Association will not divulge your personal data to any third party without your permission. Please feel free to contact Paul if you have any concerns about what personal data the Association holds and how it is used and kept secure.

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 130 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!

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