

# UPDATE

A ROUND UP OF YOUR NEWS AND VIEWS

2011

www.baesystemspensions.com

The newsletter for pensioners  
of the BAE Systems  
pension schemes

NEED SOME HELP?

All the contact details  
are on the back page

ADVENTURES OF A  
CRAFTY NATIONAL  
SERVICEMAN

See pages 10 and 11



LASTING POWER  
OF ATTORNEY

Our guide on what to do  
is on pages 16 and 17



USE YOUR SKILLS  
AS A VOLUNTEER

Find out about Remap  
by turning to page 19



# WELCOME



**Nigel Tinsley**  
**Pensions Director**

**Welcome to the latest issue of the newsletter for pensioner members of our pension schemes.**

This time we have some excellent contributions from our readers. On page 8 Des Davies tells us about two stunning paintings he produced, 60 years apart, while on pages 10 and 11 you can read Stan Lock's very amusing account of the first few months of his military career. On page 15 is another funny story by Kent Robinson and there are some intriguing anagrams below which I hope you will enjoy solving.

Following the biennial elections for Pensioner Representatives to the BAE Systems Joint Pensioners Committee (JPC), we report the results on pages 4 and 5. We've also included an up to date listing of all the BAE Systems pensioners associations and social groups. If you are not already a member of your local group, why not think about joining? The details are on pages 12 and 13. You may also want to make use of your skills and knowledge by doing voluntary work. There's a good example of a charity that you might want to consider on page 19.

Our star contribution this time is a revealing story about testing the Blue Danube, the first British nuclear weapon, which is on pages 18 and 19 and wins a prize for Jeff Brown. Please keep all your letters and stories coming in. If you are enjoying an interesting hobby in retirement, why not drop us a line and let us know – others might enjoy it too! The easiest way to send contributions is by email to [carolyn.ray@baesystems.com](mailto:carolyn.ray@baesystems.com), attaching photographs as high resolution jpegs if possible. Or you can write to me c/o Carolyn Ray using the contact details on the back page. We look forward to hearing from you.

## GET YOUR BRAIN WORKING!

These fascinating anagrams were sent in by Albert 'Pat' Higgins. Each one is an anagram for a related or appropriate term. For example, rearranging 'that queer shake' gives us 'the earthquakes'! See how many you can work out – the answers are on page 9.

**Dirty room**

**Best in prayer**

**Moon starrer**

**A rope ends it**

**They see**

**He bugs Gore**

**Here come dots**

**Cash lost in me**

**Is no amity**

**Lies - lets recount**

**Alas no more Zs**

**I'm a dot in place**

**Twelve plus one**

**Woman Hitler**

# HELP FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED MEMBERS

**This newsletter is available on CD or in large type for people with a visual impairment. If you would like a copy, please phone 0845 601 4762 and tell us whether you would prefer to receive the audio or large type version.**

**If you have difficulty reading ordinary sized type, the Pensions Service Centre may be able to help, for example, by sending most correspondence to you printed in larger type. If you would like to find out more about this service, please contact the Pensions Service Centre. Contact details are on the back page.**

## PREVENTING AND RECOVERING OVERPAID PENSIONS

**The Trustees of all our schemes rely on the next of kin to inform them when a pensioner dies, so that the pension can be stopped and any new arrangements (such as a spouse's pension) put in place.**

Occasionally, if the next of kin fails to make contact, a pension continues in payment, sometimes for quite a long period. Clearly in such cases, the Trustees are concerned that money is being paid out in error. In a few cases, the next of kin has actively continued to claim a pension fraudulently. To minimise the risk of wrongful payments, and to protect the schemes, the Trustees now take two courses of action.

Firstly, a monthly comparison of all our schemes' pensioners is carried out against the national register of deaths, allowing the Trustees to stop pension payments as soon as a death is identified.



Secondly, in cases where the Trustees believe a fraud may have occurred, a report is made to the police. Successful prosecutions were achieved in 2010 and 2011. In cases where fraud is not suspected, but repayment cannot be agreed with the next of kin, the Trustees may also use the civil courts to seek to recover overpaid pension from the estate.

# PENSIONER REPRESENTATIVE ELECTION RESULTS

The elections held earlier this year for Pensioner Representatives have now been completed and the elected Representatives will serve on the BAE Systems Joint Pensioners Committee until 31 December 2015. Congratulations to all the successful candidates.

## BAE SYSTEMS PENSION SCHEME

|        |                                      |
|--------|--------------------------------------|
| Area 1 | John McCallum (re-elected)           |
| Area 2 | Dave Russell (following an election) |
| Area 3 | Bill Hardy (re-elected)              |
| Area 4 | Vacant (previously Brian Griffiths)  |
| Area 5 | Brian Young (re-elected)             |
| Area 6 | Brian Hargrave (re-elected)          |
| Area 7 | Pat Cauldwell (re-elected)           |
| Area 8 | David Moakes (re-elected)            |

## AREA 2 ELECTION RESULTS

Three candidates put themselves forward for the Area 2 vacancy and an election has now taken place, with all BAE Systems Pension Scheme pensioners in Area 2 being eligible to vote.

The result of the election was as follows:

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Roy Clarke       | 1,255 votes |
| Howard Dashfield | 902 votes   |
| Dave Russell     | 1,776 votes |

Dave Russell was elected and will serve on the BAE Systems Joint Pensioners Committee until 31 December 2015.

## 2000 PLAN

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| North | Alex Dow (re-elected)                      |
| East  | Richard Parsons<br>(following an election) |
| East  | Tony Shore<br>(following an election)      |
| West  | Jim Pearce<br>(re-elected)                 |

## ROYAL ORDNANCE PENSION SCHEME

|       |                               |
|-------|-------------------------------|
| North | Brian Johnson<br>(re-elected) |
| West  | Frank Spencer<br>(re-elected) |



## 2000 PLAN EAST AREA ELECTION RESULTS

Three candidates put themselves forward for the two East Area vacancies and an election has now taken place, with all 2000 Plan pensioners in the East Area being eligible to vote.

The results of the election was as follows:

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Ken Castle      | 3,459 votes |
| Richard Parsons | 4,185 votes |
| Tony Shore      | 4,082 votes |

Richard Parsons and Tony Shore were elected and will serve on the BAE Systems Joint Pensioners Committee until 31 December 2015.

## AREA 4 VACANCY

As you will note, there is still a vacancy for a main scheme Pensioner Representative in Area 4. If you live in Area 4 (postcodes BL, HD, HX, L, M, OL, S, SK, WA, WF and WN) and would like to stand for election, please get in touch with Ashleen Goosen for a nomination pack. Her contact details are:

Ashleen Goosen  
Group Pensions  
BAE Systems, PO BOX 87  
1st Floor, York House  
Farnborough Aerospace Centre  
Farnborough  
Hampshire  
GU14 6YU

Telephone:  
01252 383396

Email:  
ashleen.goosen@baesystems.com

Once you have received your nomination pack, you will need to arrange for eight signatures from pensioners of the Scheme in your Area to support your nomination. You will also need to provide a short personal profile for inclusion with the ballot papers if an election is required. This should contain a brief summary of your personal background, what your roles were with

the Company, your length of service and any experience that may be relevant to the role of Pensioner Representative. An election will only be needed if more than

one pensioner in Area 4 returns a validly completed nomination pack.

Representatives are not expected to be experts on pensions, nor are they required to have a detailed knowledge of the Scheme or its administration.

The basic qualities required for a Pensioner Representative are

more of a general nature. We are looking for people who are of a conscientious and trustworthy character and who also have the energy and will to serve the interests of their fellow members.

If you require any further information, please contact Ashleen, or alternatively you can contact any of the current Pensioner Representatives, who would be happy to chat to you.



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# BAE SYSTEMS AUTHORS

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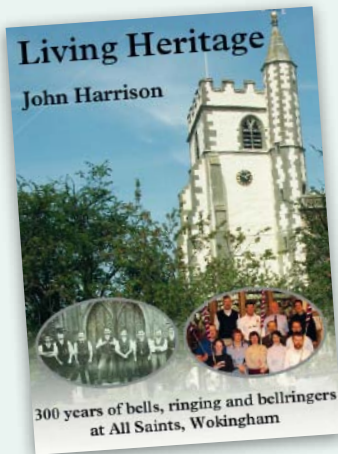
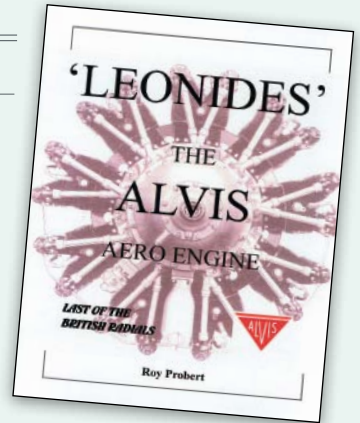
## Radical radial

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Roy Probert, a former Alvis manager, became custodian of all the data relating to the Alvis Leonides aero engine when it ceased to have commercial viability in the late 1980s. His role was and is to provide technical support for those engines still operating in privately owned aircraft worldwide. Over 10 years, Roy researched the engine's origin and development history and uncovered an intriguing story of resistance to Alvis's aero ambitions by both industry and government.

Alvis persevered and found successful applications in the post-war world, with the Leonides powering helicopters and early hovercraft as well as aircraft. It became the last airborne radial engine to be produced in Britain.

'Leonides' tells this fascinating story with many illustrations and is available from Levante Publishing, PO Box 6065, Coventry CV6 9HZ, priced £16.95 + £4.15 p&p. Please make cheques payable to 'Levante Publishing' and all profits from the book will go to Cancer Research UK.




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## Ring those bells!

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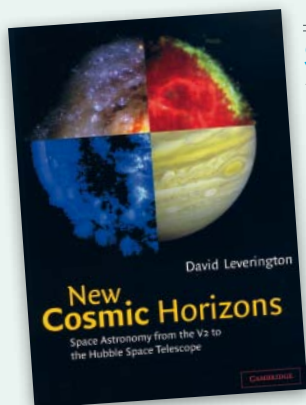
John Harrison has recently published a book about bellringing, which has been a lifetime interest for him. He has been involved in teaching ringing at local and national level, including many years service on the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. He has previously written training books for ringers, but 'Living Heritage' gives non-ringers a vision of the ringing community.

The book follows the fortunes of ringing at one tower in an English market town over three centuries. It looks at the world they lived in, and how they related to both the community around them and the church whose bells they

rang, and shows how they developed their art. Visit [www.jaharrison.me.uk](http://www.jaharrison.me.uk) to find out more. The book costs £9.50, with no charge for postage and packaging within the UK.

John joined CAP Scientific in 1987, which later became Sema Group and then BAeSEMA. He left in 1998, shortly before it was fully absorbed into BAE Systems.

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## Space man

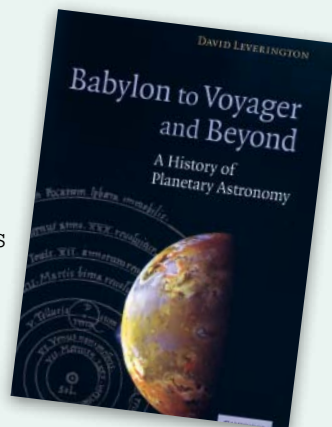
David Leverington took early retirement from British Aerospace, Space and Communications Ltd in 1992, having been involved in space projects for BAE Systems through most of his career, along with some time at the European Space Agency. Since retiring he has written two space-related books and been involved in an encyclopedia.

'New Cosmic Horizons' was published in 2000. BAE Systems Bristol was involved in a number of projects mentioned in the book,

including Giotto and the Hubble Space Telescope. The second book was 'Babylon to Voyager and Beyond', published in 2003.

More recently he was one of the technical consultants and authors on 'Space Exploration and Society', a two-volume historical encyclopedia sponsored by the American Astronautical Society. This provides a complete and authoritative survey of space projects worldwide since Sputnik.

All three books are available from Amazon. David is currently writing an encyclopedia for Cambridge University Press on 'The History of Astronomy and Astrophysics', which he hopes will be published in two years time.



## An unusual guide to the UK

Brian Slack's 'Visitor's UK' was first published as a paperback in 1993. He has now expanded and updated it and converted it into an ebook called 'UK Information', available to buy as a download on his own website at [www.simplerguides.co.uk](http://www.simplerguides.co.uk). The guide is specifically written for overseas visitors to the UK but will also be of wider interest.

Originally an aircraft instrument engineer, Brian retrained as a technical author at BAC Weybridge in the 1970s. There he wrote chapters for the BAC-111, Concorde and VC-10 tanker conversion maintenance manuals. He later worked in this role at Hatfield before working for other companies.

About a year ago, Brian observed second-hand copies of his book on Amazon, and one was being offered in Japan for more than \$US500! So he decided to revamp the guide as 'UK Information', as a market was clearly still there for it with tourists, students and visiting workers.



# DOUBLE TAKE WITH A 60 YEAR INTERVAL

**Des Davies is an RAF war veteran and a most accomplished artist. He is constantly under commission to create paintings on a huge range of subjects and is currently working, in co-operation with his friend Peter Alliss, on a memorial portrait of Seve Ballesteros on the day his team won the Ryder Cup.**

Remarkably, he has produced paintings of virtually the same subject, 60 years apart. The first painting shows Squadron Leader Newman, the air crew and ground crew, along with the eight IV Squadron Mosquitoes wingtip to wingtip, at Celle, Germany in December 1949. Des himself is depicted among the ground crew standing behind the main group, wearing the 'wellies' with white, sea boot stockings and a khaki warehouse coat.

In 2009 Des was asked to paint an update by Squadron boss Harvey Smyth, showing the Squadron with the GR9 Harriers at RAF Cottesmore. The personnel were asked to pose in the same positions with four Harriers and a photograph taken for him to work with. For the painting he needed to add in another four Harriers so that it replicated the 1949 picture. Des presented both original pictures to the Squadron in March 2010.

A letter of thanks from Wing Commander Simon Jessett, the Officer Commanding IV (Reserve) Squadron and a Harrier pilot, says: 'Our collection of your paintings has become one of the most important and unique elements of the Squadron memorabilia. On behalf of the whole Squadron please accept my profound thanks for your generosity and artistry. Your hard work and diligent research has given us something that is truly special, that will always be appreciated and that will remain with the Squadron forever.'

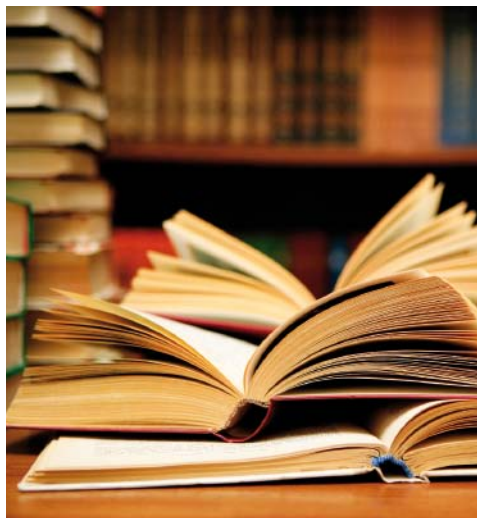


# YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY... USE IT OR MAYBE LOSE IT

It is all doom and gloom at the moment... train fares rising 8%, unemployment on the rise, workers facing an unprecedented attack on living standards from higher inflation while having to endure wage freezes. It cost me £1.75 today for a cheese and pickle sandwich. With no salad!

All the more reason to support your local library. They will not charge you £1.75 for a cheese and pickle sandwich – not only do they not sell sandwiches, but almost everything in the library is free. You can read the daily newspaper or magazines, borrow books, browse the internet and keep in touch with friends, educate yourself, look for jobs, ask advice, or sit and read. There are few places outside of your own home and your neighbourhood church where you can go for a bit of peace and quiet.

Even in an increasingly digitalised society, libraries are invaluable. Over 10 million people in our country do not use the internet and although this number will dwindle over time, there's nothing that can beat a good book and turning the pages of a gripping story. Libraries are a reflection on our society and anyone who wants a worthwhile society should fight to keep our public libraries.



You don't have to take to the streets with placards to do this. You can protest silently by just joining your local library and taking out a book every now and then. Libraries keep records of every single person who comes through their doors and every book that is borrowed and this is valuable ammunition against those who would prefer to cut our libraries.

## Ken Castle

### ANAGRAM ANSWERS

Here are the amazing anagrams which were featured on page 2:

Dirty room = Dormitory  
 Best in prayer = Presbyterian  
 Moon starrer = Astronomer  
 A rope ends it = Desperation  
 They see = The eyes

He bugs Gore = George Bush  
 Here come dots = The Morse code  
 Cash lost in me = Slot machines  
 Is no amity = Animosity  
 Lies - let's recount = Election results  
 Alas no more Zs = Snooze alarms  
 I'm a dot in place = A decimal point  
 Twelve plus one = Eleven plus two  
 Woman Hitler = Mother in law

# ADVENTURES OF A CRAFTY NATIONAL SERVICEMAN

by Stan Lock

In March 1953, when my apprenticeship deferment ran out, I became 22855842 Craftsman Lock REME and was posted to Blandford in Dorset for basic training. There I was allocated a bed in an old 'spider block' next to a broken window. The camp was right on top of a hill, open to the elements.



During the first week, there was a blizzard and I awoke in the morning with my bed covered in snow, blown through that broken window. I was not a happy soldier. I complained to Jack, the cocky

platoon Corporal, who promptly appealed for a volunteer glazier, without success I hasten to add. Now, I had recently glazed a large greenhouse for one of the old fitters in the workshops at the then Bristol Aeroplane Company, so I offered to mend my window. Big mistake!

## Rubicund CSM

Cocky Corporal ordered me to report to the Company Sergeant Major (CSM) for further instructions. The CSM was an imposing man with a rubicund face and bristling moustache, who gave me a notebook to list and size all cracked or broken windows in the camp. This took me about a week, during which I avoided all the spit and polish and square bashing. However that was only the start, because when I reported

back to Rubicund CSM listing about 300 windows, he ordered me to report to the REME Quartermaster to draw the necessary materials to fix them all.

## 'Put them in a vice, lad'

The Quartermaster was a kindly man who told me I would find sufficient glass at the far end of the store. All the large sheets were broken into every shape, so this needed a decent glasscutter. The Kindly Q advised me to go to the REME workshop WO, who gave me a selection of old worn out files and said 'put them in a vice, lad and break them in half with a sharp clout of a hammer and the broken edge will make at least one clean cut.' I needed a lot of files!

It took more than a week to cut all the panes and then I went back to Kindly Q for some putty. 'It's in that big drum in the corner, lad' was the reply. It was, but the lid was not on properly, so the putty had gone hard. With no linseed oil available, the next advice was to 'mix it with rifle oil, lad', so I doubt if that putty ever set hard in the windows! My next request was for glazing pins and the response took my breath away. 'Cut the barbs off that roll of barbed wire in the corner.' It was very tedious to amass well over a thousand barbs.

Next came the task of actually fitting all those panes and I realised it was going to take me a long time, perhaps six weeks or so. I approached Rubicund CSM to provide me with a glazier's mate and to my surprise, he seconded one from my platoon. The job kept us busy for most of our basic training, but we still had to take part in the passing out parade.

### Alsatian guard dog

One day a runner came onto the parade ground and handed the RSM a note. Then THE VOICE bellowed out '842 Craftsman Lock to report immediately to the Commanding Officer's quarters'. The CO, one Major Groce, was quite a friendly officer who greeted me with 'Ah, you are the glazier man then'. Oh no, I explained, that was only because my bed was covered with snow from a broken window. No matter, the CO was going on leave and invited me to live in his rather opulent quarters with all meals supplied from the officers' mess, to look after his alsatian guard dog and take it to a vet in Blandford for a course of hardpad injections. This was the life now, eh?

In the Major's utility room was a superb army belt with wonderful brass fittings, so I decided to wear it and sauntered (even swanked) through the camp with my super new belt and with my dog on a lead. As I passed Rubicund RSM's office, he came out onto the balcony and asked if I was the CO's batman, as he had left his best belt in the Major's quarters a couple of nights before. 'I was just bringing it back to you, sir' I said, as I quickly clipped the belt around his waist. That was close!

### AWOL

When the CO returned from leave, normal army life was resumed and I was posted to Arborfield and sent on a battle course for Korea, where the war was still on. We were confined to barracks and my heart sank. At the first opportunity I went AWOL (absent without leave) at the weekend to see my girlfriend (now my wife) in Bristol. When I climbed back over the fence early

on Monday morning, to my horror I found my platoon had been flown out to Korea over the weekend.

Attack being the best form of defence, before muster parade I went to the RSM and complained that all my mates had been posted, leaving me on my own in the barrack room. He told me to go to the Company Office and ask the Duty Sergeant for my draft card and he (the RSM) would sort it for me.

### 'Keen young soldier'

Fortunately, the Company Office was



deserted, so I found my draft card, closed my eyes and put it into another pigeon hole with an as yet unallocated draft. I then returned to the RSM and told him the Duty Sergeant had dealt with it. Some three months later, my new draft was mustered for Germany instead. Infinitely preferable to Korea, I thought. Furthermore, perhaps the RSM recognised this 'keen young soldier' and promoted me to full Corporal in charge of the platoon being posted to Hamm in West Germany.

This true account of my first five months in the army is typical of my military career. Perhaps the moral of this story should be 'don't volunteer', but in my case everything turned out for the better, with some quick thinking on my part. My friend Dennis was less fortunate, as he was in the Glorious Glosters in 1951, was sent to Korea and was at that terrible battle of Imjin. He was taken prisoner by the Chinese and marched back to a bleak prison camp in China, spending about two and a half years there. How different our fortunes were, and all because I volunteered to mend that broken window at Blandford.

# WHY NOT JOIN YOUR LOCAL PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION OR SOCIAL GROUP?

Here is an up to date list of pensioners associations and social groups set up by former employees, who regularly get together to organise social events and outings.

Your local pensioners group will not automatically contact you when you retire, so if you want to be in touch with your local group, it's up to you to contact them. All the groups listed here are very happy to welcome all BAE Systems pensioners, whatever company they worked for.

| NORTH AREA GROUPS  | CONTACT  |
|--|--|
| <b>BAE-GEC Retired Employees Association</b><br>(Preston, Warton and Samlesbury) | <b>Valerie Robinson / Michael Fletcher:</b><br>01772 852154 / 01772 854690 |
| <b>Brough Pensioners Association</b>   | <b>George Jesney:</b> 01482 869044   |
| <b>RO Chorley</b> (Lancashire)   | <b>Brian Johnson:</b> 01772 600540   |
| WEST AREA GROUPS   | CONTACT  |
| <b>BAC-BAE Retirement Management Staff Association</b><br>(RMSA) (Bristol)       | <b>Rodney Farmer:</b> 0117 956 0221  |
| <b>BAE No7/8 D.O. Lunch Club</b>   | <b>Ken Tooze:</b> 01454 898241   |
| <b>BAE Systems Retirement Club</b><br>(Broughton and Cheshire)                   | <b>Nancy Edge:</b> 01244 683196  |
| <b>British Aerospace (Filton) Retired Employees Association</b> (BAFREAA)        | <b>John Withers:</b> 01454 881541  |
| <b>British Aerospace Plymouth Pensioners Association</b><br>(BAPPA)              | <b>Don Taylor:</b> 01752 872965  |
| <b>NNC Ltd Retired Staff Association</b><br>(Knutsford and Cheshire)             | <b>Jim Pearce:</b> 01606 835690  |
| <b>The Retired Members Association</b> (Failsworth)                              | <b>Dennis Savage:</b> 0161 6537758   |
| <b>The Retired Members Association</b> (Woodford)                                | <b>Harold Andrew:</b> 0161 42676330  |
| <b>RO Bridgwater</b> (Somerset)  | <b>Ann Renton:</b> 01278 683665  |
| <b>RO Glascoed Retirement Fellowship</b>   | <b>Leslie Williams:</b> 01291 671340                                       |
| <b>RO Radway Green</b> (Cheshire)  | <b>Maureen Sawtell:</b> 01270 211108                                       |
| <b>RO Speciality Metals Feathersone</b> (Midlands)                               | <b>Ray Keys:</b> 02476 675680  |
| <b>RO Summerfield Pensioners Club</b> (Kidderminster)                            | <b>Stan Kettle:</b> 01562 862869   |

| EAST AREA GROUPS  | CONTACT  |
|---|--|
| <b>The 2nd Time Round Club</b><br>(Stevenage Dynamics)  | <b>Kate Howe:</b> 01438 228898; katel.howe@ntlworld.com  |
| <b>The 2nd Time Around Club</b><br>(Stevenage Space Systems)  | <b>Dave Carter:</b> 01438 238844   |
| <b>The 316 Club</b> (Stevenage Dynamics)  | <b>Richard Smith:</b> 01462 700561; larch1wc@gmail.com   |
| <b>The DH Forty Year Club</b> (Hatfield)  | <b>Reg Willoughby:</b> 01707 262562;<br>reginald.willoughby@ntlworld.com   |
| <b>Bracknell Pensioners Association</b><br>(Post Codes RG/GU)                                       | <b>Peter Muggridge:</b> 01189 692861<br><b>Ernie Loft:</b> 01344 774406; ernie.loft@tiscali.co.uk<br><b>Pat Cauldwell:</b> 01202 768050; cauldwell@tinyworld.co.uk |
| <b>British Manufacture &amp; Research<br/>Co Retirement Club</b> (BMARC)<br>(Grantham/Faldingworth) | <b>Carl Hanson:</b> 01476 576942   |
| <b>Christchurch &amp; Hurn Pensioners<br/>Association</b> (Post Codes BH/SO/PO)                     | <b>Pat Cauldwell:</b> 01202 768050; cauldwell@tinyworld.co.uk  |
| <b>Dunstable Pensioners Association</b><br>(Post Codes GU/RH)                                       | <b>Pam Garton:</b> 01403 823806; pamgarton@hotmail.co.uk   |
| <b>Farnborough Pensioners<br/>Association</b> (Post Code GU)  | <b>Bill Moxham:</b> 01252 617894; billmoxham@talktalk.net  |
| <b>Friends of Follands Club</b>   | <b>Neville Barber:</b> 01489 786057  |
| <b>Kingston Pensioners Association</b><br>(Post Codes KT/TW/SM/CR)                                  | <b>Bill Cross:</b> 020 8399 1336   |
| <b>Marconi Retirement Fellowship<br/>Portsmouth</b>   | <b>Ted Andrews:</b> 02392 343822   |
| <b>Reaper Club</b> (Rochester)  | <b>Evelyn Drain:</b> 01634 864484  |
| <b>RO Nottingham</b>  | <b>Malcolm Phillis:</b> 0115 921 6466  |
| <b>RO Westcott</b>  | <b>Diane Hickman:</b> diane.hickman2@btinternet.com<br><b>Gordon Williams:</b> gwilliamsh@cix.co.uk  |
| <b>Weybridge Pensioners Group</b><br>(Post Codes GU/RH/PO)  | <b>Michael Booth:</b> 01483 476205;<br>mike.t.booth@btinternet.com   |
| <b>Plessey Addlestone Reunions</b>  | <b>Tony Shore:</b> 01932 844741; tonyshore@talktalk.net  |

# POETRY CORNER

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This amusing poem was written by Jack Grund, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday. Jack tells us he has been writing verses for many years on Christmas and birthday cards, for the amusement of his family and friends.

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## MY 24 YEARS AT WOODFORD, 1959 TO 1983

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Machine tool fitter wanting change,  
I thought my job I'd rearrange  
It all began when work went slack,  
so on the job I turned my back.

No building whacking big machines,  
I'll look around for new routines  
'In verse this story I'll disclose',  
the time I had at Avro's.

A lovely job, no stress or strains,  
so great to work on aeroplanes  
From heavy work this job was gentle,  
the Vulcans were experimental.

And then there came the 748,  
to carry passengers or freight  
Two engines both were turbo props,  
no long haul plane just shortish hops.

A super plane fit for the Queen,  
the inside core it should be seen  
To think before the Queen got there,  
I sat upon the Royal chair.

In one department full of things,  
like undercarriages and wings  
The wheels going up and down all day,  
the wings all bending every way.

This job meant we all worked up high,  
one slip, no Anno Domini  
We walked on planks like acrobats,  
performing like young crazy cats.

One bloke his hammer dropped from high,  
gave a loud resounding cry  
'Don't hang about there, hurry Jack,  
wipe off the blood and bring it back'.

To Africa, a six week break,  
tropical trials for the 748  
The work was good with time to play,  
with lovely sunshine every day.

I never thought that I was bent,  
to see some of that continent.  
Another trip a weekly spell,  
Famborough's Air Show went down well.

We had the 748 on show,  
polished up and all aglow  
The Nimrod was my best liked plane,  
to scrap them is, I think, insane.

The Falklands War caused us much work,  
no way to take your time and shirk  
Vulcans and Victors in good repair,  
for flight refuelling up in the air.

And here's another tale to tell,  
stood on the Vulcan's wheel I fell  
I'll tell you now I can't resist,  
I went and broke my flipping wrist.

The first to suffer in the war,  
I found out that there was a flaw  
The ministry said 'start to pedal,  
you might get a tie but you won't get a medal'.

In 1983 the year,  
I reached the end of my career  
The name of Avro changed times three,  
it finished up with BAE.

To Woodford I said my farewell,  
I'd really had a happy spell.

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# TALE OF A BUDDING ENGINEER

## **A chance to catch up with the basic education you should have had before you became a responsible engineer...**

The revelation by old Buffer Bennett, my aged chemistry teacher, of the vastly improved explosive properties of acetylene, compared with coal gas, was bound to lead to innovation, particularly from any pupil who had aspirations to becoming an engineer.

In those days of the mid 1950s, many suburban roads were not maintained because they had not been adopted by the local council. Councils were reluctant to adopt roads that needed considerable maintenance. As a consequence, the road outside my house was full of potholes and, as it sloped downhill, was generally flooded at the bottom by an inch or two of water at the slightest sign of rain.

However, the road was a major short cut to the main road at the top of the hill, and for those who were skilled at pothole avoidance, considered a worthwhile diversion. This was generally deemed by the street residents, and in particular my father, as 'a damned nuisance and a liberty which should be banned'. This comment, incidentally, was also liberally applied to rock and roll, teddy boys, and most of the initiatives of the government of the day.

It therefore seemed the right thing to do to support this early concept of a neighbourhood watch scheme to deter these foreigners from further degradation of our road. Armed with a tin of calcium carbide from the local cycle shop, an opportune flooded road, a bit of careful timing, and judgement as to the potential of the next vehicle in view taking the short cut without being a resident, small pellets of carbide were laid in the flood across the road. As they fizzed profusely, producing acetylene gas,



a lighted taper on the end of a long bamboo cane (to obviate personal risk) was applied to the road edge.

The resultant whoosh of red flame and black smoke across the whole road was as spectacular as the rapid braking of the offending vehicle! Youth provided the rapid acceleration and disappearance of the perpetrators. This enabled avoidance of the customary clip round the ear, or worst still, identification and the combined verbal earache and other painful results of a father's way of teaching his offspring the rights and wrongs of life. Despite not getting caught, the self-styled watch committee, being intelligent, came to their own conclusion that the risks were too high (of being caught that is).

Anyway, Buffer Bennett unwittingly diverted enthusiasm from this activity with his next lesson, on the chemical processes in fire extinguishers. But that's another tale...

**Kent Robinson**

# LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY

We take so many everyday actions for granted – paying bills, making gifts, writing cheques or signing forms. But if you lack mental capacity to make a particular decision, it may be necessary for someone else to make that decision on your behalf.

Mental capacity means being able to make and communicate your own decisions. Someone might lose their mental capacity to make certain decisions if, for example, they have a stroke, are suffering from mental illness or develop dementia. We need to consider not just how our financial affairs should be managed, but also how we'd like to be cared for physically, when we can no longer make these decisions.

However, without legal documents that were signed while you were of sound mind, family and friends will not be able to take over and make decisions for you and medical teams will decide what's in your best interests physically. The family then has no choice but to apply to the courts, who will appoint someone to run your financial affairs.

This can be expensive and time-consuming and can be very distressing for your family. That is why you should give serious consideration to granting a power of attorney that will survive beyond the time when you are capable of making your own decisions.



## Powers of attorney

You might want someone to look after your financial affairs even if you are still mentally able to do so yourself, perhaps because you are going abroad for a while or going into hospital. If this is the case you can set up either an Ordinary Power of Attorney or a Lasting Power of Attorney.

An Ordinary Power of Attorney gives someone else the power to handle your financial affairs on your behalf. However, this comes to an end if you lose the mental capacity to make decisions about your finances.

## Lasting Power of Attorney

If you want someone to be able to continue looking after your finances even if you lose mental capacity, you should consider setting up a Property and Financial Affairs Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA). This power replaced the previous Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) in 2007.

More than one attorney can be appointed if you wish, and the LPA will then be set up to define your wishes as to whether the attorneys can each act alone or must always act together. You can also appoint a reserve attorney or attorneys. These have no power to act during the lifetime of the attorney but give seamless 'cover' in the event of an attorney's death.

As well as setting up an LPA to cover your financial affairs (a Property and Financial Affairs LPA), you can set one up to give someone else authority to make decisions about your healthcare and personal welfare (a Health and Welfare LPA) when you can no longer make those decisions yourself.

LPAs apply to England and Wales, and slightly different rules apply in Scotland, under the Continuing Power of Attorney and the Welfare Power of Attorney.

### Property and Financial Affairs LPA

This enables someone you trust (the attorney) to take decisions on your behalf, either now or at a time when you're no longer able to take those decisions yourself.

It can include paying bills, collecting income and benefits or selling your house, subject to any restrictions you wish to include. It can only be used after it's been registered at the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG).

### Health and Welfare LPA

This allows your attorney to make decisions on your behalf about your welfare, such as where you live or who will take care of you. It can only be used after it's been registered at the OPG and you've become mentally incapable of welfare decisions.

It can include the attorney giving or refusing consent to medical treatment. Only an Advance Decision or Living Will made by you after the LPA will be binding on your attorney.

### Paperwork and costs

A certificate must be produced for the LPA to confirm that you fully understand the consequences of signing the document and that no fraud or undue pressure have been used. Doctors and lawyers can charge for providing the certificate, but this can be

provided by someone (not a family member) who has known you for at least two years.

You may nominate up to five people who will be informed of the application to set up the LPA and they have a right to dispute it. However, the grounds for objection are sensibly and closely defined, so a proper application should not be held up for inadequate reasons. If you do not nominate anyone, a second certificate provider must provide a certificate with your application.

The forms for an LPA are available from the Office of the Public Guardian, PO Box 16185, Birmingham B2 2WH, or by calling 0300 456 0300, or from [www.direct.gov.uk/mentalcapacity](http://www.direct.gov.uk/mentalcapacity). The forms are very clear, so it is possible to do this without a solicitor's help and there is helpful advice on the websites of the major charities such as Age UK ([www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk)). If you do ask a solicitor to prepare the document, they are likely to charge between £300 and £500 for each of the powers.

You will need time to read the forms through very carefully, think about what your wishes are, ask one or more trusted friends or members of your family if they are willing to act as your attorney and decide who will provide the certificate(s).

The cost of registering for either type of LPA is £130 each in England and Wales. (The Scottish equivalents are £70 each.) There may be help with the fees for people on low incomes. If your gross income is £12,000 or less, you can apply for a 50% reduction on the standard fee. A full fee exemption is only available if you receive some form of financial support from the State (eg Local Housing Allowance).

# THE BLUE DANUBE

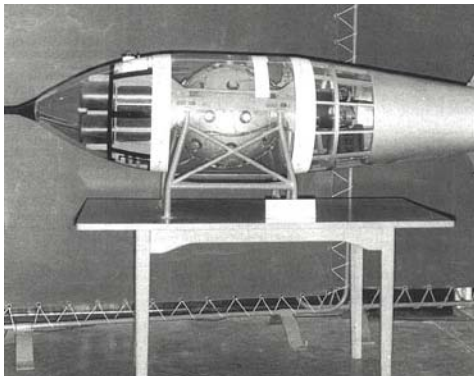
★ STAR CONTRIBUTION

'Blue Danube' was the code name for an atomic weapon carried in the Vulcan bomber. The first operational British nuclear weapon, it was shaped like a conventional bomb but was physically huge, about 60 inches in diameter and over 20 feet long. One Blue Danube filled a Vulcan bomb bay.

I was working on the armament development section in the main design office of Avro at Chadderton in the late 1950s and early 1960s and we designed a bomb carrier beam for this weapon.

In order to test the beam, a subcontracted firm built a full size welded girder structure to represent a section of the Vulcan bomb bay. A ballistic dummy bomb (full size and weight) was loaned to us from Weapons Engineering at Farnborough. It arrived in three sections, shrouded with tarpaulin sheets, and for security reasons it was only to be seen by a selected number of people when it was fully assembled.

A Sunday morning, when few people were around, was chosen as the test day. The bomb beam was attached to the bomb and torque loaded to 2.5 Gs. The whole assembly was then raised by hydraulic jacks



and locked to the test frame. The bomb was raised only two or three inches over a bed of sand bags and thick wooden planks. Everyone retired to a safe distance and the bomb release unit was fired electronically.

Although it was an electro-mechanical device, it went off with an enormous bang. The bomb dropped, the whole floor shook like a minor earthquake tremor and then bits of metal, screws and springs began to rain down from the roof rafters!

This is what had happened. All four corners of the carrier beam were butted up against very strong spring loaded buffer units that were mounted in the aircraft structure (or in this case the welded test rig). This was to take the recoil shock when the bomb was dropped. The company who built the rig found that when they came to fit the buffer units, their structure was about one and a half inches short of height to mount them. So instead of altering their rig, they simply cut the buffers down to suit, without consulting Avro.

The buffers were machined from a solid block of metal. They cut the tops off the springs and fastened a metal plate over the top with small bolts. The force of the recoil was so powerful that it simply ripped the units to bits and this is what came raining down from the roof.

They had to modify the rig and when new buffer units were fitted, the test was carried out successfully. After the tests the dummy bomb was dismantled and presumably returned to Farnborough. Strangely, about three months later we received an urgent letter from them. Where's our bomb, they said, we want it back! Well we didn't have it so God knows where it was. So much for security! Has anyone seen our bomb?

**Jeff Brown**



## REMAP an opportunity to continue to use your brains and skills and to help others at the same time



**One of our pensioners, Ian Cole, explains the satisfaction he gains from volunteering with this charity...**

I feel very fortunate that when I first retired a few years ago, I was introduced to my local Remap group and I have been working with them ever since. Remap is a charity that relies on volunteers to design, manufacture or adapt equipment for people with disabilities.

Members get together on a regular basis to help and support each other, by discussing problems and solutions. I have enjoyed working alongside people with a similar background but in different disciplines, to solve a wide range of problems, including some difficult technical challenges.

**A happy Gloucester panel member sees his project appreciated.**

I have found the work incredibly rewarding, especially when my projects have helped people regain some level of independence and dignity. Among my cases, I have helped a young child with a disability to be able to ride a tricycle, and a young mum with only one arm to be able to change her baby's nappy with no help. When a project is successful and I see a happy child riding a trike for the first time, it gives me a real 'buzz'.

Remap desperately needs more volunteers, to give as much or as little time as suits them. Local groups are always looking for people with technical or engineering backgrounds, people skilled in DIY, and also people with managerial or financial backgrounds to take on the roles of chairperson or treasurer.

If you are interested, please contact Remap head office and ask for an information pack for volunteers and details of your local panel.

Website: [www.remap.org.uk](http://www.remap.org.uk) Telephone: 0845 1300 456

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# YOUR LETTERS

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Please send your letters to Carolyn Ray, whose contact details can be found on the back page.



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## RIAT was a joy!

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I am writing to say how much my family and I enjoyed the Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford, having been lucky enough to receive tickets through the offer in the May newsletter.

As it was our first visit to the show and it was raining, we were not sure what to expect and thought it might have been cancelled due to the amount of rain that had fallen over the previous days.

However, we went prepared for whatever the heavens were going to throw at us, and to say it was one of the best day's entertainment we have experienced is an understatement. The whole day was full of surprises, even when the heavens opened while we queued for lunch!

Nothing could spoil the day. The air displays were incredible and were happening only a small distance away from us. We stayed all day and every pilot gave

their best and showed everyone how each aircraft could perform.

The Vulcan always brings a tear to your eye when you see it majestically move through the sky – such a beautiful aircraft. But to be truthful all of the aircraft, of whatever size, gave you the feeling of wanting to be in the cockpit flying them.

Speaking to some of the pilots was very enlightening and they were only too happy to talk to anyone who wanted to know about the aircraft and the countries from which they came, especially the Jordanians who gave us a special memento just because we had spoken to them. Lovely people with a wicked sense of humour!

So thank you for inviting us to a wonderful day – we cannot wait for next year.

**Patrick Willis**

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## BORNEO BY BIKE



As members of our cycling club in Thailand, my wife Yula and I have opportunities to travel all over South East Asia and to see things you would never otherwise see. We recently visited Sarawak in Borneo, which was really memorable.

The ride was great and we only had to dodge some weather on one occasion. It is much less hectic than in Taiwan and we had some good laughs. On one day we had to stay in the long house, where all the village community stay under one roof. I've never seen so many

bare bottoms in all my puff! We also met an orang utan which was fantastic.

There were a few rumblings from earthquakes, but nothing to worry about, although Yula was frightened and glad when it was time to go home. Overall it was a terrific experience. With best wishes to all back home.

**David Barlow**



## THANK YOU

It is now several months since my husband, Charles Underhay, died. I meant to write ages ago to thank all those from BAE Systems who took the time and trouble to attend his funeral at Hanworth Crematorium. Many were old friends whom I could thank personally, but there were also a number of his friends and colleagues who I didn't know. I just wish that there had been a mourning book that listed their names.

We as a family were immensely proud to hear so many moving tributes to a man who loved his work in the aircraft industry, from Langley through Hawkers to British

Aerospace, and who had such a wonderful send off, despite having been retired for nearly 20 years.

I was on autopilot that day, and I still am really. He has left a huge hole in our lives, but we treasure the memories he left behind.

I would also like to thank all those in the Pensions Department for their help and support. I want them to know how much it was appreciated at such a sad and difficult time.

**Mary Underhay**

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

If you'd like to get in touch with an ex-colleague you've lost contact with, please send in some details to be included here. If the person sees your request and writes in, we will pass on their communication to you, the searcher.

Please send in as much information as you can about the person you seek, along with your name and full address and any other contact details such as an email address, to Carolyn Ray (details are on page 24). Good luck – and if you are successful please do let us know!

| Person being sought              | Last known location (& year)        | Person wanting to make contact   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Ben Bingley*                     | Marconi Radar, Chelmsford (1980s)   | Peter Collinge                   |
| Various**                        | Sperry Gyroscope, Plymouth (1970s)  | Ian Fraser                       |
| Dorothy Davies<br>(nee Sherratt) | Secretary to MD, Chadderton (1980s) | Susan Willsher<br>(nee Charlton) |

\* Ben was an apprentice at RRE College of Electronics in Malvern from 1957 to 1962. The college held a reunion in September 2011 and Ben was the only one of the 1957 entry that the organisers were unable to contact. His former colleagues would be delighted to hear from him.

\*\* Ian Fraser worked at Sperry Gyroscope, but left for Ontario, Canada in 1981. He worked for Jim Jessop (Engineering Manager), Ted Boswell (Manufacturing Manager) Alan Kerrison (Supervisor) and Production Engineering Staff Steve McKey, Brian Tutt, Colin Chandler and Mell Brash. If any of these wish to get in touch, Ian would love to meet up on one of his visits to the UK, or communicate via email or Skype.

## PLESSEY ADDLESTONE REUNION 2012

There will be another reunion of Plessey Addlestone employees on Friday 20 April 2012.

This will be held at the Weybridge Services and Social Club in Springfield Lane, Weybridge, commencing at 7.30pm.

Please put the date in your 2012 diary.

For further information contact Tony Shore on 01932 844741 or email: [tonyshore@talktalk.net](mailto:tonyshore@talktalk.net)

## EQUITABLE LIFE

The Trustees continue to monitor the closed funds held with Equitable Life and to provide updates on the situation to those members with Equitable Life AVCs.

As part of the October Spending Review, the Government confirmed that £1.5bn would be made available to compensate certain policyholders, which would include £620m reserved for with-profits annuitants. An Independent Commission has been tasked with advising the Treasury upon the actual amounts to be awarded to policyholders and those eligible for compensation will be contacted in due course. A communication has been sent recently to those members with Equitable Life AVCs, outlining the current position in more detail.

# PENSION PAYMENT DATES

The 2012 monthly pension payment dates for your Scheme are as follows:

## BAE SYSTEMS PENSION SCHEME

|                   |             |            |
|-------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 December (2011) | 1 May       | 1 October  |
| 3 January (2012)  | 1 June      | 1 November |
| 1 February        | 2 July      | 3 December |
| 1 March           | 1 August    |            |
| 2 April           | 3 September |            |

## 2000 PENSION PLAN AND ROPS

|                    |          |              |
|--------------------|----------|--------------|
| 23 December (2011) | 30 April | 31 August    |
| 31 January (2012)  | 31 May   | 28 September |
| 29 February        | 29 June  | 31 October   |
| 30 March           | 31 July  | 30 November  |

## ALVIS

|                   |                  |            |         |
|-------------------|------------------|------------|---------|
| 6 December (2011) | 6 January (2012) | 6 February | 6 March |
|-------------------|------------------|------------|---------|

Dates for later in the year are not currently available for the Alvis Pension Scheme.

# WHO WILL RECEIVE MY PENSION AFTER I DIE?

**For most of the BAE Systems schemes, a pension will continue to be paid after the pensioner dies if there is a 'spouse' (a widow, widower or civil partner) who survives the pensioner.**

The amount payable will be lower than the amount that was paid to the pensioner. Spouses' pensions cease when the spouse dies and cannot be passed on even if the spouse has remarried.

If the pensioner does not have a spouse or if they are separated from their spouse, the Schemes allow the Trustees to pay that pension to someone else who is financially dependent on them, in certain circumstances. This would normally be a partner with whom the pensioner is living and sharing living expenses.

If you require any further information on your own personal situation, then please contact the Pensions Service Centre for more information.

# GETTING IN TOUCH

Please ensure that correspondence is sent to the correct address to minimise any delay in responding to your letter.

## BAE Systems Pension Scheme

BAE Systems Pensions Service Centre, Freepost (RSTA-GHHR-EEAK),  
PO Box 1197, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 OGD

Lo-cost Telephone Number: 0845 601 4762

If calling from abroad: +44 (0)1293 591956

Fax: 01293 604559

Email: [farnborough.pensions@xafinity.com](mailto:farnborough.pensions@xafinity.com)

## 2000 Plan and ROPS

BAE Systems Pensions Service Centre, Freepost (RSTA-GHHR-EEAK),  
PO Box 1197, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 OGD

Lo-cost Telephone Number: 0845 601 4762

If calling from abroad: +44 (0)1293 591956

Fax: 01293 604559

Email: [fulwood.pensions@xafinity.com](mailto:fulwood.pensions@xafinity.com)

## Alvis Pension Scheme

Aon Hewitt  
25 Marsh Street  
Bristol BS1 4AQ

Telephone: 01179 453589

Email: [alvis@aonhewitt.com](mailto:alvis@aonhewitt.com)

## Newsletter related matters should be sent to:

Carolyn Ray, Group Pensions  
BAE Systems, PO Box 87  
1st Floor, York House  
Farnborough Aerospace Centre  
Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 6YU

Email: [carolyn.ray@baesystems.com](mailto:carolyn.ray@baesystems.com)

For all the pension schemes,  
the website address is:

[www.baesystemspensions.com](http://www.baesystemspensions.com)

