



# Ex-ROC News



Issue 1

May 26<sup>th</sup>., 2014

## Editor's Waffle

Hi, and welcome to this, the First Issue of Ex-ROC News.

Ex-ROC was formed, through Facebook, to reunite ex-Members of the Royal Observer Corps, and their Friends, and get us together for a weekend's Fun and Frolics, every year.

To keep abreast of Events, just follow us on our Ex-ROC Camp Page, on Facebook.

This Edition contains my Report on this year's Event, "May Madness 2014", held in Llangollen, North Wales, on the weekend of 9<sup>th</sup>.-12<sup>th</sup>. May.

John Liversage

Ex-C?Obs, 17 Group, Crew 3.

## **"May Madness 2014"**

The weekend started, on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup>. May, with me getting very worried that those Members who were travelling great distances to Llangollen - from as far afield as Ayr, Colchester, Carlisle, and Durham - would not enjoy the Loony activities I'd come up with.

The majority of participants met up in the early afternoon and, after lubricating the joints, and fluffle valves, in the Hand Hotel Bar, they were formed into Teams, and sent off on a Mobile Monitoring Exercise around Llangollen.

I had Fun, wandering around from Pub to Pub, watching them all looking for the Clues, some Cryptic, and some Pictures.

Eventually, they all finished up in the Bar of the Ponsonby Arms, for further lubrication, and De-briefing of the Mobile Monitoring. They all, to my relief, seemed to have enjoyed themselves.

We all, then, wandered off to get ready for a lovely meal at the Deeside Cafe, before

meeting for a great Evening of Music and Song, in the Bar of the Hand Hotel, where the Resident Organist, Dave Kelly, played his usual selection of Songs, old and new, until late.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the planned activity for Saturday morning - a visit to our old Group HQ, at Borrass, Wrexham, was called off, so the morning was spent on organising Cars, and leaving early, for the afternoon's activity - a visit to Hack Green Secret Nuclear Bunker, near Nantwich.

We had a great time at Hack Green - well worth a visit - with a reasonably good ROC Exhibit (needs some attention to some details!), And a really comprehensive collection of Nuclear Bombs, Model Aircraft, Vehicles, and loads of Cold War memorabilia.

We returned to Llangollen, and prepared for the Evening's Event.

We all met for Dinner, in the Bridge End Hotel, where we were joined by John Jones, ex GC of North Wales. At the end of a lovely Meal, we suddenly changed tack, hehe, and sprang a surprise Birthday Party on Wendy Harvey, who had foolishly let slip, a few weeks before, that it was her 50<sup>th</sup>. Birthday on the 14<sup>th</sup>. May. She was presented with a lovely Cake, made by Sylvia Ramshaw, and an engraved ROC Champagne Flute. It was worth all the effort of organising the weekend, to see her face. I think she enjoyed it, hehe.

We all wandered back to the Hand Hotel, and stayed for further lubrication, until the early hours.

Sunday morning was spent with a Trip on the Llangollen Railway, to Carrog. After a ride on the first Train - a Diesel Railcar - we had a leisurely walk to the Grouse Inn, for more lubrication, followed by the Return journey by Steam Train.

After a snack in the Bridge End, it was just a short journey to Trevor, for a visit to the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct - now a World Heritage Site, where we all (bar one) walked over the Aqueduct, and back. It's quite an experience, just 126 feet above the River Dee. It never ceases to amaze me how Thomas Telford was able to build such a marvel some 209 years ago.

After a quick stop at the Telford pub - for further lubrication - we returned to Llangollen for a leisurely evenings drink in the Hand Hotel - too worn out to do anything else.

Monday morning was spent in seeing the stragglers off home - the ones from furthest afield having gone home on Sunday.

We're all looking forward to next year. This is to be held in the Northampton area, organised by Clint Marler - who foolishly volunteered on Friday evening, after numerous drinks, hehe. He'll get lots of help, though, and I'm sure he'll come up with lots to do.



The Motley Crew, at Hack Green.

Back Row - Catherine Walker, John Little, Clint Marler, Hugh Doran, David Shaw, John Liversage, John Buchanan.

Front Row - Margaret Peacock, Wendy Harvey, Yvonne Thomas, Sylvia Ramshaw.



Hack Green Secret Nuclear Bunker.



Wendy and her Surprise Birthday Cake.



Diesel Railcar, at Carrog Station,  
Llangollen Railway.



Pontcysyllte Aqueduct

Ex-ROC News is Edited by John Liversage.

Any opinions expressed in any Article in the Newsletter, is that of the Contributor, and not the Editor, or the Mambers of Ex-ROC Camp.

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