



# Editorial

Colin Ashford not only supports CCI by providing wonderful cover paintings, he also spreads word of the Society to organisations other than the Guild of Aviation Artists. He recently presented his original Breguet painting, which had graced the cover of Vol 42/3, to the Royal Engineers Museum in Prince Arthur Road, Chatham. The painting will be hung near a large scale model of one of the Air Battalion's earliest type, a Bleriot XI. The photograph, below, shows Colin, left, as he made the presentation to Andrew Davis at the Museum's entrance.



## This Issue

It's all too tempting, when researching an aspect of early aviation, to rely on the national collections of information and photographs; those held in the National Archives, RAFM, FAAM and IWM. It might be the case that sometimes, what we're looking for is a lot closer to home. This issue's feature on the RAF Aircraft Exhibition of 1919 is a case in point. I'd known about that exhibition for a long time and, although I had all of the factual information to hand, could not find any photographs of what had been a major event – except for a grainy shot of a HP V/1500 in a contemporary issue of *The Aeroplane*. Years of pestering local newspapers and dealers at postcard fairs, and the like, had yielded nothing, so I was astounded when Andy Kemp drew my attention

**Front cover:** 25 September 1915. 2Lt J. N. C. Washington and observer 2Lt M. W. Greenhow in BE2c 4301 attack the Douai-Valenciennes railway, by Robin Smith

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MOD	Ministry of Defence - Crown Copyright
TNA	The National Archives
RAFM	Royal Air Force Museum, Hendon
FAAM	Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovilton
AWM	Australian War Memorial, Canberra
NARA	US National Archives & Records Administration

to the photographic archive section, [www.leodis.net](http://www.leodis.net), of the Leeds Library and Information Service website, on which there are 28 photographs of the Leeds phase of the exhibition. Rose Gibson, Area Development Librarian – Information & Digital Services, generously provided higher resolution copies, free from charge, for use in the journal. It made me realise that there must still be a wealth of un-tapped material out there in various local areas.

One person who has used local resources to good effect is Robin Platt, who has family connections with Skipton in West Yorkshire. That market town's most famous resident, as far as aviation historians are concerned, was Herbert Smith. Robin has done a great deal of local 'digging' to unearth photographs and taped recordings of interviews with that great designer. The result of his efforts will appear in Vol 43/2. I wanted something with a Sopwith theme to accompany Robin's piece and selected some of Stewart Taylor's writing on pilots of 3 Wing RNAS, which also gives the excuse to provide colour profiles to illustrate the markings applied to that unit's Sopwith 1½ Strutters.

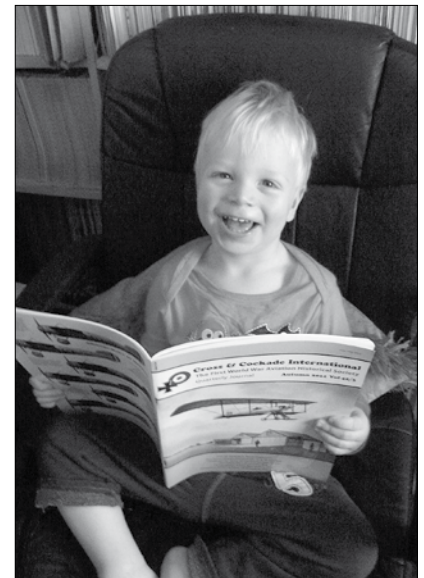
## CCI 2012

Next year's opening issue will lead with something different. It's easy to fall into the trap of thinking that serious research into WWI aviation only takes place in the UK, Australia, New Zealand and North America. There's a lot happening on the continent and not just in France, Germany and Italy. The polyglot Austro-Hungarian Empire hasn't featured in this journal for quite a while and so I'm taking the opportunity to publish a piece by Jiří Rajlich that examines one of the more famous combats on the Italian Front and gives it a Czech perspective. It's another article that lends itself to the inclusion of colour profiles and Simon Smith, who produced the magnificent SE5a picture shown on the cover of Vol 41/3, has offered to produce a cover painting based on the article.

There's plenty of other material available. The Atlas will continue with the Friedrichshafen designs; Paul Hare's Factory series continues with the SE4; Mike Meech has provided overviews of both Italian and French Contact Patrol procedures and there are several interesting biographies.

Still on the subject of next year: our 2012 Annual General Meeting will take place at the RAF Museum on Saturday 21 April. Hopefully the Dolphin will have been unveiled by then and our monograph on it published.

It is also time to re-subscribe for 2012, if you have not yet done so. Prompt renewals save the Society money and Roger a lot of time and effort. He already works tirelessly to maintain, and even boost, membership, but he must also be thinking about future numbers in the long term. My own son may share my enjoyment of good beer, loud music and football, but wouldn't know a Camel from a Cuckoo. Roger must be on the right track, as the photo of young Robbie shows – is this our youngest reader?



Finally, on behalf of all the CCI Committee, I wish all our membership an enjoyable Festive Season. Mick Davis