



# THE HAWKER ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER 46 - Winter 2016

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## EDITORIAL

So far our search for a new **Chairman** has been unsuccessful with nobody coming forward or suggesting a name. This is not an onerous job: chairing the monthly committee meetings, signing off the minutes prepared by the secretary, occasionally representing the Association, at outside meetings or functions and occasionally sending letters drafted by the committee. A short Chairman's report is needed for the AGM as are a few jokes for the Christmas lunch. Please consider doing this straightforward and enjoyable job, fully supported by the experienced committee.

It's time to book for the **Christmas Lunch**; see Programme for 2016, below.

In this edition are two outstanding contributions about activities at Dunsfold: 'A Sea Fury Tale' and 'An Experimental Life'; don't miss these fascinating accounts of how things were done in the '50s and '60s.

The Editor still needs your stories! Please send them to: The Editor, Chris Farara, 24 Guildown Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 4EN, tel 01483 825955, e-mail [cjfarara@ntlworld.com](mailto:cjfarara@ntlworld.com).

**Now only 41 Members have not paid their current subscriptions! Your names are in bold on the back page. Please check Newsletter 44 to see if you still owe for 2015 - 2016.**

## PROGRAMME FOR 2016

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December

**Christmas lunch - see below.**

## PROGRAMME FOR 2017

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January

Quiz - **Chris Farara**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February

F-105 Thunderchief - **Gp Capt Jock Heron**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Title tbd - **Simon Hargreaves**

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April

Annual General Meeting and videos.

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May

Title tbd - **Lt Cdr Ian Sloan**.

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June

Summer barbecue.

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July

tbd

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October

UAVs - **Lambert Dopping-Hepenstal**.

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November

Life with the Red Arrows - **Mark Zanker**.

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas lunch

**Jock Heron** was an RAF exchange pilot with the USAF and was with the Harriers in Germany, **Simon Hargreaves** was a RN Sea Harrier pilot, a Dunsfold and F-35B test pilot and deputy CTP at Warton, **Ian Sloan** flew with the RN Historic Flight and with the Aeronavale flew the Super Etendard, **Lambert Dopping-Hepenstal** was a Kingston systems engineer and is now Engineering Director, Systems and Strategy at Warton, and **Mark Zanker** had a long and varied RAF career flying Harriers and in the Reds. Unless stated otherwise, meetings are at the 'YMCA Hawker Centre', Kingston - the old Sports & Social Club - and start at 2.00 pm. Lunch and drinks are available beforehand, tea afterwards, and there is a large, free car park.

**Christmas Lunch** will be held as usual at the YMCA Hawker Centre, Richmond Road at 12 for 12.30 pm. The price is the same as last year at £16.50 per head. If you are unable to be at the November meeting to book and pay for your lunches, please send a cheque, payable to the Hawker Association, to Ken Batstone, 42 Kings Road, Walton on Thames, Surrey KT12 2RA, with your choice of dishes. Phone him on 01932 229938 with any queries. The menu will be: a glass of wine on arrival, prawn cocktail or soup, followed by roast turkey with trimmings, or poached salmon. There will be a vegetarian option. Dessert, being negotiated, will be followed by coffee and mince pies or chocolate mints.

## KINGSTON AVIATION PROJECT REVIEW 2016

The Project, originally for two years from 2012, continues to research, record, share and celebrate the achievements of Kingston's aircraft industry from 1912 to 1992.

There were no exhibitions this year but a significant one is planned for early September next year at the YMCA Hawker Centre focussed on the history of the Richmond Road factory, as it will be 100 years since it was built and 25 years since it was closed. Hawker Association Members are invited to help. Please contact David Hassard on 0208 5462715.

A diary of the Sopwith Aviation Company continues to be researched and is published as an e-mailed newsletter week-by-week as it happened one hundred years ago. To receive this sign up on the home page of the Project website [www.kingstonaviation.org](http://www.kingstonaviation.org) where back issues are also accumulating. Just click on '100 years ago'.

At the September Hawker Association meeting members brought along photographs and many were scanned to add to the photo galleries on the Project website.

The 23 outreach talks this year were attended by well over 800 people from groups including luncheon Clubs; the U3A; a Dementia Centre; Local, Family and Industrial History Societies; Kingston University; the National Physical Laboratory; the RAeS Weybridge Branch and The Western Front Association.