

Milestone marked by journey from Australia

Joanne Ginley

OM Scotland became something of a hero after he managed to steer his stricken Halifax bomber away from housing in a West Yorkshire village and crash land it into a nearby field.

Amazingly he managed to escape from the burning plane relatively unscathed and after being helped from the wreckage by locals in fields known as Devil's Glen he was taken by his rescuers to the nearby Saville Arms in Hunsworth, near Cleckheaton, where he was given a stiff drink.

Mr Scotland died last year but his son, John, has travelled to Yorkshire from Australia, where his father lived, to see a memorial unveiled to mark the seventieth anniversary of the events of that remarkable night.

Also among the party was Bill Duncanson, who as a schoolboy, was in a group who saw the plane crash out of the skies and who ran to the pub and peered through the windows to see Mr Scotland.

The fleeting glimpse of the pilot who had helped avert a disaster was to be the last that Mr Duncanson would see of him until 2003, when remarkably the pair discovered by chance that they were both in Australia and living within ten miles of each other in Perth.

"The crash had a huge impact upon my father's life," Mr Scotland said.

"Dad described that he wanted to jump out of the plane but after he had told the rest of his crew to bail out and by the time he got ready to bail out he realised he was in a built-up area so he had to jump back into the seat and fly somewhere not as built up – which is what he did," he added.

During his visit Mr Scotland also travelled to the Yorkshire Air Museum, at Elvington, near York, where he was given a tour of the museum and was shown a Halifax bomber like the one his father flew.

"My dad primarily flew Halifax bombers. I am getting to see a real Halifax. I have never seen one before."



MAIN PICTURES: GERARD BINKS

He said he was looking forward to clambering aboard the plane and getting a feel for what life was like for his father.

Mr Duncanson was one of four boys who witnessed the crash on Boxing Day 1943. The others were Arthur Hobson, John Jackson and Granville Clarke.

In later years Mr Hobson began

a campaign to have Mr Scotland's bravery remembered, enlisting the help of Spen MP Mike Wood, who asked Spen Valley Civic Society and Drub Village Institute to take on the project for a memorial on Drub village green.

Both Mr Duncanson and Mr Scotland were in Drub to

“It was planned it would be unveiled last year and we were trying to get dad here while he was alive but he was just too ill,” Mr Scotland said.

“This whole time has been remarkable; it’s been a very moving time for me.

"I just cannot describe how much it means to me."
During the war the RAF Pathfinder pilot completed 63 missions. Mr Scotland recalls that when his father returned home it was clear he had lived through some difficult times.
"When he came back to Australia he did not sleep well; he

had nightmares so we knew that something was wrong.

"When we were young he would talk about this crash because I think it was very significant for him.

"The other thing that he often talked about were his crew and how important they were to him."

At the memorial unveiling in Drub, the scene of the crash, Mr Duncanson, who struck up a firm friendship with Mr Scotland in later years after he managed to trace him, told those gathered for the ceremony: "When Tom and I would meet in later years it became clear that Tom had a deep affection for this place and these people.

"It was more than a crash for Tom, it was something that really changed his life.

"This memorial stone will weather down until it becomes part of Drub, and kids will come by, jump and play on it and people will read the words on it and see that a Halifax bomber crashed here and will wonder how that happened."

joanne.ginley@ypn.co.uk

THE Halifax was an important aircraft which played a major role in the bomber offensive. With its four engines the first Halifax took to the skies in 1939 and No 35 Squadron was the first squadron to form on the Halifax. No 35 Squadron carried out its first operation in the Halifax in March 1941 with an attack on Le Havre. The following night the Halifax was in service over Germany. A Victoria Cross was awarded to a Halifax pilot, with pilot officer Cyril Barton of No 578 Squadron posthumously honoured after bringing his aircraft back to England from the Nuremberg raid of 30-31 March 1944. The aircraft could not be coaxed back to base and Barton was forced to crash-land. He lost his life but the remaining members of the crew survived.

B&Bs where you buy your own beer and eat out at night can be better value than all-inclusive breaks, according to a Post Office Travel Money survey.

A seven-night bed-and-breakfast trip to the Portuguese Algarve, for example, could be £648 cheaper per couple than an Algarve all-inclusive break where food and drink are thrown in.

B&B trips to Cyprus and to Spain's Costa Blanca are also better value than all-inclusives, but those visiting Spain's Costa del Sol, Majorca or Corfu would be better off opting for all-inclusive breaks rather than B&B ones.

For its survey, Post Office Travel Money compared the cheapest seven-night B&B and all-inclusive packages for two adults departing

from London airports available on June 21 for travel between July 24 and August 6 this year. Package prices included return flights and three/four-star accommodation for two adults. For B&B packages the cost of evening meals, beer and Coca-Cola was added to the package price to provide a comparison with all-inclusive. Dates in early July and Septem-

ber were also checked and results were consistent with the July-August findings which showed that those on Algarve B&B packages would pay £857 per couple compared with £1,505 for an all-inclusive package.

In Cyprus, the B&B deal was £144 better than the all-inclusive one, and in the Costa Blanca those on B&Bs would be £5.43 better off

An all-inclusive deal was the better option by £54 in both Corfu and Majorca and it was the better deal by £6.69 in the Costa del Sol. The study also found that one in six of those on all-inclusive breaks had paid for a la carte meals to avoid the repetition of eating in the hotel buffet restaurant. Around the same number said their buffet food was "like eating

Of 40 hotels surveyed, 30 excluded bottles of wine from their all-inclusive deals, although house wine by the glass was on offer. Andrew Brown, of Post Office Travel Money, said: "Our research has shown that European all-inclusive resorts consistently offer less than their long-haul coun-

erparts, so holidaymakers need to be aware of what is included in order to avoid getting caught out. "We found that the all-inclusive rate is not always cheaper. In some destinations like the Algarve and Spanish Costas, where restaurant prices have fallen dramatically this year, it may be cheaper to book a B&B package and eat out each day."

Olé!

**Take advantage of our low rate
Zero Fee Tracker Mortgage**

Fee-free Lifetime Tracker Current Account Special		
Tracks the Bank of England base rate plus	Current rate payable	The overall cost for comparison is
1.89% for the term	2.39%	2.4% APR
Maximum 50% loan to value (LTV). Maximum loan size £500,000.		

Zero fee and Fee-free means: no booking fee, no standard valuation fee, no completion fee.

We will cover the cost of one standard valuation where this is required by HSBC as part of your mortgage application. Other fees and charges may be payable to other parties including, but not limited to, legal fees and charges levied by your existing lender. You must hold or open an HSBC current account to qualify. We reserve the right to withdraw this offer at any time without notice.

Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.

Connect to a world of mortgages

Visit us in branch or call

0800 633 5074

Lines are open until 10pm every day

HSBC 

X1052 Issued by HSBC Bank plc, 8 Canada Square, London E14 5HQ. Lines are open 8am to 10pm every day. Calls may be recorded and monitored for security and service improvement purposes. Textphone 0800 028 0126. AC26783

GARDENERS are happier than non-gardeners and less likely to display signs associated with unhappiness or depression, a survey suggests.

The poll of 1,500 UK adults for *Gardeners' World* magazine found that gardeners score higher than the average person on measures including how worthwhile they believe their life is and how satisfied they are with their life generally.

It found 80 per cent of gardeners feel satisfied with their lives compared with 67 per cent for non-gardeners, and 93 per cent of gardeners think gardening improves their mood. The survey also revealed 78 per cent of walkers are satisfied with their lives as are 75 per cent of those who fish and 73 per cent of those keen on computing compared with 55 per cent of those with no hobbies.

When asked if they were happy, 80 per cent of active people said yes compared with 57 per cent of those who described themselves as inactive.

The most popular hobby in the UK is computing or gaming, with 52 per cent of respondents naming it as their favourite pastime, while gardening came joint second at 43 per cent with walking or hiking, according to the study.



Gardeners' World editor Lucy Hall said: "We have long suspected it, but our research means we can definitely say gardening makes you happy.

"Part of it comes from nurturing something but also a natural optimism that no matter how bad the weather, there's always next year. It's also about passing the seed of knowledge and the pleasure that gives."

Over 4,500 students will take place in the university's graduation ceremonies between today and July 23. The university will also welcome a roster of eminent people who will receive Honorary

Among them will be actor Robert Powell, whose roles have ranged from Jesus Christ to stiff-upper-lip hero Richard Hannay, and artist Ashley Jackson.

One of the highlights of the proceedings will take place at 2.10pm today when a colourful procession of students and staff will wind its way through the town.

HARRY Potter author JK Rowling has secretly written a crime novel under a false name.

The Sunday Times reported the writer won plaudits for *The Cuckoo's Calling*, about a war veteran turned private investigator called Cormoran Strike.

Rowling used the moniker Robert Galbraith for the book, which was published in April, and was only rumoured after the newspaper investigated how a first-time novelist could produce such an assured debut work.

KELLY Osbourne has become engaged to the boyfriend she met at Kate Moss's wedding and declared: "We just want to be together all the time."

She accepted a proposal from Matthew Mosshart – sister of musician Alison Mosshart – as they enjoyed a holiday in Anguilla.

Osbourne, who revealed the details of the engagement in an interview with *Hello!* magazine, also told how the ring is intended to look like one of her father Ozzy's items of jewellery.

FAR more people are planning to take summer holidays this year, according to a survey.

As many as 65 per cent of British adults are likely to have a summer break in 2013, the poll by information services company Experian found.

This compared with a figure of 47 per cent who said they had gone on a summer 2011 holiday when surveyed in January 2012.

The average upfront cost of a summer break this year is £945.

OVER 50s HOME INSURANCE

Paying more than

£167?

Half of new RIAS customers paid less!*

Over 50? Call RIAS to check your buildings and contents insurance premiums now!

If you're paying more than £167* per year, RIAS could insure you for less – that's because we specialise in providing insurance to people over 50.

Call our UK-based advisors for a quote now!

- £1,000,000 buildings cover and £50,000 contents cover as standard.
- RIAS Home Insurance has been awarded a 5 Star Rating by Defaqto for its comprehensive level of cover.



defaqto

2013

★★★★★

HOME INSURANCE

*50.1% of new RIAS customers who took out a combined buildings and contents policy between 01.01.13 and 31.03.13 paid less than £167.

RING RIAS FREE Quoting ref TA1246

0800 561 3755

Lines are open 8.30am-8pm Mon-Fri & 8.30am-4pm Sat www.rias.co.uk



RIAS

Where insurance gets better with age

RIAS is a trading name of Ageas 50 Limited. Ageas 50 Limited registered office: Deansleigh House, Deansleigh Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH7 7DU. Registered number: 1324965. Registered in England and Wales. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Insurance provided by Ageas 50 Limited is not available in the Channel Islands.