



# Northern

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FROM OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS  
AROUND THE WORLD

*news*

OCTOBER 2008

# Editorial Ramblings



One of our trips out this month was to the RAF Museum at Cosford - not far from our home and a great place to go on a cold, wet and windy (normal) day in England. The RAF Museum is also a great place to plot the decline of the British aviation industry too. From being world leaders to almost zero (apart from the BAe Eurofighter Typhoon) in just a few years is in keeping with the decline of the rest of the UK and, in particular, its engineering and manufacturing industries. Regular readers will be aware of my concerns regarding the ludicrous immigration policies of successive UK governments. Governments that have also destroyed the massive engineering industries that manufactured some of the greatest products that have ever been designed or invented and those which have been, and are continuing to be, developed by other countries - to their profit. Now we're living in Britain after I've had so many years away has brought my concerns sharply into focus as we face the reality of life in Britain once more. We are now living in a very pleasant area of Wolverhampton and yet rarely see a white face! Incredibly, Little Lad is a foreigner in his own land - It may come as a shock to many of you to know that he is one of only TWO children in his class at school who is white (of course, one could argue that he is only half-white!). Yesterday, he brought home a note from the school saying they were having a party to celebrate Diwali - hardly a traditional British celebration - moreover, a food contribution would be most welcome - the first suggested item on the list being samosas! Hardly traditional British fare. This in an area that, not so many years ago, was at the heart of British engineering. Many thousands of people were employed in engineering. There are a few survivors employed by the company for whom I work. One of my colleagues will have been there 50 years by the end of this year. The descriptions of those 'old' days paint a glorious picture of traditional working Britain; the core industries that made Britain the greatest engineering country the world has ever seen - one that has been lost forever. The immediate area that contains the small company in which I work, once employed more than 3000 skilled engineering tradesmen. Now there are only a handful. Outside my office, was once the area where pipe bending took place - the pipes being 4 feet diameter and thick-walled - imagine the skills required to bend, accurately, steel pipes of those sort of dimensions. Gone! The survivors still speak in awe of the man who could do this highly specialised job - almost as much an art as a science. In the town of Bilston, not far away, was once a huge number of blast furnaces and the men working them were prosperous. The whole area between where I work and Bilston was covered in engineering industrial works. Now the furnaces, and the engineering (and all those exported products), are gone and even the pubs are gone and those very few that remain are closed and boarded up and the town is a seedy, run down immigrant ghetto, more like, I imagine,



**Photograph above:** Tettenhall Station - part of the once great British railway network - no freight trains stop here now.  
**Cover photograph:** The incredible, stainless steel, Bristol 188 high speed research aircraft that first flew in April 1962.

a run down area of a city in Africa or the Caribbean. This was summed up for me recently when I paid a visit to the local photographic society. Various photographs were projected on the screen for criticism. One photograph depicted a pair of black men pulling a loaded hand cart, with another pushing it. A few other black men were sitting or standing around in the background. The first comment made when this image appeared on the screen was “*I see someone’s been visiting Bilston*”. Decimated too, is our once great railway network which has been replaced by a totally inadequate motorway system that is now jammed solid with trucks, leaving only one lane (out of the three) that is usable by the ever increasing number of motorists. In my lifetime, my country has gone from being a world leader to an almost third world nation - declining fast.



*This lovely old, riveted construction, iron bridge, once carried trains as part of our great railway network. Now it carries a footpath over the other commercially abandoned transport network that helped Britain become Great Britain so many years ago: the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, near our home.*



*Compton Lock on the Staffordshire  
and Worcestershire Canal, near  
our home*



Little Lad at Thorpe Cloud, Dovedale, Derbyshire.  
Taken on 20 September 2008.



*This cracking photograph of a Jaguar, was taken by Little Lad*

## Our visit to the RAF Museum at RAF Cosford

*Little Lad with his toy aeroplane in front of an Armstrong Whitworth Argosy transport aircraft (1959)*





*The Face of Modern Bombay Britain!*

The Diwali Parade - taken from the garden of our home in Wolverhampton on 26 October 2008.



The rear garden of our new home, taken just before the snow arrived, on a normal wet and windy day.



Taken in our garden on 28 October 2008.  
The first snowfall of this winter. This  
photograph has not been modified in any  
way to produce this effect. It is merely the  
affect of a very slow shutter speed (1/15  
sec.) as it was quite dark when it was taken  
at about 1635 hrs.

