



# NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2009 [www.olddux.org](http://www.olddux.org) Compiled by Larry Cross

**Dear Members** I hope that you are all as well as you can be and like me, looking forward to a good summer. The recent weather has been sunnier but cool so for the time being I shall be hanging on to my thermals. I'm sure you will agree that the days just seem to whistle by - but then everything does go much faster downhill! It seems incredible that when we next meet at Duxford we will be halfway through 2009!

**New Members** We have recently acquired three new members, John Markham ex 65Sqn 1957 - 58. Roger & Heather Brooks 65Sqn 1960 - 61

**Annual Dinner** Booking Form Mk.II for the annual dinner is attached. Our first efforts were thwarted (not easy to say with a mouthful of Muesli) by the I.W.M. changing their Spring Airshow date to May 17<sup>th</sup> Please complete and forward (with cheque) to :-

**Anne Gange NO LATER THAN THE 6<sup>th</sup> MAY** Anne has been working her little socks off with help from Allan McRae O.D.A.Sec.(Ret) organizing the new menu, placecards and something special for the intended visit of our president, Sir Richard Johns. Members attending only the AGM on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> will of course be required to contact Bob Hope with their car Reg. No. & names of passengers. Tel.No. 01554 890520 The AGM will commence 13.00hrs in the AirSpace hangar, Classroom 3

**Internet Access** I had hoped to organise internet access in Classroom 3 for the meeting but it seems it is unavailable? Members who have never seen our website might well have been interested in seeing how it all works! There was also the potential for members not able to attend the meeting to drop in via Skype or W. L M.

We already have several members chatting to one another via this medium.

**Annual Subscriptions** Once again we politely remind members that annual subscriptions are due in April/October. If you are planning to attend the AGM George will also accept entrance money (£3.00) p.p. please detail the amount Post Directly to Mr G. Poole 4 Ash Grove Chesterton Oxon. OX6 8XB Tel. 01869 243887

**Memorial Garden** At no little expense to himself, Ian Swindale recently called in at the Red Lion to find that they will not be able to consider any options for the memorial garden until the plans for refurbishment currently lodged with C.C.C. planning are passed.

Whilst in Whittlesford he also visited the offices of the Parish Council regarding facilities we might be able to make use of for the proposed bun fight at our October meeting. Unfortunately in-so-doing, running foul of local parking restrictions! **Ouch!**

#### **Airshows 2009**

Spring AirShow	Sun.	17 <sup>th</sup> May.
Flying Legends	Sat & Sun	11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> July
Duxford AirShow	Sat & Sun	5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Autumn AirShow	Sun	11 <sup>th</sup> October

Jim Garlinge & Les Millgate will be manning the recruitment stand on these dates as per usual, anyone wishing to help out contact Jim on **01322 274245**

**Where are they Now** As you all know we are always looking for old friends and new members and to this end we are currently looking at the internet People Search programme, [www.tracesmart.co.uk](http://www.tracesmart.co.uk)

If we take it on, names can be submitted from members and entered on the search list. We all have friends with whom we have lost touch and in a small way you all could help. There may well be a paper or church magazine etc. in your area that operates a free 'Searching for Friends' column, perhaps you could submit the caption below.

I know from experience how rewarding it can be when a long search has been successful.

**DID YOU SERVE AT R.A.F. DUXFORD OR KNOW ANYONE WHO DID WE ARE CONSTANTLY SEARCHING FOR OLD FRIENDS TO JOIN US AND SHARE THE MEMORIES OF GREAT TIMES PAST -- FOR MORE INFORMATION RING 01322 274245 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE [WWW.OLDDUX.ORG](http://WWW.OLDDUX.ORG)**



**Peter Clay** has generously donated the painting 'Band of Brothers' to the O.D.A. funds. It is by the celebrated aviation artist Gerald Coulson and depicts the B of B memorial Flight. The painting, nicely framed will be raffled off after Sunday's AGM ...It's got to be worth a quid a go!

**The T.4.T.C. Appeal**

My thanks to those members who have shared their memories of Duxford with us in the past, by contributing to the Newsletter, please keep them coming. I'm sure they bring back fond memories for all who read them.

A special mention for Terry Crowley, a good old boy, ex-65 (later to defect to 64) for being the most consistent contributor to the newsletter since its existence. And if proof were needed another one of his engaging stories appears on page 3

Well done Terry! .....

....Oh! ... the T.4.T.C. Appeal ?

*Typewriter for Terry Crowley*

*He submits all his stories in longhand !*

Which just will not scan !

**Further to UFO's Ian Swindale writes:-**

Larry Old Son., thanks for the latest newsletter.

I didn't see any UFOs whilst at DX (except when leaving the Brewery Tap!) but when I was detached for a while (sadly permanently so now) to North Luffenham, then a Night Fighter OCU circa 1957, the Fighter Plotters at my then parent unit 997 SU Langtoft picked up an airborne object, stationery at 300ft above RAF Cottesmore, which then housed the still sensitive "V" bomber force. A Meteor NF 14 was then sent to investigate and vectored to the mystery object. Protesting that he couldn't see anything although he was tracked as being on top of it, there were some suddenly short and unattractive words on the R/T, which, translated meant "OH dear, I didn't realise we so close; that was somewhat unexpected!" The "bogey" was then tracked from a standing start, at 3000kts, travelling... you guessed it ...to the EAST !!! The incident was widely reported in the Press and we had the usual visit from The Raincoats gobbing off about the Official Secrets Act and "would we prefer the food at Colchester".

**Thoughts for the Day**

Good health is merely the slowest rate at which one can die.

Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day; teach a person to use the internet and they won't bother you for week.

One day health nuts are going to feel really stupid, lying in the hospital dying of nothing.



**THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS AS THEY APPEAR.**

A woman was flying from Seattle to San Francisco. Unexpectedly, the plane was diverted to Sacramento. The flight attendant explained that there would be a delay, and if the passengers wanted to get off the aircraft the plane would re-board in 50 minutes.

Everybody got off the plane except one lady who was blind. The man had noticed her as he walked by and could tell the lady was blind because her guide dog lay quietly underneath the seats in front of her throughout the entire flight. He could also tell she had flown this very flight before because the pilot approached her, and calling her by name, said, "Kathy, we are in Sacramento for almost an hour. Would you like to get off and stretch your legs?" The blind lady replied, "No thanks, but maybe Buddy would like to stretch his legs."



All the people in the gate area came to a complete standstill when they looked up and saw the pilot walk off the plane with a guide dog!

The pilot was even wearing sunglasses. People scattered. They not only tried to change planes, but they were trying to change airlines! .....

True story

*Submitted by Ron Stern*



## Little Friend

by Terry Crowley

I was based at RAF Duxford in 1953 on 65 Fighter Squadron and lived out in the village of Fowlmere, some 3-4 miles from the airfield.

In addition to mounting armed patrols during the 'Cold War Period' Fighter Command and the combined force of the RAF in Britain periodically practised simulated war exercises. Throughout the summer months these were inevitable. It was during these exercises that 65 squadron was required to be in a state of readiness from dawn to dusk.

On one such day I was cycling towards Duxford in the early hours of the morning. The day was perfect, no wind a cloudless sky and the night chill was receding to welcome the warmth of the sun. The countryside sounds of the dawn chorus and a heady smell of drying grass and foliage lifted the spirit.

The promise of a good day would soon become clamorous once the jet aircraft turned tranquillity into mayhem.



Dreamily I cycled along the lane towards the A505 Royston/Newmarket road, glancing to my right I noticed a large owl flying along with me some distance away. I rang the bicycle bell and the owl seemed to be attracted to the sound, as he dipped his port wing and joined me in my journey at possibly 3-4 feet away, level with the handlebars.

I immediately thought of the USAF bombers, once engaged on daylight raids across Europe, joy abounded when they were joined by their fighter escorts flying 'top cover'. Their little friends had arrived to provide protection against an inevitable enemy attack. The owl imparted that feeling to me, he was obviously enjoying a new experience after a night of hunting. The bird remained with me until I reached the main road then, remarkably, waggled his wings in a farewell salute before banking away to the right, homeward bound after a night of foraging. I thought of my little friend throughout that day, escorting me towards base.

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## **Women Golfers**

Two women were playing golf. One teed off and watched in horror as her ball headed directly toward a foursome of men playing the next hole.



The ball hit one of the men. He immediately clasped his hands together at his groin, fell to the ground and proceeded to roll around in agony.

The woman rushed down to the man, and immediately began to apologize. "Please allow me to help. I'm a Physiotherapist and I know I could relieve your pain if you'd allow me" "Oh, no, - I'll be all right. - I'll be fine in a few minutes," the man replied. He was in obvious agony, lying in the foetal position, still clasping his hands there at his groin. At her persistence, however, he finally allowed her to help. She gently took his hands away and laid them to the side, loosened his pants and put her hands inside. She administered tender and artful massage for several long moments and asked, "How does that feel?"

He replied - "It feels just great.... but I still think my thumb's broken!"

## **Comings and Goings**

A 70-year-old man was requested by his doctor for a sperm count as part of his medical. The doctor gave the man a jar and said, "Take this home and bring back a semen sample tomorrow."

The next day the 75-year-old returned to the doctor's surgery with the jar, which was completely empty. The doctor asked if there was a problem and the man explained, "Well, doctor, it's like this - first I tried with my right hand..... nothing. Then I tried with my left hand, still nothing. Then I asked my wife for help, she tried with either hand, still nothing. She tried with her mouth with the teeth in, still nothing. We even asked Arlene, the lady next door and she tried too. First with both hands, then an armpit, and she even tried squeezing' it between her knees, but still nothing" "Unbelievable! ... You asked your neighbour?" said the doctor. "Yes" the old man replied, ..... "and none of us could get the ruddy jar open."



## **The Chinese Detective**

Suspecting that his wife was cheating on him, a man hired a Chinese detective...the cheapest one he could find. This was his report...

Most honourable sir!  
You leave house - I watch house - He come house - I watch. He and she leave house - I follow. He and she go hotel - I climb tree - I look window. He kiss she. - She kiss he - He strip she - She strip he. - He play with she. She play with he. I play with me - I fall off tree. - I no see....No fee,

Cheng Lee



## History in the Making



Norman Buss, another good old boy ex 65 Sqn. & ASF was at Duxford 1951-55, he was a Corporal rigger at the time when I knew him way back when. He was demobbed from there, as was I, but Norman signed on for another five years which would enable him to become a qualified A/F Fitter in civvy street.

He was then posted to Colerne on 24 Sqn and during that time he worked on the Hastings, among others, which now stands in the AirSpace Hangar at Duxford.

Norman spent 3yrs in Germany and after being demobbed found a job with DanAir at Lasham - Davies And Newman, not Danish Airways! Norman enjoyed his work there and described it as a family business. During his 35 years at DanAir he worked on the Ambassador, the York and the history making Comet G-APDB, amazingly all these aircraft are now in the museum at Duxford,

The Comet was the first jet passenger aircraft in service and the first passenger jet to fly the Atlantic - G-APDB was one of the first pair to fly East / West -- West / East. When Norman heard that G-APDB was to be scrapped he realised this was another important piece of British Aviation facing oblivion. He protested loudly and acted swiftly in implementing a petition.

As in all things luck has a part to play and although there were some notable names attached, it was not needed. It was during a visit by boffins from Duxford searching for Dakota spares that Norman had the opportunity to mention G-APDB and it's impending doom. Discussions went on from there and DanAir's Fred Newman agreed to the plane going to Duxford on loan provided it remained in DanAir's livery. Sadly that was short-lived when DanAir was absorbed by BA. for the princely sum of £1 !

The big day eventually arrived. With Norman on board G-APDB took off from Lasham making several passes before heading for Hatfield, the Air Hostesses working well and the champagne flowing freely among the chosen few. More passes were made over the waiting crowds when they arrived at Hatfield the home of De Havilland Circling over Duxford, Normans was amazed to see what seemed to be hundreds of school children, there by accident or design, all waving unknowingly at what they were witnessing.

Normans only reward was the satisfaction of knowing, but for his efforts that historic aircraft would have been lost forever, it being only right and proper, Norman was on board when G- APDB touched down at Duxford. That was in February 1974 - 18 years after he had left there as a civillian. Norman felt that for him the history making Comet G-APDB was in it's rightful place - Duxford.

### Duty Calls

Throughout the service there has always been extra duties to be performed .At Duxford it usually operated by taking turns but it didn't always work that way if you were unpopular with your immediate superior!

There were guard duties, fire piquet, key orderlies and PBX and SHQ to name just two, were manned 24/7.

The routine for S.H.Q. personnel was RAF operated singly, WRAF in pairs. They left work at 16.00hrs to collect their bedding and draw overnight rations from the mess, usually 4 eggs bread & butter tinned beans Camp coffee and Evap. milk. Whenever the duty fell to two WRAF's in particular, my mate and I (No names no pack drill) usually managed to call round for a cuppa and occasionally more!

Getting into SHQ through the side door without being spotted by the 'gentlemen' that manned the guardroom 24/7 really added to the excitement.

As long as we kept out of view from the windows we felt fairly safe and quickly swung into action.

First we heated the beans in the tin... in the kettle,

Then we boiled the eggs... in the kettle.

Then we made the coffee ... from the kettle.

What a feast.... We'd do anything for an egg buttie in those days!

### THE AGES OF MAN

The horse and the mule live thirty years And nothing know of wines or beers

The goat and sheep at twenty die With never a taste of scotch or rye.

The cow drinks water by the ton. And at 18 is mostly done.

The dog at 16 cashes in. Without the aid of rum or gin. The cat in milk and water soaks And then in 12 short years it croaks.

The modest, sober, bone-dry hen Lays eggs for nogs, then dies at 10.

All animals are strictly dry. They sinless live and quickly die. But sinful, ginful, rum-soaked men Survive for three score years and ten

And some of us the mighty few

Stay pickled 'til we're 92.

With compliments of the 'The Waltzing Matilda' Pub, Kowloon.