

## ***Editorial***

A Happy New Year!

New years usually bring new challenges, and 2016 is looking like continuing with this trend. You may have noticed the revised RAeS logo at the heading of this edition, indicating that the Royal Aeronautical Society is 150 years young this year. The Main Society will be marking this significant anniversary with a number of special events, and is looking to its Branches to do likewise. Over the page you will find a resume of the Committee's thoughts on this challenge from 4 Hamilton Place.

Central to the Committee's thinking on how to respond to this is to build on the Branch's growing experience in delivering aeronautically themed STEM events to local primary schools. We recently increased this experience with a most enjoyable day in the company of the P6/7 pupils from St Cuthbert's Primary School in Maybole. At present this workload falls on a very small section of the Branch. If you would like to become involved please let us know.

I was approached by Jenny Berry at the November lecture with some letters and photographs from the USA. The upshot of this was some very interesting trans-Atlantic correspondence of my own with John May of Ferndale, WA. I have included some details of all this on the back page. I was totally blown away by the content and quality of what followed. I hope you are too!

The final lecture of 2015 certainly provided an entertaining romp through the travails of a pilot in outback Australia and the amusement I saw amongst the audience showed that Paul Catanach was definitely hitting the spot. The opener for 2016 is back to serious stuff with Martin Payne describing the latest transport type delivered to the Royal Air Force, the A400M Atlas. Welcome Martin.

The beginning of a New Year is always a particularly busy time for the Committee with an Annual Report to write and preparations for the McIntyre and AGM. We are always on the look-out for new Committee members to share the load and, indeed, to allow existing members to take a break. Let us know if you can help.

Enjoy the lecture.

Dave

## ***Branch Student Awards 2015 (2)*** ***Ayrshire College***



*Ayrshire College student Rebecca Hume attended our December lecture with her parents to be presented with her Branch Student Award. Rebecca's project investigated the aero-medical aspects of pilot stress due to cockpit workload and we have asked Rebecca to provide a synopsis of her work which we hope to publish in a future edition of this newsletter.*

*Rebecca is seen here with Ayrshire College Aeronautical Engineering lecturer, Carol Summers and Branch Chairman, John Russell. As well as receiving the Branch prize – the boxed medal seen above and cheque for £100 – Rebecca is wearing the star medal awarded to all successful students in her class and receiving a College trophy. Well done, Rebecca.*

*(Picture – Stephen Kunz)*

*Additional copies of this edition, plus a full archive can be down-loaded from [www.raesprestwick.org.uk](http://www.raesprestwick.org.uk)*



**A Day with P6/P7, St Cuthbert's Primary School, Maybole**

Pictures Stephen Kunz



Dear Ian and David,

Thank you very much for the presentation on Wednesday. I enjoyed it very much.

From  
Katy

Clockwise from top left -

The hot air balloon model caused quite a stir...

...as did the demonstration of powered flight controls!

Card from pupil Katy Nicholas. Thank you, Katy. We enjoyed it very much too.

Smiling faces and certificates at the end of a tiring day.



# 1866 and all that! \*

David Lacey

The Aeronautical Society of Great Britain held its first meeting in the rooms of the Society of Arts on 27<sup>th</sup> June 1866, 150 years ago this year. In 1918, the organisation became the Royal Aeronautical Society that we know today. To mark this major historical milestone, the Main Society is arranging a number of significant events during the year, and you are invited to visit [www.aerosociety.com](http://www.aerosociety.com) to find out more. In addition to its own events, the Main Society has challenged the Branches to mark the occasion in some way. This brief article summarises the ideas of the Committee, but we would be delighted to discuss any other proposals from the membership.

## 1. "Peter's Oar"

During the first half of 2015, several Branch members put a great deal of time and effort into providing a series of four aeronautically themed, STEM-based events for the benefit of the P6 pupils of Holmston Primary School in Ayr. The events were held at and supported by Ayrshire College and were a great success (see newsletters for Feb, Mar, Apr and Oct 2015, available from the Branch web-site).

While it would be just about possible to repeat the events for another class this year and in the future, the demands on the College and on the Branch volunteers delivering them are significant and the coverage achieved minimal. After discussion with Holmston P6 teacher, Ruth Shanta and South Ayrshire Council STEM Development Officer, Jenn McEwan we started considering other options that would allow teachers to deliver at least some of our material.

We began thinking about the implementation of an internet-based library of resources that teachers could study and provide aeronautically themed STEM instruction in any school in South Ayrshire. Potentially the material could be made available to any school in Scotland. We put our idea forward to 4 Hamilton Place and they are keen to work with us as they have long-term plans for something similar.

A proof of concept PowerPoint 'prototype' has been put together, and it is expected that some material will be available on-line during 2016. Watch this space for updates. Meantime, we shall be considering how best to deliver our Holmston material on-line and would welcome ideas for additional material from the membership.

Why "Peter's Oar"? It is an anagram of the working title of our proposed web-site 'Prest-Aero', which we hope to implement using the generous bequest of £1000 to the Branch by Peter Berry. We would like to "mark" this provenance in some way and "Peter's Oar", while amusing, is not the name for it! Better suggestions would be gratefully received by the author.



## 2. Enhanced McIntyre Dinner

Our 'named' event, the David Fowler McIntyre Memorial Lecture, has been held annually virtually since the inception of the Branch in 1962. In recent years, the format has remained unchanged. Guests are invited from local aerospace organisations and are hosted by the Committee (who pay for the privilege) at a reasonably formal dinner at a local hotel (in recent years the Parkstone), before decanting to the Aviator Suite to hear the lecture itself which is usually of local significance. The event was moved from January to March a few years ago to provide a little breathing space after the Christmas holidays.

Usually it is an enjoyable evening, but there are improvements that we would like to consider. The most significant of these is the lack of involvement of the Branch membership at the dinner itself, where there is a rare opportunity to network with significant players in local industry and administration. For the first time this year, we are inviting the membership to attend the dinner on the same basis as the Committee. Why not come along? I'm sure you will find it an interesting and stimulating experience.

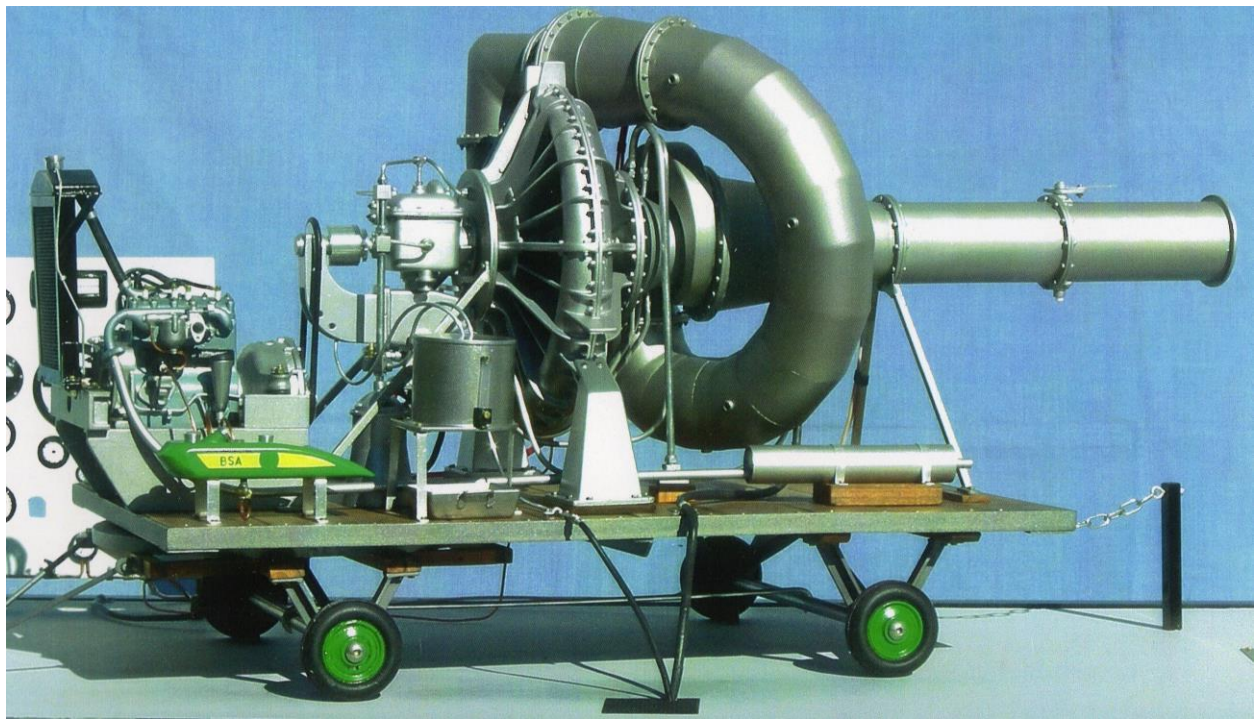
## 3. Enhanced Involvement with the Scottish Air Show

A quick, informal analysis suggests that there are at least ten aeroplanes owned or part owned by Branch members. A line up of as many of these as possible as part of the 2016 Scottish Air Show static, each tagged with a Prestwick Branch label featuring the RAeS 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo and manned by it's owner would surely make a spectacular and interesting addition on the Sunday of the display.

Is anyone prepared to work with the Scottish Air Show team to make it happen?

\* - With apologies to Yeatman and Sellar





### ***1/8 Scale Model of the Whittle WU Jet Engine***

**Pictures John May via Jenny Berry. Words David Lacey**

John May is an ex-Merseysider now living in Ferndale, Washington State, USA. A welder/metal worker/fabricator to trade, he ended up working in the drawing office. In his spare time, he builds the most magnificent models of (non-running) engines and machines that interest him and which no longer exist. His latest creation is this 1/8 scale, non-running reproduction of the world's first jet engine, the Whittle WU which first ran successfully in 1937. At some time in the past, John had approached Peter Berry (among many others) seeking help with defining this famous but poorly recorded engine, and Peter had responded with lots of information but few illustrations (as did everybody else who replied). John has had to make some assumptions along the way, but I suspect this is the most accurate reproduction of the WU anywhere. The detail is incredible and even features the car engine used for starting the jet, the instrumentation and the thrust measuring arrangement. John has kindly sent me copies of some of his other recreations and they may well feature in future newsletters. Meanwhile, look and enjoy....

