

SUSSEX AIRCREW ASSOCIATION

Autumn Newsletter 2012

Monthly Meetings

We continue to be entertained by good speakers at the monthly meetings but would like to programme ahead for the future - volunteers from the branch and outsiders are more than welcome to talk on any subject.

In August Dave Fellowes started the proceedings on how crewing up on Bomber Command conversion during WW11 was achieved. Reg Barker followed by recounting the traumatic shooting down of his 635 Sqn. PFF Lancaster.

As an appetite wetter Trevor Sapey gave us a preview in September of the Mary Rose Exhibition prior to the visit by Malcolm Burwood's Isle of Wight party.

Although we only had 7 members at the October meeting due to the IOW trip, Campbell Boyce gave us a laptop presentation of his pilot training in Canada followed by his gliding experiences.

Malcolm Burwood's Isle of Wight Trip

After much organisation, the trip to the Isle Of Wight took off on 1st October. I reproduce the write up from Malcolm and a couple of photos from Bob Osborne :

We had three spare seats in a 29 seater as we picked up trippers across Sussex heading for Portsmouth.

We boarded Wightlink at 1130 for a smooth crossing to Freshwater IOW. We headed for a prearranged parking space on Cowes Yacht Haven and were glad of a pint and some lunch at The Pierview Hotel. A short walk up Cowes high street brought us to The Sir Max Aitken museum, which had some great memorabilia in it. Then on to The Shanklin Hotel where we were comfortably bedded, and had good sea views. In the evening we went to The Shanklin Theatre for some good honest corny variety!!

An early start saw us crossing the island to The Needles Bus. Out there it was very windy!! The Blue Streak Missile site was well illustrated. We returned to Osborne House which everybody loved, and then got back to The Shanklin Hotel where the food was excellent. There was even some dancing !

On day three we were deposited at the top of Shanklin Chine. Eventually, everybody enjoyed the drop down through the vegetation. We were met by Adrian Searle who was the author of PLUTO. He gave us an excellent talk on The Pipeline Under the Ocean, and there was a length of it to be seen. From the Esplanade we coached to Bembridge for lunch, devouring 24 Lobsters and 12 bottles of Chablis in record time!! From The Lifeboat View Cafe we were able to walk out to the lifeboat station, where Coxswain Steve Collins gave us an intimate view of lifeboat operations.

Another pleasant evening in preceded our departure for Portsmouth. It was so clear that we decided to ascend The Spinnaker Tower. After lunch we met at the Dock Gates for a visit to The Mary Rose Trust, once again explained by Trevor Sapey, this time in civvies!

On the way home we had an enjoyable supper at The Bridge Inn, Amberly, before being dropped off home.

I have thanked The Hotel for an excellent stay. The plan went well, weather was kind, and we all learnt something!

Malcolm Burwood

RIP

Sadly we have lost two of our Veterans with the passing of Bill Farquharson and Ian Brownlie. Bill was only in our Branch for a short time but was well known as a Sussex ACA Member. Ian had been with us since moving from Devon 10 years ago and with Daphne, his wife, has been a much loved and active Member. Many of us will remember his talk at Elvington on the 2006 trip to York. He related many amusing incidents over the years and included these in several talks he gave to schoolchildren in the area who were always enthralled with his experiences.

Dates for Your Diary

Monthly Meeting - Tuesday 6th November at 2pm

ACA Christmas Lunch at the Singing Hills Golf Club - Thursday 13 December, 12pm for 1230
See Helen Keeling's email for details - please reply ASAP

Joe Overy



The Isle of Wight Party



Lobsters after porridge!



The Guard of Honour at Ian Brownlie's funeral.



Ian Brownlie beside the 77 Sqn Memorial at Elvington , September 2006