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news

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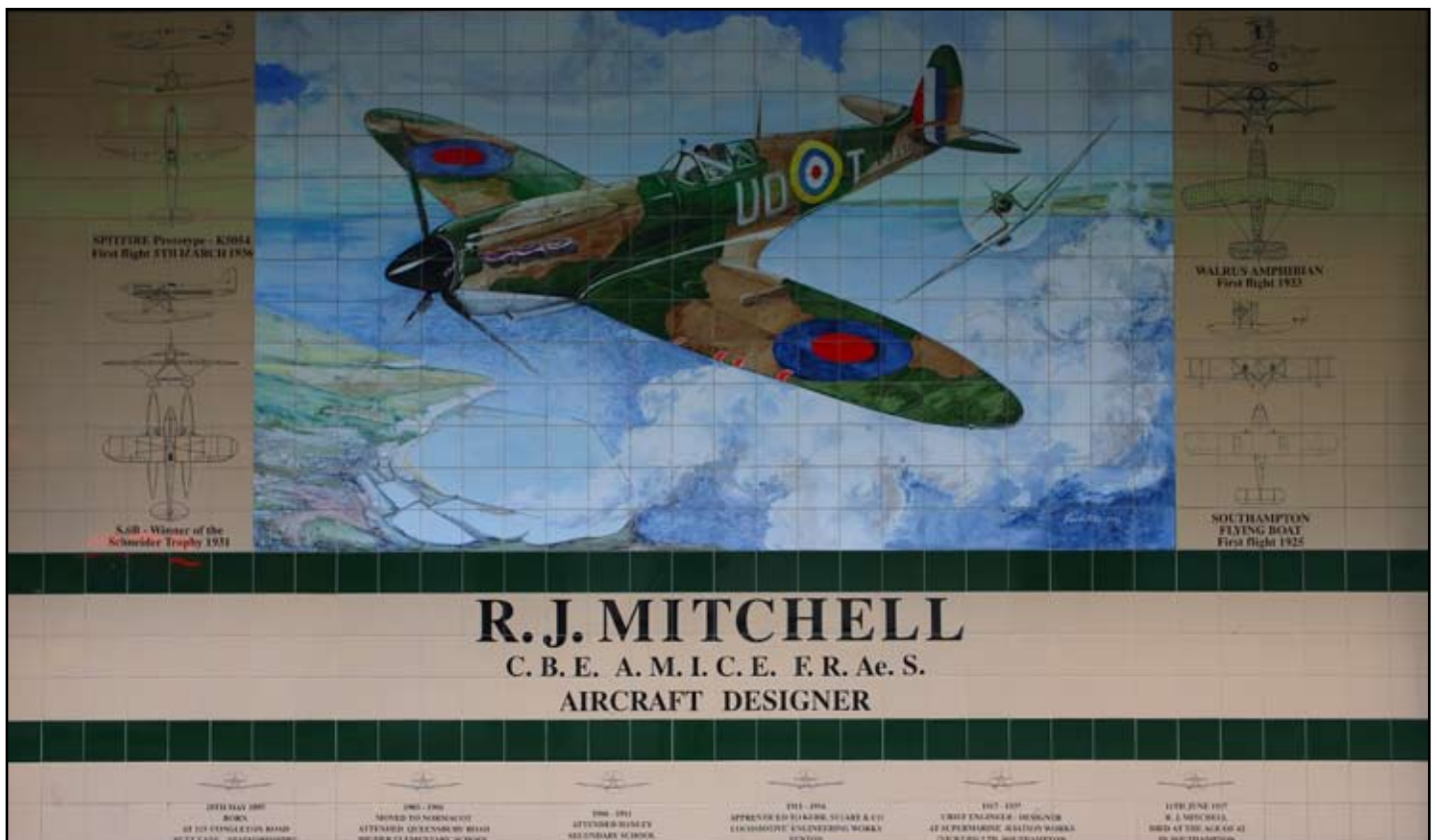


Editorial Ramblings



Late again! Too much time spent working, driving and moving house, yet again - Our 14th home in less than 8 years. We got the keys of our new home on 25 September and are now, just about, moved in. We have found a small, detached and fully furnished, bungalow within a 10 minute drive from my office. Now all we have to do is change schools for Little Lad, change our physician, change all our documents to the new address, change all our utilities etc. - the list seems endless! We'd only just got sorted out in Longton and here we are having to change everything once more. However, we hope that many of you will come and visit us.

Blowing my own trumpet; I'm delighted to say that I've passed my probationary period in my new job; in fact passed with flying colours as my boss has told me that he is *dead chuffed* that he's recruited me and that he has received a number of favourable comments, both from engineers within the company and from clients who have read my work. My work is quite varied and I am currently working on projects for Sellafield, in the UK, and for a nuclear power station in Lithuania. On the photographic front, nothing much has been achieved as the weather, as usual, has been so appalling. I hate setting foot outdoors for most of the time as it is always so cold, wet, windy and utterly miserable. What a foul, depressing climate we have in the UK. Already, I'm looking forward to getting out of here and the winter hasn't even started yet! I wish I could hibernate! Grace and I had been thinking about buying a caravan, and had even been to look at some, but the weather is just so awful it would hardly get used and would be a complete waste of money at present, as the time we have available to travel to sunny climes is extremely limited. Of course, modern caravans can be used throughout the year, but why spend all that money only to sit inside the caravan watching the rain hammer down when one can do the same thing at home - for free! The bi-annual photographic exhibition, *Photokina*, in Cologne has just ended, where a number of important new products were announced, including a replacement for my own Canon EOS 5D, the MkII version, that will soon be available. No, I won't be buying one (yet) as my priority is to replace my lenses with better quality optics that can do justice to my current camera. Maybe I'll wait for the Mk III version before I buy a new camera body. Another new product is the Adobe CS4 suite of programs. Now that really does interest me as Adobe makes what is probably the best image manipulation and publishing software available and anything new from them is always exciting. Once again, I apologise for the poor response to your e-mails. We are always so pleased to hear from you, so please don't stop writing - and I'll try to do better when it comes to answering you.



Photograph above: A tribute to a great engineer, in Longton, Stoke-on-Trent.

Cover photograph: Little Lad on the banks of the River Dove, in Dovedale, Derbyshire.

Back cover photograph: Our new home and garden in Wolverhampton, on a cold wet day - like most days in the UK.

Sad to say, but the kilns of the Potteries have long since gone cold and the area has gone from prosperous to poor and shows no signs of improving, here in Longton, from where we have just moved to another poor and run-down area, Wolverhampton; a city once renowned for its engineering, that is now a shadow of its former self.

