

# RMSA Newsletter

Spring 2011

Issue 85

For more information on the RMSA visit our web site [www.baermsa.org.uk](http://www.baermsa.org.uk)

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**A picture paints a thousand words.**

Photo taken by RMSA member Fred Smith at the Airbus Family Day on 18 September last year

## From the Chair.

May I on behalf of all of us on the committee wish you all, **A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.**

**Constitution.** We have revised the constitution of the Association and are presenting it for approval at this year's AGM. It's shown in full on pages 7,8 & 9. Revision of the constitution has been required for some time to meet the current requirements of freedom of information and data protection legislation and to keep up with the fast changing scene at Filton in particular and the broader aerospace industry. We have to face the fact that our average membership age is now well into the seventies - your committee reflects this. So it is very important to recruit people who are retiring now, if there is going any future for our Association.

There has been much lively discussion in committee about what to include in this revision. Especially in trying to keep everything as simple as possible and not changing things just for the sake of it, after all, it has served us very well for many years.

One of the most difficult issues among several, for example, is our title. The term 'Management Staff' is no longer very relevant for most of the responsible senior staff employed at Filton and the industry at large where we need to concentrate.

What do we call ourselves now? A lot of time was spent debating this and we have ended up with the title 'RMSA'. It's not very innovative I agree, we felt though it is how we are mostly known, which is not unimportant and retains the links of our history with Filton.

We hope the revision as shown in this Newsletter is endorsed at the AGM, to be operative this April.

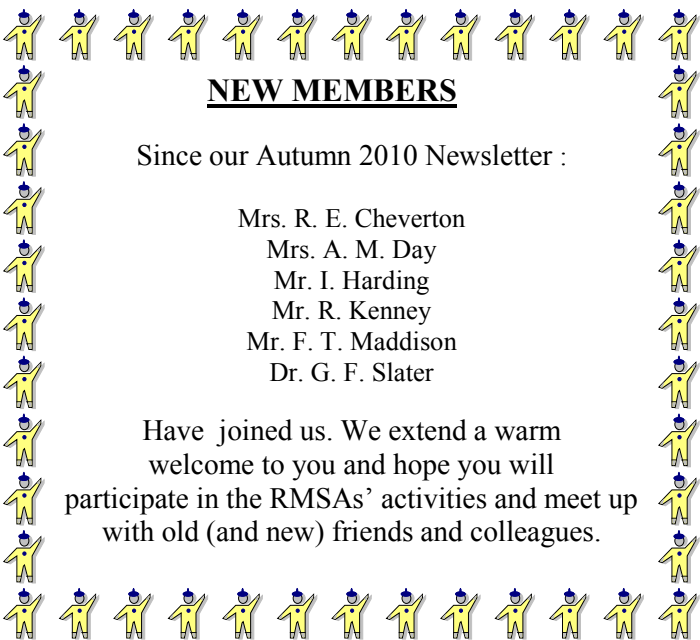
**AGM.** We have responded positively to members' suggestions about having a speaker give us a talk after the meeting. Details are shown overleaf. We, of course, trust there'll be a well attended AGM.

**Future Social Activities.** Dave Curtis shows our activities for this year on page 11 and Tug Wilson adds his comments on the back page. We still have hopes of developing some of the ideas laid out in last year's Spring Newsletter and the member's get-together at Cadbury Garden Centre last July.

**216 (G-OAF).** What a sorry sight it is now. I thought it was to be moved to the hangar scheduled 'for essential maintenance'. I wonder?



Photo taken by Rodney Farmer giving us a snapshot of members at our 2010 Christmas Lunch in BAWA's ballroom.

 <b><u>NEW MEMBERS</u></b> Since our Autumn 2010 Newsletter : Mrs. R. E. Cheverton Mrs. A. M. Day Mr. I. Harding Mr. R. Kenney Mr. F. T. Maddison Dr. G. F. Slater  Have joined us. We extend a warm welcome to you and hope you will participate in the RMSAs' activities and meet up with old (and new) friends and colleagues.	<b><u>OBITUARIES</u></b> It is with sadness that we record former friends and colleagues known to have passed away since our Autumn 2010 Newsletter.  Mr C S Heliker Mr D.H. Howells Mr B. J. Tuffrey Mr. J Francis  Our Sympathy is extended to all their families and next of kin
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**Notice of the 31st. RMSA Annual General Meeting**  
**in the Concorde Suite BAWA Centre Filton**  
**on Friday 11 March 2011 at 10.00am**

**AGENDA**

1. Opening Address.
  2. Apologies for Absence.
  3. Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting.
  4. Chairman's report including obituaries.
  5. Treasurer's report and adoption of Accounts.
  6. Social Secretary's report.
  7. Election of Committee Members.  
(retiring members Kevin Cheverton, David Curtis, Frederick Napthine and David Welsford are willing to stand again and there are three further vacancies)
  8. Election of the Accounts Examiners.
  9. Revision of Constitution. (see page
  10. Pension Matters.
  11. Any Other Business.
- .....

**Nomination Form for Committee Member**

Name of Nominee .....

Proposed by .....

Seconded by .....

Nominee Signature ..... (to confirm willingness to serve)

Please return this completed form to the Secretary (address is on page 14) by 4th March 2011

**We aim to complete the AGM by 11.00 am. and after a coffee break a talk has been arranged to be given by Richard Day, Curator Bugattii Trust.**

The name **Bugattii** is synonymous with the design and manufacture of some of the most remarkable and innovative racing, sports and touring cars of the twentieth century.

The talk will be about the Trust's work and objectives which include; promoting the history and technical importance of the work of designer and engineer Ettore Bugattii and it's involvement in providing prizes to engineering design students whose work, in it's opinion most closely epitomises the philosophy of his achievements.

We are looking forward to what we hope will be a most interesting talk.

Ken Tooze





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### **Change of Administrator for BAE Systems Pension Schemes by Bob Hart**

For a number of years, as anyone who has had a pension query will know, the administration of the BAe pension schemes has been provided by an organisation called Xchanging. Xchanging was set up in part by BAE Systems to provide outsourced HR and pensions services with a view to achieving economies of scale by providing these services to a number of businesses. Whilst the HR part of the operation has prospered, no new clients were found for its pension services. A couple of years ago, BAE Systems sold its interest in Xchanging while continuing to use its pension service for the BAE Systems pension schemes.

Over the years there have been a number of issues over the quality of the service that scheme members, both actives and pensioners, were receiving. In addition, Penserver, the computer system on which everything was based, was becoming outdated and its provider had given early warning of the termination of their support to the system.

After lengthy investigation involving BAE Systems pension department and scheme trustees, it was announced in June that from 26 November 2010 BAE Systems will be using a new pension administration service provided by Xafinity Paymaster.

Paymaster is an established provider of these services, particularly for large public sector schemes including the armed forces and the NHS. Associated with Paymaster, conveniently, is Claybrooks, the provider of the Penserver system. Claybrooks have a new computer system, Compendia, which is already being used by Paymaster for other schemes and the plan is to use this system for the BAE Systems schemes for August 2011.

Paymaster have been signed up for a 7 year contract and will provide their services to our members from the offices currently used in Farnborough and the Lancashire area.

The promise is for a better service for members and the Company together with significant cost savings.

Here' hoping.....





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### **AERO-MODELLERS OF W.W.11 by Stan Lock**

I wonder if there are any other ex-apprentices of my ilk who were boyhood aero-modellers during W.W.11 My interest began when I was attending the village primary school at Stoke-in-Teignhead , South Devon. We could buy little 12 inch span flying models for one old penny from the village store and they could be launched by catapult. If I was really in luck, I could get an eighteen inch span high aspect cambered wing model for two old pence which flew really well.

Just after the outbreak of war, when I was eleven, I went to Torquay Grammar School for Boys. Now, there was a wonderful aero-modelling store in Torquay which stocked everything you can imagine for modellers. It was my understanding that Winston Churchill was keen to support hobbies to boost morale in those difficult times, despite the dire supply shortages of food, clothes and munitions etc. That shop always had a plentiful supply of kits, balsa, obechi and spruce, tissue and dope, plus all the other paraphernalia like wheels ,rubber, steel wire, and petrol and diesel engines of which I had a 1cc version of the latter to drive a six inch propeller. They even stocked pellets for my air rifle a rare commodity during the war, I used to purchase model plans (old fashioned blue prints) to build sailplanes of some six

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## RMSA – Website News Update – Spring 2011

[www.baermsa.org.uk](http://www.baermsa.org.uk)

Dear Fellow Members,

[This update contains information relating to the latest updates to the website, since the Autumn 2010 Newsletter.](#)

The latest Versions 3.10, 3.10, 3.20 and 3.30 have already been announced to members who have kindly advised us of their email addresses. The added content is too large to be summarised here, but can be viewed on the Webmaster Blog which can be access via link on the Home Zone page of our website.

If you did not receive the emails launching the above latest versions, it is because we do not have your email address. To-date, we have over 60 email addresses on record, but we would ask members who have not yet provided their email address to let us know their email address by sending an email to myself (Membership Secretary) at: [rodney.farmer@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:rodney.farmer@blueyonder.co.uk).

One of the objectives of the website is to facilitate communication between members, and in addition to the existing Website News Blog and RMSA News Blogs, we have added a simple RMSA Chat Box messaging service and a comprehensive private RMSA Forum Board containing a number of useful individual forums where members can post and reply to topics – the forum needs a ‘one-time’ member registration, details of which can be found on the Website News Blog, or if you need any assistance with registration just email me.

Board Forums are: General RMSA Topics; RMSA Newsletter Topics; RMSA Website Topics; RMSA Events Topics; Computing Topics and General Interest Topics.

We have now completed the task of adding all our Newsletters from 1992 to the Newsletter Archive which provides a fascinating and interesting read.

The RMSA Events News Page and Calendar have been updated to show the 2011 RMSA social events as currently known.

On behalf of our Chairman and other members of the Committee, we hope you continue to enjoy browsing the site.

Rod Farmer – Membership Secretary & Website Administrator

Email: [rodney.farmer@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:rodney.farmer@blueyonder.co.uk) OR [webmaster@baermsa.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@baermsa.org.uk)

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feet span and as we lived at the head of a valley in the country, they would often stay aloft for several minutes and travel a quarter of a mile. After the war, when I was sixteen, I came to Filton as an engineering apprentice with the then Bristol Aeroplane Company. I brought that little 1cc diesel engine with me, and it was later fitted with a flywheel and mounted in a speedboat which my brother Harry and I built and raced at St Georges Lake with a boat club.

However, I soon developed a considerable interest in a non-flying model with auburn hair, her name was Barbara and I've maintained her in reasonable working condition to this day, albeit with a few running repairs and also a few spare parts (four to be exact).

It was about then that my apprentice deferment ran out and I was called up on national service for two years, so come to think of it, whatever happened to my model speedboat I left with my brother. I never saw it again.

Alas, Harry is no longer with us to ask about it.

Happy days.....

**Do you have a story to tell? Then why not send it to the editor, and it'll be put in the Newsletter.  
Contact details are on the back page.**

## From the Social Secretary

### \*\*\*\* FORTHCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS 2011 \*\*\*\*

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#### **SPRING DAY OUT TO THE R.A.F. MUSEUM AT COSFORD. on Thursday 14<sup>TH</sup> April 2011.**

DEPARTURE TIMES TO BE ADVISED.

Please reserve.....seats at a cost of £21. 00 per seat.

Name (s)..... Tel. NO.....

Email address.....

#### **SUMMER DAY OUT TOUR OF WALES WITH A VISIT TO ABERGAVENNY MARKET. on Tuesday 19<sup>TH</sup> July 2011.**

DEPARTURE TIMES TO BE ADVISED.

Please reserve.....seats at a cost of £19. 00 per seat.

Name (s)..... Tel. NO.....

Email address.....

#### **SHORT BREAK TO THE RAMADA HOTEL, SOUTHPORT. on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2011 to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2011. (4 nights)**

Please reserve the following accommodation:-

Name (s)..... Tel. NO.....

Email address.....

(Double/Twin/Single (please indicate as applicable))

DATE OF BIRTH. (THIS IS REQUIRED FOR INSURANCE PURPOSES).....

The overall cost is approx £253.00 (for 40 paying passengers) and £276.00 (for 30 paying passengers).

There is a single supplement of £80.00.

A deposit of £40.00 per person is required for the Break, plus £9.75 per person to cover travel insurance.

(This is compulsory, unless of course, you already have your own travel insurance cover).

Overall costs will be adjusted when the number is finalized.

Please note that the Spring and Summer Days Out prices are based on booking up to 29 seats. If 30 seats or more are booked the price is reduced to £17.50 for the RAF Cosford Museum trip and £16.00 for the Tour of Wales.

Last Novembers' talk proved to be very popular. We are planning another later this year. The date, subject, venue and cost will be advised in the Summer Newsletter.

It need not be held at the BAWA centre. If any member knows of somewhere else that would also be suitable please tell us.

We are open to suggestions.

I make no excuse for including two separate impressions of our autumn break last October. They both describe how much there is of interest to see in this country. It was a holiday when indeed we could have done with a couple more days.

Ken Tooze

## **RMSA 2010 Short Break by Vic Rollo**

October, five days, one coach, 21 friends and ex-colleagues; yes, it's the annual RMSA short break. This year visiting Tonbridge in Kent.

Early Monday morning in BAWA car park, fighting a strong October breeze, we all breathe a collective sigh of relief as the Rover coach pulls in and we can all get on board and find a seat. The first part of the journey passes quickly as we get on with the task of swapping stories with friends we perhaps haven't seen for some little while.

After a brief stop on the motorway we head for Windsor for lunch, but as HM wasn't at home, something about a big boat in Southampton, we had to make our own arrangements, then on to our destination for the week, the Best Western Rose & Crown Hotel in Tonbridge, Kent.

A 16<sup>th</sup> century coaching inn, one of the oldest buildings in Tonbridge, the hotel carries Queen Victoria's crest over its front entrance, and the room which she used is still a feature of the hotel. It's regrettable that the hotel appears to have suffered from its heritage, as the plumbing amongst other things also still appears to be from the Victorian era, resulting in complaints having to be made.

Tuesday we were off on our first tour, a two-centre visit to Chatham and Rochester. The conurbation of Rochester, Chatham and Gillingham has applied for City status, and this is expected to be granted in time for the Olympic Games in 2012.

Our morning is to be spent at the Historic Dockyard in Chatham; these Royal Dockyards have served the Royal Navy since Elizabethan times until being phased out of service in 1984, when the current museum was established.

Chatham houses an eclectic mix of maritime material, from a comprehensive collection of RNLi rescue craft via three historic ship exhibits, HMS Gannet, HMS Cavalier & HMS Ocelot, to a collection of paintings depicting Clyde ship building, and of course we cannot ignore the fabulous Victorian Ropery.

Chatham ropery is the last remaining traditional ropewalk to survive in the world. The history of this unique exhibit is presented in a highly entertaining manner which involves the visitors in assisting in manufacturing a piece of rope, and taught us the origin of a number of everyday expressions all derived from rope or rope-making.

Even with our visit extended by mutual agreement, we had to leave with plenty of places and exhibits omitted due to shortage of time, and everyone appears to have enjoyed the visit, despite having to occasionally fight off hoards of junior pirates on a school trip.

For anyone contemplating visiting in the future, this venue is well worth the effort and is definitely worthy of a whole day. With our visit to Chatham occupying most of our day, regrettably Rochester got rather short shrift, with people only really managing quick visits to the cathedral and/or the castle before we rather wearily return to Tonbridge.

Wednesday and its Canterbury; ask any English child what they know about Canterbury, and they will almost certainly mention the martyrdom of Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral.

Founded towards the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> century, after Becket's murder, this cathedral became the foremost medieval shrine in England made even more famous by Chaucer, stripped of its riches by Henry VIII during the reformation, it was further vandalised by puritans after the Civil War when most of the windows were destroyed.

Canterbury's history is on display in the Museum of Canterbury and the Roman Museum, while other attractions feature Chaucer and Rupert Bear.

Five hours later, and once again 21 sets of sore feet are on their way back to Tonbridge for dinner.

Leeds Castle is our Thursday destination, a late substitute for Bodiam castle as the intended steam railway trip had to be cancelled due to the railway not operating; this castle, with its grounds is a well established and popular venue.

The original Norman castle was established on the site of an existing Saxon manor in 1119, the current castle was made into a family home by the Hon Lady Baillie in the 1920/30's finally bequeathing it to the nation in perpetuity on her death in 1974.

Lady Baillie filled her home with art and antiques and these are on display within the main castle buildings which she had developed into one of the most elegant of country houses.

As well as the castle buildings, the venue houses a unique collection of dog collars some from medieval times, probably one of the quirkiest exhibits from our week. More down to earth, there is a large collection of exotic birds housed in a modern aviary, a yew maze which will lead you into an underground grotto and several large stretches of water where myriads of ducks, geese and swans reside.

I have to say, for such a short visit to Kent we chose three superb venues. To some degree blessed by the weather, it

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would have been different if the rain had set in, but it didn't so everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves.

As for Tonbridge, itself a historical town, located at a ford across the Medway, the current town is medieval in origin located around the Norman motte-and-bailey castle. Some 150 buildings are formally listed by English Heritage. Friday and home; lunch in Guildford, if Andy our driver can find a place to park up and let us out, talk about a coach unfriendly location, not recommended for coach parties, and finally a quickie pit-stop at Membury to let us all order taxis and pick-ups back at BAWA.

Well there we are, a thoroughly enjoyable week in good company visiting interesting places. Many thanks to Dave Curtis for putting the time in to organise an eventful week and also to Rover European Coaches and other

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## October 2010 and time for the Autumn Break by Colin Wyatt.

Twenty one this year set off from BAWA. Unfortunately Tug & Jean Wilson were unable to join us as Tug was in hospital.

Reading Services was the first coffee stop and then on to Windsor for lunch and a stroll by the river. Then on to the Rose and Crown in Tonbridge, our home for the next four nights.

An historic old coaching inn in the centre of the town, a rambling building but sadly in need of updating and t.l.c. Tonbridge proved a pleasant town with a castle, river and gardens for walks.



Chatham Dockyard Big Space

Our outing on Tuesday was to Chatham Dockyard. Starting in the 'big space' – a gigantic building where Victory, Nelsons flagship was laid down in 1759. Boats, lifeboats, cruisers, submarines are well displayed and many are open for boarding. Most of the morning was spent here. A quick cup of coffee before moving on to the other attractions. The museum building held an exhibition of Stanley Spencer paintings and sketches. These showed some of the activities and characters employed around shipyards while another room contained models of ships built in the dockyard.

A grand finale to the visit was a costumed tour of the ropery. Here we learnt of the lives of the men and women employed to make rope and used some of the machinery to twist a length – great fun. The rope industry survives here today and is being used all around the world. So much to see, we shall certainly make another opportunity to re-visit

A leisurely start again today, Wednesday 9:30 we are off to Canterbury. After parking by the river, it was a pleasant walk to the Cathedral and the town. Lunch followed the cathedral visit and then into the town, which was very busy and lovely with its individual buildings.

A short drive to Rochester, forward in time here to the Dickens' era. After visiting the photogenic cathedral and castle and taking our photos we found an excellent cream tea before returning to Tonbridge.



Rochester Cathedral

After evening dinner we were taken on a tour of the hotel to see its underground passage and cellars,



Leeds Castle

Queen Victoria's bedroom came next with its panelling and her small four poster bed.

Last day and we were off to Leeds Castle, an impressive building set in beautiful grounds. The castle itself goes back 900 years. Inside was very intriguing, a great mixture of periods and odd collections. The photographers in the group were well catered for as the parkland is well laid out with wandering paths offering many views of the castle.

This evening it is time to pack ready for our return journey home tomorrow via Guildford for lunch before our goodbyes at BAWA.

This was a small but beautiful part of England. A return trip to further explore perhaps. Next year – where?

**RETIRED MANAGEMENT STAFF ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE (RMSA)**

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**Subscriptions and Treasurers Comments**

I would like to mention payments for our Social Events which are in the capable hands of David Curtis. When making payments for these events please send individual cheques for each event as this makes the accounting so much easier for us. Still on the subject of events, the number of members signing up for the Spring Day Out for past two years have been so low they had to be cancelled. The Summer day out and the Autumn Short Break have survived ,but with decreased numbers. Why not join, one or all of the coming events ( details are in this Newsletter) and have an enjoyable time with fellow members.

An increasing number of members, happily for me, are making their payments by Standing Order and any member wishing to do the same can set one up using the information below. Your own Bank will assist you to do this.

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This Newsletter is published by the Retired Management Staff Association (RMSA) Bae Systems, Airbus & Devolved Companies at Filton. Views expressed in articles in it are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the RMSA or it's committee.