



Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases

No. 54 Summer 2014

Raising public awareness, scrutiny and accountability of US Visiting Forces and their Agencies in the UK and world-wide

Brief look at local, national and international news:

Dear friends

In this newsletter there is disturbing news about massive developments at USAF Croughton and probably USAF Barford St John – see sections inside. We will be sending the letter below round far and wide. It will also be on the CAAB website, Facebook and Twitter pages.

Dear ...

There is an urgent need for a full Parliamentary inquiry into the operation of national security services in the UK.

Oversight of UK security services is wholly inadequate. Currently, scrutiny of the work of MI5, MI6 and GCHQ is the exclusive preserve of Parliament's Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC). The all-party Commons Home Affairs Committee has concluded regulation of Britain's intelligence agencies is so weak and ineffective that it undermines their credibility and that of Parliament.

Revelations by Edward Snowden have shown GCHQ and the US National Security Agency (NSA) to be working hand in hand to cooperate in mass surveillance, spying on ordinary citizens and institutions, in which NSA/NRO Menwith Hill is implicated USAF Croughton (and other bases) has been named as a base spying on leaders of EU countries. These bases in the UK are nominally RAF but occupied and controlled by the US military, a legacy of WWII. The UK government has stated that operations at US bases on British soil have always been and continue to be, carried out with its

knowledge and consent.

It's essential that the ISC is scrapped in favour of a meaningful and credible independent committee which has oversight of the activities of UK security agencies, and can ensure the US visiting forces do not act in ways that are incompatible with British interests which they clearly do at present.

Our security services must focus on real threats to our safety. Their primary role should be to protect citizens from harm from internal and external criminal activity, particularly violent acts. There should be a mechanism to ensure reasonable cause to suspect criminal behaviour before they can gather information and this should not be to achieve political, economic and cultural advantage, control and domination, possibly working against interests of people in the UK.

Scrutiny must ensure security services act in a way that is compatible with democracy, and according to the spirit of the law when working together with non-UK agencies. It needs to keep pace with 21st century technology. The role of the private sector should be included since British Telecom has been implicated in the collection and storage of data made available, which a judgment by the European Court of Justice suggests is illegal.

I support the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases in their tireless efforts to bring democratic control to US visiting forces.

We urge as many people as possible to sign this letter and send round far and wide. We also intend to start a petition.

It's impossible to produce a newsletter of 8 pages (due to cost) giving anything but a taste of the huge and complex issues involving 'all things' to do with US hegemony, US military policy and the US military industrial complex. For more information, the CAAB website is a good resource and gives some up to date news, information, videos, articles and links: www.caab.org.uk. We are always pleased to receive constructive comments or suggestions.

AROUND A FEW OF THE US BASES (UK)

Please note: All US bases are officially referred to as 'RAF'. However this is misleading. The CAAB names them correctly as they are occupied and under the operation control of the US Visiting Forces and their Agencies.

NSA/NRO/USAF (National Security Agency/National Reconnaissance Office/United States Air Force)

MENWITH HILL

(near Harrogate, North Yorkshire)



Photograph: www.virginmedia.com

NSA/NR/USAF Menwith Hill in North Yorkshire.

Job Cuts at NSA Menwith Hill (too late for the last newsletter): News broke in February this year that there is to be a reduction in the number of US military and civilians working at this base. The US European Command confirmed it would cut 500 posts at Menwith Hill by October 2016.

The base currently employs about 2,200 military and civilian personnel. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) said the number of British civilians employed at the base would also be reduced but would not confirm by how many. About two-thirds of those employed at the base, whose primary role is to provide intelligence support, are US nationals. *[information from BBC News York and North Yorkshire 27 February 2014].*

[We have noticed that the base is generally much quieter; also at the Tuesday pm weekly demonstration. The elementary school will close in June 2015 and the Burger Bar closed in 2013. The slow demise of NSA/NRO Menwith Hill?? – Ed.]

Weekly Tuesday Demonstration (now into 14th year): We reported in the last newsletter about the ongoing conflict concerning the policing of this demonstration; also that we were having discussions with North Yorkshire police (NYP)

and the Ministry of Defence police (MDP) at NSA Menwith Hill. We are very pleased to inform everyone that the policing has reverted back to how it should be and how it was for 18 months. There were clearly many discussions with the MOD in Whitehall, lawyers and between Aubrey Smith (NYP) who has always insisted that there is an important 'right to protest'; that this human right must be nurtured and maintained and that the policing must be proportionate and reasonable. Elizabeth Dicher (newly arrived Superintendent MDP who we would like to meet) was also involved in the discussions. It has been a struggle to get this back to how it was before and a struggle before to get it to how it is now! Persistence does sometimes bring positive outcomes!

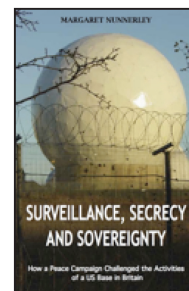
ART ON THE UNDERGROUND – WATCH OUT FOR THIS!

Trevor Paglan (artist, photographer and journalist – from the US) has taken panoramic photos of NSA Menwith Hill which will appear in mid June at Gloucester underground station.

This will be part of Art on the Underground: art.tfl.gov.uk. CAAB met Trevor at Menwith Hill on 12 March 2014.

ORDER! ORDER!

FINALLY IN PRINT and READY TO BE ORDERED!



Surveillance, Secrecy and Sovereignty
How a Peace Campaign Challenged the
Activities of a US Base in Britain

By Margaret Nunnerley

Professor Paul Rogers said of this book: "Since CAAB was established twenty years ago we have seen ... a remarkably increased capacity for those in authority to monitor the activities of civil society, not least of campaigners. At any time this thoughtful and carefully researched book would have been a very valuable contribution but that last aspect makes it especially salient".

To order: By phone from Nerys Yorkshire Publishing Services – **Tel: 01904 431213**

By email: enqs@yps-publishing.co.uk.

Cost £7.99 plus £2.75 p and p.

RAF FYLINGDALES

(near Pickering, North Yorkshire)



Photo: theguardian.com

Serco has been re-awarded the contract to provide operation and maintenance support to the Solid State Phased Array Radar (SSPAR), part of the UK/US Ballistic Missile Early Warning System located at RAF Fylingdales, North Yorkshire on behalf of the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD). The six-year contract, which starts on 1 April 2014, is valued at over £15m, with an option for six further years. Under the terms of the new contract, Serco will be responsible for the operation, maintenance and repair of the SSPAR and associated hardware and life support systems including Project Management and Software maintenance activities.

RAF Fylingdales is considered one of the key components for UK national security and last year celebrated 50 years of Ballistic Missile Early Warning Operations. Serco is the only contractor to have continuously operated and maintained the facility, despite 11 competitive tender exercises. Some of the existing Serco team have been supporting RAF Fylingdales since the very beginning, while Serco as a company has provided continuous support on site since its formation in 1988.

Duncan Mackison, Serco's Managing Director for Defence said: "RAF Fylingdales plays a critical role in defending the nation. Serco is incredibly proud to be part of its 50 year history and can now look forward to being part of its future. We are delighted that both the MOD and RAF continue to have confidence in our ability to deliver a high quality service. This is an important contract for us and our continued success is down to the hard work and professionalism of all those who work at this small station on the North Yorkshire Moors and their drive for continuous improvement." (Serco 10 February 2014)

RAF Commander Arrives: Dave Keighley is the new Wing Commander at RAF Fylingdales (January 2014).

Developments: Planning Applications and outcomes for NSA Menwith Hill and RAF Fylingdales are listed on the CAAB website. There have been no significant applications for some time.

USAF BARFORD ST JOHN

(near Banbury, Oxfordshire)

Military Land Byelaws (MLAs) at USAF Croughton and Barford St John: We were notified by Henry Robinson (Head of the Byelaws Review Team) on 17 April 2014 that the new MLBs will come into force on 19 July at USAF Croughton and USAF Barford St John. We have every intention to challenge these byelaws sometime.

USAF CROUGHTON

(near Northampton/Oxfordshire)

So This Is What This Was About: We knew something was afoot last year when we learnt that Military Land Byelaws were to be introduced at USAF Croughton and USAF Barford St John (satellite base to Croughton). We have been alert to something happening. And indeed something very important is happening.

We found out (with additional information from Cahal Milmo of *The Independent*) that USAF Croughton is to be turned into a massive intelligence and surveillance hub at a cost of \$301m (£200m). These plans will make the base as important as NSA Menwith Hill. The Report to Congress by the Department of the Air Force sets out how much is being spent on what, and also the inadequacy of the Joint Analysis/Intelligence Center at Molesworth and USAF Alconbury for their current purpose. Both bases will close and the activities will be moved to USAF Croughton including the HQ of USAFRICOM.

We stumbled across this news. Had we not done this, these significant changes would have gone unnoticed; secretly and with no meaningful accountability or oversight by Parliament or a credible and independent watchdog. There was no debate in Parliament. CAAB alerted Fabian Hamilton and Tom Watson MP (who have tabled some PQs) and the media and there was some good coverage. (*Refer back to the letter in the*

Editorial concerning the Intelligence and Security Committee who are meant to have oversight).

The link for this Report is: <http://www.saffm.hq.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-140310-043.pdf>. See page 105 for details of development at USAF Croughton: *[If you haven't got access to a computer we suggest you ask a friend to print out a copy of the relevant details – Ed].*



Photographer/s unknown

NATO satellite dish (now covered by a radome)
USAF Croughton near Northampton/Oxford

Not Charged: After answering to bail at Northampton Criminal Justice Centre on 5 May following arrest at USAF Croughton on 9 April this year, Lindis Percy was 'reported with a view to prosecution' and now awaits the outcome. She very much hopes that this case does come to court.

USAF LAKENHEATH

(near Lakenheath, Suffolk)

RAF Lakenheath Recommended for Closure in Report Commissioned by US Government:

The future of RAF Lakenheath is up in the air as a report commissioned by the US Government has recommended it for closure. The report by think tank RAND Corporation has suggested a range of cost-cutting measures in Europe to the US Department of Defense, including the closure of the US Air Force (USAF) base which has been operating at Lakenheath for more than seventy years. Another option is moving the resident 48th Fighter Wing squadron to another air base and keeping RAF Lakenheath as an intelligence and communications centre.

RAND's report is part of the US Department

of Defense's ongoing European Infrastructure Consolidation (EIC) review which could see swingeing cuts across the USAF's European operation. In its current state RAF Lakenheath costs the USAF around \$211 million per year to run.

The report also suggests relocating some forces from nearby RAF Mildenhall but the base would remain open and continue to host the 100th Refuelling Wing. RAF Lakenheath and RAF Mildenhall contribute an estimated £500 million annually to the local economy and residents are concerned about the impact the potential closure.

A spokesperson for RAF Lakenheath said they were unable to comment on the report.

It was revealed last month that thousands of troops could leave both USAF bases this year as part of the US government's sequestration programme which aims to reduce the number of global staff by 25,000 in the next five years. Lakenheath is home to 5,000 servicemen and women and 2,000 civilians and Mildenhall to 3,000 military and more than 3,500 civilians. *[Excerpts from article by Lizzy Buchan Cambridge News 14 March 2014]*

A 'Secure' Base? The US Air Force (USAF) is offering a \$10,000 reward for information about the theft of £181,000 of military equipment at RAF Lakenheath. The items stolen from the base include: advanced combat helmets, modular sleep systems, extreme cold weather boots and interceptor body armour. The items were stolen from building 1068 on the base between 2011 and 2012. The USAF Office of Special Investigations is offering \$10,000 for information leading to the identification, arrest and successful conviction of those responsible. Anyone with information should contact the office on 01638 547257.

[Bury Free Press 17 March 2014].

USAF MILDENHALL

(near Brandon, Suffolk)

The United States Air Force Expands its Operations (reported last June): RAF Mildenhall is due to take delivery of 10 CV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft and 12 MC-130J Commando II

fixed-wing planes. The USAF said up to 900 extra personnel and family members would be expected to arrive as part of its plan. The first aircraft will be delivered this month and all 22 are expected to be based at RAF Mildenhall by 2018. The Osprey can take-off and land vertically like a helicopter, and then its rotors tilt round to allow it to fly like a aeroplane. It provides transport for ground troops, while the Commando refuels other aircraft while they are in the air. The MC-130J Commando II is a mid-air refuelling aeroplane. The expansion is being made by the air force's 352nd Special Operations Group and it will require about 380 extra serving personnel.

Col Christopher Ireland, commander of the group, said: "It's been almost six years since we've had vertical lift-off in Europe and this modernisation of the force improves our efficiency and effectiveness." He said increasing the number of aircraft and support personnel would allow the group to better support operations and improve training opportunities. Col Ireland said improvements had been made to schools and housing on the base in recent years, although a number of service families were expected to live in the surrounding area. (BBC Suffolk June 2013 – **not reported at the time by CAAB**).



GCHQ MORWENSTOW (Bude, Cornwall):

In case you weren't aware of this place and the US connection: The United States paid £15.5 million towards the redevelopment of a

secret spy base in Cornwall, according to latest documents exposed by former US intelligence analyst Edward Snowden. The papers released by Mr Snowden to The Guardian revealed the US National Security Agency (NSA) has paid £100 million to GCHQ over the last three years to access and influence British intelligence gathering.

The total included millions to overhaul its station at GCHQ Bude, near Morwenstow in North Cornwall, which eavesdrops on internet traffic carried by transatlantic cables.

"Securing external NSA funding for Bude has protected (GCHQ's core) budget," the papers said. Payments, the newspapers said, were set out in documents which made clear that the Americans expected a return on the investment. "GCHQ must pull its weight and be seen to pull its weight," a strategy briefing by the electronic listening post said.

In a 2010 document the Cheltenham-based agency acknowledged that the US had "raised a number of issues with regards to meeting NSA's minimum expectations" and GCHQ "still remains short of the full NSA ask".

In the documents GCHQ describes Britain's surveillance laws and regulatory regime as a "selling point" for the Americans, the newspaper claimed. Previous leaked documents from Mr Snowden suggest a programme run by GCHQ – titled "Mastering the Internet" – got under way in 2007 and resulted in an experimental research project, run out of the station near Bude, the following year.

It was designed to assess the uses of a so-called "internet buffer" – the interception and filtering of internet traffic coming into and out of the UK. The project is thought to have developed into the current operation code named Tempora under which GCHQ is able to tap into cables and store internet and communications data for up to 30 days. "Interesting" content is said to be stored for three days and metadata, such as information about who an email is from and to, for up to a month. Many of the transatlantic fibre-optic cables carrying the digital traffic land in Cornwall, including one at Widemouth Bay.

Details of the NSA payments were set out in GCHQ's annual "investment portfolios". They

showed the NSA gave GCHQ £22.9 million in 2009 rising to £39.9 million the following year. The US government paid another £34.7 million to GCHQ in 2011-12. A Cabinet Office spokesman told The Guardian: "In a 60-year alliance it is entirely unsurprising that there are joint projects in which resources and expertise are pooled, but the benefits flow in both directions." *[Andy Greenwood, Western Morning News, August 03 2013]*

Read more: <http://www.westernmorningnews.co.uk/USA-spent-millions-Bude-spy-station-says-Snowden/story-19609311-detail/story.html>

*"Any society that will
give up a little liberty to
gain a little security will
deserve neither
and lose both"*

Benjamin Franklin

BRIEF REPORT ON PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (Hansard source)

Fabian Hamilton MP for Leeds North East regularly asks PQs for CAAB

RAF Menwith Hill
(NSA/NRO Menwith Hill)

Q: Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department was (a) aware of the nature of and (b) consulted before the start of surveillance being carried out at NSA Menwith Hill.

A: Mark Francois (The Minister of State for Defence; Rayleigh and Wickford): Operations at RAF Menwith Hill have always been, and continue to be carried out with the knowledge and consent of the UK Government. (HC Deb, 10 April 2014, c342W).

[This is an important and confusing answer given that NSA/NRO Menwith Hill is mentioned in documents revealed by Edward Snowden as being in the thick of illegal surveillance and intelligence gathering and probably much more. We will be asking follow up PQs to this – ED].

Q: Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason the Defence Infrastructure Organisation will be inviting expressions of interest in a contract for provision of maintenance and repair services on all UK military sites used by US Visiting Forces; and who will be responsible for (a) deciding on the work which is to be carried out and (b) paying the contractors.

A: Andrew Murrison (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence; South West Wiltshire, Conservative): The UK Government has Treaty obligations for providing maintenance and repair services on United States Forces (USF) sites. Contracts to provide these services are periodically renewed by the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Any work to be carried out is determined jointly between the MOD and USF. The MOD is responsible for the payment process; however, USF provide the funding by repaying the MOD for the cost of maintenance and repair services and providing an additional 7.5% contribution towards Defence Infrastructure Organisation running costs. (HC Deb, 7 April 2014 c94W).

HOUSE OF LORDS DEBATE 24 March 2014

This is a really interesting debate in the House of Lords that Sue Miler (Baroness) has been pursuing, concerning the lack of accountability and oversight of US bases and their activities.

Sue Miller has asked PQs for CAAB (CAAB sending briefings and information) for many years.

<http://www.theyworkforyou.com/lords/?id=2014-03-24a.358.6&s=speaker%3A13554#g359.0>

RESIST! RESIST! RESIST!

MORE DETAILS ABOUT USAF CROUGHTON near Oxford/Northampton

The US military have divided up the world into US Commanders' areas of responsibility of the world (see map below). The UK HQ of USAFRICOM will be moving from the Joint Analysis/Intelligence Center Molesworth (otherwise misleadingly known at RAF Molesworth) to USAF Croughton.

Moving into Africa – USAFRICOM: In a gesture that amounts to thumbing its nose at opinion the world over, the Pentagon has announced it is upgrading its surveillance and drone warfare capabilities over Africa, by committing to spend over \$350 million to turn a US military base in Croughton, England, into a huge intelligence center.

The new facility, slated to be operational by 2017, would be capable of coordinating intelligence, surveillance, and – one must presume – drone strikes throughout Africa. Given the worldwide furor over NSA snooping and CIA-military drone strikes, the Croughton facility upgrade is certain to offend African nations. The Croughton base is already assumed to be facilitating drone strikes in Yemen and Djibouti, so Africa will have to suspect a heightened US drone threat across the continent.

Beyond the offense to Africa, the Croughton expansion highlights the uncontrolled expansion of the security sector in the US. According to a valuable investigation *The Washington Post* published in 2010, at that time 1,271 government organizations and 1,931 private companies were involved under the Department of Homeland Security umbrella alone in counterterrorism, homeland security, and intelligence programs, spread out in approximately 10,000 locations just within the US, and harboring an estimated 854,000 employees with top-secret security clearances. Will US taxpayers and lawmakers ever get the sense that enough is enough?

For insight into the latest expansion of the US surveillance behemoth, David Kerans spoke with two guests: Ed Kinane of Upstate Drone Action in Syracuse, NY, a “coalition to ground the drones and end the

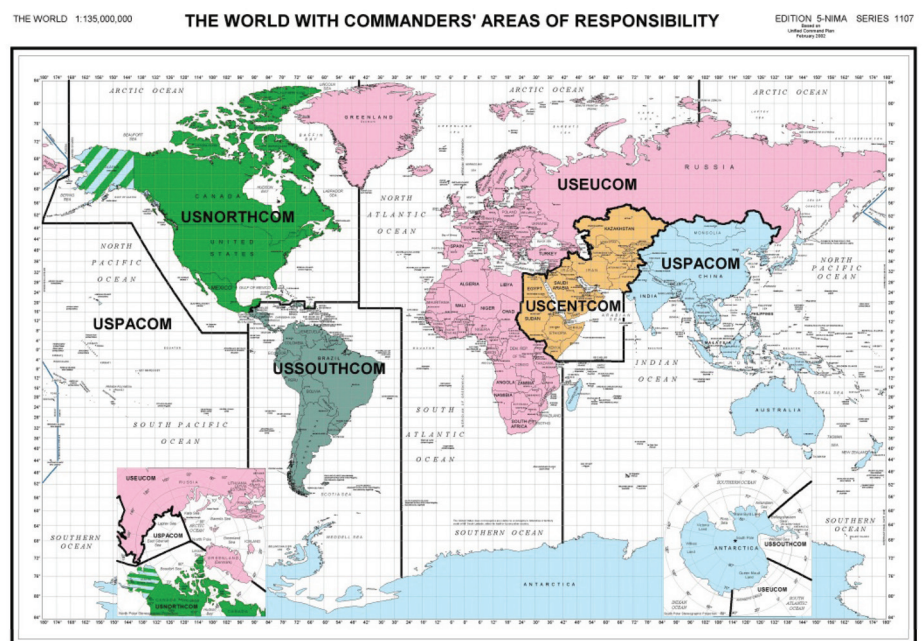
Wars” and Colleen Rowley, a former FBI special agent and division counsel whose May 2002 memo described some of the FBI’s pre-9/11 failures and was named one of Time magazine’s “Persons of the Year” in 2002.

Kinane insists that the Croughton facility will expand US drone warfare capabilities, and should be resisted. He cited the groundswell of resistance that has appeared in recent years around Hancock Air Base in upstate New York as an indication that US citizens rising to contest the violations of international law and Constitutional due process from the use of drones.

Rowley laments the fact that the US has done nothing to rein in the uncontrolled growth of the security sector, and notes how little attention the US mainstream media is paying to it, notwithstanding its extraordinary costs and the damage it is doing to domestic politics and the US’s international standing. She also notes how insensitive official Washington has been to the NSA’s overreach into foreign nations, which is souring the US’s relations with many countries. (David Kerans Voice of Russia 19 May 2014).

Read more: http://voiceofrussia.com/us/2014_05_20/US-Surveillance-and-Drone-Behemoth-Set-to-Swallow-Africa-3787/

[CAAB has written to Ann le Druillenec (Clerk to Croughton Parish Council) to say that we would be very interested to know their views on these important and significant changes to USAF Croughton and that Lindis Percy would be more than happy to come and discuss anything with her that may be of help should the Parish Council not be aware of the details of what is planned].



FINALLY... the largest peace demonstration in Yorkshire – please put this in your diary and come!

Annual "Independence FROM America" demonstration

at the main entrance to NSA Menwith Hill HG1 4QZ

Friday 4 July 2014 5 – 9 pm



SPEAKERS

Caroline Hughes

Professor of Conflict Resolution and Peace,
Academic Director Bradford Rotary Centre for International Studies

David Swanson (from the US)

American activist, journalist
and author – will be signing his book

Annie Machon

Former M15 Intelligence officer
and Whistle Blower



Also:

East Lanes Clarion Choir

Roy Bailey (folk singer)

Arrival of Cyclists

BIKES NOT BOMBS

Yorkshire CND

Huddersfield

WOOL NOT WEAPONS
scarf will be there too!

... and much more

TOUR DE FRANCE, Day 2, York to Sheffield, via MENWITH Hill, 6th July

The 1in12 Club Cafe, back by popular demand to provide food to fuel you for the revolution!

Organised by Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases - See www.caab.org.uk or phone 01423 884076

Signed copies of *Surveillance, Secrecy and Sovereignty* by Margaret Nunnerley will be on sale (above). Cost £7.99 at this demonstration.

MONEY MATTERS: There are several ways of supporting CAAB financially (CAAB website) It is now possible to donate to CAAB by using the Paypal account which has been set up to make it much easier to donate money for the work of CAAB.

CAAB Account No: 50095311 Sort Code: 089229 The Cooperative Bank, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M60 4EP

Donate by Post: Please send a cheque, payable to "CAAB", to
CAAB Honorary Treasurer, Judith Rushby, 31 Blossomgate, Ripon, HG4 2AJ

Donate Using BACS: BACS payments are also welcome to our account with the Co-operative Bank
Sort Code: 089229.
Account Number: 5009531100

CAAB TALKS, MEDIA INTERVIEWS, ARTICLES, LETTERS TO NEWSPAPERS

Interviews with Russian TV, the Independent, the Sunday Times, Radio Leeds

Talk to U3A Harrogate, Letters on behalf of CAAB published in the *Wharfedale Observer*, *The Guardian* and the *Harrogate Advertiser*

Quaker Meeting for Worship – 2014

NSA Menwith Hill 2.00pm – 3.00pm; 7th June, 2nd August, 5th October, 6th December

RAF Fylingdales; 12.00 midday – 1.00pm; 5 July, 6 September, 6 November

USAF Croughton: 2.00pm main gate 4th Saturday each month.

Contact: Maria Huff, Banbury & Evesham Area Meeting – 01869 347 179

WHO'S WHO AT CAAB?

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