

Dear Colleagues,

I can't believe that it is now coming up to six months since my last newsletter – gosh, how the time has flown by, with Summer fast becoming a distant memory!

I have included a range of updates in this Newsletter, which I hope you will find of interest. I would also encourage all of you, should you have any thoughts on items that could be included in future newsletters, please feel free to pass them on to me.

### Annual Subscriptions

To those of you who joined before 1st January 2023 I would be very grateful if you could check that you have renewed your subscription which became due on 1st April. **If you find that you have not yet, I would be grateful if you could renew it as soon as possible.** It remains excellent value at £10 per annum. It would be really helpful if you are willing to make payment by setting up an annual bank standing order or by direct transfer to the RIA account as below using Subs and your surname as the reference.

Account Name: Rushmoor International Association, Sort Code: 30-91-53, Account number: 03517668

*Note:- if you joined RIA after 1st January 2023 your subscription is valid until 31st March 2024.*

### Oberursel Citizens Visit (VFOS) to Rushmoor:- 25th - 29th May

This was, without doubt, an extremely successful visit, which I am confident was enjoyed by all who attended.

The programme included a tour of the historic Wind Tunnels and the former Institute of Aviation Medicine's Centrifuge, together with the FAST Museum. Our guests also had a trip on the Basingstoke Canal, a tour and talk at the Southwood Country Park, followed by a tour of the Rowhill Nature Reserve. They also visited the Royal Horticultural Society Gardens at Wisley – on what turned out to be one of the hottest days of the year!

We also had plenty of opportunities to socialise with our guests at a welcome dinner at the Village Hotel, a meal at Dolcia Italia, a buffet dinner in the garden at my home and finally a delightful farewell BBQ at the Farnborough Rugby Club.

I am indebted to all those who helped to make the event successful – **thank you all.**

Our German friends were delightful and so interested in everything they did and saw – and the untypical English weather helped! All the RIA Members who took part in the visit, felt they had made warm and close friendships with our guests.

Hilary and I were delighted to be invited to join members of the VFOS Board to an informal meal, whilst in Oberursel in July.



*On arriving at the Village Hotel Sylvia handed over the Oberursel flag to me.*



*FAST Volunteers explain how the Centrifuge worked*



*And the Mayor came too!*



*Arriving at RHS Wisley*



*Enjoying the canal*



*At the BBQ*



*Dinner at my place*



*VFOS say thank you*

## Oberursel Brunnenfest:- 2nd - 5th June

Hilary and I, together with June and Charlie represented RIA at this annual event. RIA had been invited by the Buergermeisterin to support the event as part of the International Village. We arranged to sell malt whisky shots, from a bar adjoining the VFOS stand selling “English” beer. We were delighted that Cactus Brass were able to entertain everyone.

We were extremely grateful to our VFOS friends for the help and support they gave us throughout the event – they were brilliant.

Unfortunately, due largely to the extremely hot weather, whisky sales were disappointingly low, but nevertheless the event was successful as we met so many Oberursel citizens.

We intend to use the unsold whisky stocks at the upcoming Oberursel Christmas Market.



## Serin Oh, The Marketing and Communications Manager at the National Aviation Heritage Area, Dayton:- 8th August

Veronica kindly organised Serin's visit to the FAST Museum, including a tour of the historic Wind Tunnels and a discussion on archiving.

I am extremely grateful to my colleagues at FAST for making time available for the visit and also to Councillor David Clifford – Leader Rushmoor Borough Council, for officially welcoming our guest.

The visit was very successful and enabled the exchange of knowledge and ideas around protecting aviation heritage.



*FAST Volunteer Steve Mullen explains how a wind tunnel works*

*Dr Graham Rood discussing archiving with Serin*



## Hochtaunus Schule (Oberursel) Visit:- 25th - 28th September

On 25 September, a group of students arrived in Rushmoor to spend time at Farnborough College of Technology, where they joined in a series of lectures with local students.

There is a real commitment between both colleges to strengthen relationships and look for further opportunities for joint activities.

## Proposed Visit by Felicitas Kutz the Oberursel Brunnenkoenigin (Fountain Queen)

We are currently looking to arrange for Felicitas to visit Rushmoor in November, to take part in switching on this year's Christmas lights.





**Oberursel Christmas Market:-  
30th November - 3rd December**

As I have reported previously, last year's Christmas Market was extremely successful and I am delighted that RIA has been invited to take part again this year.

I am pleased that we have been offered a stall in the Stadthaller as last year, which is ideal for us as it proved to be an extremely busy area.

We are proposing to sell a similar range of products – including Christmas crackers – which were missed greatly by our customers last year!

If anyone is interested in working on the RIA stand this year, I would be grateful if you could let me know.



**RIA Constitution**

A paper on proposed changes to the Constitution is being reported to the RIA meeting on Wednesday 4 October and I would like to try and identify individual members willing to take a lead in relation to each of our twin towns.

Peter Bassett has already kindly volunteered to take on this role for Meudon and it would be nice to get arrangements in place for the other twin towns.



**Rushmoor Community Lottery- Rushmoor Borough Council**

This has proved to be an extremely successful initiative by the Borough Council and is a well-received weekly lottery that raises money for good causes in Rushmoor, including the Rushmoor International Association. Tickets cost just £1 per week and there is a top prize of £25,000. From every £1 ticket you buy, 60p goes to local good causes and you are able to specify the particular organisation you wish to see benefit – hopefully Rushmoor International Association!

I joined sometime ago and pay by direct debit and would urge you all to consider joining and making the RIA your preferred cause.

To buy tickets follow this link <https://www.rushmoorlottery.co.uk/>

**Date of Next Meeting**

This will be held on **Wednesday 4th October at 7:00 pm in the Concorde Room at the Borough Council Offices**. An agenda and notes on the previous meeting are attached.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew'.

Andrew Lloyd

Chairman Rushmoor International Association

1st October 2023

e-mail : [jandrew.lloyd@btopenworld.com](mailto:jandrew.lloyd@btopenworld.com)