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Posted: Friday 15 June 2007

Malaysian Government honours Manchester Associates

MANCHESTER ASSOCIATES HONOURED BY MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT.

It was quite a shock recently when two Manchester Associates met at a ceremony to honour ex-servicemen for their part during the conflict in Malaya which ended in 1966. June Jones and John Greatbanks, both long-time workers at Manchester Factory never knew they had both served at the same time in the country. At the ceremony in May at an Army Barracks in Greater Manchester they both received medals and Citations from the Malaysian High Commissioner.



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Congratulations to you both

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Posted: Tuesday 05 June 2007

North East Associates Pub Lunches 2007

Six down - Six to go!

With up to forty Associates attending each, our monthly pub-lunch get-togethers are popular.



So far this year Keith (right) and Colin (centre) have kept us north of the River Tyne, apparently with the names of creatures as our main theme. Thanks, guys.

Starting up in the 'Falcons Nest' (no apostrophe and close to the home of a certain rugby football club!) we then swooped on 'The Badger' before taking a trip across to the Northumberland coast.

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Next it was "all aboard" at 'The Waggon' before heading back to the coast, fish 'n chips were popular there, and then a finish to the spring season at the 'Lion and Lamb' - in Horsley. (Only one lamb dish on the menu, but neither lion nor horse!)

The next six pubs for the summer & autumn season are beckoning.

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Posted: Monday 04 June 2007

Bournemouth Associates meet up regularly.

We're looking for more to come and join us.

In addition to the monthly Social Club Meetings at the Wallisdown Distribution Centre the Bournemouth Region Associates have recently enjoyed the fun of a Skittles & Supper Evening, a coach outing to Portsmouth, a Garden Party at the home of one of their group, and a wonderful coastal walk at Keyhaven in Hampshire which was followed by lunch at the White Horse public house.



Thanks go to the few who arrange the events, and there's a request for more local Associates to come and join in the activities and meet up again with past work colleagues.

dh/ph 06/07

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Posted: Thursday 31 May 2007

North East Associates Bellingham Walk - 30th May

We're all going to see Hareshaw Linn!

Hareshaw Linn? Who is she? This is a new twist for a walk! What do our imaginations make of this? What are Jim and Lindsay thinking?



Assembly and roll-call.

Well, go we all did! That's forty-plus Associates who met up in the village of Bellingham (pronounced "Bellingjam") in the heart of Northumberland for our May short walk. The rain stopped for our time there.

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Heading for the river.

Our two groups set off in different directions. One headed towards the River North Tyne downstream from the village and then returned along the riverside path.



On the riverside path.

They then walked north alongside Hareshaw Burn, crossing six footbridges on their way, in an attractive wooded valley in the Northumberland National Park.



Over a millenium bridge, but not the famous one!

The path came to a dead end - where they saw "the linn".



All is revealed.

It was then about-turn for a short distance before leaving the valley to the west, around Sourmilk Hill and passing Bogglehole Cottage, on the way back to Bellingham for lunch.

Meanwhile the second group had tackled the Hareshaw Burn section first, also up to the limit of the path.

Here we had already met up with Hareshaw Linn, a spectacular 30ft waterfall set in a much higher cliff-sided chasm. We weren't disappointed with what we saw.



First to the linn, but last for lunch.

This party had left the valley also to the west on the same route, but keeping the height gain advantage and heading out further, past some farms and disused quarries before descending to river level.

On the way down the alignment of the old [Border Counties Railway](#) was crossed. This, in its time, was the lifeline for small-scale mining and other long-gone industries in the North Tyne Valley. Some reminders of these remain. Local history records that in the building of the High Level Bridge between Newcastle and Gateshead - opened in 1849 and still in use - about 2,000 tons of iron from the Bellingham Iron Works was used.

Following the river flow towards the village, passing under [Bellingham Bridge](#), we joined the rest of the party for lunch at the Cheviot Hotel.

Back home then, with many planning to meet up again on the following Tuesday for the regular pub lunch.

*ph 31/05/07
pictures cliff sore & ph*

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Posted: Wednesday 30 May 2007

ANNOUNCEMENT TO PENSIONER MEMBERS OF THE PGPF

P&G Pensioners please read.....

As a result of recent corporate activity by Procter & Gamble ("P&G"), P&G now operates a number of occupational pension plans for different employees within different parts of the corporate group. These include:

- The Procter & Gamble Pension Fund (the "PGPF");
- The Wella Retirement Benefits Plan (the "WRBP");
- The Gillette Group Retirement Plan (the "GGRP");
- The Duracell UK Pension Plan (the "DUKPP"); and
- The Gillette UK Pension Scheme.

P&G takes its responsibilities in respect of its pension plans very seriously and from time to time it reviews each of the plans, including their management and administration. Following P&G's most recent review in July 2006, it concluded that, for a number of reasons, it would be prudent and sensible to merge the WRBP, the GGRP and the DUKPP into the PGPF, which is the largest of all of the plans. P&G will continue to review all of its pension arrangements from time to time, as has always been the case. It is not proposed to merge the Gillette UK Pension Scheme into the PGPF at this stage for financial and practical reasons.

We are pleased to announce that, after giving due consideration to P&G's merger proposal and all of the benefits to the members of the DUKPP, GGRP and WRBP which would result from the merger, the Trustees of those plans have concluded that the merger should proceed.

The Trustees of the PGPF have also considered the proposals and agreed that the merger can proceed.

The intention is that the three mergers will all take place at the same time and will be effective from 1 July 2007.

The merger will not involve any change to your benefits as existing members of the PGPF nor do you need to do anything in connection with the merger, but if you do have any questions, please contact Chantal Misquitta at P&G by email at misquitta.c@pg.com or telephone on +44 (0)1932 896203.

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Benefits of the Merger

- Streamlined structure and processes leading to more efficient administration, which should in turn lead to greater efficiency in making benefit payments to members.
- Long term cost savings produced by reducing the number of investment fees, advisers and, eventually, administrators.
- The PGPF Trustees post-merger will deal with issues from all of the merged plans leading to a more coherent approach across the board.

The PGPF Board of Trustees

Post-merger, the PGPF Trustee Board will include representation from each of the transferred-in plans as well as the existing PGPF membership. The merged PGPF Trustee Board will be larger than at present, of which two-thirds will be Company-nominated and one-third will be Member-nominated trustees ("MNTs"). The MNTs will be selected from nominations made by any of the merged PGPF active and pensioner membership, including the transferred-in WRBP, DUKPP and GGRP members.

Post-merger, the current PGPF Trustees will send active and pensioner members of the merged PGPF information on the nomination/selection process as well the eligibility criteria and instructions as to how to nominate themselves if they so wish. The intention is for the MNT process to be completed as soon as possible following merger.

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Posted: Thursday 24 May 2007

North East Associates head south to Yorkshire again - 24th May

Newby Hall was our destination.

About a hundred of us left the Newcastle drizzle behind as we headed south through County Durham towards Ripon in North Yorkshire and the privately owned Newby Hall & Gardens nearby.



After the hi-tech welcome . . .

The twenty-five acres of gardens as seen today were created in the 1920's and have been fully restored over the last ten or so years. The formal gardens run from the front of the house down to the River Ure as a wide grass walk with double herbaceous borders each side, all being flanked by yew hedges.

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Through the hedges many feature gardens can be accessed, each at its peak at a different time during the year.



Sylvia's Garden was very tranquil

Through these some further interesting areas are encountered, some built, some just planted. It's a pity that the birdsong cannot be captured here.



The original hall with later extension

Following an enjoyable light lunch the house was open to visitors. Building of Newby Hall started in the late 17th century under the guidance of Sir Christopher Wren and then extensions were added in the second half of the next century. Stunning internal remodelling was done by Robert Adam and on show are many Gobelintapestries and Chippendale furniture pieces. Many classic porcelain items from England and Germany are displayed. There's also some amusing "pottery" to be seen!



To round off the day tea and fresh scones seemed popular, although some chose to ride the miniature railway.



The last train home!

ph 24/05/07

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Posted: Sunday 13 May 2007

South East Associates Golf Championship

Regional Golfers Beware!

On Thursday 22nd March seven Associates participated in the annual SE Golf Championship on the challenging course at the Mill Ride Golf Club, Ascot.

Having picked a day when winter made a brief return the players were delighted to find that when they teed off the weather had improved. Given the weather the course was in excellent condition but it was shame that the golf and the scoring couldn't match this.

It was also a pleasure to have Mary Lawrence, the Associate Scheme Manager, come and join us for the day. A very capable lady golfer - other Associate regions watch out if Mary is in your area.

The honours board was as follows:

Nearest Pin

11th Hole - Peter Taylor
15th Hole - Mary Lawrence

Longest Drive

10th Hole - Alan Leason

3rd Place

Paul Osborne - 26 points

2nd Place

Martyn Mason - 30 points

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1st Place and 2007 SE Associate Champion
Peter Taylor - 33 points

Following the golf everyone enjoyed Mill Ride's hospitality and a two course carvery meal, following which the prizes and winner's trophy were presented.

Everyone is now looking forward to the 2008 event.

Alan Leason

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Posted: Wednesday 09 May 2007

South East Associates Relive Flying History

A visit to the RAF Museum at Hendon brought back memories from almost fifty years ago . . .



April 26th was fine and sunny as fifteen Associates assembled at the [RAF Museum](#) (London) in Hendon.

Here we met our very knowledgeable guide David, assisted by Matt, a Royal Air Force officer on secondment to the museum. Introductions having been made, David outlined our tour for the next two hours. This left us with a free afternoon to view the Battle of Britain exhibition and to cover the book and souvenir shops.

The London Aerodrome at Hendon was used by many of the pioneers prior to the First World War and reference is found on some of the information boards of flights between Hendon and Brooklands. Air shows were held regularly and a flying training school established before 1914.

Post 1918 the general public were encouraged to attend aerial pageants, the first being held on 3rd July 1920. As well as spectacular flying displays at least one included live bombs being dropped according to a contemporary flight magazine.



de Havilland Gipsy Moth

The new aircraft types park became compulsory viewing and in 1937 the first Hurricane was shown, followed a year later by the Spitfire. Incidentally it was whilst

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practising for a Hendon display that Douglas Bader was to crash and lose his legs. As war clouds gathered the airfield held its last air display and prepared for its new role as communications and satellite landing runways for Northolt, Duxford and Heston.

Post war the air shows returned for a short time and then with the planned M1 motorway and London orbital ring road, property developers realised it was prime land.

By now there was a growing movement to open an aeronautical museum and with good access and some original buildings still in existence the museum was opened and has expanded to the complex it is today.



Sopwith Tabloid - started as a 92mph racing biplane

The oldest aeroplanes in the collection are mainly displayed in the Grahame-White factory. This building has a number of original parts in the form of doors, windows, etc. The largest aircraft is a replica Vickers Vimy bomber, amongst others on display are a Bleriot XI, an Avro 504K and a Sopwith Pup.

Initially aircraft were used for spotting artillery barrages. Then someone took a gun skyward and now in the space of 100 years we have the Eurofighter. This aircraft is to be found in the "Milestones of Flight" hall together with the legendary Harrier, of Falklands Islands fame; the Mustang, the only allied fighter capable of escorting bombers to Berlin and back; and not forgetting the legendary Mosquito with a huge role of honour to its name.



de Havilland Mosquito

Next the group moved into the historic hangars part of the original complex which house the Bomber Hall. So much to see and read about that our guide had to miss half the exhibits and advised us to return after lunch.

Aeroplanes in this area include the Avro Vulcan, Boeing B17G, Buccaneer and the iconic Lancaster bomber. As was pointed out only two Lancasters still fly, out of the thousands built - one in the UK, part of the 50 year old Battle of Britain Memorial flight, and the other in Canada. There is also one capable of taxi-ing and privately owned by the Panton brothers in [Lincolnshire](#).

Other exhibits and pictures cover helicopters; wings over the water; RAF overseas; and Air-Sea Rescue, two launches from which are on display in the car park. A stained glass window dedicated to the air sea rescue service, from a church near Pembroke dock, is on display.

As we continued to view the various exhibits one of our party, Geoff Cornwel-Smith, was stopped in his tracks by the English Electric Canberra which had won the speed race section of a race from London to New Zealand in 1953. Why such interest? Well, after checking in his logbook Geoff verified that he had piloted this aircraft on missions from Malta. Matt also took him behind the scenes to sign, along with many others, a picture of a Tiger Moth that is to be auctioned for charity.

We had now reached a point that the body needed food so, wishing our guides a huge thank you, the restaurant was visited. After lunch we went our separate ways, many vowing they would return.

Chris Pooley



Some Personal Recollections



Here I am in front of Canberra PR3 - No. WE 139

I have flown this actual aircraft as the pilot on photo reconnaissance missions from Malta in 1961.

What an amazing coincidence as thousands must have been in many air forces around the world, including the American air force - they improved it of course with longer wings for more height - over 50,000 feet - as well as making it more comfortable for the crew.

The flights for 'Photo Recce' were 4.5 hours without any autopilot in those days, and

just the one pilot strapped in - so no quick trip to the loo, or any breaks, or lack of attention, otherwise the plane slowly rolled !!

The photo runs for "mapping" the territory were usually 30 minutes in each direction with a "procedural" turn to get back on the adjacent parallel run in the reverse direction. The navigator lay in the nose to look through the glass to trigger the cameras.

The plane had to be kept exactly on track and height, with no wobbling of the wings - it kept you concentrating - but a little bit boring if truth be told since the pilot could not see the ground at all, let alone what we were photographing. In fact the double glazed canopy often froze over in the internal layer - so you could hardly see much outside at all - you flew on the instruments as if in cloud.

It is also the aircraft that held the world record from England to New Zealand in 1953 - but that was before I joined the RAF - so I'm not all that old!!

This trip to Hendon was much appreciated as it brought back memories from almost 50 years ago. I'll try not to bore you any more.

Geoff Cornwel-Smith



(There's another RAF Museum at Cosford, near Wolverhampton, in the West Midlands.)

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Posted: Tuesday 08 May 2007

South East Silchester & Mortimer Walk - 19th April

Roman 'Calleva Atrebatum', originally a British Tribal City,
was on our route . . .

Our April walk was in the area around the villages of Silchester and Mortimer, across the Hampshire & Berkshire border between Basingstoke and Reading.

The turnout was ten Associates, with a further five joining the party for lunch.

The weather was beautiful and the countryside a colourful picture, with the trees breaking, rape seed in full bloom, and bluebells in every wood.



We stopped at the ancient Roman town of [Calleva](#), walking part of the wall and visiting the amphitheatre before heading for the pub. Tables were pulled together in the garden of the [Fox & Horn](#) in Stratfield Mortimer for a convivial lunch to end the outing.

Jack Scott

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Posted: Monday 07 May 2007

South East Bradfield Walk - 13th March

This was a most picturesque walk . . .

On a gloriously sunny day in mid-March thirteen hardy Associates attended this most picturesque of walks in an area to the west of Reading.

We passed through the Berkshire villages of Stanford Dingley and Bradfield, the latter with its fine old school, now [Bradfield College](#). This was built by Thomas Stevens, Rector of the village - because he didn't have a big enough congregation for a choir!

In Bradfield, the Church of St. Andrew, the old mill and some 17th century cottages hugging the River Pang form a much photographed group.



Near 'The Mill', Bradfield

We passed along some ancient paths and through woodland where the community of plants include many that are found only in woodland dating from before 1600, such as aspen, wild cherry, bluebell, wood anemone, yellow archangel and sweet woodruff.

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We lunched in Stanford Dingley, at the excellent family owned
15th century pub "[The Bull](#)" which is famed for its pub sign,
this showing both ends of a bull
- one on each side!

Kevin Williams

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