



# NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2013

[www.olddux.org](http://www.olddux.org)

Edited by LARRY CROSS



Dear Members,

I trust you have all been enjoying the sun whilst he has got his hat on and as I write he's doing a grand job down here in Sunny Worthing. It really does make a difference to our wellbeing and together with our triumphs in the world of tennis and cricket and the news of the arrival of Prince George it perhaps helps us to forget what is happening to this once great country of ours.

## The October Meeting

Will take place on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> in the AirSpace Hangar classroom One. Entrance to the airfield via the guardroom gate as per usual, The meeting will commence at 14.00 hrs ..... but before all that, the Buffet /Lunch The Committee will be in attendance at the Red Lion from 12.00 hrs onwards to welcome anyone who wishes to have lunch or just socialize prior to the meeting which again **will commence at 1400hrs**, - providing we can wrest the keys from St Peter in the guardroom ! Please let Bob Hope have your Reg.No. and names of passengers in good time if you plan to attend the meeting. Tel: 01554 890520

## Remembrance Sunday

It was agreed at May's meeting that the association should be represented at IWM special service of remembrance on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November.

All went according to plan and the Association Wreath this year was obtained by Colin and Kerris Denley who also offered to pay for it.

Bob declined their generous offer, saying it would be only right and proper that it should come from ODA funds, quickly adding that a donation would be most welcome and this they agreed to do.

The artwork on the card and centre was done by Allan McRae and we thank them for their efforts.

Les Millgate will be our association's official representative and agreed to do the honours by laying the wreath.

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>

IWM Duxford will be hosting a special service of remembrance and on this day entrance to the museum is free to all. From 10.00 am – 4.00 pm.

At 11.00 am, a two-minute silence will be observed across the museum, commencing and concluding with a traditional gun salute presented by The Garrison The Remembrance Service will commence

At 12.30pm in the Conservation Hall in the AirSpace Hangar. There will be standard bearers from the Royal British Legion and local air cadets and The Sawston Youth Group Band will perform the *Last Post*.

In AirSpace, between 10.00am and 3.00pm, make a poppy and wear it with pride or attach it to the large Flanders Field frieze. In Land Warfare between 10.00am and 3.00pm, your assembled poppy can be attached to a mural depicting modern warfare and between 11.30am and 3.30pm you can also meet veterans of the Royal Anglian Regiment who will chat about their personal experiences of war

## An item from Jim Garlinge

At the last Flying Legends air show in July the weather was excellent for flying but really too hot. We sat there baking in the hangar devoid of people who were enjoying the sunshine. However, I sat there watching a man taking measurements of the 65Sqn Hunter by our recruitment stand. On enquiring he said he was from Belgium and intended to build a one sixth scale flyable model of a Hunter. In further general conversation I vaguely remembered that sometime around 1958 one or more Belgian Hunters visited Duxford which I thought had covertly photographed, the camera being hidden in my toolbox ! On searching through my stuff at home I could not find any snaps of the event and ask if anyone remembers the visit and / or has any photos or of the event. I told Mr Le Clerc that I would enquire on his behalf.

Jim Garlinge 01322 274245 or [jgarling@aol.com](mailto:jgarling@aol.com)

## RAFP Association

Tony Harbour and Colin Denley who are fellow members of the Old Dux also support their RAF Police Association. It came to light during one of their branch meetings that the Duxford guardroom is one of the very few still operational, albeit now under civilian jurisdiction. As both Tony and Colin served at Duxford, Tony as an S.P. and Colin at that time in the M.T.section, later re-mustering to the RAFP, it was decided to ensure in some way that it's history and original purpose would not be lost to future generations. Prior to our meeting in May it was arranged that a photographer would attend when Tony presented an RAF Police Plaque and Colin an RAF Police Association Plaque to the assembled staff.

Tony and Colin were also invited to 'inspect' the guardroom it's utilities and exercise yard which brought back many mostly, happy memories.

*Note* I hope to be able to expand on this in the next issue when a more detailed report with photographs will hopefully be available from Esther Blaine, IWM publicity Officer.

L.C.



## LOST AND FOUND

It is often thought that all the Treasurer did was collect money and prepare the accounts. Happily, it allows him and other committee members in their different roles to speak with a wide range of members, and have come to know to more of you that way.

A particularly satisfying aspect is that quite often we can pick up on an underlying problem which is worrying a member. These range from a personal or family illness, an impending operation, or something that just needs talking through. Members of the Committee are of different generations of Duxford and personally know different people or groups of our old comrades, and it is easy to pass the information onto someone who can give a helping hand.

There is another aspect that comes up every year, the member who does not respond to requests for subscriptions. There are usually a couple of dozen. We detest losing members, and go to great lengths to find them. The ODA is about people, not subscriptions, but we need the latter to fund the association.

When someone fails to respond, we telephone, e-mail and write letters. If this fails to get a response, individual Committee members try various contacts. The final attempt is made by sending letters to neighbours for information. Regrettably, the response is sometimes about a death of which we were unaware, but at least it gives us closure. More agreeably, we find and make contact with people who have moved, are in nursing homes or hospital. It often takes weeks to achieve this, but it is satisfying for us on the Committee and members who might have thought they were lost are pleased to know the lengths we will go to link up again. Our treasurer Stan has the last word, "I spent my entire career on Fighter Command, and am proud of that. However, had I known that I was going to be chasing subs for three months every year, I might have elected for some experience on Coastal Command!

Our sincere thanks to all who have paid their subscriptions and sent personal messages with donations.

Last but not least, resignations - Not surprisingly, the usual reason is ill health either of themselves or their spouses and sadly as time goes by the numbers will increase.

Resignations recently came from June Cook due to Bob's ill-health and Rod Whiting whose wife's poor health keeps him fully occupied.

We thank them for their past support and wish them all the very best for the future, L.C.

**Search** Ted and Maureen Cawley have slipped off our radar. We 'heard' some time ago that they were coming back from Oz, has anyone any information on their whereabouts please.

### ***From the Mail City&Finance***

The roar of Rolls Royce engines fills the air, interrupting the conversations as all eyes turn skywards to watch the Spitfires and Mustangs pirouetting above Duxford airfield.

Nick and Giles English, two brothers who founded luxury watch company Bremont, are in relaxed mood.

Surrounded by friends the pair are enjoying the Flying Legends air show, Europe's biggest gathering for vintage propeller aircraft and historic aviation. Like the machines whizzing past over the airfield near Cambridge, the English brothers are in their natural element.

Bremont sponsors the event which took place in early July as well as a team of American aviators known as The Horsemen, who made a guest appearance.

The pairing of Bremont and the air show world follows a long association between the English family and historic aviation. Their father Euan English, a former RAF pilot and engineer, was the killed in a 1995 aircraft crash that also left Nick badly injured.

When he was recovering the brothers decided to ditch their City careers and pursue their passions. The result, more than a decade later, is the Bremont watch company, which takes its name from a French farmer who once helped the pair when they were forced to land in his field in a vintage biplane. Many watch companies seek to tap into the glamour associated with flying high performance aircraft. But Bremont is one of the few whose owners are not only fanatical about flying but are experienced pilots themselves with their own collection of machines, including a rare 1930s Gipsy Moth. But it's not all just about having fun. Meeting the brothers at their timber-framed headquarters in Henley-on-Thames the attention to detail in their products is immediately clear.

The company supplies more than 60 squadrons around the world, including elite units such as the US Navy's test pilots school and airmen flying U2 spy planes. Pilots want to have something no-one else has got explains Nick English and realise the value a mechanical watch can have.

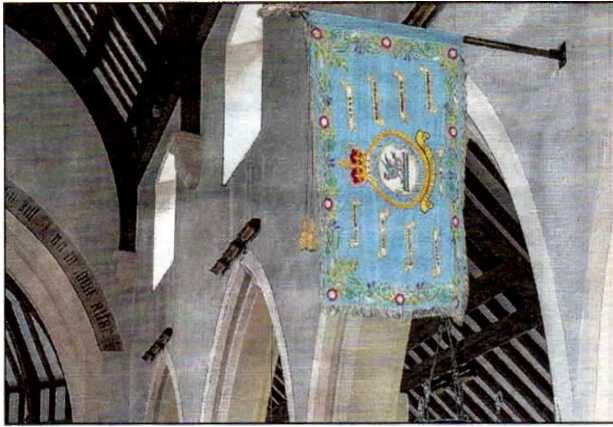
In the early days Stephen Grey, the driving force behind The Fighter Collection - a squadron of vintage aeroplanes based at Duxford - gave the brothers the opportunity to make 120 watches based on inclusion of some redundant -metal from the restoration of his-famous EP120 Spitfire MkV, a Second World War combat veteran.

Even at £6,495; the watch was a sell-out, before it was made. - This theme continued with a watch using metal from an American P51 Mustang called Fragile but Agile which saw combat in the Pacific.

Other limited editions include a Victory watch using copper and wood from Nelson's flagship HMS Victory, and a new Codebreaker watch incorporates metal and paper from Bletchley Park, home of the Second World War experts who cracked Germany's secret codes.

With their sights set on global expansion the time seems right for the English brothers and their British success story.

### 3 Squadron's Standard laid to Rest



(3 Fighter) Squadron's Standard in Chitterne

A MILITARY parade and flypast of a Hurricane and Typhoon was part of a special ceremony that saw a squadron's Standard laid to rest in Chitterne. The 1983 3(F) Squadron Standard, which is now in All Saints and St Mary's Church, was replaced by a new one presented on the squadron's 100th anniversary last year. Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns, who lives in the village, is president of the 3 Fighter Squadron Association and a former squadron commanding officer

.He said: "The squadron was formed on May 11, 1912 just up the road at Larkhill and spent the first two years of its existence on Salisbury Plain before it deployed to France in August 1914. " On May 12 at 12.30pm there was a flypast of a Typhoon and Hurricane. The Hurricane made several fly backs while the Typhoon, after its initial flypast, disappeared vertically into the cloud and back to its base in Lincolnshire, a trip of 11 or 12 minutes.

"The ceremonial flag bears battle honours that include Mons, Somme, Cambrai, Battle of Britain, Normandy and Arnhem. More recently the squadron has seen action over Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya. Sir Richard (Dickie, to his friends) is also President of the Old Dux Association an independent and self financing group of ex R.A.F personnel of all ranks who served at R.A.F. Duxford during its time as an operational station.

(Local News)

### We Salute you Ma'am

The RAF has appointed a woman to the rank of air vice-marshal, the most senior position to be held by a regular serving female in the UK armed forces.

A woman who joined the RAF straight from school at 17 has made history by becoming the first female two-star officer in Britain's Armed Forces.

Elaine West, 51, has been promoted to air vice-marshal – the highest military rank ever held by a woman in the UK.

Air Vice-Marshal West, who is married with a teenage son, joined the RAF in the lowest rank of aircraftwoman in 1978. She said: "I am privileged to have served in the RAF and to have enjoyed so many challenging roles over the years To now be the first female military two-star is a truly unexpected bonus".

Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Sir Andrew Pulford said her promotion was "thoroughly well deserved" Wishing her "every success in her challenging role", he added: "The vast majority of roles in the armed forces are open to women and I would encourage everyone, regardless of gender, to take full advantage of the opportunities available to them within the military."



Air Vice-Marshal West



### Report from Cambridge local News

A life-size Spitfire model created from 6,500 egg boxes has gone on show at a Cambridgeshire museum.

The plane stood alongside other classic aircraft at Duxford's Imperial War Museum on Sunday to help raise support for the forces charity **Help for Heroes**.

The Battle of Britain tribute took creators Charlotte Austen and Jack Munro six weeks to make using 10,000 staples and 10 litres of paint. Sculptor Ms Austen, 27, said it was an "intricate" and "enjoyable" challenge.

Members of the public helped to place the Eggs for Soldiers egg boxes into position to complete

the sculpture. Ms Austen said: "Working on the Spitfire has been quite a journey. I have enjoyed the challenge of it immensely. Help for Heroes is a charity I believe in enormously and it has been a huge honour."

The model also required five litres of glue, 5,000 nails, 100 square metres of canvas and seven metres of foam. The model makers used traditional timber and modern laser cutting techniques. Co-creator and architect Jack Munro, 26, said: "It has been hugely enjoyable to work on such a unique project.

"The biggest challenge in building the structure of the Eggs for Soldiers Spitfire was to recreate the plane's iconic, but complex, geometry as accurately as possible. "Every surface of the Spitfire is double curved, and to replicate this we have used a combination of traditional timber construction techniques and advanced digital processes such as laser cutting."

## A welcome snippet from John Adams

When I joined 92 Squadron in 1947 until 1949 they were basically a 'goodwill' squadron travelling to RAF stations here and abroad. For example, Lubeck in Germany, Lincoln-on-Ouse Yorkshire and Acklington Northumberland for exercises such as 'air to air', 'air to ground', 'simulated air strikes' and 'scramble times'.

I experienced my first flight ever in a Meteor Jet at Linton-on-Ouse (what an experience!). I worked in the Armoury Section, played football and boxed for Squadron and Station teams. I actually reached the last 8 in boxing of command finals at RAF Uxbridge.

I really did enjoy my service with the squadron and met some really nice people. One in particular was F/Sgt 'Chiefy' Grey, whom I will never forget. Whilst on exercise at RAF Bentwaters in Suffolk and waiting for a scramble he picked a blade of grass and a dandelion and spoke for nearly an hour on these two subjects, what a brilliant man!

### Only the Irish have jokes like these.

Into a Belfast pub comes Paddy Murphy, looking like he'd just been hit by a train. His arm is in a sling, his nose is broken, his face is cut and bruised and he's walking with a limp "Jeez, what *happened* to you?" asks Sean, the bartender.

"Jamie O'Conner and me had a fight," says Paddy. "That little guy, O'Conner," says Sean, "He couldn't do that to you, he must have had something in his hand."

"That he did," says Paddy, "a shovel is what he had, and a terrible lickin' he gave me with it."

"Well," says Sean, "you should have defended yourself, didn't you have something in your hand?"

That I did," said Paddy..."Mrs. O'Conner's left breast, and a thing of beauty it was, but useless in a fight !

*Sent in by Paddy Scott*



HAVE ANY OF YOU READ 'FIFTY SHADES OF GREY' ..... you haven't ? the following might give you an idea of what it's all about.

*The book "Fifty Sheds Of Grey," by author Colin Grey recounts his love encounters at the bottom of the garden. Here are some extracts...And I love them all !*

We tried various positions - round the back, on the side, up against a wall... but in the end we came to the conclusion the bottom of the garden was the only place for a good shed.

She stood before me, trembling in my shed. "I'm yours for the night," she gasped, "You can do whatever you want with me." So I took her to McDonalds.

She knelt before me on the shed floor and tugged gently at first, then harder until finally it came. I moaned with pleasure. Now for the other boot.

Ever since she read THAT book, I've had to buy all kinds of ropes, chains and shackles. She still manages to get into the shed though.

"Put on this rubber suit and mask," I instructed, calmly. "Mmmm, kinky!" she purred. "Yes," I said, "You can't be too careful with all that asbestos in the shed roof."

"I'm a very naughty girl," she said, biting her lip. "I need to be punished." So I invited my mum to stay for the weekend.

"Harder!" she cried, gripping the workbench tightly. "Harder!" "Okay," I said. "What's the gross national product of Nicaragua?"

I lay back exhausted, gazing happily out of the shed window. Despite my concerns about my inexperience, my rhubarb had come up a treat.

"Are you sure you can take the pain?" she demanded, brandishing stilettos. "I think so," I gulped. "Here we go, then," she said, and showed me the receipt.

"Hurt me!" she begged, raising her skirt as she bent over my workbench. "Very well," I replied. "You've got fat ankles and no dress sense."

"Are you sure you want this?" I asked. "When I'm done, you won't be able to sit down for weeks." She nodded. "Okay," I said, putting the three-piece suite on eBay.

Submitted by Richard Fry

Note: Only a four pager this time - no shortage of ink, paper or envelopes – just items of interest from the membership.