

# REPTON VILLAGE SOCIETY

REGISTERED CHARITY No.1017835



## **SUMMER NEWSLETTER**

*( Slightly delayed in the hope that the weather would match the title!)*

At the last AGM the point was raised as to what would happen if the Society went bankrupt. The Charity Commission has been asked if there is an approved form of words that we could incorporate into our constitution. The reply was that no such request had ever been received before and that if it had the Commission would not allow it to become part of the constitution. The Committee consider it extremely unlikely that the Society could become bankrupt but that if it did then they would seek advice at that time rather than using funds to have a form of words drawn up that would probably never be used.

### **Jubilee Flypast postscript.**

The following has appeared in the parish magazine but is repeated for those members who have not seen it.

The plane was a Mark Vb Spitfire (AB910) with a Merlin 35 engine manufactured at Castle Bromwich in 1941. It flew 143 operational missions including flying convoy protection patrols, escorting daylight bombing raids, supporting the Dieppe Raid and cover patrols over the D-Day invasion beach heads. On 14<sup>th</sup> February 1945 it famously flew with a girl on the tail! Leading Aircraft Woman Margaret Horton, a WAAF ground-crew fitter, was sitting on the tail whilst the aircraft taxied out to the take-off point (as was standard in rough weather) but the pilot took off with Margaret still on the tail. He realised this and was able to maintain control and landed with a considerably shaken WAAF still wrapped around the fin. All of the above information has been kindly provided by Allen Pettitt who also took some superb photographs of the flypast that he displayed at a recent Village Society meeting and which will be incorporated in any future photo record of the celebrations.

The pilot on June 2<sup>nd</sup> was Wing Commander Paul Godfrey of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight who was also one of the four pilots flying the Spitfires in the flypast over Buckingham Palace later in the celebrations. He rang in the morning to check the preferred flight path which was to approach from the North with a detour to accommodate a last minute request to fly over Egginton before completing 3 circuits over Repton with a “waggle of the wings” in farewell.

Shortly before take off from RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire to fly up to Bury and then down to us, he rang to check the weather here because of concern re the combination of low cloud level and the Pennines.

After his return to Coningsby he rang again to explain that because of low cloud he had had to deviate well to the East hence his approach from that direction and so he could not fly over Egginton. Once or twice he thought he would not be able to reach us because of poor visibility but “he did not want to disappoint the people of Repton.” The Village Society has sent a letter of thanks to him and a donation to the RAF Benevolent Fund.

Anybody can apply for a flypast by contacting the Events Team on 020 8833 8769 for the necessary forms. Flypasts are at no cost but applications have to be made by the end of August the previous year!

**P.T.O.**

**Coach Trip Survey.** Many thanks to those members that completed the questionnaire at the recent meeting. It has been a valuable exercise. 31 forms were returned with over 50% indicating that they were satisfied with the current arrangements - start times, days of the week, places visited, length of journey, cost and frequency of trips. The remainder would like changes to one or more of the above and these will be considered and acted upon where possible. One member asked if friends could come on the trips. Friends have joined us many times in the past and will continue to be welcomed on the trips.

The survey was created because the take up on the 2012 trips was lower than in previous years, but it looks from the results of the survey that this is hopefully a blip.

**Future Programme.**

As in previous years there are no meetings/visits planned for August.

**Thursday September 6<sup>th</sup>.** Janet Spavold will be exploring the development of that handsome town – Stamford - in her talk.

**Saturday September 8<sup>th</sup>.** Janet will be the guide on the coach leaving the Church at 8.30a.m for Stamford. At the George, a famous coaching hostelry in the town, coffee/tea/hot chocolate and cookies will be served in the Walter Scott room before Janet leads those who wish to on a walking tour. If numbers dictate she will repeat the walk in the afternoon so as to keep the size of the group small enough to be manageable. The coach will leave at 3.30p.m. The cost of £18.50 includes the morning refreshments. Maps will be provided.

**Thursday October 4<sup>th</sup>.** Sir Barnes Wallis was born in Ripley in 1887 and became a scientist, designer, engineer and inventor. Chris Henderson, who is a Trustee of The Barnes Wallis Trust, is travelling down from Harrogate to give a talk entitled “Not Just the Bouncing Bomb Man” that will, as the title suggests, cover his life and his work in airship and aircraft design as well as his invention of the bouncing bomb.

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*Alan Webster 01283 701838 July 2012*