

# STANTON-UPON-HINE-HEATH & HIGH HATTON

## MAGAZINE

[www.stantonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.stantonparishcouncil.org.uk)

### THE ARIES POLAR FLIGHT FROM RAF SHAWBURY MAY 1945

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Road Closure
- Annual Parish Meeting
- Quiz Night Review

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Any items for future issues please contact Ruth Dee by the 15th of the month on

[stantonvillage@gmail.com](mailto:stantonvillage@gmail.com)  
or 07718 286571

As the Second World War in Europe came to a close in May 1945, there was still secret work to be completed as the war in the Far East raged on. It would be another three months before that area of conflict would end with fearful consequences for the future of world peace. The 8<sup>th</sup> May was declared Victory in Europe Day (VE Day) but on the 10<sup>th</sup> May it was business as usual for the pioneering aviators, scientists and engineers of RAF Shawbury.

Lancaster PD 328 known as Aries had undergone major modifications and refits since its world breaking round the world flight of late 1944. This time there were new navigational challenges for the crew. One was to find the Magnetic North Pole. This expedition was given several other tasks. To test theories of grid system navigation, identify problems associated with Arctic flying and conditions, to assess the performance of existing instruments, collect weather data and observe the effect of Polar flying on the aircrew. Finding the position of the Magnetic North Pole was the most important task as its position had shifted since it was last discovered.

The Pilot and Officer Commanding was Wing Commander DC McKinley DFC, AFC, with a crew of 10. On the

10<sup>th</sup> May Aries took off from the Empire Air Navigation School, RAF Shawbury bound for Meeks Field, Reykjavik, Iceland.

Shortly after 0200hrs on May 17<sup>th</sup> they were within a few miles of the Pole when the



The crew of the Aries with Wing Commander McKinley at Shawbury

navigator called an alteration of course to take Aries over the top of the world. At that moment certain members of the crew celebrated in different ways. The off duty wireless operator peeled a banana which he had procured in Gibraltar. The wireless operator on duty made contact with Reykjavik passing a bearing of 000 degrees. The doctor threw a bottle of beer with the Union flag attached overboard. As Wing Commander McKinley subsequently wrote "Circling the Pole before the return journey we crossed all the meridians in some 80 seconds and a moment later we crossed the International

Date Line for the second time in less than two minutes while going in the same direction".

By May 21<sup>st</sup> Wing Commander McKinley was satisfied with the results of the expedition and finally left Whitehorse, Yukon for RAF Shawbury landing at RAF Shawbury at 12.45 pm on 26<sup>th</sup> May having been airborne for some 18 hours. Over a period of 16 days it had flown 110 hours covering some 22,400 miles, roughly half of which lay within the Arctic Circle. The crew had accumulated a massive quantity of information - 30,000 observations on magnetic phenomena alone.

The expedition had been a scientific and personal success. It had been made possible by earlier pioneers as well as by RAF wartime crews who had developed northern flying in the course of hazardous sorties between Scotland and Russia. At the time it pointed out new ground, new routes to link continents, something which the civilian airlines embraced and still do today in 2015 some 70 years on.

Extract from an article by Mr Michael Jones MBE WO (Rtd RAF)

### THANK YOU FROM THE EDITOR

May I just say a big thank you to all who have written and passed on their proactive feedback after

receiving the April edition of the Magazine. It was very kind of you. Please remember it is your magazine

if you have any items or news you would like to be included, please let me know.

## NEWS FROM ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

## SERVICES

3 May 9.30 am Holy Communion with Baptism led by Rev Richard Hayes  
 10 May 9.30 am Holy Communion led by Rev Michael Horton  
 17 May 9.30 am Morning Prayer led by Barbara Holt  
 24 May 9.30 am Holy Communion led by Rev Mia Smith  
 31 May Joint 3 Service details to be confirmed later



## FLOWERS AND CLEANING

17 May—Jo Humphreys—Volunteers needed for all other dates

## NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE HALL

## VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Natalie Cauchi 01939 251005 -  
 Booking Officer if Sue  
 not available  
 Beverley Orme 01939 250878  
 Barbara Fisher 01939 251075  
 Jane Fildes 01939 251187  
 Mary Page 01939 251166  
 Sue Young 01939 250194 -  
 Chairperson &  
 Booking Officer

## NEIGHBOURHOOD NATTER—Thursday 14th May at 1030

Numbers are slowly building for this informal get together which is proving very popular for those of us who are around during the day. It's a great opportunity to catch up with neighbours and friends both old and new. All ages are welcome so please come and join us. £1 donation for tea/coffee and biscuits.

## QUIZ NIGHT

The quiz with fish & chip supper on 14th March was, happily for the Hall, a great success. Over 65 people attended in good spirits to enjoy the evening and the feedback from those attending has been very positive. Thank you to everyone who attended on the night. I am sure you will all be delighted to know that around £340 was added to Village Hall funds. Our grateful thanks go to everyone who helped throughout the evening. It just would not be possible for us to continue without support and it was indeed very evident on that night. Please look out for future events and support them if you can, we really want to keep our Village Hall open.

If you have any ideas for future events please let us know and if you feel you can spare a few hours occasionally to help it would make a huge difference to our small committee.

## NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Please refer to the Parish Council website for details of minutes of meetings and general news

[www.stantonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.stantonparishcouncil.org.uk)

Date of next meeting in the Village Hall is **Tuesday May 5th at 7.00 pm** which will incorporate the Annual Parish Meeting.

## ROAD CLOSURE

Shropshire Council will undertake pre surface dressing patching work from Hazles Road, Stanton (Hazles Cottage to County Boundary) and the road will be closed on 25 May for 3 days between 09.00—17.00. Diversion notices will be in place.

Please see the Parish website for further details

[www.stantonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.stantonparishcouncil.org.uk)

## LITTER PICK..

Please watch out again for news of another Village Litter Pick.

Security of Garages/Sheds/Outbuildings**Protect your property**

Spring is round the corner and those expensive garden tools and machinery will soon be getting a dusting down before being put back to work. However, be aware that the property you keep outside your house i.e. in Garages/Sheds and Outbuildings is of far more value to the majority of criminals than the valuables kept inside your home. It is normally easier to get access to, they can get rid of it very quickly, for example at car boot sales and if caught, they know the likelihood is that they will receive a far lesser sentence than if they were apprehended for house burglary.

The good news is that you can prevent yourself becoming a victim. A bit of time and money spent making your property more secure could prevent a whole load of heartache. Consider investing in shed alarms and padlock alarms for under a tenner. If considered necessary, the more expensive CCTV. However it is worth bearing in mind that the weakest point of a shed door is usually the hasps so fit a good quality one and ensure the screws are not visible. There is loads of advice via the internet but if you feel you would like some advice from your SNT just get in contact.

## OTHER INFORMATION

## MOBILE LIBRARY

09.15-to-09.45 (30 minutes)

01743 255024

Alternate weeks on Thursday

7th/21st May 2015

**Did you know.....**

*Sausages are called 'BANGERS' because during WW2 they contained so much water they exploded when being fried !*

**Interested in  
 advertising in the  
 Magazine?**

**Contact Ruth**

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## THE STANTON ARMS

01939 250221

Mon to Fri—5 –11 pm

Sat 12-11pm Sun 12 to 10.30 pm

Home cooked food served

Tuesday to Sunday

We also cater for weddings, parties and can provide an outside bar.

## Special Event :

**Saturday 23rd May**  
**Acoustic Music Night**  
**From 7:00 pm onwards**  
**Tickets £5 (inc Pizza)**

## STANTON TODDLER GROUP

At Hazels Farm Nursery School 9.30 to 11.30 every Thursday (including school holidays)

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The team at Oakgate Nursery & Garden Centre would like to say a big thank you to all that attended our evening lavender talk. We appreciate your support and hope you all enjoyed the evening.

## HOMEFIX PLUMBING & HEATING

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## Shropshire Regimental Museum

The Regimental Museum was established in 1985 and is housed in the mediaeval border fortress of Shrewsbury Castle. The Castle houses the [spectacular collections](#) of the Shropshire Regimental Museum Trust including pictures, uniforms, medals, silverware, weapons and other artefacts from the 18th Century to the present day.

## Opening Hours

Spring From February 16th to May 24th it is open 10.30 to 16.00 but **closed on Thursdays and Sundays.**

Summer From May 25th to September 13th it is open 10.30 to 17.00 but **closed on Thursdays.**

**Sunday** opening hours are 10.30 to 16.00.