



## SILVER CITY ASSOCIATION

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### **SILVER CITY NEWSLETTER 2023**

As always, this Newsletter comes with all good wishes from Sally, Keith and Paul. It was wonderful to be able to hold our Reunion again last year, even though we were unable to hold it at the Airport. All being well, this year's Reunion will take place on Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> July and the venue will again be Lydd Golf Club. This year sees the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the start of the Air Ferry service, so we hope that as many of you as possible will be there. We are always particularly pleased to see those members who previously joined as Associates as it gives them an opportunity to meet former Silver City staff.

More details appear later in this Newsletter, which is slightly shorter than usual due to the pressures of retirement!

#### **2022 REUNION REPORT**

Some 37 members, friends, family and guests were present at Lydd Golf Club for the 2022 Reunion. Paul said that after everything that had happened since we had last met in 2019, it was good to see so many people there. It was unfortunate that we were unable to hold the Reunion at the Airport but everyone agreed that the Conservatory Room at the Golf Club was an excellent venue and we had more privacy than was the case in the Biggles Bar at the Airport.

Some of those who were unable to be with us on the day but who sent their best wishes were: Judy Richards, Ken Honey, David Starkie, Bob Carter, Barry Thorn in New Zealand and David Hainsworth from FAL Aviation at Lydd Airport.

Members were very generous with their raffle prizes which brought in a valuable boost to the Association's funds.

Paul finished by thanking Sally and Keith for all their help during the year. A lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes and Sally in particular puts in a tremendous amount of effort to look after our money and to organise the Reunion. Finding an alternative venue had meant a lot of extra work this time. Paul also thanked Rae Bark for looking after the signing-in desk so efficiently.

#### **MISSING ALBUMS**

One sad note about last year's Reunion is that two of our treasured photograph albums went missing. These were Audrey Kennard's Album Vol.2 and Silver City Staff Vol.3. They were on display at the Golf Club but were not with the rest of the albums when Keith returned home. Despite several enquiries, they have still not come to light. If you know of their whereabouts, please let us know.

#### **DEPARTURE LOUNGE**

Since the 2022 Newsletter was published, we have heard that the following Citizens have passed away: Betty Hunt (in 2017), Hugh Morgan (in 2020), George Hunt, Peter Terry, David Simpson, Derek Wellard and Tom Williams.

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

## WELCOME ABOARD

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members to the Association: Rosina Stewart, Jeff Hunt, Malcolm Scott, Alan Peake, Sue Adams, Dave Harden and Vernon Hutchens.

## PAUL'S TALKS

Paul has had a quieter year so far this year. He gave his talk about Silver City to the Fetcham U3A Industrial Heritage Group on 20<sup>th</sup> February, which was very well received. The usual comment that "I never knew that Silver City did so much" was heard from a number of people in the audience! Paul has another booking with the Martlesham Heath Aviation Society on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. If you know of a club or society that would be interested in having a talk, do let Paul know.

Paul was also invited to meet Michael Portillo at the Airport in September to talk to him about the origins of Ferryfield and the Air Ferry service. This was for a new series of Great Coastal Railway Journeys. We don't know when it will be shown, so keep an eye on the TV listings!

## STRAIGHTEN UP AND FLY RIGHT

This is the title of a new book written and published by Brian Smith, which includes a chapter on his time with BUAF at Lydd. The book can be ordered direct from Brian by phone on 01403 700346 or by email at [briansmithair@uwclub.net](mailto:briansmithair@uwclub.net). The price is £15 (hardback) or £10 (paperback) plus £3.20 postage and packing. Brian will be donating 10% of any profits from the sale of the book to the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund.

## BRISTOL FREIGHTER PROGRESS

The former Royal New Zealand Air Force Bristol Freighter Mk 31M that forms part of the Aerospace Bristol collection is now housed in their Conservation Workshop, albeit minus the wings which are too big to fit in the hangar. It can be viewed by visitors (from a distance) but is not currently being worked on as the restoration team's main project is the Collection's Bristol Bolingbroke.

## 2023 REUNION – LYDD GOLF CLUB, SATURDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY (12:30 – 17:30)

After the success of last year's Reunion, we have again booked the Conservatory Room at Lydd Golf Club for our exclusive use on Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> July.

There will be a charge of £10 for the Reunion this year and **please let Sally know by Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> July if you plan to come** so that we have an idea of numbers for the buffet. You can contact her by phone, e-mail or by post. If there is any last-minute change of plan, we will only contact those people who have told us they are coming.

We also encourage everyone to bring along prizes for the raffle as this generates valuable income for the Association.

## AND FINALLY.....

Thank you everyone for your continued support for the Association. We always welcome your e-mails and letters and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Lydd Golf Club on Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> July. And don't forget to let Paul have any changes to your address – either postal or e-mail.

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