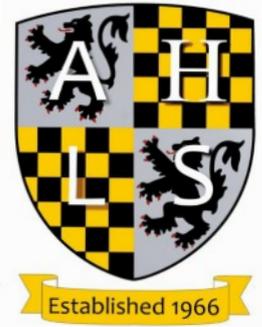


Alresford Historical & Literary Society



Newsletter May 2019

# Flying to the Empire



With **Peter Wingent**  
on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May**

7:30 Methodist Church Jacklyns Lane, Alresford. Visitors Welcome: £3:00 at the door.

## Synopsis

Peter will describe the events leading to the formation of Britain's first national airline (Imperial Airways) and describe its services to Africa and Australia from 1924 to 1939. A passenger's journey from London to Cape Town will be described in detail and some of the hair-raising events en route! Peter will also show how the Empire Routes were operated using Flying Boats from Southampton.

Peter served an apprenticeship as a ship's draftsman and worked in various shipyards until his late twenties when he changed career by training as teacher in Winchester. Subsequently he taught graphics and design & technology at Peter Symonds for 26 years until retirement.

His interest in the Empire air services springs from collecting air mail letters flown to Africa during the inter-war years. Having researched the subject for 35 years he has written six books and 80 articles.

Peter enjoys playing short tennis, croquet and constructing scratch-built ship models.

**Newsletter.** Latest copy date for the June issue is May 29<sup>th</sup> 2019 Please note this date  
Please send Copy to Robert Fowler 01962 734125 email to: [secretary@alresfordhistandlit.co.uk](mailto:secretary@alresfordhistandlit.co.uk)

April talk by Peter Pooley on Europe:

**“Turning and turning in the widening gyre  
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;  
Things fall apart, the centre cannot hold;  
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,**

.....

**The best lack all conviction, while the worst  
are full of passionate intensity.”**

Peter Pooley introduced his talk with these meaningful lines by W B Yeats but he studiously avoided any direct comment on the present Brexit controversy. Instead, he drew upon his experience as a leading EU negotiator and with his usual wit described the ways in which in a complex multi-national, multi-lingual organisation every move had to be calculated to take account of national differences.

The interpreters were vital, defeated only by cricketing metaphors. Timing was always a factor and decision times judged accordingly. A tactical delay in refreshments might be crucial. And national body clocks differ – the Germans rise early and go to bed early, Spaniards are at their liveliest in the middle of the night. Negotiations had to leave every side feeling they had gained something although they would inevitably have lost something else.

Back at home parliaments had to be faced and faces had to be saved. The UK’s efficiency in presenting a coherent case and responding expeditiously during negotiations was once much admired; Sadly no more. . BT

***Celebrating Hampshire archives!  
Friday 31 May 2019 - 4-7pm***

**FREE Tea, Talks & Tipple**

**After tea, there will be a short programme of talks,  
followed by drinks & canapes.**

**Programme**

- Local history, pure and simple' - the East Meon experience
- Local archives & networks – Milford’s experience,
- Archiving local history – an academic view
- ‘Please log on’ – the birth of our website,

**Please book your place(s) by contacting:**

**[barryshurlock@gmail.com](mailto:barryshurlock@gmail.com):**

**tel: 01962 861913**

**VENUE: The Cinema, Hampshire Record Office,**

**Executive Committee to April 2020**

Chair: Glenn Gilbertson	732726
Secretary & Membership: Robert Fowler	734125
Treasurer: Vic Prior	733380
Newsletter Editor: Robert Fowler	734125
Speakers Secretary:	Vacant
Hall Steward- Andrea Sutton	736584

**Other Committee Members:**

Brian Davies/ Nancy Webb/Brian  
Tippett/John Miller

**Recommended Reading:**

Janesville: An American Story  
by Amy Goldstein

Janesville is the story of an medium sized American city in Wisconsin, home to Republican Speaker Paul Ryan. It is a GM Factory Plant Town which produced Chevy Tahoes. The plant closed in the 2008 Financial Crisis, and did not reopen. Other businesses also closed - both those that supplied the GM plant, and those whose customers lost their jobs also ceased to be customers.

The book charts the fortunes of those affected. It talks of those who try to rebuild the town, drawing new businesses in. It tells the stories of those in the community colleges who are offering retraining courses to those who have lost their jobs, and the outcomes for those people.

Recommended by Glenn Gilbertson

Books available from Hants Library Services