FLYING FARMERS ASSOCIATION

MID - SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Thirty five of us managed to reach Schipol Airport, Holland on Thursday 22nd June for our first meeting abroad.

Despite one or two minor problems the trip was a great success. I don't think many of us realised how very efficient the Dutch are at arable and dairy farming and it goes without saying that they are masters at the art of large drainage schemes. I understand that an area the size of Hampshire has been drained or reclaimed from the sea during the last eighteen years. I wonder how long it would take our Government to put a barrier across the mouth of the Wash !

Unfortunately I was unable to visit the Flower Auction Halls on the Saturday morning, our Chairman and myself were engaged in argument over the Hotel Bill. This has taught us that in future we must pay for our hotel in advance through a Travel Agent. A small deposit is not really enough. Anyway I understand that the sight of flowers being wheeled in for auction is something that should not be missed and I am determined to see it for myself someday.

The flight home was uneventful in glorious weather, the only problem being a constant headwind which slowed us down considerably.

I would like to congratulate Ramsay Dryden for coming down from Teeside to pick me up and then returning on the Saturday evening. I believe he did a total of over ten hours flying in the two days. I don't think he had much rest either as his bed in the hotel was very uncomfortable, catching him in his'big end' whenever he turned over !

The other trip a few weeks earlier was also a great success. I cannot remember how many people turned up but we filled a very large coach to standing capacity and there was an overflow into two cars.

This visit was to Richard Mayalls' farm near Sleap. We saw how organic farming really worked and we left impressed with the whole system. Our thanks to Mike Cuttell for organising things for us.

There are three Future Meetings

1) Clive Porter has asked us to visit farms in Worcestershire to see arable and horticultural crops, on Thursday July 20th A detailed plan of the visit is attached.

2) A visit to Fisons on August 8th Tuesday at Ipswich Airport at 11.00hrs. local time. This visit was previously cancelled in the spring because of bad weather. We shall be seeing the Research Station near Ipswich. A meal will be provided and it is important that we arrive on time. Departure is for 16.00hrs. local time.

3) Harry Bott from Stevenage has kindly agreed to organise a trip to Old Warden to see the Shuttleworth collection of vintage and veteran aircraft at the end of September. A card will be circulated to inform members of times etc.

Our A.G.M. will be at the beginning of December during Smithfield week. It is hoped that a speaker of some eminence will be able to address us, and as usual the Annual Accounts will be circulated.

Finally, this is probably my last Newsletter as I shall be handing over to David Corbett fairly soon. I have asked Mike Cuttell to give David a hand when things are busy for him so I'm sure the organisation will be in excellent hands. We shall still have the Colonel ' in the chair'. I think it is very important he stays there for many years to come, without his support and his drive the Association would not be what it is today.

I have been asked to act as Treasurer with Lloyds Bank Aldershot acting as the Company Bank. Keens, Shay Keens and Co. from Luton will as usual Audit the Annual Accounts.

My thanks to the Committee for help in our first four years of operation. I wish the Association many more years success.

Anthony E Poulsom.

SEVERN VALLEY AVIATION GROUP

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1st May 1978

Proposed F.F.A. Visit to Defford

Defford is a disused airfield in South Worcestershire.
Map ref. 2°8' west 52°6' North. 3 N.M. North of M5/M50 Junction.
Runway in use 15/33 800m. X 30m. Concrete - (dug up section E. side.)
CAUTION : wire fence across runway at both ends.
100 ft tower near NW corner
Other two runways occupied by two large scanners on tracks.
Small windsock displayed at North end.
Pershore is now closed. Suggest radios off because of possible high intensity transmissions.
Suggested date Thu. July 20th 1978
Arrive 11.0 - 11.30 Transport to nearby farms/horticultural holdings to have a look at cauliflower, primo, onion and a range of other crops and glass. Basic lunch at a local pub around 13.00. Visit to M.S.F. Trial plots near Worcester in the afternoon. If time allows, extend the coach trip to local places of interest on return journey.

'Phone nos:

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or
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or
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Let's hope for 50 mile visibility and a NW wind !