

**BAE SYSTEMS**

# Update

BAE Systems Pensioners' Newsletter



Spring 2020

## Welcome



**Julie Cook**

Head of Trustee and  
Member Services

“A few months ago we never could have imagined how coronavirus would turn our world upside down”

A few months ago we never could have imagined how coronavirus would turn our world upside down and we are now all living in difficult and challenging times.

In these uncertain times the Trustees of all BAE Systems pension schemes have been working with their providers and administrators to ensure that your pension schemes continue to be administered on a timely basis. We are confident that the measures that we have put in place will ensure that you continue to receive your pension payments as and when they fall due.

Where we feel it is important to communicate with you we will post any announcements on the pension website at [baesystems.com/pensions](https://baesystems.com/pensions) so please check regularly to get the latest updates. Your scheme administrator will be happy to respond to any queries that you may have regarding your pension and their contact details can be found on page 24 of this newsletter.

It is sad, but understandable, to hear that the decision has been taken to cancel the Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) that had been planned for 17 to 19 July 2020 at RAF Fairford, near Swindon. I know that many of you enjoy RIAT every year and you will have already purchased your tickets for 2020. Visit the RIAT website, [airtattoo.com](https://airtattoo.com) to find out how you

can obtain a refund or alternatively you may be able to retain your ticket for next year which will be the 50th Anniversary of the airshow.

On a more positive note, you may have seen on the BAE Systems pension website that following the merger on 1 October 2019 the new Trustee Board agreed with the Company to bring forward the actuarial valuation for the BAE Systems Section of the BAE Systems Pension Scheme (‘the Scheme’) to 31 October 2019 from the previously scheduled date of 31 March 2020. The results of the valuation and the acceleration of deficit funding by £1bn was announced along-side the Company’s year-end results. Further details on the actuarial valuation can be found on page 8. The valuation for the Airbus Section of the Scheme, together with the valuations for the Royal Ordnance Pension Scheme, the Royal Ordnance Senior Staff Pension Scheme and the BAE Systems Executive Pension Scheme will be undertaken as at 31 March 2020.

The Company delivered a good set of results for the year ended 31 December 2019 and more information on this can be found on page 4.

You will be aware that the Joint Pensioners Committee allows us to seek and maintain regular communication with you and importantly it allows you to provide us with feedback and representation of your views.

As part of the merger on 1 October 2019 Alvis and SIPS Benefits members were given the opportunity to stand for election and join the Committee for the first time. Following the call for Pensioner Representatives in Autumn 2019 there have recently been changes to the make-up of the Committee. Please ensure you read the article on page 12 so you are aware who your local Pensioner Representatives are.

In the Autumn 2019 edition we sought feedback on your views on Update and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your thoughts. It is your newsletter and your input is important to us. Please do feedback any comments you may have and we would love to receive your letters and articles for inclusion in future editions of Update.

In the meantime, we hope you stay safe and well during this difficult time and this comes with my very best wishes to you and your families.

Julie Cook



The newsletter can also be viewed on our website:  
[boesystems.com/pensioners](http://boesystems.com/pensioners)

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### Help for visually impaired members

This newsletter is available on audio CD or in large type for people with a visual impairment. If you would like a copy, please phone **0800 917 9568** and tell us whether you would prefer to receive the audio or large type version.

## Company news

### BAE Systems' 2019 Full-Year Results

On 20 February 2020, BAE Systems announced its full-year financial results for 2019.

At the time, Charles Woodburn, Chief Executive, said: "2019 has been a year of significant progress for BAE Systems. We delivered a good set of financial results in line with guidance, growing sales and earnings, with improved operational performance and increased investment in the business to underpin our growth outlook. Strategically we took a number of actions to strengthen the portfolio and the pensions agreement (see page 8) is good for all stakeholders. These will help to accelerate our strategy and further our growth outlook. We have a large order backlog and remain focused on strong programme performance to deliver a sustainable business model with enhanced financial performance."

During 2019 BAE Systems continued to invest in the future of its business to help accelerate its strategy and underpin growth. Riptide Autonomous Solutions was acquired for £9m with the view of helping to advance capabilities in maritime mission requirements.

Prismatic was acquired for £3m following collaborative work on developing ground-breaking Unmanned Air Vehicle technology. Since an initial collaboration between BAE Systems and Prismatic was announced in May 2018, engineers have worked at a pace to develop two 35-metre solar-powered Unmanned Air Vehicle prototypes, various sensor payloads and operational concepts. More information on this can be found on page 6.

The Group announced that it has entered into an agreement to acquire Collins Aerospace's Military Global Positioning System business, a leading provider of mission critical GPS receiver solutions for \$1.9bn and Raytheon's Airborne Tactical Radios business, a leading provider of airborne tactical radio solutions for \$275m. Completion of both acquisitions is subject to customary regulatory approvals and conditions.

#### Here is a summary of BAE Systems' financial performance for 2019:

- > Sales increased by £1.7bn, a 7% increase, excluding the impact of currency translation.
- > Underlying EBITA (Earnings Before Interest Tax and Amortisation) increased to £2,117m, a 5% increase on a constant currency basis.
- > Underlying earnings per share increased by 7% to 45.8p.
- > Operating business cash flow increased by £314m to £1,307m.
- > Net debt decreased to £743m.
- > Order intake of £18.4bn.
- > Order backlog of £45.4bn.



For more information on BAE Systems' 2019 Full-Year Results, visit: [investors.baesystems.com](https://investors.baesystems.com)



## Supporting the frontline fight against Covid-19 across our markets

BAE Systems has been proud to step up and support the frontline fight against Covid-19 across its markets, using our talents and capabilities in new ways to help supply essential ventilators and personal protective equipment to healthcare professionals.

We are proud to be part of VentilatorChallengeUK, a consortium of companies rapidly producing ventilators to support patients and healthcare workers across the country. Part of our role involves using our Typhoon simulation training expertise to develop training materials for people completing the necessarily rigorous factory acceptance testing of each Penlon ventilator before it is handed to the NHS.

In the US, after the White House put out an urgent request for Tyvek suits to support New York City's medical community, our

teams donated more than 3,000 of these protective overalls. While in Sweden, colleagues donated much-needed protective gear for hands and feet to their local hospital.

In the UK, we're working across lines of business and with our supply chain partners to donate more than 145,000 face shields to frontline NHS workers.

All of our industrial-scale 3D printers are now producing face shields, with supplies being delivered every day, directly to frontline medical staff around the UK. Our smaller scale 3D printers are also coming online to support this effort, producing face shields at a smaller volume as well as innovative 'door claws' that help care homes reduce the spread of infection through door handles.

Keep up with these and other initiatives via our official Facebook page (@BAESystemsplc) or via our Twitter account (@baesystemsplc).

## Company news continued...

### PHASA-35 solar powered aircraft makes maiden flight

PHASA-35®, an unmanned, solar-powered aircraft has successfully completed its maiden flight. The flight trials took place at the Royal Australian Air Force Woomera Test Range in South Australia.

PHASA-35 is designed to operate unmanned in the stratosphere, above the weather and conventional air traffic, it plugs the gap between aircraft and satellite technology and could have a range of applications, from forest fire detection to maritime surveillance.

As a High Altitude Long Endurance vehicle, PHASA-35 is powered by the sun during the day and by batteries overnight. Its long-life battery and highly efficient solar technology could allow the aircraft to maintain flight for up to a year operating in the upper reaches of the Earth's atmosphere.

PHASA-35 is designed to provide a persistent, stable platform for monitoring, surveillance, communications and security applications. When connected to other technologies and assets, it will provide both military and commercial customers with capabilities that are not available today from existing air and space platforms.

The Unmanned Air Vehicle also has the potential to be used in the delivery of communications networks including 5G, as well as provide other services, such as disaster relief and border protection, at a fraction of the cost of satellites.



Ian Muldowney, Engineering Director for BAE Systems, said: "This is an outstanding early result that demonstrates the pace that can be achieved when we bring the best of British capability together. To go from design to flight in less than two years shows that we can rise to the challenge the UK government has set industry to deliver a Future Combat Air System within the next decade."

To view of video of the maiden flight visit: [baesystems.com/en/article/ground-breaking-solar-powered-unmanned-aircraft-makes-first-flight](https://www.baesystems.com/en/article/ground-breaking-solar-powered-unmanned-aircraft-makes-first-flight)

**PHASA-35** plugs the gap between aircraft and satellite technology

## Warship: Life at sea

Type 45 destroyers provide the backbone of the UK's naval air defences. The ships are capable of carrying out a wide range of operations, including anti-piracy and anti-smuggling activities, disaster relief work and surveillance operations, as well as high intensity war fighting.

DUNCAN, which was delivered to HM Naval Base Portsmouth by BAE Systems in 2013 was recently the star of the Channel 5 documentary, Warship: Life at sea. This was series two and followed HMS Duncan's deployment during 2019 and was aired during February and March 2020.

Warship: Life at sea followed HMS Duncan as she joined French aircraft carrier Charles De Gaulle as part of the multinational Carrier Strike Group GAN 19 operating off Syria on Operation Inherent Resolve; HMS Duncan provided air defence to the group as part of operations against ISIS forces in the region.

May and June 2019 then saw HMS Duncan committed to various NATO exercises in delivering humanitarian aid and countering human/arms-trafficking before joining Standing NATO Maritime Group 1 for Exercise Sea Breeze in the Black Sea where, once again, she was employed in her air-defence role and hosted the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky.

She then found herself in the Gulf as part of the UK's response to rising tensions with Iran and the threat to merchant shipping legally plying their trade.

In September 2019 she safely returned home to Portsmouth.

DUNCAN is named after the 18th Century naval commander Admiral Lord Adam Duncan who is famed for his victories at sea. The ship's motto, *secundis dubiisque rectus*, means 'upright in prosperity and peril'.



## Pension News

### BAE Systems Pension Scheme (BAE Systems Section) Funding Update

Following the merger on 1 October 2019 the new Trustee Board agreed with the Company to bring forward the actuarial valuation for the BAE Systems Section of the BAE Systems Pension Scheme ('the Scheme') to 31 October 2019 from the previously scheduled date of 31 March 2020.

The Airbus Section of the Scheme was unaffected by this development. The next actuarial valuation for that section will be undertaken as at 31 March 2020.

The results of this actuarial valuation showed that the BAE Systems Section had a funding level of 92% with a deficit of £1.9bn. This deficit is by reference to a prudent calculation of the Section's liabilities in accordance with statutory funding requirements.

As part of this valuation the Trustee agreed a new deficit recovery plan with the Company, with a one-off payment of £1bn to be made in the coming months. That payment represents an acceleration of deficit contributions that would otherwise have been payable in the period to 2026 under the pre-merger recovery plans of all four merging schemes (i.e. the BAE Systems Pension Scheme, the Alvis Pension Scheme, the BAE Systems 2000 Pension Plan and the Shipbuilding Industries Pension Scheme). Furthermore, in line with

those recovery plans, c£240m of deficit funding will also still be paid by 31 March 2020 followed by c£250m by 31 March 2021. This represents a total payment into the Scheme of £1.49bn in the period to 31 March 2021.

As with all actuarial valuations there was considerable engagement between the Trustee and its advisers, in consultation with The Pensions Regulator and the Company. The Trustee's actuarial, covenant and legal advisers were all an integral part of the process. Having concluded the actuarial valuation discussions with the Company, the Trustee is pleased that the Company wishes to accelerate payment of deficit recovery contributions as this will enhance the security of benefits for members in the BAE Systems Section of the Scheme.

For the Royal Ordnance Pension Scheme, the Royal Ordnance Senior Staff Pension Scheme and the BAE Systems Executive Pension Scheme the actuarial valuations will be undertaken as at 31 March 2020. The funding updates as at 31 March 2019 for these three schemes concluded that they each had a funding surplus, i.e. the value of assets was expected to be sufficient to pay all benefits accrued (assessed on a prudent basis). It is recognised that the funding position and maturity of these schemes is very different to that of the BAE Systems Section.





## New address for Scheme website

For all members of the BAE Systems Pension Scheme and the Royal Ordnance Pension Scheme useful information can be found on the BAE Systems pension website.

This now also includes information for SIPS Benefits members who prior to the merger had access to their pension information via a separate website. From here, SIPS Benefits members can also log into Hartlink and all other members can log into MyPension to view their payslips, pension increase information and annual P60s.

There is a new link for you to access the Scheme website which is [baesystems.com/pensions](https://baesystems.com/pensions). If you have saved the old link as one of your favourites this will still work but we would encourage you to use [baesystems.com/pensions](https://baesystems.com/pensions) in the future.



[baesystems.com/pensions](https://baesystems.com/pensions)

## Welcome from the Joint Pensioners Committee Chairman



We hear from our new  
**Committee Chairman**  
for the first time

### Bob Hart, who takes on the Chairmanship of the JPC as we go into the 2020s writes:

It is a great privilege to follow Tony Shore as Chairman of the JPC for the next two years. I thank him for the work he has done.

I have taken an active interest in pension matters from the time I became eligible to join what was then the British Aircraft Corporation Pension Scheme in the late 1960s.

In the 1980s, in what had then become the British Aerospace Scheme, I took an active interest in the subject of benefit improvements and changes to contribution rates (those were the days!).

In 1993 I became a Pensions Representative for Commercial Aircraft, Filton, attending local and regional meetings as well as the Central Pensions Consultative Committee. I was elected a Member Trustee in 1996 and served in this role for three years, standing down to make way for the first

Pensioner Trustee, the late Tony Dudman. I continued to be a site/business Pensions Representative, chairing the Airbus Filton-Chester committee and continuing to attend the Central Pensions Committee until I retired in 2004.

For the last 13 years I have served on the West Zone 'A' (formerly Area 8) Committee. I attended JPC meetings at Farnborough, initially as a substitute when one of the Area 8 representatives was unable to attend. In 2012 I was elected to the JPC in a by-election. I have served on the Editorial Committee and I currently chair South West Zone 'A'.

I am interested in pension arrangements and legislation in general, with particular concern for the ability of future generations to make safe provision for their retirement years.

In the days of having to work hard, I was employed by British Aircraft Corporation, British Aerospace and Airbus continuously for 41 years. I held a variety of positions in engineering and manufacturing in both aircraft and military

systems. For the majority of my career I worked in Bristol, but also at other locations including San Antonio, Texas, Bucharest and Weymouth. I have the dubious honour of having my signature on the last modifications of both the BAC 1-11 and Concorde.

Outside of work and pensions, my wife Lesley and I have three children, four grandchildren and two pilots' licences. We have shared many things over the years including travel, motor sport and serving the local community in a variety of ways. These days we also keep separate interests; Lesley plays golf, whilst I indulge in croquet because I think golf balls are too small!

The JPC has a lot to do in the next few months to adjust to the changes from the merged scheme. I relish the challenges that this may bring.

Sadly, I need to end on a sombre note. Whilst writing this message, I have learned of the death of one of our JPC colleagues and former Chairman, Dave Russell. Dave was a tireless representative in the North-West, working very

hard for his local pensioners. He was always forthright in his views and passionate about his time in the Navy and our engineering heritage. He never lacked for a good story, always told with a cheeky smile and a glint in his eye. We miss him and we all offer our condolences to his family and friends.

**Bob Hart**

JPC Chairman

“I am interested in pension arrangements and legislation in general, with particular concern for the ability of future generations to make safe provision for their retirement years.”

## Joint Pensioners Committee matters

### Joint Pensioners Committee update

You may recall that an election leaflet for the Joint Pensioners Committee (“JPC”) was enclosed with the Autumn edition of Update.

Following the call for Pensioner Representatives, 20 pensioners requested nomination packs. Nine applications were subsequently received with each of the applicants having obtained the necessary number of sponsors.

A number of Pensioner Representatives had already indicated they wished to stand down following the expiry of their terms and with some agreed changes in the constituencies there was not a requirement to hold any ballots and all nine applicants have been appointed. There is one position that has not been filled in the southern region and this will remain vacant until the next elections in 2021.

**It is great to be able to confirm that your current JPC Pensioner Representatives are:**



Contact details for the Pensioner Representative local to you can be found in the Pensioner area of the pension website at: [baesystems.com/pensions](https://baesystems.com/pensions)

Pensioner Representative	Region	Scheme
Martin Darkin	North	Legacy BAE Systems Pension Scheme member
Allan Innes	North	Former BAE Systems 2000 Pension Plan member
Brian Johnson	North	Royal Ordnance Pension Scheme member
Bernard Macklin	North	Legacy BAE Systems Pension Scheme member
John McCallum	North	Legacy BAE Systems Pension Scheme member
Mark Nicholson	North	Legacy BAE Systems Pension Scheme member
David Pratt	North	Legacy BAE Systems Pension Scheme member
Ken Castle	South	Former BAE Systems 2000 Pension Plan member
Pat Cauldwell	South	Legacy BAE Systems Pension Scheme member
Roger Day	South	Legacy BAE Systems Pension Scheme member
Nigel Diplock	South	Legacy BAE Systems Pension Scheme member
Roger Dixie	South	Legacy BAE Systems Pension Scheme member
Bob Hart (Chair)	South	Legacy BAE Systems Pension Scheme member
Barry Jackson	South	Legacy BAE Systems Pension Scheme member
Martin Johnson	South	Legacy BAE Systems Pension Scheme member
Tony Lyddon	South	Royal Ordnance Pension Scheme member
Bill Newman	South	Former BAE Systems 2000 Pension Plan member
Ray Newman	South	Former BAE Systems 2000 Pension Plan member
Richard Parsons	South	Former BAE Systems 2000 Pension Plan member

# Your local area news

**i** It is recognised that many of the planned activities of pensioner associations and social groups will sadly not take place as a result of the coronavirus outbreak but dates and activities that are still in the diary at the time of going to print have been provided for you. **Please do get in contact with your local association so that you have the latest information on any planned meetings and activities.**

## ABrea-Filton

Airbus and BAE Systems Retired Employees Association, Filton (ABrea-Filton) is the new title of the Retired Members of Staff Association (RMSA). We are based in the Bristol area and provide a programme of events and social contact for pensioners, their spouses and partners from Airbus and BAE Systems (as well as the former British Aerospace, Dynamics, Astrium, GEC Marconi etc).

Members receive three newsletters per year and have access to a comprehensive website ([baermsa.org.uk](http://baermsa.org.uk)). Events are held throughout the year with the AGM in April and a Christmas lunch in early December, providing opportunities for all members to get together. Annual membership is £5.

ABrea-Filton welcomes new members. Online and printable application forms can be found on our website: [baermsa.org.uk](http://baermsa.org.uk)

Committee meetings, the AGM and Christmas lunch are all held at BAWA, Southmead Road, Bristol, BS34 7RG. Committee meetings have been planned for 2020 on the following dates 18 May, 15 June, 20 July, 17 August, 21 September, 19 October and 16 November, with the AGM due to be held on 20 April.

A buffet lunch follows each meeting at 12.00pm and all members are welcome to attend.

The Christmas lunch will be on 4 December 2020.

The following visits are also planned:

- June/July 2020** Trip around Bristol Harbour
- 6 August 2020** Visit to Highclere Castle and Gardens



**Fred Naphine (Social Secretary)**  
01275 859097 / Mobile 07789 256328



**Rodney Farmer (Membership Secretary)**  
0117 9560221

## British Aerospace Plymouth Pensioners Association (BAPPA)

For details of the diary for 2020 activities please contact Terry Cranstone.



**Terry Cranstone**  
01752 862061 / [terry.cranstone@virgin.net](mailto:terry.cranstone@virgin.net)

## Your local area news continued...

### Bracknell Pensioners Association (PALS)

Most functions are held at the Pinewood Leisure Centre, Unit 8, Pinewood Bar & Cafe, Old Wokingham Road, Wokingham, RG40 3AQ.

Due to the latest information from the Government, and mindful that a high proportion of the membership falls within the 'most at risk' age bracket, the Committee has decided that we should suspend all events until sometime in the future when current restrictions have been lifted.



**Peter Muggridge (Social Secretary)**

01189 692861

### British Aerospace (Filton) Retired Employees Association (BAFREA)

We had a full calendar of events planned for 2020 but sadly any meetings of our Association are suspended until further notice due to the coronavirus outbreak.

We had planned the following activities for 2020 and it remains to be seen the extent to which we will be able to proceed with any of these activities:

<b>19 May</b>	Trip to Totnes & Dartmouth
<b>16 June</b>	Trip to Exmouth
<b>14 July</b>	Trip to Cadbury World
<b>11 August</b>	Pub Lunch (To be advised)
<b>8 September</b>	Trip to Cardiff, Swansea & Mumbles

We also have entertainment (singers, bands, slide shows) planned for 12 May, 9 June, 7 July, 4 August, 1 September, 29 September, 27 October, 24 November and 8 December which will be our Christmas lunch.



**Joyce Matthews (Secretary)**

01179 696354 / joycelmatthews@tiscali.co.uk

### Christchurch and Hurn Pensioners Association

**Hurn Association** – Hurn Bridge Sports Club, formally the British Aerospace Social Club, Avon Causeway, Hurn, Christchurch, BH23 6DY. Tel: 01202 473792

**Christchurch Association** - East Christchurch Sports and Social Club, Grange Road, Christchurch, BH23 4JD Tel: 01425 275769.

All BAE Systems pensioners are welcome to join this club.

Due to the latest information from the Government, and mindful that a high proportion of the membership falls within the 'most at risk' age bracket, the Committee has decided that we should suspend all events until sometime in the future when current restrictions have been lifted.



**Pat Couldwell**

01202 768050 / couldwell@tinyworld.co.uk

### Friends of Follands

Sadly Friends of Follands will be no more. This follows the retirement of our treasurer, and with no replacement having been found we need to bring our Association to an end.



**John Chalk**

02380 465825 / johnlchalk@outlook.com

### Grove Retirement Association

Grove Retirement Association members and guests enjoyed their 2019 Christmas lunch and planning for 2020 commenced with confirmation of dates for meetings throughout the year. Dates for 2020 meetings have been confirmed for 27 April (now cancelled), 27 July (AGM) and 26 October. Our Christmas lunch will be on 7 December. All meeting dates are subject to review due to the current pandemic.

All walking group events are cancelled until further notice. Our sailing groups continue to plan activities, but meetings are subject to ongoing review.



**Alan Burdis**

01923 241810 / alan@nascot.plus.com

### Glascoed Retirement Fellowship

Our group met in November 2019 where we had a guest who introduced us to the lesser known music of Glen Miller and 'behind the scene' stories related to his band. The meeting for December was used for our Christmas meal which was held at Pontypool Golf Club. The Christmas dinner was attended by over 50 members and everyone enjoyed the venue and meal.

Trips for 2020 may well be impacted by the coronavirus situation and in any event they were to be scaled down to ensure that all seats were taken. A return visit for afternoon tea at the Llandedfdd Reservoir is planned for 9 June and is always a popular location. Suggestions for other day trips are presently being considered.

Our Christmas lunch will once again be held at Pontypool Golf Club on 8 December.

Recently one of our members has been baking cakes and selling them at our monthly meetings. All monies raised go towards our funds, a win win situation.



**Lynda Patchin**

01291 672953 / lyndamay21@yahoo.co.uk

## Your local area news continued...

### Plessey Addlestone Reunion

The Reunion that had been booked for 15 May 2020 has been cancelled due to the coronavirus outbreak. A new date has now been booked for Friday 18 September 2020, commencing at 7.30pm at the Addlestone Community Centre, Garfield Road, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 2NJ. There is a Premier Inn almost next door, if you wish to stay the night.



**Tony Shore**

01932 844741 / [tonyshore@talktalk.net](mailto:tonyshore@talktalk.net)

### RO Radway Green

As the Pension Networker for RO Radway Green, our Christmas lunch for retired employees has been booked for Wednesday 2 December 2020 at Alsager Golf and Country Club, Audley Road, Alsager, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 2UR.

It probably seems a little early to book this event but we held our very successful 2018 and 2019 Christmas lunches at the golf club. Our lunch is open to any retired employee and spouse or partner. Anyone interested in joining us should let me know by phone or email. Invitations will go out in September.



**Maureen Sawtell**

01270 211108 / [sawtell796@btinternet.com](mailto:sawtell796@btinternet.com)

### Royal Ordnance Pensioners Bridgwater (ROPB)



A highlight of our 2019 programme was a trip to the Royal Mint on 9 April 2019. A fantastic memento of our Royal Mint visit was to strike a £2 coin of our own.

Due to the coronavirus our events organised for May, June and July may not take place but our plans for 2020 were progressing well with coach trips to:

- 5 May** Marlborough and Horse Drawn Barge ride on the Kennet and Avon Canal departing from the 37 Club at 9.00am.
- 1 July** Dorchester Market and Weymouth departing from the 37 Club at 9.00am.
- 24 November** Winchester Christmas Market departing from the 37 Club at 9.00am.

ROPB Meetings at the 37 Club, Puriton will be held on 1 June, 7 September and 2 November 2020 all commencing at 11.00am



**Keith Giles**

01278 451595 / [keithgiles68@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:keithgiles68@hotmail.co.uk)



### Warton Unit Reunion

After three very successful reunions in 2014, 2016 and 2018, The Warton Unit Reunion Committee (Tony Sharpe, John Scutt, Alan Matthews and Phil Reynolds) are now starting to think about the next reunion. The date chosen is Friday 2 October 2020 and it will be held at The Fylde Rugby Club in Lytham St Annes. The reunions are open to those of you who are retired from BAE Systems Warton/ Preston/Samplesbury but not necessarily fully retired; partners being welcome too.

At this point in time we would request only that you let us know if you would be interested (if you have not already done so) and if so whether you would bring a partner with you. There would be no commitment on your part at this time.



**Phil Reynolds**

philip-w.reynolds@talk21.com



**Tony Sharpe**

01253 724505

### Weybridge Pensioners Group

The Weybridge Pensioners Group (WPG) continues to meet twice a year at the Brooklands Museum.

The WPG Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 30 September 2020 at the usual time of 2.15pm.

Since January 2017 we seem to have lost contact with a number of our members. This particularly applies to email contact details, but perhaps you have changed your email address and also your postal address. It would be helpful if you could confirm your current addresses to:

Email: michael.t.booth@btinternet.com or

Phone: 01483 476205 or

Postal: 40 Gorsewood Road, St. Johns, Woking, Surrey, GU21 8UZ



**Dave Sparham (Chairman)**

01483 564160



**Michael Booth (Secretary)**

01483 476205



**John Pringle (Apprentice Re-Union)**

01905 863680

## Your letters



News, views, memories and feedback from our pensioners.

### Looking back

In 1953, at the age of 20 and after two years National Service in the RAF I found myself at Luton Airport applying for a job with the Percival Aircraft Company. Surprisingly my second interview was with a shop steward. He was keen to learn my political leanings and it was conditional that I joined the Union on obtaining employment.

My first job was working on the Piston Provost. I installed two joy sticks, two sets of pedals and a starting lever, instrument panel, then all the pulleys and cables and wirelocking and split pins below decks. The Provost was the first trainer where pupil and pilot sat side by side. The fuselage was split early in the build and we were able to turn the cockpit on its side to facilitate working underneath.

I think we made 100 Piston Provosts followed by the Jet Provost where my duties were almost the same. I seem to recall that we made ten jets without a firm order. One week we were told our wages were on hold having not sold any aircraft!

The Jet Provost became the Strikemaster with many going to Saudi Arabia. In 1960 the Percival Aircraft Company was taken over by the British Aircraft Corporation (BAC). I did some time with Hunting Engineering still at Luton airport but when

they re-located to Redding Wood I returned to BAC wings. I was part of a working party to Hurn Airport to fit the first wings on the first fuselage.

After a spell with English Electric on ice detectors I transferred to Hurn Airport on VC10s, BAC1-11 and the 146A/C. One day we flew in a 1-11 to Toulouse on a very hot day where we were served raw duck for lunch. We also ate bread and cheese.

There was a party of Romanians who came to Hurn learning to build the 1-11 and they were under strict political control. The female interpreter absconded with one of our electricians and caused a minor international incident. When BAC closed at Hurn I transferred to Filton in 1984.

Most of my time at Filton was on the 146A/C. This was a long production line. I have records of working on number 181A/C. I was often called on for repair work.

Eventually I changed my blue coat for a white coat and special tools for the A320 and A340 before retiring in 1995.

**Lionel Greenaway**

## De Havilland Aircraft on stamps

Stamp collecting or philately is well over 100 years old. The number of stamps in circulation is enormous so narrowing down aims is paramount (i.e. thematic collecting). There are obviously many subjects to choose from ranging from flowers to Kings and Queens and even aircraft. In 2008 Stanley Gibbons produced the second edition of "Collect Aircraft on Stamps" but again the numbers of stamps involved suggests that further specialisation is necessary.

I decided to investigate UK De Havilland (DH) aircraft on stamps. DH aircraft range from DH1 to DH125 however of the 125 aircraft many were only projects and did not fly. DH13 was never used – I wonder why? This leaves 62 aircraft which could potentially be depicted on a stamp. This does not take into account the marks and lettered variants of some types. It should also be noted that DH100, 113 and 115 are all Vampires.

Builds ranged from a single aircraft to several thousand. In reality there have been 27 (up to 2008) recognisable DH aircraft types on stamps mainly from DH80 onwards. The reasons for issue are many and varied but include the

achievements of individual aircraft, the airlines and airports involved, and anniversaries.

An unexpected omission is the DH88 Comet Racer (Grosvenor House now G-ACSS) which 85 years ago won the MacRobertson Air Race from England to Australia. It is still airworthy and located at Old Warden.

This year is also the 70th Anniversary of the other Comet, the jet powered airliner the DH106, which first flew on 27 July 1949. A 4C (XS235) is located at Bruntingthorpe and can be taxed under its own power.

An example of this aircraft, a Comet 4B of East African Airways, is shown, together with a DH34, DH50J and DH98 Mosquito.

It has been an interesting exercise and I am eagerly awaiting publication of Issue 3 of the Stanley Gibbons catalogue to catch up with perhaps some new additions to the list.

### Garth Rogers

Committee Member DHAeTS Association  
[dhaetsa.org.uk](http://dhaetsa.org.uk)



## Your letters continued...

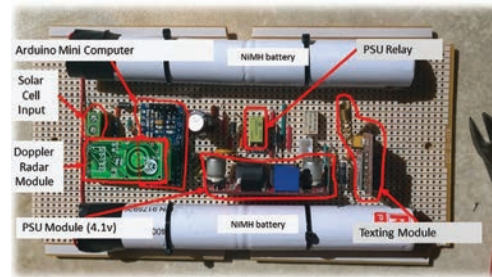
### Keeping water running in Africa - can you help?

It all started at a party in Guernsey when I was asked "You know about electronics don't you?" I answered hesitantly, "Yes, a bit, why?" It appears that many charities installing hand-pumped water wells in rural Africa find a third of the wells they installed the previous year have stopped working due to a loose nut or broken widget. The party question was "Would it be possible to tell, from the UK, when a well stopped working?" I said "Yes, that should be technically possible". Well that was it!

Over two years later and working with kit we had never used before, three of us got together and designed, produced and tested a series of three well monitoring prototypes.

The first two prototypes used a microphone attached to the spout to listen to water flow whilst a highly hacked talking calculator and phone module reported back to the UK the total amount of well water used. It was straightforward to split the audio signal into frequency bands; compare the spectral output with the well's pre-recorded spectral (FFT) signature to determine the well's output rate, performance and the pump's health. Unfortunately, this took too much power from the spout mounted solar cells.

The third and latest prototype uses the ubiquitous low-cost (less than £5) Arduino mini pro microcomputer. Coming from a radar background, a radar detection system was preferred over a microphone. The aim of a short-range Doppler radar module would be to detect local well activity. A suitable and highly innovative short range (12 feet) Doppler radar module was sourced for just £2 is



proving excellent. The Arduino sends a text message of the pump-count (a time-count of well activity) to a UK base station and website.

Currently two units are in Tanzania undergoing extensive trials and things are looking good. The party question has moved on to "Now what?" As a retired member of an advanced electronics organisation, "you know about electronics don't you?" So, the challenge now is to construct a dozen more of these units that the charity say they need for their other wells this year.

If you can help me it would be great to hear from you. We will forward the latest documentation together with the Arduino software, all for free and if you can improve it so much the better. We will also send a well serial number plate for your unit so that credit for it can be attributed to you. In addition, you will be able to follow your well monitoring unit's output on the well monitoring website.

Andrew WS Ainger  
andrewainger@hotmail.com

## Staying positive and energised

For many of us, helping to prevent the coronavirus from spreading has called for fundamental changes to our lifestyle. This will impact us emotionally, mentally and physically.

Making small changes can make a big difference and can help manage symptoms of anxiety during this time of change and uncertainty. What might be beneficial for one person, might not be for another, so you should try a few things to see what works best for you:

### Stay connected

- > Maintain contact and interaction with others, especially those who help you to feel positive and energised. If you are self-isolating make use of technology such as video calls and group chats. A smile can be much more reassuring than just a voice.
- > Talk to someone you trust. Speaking to people who help you rationalise or have a calming influence can help to counter balance the hype and scaremongering.

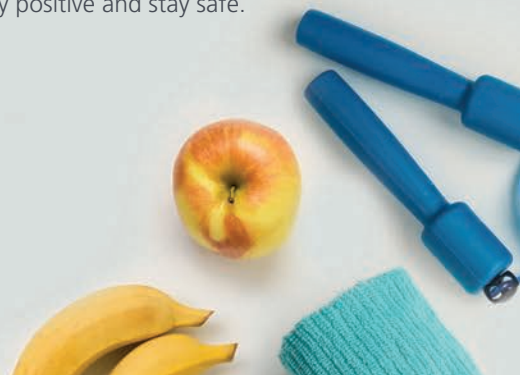
### Physical self-care

- > Exercise regularly as it releases anxiety-reducing chemicals, while acting as a healthy distraction. There are many things you can do to keep exercising even if you are at home more than usual or self-isolating. Look online for inspiration and ideas on how to use your home as a safe and effective workout space.
- > Eat healthily. Good nutrition has a positive impact on your mood.

### Build your emotional immune system

- > Don't over watch or read the news. Limit your updates to once or twice a day and one or two sources. Reading every news report and update on every news or social media site can feed anxious cycles.
- > Remember to breathe. When we experience stress, our breathing becomes more rapid. When you feel yourself getting worked up, pay attention to the length of your exhales and inhales.
- > Practice acceptance of some uncertainty. This can be easier said than done but like any skill gets easier with practice.
- > Take part in activities that bring you into the present, so you aren't worrying too much about an unknown future, e.g. reading, cooking, DIY or doing something creative.
- > Be creative thinking about how you can access nature. Can you birdwatch? Do you have a balcony so you can plant seeds?

Most important of all stay positive and stay safe.



## Books



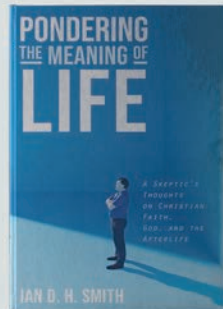
I joined Hawker Siddeley Dynamics at Hatfield in 1971 where I worked on the Short Range Air-to-Air Missile, or SRAAM for short, and Sparrow air-to-air missile systems. After leaving Hatfield I worked on a wide range of projects ranging from avionics for Tornado and Sea Harrier to the GSA7 and GSA8 naval gun fire control systems at the Frimley, Bristol, Bracknell and Plymouth sites.

Upon retiring I decided to apply an engineering type approach to analysing the bigger questions of life. Hence in *Pondering the Meaning of Life* you will find a systematic review of the evidence to determine what may be credible regarding faith, God and the afterlife. In many ways this is like a self-help book that provides the reader with guidance and some of the basic information necessary for them to develop their own beliefs.

There are no concrete conclusions. As we are left with a range of possibilities and probabilities this may be unsettling for those who are seeking definitive answers.

Ian Smith

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## Useful website links

### Need some help with understanding pensions?

Those involved in the Scheme can give you information about your BAE Systems pension, but they cannot give you financial advice. Remember your first go to place for Scheme information is the pension website at [baesystems.com/pensions](http://baesystems.com/pensions)

There are also many independent sources of information that you can draw upon. The Government provides several different free to use guidance services to help people with their financial and retirement planning. The Money and Pension Service ([moneyandpensionsservice.org.uk](http://moneyandpensionsservice.org.uk)) brings together into one overarching organisation three respected financial guidance bodies which all offer support for people looking to talk and understand more about money and pensions:

- > **The Pensions Advisory Service:** impartial assistance for scheme members on company pension schemes and personal pensions. [pensionsadvisoryservice.org.uk](http://pensionsadvisoryservice.org.uk)
- > **The Money Advice Service:** more wide-ranging guidance on money matters (including pensions and retirement). [moneyadviceservice.org.uk](http://moneyadviceservice.org.uk)
- > **Pension Wise:** specific support for those over the age of 50 on personal and workplace defined contribution pensions including a phone or face-to-face appointment. [pensionwise.gov.uk](http://pensionwise.gov.uk)





For information about state benefits and public services you should visit [gov.uk](http://gov.uk).

# Stay up to date

## Keep in touch through social media

If you subscribe to social media you may be interested in joining one of a number of Facebook groups which have been set up by previous employees. These can be found by typing 'BAE Systems' into the Facebook search facility. Please note that with the exception of BAE Systems' official Facebook page, all other pages have no formal association with the Company.

You can keep up to date with news from BAE Systems via:

-  Twitter @baesystemsplc
-  Facebook @BAESystemsplc
-  Instagram @baesystems
-  Company website: [baesystems.com](http://baesystems.com)




## Message from Sir Roger Carr for pensioners



Regular users of these Company channels may have seen the recent message from Sir Roger Carr, the Group's Chairman, thanking all stakeholders who are supporting the Company in these challenging times. This included a special mention:

*"Our pensioners are remembered for all that they have done in helping to build this fine Company and our decision to inject a lump sum of capital in to the pension fund, subject to market conditions, remains a priority in spite of the pandemic turbulence."*

 To read the message in full, see the 'Coronavirus updates' section of the Media pages on [baesystems.com](http://baesystems.com)

## Getting in touch

Please make sure that all correspondence (including any notifications of pensioner deaths) is sent to the correct address to avoid any delay in response.

### BAE Systems Pension Schemes (excluding SIPS Benefits members)

- > Pensions Service Centre, Freepost RSTA-GHHR-EEAK,  
PO Box 1197, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 0GD
- > Phone: **0800 917 9568**
- > If calling from overseas: **+44 121 415 0891**

If you wish to email:

BAE Systems Pension Scheme (excluding 2000 Plan Benefits and Alvis Benefits members):

- > [farnborough.pensions@equiniti.com](mailto:farnborough.pensions@equiniti.com)

BAE Systems Pension Scheme – 2000 Plan Benefits, Alvis Benefits and Royal Ordnance Pension Scheme members:

- > [fulwood.pensions@equiniti.com](mailto:fulwood.pensions@equiniti.com)

### MyPension

You can view payslips, pension increases and P60s by logging onto: [baesystems.com/mypension](https://baesystems.com/mypension)

### BAE Systems Pension Scheme - SIPS Benefits

- > Capita, PO Box 555, Stead House, Darlington, DL1 9YT
- > Phone: **0345 601 0607**
- > If calling from overseas: **+44 141 222 5125**
- > Email: [member.enquiries@sips-pensions.co.uk](mailto:member.enquiries@sips-pensions.co.uk)

### Hartlink

You can view payslips, pension increases and P60s by logging onto: [hartlinkonline.co.uk/SIPS](https://hartlinkonline.co.uk/SIPS)



We love to hear from you. Please send newsletter related correspondence to:

- > Group Pensions, BAE Systems, PO Box 87, 1st Floor,  
Warwick House, Farnborough Aerospace Centre,  
Farnborough, Hampshire, GU14 6YU
- > Email: [pensions.policy@baesystems.com](mailto:pensions.policy@baesystems.com)