



# NEWSLETTER

FEBUARY 1996

## RESERVED FOR MEETING AT DUXFORD

Cut this heading out and stick it on to your 1996 engagement calendar next to Sunday 12th May as that's the date of our first meeting of 1996.

For those of you who have not been before here are a few helpful guide-lines;

Ring Bob (01554-890520) as soon as possible and let him know who will be attending, and in response to a request made at the last meeting name badges will be made available for your partners providing of course you tell Bob their names.

Entrance to Duxford is via the main guardroom gate, not the public entrance, where your names will be checked off by security from the list supplied by Bob, after which you will be directed to a parking area, which is usually by the old MT section. Following this procedure will ensure that you get in for free!

The official meeting time is 12 noon outside the control tower, for those who get there early there is plenty to see to pass the time away, or go to the Red Lion at Whittlesford for morning coffee and a chat, then convoy up to the airfield.

Following the now obligatory group photographs we will hold a brief meeting in one of the classrooms (opposite the old clothing store) kindly provided by the I.W.M. There is no formal agenda or long speeches and afterwards your time is your own, to view the museum or chat with old pals, or even both.

The refreshment arrangements at Duxford are a bit limited, so it may be advisable to bring a packed lunch, in the event of bad weather you can eat in the classroom.

### Honorary Member

As most of you are aware, the arrangements that give free entrance and the use of the classroom are due to the efforts of Stephen Woolford, Head of Education and Exhibitions at the Duxford arm of the Imperial War Museum. Stephen has supported the association right from the start and has also made available several interesting photograph albums showing the history of Duxford.

In recognition of his help and support we are pleased to make Stephen an Honorary Member of the association and a suitable certificate will be presented to Stephen (at date

to be decided) as he will be on leave at the time of the next meeting. The certificate, suitably framed, will be on view at the meeting.

### New Members

Welcome to some additions to the association, and we look forward to meeting them in May;

B. Ashcroft  
J. Langley  
N. Buss  
J. Bullen  
T. Light  
G. Poole

### Christmas Quiz

Response to the quiz was disappointing, only one entry was received, and as this was incomplete the prize money remains in the association coffers. Was the quiz too hard? I will be interested to hear your comments at the May meeting.

The answers are given on the next page, for the newcomers who did not get a copy perhaps you would like to guess what the questions were. (Only joking). For those interested the 25th was Burns night and I did enjoy my dram.

### Obituary

We have learned from Ian Kippax that Harry "Chiefy" French died of Leukaemia in Sept 1992 just two months short of his 71st birthday. Harry will be remembered by all who worked in ASF, especially those belonging to the engine bay. After Duxford Harry was posted to Waddington where he served as crew chief on Vulcan bombers. It was Harry's plane that flew the Atlantic to Halifax in Canada with the first newsreel showing the funeral of Winston Churchill, beating in the process both British Airways and the Americans who were competing to be the first to get the news across the 'pond'. Harry left the service after serving for 31 years and went on to set up the newly formed traffic division of the Lincoln police force where he remained until his retirement. He will be remembered by those in the association who knew him as an admired and respected NCO.



### BADGES

As you are aware Bob has been trying to obtain a suitable lapel badge based on the duck logo, now thanks to a lead given by Ian Swindel production is under way and the badges will be available for purchase soon, cost as agreed at the meeting will be £3.00 each.

### MEMBERSHIP CARDS

At the request of several members an investigation regarding the issuing of membership cards is to take place initially to see what costs are involved, whether they be permanent or issued with each renewal of membership, should there be a different card for each category of membership?. All these factors will be looked at and it is hoped that a solution will be arrived at in time for the next meeting.

### NAME BADGES & HOLDERS.

Would all of you who were given name badges and holders please look after them and remember to bring them with you to each meeting, the holders are quite expensive and colouring the badge is very time consuming, to those of you who had their names spelt incorrectly I apologise, the errors will be corrected before the next meeting.

### HONORARY MEMBER

The certificate that is to be awarded to Stephen Woolford was on display, unfortunately Stephen was unable to attend the meeting so another date to make the presentation will have to be arranged, at the dinner perhaps ?.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

To refresh your memories here is a list of the committee names and phone numbers,  
Chairman; Bob Hope

01554-890520

Vice Chairman(North ); Jim Lynn

0191-3853941

Vice Chairman(South ); Jim Garlinge

01322-274245

Secretary/Treasurer; Allan McRae\*

01709-560771

\* I also produce this newsletter and would welcome letters, comments, articles, or stories etc for inclusion in future editions.

A story submitted by Terry Crowley entitled "Castor Oil" follows on the next page, and I thank him for his contribution.

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### OLD DUX DINNER

We/I should like to reserve..... places at the inaugural dinner to be held at the Officers Mess Duxford, on the 21st Sept 1996, those attending will be; (Block capitals please)

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Dress will be smart informal

Signed.....date.....

Cut out & return to (or call) Bob Hope.