



## SILVER CITY ASSOCIATION

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### **SILVER CITY NEWSLETTER 2024**

Once again, this Newsletter comes with all good wishes from Sally, Keith and Paul. At the time of writing, we seem to be going through a long spell of wet and windy weather with just the occasional burst of sunshine. Let's hope that things have improved by the time we get to the summer and the **2024 Reunion on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> July at Lydd Golf Club**. Please note that we have moved the date to try and ensure that we don't clash with any other Golf Club events.

We were delighted to see so many people at last year's gathering, which marked the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Air Ferry service. Everyone was particularly pleased to see Bill Kerr, who had travelled up from Devon with his daughter and son-in-law. Bill was approaching his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday and seemed in remarkably good form so we were very sad to hear that he had passed away peacefully at home at the beginning of this year and did not make his 100<sup>th</sup>. His daughter, Jane, has kindly sent some details of Bill's career which are included with this Newsletter. We are also very sad to record the passing of Wyndham Powell who had been unable to attend last year's Reunion due to ill health. Both Bill and Wyndham were enthusiastic supporters of the Association and the Reunion and they will be sorely missed.

#### **2023 REUNION REPORT**

Some 30 members, friends, family and guests were present at Lydd Golf Club for the 2023 Reunion and Paul said that it was good to see so many people there. Some of those who were unable to be with us on the day but who sent their best wishes were: Judy Richards, Ken Honey, Mick Beer, Valerie Stone, Sue & Liz Bryan, Vic Marks, Tom Singfield, Virginia Adams, Sally-Ann Wilson, Wyndham and Linda Powell, Tessa Keymer and Steve Hogarth.

Members were again 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.

Paul also thanked Rae Bark for looking after the signing-in desk so efficiently and Kevin and his catering team for looking after us so well.

#### **DEPARTURE LOUNGE**

We have already recorded the passing of Bill Kerr and Wyndham Powell and since the 2023 Newsletter was published, we have also heard that the following Citizens have passed away: Liz Galgey (in 2021), Roger Norman (in 2022), Mike Wheeler (in 2022), Doug Kinsley, Mrs L Goodyear, John Shapland, 'Hank' Adams and Pat Malcomson (née Barlow).

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: Janice Chappel, Linda Powell and Keith & Jane Underhill.

## PAUL'S TALKS

Paul gave his talk about Silver City to the Swindon U3A Aviation Group on 1<sup>st</sup> March and was rewarded by an audience of nearly 50. One member (a former Concorde test pilot) had flown with Capt. Johnny Hackett of Silver City when they both did work for English Electric and he was delighted when Paul put a picture of Johnny Hackett up on the screen. He imagined that Paul's talk would only cover the Air Ferry service and not activities like ferrying Canberra jet bombers across the Atlantic! Paul is due to give his talk to the East Hertfordshire Aviation Society at Braughing, near Hertford, on Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> July and to the Aviation Enthusiasts Group at the Shuttleworth Collection at Old Warden, near Biggleswade, on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> September. If you know of a club or society that would be interested in having a talk, do let Paul know.

At the time of writing, the new series of Michael Portillo's Great Coastal Railway Journeys had just started on BBC2 but it wasn't known when Paul's appearance with him at Lydd Airport was due to be broadcast.

## SILVER CITY DOVE UPDATE

Deborah Holmes has kindly supplied an update on progress with the restoration of de Havilland Dove Mk8 G-ARHX into Silver City colours. Please see the attached report. Deborah is working on a database of 'Kent Aircraft', which will cover aircraft built in Kent, aircraft based in Kent and aircraft operated in Kent. She has identified several former Silver City Douglas DC-3s that are still thought to be in existence.

Deborah has also set up a Facebook group, Silver City Airways, to give a dedicated space purely for the followers of the airline's history. If anyone has some free time and is looking for a pet project to take on, she would be happy to let them lead this group.

Silver City Airways:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/851869218733025>

## 2024 REUNION – LYDD GOLF CLUB, SATURDAY, 27<sup>TH</sup> JULY (12:30 – 17:30)

We have booked the Conservatory Room at Lydd Golf Club for our exclusive use on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> July. There will be a charge of £10 for the Reunion again this year and **please let Sally know by Friday, 19<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. (Sally's mobile number is 07941 008311.) 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, 27<sup>th</sup> July. And don't forget to let Paul have any changes to your address – either postal or e-mail.

Please note that Paul's own postal address has changed (see the head of this Newsletter for his current address) but this is likely to be temporary so if you are writing to the Association, it might be safest to address your letter to Sally or Keith.

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