

## NEWSLETTER 5 - NOVEMBER 2016

### SHORT BROTHERS COMMEMORATION SOCIETY

Well, we are back into gear, albeit a slower one but we are speeding up.

I was sorry that I divulged everyone's email address with NEWSLETTER 4. Hopefully the private emails have not suffered nuisance because of my mistake and the 'company' ones are public knowledge anyway. I was 'rusty' in the procedures after several weeks without a computer but do already have a Newsletter group. I just put it in the wrong email header. 'BCC' it will forever be from here on!

As you may know we started our Short Brothers Project following the start given by material handed down to Liz by her mother (Margaret Addie Short) and our original intention was to restore the graves. After rejection by the Heritage Lottery Fund and their Memorial Fund we were left with gathering the many threads of the Short's story from existing texts and what we could find in North Kent. We have found much and are slowly getting it into our exhibition panels that now cover Shellbeach/Muswell Manor, Eastchurch, Rochester Seaplane Works and Rochester Airport factory and importantly includes SHORTS 'BOYS' information– the men and women who worked for Shorts, (some through their descendants and some face to face). It is not a short story by any means and is the subject of a book that Liz is writing now for publication late Spring 2017.

We have not given up on the grave restoration but the eight/nine thousand pounds for Horace and Eustace's graves is serious money and a big job. Oswald's grave restoration at Lynchmere is not such a big job and can be accomplished for about one thousand pounds. We are deeply indebted to two West Sussex County Councillors, a Transport Trust Aviation expert and Lynchmere Parish Council for starting a fund to achieve this restoration. [We are therefore appealing to you all to please donate, no matter how small, so that before next summer we may see Oswald's grave restored to a state befitting the national monument it surely is.](#)

I have been given a few anecdotes and memories about Short Brothers that are now in our exhibition and will soon be on the website but could do with more, even the smallest memory - when last at Queenborough we were told that Horace used to take the loose change from his pocket and throw it to the assembled children.

**SHORT BROTHERS**  
Aviation Pioneers



The Art Competition has long since finished and we have twelve worthy pictures framed and ready for exhibition at County Hall and Rochester Library together with as much of our exhibition as space allows. Other sites on Sheppey are being sought.

Have you heard the one about the man who built his own aeroplane...?



*Best wishes,*