



# NEWSLETTER

## Report on Project Propeller Pages 2 & 3

### Sad News

Yet again we start with some sad news that **Bernard Maile** passed away on Saturday 9 June 2012. His funeral took place at Amersham Crematorium on Tuesday 26 June 2012 (see Page 4). Our condolences go to Joan and the family.

### June Meeting

Our scheduled speaker was unfortunately in hospital, so to commemorate the unveiling of the Bomber Command Memorial at the end of the month we showed a film of 'The Lancaster at War'. The film was an excellent insight to the design, testing and operational capabilities of the famous bomber.

Afterwards there was a heated exchange concerning an article in the Evening Standard by the publicity chasing art critic **Brian Sewell** and his views on why there should never have been a Bomber Command Memorial in London. It was a good job there was not a BP monitor available or gallows for that matter!

### Diamond Jubilee Garden Party - 12 June



*Des and Janet*

Our thanks go to Bill George and Mary plus neighbours, for all their hard work in getting the Garden Party off the ground. I am glad to report that the event made just under £250 for the Alzheimer's Society.

It was particularly encouraging to see Des and Janet Richard in attendance, also Alan Dicker and family and Eric and Pam Barnard.

The food was excellent as of course were the wines, there was a little left over but 'the boys' gave a good account of themselves, as usual!

The weather could have been a little warmer but at least the rain held off for most of the time.



*The 'Boys' concentrate on eating! while .....*

Whilst we are talking of food, there will be a **Guest's Lunch at Greenacres on Wednesday 19th September** and also an **Aircrew Lunch at The Black Horse, Abingdon on Friday 28th September (formerly Quad Lunch)** Bookings Page 8

## Project Propeller 2012

### Tom Payne reports:

It was off to Coventry Airport or Baginton as most of us knew it on Saturday 9th June. The weather forecast had improved at the end of the week and the original 40kt winds did not arrive., but sadly some 20 aircraft from the West/North West could not attend, nor could the B of B Memorial flight to make their scheduled flypast.

All was not doom and gloom as 56 aircraft and 160 veterans arrived on the day. It was great to take the controls again in those conditions - no hands off/feet up! One problem at Coventry was that unless the pilot picked up 50 litres of fuel a landing fee of £9 was charged, which made our £10 donation look a bit inadequate (**Ed:** I am in contact with PP and will give details as soon as known).

During the day there was music from 'The Hummingbirds' and speeches from Air Commodore Graham Pitchfork MBE, FRAeS RAF (ret'd.) about his new book 'The Sowreys': A Unique and Remarkable Record of One Family's Sixty-five Years of Distinguished Service.



*Air Cdre Pitchfork speaks, and our Chairman listens*

We then heard from, Air Marshal Sir Frederick Sowrey KCB. CBE AFC, with a very moving story of the family who have maintained continuous service in the pre RFC, RFC and RAF, five of whom have been awarded the AFC.



*Air Marshal Sir Frederick Sowrey KCB. CBE AFC*

I was able to speak to both men and I told Sir Freddie that I too was in the Palace Hotel, Torquay in 1942 when it was an RAF Hospital. I was at ATW suffering from severe sinus problems-this was some 6 weeks before he was there-but on the day I left Torquay the hospital was bombed with many lives lost. Sir Freddie was injured but recovered. He was unaware of the reunion held a few years ago.

So let us continue to support Project Propeller both as an Association but individually, particularly those who have benefitted from the generosity of the organisers and the pilots involved by donating to 'Project Propeller'. I have asked Graham to see if he can get the correct details of where the donations should go to.



*Almost like Greenacres!*

**Project Propeller 2012 (Coventry) in Photos**



*Arrivals*

*Shackleton Mk2 WR 963*



*The Hummingbirds*



*Inside the Shackleton*  
**Photos: Stan Colley and others**

**Bernard Maile**  
**9 Oct 33 - 9 Jun 12**

Bernard Maile who passed away on 9 Jun 12 came to Chiltern via the Mildenhall Branch, coming to live in our area to be near one of his daughters living in Amersham.

Born in 1933 Bernard was one of our few members who flew in the RAF after the war. He joined as a Signaller and was destined for Coastal Command, serving with 201 and 205 Squadrons on Sunderland Flying boats. He spent a tour on Air Sea Rescue in Singapore before returning to UK and finishing his 8 year service at RAF Shawbury.

His logbook shows a variety of aircraft flown including Lancaster, Sunderland, Shackleton Mk 1 and Mk 2 plus those he used to get to and from the Far East Hermes and Hastings. He also flew in the Blackburn Beverley- quite a variety when the RAF had more aircraft based in the Far East than it has in total now!

At his funeral, a family friend Rev'd Derek Butler, took the service. Apart from knowing Bernard well, he is a Private Pilot, so appreciated his career more than most. He reiterated Bernard's sense of duty both in service and civilian life. He went into Financial Services, working in all parts of UK for Norwich Union. The Chiltern and Mildenhall ACA were represented together with his old Squadron Association. A fitting send off to a 'gentle giant'. Our thoughts are with Joan and her loving family.



*205 Sqn Sunderland at Seletar*



**AAIB  
reaches  
100**

The United Kingdom's Air Accident Investigation Branch has celebrated 100 years of air accident investigation in the United Kingdom resulting in the first accident report issued by the board exactly 100 years ago on Jun 8th 1912.

This investigation report lays down the main structure well known today already 100 years ago, like factual section, analysis section (though extremely brief), conclusions section and recommendation section.

The AAIB then investigated the crash of a Flanders monoplane occupied by a pilot and a passenger, which was flying circuits at Brooklands ground on May 30th 1912. While in a left hand turn the aircraft fell to the ground and burst into flames killing both occupants.

The AAIB concluded:

The Committee is of opinion that the cause of the accident was the aviator himself, who failed sufficiently to appreciate the dangerous conditions under which he was making the turn, when the aircraft was flying tail down, and in addition was not flying in a proper manner.

A side slip occurred, and Mr. Fisher lost control of the aircraft.

It seems probable that his losing control was caused by his being thrown forward on to the elevating gear, thereby moving this forward involuntarily, which would have had the effect of still further turning the aircraft down. This would explain his being thrown out whilst in the air.

In the opinion of the Committee it is possible that if the aviator had been suitably strapped into his seat he might have retained control of the aircraft."

**Do they build ‘em like that any more?**



*The South African Air Force Dakota landing*

Now look a little closer at the back of the aircraft! On 1 May 86, a Dakota while on a flight to Ondangwa at about 8000ft was hit with a SA-7 missile. The explosion ripped off most of his tail. To add additional pressure, the Dakota was full of military VIP passengers including the Chief of the Army.



*A closer look at the damage*

Captain Colin Green (aircraft commander) slowed the Dakota down to 100kts in order to keep it under control and called for help. There was a chopper in the area which formatted on him and relayed the damage to him. The chopper also took the pic’s.

Apparently he ordered the passengers around to regulate the C of G before going into land. Us



*Power used to replace damaged elevators*

ing flaps and power to control the pitch, he greased it onto the tarmac.

He was later awarded The Chief of the SADF Commendation for his exceptional flying skills.



*The crew of SAAF 6855 (2) after landing safely after being hit by a SA-7 surface to air missile on 1 May 1986*

From left to right:  
 National Serviceman Private Walsh (loadmaster)  
 Captain Colin Green (aircraft commander)  
 Lieutenant Mark Moses (co-pilot)  
 Photographs Captain William Good collection

**Ed:** *So thanks to the superb skill of the crew, the aircraft was saved. What a demonstration of the strength of the basic design by Mr Douglas!*

## A Sniff at £1.2 million



*A working Labrador has a sniff*

Sniffer dogs at Manchester Airport have a new £1.2m base for their round-the-clock operations to stop drug-smuggling, people-trafficking and terrorism. The crime-busting hounds have spent three decades in their current home, which has become shabby and outdated. Now they have been moved to new purpose-built kennels near the airfield itself.

Nine detector dogs, including springer spaniels, labradors, retrievers and beagles, patrol the terminals. Their new home features sleeping accommodation, a food preparation area, a washing room and a veterinary treatment centre, together with exercise zones and storage space. The dogs are trained to spot illegal activity and have an acute sense of smell, making them a vital tool in protecting British borders. They have been stationed at Manchester since 1978. Initially they were used solely to detect drugs but their duties have gradually increased to include tobacco, cash and even people hiding in cargo. Brian Moore, director general of Border Force, said: "Our dogs play a key role alongside their human counterparts in preventing border crime such as the smuggling of goods, firearms and banned animal products."

Dog team leader Steve Elms said Border Force had a total of 74 dogs patrolling airport and ports across Britain. Last year they detected more than two tonnes of drugs, £12m in mixed currency, over 1.2m tonnes of banned animal products and

more than 16m cigarettes. Mr Elms said: "In terms of detecting and deterring crime these dogs really are worth their weight in gold – or Class A drugs, or weapons, or any of the other numerous illegal items they prevent entering the country every year." In addition to detector dogs, Border Force also uses a range of high-tech search techniques to intercept would-be smugglers including watch lists to screen passengers, freight scanners, drug detection machines, carbon dioxide probes, body scanners and x-ray devices.

Seen originally in the Manchester Evening News

**Ed:** *Having seen these sniffer dogs at work all over the country prior to Royal Flights, I can vouch for their thoroughness. They are treated superbly by their handlers and are never over-worked - 20 mins of sniffing and then it is off for some fun!*

## Night Bombers

Eastward they climb  
 Black shapes against the grey  
 Of falling dusk  
 Gone with the nodding day  
 From English fields.  
 Not theirs the sudden glow of triumph  
 That their fighter brothers know,  
 Only to fly through cloud,  
 Through storm, through night,  
 Unerring, and to keep  
 Their purpose bright,  
 Nor turn until  
 Their dreadful duty done,  
 Westward they climb  
 To race the awoken sun.

*Anon*

**Ed:** *This came to me with other poems via Dennis Swains and will feature in future issues. A lot of servicemen turn to poetry during conflicts. I have just read an account of the Falklands War and again the sailor concerned took to poetry to get his message across.*

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**Programme****Welfare**

All events at 1030 for 1100 at Greenacres unless advised (\*)

<b>18 Jul</b>	<b>Colin Gent</b>	<b>RR Merlin</b>
15 Aug	Roger Miller	Halton and beyond
19 Sept	Guest Lunch*	1200 Noon
29 Sept	Aircrew Lunch*	1200 Noon
13/14 Oct	Moth Club Charity Flying at Old Warden Revised date	
17 Oct	Alan Merriman	Flight Testing
21 Nov	John Hutchinson	Concorde
12 Dec	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 Secretary****Gerry Sealy-Bell**

31, Hempstead Road, Kings Langley, Herts, WD4 8BR

Tel: 01923 262707

**Treasurer****Ian Nelson**

13, Mentmore Road, St. Albans, Herts., AL1 2BG

Tel: 01727 856677

Email: ian6304@googlemail.com

**Welfare****Bill Hyland**

57, Limes Avenue, Aylesbury, Bucks., HP21 7HD

Tel: 01296 415386

Email: johnhyland228@btinternet.com

**Programme Secretary****Bill George**

Blossom Cottage, 54, Green End Street, Aston Clinton,  
Bucks, HP22 5EX

Tel: 01296 630998

Email: bill.bbgi@btinternet.com

**Bill Hyland reports:**

It has been a good month to see some of our members back amongst us. Eric and Pam Barnard were at the Diamond Jubilee Buffet and we also were pleased to see Dennis Swains at our June meeting. Jack Easter has had another spell in Stoke Mandeville but glad to report he is now back home.

Sadly we are getting a longer list of widows so please do not forget them. Obviously they are all most welcome to our lunches and they get to keep in touch with this Newsletter. A telephone call to them could be most welcome, perhaps this is where the wives could help. It can be very lonely out there.

**Bill****Membership**

It is with regret that I have to report the death of our member **BERNARD MAILE** who died on 9 Jun 12. His funeral took place at Amersham Crematorium on 26 Jun 12 and a number of our members were present. Any donations in addition to that made by the Association to either Ian Rennie Hospice or the RAF Benevolent Fund and can be sent to the funeral directors: HG Grimstead, 10 Hill Avenue, Amersham, Bucks HP6 5BW. We offer our sincere sympathies to Joan and her family and our thoughts are with them at this sad time.

Gerry

**Bomber Command Memorial**

Next month we will have a report on the unveiling of the long awaited Bomber Command memorial. The go ahead was dependent on Westminster Council ensuring that the long term future of the memorial was ensured. This is where the RAF Benevolent Fund came on the scene. The Fund has set up the guarantees to ensure maintenance and the long term care is assured. They obviously need money for this to continue without impinging on their normal welfare work. They have put in place an appeal to remember the RAFBF in wills with a legacy. Please remember the Fund and thus those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

**Guest's Lunch**

**Wednesday 19th September 2012**

**1200 Noon**

**Greenacres Tavern**

Please send me ..... tickets (**£5.00 per person**) for the Guest's Lunch

NAME: ..... ADDRESS.....

TEL NO: .....

- I enclose:**
- a. Cheque payable to 'The Chiltern Aircrew Association'**
  - b. Stamped addressed envelope.**
  - c. Send to Gerry Sealy-Bell, 31, Hempstead Road, Kings Langley, Herts, WD4 8BR**

**Aircrew Lunch**

**Friday 28th September 2012**

**1200 Noon**

**The Black Horse, Gozzards Ford, Abingdon, Oxon OX13 6JH**

Please send me ..... tickets (**£20.00 per person**) for the Aircrew Lunch

NAME: ..... ADDRESS.....

TEL NO: .....

- I enclose:**
- a. Cheque payable to 'The Black Horse'**
  - b. Stamped addressed envelope**
  - c. Send to Graham Laurie, 19 High St, Prestwood, Gt Missenden, Bucks HP16 9EE**