



SILVER CITY ASSOCIATION

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Chairman: Mr. P. Ross FRGS, 20 Fishery Road, Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP1 1ND (01442 267160)

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SILVER CITY NEWSLETTER 2012

Last year we were sending our greetings to all Citizens after a third cold winter in a row. As this Newsletter is being written, we don't seem to have been much luckier this year – unless you live somewhere warm and sunny like the Shetlands! Whatever happens, at least we can start to think about the summer and keep our fingers crossed for a sunny day for our reunion. Our colleagues from Air Ferry and Invicta were invited to join us once more for last year's reunion and we hope to see them again in July.

With a big increase in postal costs looming later this year, please help the Association to save money by letting us send the Newsletter to you by e-mail. We have some e-mail addresses on record – do we have yours? If not, please send your details to Paul.

2011 REUNION REPORT – SATURDAY, 16th JULY

It was wet and dreary all day and we're sure that the dismal weather put off a number of people who might otherwise have come and the thirty or so expected from Air Ferry and Invicta did not materialise. Things got off to a very slow start and, for a time, it looked as if there were going to be very few of us, which caused some concern on the catering front as we had ordered food for eighty people. Sally had tried to reduce the size of the food order but the airport catering manager insisted that we still had to pay for the original number. However, numbers did pick up and we finished with a total of sixty people in attendance. The quality of the food was up to its usual standard and the caterers were thanked for another splendid buffet.

The number of raffle prizes also dropped compared with previous years but the proceeds from this, together with the sales of greetings cards and other merchandise, came to a respectable £300 which enabled us to bank £133 and save the day! Among the raffle prizes was a lovely home-made cake (courtesy of Shirley Popple, we believe) and a good assortment of the usual bottles, together with a very nice pot plant. Thanks to everyone who donated a prize; it's the income from the raffle that keeps us going.

After lunch, Sally welcomed everyone and announced that Keith would be handing over the Chairmanship of the Association to Paul Ross at the end of 2011. Sally added that she, Paul and Audrey Kennard had decided to ask Keith to take up the new position of President of the Association in recognition of all his hard work in support of the Association over so many years. She was delighted to say that Keith had accepted their invitation. Paul then spoke of his pleasure in taking over the Chairmanship from Keith and said that he looked forward to all the challenges ahead. Keith thanked everyone for their support and said that they should all be proud of the status the Association had achieved as a result of their efforts. Keith added that the result of the Airport Expansion Enquiry was still awaited and the 'Silver City Airways' book was now out of print and could only be obtained through the internet, although he understood that the publishers were planning a reprint.

Keith ended by thanking Sally, Paul, Rae Bark and Gill Rowell for their help in making the day possible.

LYMPNE AERO CLASSIC

The first Lympne Aero Classic event was held on 2nd/3rd July 2011 to celebrate the history of Lympne Airfield from 1916 to the 1980s. Thanks to Sally, the Association had a stand in the Village Hall which created a lot of interest. The event was considered a success, raising over £1650 for Lympne Village Hall, and is going to be repeated on 6th/7th July 2013.

WEBSITE

The website continues to generate a great deal of interest and has prompted quite a few enquiries about the Association. It's amazing how much interest in Silver City there is out there! Paul and Alastair Lawson (our Webmaster) are currently working on a Gallery section to enable a selection of photographs to appear on the site.

OLDRICH DOLEZAL AND 'HOPPY' HOPKINS

One of the enquiries that came in via the website was from Tom Dolezal. Tom says that his late father, Oldrich Dolezal, was a pilot for Air Kruise and Silver City between 1952 and 1965, flying from Lympne, Ferryfield, Tripoli, Benghazi and finally from Ferryfield again. Tom would be delighted to hear from anyone who remembers his father and has any information about his days with the company. Tom can be contacted by e-mail at daj.mipivo@virgin.net.

Another enquiry was from Marian Jones, whose grandfather was Ivor 'Hoppy' Hopkins, a well-known Silver City Captain. Again, Marian would love to hear from anyone who knew 'Hoppy' and she can be contacted at marianjones153@btinternet.com.

CARDS, PRINTS AND BOOKS

We still have some cards and prints of 'Crossing in Style'; cards are £1 each or £5 for six and £10 for 15. The large prints are £15 each or £30 signed by some SCA pilots. (Contact Keith for details.)

DEPARTURE LOUNGE

While this newsletter was being compiled, we received the sad news that Peter Adams had passed away. Our condolences go to Virginia and his family and to any other members who have lost loved ones that we are not aware of.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

When I joined the Association as Associate Member No.002 back in 2002, little did I think that you would do me the great honour of asking me to become Chairman ten years later. As you will all agree, Keith will be a hard act to follow but I will do my best to maintain the high standards that he has set over the years. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at this year's reunion.

Many of you have asked about purchasing an Association gift for Keith and Liz and we have already received some generous donations. If you would like to contribute and have not already done so, please send Sally or me a cheque made out in our name.

2012 REUNION – LYDD AIRPORT, SATURDAY, 14th JULY (12.30 – 17.30)

The reunion will once again be held in the main lounge. There will be a cold buffet and bar; the entrance fee at the door will be £10 per person. As usual, just turn up with your wives, husbands, partners or friends. If you would like to donate a raffle prize please bring it with you. Once again, our sincere thanks for your support either by coming or by e-mail and letter. We look forward to seeing you in July.

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