



NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our new Membership Secretary Page 3 & 6

August Meeting

The meeting on Wednesday 17th August was a talk by our member **Dick Haven** about flying the Valiant. Sadly the pictures that went with his presentation were not compatible with our equipment (another excellent bit of work by Microsoft!!).

Dick spoke about flying the machine which of course was the very first V Bomber. He spoke of the excellent manufacture, how well it handled but also highlighted some of the drawbacks. The engines were housed in the wing and thus an engine explosion would often damage the engine next to it, eventually leading to a double asymmetric situation. The other safety aspect which was common to all the V Bombers was the escape facilities for the rear crew, something that was never really tackled leading to unnecessary loss of life in some of the accidents.



Thank you Dick for your efforts and we will try to get those photos sorted, so we can all see them.

September Members Meeting

Join us on Wednesday 21st September for another Members Meeting. The floor is yours to tell us your memories or discuss a particular point of training or squadron life. With our age demographic there must be something there for everyone.

Pathfinder Reunion - RAF Wyton



3 Happy 'Chiltern' Pathfinders
Roy Briggs, Doug Hadland and Harold Kirby

Rod Finn reports:

I was invited by our Chiltern Aircrew Association colleague Roy Briggs to join him on his annual 'Pathfinder Week-end' which is normally held over the week-end nearest to the 15th August.

Cont'd on Page 2



Remember 21st September 2016

**Join us for
"Members Meeting"**

Greenacres 1030 for 1100 am

On arrival on Friday the 12th we were met by RAF Wyton Station personnel, allocated to our rooms and during the afternoon more PFF colleagues arrived and on Friday evening we enjoyed the 'Pathfinder Dining In Night'.....concluding in the Officers Mess Bar!

Saturday dawned, breakfast was taken, the morning was 'at leisure' , lunch was also taken before we made our way to The Pathfinder Flying Club where the Club members were offering flights over the local countryside., 15 people enjoyed the aerial view. Saturday evenings dinner was a less formal affair and the evening was quieter than the night before.

Sunday was an earlier breakfast as 'Sunday only Guests' were arriving for the annual Church Service which is always followed by 'Pathfinder Sunday Lunch.....speeches were made during lunch... and at 2.55. we were ushered outside of the W.O.& Non Commissioned Officers Mess to witness three low passes by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Lancaster.....beautiful

On the Sunday guests Roy and I were joined by Doug Hadland and Harold Kirby (see photo on Page 1) I couldn't resist the photo opportunity i.e. 3 PFF colleagues all from the Chiltern Aircrew Association

A short historical note:

The Pathfinder Force (PFF) was formed on the 15th August 1942 under Group Captain Don Bennett, an Australian, and was under the administration of 5 Group and on the 8th January 1943 number 8 Group was formed.

The PFF comprised 5 squadrons located on 4 airfields centred near the town of Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire. Flying the Short Stirling, the Handley Page Halifax, De Havilland Mosquito, Vickers Wellington and the Avro Lancaster. The headquarters being at RAF Wyton.

The success of the PFF was down to more than just the skill of the crews and the ingenuity of the scientists and engineers., as with all precision bombing through the years, it was crucially enabled by intelligence. cAmong a number of sources Bletchley Park contributed signals intelligence, while RAF Medmenham provided photographic intelligence, enabling both targeting and battle damage assessment etc etc.

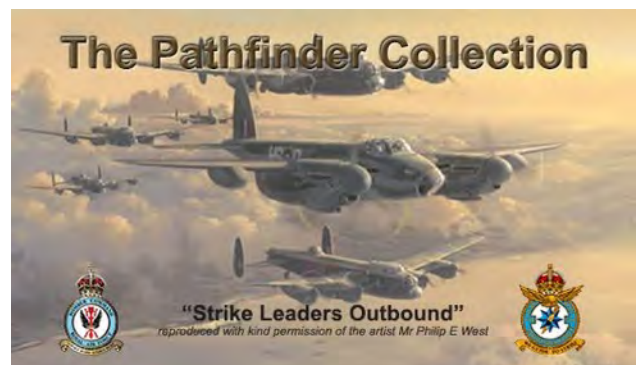
No. 8 Group PFF flew a total of 50,490 individual sorties against some 3,440 targets. The cost in human lives was grievous – at least 3,727 members were killed on operations!



The Lancaster flown by Roy and Harold



The Mosquito flown by Doug



The Pathfinder Collection housed at Royal Air Force Wyton near Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire is a memorial and testimony to the airmen of No 8 Pathfinder Group of Bomber Command during World War II, the RAF's only officially recognized elite force and commemorates that organization and those who gave so much in achieving its goals.

**Welcome to our New
Membership Secretary**



Ian Mason

After the sad passing of Gerry Sealy-Bell we needed a new Membership Secretary. Despite Gerry 'setting the bar high' I am glad to report that **Ian Mason** has kindly volunteered to take over that role on the committee.

Ian joined the Royal Air Force in the early sixties and attended the Royal Air Force College at RAF Cranwell. He trained on the Jet Provost before moving to RAF Oakington for advanced training on the Vickers Varsity.

Like his fellow Chiltern ACA Members David Bray and Graham Laurie, he was posted to the brand new Andover C Mk I OCU at RAF Abingdon. He then served with No 46 Squadron (RAF Abingdon) and 84 Squadron (RAF Sharjah) on the Andover. He also flew the Bristol Britannia (RAF Brize Norton), Hercules (RAF Lyneham) and Dominies (no not the Rapide variety but the twin jet HS 125 variant) at RAF Finningley. He has also served as a Basic Training Flight Commander at RAF Swinderby and a Mobile Air Operations Team (MAOT) working with the Army and the RAF Helicopter and Ground attack aircraft. He also spent time back on the HS 125 in the VIP role at RAF Northolt before completing many years as an Operations Officer, initially in the RAF and later as a Reserve Officer (HQ Strike Command and RAF Brize Norton) .

He comes from a long line of those who served in the Royal Air Force, his grandfather flew in World War I, whilst his father was the leading RAF Pathologist and investigated many accidents and also helped the CAA with their investigations. He then spent many years lecturing at Edinburgh University and is renowned as a leading expert in his field.

None of the above helps Ian be our Membership Secretary, but he has mastered the skills of the computer and thus will soon have you all on his little list! He has also undergone intensive training to help him remind you all to **"Sign the Register"**

**A day about the Canberra
at Newark Air Museum**



One of our members **Dusty Miller** is planning to go to this event. He will have a couple of spare seats if anyone is interested. Please contact Dusty direct if you wish to take him up on the offer'

This years event is on **6 Oct 16** and arrival after 10.00AM for tea or coffee followed by spending the remainder of the morning chatting with old friends or on a self-guided tour of the Museum with up to four aircraft opened up to see inside. At 12.00PM a buffet lunch will be served under the Varsity, and at 1.00PM talks will begin. The subject will be the English Electric Canberra. Well known aviation author and pilot Andy Brookes will discuss 'The Canberra Airframe'. Pilot Rob Glover will discuss 'The Early Days and Suez'. Navigator Gil Stenson will discuss 'Germany and QRA'. Navigator Gordon Dyer will discuss 'The PR Role'. Tea and scones will be served during the afternoon. All this and we've managed to keep the price at £25pp, but hurry. We can only fit 30 people into the Dambusters Hut.

Airlander 10 - First Flight



Airlander 10

The world's largest aircraft, nicknamed 'the flying bum', has made its successful maiden voyage. The bulbous 302ft-long (92m) Airlander 10, which is part plane, part helicopter and part airship, took off from Cardington airfield in Bedfordshire. as the sun started to set on Wednesday evening 17 August. The Airlander is the biggest aircraft in the world.

Those watching saw the machine airborne during its first outing from the First World War hangar where it was revealed in March, after undergoing hundreds of changes by Hybrid Air Vehicles (HAV) over two years. First developed for the US government as a long-endurance surveillance aircraft, the British firm launched a campaign to return the craft to the sky after it fell foul of defence cutbacks.

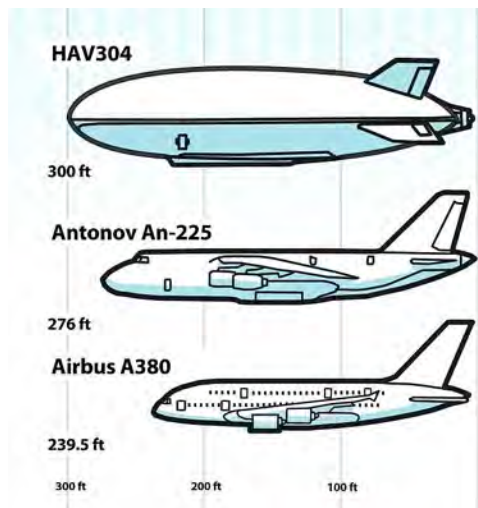
HAV's team had been waiting for low winds for the launch but added the airship could "operate very happily" in 80 knots of wind. Th Chief Executive was quoted saying: "Think of a big helicopter, a really giant helicopter. This can do the same thing that a helicopter can do - that's to say, provide air transportation for people and goods without the need for a runway - but this thing can take more over longer distances, it's cheaper and it's greener. The Airlander 10 has been dubbed the 'flying bum' due to its shape. "It's a great British innovation. It's a combination of an aircraft that has parts of normal fixed wing air craft, it's got helicopter, it's got airship." The Airlander took off at approximately 7.40pm and orbitted the airfield before landing about half an hour later, with light fast fading and the moon visible in the sky. This was a relief to the team after a technical fault aborted their attempt to fly two days earlier.



Airlander 10 returns to those famous hangars

It is about 50ft (15 metres) longer than the biggest passenger jets but its four engines appeared noticeably quieter than a plane or helicopter as it took to the skies. Mr McGlennan, who is not a pilot but has practised flying the craft on a simulator, said it was "very simple" to manoeuvre. He said: "It's a very stable, benign aircraft that responds very gently in flight, we expect it to be an unusually calm flight experience." People have been practising to fly it for at least five years, he added.

The Airlander 10, uses helium to become airborne, can travel at a speed of 92mph. The maiden flight marks the beginning of 200 hours of test flights for the 143ft-wide (44-metre) and 85ft-high (26-metre) craft, which will be able to stay airborne for about five days during manned flights. HAV claims it could be used for a variety of functions such as surveillance, communications, delivering aid and even passenger travel. It is also hoped the Airlander 50 will eventually be developed, which would be able to transport 50 tonnes of freight. Prior to this goal manufacturer Hybrid Air Vehicles (HAV) say they intend to build 10 Airlanders a year by 2021.



Size comparison with the huge Russian An225 and the better known Airbus A380

(Cont' P5)



Alas the second 100 minute test flight on Wednesday 24 August was not so successful and the aircraft was damaged in a landing accident returning to Cardington. Obviously the programme will now be delayed but luckily it is reported that there were no injuries to the crew.

**A Gathering of Moths
Old Warden 31 July 2016**



What a wonderfully British scene!

Over 80 visiting aeroplanes, 60 of which were of de Havilland parentage, hundreds of cars and members of the public all enjoying a wonderfully informal atmosphere and Johan Wiklund, visiting from Sweden in his brown. woolen three piece flying suit, to be presented with the Geoffrey de Havilland Trophy in recognition of his supreme effort

in flying his DH.60GIII Moth Major from North Cape to Cape Town in 2015.



*Johan and his Tiger Moth
(not taken at Old Warden!)*



Tiger 9



Stuart's Tiger Moth

Thanks to the sources for the photos of the day. From top: Tiger 9 practicing Vic a typical Tiger departure with Stuart McKay's Tiger G-AZZZ originally found in pieces in France and lovingly restored-just look at it now!

Help Ian



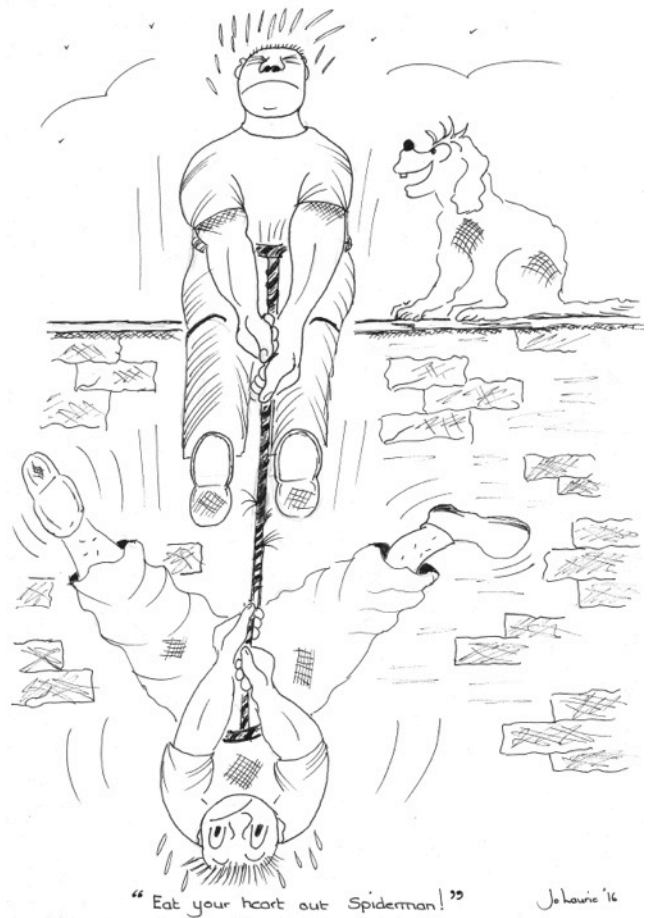
Emirates Spinnaker Tower

In a moment of bravado Ian **Mason** agreed to abseiling down the Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth in aid of the charity 'Hearing Dogs for the Deaf'. If you feel like sponsoring him (for those that have not already done so) please contact Ian-his details are on Page 8 under the heading Membership Secretary.

The Spinnaker Tower is a 170-metre (560 ft) landmark observation tower in Portsmouth. It is the centrepiece of the redevelopment of Portsmouth Harbour, which was supported by a National Lottery grant. Its shape was chosen by Portsmouth residents from a selection. The tower, designed by local firm HGP Architects and engineering consultants Scott Wilson and built by **Mowlem**, reflects Portsmouth's maritime history through its being modeled after a sail. The tower was opened on 18 October 2005. Following a commercial sponsorship deal with Dubai-based Emirates airline, the tower was renamed the Emirates Spinnaker Tower in July 2015.

The tower represents sails billowing in the wind, a design accomplished using two large, white, sweeping metal arcs, which give the tower its spinnaker sail design. The design is similar to the Burj Al Arab in Dubai, whose structure is a little less than twice as tall at 323 metres (1,060 ft).

Our efforts to get a photographer to record the brave young aviator failed, but luckily our resident cartoonist was able to oblige!



If you would like to sponsor Ian (for those who have not yet done so) please contact Ian whose details are on Page 8 under 'Membership Secretary'. I am sure he would love to hear from you and your donation will add to the amount, already over £1,000 he has raised for this very worthwhile charity.



A Hearing Dog during Training

AIRCREW LUNCH
FRIDAY 30th SEPTEMBER 2015 – 1200 Noon for 12.30pm
BLACK HORSE, GOZZARDS FORD, ABINGDON OX13 6JH

After the success of recent years, we plan to repeat the 'Aircrew Lunch', open to all aircrew, Military, Civil (ATPL/PPL) whatever and of course partners. We can seat 60 people, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

The attached menu I think you will agree, has something for everyone. Should you have any special dietary requirements please do let me know when you order and I am sure Dawn Neil and the team at The Black Horse, will be able to accommodate you.

I am keen to broaden the reach of the lunch to beyond the ACA and No46 Squadron who have supported it so brilliantly in the past, so if you know of anyone you think might like to join us then please do let me have their contact details and I will forward them the details.

As The Black Horse no longer accepts cheques, so I will make a single card payment to them on or about 25 September. Please therefore ensure I have your completed order form by 23 September at the latest but I hope we can get near the 60 mark so please reply soonest.

Menu

Hand Battered Fish, Chips & Peas. A cod fillet, in our homemade Abingdon Bridge beer batter.

Fish Pie. Our homemade mix of cod, smoked haddock, salmon and prawns cooked in a creamy sauce and topped with cheesy mash with seasonal vegetables on the side.

8oz Gammon Steak. Served with a fried egg or pineapple slice, chips and peas (+ E or P).

Beetroot, Goat's Cheese and Quinoa Salad. Braised beetroot tossed with warm goat's cheese and quinoa in our sweet salad glaze on a bed of baby leaves and cucumber

Pasta Paddardelle pasta in a chunky tomato and aubergine ragout, topped with rocket and parmesan, served with garlic bread.

Homemade Crumble. Individually made Apple and Mixed Berry served with custard

Sticky Toffee Pudding. Delicious homemade toffee sponge covered in Toffee sauce and served with custard

Mango and Passionfruit Cheesecake. Served with cream.

Ice Cream Sundae Served with chocolate, strawberry or toffee sauce (+C or S)

Cheese Board Selection Oxford Blue, Brie and Mature Cheddar with crackers and homemade chutney

Tea and Coffee

Please send your order to: Graham Laurie, 19 High Street, Prestwood, Great Missenden, Bucks HP16 9EE
 with a cheque payable to **G H Laurie for £22.00**
 Latest dates for orders is **Friday 23 Sep 16**

Programme 2016

Events at 1030 for 1100 at Greenacres unless (*)

2016

21 Sep 16 Members Meeting
 30 Sep 16 Aircrew Lunch @ Abingdon*
 19 Oct 16 RAF Hendon past & present-David Keen
 16 Nov 16 The role of the Czechs locally in WW
 Neil Rees
 14 Dec 16 Xmas Lunch* 1200 Noon

Your Committee**Chairman:**

Geoff Hulett

11 Pearsewood Gardens, Stanmore, Middx
 HA7 1NU. Tel: 0208 952 4092

Email: banghulett@btinternet.com

Newsletter Editor/Secretary:

Graham Laurie

19 High St, Prestwood, Gt Missenden, Bucks
 HP16 9EE

Tel: 01494 863492

Email: graham@kitty4.co.uk

Membership Sec:

Ian Mason

65 Sunnycroft, Downley, High Wycombe, Bucks
 HP13 5UR

Tel: 01494 439845

Email: ian.mason197@ntlworld.com

Treasurer: Rod Finn

67 Hayfield, Chells Manor Village, Stevenage
 SG2 7JR Tel: 01438 350115

Email: rodfinn@btinternet.com

Welfare: David Bray

23a Aylesbury Road Wing, Leighton Buzzard,
 Beds LU7 0PD Tel: 01296 688425

Email: adbray@aol.com

Programme Secretary: Bill George

Blossom Cottage, 54, Green End Street, Aston Clinton,
 Bucks, HP22 5EX Tel: 01296 630998

Email: bill.bbgi@btinternet.com

Welfare

Have been in touch with Ron Doble who is not too well, Sandy has said he will, as always, keep an eye on him. I have also been in touch with Mavis Dyson who was quite talkative but has her aches and pains, whilst Sheila Smith is ok especially with her family around her. Norma Hagan is improving but her eyesight precludes driving which is a great disappointment to her. Have tried to contact Ann Hyland (I believe some members have been in touch with her though) and have only spoken to her daughter at Aces High - says Ann is fine.

David

Membership Secretary

That will teach me to miss a meeting, whilst visiting my father in Edinburgh it appears I have been voted in! I am sure Gerry will be a hard act to follow but I will do my best. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries or changes you may have.

Ian

Secretary/Editor

Thank you as ever for your articles and photos for use in the Newsletter. I hope to have news shortly of the visit to Lords Cricket Ground. We hope to take a small party (6-8) to the ground as guests of Middlesex County Cricket Club and the MCC. We may have to telephone round for volunteers, so if you went through ACRC at Lords and would like to come, please let me know by email or telephone. Possible dates are 20 or 22 Sep. Transport will be arranged.

Graham

Programme Secretary

We are working hard on next years programme and hope to have it published in a couple of months.

Bill

Treasurer

Thank you, as ever, for your generosity with the raffle and with your donations of prizes. It all helps to boost the 'coffers' and will be returned to regulars in the form of subsidies at lunches and on visits. Thank you all

Rod

Chairman

My thanks to Ian Mason for stepping into Gerry's position. With the difficulty so many organisations are having finding committee members, I am pleased Chiltern Aircrew Association is thriving.

Gerry