



## SILVER CITY ASSOCIATION

President: Mr. K. Dagwell, 31 Exmoor Drive, Salvington, Worthing, West Sussex BN13 2PJ (01903 261514)

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Secretary: Mrs. S. Maycock, 14 Prescott House, Rolfe Lane, New Romney, Kent TN28 8JR (01797 366346)

## **SILVER CITY NEWSLETTER 2025**

As usual, this Newsletter comes with all good wishes from Sally, Keith and Paul. **The 2025 Reunion will be held on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> July at Lydd Golf Club, starting at 12:00.** Please note that we have once again moved the date to try and ensure that we don't clash with other Golf Club events.

### **2024 REUNION REPORT**

Almost 30 members, friends, family and guests were present at Lydd Golf Club for the 2024 Reunion and Paul said that it was reassuring 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, Barry Thorn, Ken Honey, Vic Marks, Stuart Richardson, Phil Rix, Jeremy Dixon, Sue Royd-Taylor, Malcolm Finnis, Brian & Sheila Wilson and Linda Powell.

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 managing the signing-in desk so efficiently and Erin and her catering team for looking after us so well.

### **DEPARTURE LOUNGE**

Since the 2024 Newsletter was published, we have heard that the following Citizens have passed away: John Potheary (in 2023), Bernard Wilson (in 2023), John 'Paddy' Kelly (in 2023), Michael Davies (in 2023), Val Davies, Roy Britton, John Cooper, Mike Bollington and Mrs B Rees. We also heard of the passing of Dave Goldborough. Although he was not a member of the Association, we are sure that many Citizens will have known him.

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: Julie Cope, Martin Cooper, Moira Wilson-Turner, Simon Wilson-Turner, Richard Kelly and David Start.

### **PAUL'S TALKS**

Paul gave his talk to the East Hertfordshire Aviation Society at Braughing, near Hertford, on 29<sup>th</sup> July and to the Aviation Enthusiasts Group at the Shuttleworth Collection at Old Warden, near Biggleswade, on 4<sup>th</sup> September. These were followed by a talk to the London Transport Museum Friends at Covent Garden on 10<sup>th</sup> February which concentrated on the company's Air Ferry operations at Lydd. Paul's next talk will be to the New Romney History Society on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> May. If you know of a club or society that would be interested in having a talk, do let Paul know as they provide valuable income to the Association.

Paul's appearance in Michael Portillo's Great Coastal Railway Journeys programme on BBC2 featuring Lydd Airport also generated a lot of interest. It was broadcast on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 and it can be found on BBC iPlayer at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m001ym3k/great-coastal-railway-journeys-series-3-11-eastbourne-to-rye?seriesId=m0013wzh-structural-1-m001y5jw>. (Paul appears after about 19 minutes.)

### **SILVER CITY DOVE UPDATE**

Deborah Holmes tells us: "A project is underway to set up a Community Interest Company (CIC) for Kent Transportation History, concentrating on data capture and presentation and finding ways to promote the story of transportation in Kent. A great team has been assembled, with a lot of the necessary skills, to record and present information.

"Some discussions have taken place about the idea of creating a mixed 'Kent Transport' museum in Rochester, in which the 'Silver City' DH Dove could be displayed. This would be a far better home for the Dove, as it would be undercover, and with more public visitors. Sadly, the Dove project has only progressed slowly due to other commitments but some smaller parts have come along, and we have the possible chance of obtaining two running engines.

"After some long-running investigations, the remains of a Bristol Freighter MK31M in the UK have been tracked and visited. The aircraft crashed at Enstone in 1996, and was cut up for scrap, but some major parts remain within a family ownership.

"Ideally, the owner would like the remains to go to a museum, where they would have the best home. During our meeting, there was no doubt that he is 100% behind the idea of them going to Kent, as it is the UK's spiritual home of the aircraft. The remains are in a poor state and, of course, the bulk of the aircraft has gone, but there is a substantial cockpit section, loading doors, engines, and tail parts. With some re-creation, it could form an excellent 'loading' diorama.

"But here's the rub: without an organisation set up, it simply cannot happen. So, if anyone is in Kent and wants to help, please get in touch. The need for a Charity/Trust/CIC for Kent Civil Aviation exhibits is now urgent. Aviation museums do exist in Kent but they understandably focus on either wartime or RAF history, leaving Civil Aviation almost totally forgotten."

Anyone interested in getting involved can contact Deborah on [deborah7@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:deborah7@hotmail.co.uk).

### **2025 REUNION – LYDD GOLF CLUB, SATURDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY (12:00 – 17:30)**

We have booked the Conservatory Room at Lydd Golf Club for our exclusive use on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> July. There will be a charge of £10 for the Reunion again this year and **please let Sally know by Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 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, 5<sup>th</sup> July. And don't forget to let Paul have any changes to your address – either postal or e-mail. With ever-increasing postal costs, it helps if we can send your Newsletter by e-mail.

Please note that Paul's own postal address and home phone number have changed (see the head of this Newsletter for his new contact details).

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