



REME ASSOCIATION

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH

NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2019

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Hello and welcome to our newsletter for March 2019. At our February meeting our very own Alan Burton-Smith gave us a talk on the Space Shuttle Endeavour. Alan's talk suffered from a few technical issues that wasn't there during his several rehearsals, never the less, Alan soldiered on and gave an interesting and enjoyable talk which took us from the start of the US Space programme through to the space shuttles.

The Mercury Programme It all started way back when J.F.Kennedy announced in Houston that he would put a man on the moon by the end of the decade (1960's) The space shuttle Endeavour was part of the NASA space programme originated in the first launch in 1959 with the Mercury Programme that resulted in 20 unpiloted and 6 manned flights to ascertain feasibility of manned space flights. The first animals in space were a monkey called Ham and the main experiment was to see what gravity effect caused on humans along with the technology to bring them back. In May 1961 Alan Shepard was the first American to go into space and orbit the earth.

The Gemini Programme The next programme was called Gemini. 12 missions took place 2 unmanned and 10 manned the first taking place in April 1964 and the last in November 1966. The most notable was that it was the first time that re-entry was covered by live tv pictures showing the splash down operation.

The Apollo Programme The next programme was the Apollo programme. With all the experience gained from Mercury and Gemini programmes this programme was the one that was going to put a man on the moon as demanded by J.F. Kennedy it would be done by 1970. The programme started on 21st Feb 1967 with Apollo 1 and resulted with the moon landing on Apollo 11 with astronaut's Buzz Aldwin and Neil Armstrong on the 20th July 1969 at 20:17hrs UTC, in the lunar module named Eagle. The Apollo programme went on to complete 6 moon landings at a cost of \$25.4 billion dollars and landed 12 men on the moon and brought back 382kg of lunar rock. Congress was now getting itchy feet over the spiralling cost of the programme so in 1972 the shuttle concept was born but to reduce costs of the project they had to come up with radical design concept so the shuttle was born under the concept of the STS space transit system of reusable space ship

The Space Shuttle



Order of manufacture

The next step in human space flight was the re-useable space transit system (STS 1) but later called the Space Shuttle System. This programme began with the shuttle design testing with Constitution a name that was changed from constitution to Enterprise after a lot of the

technicians were star trek buffs

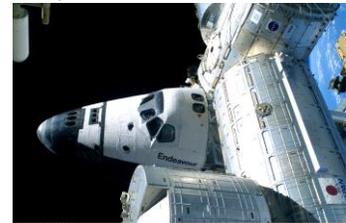
The first STS Enterprise (STS1) took off on April 12th 1981 exactly 20 years after Yuri Gagarin historic flight. This shuttle was called Enterprise and made 13 flight missions with a crew of 4 pilots/astronauts and was retired in 1977. It was built at Rockwell International assembly facility at Palmdale CA and towed across the dessert to the nearby Edwards air force base. It was strapped on top of Boing 747 and made 5 unpowered landings after all nobody had made a glider that heavy fly so seeing it land was a huge relief to NASA. It was decided that Enterprise would be too costly to convert into a re-useable operational orbiter without the RS25 engine modifications so NASA decided to early on to build the second shuttle **Columbia** then **Challenger**, **Discovery**, **Atlantic** and finally **Endeavour** to complete the fleet.

Columbia's first flight was in April 1981 and went on to accomplish 28 missions with a total crewed flight of 160 crew. This averaged 6 crew per launch. On the 1st of Feb 2003 Columbia was destroyed on re-entry killing all the crew. It was attributed to a piece of foam breaking away on the launch from the external fuel tank and struck the left wing of the orbiter. On re-entry this allowed hot gasses to penetrate the heat shield wing and destroy the internal wing structure and this caused lack of stability and the shuttle to break up. It was not the first time this foam had broken away from the shuttle in fact it had been noticed on previous occasions. It was not the first disaster as Challenger in 1986 had exploded on take-off killing all the crew and this was due to a faulty seal that allowed fuel to escape and ignite on launch witnessed by millions on TV. Again, the programme was stopped for 2 years.

So, after Columbia another shuttle Discovery was launched in 1984 and lasted 28 years at the end of the project Discovery had flown 39 missions. Amongst its achievements was three missions to the space telescope Hubble to correct lens failures and it was the first 3 man spacewalk to capture the telescope and repair it in the loading hold of discovery. It also visited the Mia and Space station numerous times to re supply provisions etc. and exchange crew.

Endeavour

Finally, the last space shuttle was commissioned Endeavour. This is the one now resting in the California Space Centre and now hangs in the air after travelling in its 19 years of service 123million miles in space and circled the earth 4600 times so no wonder it looks a bit weather beaten. It flew 25 missions and the final one in 2011.



As Congress by this time had decided to cut back the shuttle and space project due to spiralling costs, Endeavour was built using components that were spares for previous STS so the cost was limited to \$1.7 billion. Over 2.5 million parts are used in a shuttle so clearing these off the shelves was a good idea financially to clear them as it had already been decided to finish the programme. It can be said that STs saved the Hubble as it now sends crystal clear pictures from space that before repair it would just be another bit of space junk.

Endeavour astronauts had to have a living quarter and this was solved by having a portable "mess room" that slotted into the loading bay. Quite a novel idea this because, on return the module was lifted out and replaced with another one, hence saving time.

So now the shuttle programme has ended so what we do with the three remaining shuttles? One went to New York museum, one is in the Florida Space Centre and Endeavour by now had been given to the California Space Centre by its owners NASA.

Branch News

Branch Accounts: Cash £25.06, Bank £1375.55, Total £1400.61

If you have any news that you feel the branch either needs, should or would like to know about or changes to the forecast of events, please email the newsletter editor at ronpm6@aol.com If you are going to send the editor posters or flyers for inclusion in the newsletter, can you please email the flyer as a Jpeg or post a copy of the picture on the branch Facebook page.

The Branch has its own Facebook page: REME ASSOCIATION IN SOUTH HAMPSHIRE AND DORSET. Any member can post or comment on this page. Any photographs of branch activities, whether formal or social, would be most welcome. Any serving member of REME can become a member of the branch and join this group.

Future Events

Next Branch Meeting Our next meeting is on Wednesday 6th March. This meeting is the AGM. This is the most important meeting of the year and it would be good to see as many of you as possible. Donations to the Raffle will be gratefully received.

Visit to RTR LAD A visit to the LAD of the RTR, based at Tidworth, has been arranged for Thursday 4th April. The visit will take place between 1000 – 1500 hrs approx... More details to follow.

Corps Memorial Day The Corps memorial day will be held at the National Memorial Arboretum on 23rd May starting at 1100 hrs. More details will be published when known.

Forecast of Events

Forecast of events on page 4 this Newsletter and is also shown on the Branch Facebook page. If any member would like to give a talk to the branch please speak to any member of the committee.

NOTICES

Boules. Game and practice at Upton Country Park



The Boulers are playing Boules (Petanque) at the Muscliff Recreation Park, which is along the Shillingstone Drive, Bournemouth. We shall be playing as before on each Tuesday from 1pm till about 3pm latest. Any new members will be welcomed. For any information contact Bill by e-mail :- billspatch@aol.co.uk - or by phone – 01202 471585.

Boules is also continuing to be played at Upton Park as before, same day starting at midday. For any info about this venue please contact Max & Pat Dales.

Branch programme for 2019

Date	Event or Speaker Name	Location or Subject
6/Mar/19	Branch AGM	7.30pm start
3/Apr/19	Speaker: Valerie Young	Bletchley Park
4/Apr/19	Visit to RTR LAD	Tidworth
26-29/Apr/19	REME Assn Reunion W/E	Coventry
1/May/19	Branch Meeting	TBA
23/May/19	Corps Memorial Day	NMA 1100hrs
5/Jun/19	Speaker: Heather Lowe	Poole Probation Service
21-22/Jun/19	Weymouth Armed Forces Weekend	Weymouth
28-30/Jun/19	Salisbury Armed Forces Weekend	Salisbury
30/Jun/19	Southampton Armed Forces Day	Guildhall Square Southampton
3/Jul/19	Branch Meeting	TBA
7/Aug/19	Branch Meeting	Skittles Evening. RBL Ferndown Function Room
TBA Jul/Aug	Branch Car Treasure Hunt	Various/Pub
4/Sep/19	Branch Meeting	Quiz night - Highway Code pt2
2/Oct/19	Branch Meeting	TBA
9/Nov/19	Branch Meeting	TBA
10/Nov/19	Remembrance Sunday	Christchurch Priory
11/Nov/19	Armistice Day Parade	Ferndown RBL garden of Remembrance 1045 hrs
16/Nov/19	Branch Annual Dinner and Dance	Holburne Park
1/Dec/19	St Eligius Sunday	Garrison Church, Lyneham
4/Dec/19	Branch Meeting	American Supper Night
8/Dec/19	Burton 10k Pudding Race	Burton Village

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month, apart from January, upstairs in the Royal British Legion – Ferndown Branch, Church Road, Ferndown BH22 9ET. The Meetings start at 7.30pm.

REME Association Reunion 2019 Booking Form

To be held at the

3 * Royal Court Hotel,

Tamworth Road Keresley, Coventry

Friday 26th April to Monday 29th April 2019

Price includes: -

Either 2 or 3 nights Half Board, ensuite accommodation
Reunion bar prices will apply to certain house brands all weekend
John Smiths, Fosters, House wine by the glass & house spirits 25ml measure
Bubbly reception Friday & Saturday, Gala Night Dinner, Port for the loyal toast
Live Entertainment nightly
No Single room supplement – limited availability
Coach Shuttle service on Saturday to and from Coventry City Centre.
Daytime activities – details to follow

Gala Night Dinner Only £39.00

1 night including Gala Dinner £94 (Limited Availability)

2 nights package £169 per person

3 nights package £219

Please book me/us for: Gala Dinner Only 1 night only (Saturday).....
Friday to Sunday 2 nights.... Friday to Monday 3 nights..... (please tick)
3 Course Sunday Lunch at the Royal Court Hotel - £14.50 per person.....

Personal Details

Name.....

Address.....

Post Code.....

Telephone Number including Dialling code.....

Your Party

Names of other persons included on this booking form.....

Number of Persons.....

Rooms required: Double.....Twin.....Single.....

Whilst every effort will be made to accommodate all special requests this will be done on a first come first served basis and not guaranteed. Some disabled rooms are available.

Special Requirements such as diet / walking difficulties / smoking or non-smoking

All prices are inclusive of VAT at the new rate of 20%.

Book Now to avoid disappointment, places are limited.

Cheques to be made payable to IOW Tours Ltd.

Please return this form with your remittance to:

Isle of Wight Tours Ltd,

3 New Road, Lake, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 9JN.

Telephone (01983) 405116 Fax (01983) 405584

ALL HOLIDAYS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AT THE TIME OF BOOKING. SPACE IS NOT GUARANTEED UNTIL THE DEPOSIT IS PAID.

A non refundable deposit of £10.00

Per person is required with this booking form.

Travel Insurance

We recommend that Travel Insurance is taken. IOW Tours can arrange this for you phone for details

I enclose a Deposit or Full Payment* of £.....

for Persons (delete as applicable)

Due to the new laws in Data Protection. If you would like to pay by card please ring the office with your card details or you can pay into our bank direct details below:

Please put your Postcode as reference against bank payments:

Natwest Bank (Newport Branch)

Sort Code:

54-41-31

Account No:

20770499

