



## Meon Tidings No.66 September 2016

### **Important information.**

**With effect from September all club meetings will start at 7pm.**

**Only one course + coffee or tea will be served except on the third Wednesday when we will have a speaker and three courses. The 100 Club Lottery will in future be drawn on this evening. Apologies to Ian Massie by email or telephone not club web site.**

### **Future meetings and events.**

7<sup>th</sup> September Mild chicken curry, with rice, naan bread and mango chutney

Council meeting at 6pm.

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Taste of Wickham- Help required from 9am until 3pm. Contact Peter Pollard or John Freemantle**

14<sup>th</sup> September Hot vegetable quiche with new potatoes and mixed salad

21<sup>st</sup> September Tomato and Feta salad, Steak and apple pie, Strawberry trifle

Speaker Terry Watt from National Coast-watch. Host Paul Jones

28<sup>th</sup> September sliced Wiltshire ham with fried egg, chips and peas

### **Advanced notices**

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November **Gourmet Dinner** at Wheel House

Wednesday **21<sup>st</sup>** December, not **14<sup>th</sup>**, Christmas Dinner as previously announced at Meon Valley Country Club at the special price of £32.

### **Previous events and meetings.**

17 August 2016

Harvey Griffiths gave a talk on the Wright Brothers. They were the first to develop the controls necessary to sustain manned flight. They manufactured bicycles at their workshop in Dayton Ohio. In 1902 they moved to Kitty Hawk on the Atlantic coast where there were strong winds and took with them a glider for their experiments. Charley Taylor, who was their engineer, designed and built an aluminium engine in

just six weeks. On 17 December 1903 they made the first manned, powered flight. At the end of the day, the aircraft was flipped over by the wind and damaged. It never flew again. The newspapers refused to recognise their achievement.

The Wrights returned to Dayton and built a second and then a third aircraft. In 1905, after flying for 22 miles in half an hour, the Dayton Daily News finally said that the brothers had indeed perfected manned flight.



The rest of the world was sceptical. Even the United States Government did not want to know. The Wrights took their aircraft to France and dazzled the crowds with their flying demonstrations. These were observed by an American lieutenant who alerted the US army to the potential and a demonstration in America was arranged. This eventually took

place at Kitty Hawk and the US Government were finally convinced.

There were several contenders as to who actually made the first manned flight. The most significant was Alberto Santos-Dumont, a Brazilian who had made his home in France. He made the first officially observed flight of more than 50 metres on 23 October 1906.

The Wrights did not hire a lawyer but instead tried to draw up their own patents. When other early aviators succeeded in building aircraft, the brothers tried to sue them. This resulted in prolonged litigation which was not resolved until many years later.

The Wrights had preserved Flyer 1, but because of the dispute with The Smithsonian, they had it shipped to London where it was on display in the Science Museum, except for the war years when it was taken to a secret safe location. In 1948 it was returned to America in the Mauritania, and put on display in the Space and Aeronautic Museum where it is.

The real honour for the first manned flight, although in an unpowered aeroplane, belongs to an Englishman, Sir George Cayley. He produced a glider fifty years before the Wright Brothers, piloted by his reluctant coachman, John Appleby in 2003, Richard Branson had a replica made of this glider and piloted it himself at Brompton Dale in Yorkshire. Unlike the world famous, splendid memorial to the Wright brothers at Kitty Hawk, the only memorial to Sir George Cayley is a blue plaque on his home in London, and a plate at the Regent Street entrance of Westminster University.

### **100 Club August winners.**

£100- John Tonkin; £50- Frances Darcy (Nuala Proctor's Mother who is 100 years old)  
You are never too old to join and win!

£40- Audrey Ray

## Purple4Polio!

Six million Purple crocus corms have been ordered by clubs across R.I.B.I. for planting. This is to gain publicity and celebrate the near end of this crippling disease and to commemorate 100 years of the Rotary Foundation.

Our club have ordered 5,000 corms at a cost of £85 and we have been given permission by Strand Harbour Securities Ltd (the parkland freeholders) to plant them on the grass verge at the back of the Cams Mill public house by the A27. This will be enough corms to cover 10-15 square feet. This is a very prominent position and suitable signage will be displayed when they are in bloom in the spring. I have full planting instructions from the R.H.S. and will need at least five volunteers to help me with the planting in the autumn. I estimate planting will take two three hours at a leisurely pace. No previous horticultural experience is required! As soon as the corms arrive I will circulate members to obtain volunteers.

## Dictionaries4Life presentation at Wickham School Church of England Primary School.

President Graham started his 3<sup>rd</sup>. year by presenting Dictionaries4Life to 28 year six pupils in St Nicholas Church, Wickham.



## **Latest Polio News.**

There have been no further cases in Pakistan or Afghanistan reported in recent weeks. The recent return of two cases in Nigeria in rebel held areas is being met with massive immunisation activity. Currently there have been only 21 cases this year worldwide compared with 37 at this time in 2015.

## **Visit to National Air traffic Control Centre at Swanick**

Nearly 30 members and wives went through the rigorous airport style security checks on arrival, the level of security was heightened, as we entered the magnificent building.

Our chief guide was Jodie McMenamain assisted by another Scottish young lady. Jodie was originally a controller at Prestwick before being transferred to Swanick when it opened. She now is heading up a team to plan improvements in the aircraft handling systems to speed up the processes and to increase safety.

The information suite is very luxurious with large screens showing facts about the organisation and two showing the actual floors of the two operations rooms. The original huge hall is now completely gutted in preparation for a completely new operations system.

The organisation handles 2.4million flights per annum containing 250million passengers. Apart from Swanick, N.A.T.S. provides controllers at 13 U.K. airports some in Spain and the middle- east. They have over 4,000 employees and are partly privatised with the U.K. government still owning 49% and a golden share giving it some control. Major airlines own the rest of the shares plus staff. Expansion to other parts of the world is being pursued.

The very informative and impressive visit was ended with the presentation of complementary NATS mugs and an enjoyable steak meal for two with wine at The Elm Tree pub. Thanks are due to John Freemantle for organising an enjoyable evening. Commiserations to John and Pam Tonkin who missed joining us due to traffic problem.

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