

Old Dux Association

Newsletter



Compiled by A. McRae

Spring 2002

Well, those of you who suffer from SAD or are just a wee bit sad may be pleased to know that the long winter hibernation period is over so we can all look forward to endless days of sunshine (Ha, Ha.) while we go about our many visits and excursions, or just lounge around and watch football on television.

We can now confirm of our Association meeting dates for this year, the May meeting is on **Sunday 12th**, the October meeting is **Sunday 20th**, and the Annual Dinner is on the evening of the **19th October**, details of this later in the year.

The May meeting will be further enhanced by two additional attractions, firstly, Sir Richard Johns, who served as a pilot with 64 Sqdn, will be making his inaugural appearance as our President, and we look forward to making him welcome.

The other event is an book launch by our very own author Doreen Cross. Doreen writes romantic novels with a strong RAF background and her publishers have chosen our venue to officially launch her latest book. A full report will follow in the next newsletter.

On the subject of dates, the flying programme for Duxford is;

Sunday 5th May	Jubilee Air Show
Sat/Sun 13-14th July	Flying Legends Air Show
Sat/Sun 7-8th Sept.	Duxford 2002 Air Show
Sunday 13th October	Autumn Air Show

You should be aware that the American Air Museum will have restricted access from March until August whilst the internal exhibits are re-arranged to accommodate some new arrivals, the SR-71 Blackbird and the B-24 Liberator. Although the ground floor will be shut the viewing gallery will still be open so there should be some interesting 'aircraft handling' going on, particularly up in the roof area.

A recent acquisition to the American Museum is a F-15 Eagle, the only one on display in the UK, and was restored to its display condition by a team from the 48th Fighter Wing based at RAF Lakenheath. As a matter of interest to those who harbour thoughts on what to spend your Lottery winnings on, the cost of a new F-15 is in excess of 30 Million Dollars, (what's that in Euro's?)- Start saving now!

Did any of our members ever work on the Station Flight Spitfire SL542 before or after it's crash on the 24-1-57. Did it fly again from Duxford or was it only fit for static display? Did it get back to flying condition after it was refurbished in the USA? Does anyone recall another Spitfire being on the Station strength during the 1950's if so what was it's serial number?

Answers to these questions, plus any photos of the Spitfire(s) please contact Bob Hope who is trying to put a story together about SL542. All photos will of course be returned after copying.

It is time for the annual reprint of the membership directory, hopefully with the next newsletter, so if you know of any errors, omissions, or alterations please let me know (Ring 01604-491836) as soon as possible.

If any new members intend coming to the meetings and are unsure of the layout (Memory slippage?) of the Museum and our gathering points, see the map.

Excuse repetitious message, but if you are coming to the meetings please remember to give Bob your vehicle registration number and the names of any passengers so the list can be passed on to Duxford security and our treasurer for your £2.50 entrance fee. Also remember to come in the guard-room gate and not the public entrance.

The response to the proposed Association golf match has been very disappointing, Peter Hibbard tells me that so far only 2½ players have shown any interest, and unless there are more the event will not take place.

This is the latest in a series of items of that have required the involvement of members but have fallen by the wayside due to lack of support, as a for instance, nobody entered the Christmas quiz. Apart from the Dinner, which is usually well supported, are we to assume that satisfaction is achieved by just being a member? Let us hear your views at the next meeting

In a recent letter Terry Crowley asks if anyone has any recollections of the following incident:

As this year heralds the Golden Jubilee of Elizabeth 2 ascension to the throne, I have endeavoured to bring to mind an incident that I believe occurred at Duxford in the Mid 1950's. As far as I call recall an A.O.C.'s parade and station inspection was taking place during Newmarket Race Week. The parade ceremony was completed by mid-day and the airmen were being marched back to the domestic site where they would be dismissed.

The station police were well aware of this and were ready to halt the traffic, which was nose to tail on the way to the races, on the main A505 road that bisected the camp. On seeing the marching column approaching a service policeman saw a convenient gap in the traffic flow and stepped into the road with arms raised in the approved manner. The Queens car, with Royal pennant flying, duly stopped in front of the embarrassed policeman. The Sergeant in charge of the police guard quickly appraised the situation and managed to convey a message to the C.O. who in turn alerted the A.O.C.

Both men hurried to Her Majesties car and apologised for the delay, which as I understand was accepted graciously! It was rumoured that the service policeman involved later remarked "If I had a spade I would have dug a hole and buried myself in it".

A fresh stock of our enamelled lapel badges have arrived and can be purchased from our treasurer George Poole, who would also be interested to hear from anyone wanting to pay their subscriptions!

On a lighter note, some answers to questions from a GCSE examination.

What happens to your body when as you age?

When you get old, so do your bowels, and you get Intercontinental.

How can you delay milk from turning sour?

Keep it in the cow.

Name the four seasons.

Salt, Pepper, Mustard and Vinegar

What does the word 'Benign' mean?

Benign is what you will be after you are eight.

What is artificial insemination?

When the farmer does it to the bull instead of the cow.

What is a fossil?

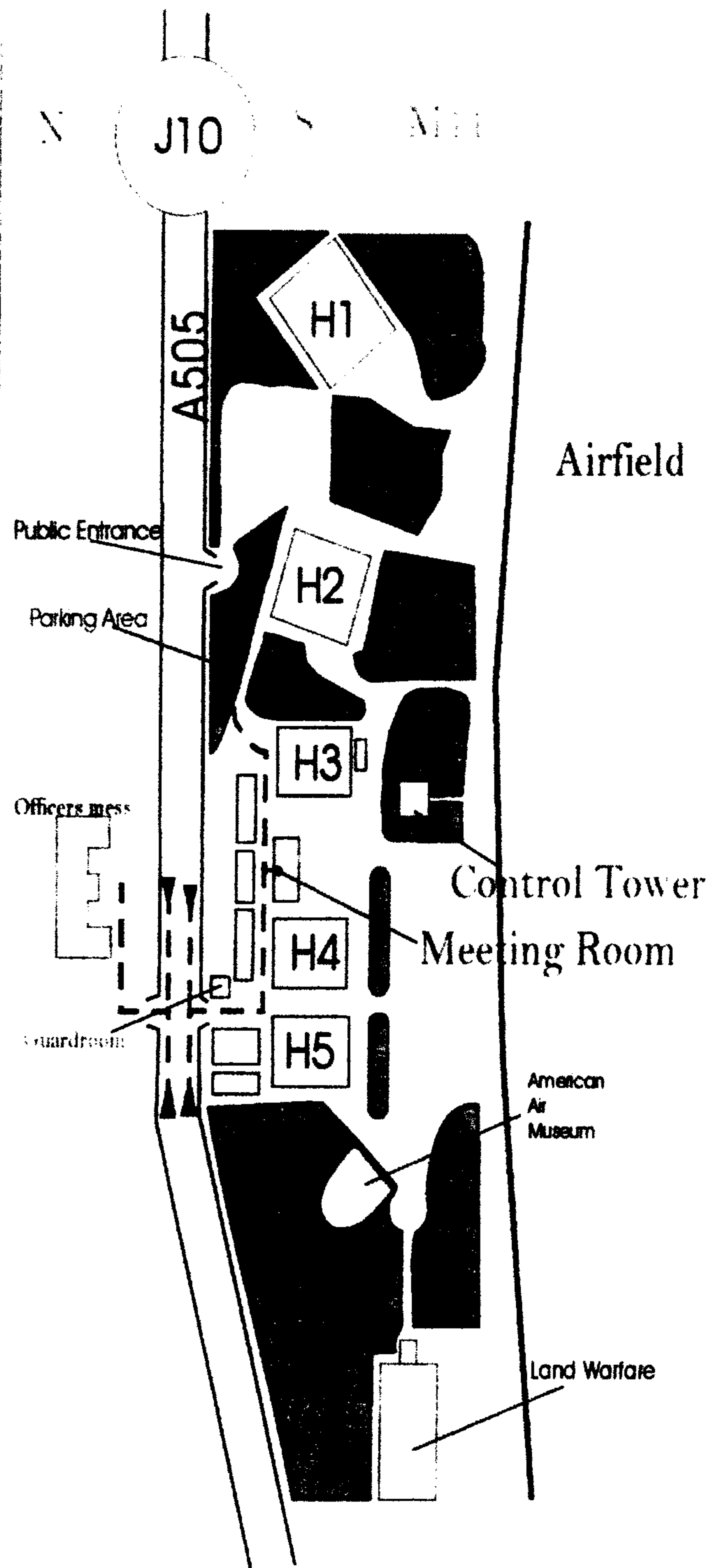
A fossil is an extinct animal, the older it is the more extinct it is.

What is a 'Turbine'?

Something an Arab wears on his head.

What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?

He says goodbye to boyhood and looks forward to adultery.



Enter by the guardroom gate, not the public entrance check in at security, and park on the grass area shown. The meeting room is on your left as you drive to the car-park If the weather is OK we assembly by the control tower for a pre-meeting gossip! The meeting starts at 1pm

Traffic for the dinner, can park outside the mess.