

MINUTES OF MEETING-3 SEPTEMBER 2009

Chairman's Welcome – Barry Beck welcomed new members Mark Bancroft and Steve Nunn and everyone to a different room at Wensum Lodge due to our normal room being used for a presentation. Barry then indicated we had a Birthday girl in our midst being Eileen Hindle's the following day, prior to announcing our Guest Speaker would follow Normal Group Business.

Apologies – D. Goddard Jnr, C. Fox, J.& K. Aldis, P. Cushing, L. Dench, A. Goldspink, B. & D. Goffin, H. & M. King, L. & A. Mann.

Minutes of Previous Meeting - August meeting minutes were read and accepted as a true record.

Secretary's Report - Ian McCallum advised he has been updating Group forms with our revised heading and new president details. Ian also brought the membership's attention to a photo of David Hines and daughter Natalie in the Eastern Daily Press taken at the Gressinghall 1940's event.

Chairman's Report - Barry Beck gave an overview of the room booking situation at Wensum Lodge. Although we book at the start of each term and usually are allocated the King Room we have to accept that the education authority has priority, such as the situation this evening. Barry then advised the membership that he had written a letter in the Newsletter with reference to David and Sue Goddard. This both thanked them for their 11 years in producing the Newsletter and asked for any member who thinks they may be able to take on the role to speak to either David, Sue or any committee member. Barry also made reference to a letter written by Joy Auty to Rex Cadman with reference to the poor standards of toilet and shower amenities at Beltring. Rex had responded indicating this was out of his hands and the responsibility of the Hop Farm and Tunbridge Burgh Council although he would pass on comments. Ray Elderton said that there were also issues regarding poor signage at the event and he would welcome any other member's comments and pass them on to Joy. Ray also asked that provision be made to empty the Group hired toilet at Beltring mid period, due to both the length of hire and increasing numbers using it. Barry then informed members of the birth of a daughter, Amelia, to David and Sharon Goddard and that the Group had sent a card and keepsake box on behalf of the membership. Barry then mentioned aspects discussed at the recent committee meeting with specific reference to member's assistance being appreciated on the rally field, especially with respect to the Group tent and emphasising that the tea and coffee making facilities are for the use of all members. Finally Barry advised that a visit has been planned to see the collection of Wng. Cmdr. Wallace at Reymerston Hall near Shipdham on Saturday 3rd October at 2pm.

Treasurer's Report - June Cushing advised that funds were up by some £300.00 since last month due to some membership money plus donations from several events. On the outgoings donations of £100.00 had been paid to both Waveney Hospice and 7th Armoured Division Memorial Fund with the account currently standing at £3865.82. June then mentioned Peter was now mobile with a mobility scooter and keeping in good spirit.

Membership Secretary's Report - Bill Purchase advised there had been 2 new members since the last meeting as previously mentioned by the Chairman.

MVT Liaison Officer's Report- Ian McCallum read extracts from the minutes of the Council of Management Meeting of the 21st June.

Publicity Officer's Report - Charles Warren advised that he had been trying to get air time with respect to the anniversary of the outbreak of the 2nd World War with Radio Norfolk being the only interested party. Charles indicated he would also be seeing Radio Norfolk again at the Gala Day.

Rally Secretary's Report - Richard Edwards thanked members for their support at the Aylsham Show where we had 33 vehicles on parade. The organisers were very impressed with our display and professionalism and added an extra £50.00 to our agreed £200.00 donation. Richard then went through forthcoming events including the Seething air show, Gala Day, Sandringham, North Norfolk Railway weekend, and a new event at Shipdham airfield on the 27th. September. Richard also had information on vehicle requirements for a Sky 1 TV programme and at Lavenham on November 8th. David Hines then mentioned an event at the Snettisham BG Museum on the 13th September and Henham Steam Rally on the same weekend as the North Norfolk event.

Newsletter Editor's Report- Dave Goddard advised that the latest Newsletter was ready for collection at the side of the room making the normal plea that members please take other members copies that they will see in order to save postage costs. Dave then referred to the decision by Sue and himself to retire from the Newsletter Editors position after the Spring issue and asked that if there were any budding editors who would like to give it a go to please feel free to speak to them in the first instance or to the Chairman.

Any Other Business-

John Sayer – advised he had found a cheap source for the standard 511, black cased, 130 amp hour Jeep Battery at £101.00 including vat. He had a number of the supplier's cards that would be left on the top table.

David Hines – indicated he had an original overhauled 6 Volt Jeep dynamo for sale and anyone interested to speak to him after the meeting.

Guest Speaker – Barry Beck then introduced Beverley Cooper who gave a talk entitled 'In the Footsteps of our Fathers'. Beverley, like so many children whose fathers had served in the 2nd world war had only glimpses of his service career through discussions over the years and family holidays in France and Flanders. It was not until after his death that she determined to track his route from landing in Normandy through to Hamburg in Germany. It had always fascinated her how her father, who was a Londoner, served with the 1st Battalion Highland Light Infantry which was actually part of the 53rd Welsh Division! Through a chance meeting in 2005 she met Melanie Hare, being the daughter of Lt. Col. Hare, who was in the 1st. Battalion Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Both of their father's regiments had in fact been within the 71st Infantry Brigade within the same Division. As such their fathers had followed the same route, although were not always together as they advanced. Unlike Beverley's father however Melanie's had been killed at S'Hertogenbosch in Holland. Beverley then told in detail the route they had followed from landing at Juno Beach, through Falaise, into Belgium and then through into Holland at Eindhoven and ultimately into Germany. Along the way they met many interesting people who themselves had been children at the time but were able to give graphic information on what they witnessed as the footsteps of their fathers passed through. Barry Beck gave the vote of thanks saying he did not know how she managed to retain such a wealth of information and thanking her for sharing such a fascinating insight into just 2 people's war.

Being no other formal business the meeting closed at 2220