

Russell Bailey 1929 - 2015

A Tribute to a Loyal & Hard Working Member

Martyn - MHAS Chairman

Sadly we say goodbye to another original member of our society, Russell Bailey.

Russell past away on January 18th 2015 in the Ipswich Hospital after a very short stay. He was expected to leave after a short medical procedure, but sadly Russell past away due to other contributing problems, a huge shock to his family and to the MHAS.

Sadly our newsletter Runway 22 had already gone to print and therefore we were unable to inform you the members until now although those attending the February meeting were of course informed.

You may recall in the February newsletter I wrote an obituary for our President Mr Gordon Kinsey.

In that obituary I told you about a meeting that took place on Martlesham Heath prior to the formation of the MHAS. Russell was at that meeting and has remained a loyal hard working member ever since, but more on that later.

Russell was born in Sternfield in Suffolk and during WW2 was an evacuee living close to Sudbury in Suffolk. It seems strange that Russell was evacuated as Sternfield is a quiet rural area, but that's Russell's story. After war ended he finished his education at Leiston High School.

National Service saw Russell joining the RAF in 1947. He spent his two years travelling however, most of the two years was spent in Germany. I guess that this was where Russell's love of aviation was born.

In 1951 Russell married Phyllis who he had met at a dance in Saxmundham and who he had corresponded with during his absence will serving his two years National Service. They remained happily married for over 60 years.

Married life was spent at various address in Ipswich settling in Horsham Avenue in 1964.

Russell briefly joined the railways working first in Saxmundham and then Ipswich. Once again Russell's job turned into a hobby and railways became another part of his spare time activity.

It was his move to William Cory's which started his career in the oil industry. He later worked for Shell and BP until he retired at the age of 55 years.

Russell's enthusiasm for aviation was his No.1 hobby and he became a member of the MHAS at the very start.

He later joined the committee and arranged our outings for many years which were hugely popular. He also became our Treasurer a position he held for many years until he retired from committee service.

The Control Tower museum then became Russell's forte. He became the Museum Manager, the position he held until his untimely death. I say untimely because Russell was such an active person. Yes he had health issues, but bore them well enjoying walking and visiting aviation and railway events regularly.

Russell was a quiet man, dedicated to his family and dare I say MHAS. We that knew him will remember a quiet but determined man who would put his point over if he felt strongly about an issue, but quick to listen if someone had a better idea.

Rest in peace Russell, you will not be forgotten.

