



Volume 2 Number 14

### **Editorial**

(Brian Lloyd)

HELP PLEASE. With the opening of our extension, which you can read about in this issue, we are looking for more volunteers, especially to be on duty during admission hours. If required, we can provide a thorough induction to our procedures. It is not necessary to have a high standard of aviation knowledge or to know everything about our exhibits and displays. There will always be another volunteer on duty who can "field" any unanswered questions. The Committee would be very grateful for any help, however small, because we are really stretched in order to keep the Museum open.

One or two sessions per crew member per annum would be appreciated. Then if you get a taste for it you might feel encouraged to do other session for us. Thank you and best wishes to everyone. Additional help will greatly take the pressure off our hard core of helpers.

### **Engineering Report**

(Geoff Etridge)

Work is now ongoing on the Miles Martinet to manufacture

the forward fuselage panelling, the cowling gills and their slider units. The drive assembly would be remade later. The aircraft had now been moved forward into the new hangar area which makes access to it much easier.

The link trainer has been moved indoors again and the wings have been temporarily re-fitted for the opening of the Museum extension but they would have to be removed on one side for a modification to the drive arm for the roll operation. It is hoped that this will be the last alteration required.

The two men working on the Miles Student are still concentrating on the rear area of the fuselage. They have been disturbed a lot by the building work and hangar moves.

The Handley Page Herald was washed prior to the Handley Page Society's annual get-together.

Over the past two months the team have been busy moving equipment, aircraft and exhibits and also getting the new hangar ready for the "big move".

### **The Shop Report**

(Margaret Etridge)

The shop was not running properly at present due to the alterations but new supplies of toys etc. are being got ready to stock the shop. Some artificial plants for the shop are also being got.

It was decided that the Museum would not have a presence at the Woodley Carnival this year.

Another Skittles Evening at the Seven Stars, Knowl Hill is being

arranged for a Saturday evening in August.

### **News**

(Brian Lloyd)

An extensive item appeared in the Aeroplane magazine in March 2008 edition about the Dart Herald *G-APWA*. The article entitled "Flying Down To Rio" had both interesting text and pictures. The Museum was mentioned in a number of places. It includes mention of the fire on board *G-AODF* whilst it was on it's way to Farnborough.

### **The Museum Extension has Arrived – on time**

Planning for the extension was granted by the Local Authority in 2002 and work started in October 2007. The Main Contractor was Early Builders, supported by Kimkast the steel work contractors who constructed the frame.

The Chairman and Committee would like to place on record the volume of work and time given by Derek Cann. He was the Architect, Project Manager, negotiated with the local Authority, co-ordinated with the main contractor and other trades and saw the extension through to the final completion in May 2008.

The photographs showing the work in progress are on the following page.

Thanks are due to the other volunteers who have helped with minor but important work to achieve a high standard of

finish. The extension doubles the space for exhibit display. The workshop is now incorporated in the building and at the front of the building there is a very attractive and comfortable shop. The photographs show the completed building.

On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2008, a dance was held in the hangar which was attended by one hundred people. This was organised by Jean Fostekew so thanks are due to Jean for her hard work. The B B and O Big Band provided the appropriate music. Members and their guests entered into the spirit of the evening by wearing — dress. The adjoining photograph indicates a good time was had by all.

On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2008 the official opening took place on a warm and sunny day. The Chairman opened the proceedings by giving the background to the financing of the extension and thanked the two hundred attendees for their support and said he hoped to see many of them on another occasion in order to see the re-arrangement of the exhibits and displays. Ken Fostekew then welcomed Member of Parliament, Theresa May, Patrons John Fairey, and Julian Temple, and The Mayor of Woodley, Councillor Gilder, who had the pleasure of declaring the extension open. The Mayor was accompanied by the Immediate Past Mayor, Councillor Sheleagh Flower. A response to the Mayor was given by the Museum's President, Douglas Goddard, who included

his thanks to the Chairman, Committee, Volunteers and Members for keeping the Museum going.

The Woodley ATC 1116 Squadron were "on parade" under the direction of WO Twigg. The Cadets provided help throughout the afternoon

The extension has been named "The Bob Brown Hall" in honour of the late Bob Brown.

Sadly within days vandals broke three of the windows. The insurance will cover some of the costs – but it hardly looks good for a new building to have one window boarded up... Although a car number plate was reported to the police (the occupants having been observed throwing bricks at the houses) it is very doubtful if the culprits will be brought to justice.

**A Distant Memory**, received from David Miles. In 1943/44 he worked in the Miles Aircraft Experimental shop. He was not an apprentice but worked with the woodworking team on such aircraft as the M28, M38, Aerovan, Marathon, Flying Pig, and Monitor. Also he thinks he can remember a Miles Falcon fitted with razor edged wings covered with strands of wool – He supposes for a wind tunnel test.

He also recalls travelling to Farnborough with a Monitor fuselage for probably stress testing. He also remembers having a M38 in for repair which he thinks was allocated to General Montgomery.

Names he remembers are Bert Taylor, Pat Sullivan and Felix Bowness the boxer and actor (Hi Di Hi fame)

### **A Just Award for Geoff.**

At a special ceremony held in April, one of our volunteers was honoured and recognised for his work at the Museum. Geoff Etridge, our Engineering manager, was presented with a Woodley Civic award by the Mayor of Woodley, Councillor Shelagh Flower. There were four other recipients from the Woodley Community.

In making the presentations Cllr Flower said "This evening is my opportunity of saying thank you to all, not just personally, but on behalf of the Town Council, who are enormously grateful for the important voluntary work carried out by many residents throughout the Community"

### **The Double Mamba**

"Flypast" Magazine has announced the death of Harry Rayner (RIP). He had a distinguished career commencing with the RAF in 1947. Among his many achievements after leaving Brooklands Aviation, was to be involved in the development of the HS Double Mamba Turboprop for the Gannet AEW3. After that, he took a position with Handley Page in 1960 testing the Victor Herald and Jetstream.

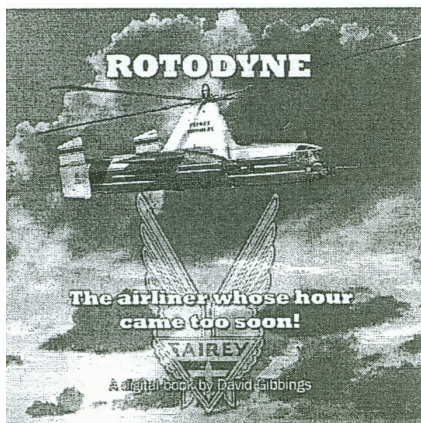
### **ATA Badge**

A badge is to be struck to be awarded to men and women who flew with ATA. The ATA

Chairman, Eric Viles was very pleased to hear about this decision. He recalls their only training was provided by reading a simple booklet – known as handling notes – where just a single page was dedicated to every aircraft. 173 pilots lost their lives and some flight engineers.

We are very pleased with the response from members who have completed Gift Aid forms. If you are a Tax Payer and have not completed one please send it in or obtain a form from Treasurer Alan Foskett, or from Membership Secretary Keith Freeman.

**Rotodyne**  
**The Airliner, whose hour**  
**came too soon**



A **Digital Book** compiled by:  
**David Gibbings.**

The original work for this CD-ROM was compiled for the Royal Aeronautical Society's 'Cierva Lecture' presented by the author in 2003.

The content has now been enlarged beyond the scope of a technical paper to include added technical data, a photographic album and a short cine film clip.

The Data CD requires a PC with OS Windows 98 or later with

Adobe Acrobat Reader and Windows Media Player.

They cost £10 each (plus £2 Postage and Packing) from:

David Gibbings,  
Draywood Cottage,  
Chapel Hill,  
Odcombe.  
Yeovil,  
Somerset BA22 8UH

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**Royal Berkshire Aviation**  
**Society**

A full programme of meetings is promised over the coming months – and from September onwards they will be held (first Tuesday of each month excluding August) at the Museum.

All Museum Members are very welcome to come to any of these (and future) meetings.

**September** - Don Currie with films

**October** - Tony Houghton on his experiences with the Vulcan.

November, December & January – TBA

**February** – AGM +

March, April, May, June – TBA



**Committee Members**  
**Information**

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**Web Site**

<http://www.museumofberkshire-aviation.co.uk/>

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The Dance Band- Photo John Hunt





Started...  
(photo: Ken Fostekew)



Almost finished  
(photo: Ken Fostekew)



Finished !  
(photo: Keith Freeman)



Pre-official opening Grand Dance  
(photo: Jean Fostekew)



A good crowd enjoying the new spaciousness...  
(photo: Keith Freeman)



Official opening  
(photo: Keith Freeman)