

HIARA MEETING – Friday 28th January 2022-

Our Chair, Liz Jeffery welcomed members to the meeting also included the several visitors and Mr. Frank Turner – our speaker.

Liz was happy to report that Jan Morris and her team have many suggestions for day trips during the Spring and Summer months and members were asked to indicate their choice.

Members were asked to nominate a charity for 2022/3 – the box for votes is available at all meetings for the next few weeks.

Our speaker, Frank Turner, began by apologising for a technical problem making it impossible to show the many slides he had brought with him.

The 148 acres of land for Gravesend Airport was purchased in the 1930s by a local farmer and quite quickly a clubhouse and fencing appeared by late 1932. There was apparently very little money to run the airport but the owner persuaded KLM to use the airport and the Gravesend “London East Airport” was quickly established.

Following almost a decade of success, war was declared in 1939 and apparently 32 squadrons operated from there throughout the war years.

After the war, there was a great need for housing and “Riverview Park” was built. Frank said that there are very little signs of the land occupied by the Airport now but there are still parts of buildings on the land alongside the A2 near Shorne Country Park.

Frank was warmly thanked for his interesting lecture.

Josephine Smith