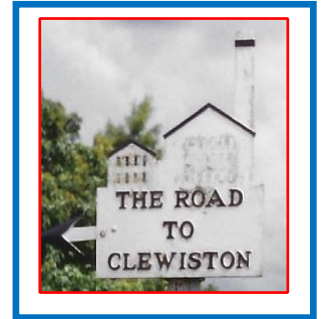


Newsletter No. 29 – Autumn 2024

Editor: Dr Jenifer Harding (daughter of George Hogarth, Co 3)

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Reflection

Cadets came to America from all parts of the United Kingdom – England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Irrespective of their home country, all the cadets thought of their families and things that made their homeland special. As we approach Remembrance Sunday (or Veterans’ Day), we remember those cadets who forever remain in America, those who lie in a foreign field and those with no known grave. We also remember those cadets who came home but now have ‘handed in their logbooks’. Each one had their own special memories of home as they embarked on the long journey to America and later as pilots, these memories went with them when they left on a mission often without knowing exactly what they would encounter and whether they would return.

John Barber’s father (Dennis Barber) was on Course 26 at 4BFTS. His mother wrote this beautiful poem and for many years, John, who lives in Arizona, has read it in the RAF Remembrance Sunday service in Mesa where 23 cadets are buried. It is about England, but could equally apply to many parts of the UK.

Oh England...can you keep for me, the dancing daffodils
That frolic in the long, green grass upon the rolling hills.
The cherry and the apple trees, that shower blossoms on the breeze
In the old orchard by the lane.
England – ‘til I come again
England can you keep for me the bluebells in the dell
Down by the stream where nightingales and silver birches dwell?
The lilac by the garden wall, letting its scented dew drops fall,
With the laburnum’s golden rain
England – ‘til I come again.
England if they all must fade as summer passes by
And leaves turn gold and brown beneath the autumn sky,
Then keep for me if I come late
One rose, beside the wicket gate
To sooth my yearning heart o’pain...
England – when I come again.

‘Their efforts to preserve the freedom of the world were not in vain and will never be forgotten.’

Five 5BFTS Facts

Opened in July 1941 at Carlstrom Field

Moved to Riddle Field September 25, 1941

26 Courses

1434 graduates (1325 RAF and 109 USAAF)

Closed in September 1945



Jenny Harding

67th Annual British Memorial Day Service May 27, 2024

It was so good to be able to go to Oak Ridge Cemetery again on Memorial Day 2024 where I was privileged to take part in the British Service to remember and honour John Paul Riddle and the 23 cadets who were killed in Florida and are buried in the Cemetery at Arcadia. We continue to owe a debt of gratitude to the Arcadia Rotary Club and especially the Chair of the British Memorial Service, Paul Bennett Seusy. Once again, Ross Allen of the Jacobite Pipe and Drum Band of Sarasota played before service started and the Lament and Taps at the end. The special guest this year was John G Clary, the son of Reed R Clary who was a flight instructor at Riddle Field during WW2.



The sky was blue and the sun shone! It got hotter as the day wore on and after lunch, the temperature was 36°C (97°F). A lovely Florida day.

Representatives from the RAF contingent at AFB MacDill joined us and raised the RAF Ensign and the Union Flag (Union Jack) during the service. We were also joined by local Scouts.

Members of the British Car Club of SW Florida drove to Oak Ridge Cemetery to participate in the service and lay a wreath. The organised drive started from Fort Myers and after the ceremony, members had lunch at Mary Margaret's Tea and Biscuit in Arcadia.

The Suncoast Scots, who promote Scottish culture, joined us this year and laid a wreath to remember the cadets. Their aim is to ensure that centuries of old Scottish and Celtic traditions and customs continue.



Before the service. Paul Seusy is on the right



John G Clary giving the Memorial Comments



Placing the poppy wreaths and flags by the headstones of the cadets



Above: The Floral Tributes. Below: Ross Allen playing the Lament and Taps





After the service. The RAF personnel are on the left and one of the Scouts is on the right.



Thomas Parry's Headstone. Thomas was Welsh and always has a Welsh flag (with a dragon) placed by his headstone



A highlight was a Flypast in a Stearman PT-19 flown by Michael Wilcox. The familiar sound of the yellow and blue plane, with US Army markings clearly visible, was a wonderful addition to the programme this year.



After the service many of us went to **Mary Margaret's Tea and Biscuit** at 10 South Polk Avenue, Arcadia, for lunch. The tables in the dining room were laid with very suitable tablecloths!

For Reservations – phone 1-863-494-0615. For more information about Mary Margaret's Tea and Biscuits, and details of their menu, please visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/MaryMargaretsTeaAndBiscuit/>



68th Annual British Memorial Service May 26, 2024

The service will start at 10am

The Service is organized, as it has been for the past 66 years, by Arcadia Rotary Club

Address: PO Box 1492, Arcadia, FL 34265-1492

Telephone for information at 863-444-0664

Email: BritishMemorialService@gmail.com

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

In Memoriam

Claude Alan Axworthy OBE: Course 10. Died August 13, 2023, aged 101.



Alan Axworthy (as he preferred to be known) died on August 13, 2023, at Plymouth, UK. He was a member of Course 10 and was at Clewiston from August 15, 1942, to February 19, 1943. He was one of the team of four cadets who produced the Course 10 'Listening Out'.

He may have taken the photos included in this Listening Out.

<https://commons.erau.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1144&context=fly-paper>

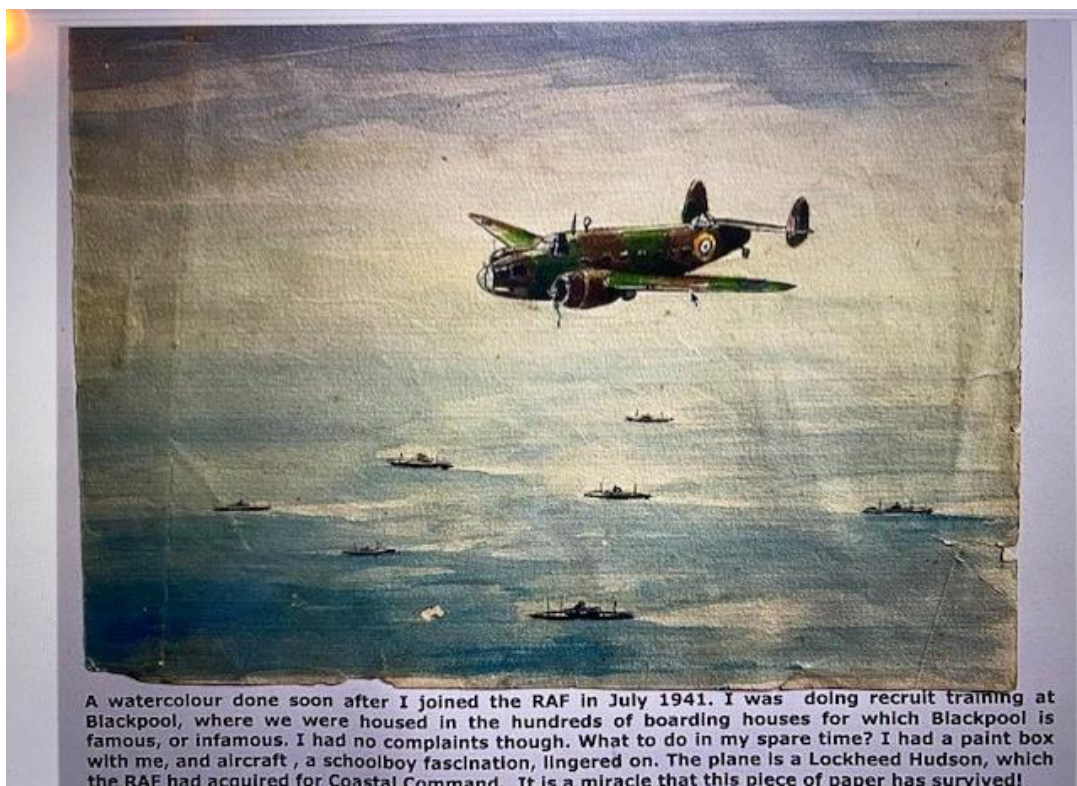
← LAC Alan Axworthy – Clewiston August 1942

After leaving the RAF at the end of WW2, Alan joined HM Government's Civil Service and enjoyed a long and successful career with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He served in Embassies in Germany, USA, Japan and Canada, rising to Third Secretary. He was awarded the OBE for his service. He leaves two sons and a daughter.

Alan was a talented artist. His daughter, Ann, has sent me a copy of a painting he did in 1941 with an explanation written by Alan in later life, and another that he drew at the end of his life (at the top of page 6).



Alan Axworthy in later life →



A watercolour done soon after I joined the RAF in July 1941. I was doing recruit training at Blackpool, where we were housed in the hundreds of boarding houses for which Blackpool is famous, or infamous. I had no complaints though. What to do in my spare time? I had a paint box with me, and aircraft, a schoolboy fascination, lingered on. The plane is a Lockheed Hudson, which the RAF had acquired for Coastal Command. It is a miracle that this piece of paper has survived!



Hugo Trotter DFC: Course 11. Died February 27, 2024, aged 100



From Course 11 Listening Out. April 2, 1943

Hugo Trotter, DFC, member of the Order of the Légion d'honneur and founder member of the 5BFTS Association, died peacefully at home in February.




Hugo – photograph by Anne Hughes 2023

Hugh Stuart Stucley Trotter, better known to us as Hugo, was born in London in 1923. He attended Harrow School and, in September 1941, went to Glasgow to take part in a University Short Course designed to deliver training to undergraduates prior to their entry to the RAF. He was on an RAF Induction Course at Regents Park in April 1942 and later that year, Hugo sailed across the Atlantic arriving in Canada in September 1942. He travelled south from RAF Moncton in New Brunswick, Canada to Clewiston via Boston and New York, and was a member of Course 11 from September 25, 1942, to April 8, 1943. At Clewiston, the cadets were billeted in groups of four. Hugo's roommates were Pete Varley, Peter Train, known as 'Puff', and George Watt. Hugo first met Pete Varley at Glasgow when they were both doing the University Short Course and met Peter Train at Regents Park. These four, who were probably friends by the time they arrived at RAF Moncton, remained firm friends during their time in Clewiston. They returned to Canada to sail home via Philadelphia and New York.

In 2017, Hugo asked me if I would like to see his photograph album from his time at Clewiston. The answer was an unequivocal 'yes' and several editions of the newsletter starting in March 2018 contained photographs taken by Hugo - these chronicled his journeys between Clewiston and Canada, and his time at Clewiston and in the camp at Riddle Field. There were many pictures of airplanes and various sporting activities, and some show how they spent their leisure time, for example, fishing and visiting other parts of Florida. The four friends feature regularly, although there are pictures of other well-known 5BFTS people, such as John Potter who became President of the 5BFTS Association and was also on Course 11.

Returning to the UK and after further training, Hugo was posted to 12 Squadron, a bomber squadron who were re-equipped with Lancasters in 1943. The Squadron was at RAF

Wickenby in Lincolnshire. An entry in the London Gazette of January 19, 1945, shows that Hugo won the DFC while with 12 Squadron.

	<p><i>L-R: Pete, George, Hugo and Puff</i></p> <p>Hugo remarks that, "we all shared the same room at Clewiston which meant that none of us at the end of the Course were Officer Material!"</p> <p>In the end, Puff, Hugo and Pete were all commissioned as officers and Hugo won the DFC. After WW2, Puff became a doctor and lived in Essex. He died between 2001 and 2005. Pete became a test pilot with the Gloster Aircraft Company in 1955 and then with Armstrong Whitworth. He died in 1989. Hugo became a solicitor. George's career in the RAF and afterwards is unknown.</p>
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Above: From 5BFTS Newsletter, March 2018. Below: From Hugo's Photograph Album: Graduation Day April 8, 1943, at Riddle Field for Course 11, 5BFTS



- Back row: Higgins Jay Cheesebrough Edwards Dyson Downs Jack Dukelow Shipton Amos Watt trotter Varley Train
- Middle Row: Thatcher Barrett Magness Bruce Mark Burgess Potter West Hobson Johnstone Kent Tattershall Gaskell Macphie Thomas
- Front row: Curtis-Haywood Carroll Hatchwood Davies Hicks (5 RAF Officers and John Paul Riddle) Jeffries Crook Hanlon Charlesworth Lockwood

After WW2, Hugo became a solicitor. As a result of a chance meeting in 1963 between John Potter and Johnny Jorgenson (both ex-Course 11), a reunion was arranged and on April 9, 1964, 21 years since they had been awarded their Wings, 21 members of Course 11 dined at

the Royal; Aero Club in London. This was the start of the 5BFTS Association and Hugo became the Honorary Solicitor.



After service in the RAF flying Lancasters and Dakotas, Hugo took up gliding at Redhill, and soon became Chairman of the Surrey Gliding Club. He served as Team Manager of the British team in the 1954 World Gliding Championship. In 2001, he received a lifetime award for involvement in gliding. Hugo received the Legion d'Honneur as a part of the French government's recognition of veterans of the Battle of Normandy. In May 2024, Hugo was invited to visit his old RAF Squadron, No 12, and the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.

Harold Kosola: Died October 11, 2024, aged 88

Harold A. Kosola, 88, passed away peacefully on October 11, 2024, in Columbus, Georgia, with his family by his side. His funeral was on October 19, and he was interred at Crown Hill Cemetery, Albany. He was a great supporter of 5BFTS and became a Vice President of the Association in about 2005. I think that Harold would be very pleased to know that he is now resting close by seven RAF cadets who died during pilot training in Georgia and are also interred in Crown Hill Cemetery. The RAF flag flies by their graves. Harold is survived by his wife of 59 years, Joan, two daughters and six grandchildren.



*Harold – 5BFTS Association Reunion.
Derby 2004*



*Oak Ridge Cemetery. Memorial Day 2017. From left:
Harold, Bill Thompson (ERAU), Jenny Harding [Editor]*

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Harold graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) in 1963 with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. He spent over 40 years in the aerospace industry, founding Kosola and Associates, Inc., where he led product design, aircraft repair, and engineering consulting for all types of aircraft. His contributions to agricultural aviation earned him a place in the National Agricultural Aviation Association Hall of Fame. Harold remained connected to Embry-Riddle throughout his life, serving as a founding officer and president of the Alumni Association and as a member of the Board of Trustees. He also played a key role in honoring the RAF cadets who trained at 5BFTS, Clewiston, during WW2.

In 2007, he received the Alumni Award for Distinguished Service. Known for his boundless energy and unpredictable sense of humor, Harold never hesitated to fly or take a road trip with his family or for business. His adventurous spirit took him to 37 countries, where he made lifelong friends. With the constant support of his wife Joan, who was also his business partner, Harold blended work and family seamlessly. He treated employees like family and mentored many young professionals. Family was at the heart of Harold's life. He cherished time with his wife, children, and grandchildren, and his love of genealogy connected him to his Finnish heritage and friends worldwide.



Harold attended many 5BFTS reunions in the UK and in the USA and was well known to us all. The Chairman of the Association always wrote newsletters to keep the members up to date and this was originally distributed in North America by Blaine Schultz (one of the USAAF cadets who was on Course 12). At the September 2004 Association Reunion in Derby, it was announced that Blaine was stepping down from this duty. Harold volunteered and took over the distribution from Blaine. He continued to distribute the newsletter at his own expense in North America until the Association disbanded in 2013. After this, Harold asked me if I would write a newsletter to keep all those interested in 5BFTS connected with each other and the first edition was published in March 2015. Harold continued to distribute this until 2018.

Left: Harold and Bob Rocket, Dean from ERAU, by John Paul Riddle's headstone, British Plot, Oak Tree Cemetery, Arcadia on Memorial Day during the 1990s.

In December 2016, Harold had a major stroke although he recovered sufficiently to remain living at home. In 2020, however, he moved into Magnolia House, Americus, Georgia, which is where he was living when he died this month.

In Harold's own words.....

The following is taken from the Winter 2008 5BFTS Association Newsletter

MY INTRODUCTION TO AVIATION, EMBRY RIDDLE AND No.5 B.F.T.S.

When I was a young boy, of 4, living in Detroit, Michigan, I used to listen to the radio often. All this is embedded in my head, and I can remember this clearly today, even after 60+ years. I remember listening to "London Calling", about the London blitz. I eagerly listened to the news about the Royal Air Force pilots, and their flights and battles of the war. Then on Sunday afternoon, 7 December 1941, the radio announced that Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. Both London and Pearl Harbor started my interest in airplanes. My first airplane ride was at Detroit City airport in a Beech model 18. When I was about 6 years old, I moved to Miami, Florida, where my uncle, Gaston "Don" Davis noticed that I was very interested in airplanes. He was one of the first pilots flying for Eastern Airlines.

Uncle Don had a friend, John SW Davis (no relation) who was a flight instructor at Riddle Field, Clewiston, Florida training the British cadets at 5BFTS. My uncle made arrangements to take me to Clewiston, where I met some of the cadets and toured the base and its airplanes. I remember clearly that we were in one of the barracks where they told me to flip a coin on the bed sheet of a made up bed. If the coin bounced, the bed was made correctly. Also, sometime later, when my father and I were headed north on the train, Miami to Jacksonville, the train stopped in the West Palm Beach area for more passengers. Some British cadets got on, and I talked to them, since they were heading home to England.

A year or two later, I listened to the radio on a bright Saturday morning in Miami and it was said that a fleet of Embry Riddle airplanes will be flying over at 1PM to promote the sale of war bonds. The roar of the engines coming from the north, heading south, really got me excited. It was a beautiful sight, which I will never forget.

In my later years I became an aircraft mechanic, and an engine inspector working at Miami International Airport at Aerodex, and on Kwajalien Marshall Islands, South Central Pacific. Here it was very isolated and to fill in time, I took a correspondence course about aircraft engines and aeronautical engineering, since I had very little work to do. I would work only when an airplane would arrive which was about 1 to 3 times per week. I worked with a couple of guys who went to Embry Riddle (one was Ted Augustine).

I decided to go to engineering school at Embry Riddle when I returned. After a year on Kwajalien making big dollars, I ended up back in Miami working at American Aeromotive, as a mechanic, until they lost the contract. I then went to Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa, Oklahoma to take up Jet Engine Maintenance and Overhaul courses for which I received a diploma. Returning back to Miami, I tried finding a job but could not find one so I thought this would be a good time to start school at Embry Riddle for Aeronautical Engineering, in Miami. I still had a lot of money saved from my Kwajalien job to pay for my schooling, but I also worked part-time at a rent-a-car company and as a draftsman for a well-known person who made the film, 'War of the Worlds'. I graduated in 1963 after 2 years and eight months at the school with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aeronautical Engineering. I did this by going full time, no summer breaks, plus some courses were transferred from Spartan and work experience.

As time went on the British Cadets and their aeroplanes always came up in my mind. When I was President of the Embry Riddle Alumni Association in the early 1970s, I made contact with the 5BFTS cadets again, and I attended their reunion in Miami at the Sweden House. Also note that I was one of the founding members of the Embry Riddle Alumni Association encouraged by the President, Jack Hunt. I kept in contact with one of the 5BFTS cadets, until he died, then lost contact with the group. Then in the early 1990s I made contact with the 5BFTS group again, and this time, I did not lose contact, and I attend their reunions regularly.

Editor's note: Harold wrote in 2005 that the British Cadets whom he met during WW2 became his heroes! In the 1950s, he remembered his hero RAF pilots from Clewiston and went to Clewiston several times to see where they had trained at Riddle Field. Later, while at Embry-Riddle School of Aviation (the precursor to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University) he heard more about 5BFTS and took more trips along US27 to Clewiston to see Riddle Field. At that time, various buildings were still standing including the swimming pool.

After graduating, Harold worked at Piper Aircraft Corp. in Vero Beach, Florida then Rockwell International, Aero Commander Division in Albany, Georgia. He obtained a pilot's license with land and sea ratings. He then started up his own company, Kosola and Associates in Albany.

Bruce Ford-Coates: Died September 9, 2014, aged 91.

Amy Ferrell of the Gulf Coast St. David's Welsh Society told me about Bruce who trained as a pilot in Florida. it is interesting that he was an RAF cadet but has both RAF and USAAF Wings.

Bruce gave the Memorial Comments at the British Memorial Day Service at Oak Ridge Cemetery in 2010 and so, I thought it worth including a little about him in the Newsletter.

Bruce Ford-Coates, 91, of Sarasota, FL died on September 9, 2014. Born November 25, 1922, in London, he was the son of Anne Maclean and Norman Ford-Coates. While at University in 1938, he joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. After graduation from the University of St. Andrew's in Scotland, he finished pilot training in Florida earning RAF and USAAF pilot wings. Getting on well with Americans, he was ordered to help train American pilots in the United States. In 1943, he met and married U.S. Army Air Corps Flight Nurse Lt. Ernestine "Tina" Forney who predeceased him in 2005.

Transferred back to Europe, he served as a combat fighter pilot flying Hurricanes, Spitfires, P-51 Mustangs, Typhoon 1Bs, and postwar, the British jet Gloster Meteor. He achieved the rank of Squadron Leader, flew 6 sorties on D-Day and was shot down over Holland in 1944.

After demobilization, he emigrated to the U.S., becoming a proud citizen. He had a successful career with Dover Elevator in Ohio and New York. In 1978, he retired to Sarasota where he was active in the Sarasota Power Squadron, Gyro International and the Retired Officers Club. Proud of his Scottish heritage, he was a member of the Caledonian Club and the St. Andrew Society. As one of the last surviving RAF cadets who trained in Arcadia, FL, he was the honored guest at the British Memorial Day ceremony at Oak Ridge Cemetery in 2010.

He is survived by his beloved wife Adelyn and her son (Bruce's stepson), his own three sons and his daughter. Often described as a true gentleman, he was an inspiration to his 10 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

We must also remember several members of the Gulf Coast St. David's Welsh Society in Sarasota who recently died. The Sarasota Welsh Society is a great supporter of 5BFTS, and their members always attend the British Service on Memorial Day at Oak Tree Cemetery to lay a wreath in remembrance, and poppies and a Welsh flag by the headstones of three cadets who are known to be Welsh and died while at Clewiston.

We remember the following members who died recently: Phil Jones (Corresponding Secretary), Nancy Parry, D'Arlene Llewellyn, Bob Brown Don Hughes (Founder, Past President and Lifetime Trustee) and Pam Edmunds. We send condolences to their families.

It is always very sad when some of our few remaining pilots 'hand in their logbooks' and in this edition, we say 'goodbye' to Alan Axworthy and Hugo Trotter, both aged over 100. This month, 4BFTS has also said 'goodbye' to one of their pilots who died just a few days after the Dedication Service at the NMA (see below). **Len Worsdell** was at 4BFTS (Falcon Field) on Course 27 and died last week aged 99. We send condolences to his family.

We remember all pilots who have handed in their logbooks, and to other Riddle Field staff and friends known to us who have done so much to keep their memories alive.

WE ARE HERE BECAUSE THEY WERE THERE!

1BFTS, 4BFTS and 5BFTS – working together at the National Memorial Arboretum

In 2002, the 5BFTS Grove of five birch trees was dedicated at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) during the 5BFTS Association September National Reunion which was held in Derby that year. In 2006, the 1BFTS Association dedicated a tree and a bench.

The recent New Year Newsletter mentioned that there is nothing at the NMA to remember the 4BFTS Association, and that the Falcon Field Association: *The Next Generation* had decided to rectify this. I explained how I asked four 5BFTS Association members if they agreed to 4BFTS placing a plaque by one of our trees. They all immediately said 'yes'.

Dedication of the 4BFTS Plaque on October 19, 2024, at the National Memorial Arboretum



Making sure the 5BFTS Plaque looked smart



The 5BFTS Plaque and poppy crosses by one of the English Birch trees



Those with fathers/grandfathers/uncles who were cadets at 4BFTS or 5BFTS placed a cross for our relative. I placed one for my father by another one to remember all those who were at 5BFTS.

About 50 people gathered to witness the plaque being dedicated. One of these was 99 year old Ted Pick who was at 4BFTS Falcon Field on Course 25. He came with his son and daughter, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

4BFTS was at Mesa in Arizona and the City of Mesa was represented by Jen Duff, from Mesa City Council. Jen has a personal connection with 4BFTS – her uncle was the RAF Navigation Officer at 4BFTS The RAF was represented by Air Commodore Adam Samsom, RAF Regional Air Officer, North England.

I told everyone the story of how the 5BFTS Grove and Plaque was dedicated in 2002 and how the current plaque was installed in 2016 (See Newsletter 27, New Year 2024)



The Grove of five Birch Trees – two English Birch Trees in the centre with two American Birch Trees on the left and one on the right. All is ready for the Dedication.



Two English Birch Trees and two Plaques! The 5BFTS Plaque is to the left and facing into the Grove and the 4BFTS Plaque (under the RAF Ensign) is to the right

	<p>It was a beautiful autumn day with a lot of blue sky and a familiar noise could be heard as a Stearman PT-17 came into view. The pilot circled round a few times and then waggled his wings as he said goodbye and flew off.</p>
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The plaque was then unveiled by Ted Pick, Jen Duff and Air Commodore Adam Samsom.



Ted Pick unveiling the plaque with help from Jen Duff and Adam Samsom



Admiring the plaque - from left: Jen, Fr Bob Davies (in background), Ted, Adam and Kathryn.

The Dedication Service.

- Christine Cornwell (Father Jim Cornwell, Course 21) led us in prayer;
- Janice White (Father Frank Oakley Course 14/15) quoted from Isaiah Chapter 40 verse 31, "They will rise on wings like eagles". These words are on the 4BFTS plaque;
- Kathryn Masters, Chair Falcon Field Association: The Next Generation (Father Hugh Harrison Course 27) recited High Flight by Pilot Officer John Gillespie Magee;
- Jocelyn Condon representing the 4BFTS Association in Mesa, read the poem that I have included in my Reflection on page 1;
- Fr Bob Davies OBC (Father Griffith Davies Course 23) gave us the Blessing.



Janice White quoting from Isaiah

The 5BFTS Plaque is on the left and the 4BFTS Plaque is on the right

BBC Midlands Today came and interviewed Ted, Jen and Adam. This can be seen at https://youtu.be/NQL_w7vgey8

I felt very proud that 5BFTS could share the day and the BFTS grove with 4BFTS. In the grove, there are 3 American birch trees and two English Birch trees – now each of the English Birch tree has a BFTS plaque attached. What a lovely way to start thinking about celebrations for August/September 2025 to mark 80 years since training stopped at 1, 3, 4 and 5 BFTS in 1945.



This small area of the RAF section at the NMA really does stand as a quiet place of remembrance not just for those at BFTS Numbers 1, 4 and 5, but for all those who were at any of the BFTS locations in America. It is a very peaceful place.

Left: 1BFTS Bench, tree and plaque holder which is adjacent to the grove of five trees. The plaque has been removed for renovation and be replaced when that is complete.



Clewiston Update



The Museum displays information and links, which connect to photographs and other archives <https://www.theclewistonmuseum.org>. Click the 'Exhibit' tab and the 5BFTS logo takes you to photo archives and clicking on, 'Clewiston and beyond' takes you to my book about my father in the ERAU archives. Look in Digital Archives for copies of 'The Clewiston News' published between 1941 and 1945 – a great way to find out what was happening at Riddle Field!

Meantime, the museum has had a makeover!

Director Leigh Woodham has been working really hard all through the summer on a project to upgrade the signage and displays at the museum. I have helped where I can with the 5BFTS displays and showcases by identifying photos, uniform, documents etc and 'translating' RAF language. I am reliably informed that the finished product looks pretty good. I am looking forward to seeing it next year. Thank you, Leigh.



On behalf of 5BFTS, please can I, once again, thank Clewiston Museum, Jeff Barwick, Leigh Woodham, Director of the Museum and the Museum Board for looking after the 5BFTS archives and doing such a wonderful job keeping 5BFTS alive for the visitors to the museum.

Useful websites:

- Clewiston Museum: <https://www.theclewistonmuseum.org>
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Archives: www.erau.edu/archives
- Embry-Riddle Scholarly Commons #5BFTS Digital Archive: <https://commons.erau.edu/british-flying-training-school/>
- #5 British Flying Training School: <http://www.5bfts.org.uk>
- 'George Hogarth – Clewiston and Beyond'. *Memoirs of George Hogarth, Course 3* <http://commons.erau.edu/clewiston-beyond/1/>
- Frederick J Brittain Flying was my Life 1918 – 2002 www.frederickjbrittain.com
- Roy Mather DFC (Co 12): "A Pilot's Story – A Chesterfield Hero" www.vickersvaliant.com

The next newsletter will be published around New Year. Please can you let me have any articles, information, etc. by the end of November 2024. The more you tell me, the more interesting the newsletter will be – and I would especially like to hear if anyone worked with, or knows, any of the people mentioned in this newsletter. Anecdotes, stories and pictures would be great. And for now.....

"Until we meet again, "good-bye to y'all".