

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2008

www.olddux.org

Compiled by LARRY CROSS

Saturday the 10th. May dawned dry and sunny with an excellent weekend in prospect. The trip up to Duxford via the M23-M25-M11 usually takes 2hrs barring hold-ups. Fortunately there were none and we motored along with the sun beating down through the open sun-roof, and in true British style – a knotted handkerchief covering my pate. Luckily we didn't bump into anyone we knew or for that matter anyone we didn't know!

The Dinner was attended by some 62 guests and we began with our customary toast, "The Queen" given by Les Milgate. Once again the dinner was well presented and seemingly enjoyed by all.

The Raffle followed the meal in its usual good humoured way with most ticket holders claiming prizes. Once again our grateful thanks to prize donors and ticket sellers, Ann & Jennie.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation by Bob on behalf of the members, to Allan & Jennie to mark Allan's retirement from the association secretaryship.

Photo: Bob Scott



In a RAF themed presentation case, Allan was presented with a stainless steel wristwatch bearing the Per Ardua ad Astra crest together with a suitable bottle of the amber fluid, in recognition of his dedicated and sterling work for the association over many years. and may I add that at one period during this time Allan was Treasurer, Secretary AND Newsletter Editor.

Jennie was presented with a Bouquet, Chocolates and Vouchers in recognition for her enthusiastic efforts and continued assistance to Allan in his role.

AGM Sunday 11th. was also warm & sunny the meeting was attended by 80 members, convened in classroom No.3 which fortunately is air conditioned. Bob opened by welcoming and thanking the members for attending and read apologies from those unable to be present.

A minute's silence was observed in remembrance of members who have gone before

Sunday 12th October was the date fixed for our next meeting, after a show of hands. It will take place in the AirSpace hangar, classroom 3 and commence at 13.00 hrs.

Members attending must contact Bob Hope with their car Reg.No. and number of passengers.

Tel.No. 01554 890520 e/m sl542@hotmail.co.uk
(That's SL)

The main item on the agenda was the re-election of a new Association Secretary.

Anne Gange was proposed by Jennie McRae and seconded by Ann Brinkley. She was duly voted in and Anne agreed to take on the role with the proviso that due to present commitments, she takes up office w/e.from October.



Anne Gange

All eyes were then turned on Allan, who agreed to continue as secretary as long as he could keep the pressies!

Our Treasurer George Poole has asked to have his email address posted as a more direct and easier way of dealing with subscription queries.

georgeathome@talktalk.net

For non-surfers – Tel. 01869 243887

John Rogers you may recall in the last Christmas Newsletter, requested help from members with their memories and anecdotes of Betty's Café during their time at Duxford. John has been working on his book for 12 months and it all came to fruition when he made an emotional presentation to the meeting of the bound copy "Betty's Café a Scrapbook Duxford 1929 – 1978" to give the book its full title.

John went on to explain that there will probably be a few more acknowledgements etc. to add and then the book would be re-presented. There are also avenues being explored with a view to publication. The book is A4 square size and contains 60 pages of text & photographs. Whilst attending the "Remembering RAF Duxford" event John was approached by the Duxford History Society and has agreed to speak at their meeting in October. (John pictured with Bob)



Photo: Bob Hindley

The Committee in Action !

A momentous picture, one for the Album taken at the recent AGM

Allan (smiling) enjoying perhaps what might be his last appearance at the top table, with Bob in full flow!



George & Kate Poole, Jim Garlinge, Allan McRae, Bob Hope & Larry Cross. Photo: Bob Hindley

Thank you.

As we were going about our lawful duties at the Annual Dinner Jenny and I were surprised to be waylaid by Bob and dragged 'centre stage' to receive a presentation to mark our retirement as Secretary/Assistant Sec of the Old Dux, (but not from the Old Dux!). We much appreciate the gifts we received particularly the Dewars 'coff medicine!' and feel honoured to have played a small part in getting the Old Dux up and running.

I am sure you will give Anne Gange the same level of support as I got when she takes over the Secretaries job in August.

Allan & Jennie McRae

Message from Anne Gange

I would like to thank all the members who voted me onto the committee and will endeavour to do my best to maintain the standard set by the present committee and know that I will have all the help and guidance I will require. Not all of you possibly know me from my days at Duxford. I arrived at Duxford late 1956 as a photographer, at first I worked in the photographic department but I have to say I ended up on 64 sqn in 1957 on Meteors (one day I will tell you how someone my size 4 ft 10in ever got into a Meteor) I also went on detachment with the Sqn to Scotland in 1958 that was when Les proposed to me and I said yes. I had to leave the sqn when our engagement became official and we were married in the following May 1959. Most people knew me as 'The Noo' need I say I am Scottish by birth and I did have a Scottish accent. I look forward to seeing everyone in October when I officially become the secretary.
Anne Gange

Postcard Appeal.

You may recall that back in May 2007 we given an interesting presentation by Kevin Crook of Mission Aviation on their operations throughout the remote parts of the world.

As Kevin mentioned, to carry on with this vital work they rely on funding from various sources, primarily donations and bequests and a small part from the recycling of old postcards!

On behalf of Mission Aviation, Jenny McRae has volunteered to collect any postcards donated by members of the Old Dux and pass them on to Kevin in support of this worthwhile cause. So look through your cupboards and old shoe boxes, and post them to Jenny, or bring them to the October meeting,

Andy Height a non serving but very active member living at Heathfield or A.M.Q's. as we knew it is a member of Heathfields Residents Ass. They have recently launched a website, www.hra-duxford.co.uk which is still under construction and it's aim is to enable all residents to communicate with one another, hopefully, they will! Whitehall Gardens, Kingsway and Woburn Place are alive and well!

Memorial Garden.

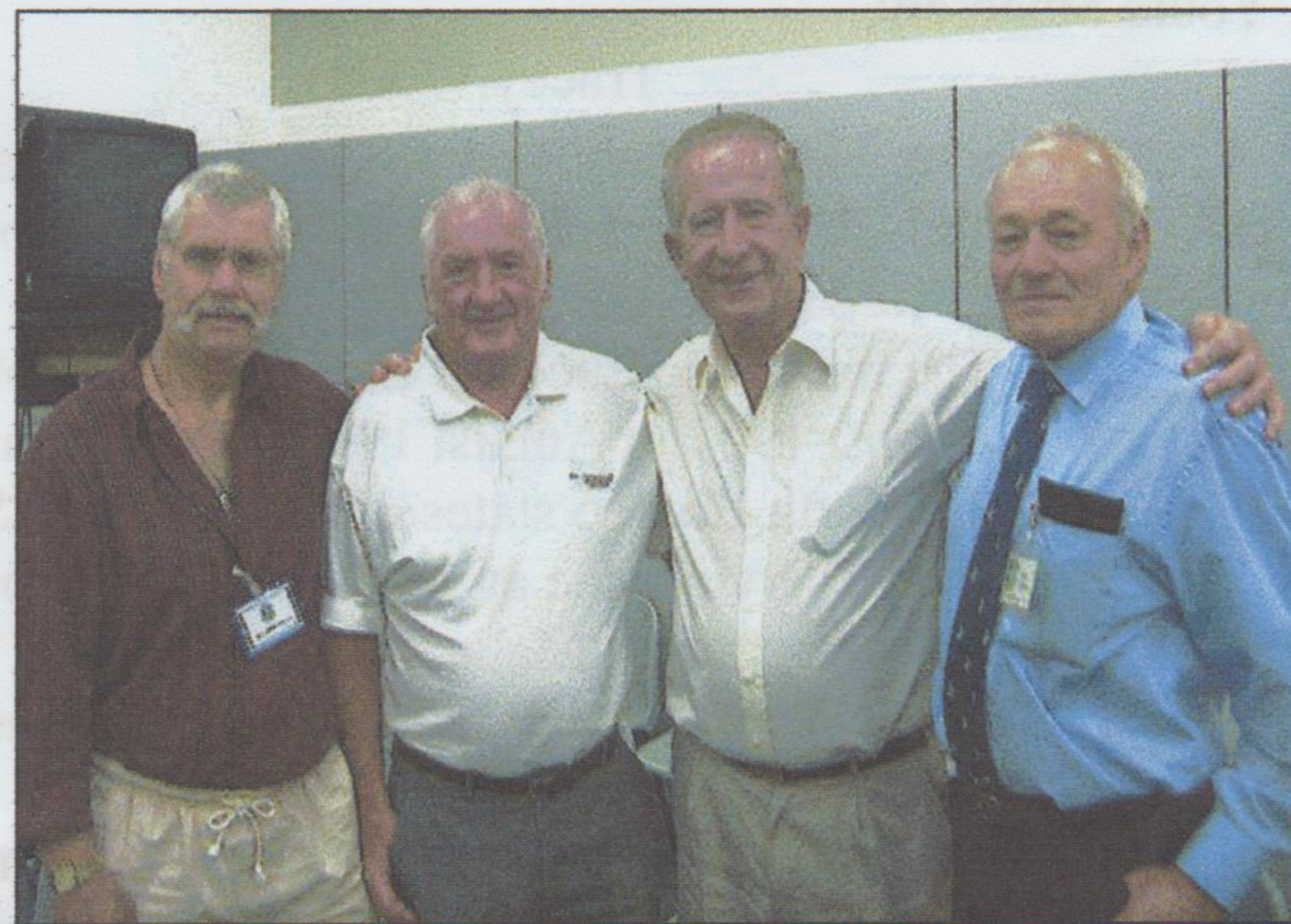
To commemorate & honour the many squadrons that flew from Duxford, Ian Swindale has been investigating the possibilities of setting up a Memorial Garden in the grounds of the Red Lion Inn, Whittlesford. A suitable sculpture/monument is being planned and permission has been obtained from the owners to hang Sqn.Plaques

Airshows.

Sat & Sun 12th & 13th July 'Flying Legends'
Sat & Sun 6th & 7th Sept. Duxford 90th. Anniv
Sunday Oct 5th. Autumn Airshow.

Members who would like to assist Jim Garlinge & Les Millgate on the recruitment stand on these dates contact Jim on 01322 274245

New Member Stan Dell, Gen Mech.1958-61 and Jock Nicol 64Sqn 1954 were welcomed on their first visit to for the dinner and AGM. Stan has been a member for a little more than a year and Jock just over 3yrs. He had travelled down from..... would you believe - Scotland ! to be with friends and enjoy the weekend at Duxford.



Geoff Bennet, Jock Nicol, Bob Scott & Bob Laidlow

For Sale Mk.LFXV1e Spitfire.SL542

Members may recall Bob's pet story in a previous newsletter of the history of SL542. It appears the present Canadian owner has realised that he may never see her fly again and wishes to recoup some of the £200,000 spent on it. I know Bob would dearly love to see her back at Duxford so if each member donated £635,000 we could spend our free evenings & weekends, well - er..... perhaps not !

REMEMBERING RAF DUXFORD

Tracey Woods, Marketing & PR Manager for I.W.M. recently contacted Jim Garlinge with regard to an event to be staged on 1st. June called, Remembering RAF Duxford –“ which will be a low key celebration of 90 years of this historic airfield (the main celebration being the air show in September). There have been initial discussions about the format for this event and we would really like to involve the Old Dux Association and its members in a positive way.”

In reply Jim agreed to do everything to help as some small return for all the organisation has done for us over the thirteen years our association has been in existence

The idea was put to the meeting and Ian Swindale, Les & Anne Gange, Tony Harbour, George Poole, John Blake, Michael Scrivener, Mr Cutts (new Member) and Jim agreed to take part.

On the day the weather was very unkind, a marquee with seating had been provided by the control tower which turned out to be a little too far for most of the general public. However the general chat and banter with Ian Swindale *probably* telling a few 'tall' stories helped the day along with lunch being provided by way of Coffee and Sandwiches.

Jim and each member that attended received a letter of thanks from Tracey, who went on to say,

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for attending ‘Remembering RAF Duxford’

As a result of your help visitors had a real opportunity to talk to you about what life at Duxford was like during its time as an operational RAF station. Although the number of people attending the event was not what we had hoped, the feedback that was received, has reflected that this day would not have been a success if it did not have the dedication and support that was shown by you on the day. We appreciate the time that you took to share in this momentous event and the lasting support you gave and very much hope to welcome you to Duxford again in the not too distant future”

Yours Sincerely,

Tracey Woods.

Pingat Jasa Mala The Government of Malaysia have been issuing the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal to all British and Commonwealth troops to commemorate the 50th Anniversary last year (2007) of Malayan Independence Day (Medeka day) that happened on 31st August 1957.



The medal is issued for the completion of a minimum of 90 days service from 31st August 1957 to August 1966 for those that served in Malaya, Singapore, Brunei, the North Borneo states of Sarawak and Sabah and Malaysia besides the three armed services the award is also made to police and administrators involved in the two campaigns “Malay Emergency” and “Indonesian Confrontation”. The MHC suggests that applications be submitted as soon as is possible please.



The British Government are allowing us to receive this medal but we cannot wear it on official occasions. The National Malay & Borneo Veterans Association is having to administering the award on behalf of the High Commission of Malaysian as our own government will not do so. Those who think they are entitled, should submit a completed application form, which is also being issued posthumously, and forward it to Mr Fred Burden whose address is shown on the covering instruction to the application forms. Forms are available by downloading a copy from www.nmbva.co.uk and scrolling down to the Download PJM application form. Alternately ring Grantham District NMBVA Secretary and Old Dux (1954-56) George Reeve 01476 561204 for advice and/or an application form. This medal can be issued posthumously and an appropriate application form is available

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD

RAF Duxford B of B "AT Home Day" 1955

When we last met, my old friend from squadron days Norman Buss handed me a yellowed copy of the flying programme for RAF Duxford's Battle of "At Home" day, dated 17th. September 1955 – complete with rusty staple!

It details take off & landing times, commencing at 13.58 – Spitfire take off (Mr. J. Quill) and finishing at 17.26 with the Canberra Formation Team – (Bassingbourne)

Among the displays listed were: Hurricane, Meteor Aerobatic Team(Duxford), Night Fighter Formation Fly Past, Balliol & Chipmunk Aerobatics (Flt.Lt.Thorne), Shackleton Fly Past, Hunter Aerobatics, F86D & Thunderstreak Fly Past, Valiant Display, Helicopter Display (Fisons), Supply Drop from a Dakota, Parachute Drop from a Hastings and last but not least a Vampire !Quite a show !

I noted that Flt.Lt. Thorne flew the Chipmunk and wondered if it was the same Len Thorne, who flew with the A.D.U. unit at Duxford in 1943, was an Old Dux member and who sadly passed away earlier this month? Also named, Flt.Lt. Tanner whom I remember from 65Sqn, F.O. Willis & F.O. Holloway

Norman noted that the Spitfire was flown by J. Quill, and made the point that 65Sqn made a small contribution to improving the Spitfire's performance and quotes Aeroplane's obituary on Quill.....

"Undoubtedly a thoroughbred from the start, the Spitfire nevertheless needed a great deal of work before it was deemed safe for young RAF pilots to fly. However, developed through many marks and variants, the Spitfire remained a first-line fighter throughout the war. During this entire period Quill was in charge of development and production flying, a job that he took very seriously—so seriously that he felt he must obtain first-hand combat experience. During August—September 1940 he was temporary released to 65Sqn at RAF Hornchurch, privately hoping that it would be a permanent appointment. On August 16th he shot down a Bf109 and two days later he shared a victory over a Heinkel He111. His combat days were short-lived, but made Quill all the more determined to make the Spitfire an even better fighting machine."

.....anyone remember them or the event and did it all go as planned I wonder?.....

Page 5 ?.....it's time for a Laugh

A man with a bald head and a wooden leg of which he is rather sensitive is invited to a fancy dress party. Unsure of what to wear he writes to a fancy dress company to explain his problem. A few days later he receives a parcel with a note...

Dear Sir ,Please find enclosed pirate's outfit. The spotted handkerchief will cover your bald head and with your wooden leg you will be just right as a pirate.

Because they emphasised his disability he is upset so he writes them a letter of complaint. A week passes and he received another parcel... Please find a monk's habit. The long robe will cover your wooden leg and with your bald head you will really look the part. The man is extremely unhappy now, because the company has gone from emphasising his wooden leg to drawing attention to his bald head. So he writes another

strong letter of complaint. A few days later, he gets a very small parcel from the company with an accompanying letter:

Dear Sir, Please find enclosed a tin of Golden Syrup. Pour the tin of Golden Syrup over your bald head, stick your wooden leg where the sun don't shine and go as a ***** toffee apple...



A driver is stuck in a traffic jam on the motorway. Nothing is moving. Suddenly a man knocks on the window. The driver rolls down his window and asks, 'What's going on?'

'Terrorists down the road have kidnapped Gordon Brown, Alistair Darling, David Miliband and Jack Straw. They're asking for a £10 million ransom. Otherwise they're going to douse them with petrol and set them on fire. We're going from car to car, taking up a collection.'

The driver asks, 'How much is everyone giving, on average?'

'Most people are giving about a gallon.'

Mobile Phones FOUR THINGS YOU PROBABLY NEVER KNEW YOUR MOBILE PHONE COULD DO

There are a few things that can be done in times of grave emergencies. Your mobile phone can actually be a life saver or an emergency tool for survival. Check out the things that you can do with it: FIRST

The Emergency Number worldwide for Mobile is 112. If you find yourself out of the coverage area of your mobile; network and there is an emergency, dial 112 and the mobile will search any existing network to establish the emergency number for you, and interestingly this number 112 can be dialed even if the keypad is locked. Try it out.

SECOND Have you locked your keys in the car?

Does your car have remote keyless entry? This may come in handy someday. Good reason to own a cell phone: If you lock your keys in the car and the spare keys are at home, call someone at home on their mobile phone from your cell phone. Hold your cell phone about a foot from your car door and have the person at your home press the unlock button, holding it near the mobile phone on their end. Your car will unlock. Saves someone from having to drive your keys to you. Distance is no object. You could be hundreds of miles away, and if you can reach someone who has the other 'remote' for your car, you can unlock the doors (or the trunk).

THIRD Hidden Battery Power

Imagine your mobile battery is very low. To activate, press the keys *3370# Your mobile will restart with this reserve and the instrument will show a 50% increase in battery. This reserve will get charged when you charge your mobile next time.

FOURTH How to disable a STOLEN mobile phone?

To check your Mobile phone's serial number, key in the following digits on your phone: *#06# A 15 digit code will appear on the screen. This number is unique to your handset. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. When your phone get stolen, you can phone your service provider and give them this code. They will then be able to block your handset so even if the thief changes the SIM card, your phone will be totally useless. You probably won't get your phone back, but at least you know that whoever stole it can't use/sell it either

Postcards for Jennie

