



NEWSLETTER

June 2016

www.olddux.org

Compiled by Alan Garner



Dear Members

We celebrated another year in style as we reached our 21st annual dinner in May. Wow 21years; are we getting old? Not while we can muster the kind of crowd that met together at The Red Lion, where 65 of us enjoyed not only a very pleasant meal together, but fine conversations with old friends, not a bad number '65' it rings a bell or two. Before the meal the bar was kept busy as we all looked around for familiar faces to greet and talk with. 1930 hrs came and we all sat down according to the well laid out table plan, wondering who we would be sat next to, (always a highlight of the occasion.) I had Larry on my left who was quick to fill my glass when I noticed that my wife was sat opposite me, did someone have a word I wonder? Then on my right I found myself next to Emm Kennard who turned out to be a kindred spirit along with Gordon her husband.

Then our chairman addressed us all as only Bob can do. He stood up with a big smile and said; 'Welcome to the 21st Anniversary of the Old Dux Association, with a special welcome to our Association President Sir Richard and Lady Johns, together with all our members, their wives and guests, and our guests from the IWM Duxford; Alicia Gurney, Kay Cooper and Carl Warner.' Then he added; 'In 1959 one of my duties was to post in a young first Tourist by the name of Richard Johns; he seemed a promising lad!!'

Bob continued; 'From the 31 Founder Members and myself (32) there are 16 other survivors, who are unable to attend for various reasons.

He then read some 21st Birthday Cards from. **Mike and Margaret Knighton** ex 64 Sqn. - **Mike Jenkins** ex 64 Sqn. pilot who sadly lost his wife last year; '*Sorry I cannot be with you, have a great time.*' - **Rex Brunneye** ex 64 Sqn; '*Sorry I cannot be with you; It clashes with the British Disabled Water Skiing, it is my job to check out any new boat drivers; Enjoy the weekend and congratulations and thank you for what you and the Committee have achieved.*' - **Malcolm and Joanne Niblett** ex 65 Sqn; '*Happy Birthday Old Dux; Wish we were there.*' - **Eddie Vincent** ex 65 Sqn; '*Sorry I cannot attend this special occasion; I will be thinking of you all; Duxford has many happy memories for me.*' - **Baz Gowling** 65 Sqn; '*Best wishes to all, celebrate your 21st in style.*' - **Tony Miller** ex 64 Sqn; '*We would have been close to 21 when the old airfield closed, good to have another to celebrate. Sorry I am not able to attend; Best wishes to*

everyone; Have an enjoyable evening.' **Allan and Jen McRae and Dell Gates**; '*Count your life by smiles, not tears; Count your age by friends, not years. Happy 21st to the Old Dux.*'

Sadly 18 others have passed away, so in memory of our absent friends we had a minute silence.



Sir Richard, Lady Elizabeth, Committee and Wives

Also, in his welcoming speech our Chairman made reference to two of our founder members who were not with us for our 21st Dinner. They were Allan McRae and Jim Garlinge who were unable to attend due to health reasons.

Allan was our first Secretary, our first Treasurer and our first News Letter Editor. Offices he held simultaneously for many years! To give some idea of the work load he took on, those jobs are now run by three different people who all find their hands full most of the time.

Jim Garlinge has been Deputy Chairman and our Recruiting Sergeant since the day one. Jim has made the journey to Duxford six times each year, a round trip of three hours every day, to man the Recruiting Table at every Air Show for most of our twenty one years, except for the last few years due to ill health. Some had visited him on one occasion when the temperature in the hangar was in excess of 100 degrees, and it had been the same the day before, more like a sauna than a recruitment centre. It is this kind of dedication that has kept our recruitment levels constant despite the attritional age of our membership pool.

We all owe a huge debt of gratitude both to these and all the other founders who were the generators of what we have today, especially our chairman who always fails to mention his own role of prime motivator and who still keeps his committee on the straight and narrow.

Thanks were given to all who had contributed to the raffle prizes. Don Headley ex 64 Sqn pilot gave his latest book on Javelins, which he had signed and said to make sure that Dick signed it also; which he did.

Bob also thanked Jan and Stan Dell together with Kerris and Colin Denley for all their hard work in making the evening happen so successfully, which brought high applause. Then our thanks were also directed to the Red Lion Hotel, Staff and Management. Sir Richard was in good form when he rose and spoke to the assembly with much wit and good humour before toasting the Queen.

AGM Meeting

On Sunday 8th May in the AirSpace classroom Bob our chairman again welcomed those attending the AGM and gave a special 'thank you' to Emm and Gordon Kennard for coming all the way from Greece and their generous donation to the Old Dux kitty.

Apologises from David & Janet Brown and a long list of others who were unable to be present was mentioned. "Last Postings" (Listed later) were brought to our attention followed by a one minute silence for all Absent Friends.

We learned that David Blyth was in hospital. Two of Dave's mates, Peter Taylor and David Gulliver missed the AGM to visit the hospital to see Dave and leave an Old Dux Best Wishes Card with him from all of us. More news about Dave later.

Officer's Mess

After the AGM we visited the Officer's Mess at the invitation of Mantle Business Centre. Colin Denley had organised the means by which we could leave the Air Side and get over to the Officers mess by the safest route; - Well done that man! Kerris procured our wonderful cake and Mantle did us proud with tea and more cakes inside together with a tour of the building. As you can see, the weather was all we could wish for, warm and sunny.

Bob poses with Guy Baker Director of Mantle next to the picture and plaque created by Stan Dell depicting The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. The brass plaque's inscription states as follows:

OLD DUX ASSOCIATION

THIS HISTORICAL PICTURE WAS PRESENTED BY THE OLD DUX ASSOCIATION ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 21ST ANNIVERSARY. THE PICTURE DEPICTING THE RAF MEMORIAL FLIGHT INCLUDES THE SPITFIRE BEARING THE SQUADRON CODE OF DOUGLAS BADER WHO WAS STATIONED HERE. THE PRESENTATION IS MADE TO MANTLE AS OUR ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE SENSITIVE AND FAITHFUL RESTORATION OF THE RAF OFFICERS MESS.



Some other sad news has come to light that Jim Garlinge's Mum aged 104 passed away in hospital on the day of the AGM. Jim had looked after his Mum so well and for so long. We all offer our condolences to Jim.

Back to the AGM We were privileged to receive a talk and slide show from Alicia Gurney (IWM), Head of Master Planning and Engagement, who took us through the next 20 years of planned development at Duxford which we found most interesting, Alicia is looking for experiences from our members concerning the time when we served at RAF Duxford. (Watch this space.)

Carl Warner gave us an update on The American War Hanger which is now finished and open again. And Sarah Russell gave us an impromptu insight of her new job as Curator at the Norris Museum, St Ives, Cambridgeshire. Because of redevelopment the museum remains closed until the spring of 2017.

With nothing further from the floor except to confirm that Nobby Clark (suffering from a chest problems/ breathing difficulties and in a wheel chair, be advised best not to cause himself any further discomfort) and should not attempt to recite one of his amusing anecdotes. But he did manage to slip in that he has now been put on DNR. Stan said 'DNA. 'No' said Nobby, 'DNR, do not resuscitate.' We all had a good laugh.

64 Sqn & 65 Sqn Engine Fitters unite to save Jaguar XW 566!

Derek Parks (J/T Engine Fitter 64 Sqn)

This is one of those stories that started as a chance conversation between two Old Dux Association members, probably as a result of one too many G&T's at the bar and a bit like Topsy, just grew and grew which eventually resulted in the saving of the undercarriage of a two seat Jaguar trainer from becoming a danger to the volunteers at the Farnborough Air Science Trust Museum (FAST) and to members of the public who visit the Museum.

During last year's annual get-together at The Red Lion I was partaking of my second or possibly third G&T during the lunchtime gathering on the Saturday afternoon when Bob, our illustrious Chairman appeared beside me. We exchanged the standard pleasantries, how are you? Did you have a good drive up? What have you been doing recently etc? When I mentioned with respect to the last one, that I was a volunteer at FAST and was looking after some of the aircraft in the static park, the conversation quickly turned to the general state of some of the aeroplanes we see in museums around the country, especially those parked outside and subject to the ravages of the weather.

At Duxford those in the hangars are relatively easy to keep in good condition once the initial work of restorations have been carried out but with those outside it is a constant battle to keep weathering and corrosion at bay.

The FAST Museum has a variety of aircraft that served with the Royal Aircraft Establishment some of which are painted in the classic 'Raspberry Ripple' colour scheme. These aircraft can be seen at the 'FAST' website and unfortunately have to be kept outside in the weather.

I did mention to Bob that one of the aircraft, a two seat Jaguar XW566, was suffering from extensive corrosion of the undercarriage drag links (struts). These struts are made of magnesium alloy and were rapidly crumbling away along their length. Whilst not in immediate danger of a possible failure of the struts I initially intended to try and make some replica struts from scaffold poles and with a coat of paint hopefully no one should notice any untoward difference!

Bob, however, said that he knew someone who might be able to help, a good friend of his named Martin Alexander the MOD Range Officer at the Live Air Firing Range at Pembrey. Apparently they have a couple of Jaguars on the range that are used as targets for the Hawks, Tornados and other RAF aircraft who drop small inert bombs on them at regular intervals. Bob said he would ask Martin if there was any possibility of taking a pair of struts off one of the two aircraft, assuming of course that they hadn't been bent by a bomb or badly corroded. We chatted on for a bit more about this and that along with some more beer and G&T's and left it at that.

A couple of months later I had a phone call from Bob who said that he had been in touch with Martin and between them they were going to see if the struts on their Jaguars were better than the ones on 566 and following exchanges of photos of 566 and the Pembrey Jaguars a decision was made to remove the struts from one of the range Jaguars as they were in far better condition than 566's. After a lot of work by Bob a cunning plan was conceived which was put into action on Thursday 8th October 2015 when myself and two other FAST volunteers, Peter Buckroyd and Chris Harris travelled down to Pembrey with a whole load of equipment which included a generator, power tools, Acrow supports and a selection of extractors and hand tools. We met up with Bob at Pembrey Airport who took us to the MOD Range buildings where we were introduced to Martin and his team and following a briefing we set off for the range itself.

Work progressed quite quickly as we had to be off the area by 3 pm as a couple of Hawks were coming in to drop some ordnance and none of us had any tin helmets just plastic hard hats!!

Needless to say we got the struts off and bolted in some jury struts which I had made at Farnborough to stabilise the airframe.



We thanked all those involved in completing the task and on returning to base the struts were cleaned up, painted and have been fitted to 566 which should last for some considerable time.

Many thanks to Martin and his team at the MOD's Range at Pembrey and also to Bob our Chairman for all his efforts in making the job possible in the first place.

So it just shows that a couple of old Engine Fitters from two rival outfits, 64 Sqn Javelins and 65 Sqn Hunters, can join forces, work together and recycle some albeit small parts of a relatively modern RAF aeroplane.

A FAIR SOLUTION regarding Migrants

Our EU rulers - Mrs Merkel and M. Hollande - have demanded that all European countries take their "fair share" of the migrant populations that are over-running Europe's apparently unguarded borders.

But how do you decide what a "fair share" is? Merkel and Hollande want to link the number of migrants to each country's GDP but that will ensure Britain gets chosen to receive a huge proportion of the flood of human beings pouring into Europe. Why is this relevant to the ODA? - We live here and vote on things.

But why not link the number of migrants each country takes to its population density? Let's check it out! <http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/population-by-country/>

The statistics reveal quite a different picture. Europe's most densely populated country is England.

England's population density is 430 people per square kilometre (430 pl/km²). But more about that later.

As part of the EU we must present ourselves as the United Kingdom with a population density of 269 pl/km². Therefore, how many migrants would the main European countries need to take for them to reach the same population density as the United Kingdom as opposed to just England alone?

To reach the same population density as the UK (269 pl/km²), Germany could take 13 million migrants, France could accommodate a whopping 82.6 million and Spain an even larger 88 million. Even Greece could take 23.7 million.

What about Scotland who nearly left the UK recently and may do so in a future second referendum? Scotland's population density is only 68 people per square kilometre. So if Scotland was to leave the U.K. the remaining U.K. members would have a population density of 368.7 people per square kilometre, which means that Scotland could increase its population 4.45 fold by taking in 24 million migrants to match the population density of the rest of the U.K.

However, how many migrants would the main European countries need to take, for them to reach the same population density as Europe's most densely populated country - England at 430 people per square kilometre? - That's England, not including Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Germany could take 69.2 million migrants; France could accommodate a whopping 170.8 million and Spain 168.3 million. Even Greece could take

44.5 million. Then they can all enjoy the same way of life as we do in England; congested roads, lack of housing, struggling National Health Service, not enough schools and a police force suffering from drastic cuts in their budget, not to mention the armed forces budget cuts.

In all, just thirteen European countries could accommodate more than 700 million migrants before reaching the same population density as England. Of course, the potential migrant population is nowhere near 700 million so their numbers can easily be absorbed in this fairer way even for those countries with uninhabitable regions like mountainous areas would still have plenty of room.

Well, that seems to solve the problem of deciding how countries should take their "fair share" of the migrant numbers. Therefore, using these published statistics, there's no need for Europe's most densely populated country - England - to take any migrants at all and our friends in these other countries can comfortably absorb all the millions of those looking for a better life, especially their innocent children.

That seems to me to be giving each country their "fair share" that Merkel and Hollande want to see! **It is not only very fair but politically correct also, to argue that England is full right now.** This does not take away our deep concern for the plight of so many desperate people in search of safety for themselves and their families. Surely population density consideration is a fairer way for the good of everyone.

Foot note:

Current U.K. population = 65,111,143.

Over the year to mid 2014 the number of people resident in the U.K. increased by 491100 (0.77%) which is above the average increase (0.75%) per year seen over the last decade.

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates>

So just how long would it take to double the population of the U.K. if this rate (0.77%) was maintained?

See the following formula taken from - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doubling_time

The natural log of 2 (0.693) x 100 divided by 0.77% = 90 years i.e. 130 million by the year 2106.

Think about our grand children and great grand children and all future generations of the United Kingdom. - Just a thought. Ed.

What are friends for?

One day a teacher asked her class to list the names of all the other students in the class on two sheets of paper, leaving a space between each name.

Then she told them to think of the nicest thing they could say about each classmate and write it down in the spaces below each name.

It took the remainder of the class period to finish their assignment, and as the students left the classroom, each one handed in their papers.

That Saturday, the teacher wrote down the name of each student on a separate sheet of paper, and listed down what everyone else had said about that individual.

On Monday she gave each student his or her list. Before long, the entire class was smiling. 'Really?' she heard whispered. 'I never knew that I meant anything to anyone!' and, 'I didn't know others liked me so much,' were most of the comments. She never knew if they discussed them after class or with their parents, but it didn't matter. The exercise had accomplished its purpose. The students were happy with themselves and one another. That group of students moved on.

Several years later, one of the students was killed in action and his teacher attended the funeral of that special student, named Mark. She had never seen a serviceman in a military coffin before. He looked so handsome, so mature. The church was packed with his friends. One by one those who loved him took a last walk by the coffin. The teacher was the last one to bless the coffin. As she stood there, one of Mark's comrades who acted as pallbearer came up to her. 'Were you Mark's math teacher?' he asked. She nodded: 'yes.' Then he said: 'Mark talked about you a lot.'

After the funeral, most of Mark's former classmates went together to a luncheon. Mark's mother and father were there, obviously waiting to speak with his teacher.

'We want to show you something,' his father said, taking a wallet out of his pocket, 'They found this on Mark's body when he was killed. We thought you might recognize it.'

He carefully removed two worn pieces of notebook paper that had obviously been taped, folded and refolded many times. The teacher knew without looking that the papers were the ones on which she had listed all the good things each of Mark's classmates had said about him. 'Thank you so much for doing that,' Mark's mother said. 'As you can see, Mark treasured it.'

All of Mark's former classmates started to gather around. Charlie smiled rather sheepishly and said, 'I still have my list, it's in the top drawer of my desk

at home.' Harry's wife said, 'Harry asked me to put his in our wedding album.'

'I have mine too,' Joanne said. 'It's in my diary.' Then Vicki, another classmate, reached into her handbag, took out her wallet and showed her worn and frazzled list to the group. 'I carry this with me all the time.' Mary said without batting an eyelash: 'I think we all saved our lists.'

That's when the teacher finally sat down and cried. She cried for Mark and she cried for all his friends who would never see him again.

Never see him again, never see her again; sounds familiar to us as we reflect on those who have gone on their final posting. What are we to do while we wait in the queue, surely we have our own lists to hold on to, all those stories we have been part of, all those mutterings we have made about others whose lists we have contributed to. We don't mind queuing, indeed, we like it, its part of our culture. We want to stay in the queue for as long as possible, preferably towards the back.

The mass of people in society are so many that we forget that life will end one day. And we don't know when that one day will be. So please, tell the people you love and care for, that they are special and important. Tell them, before it's too late. Don't pass up any wonderful opportunity to do something nice and beautiful.

If someone cares for you, it means there is probably at least someone for whom you care. Remember, we reap what we sow.

Gone on their last posting

Mavis Baker Batwoman - Officers Mess 1952-55
Passed away last August, we only learned of her passing this March.

Clifford Bourn ASF 1957-58. Passed away on 23rd March.

John Blake ASF 1953-54. Taken ill on a visit to Malta and passed away on 8th April in hospital.

Terry Crowley 64 & 65 Sqn. 1953-56. Passed away on 10th May. He was with his son and daughter-in-law and passed peacefully, pain free.

David Blyth 65 Sqn. 1954-60. Passed away on 18th May. His family Michael and Lynne and two close friends Rachel and Brenda were with him.

All five still live in the thoughts of those who knew them. May our comrades all Rest in Peace. ODA

Autumn Meeting

Our next meeting will be Sunday 2th October. With a tour of the control tower on the agenda which will be of great interest for all those attending. So mark your diary and plan to be with us.

More information will be in the next Newsletter.

Important Message

To the citizens of the United States of America from Her Majesty's Government.

In light of your failure in recent years to nominate competent candidates for President of the USA and thus to govern yourselves, we hereby give notice of the revocation of your independence, effective immediately. (You should look up 'revocation' in the Oxford English Dictionary.)

Her Sovereign Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will resume monarchical duties over all states, commonwealths, and territories (except North Dakota, which she does not fancy.)

Your new Prime Minister, David Cameron, will appoint a Governor for America without the need for further elections.

Congress and the Senate will be disbanded. A questionnaire may be circulated next year to determine whether any of you noticed.

For the transition to a British Crown dependency, the following rules are introduced with immediate effect.

1. The letter 'U' will be reinstated in words such as 'colour,' 'favour,' 'labour' and 'neighbour.' Likewise, you will learn to spell 'doughnut' without skipping half the letters, and the suffix '-ize' will be replaced by the suffix '-ise.' Generally, you will be expected to raise your vocabulary to acceptable levels. (Look up 'vocabulary').
2. When speaking, using words interspersed with filler noises such as "like" and "you know" is an unacceptable and inefficient form of communication and is to be discouraged.
3. There is no such thing as U.S. English. We will let Microsoft know on your behalf. The Microsoft spell-checker will be adjusted to take into account the reinstated letter "u" and the elimination of '-ize.'
4. July 4th will no longer be celebrated as a holiday.
5. You will learn to resolve personal issues without using guns, lawyers, or therapists. The fact that you need so many lawyers and therapists shows that you're not quite ready to be independent. Guns should only be used for shooting grouse. If you can't sort things out without suing someone or speaking to a therapist, then you must develop a stiff upper lip.
6. Therefore, you will no longer be allowed to own or carry anything more dangerous than a vegetable peeler. If you wish to carry a vegetable peeler in public a permit will be required.
7. All intersections will be replaced with roundabouts, and you will start driving on the left hand side of the road with immediate effect. At the same time you will go metric forthwith and without the benefit of conversion tables.

Both roundabouts and metrication will help you understand the British sense of humour.

8. The former USA will adopt UK prices on petrol (which you refer to as gasoline) so please, no more calling it gas.

9. You will learn to make real chips. Those things you call French fries are not real chips, and those things you insist on calling potato chips are properly called crisps. Real chips are thick cut, fried in animal fat, and dressed not with catsup (ketchup) but with vinegar.

10. The cold, tasteless stuff you insist on calling beer is not actually beer at all. Henceforth, only proper British Bitter will be referred to as beer, and European brews of known and accepted provenance will be referred to as Lager. South African beer is also acceptable, as they are proud for proud the greatest sporting nation on earth and it can only be due to the beer. They are also part of the British Commonwealth - see what it did for them. American brands will be referred to as Near-Frozen Gnat's Urine, so that all can be sold without risk of further confusion.

11. Hollywood will be required occasionally to cast English actors as good guys. Hollywood will also be required to cast English actors to play English characters. Watching Andie MacDowell attempt English dialect in *Four Weddings and a Funeral* was an experience akin to having one's ears removed with a cheese grater.

12. You will cease playing American football. There is only one kind of proper football; you call it soccer. Those of you brave enough will, in time, be allowed to play rugby (which has some similarities to American football, but does not involve stopping for a rest every twenty seconds or wearing full kevlar body armour like a bunch of nancies.)

13. Further, you will stop playing baseball. It is not reasonable to host an event called the World Series for a game which is not played outside of America. Since only 2.1% of you are aware there is a world beyond your borders, your error is understandable. You will learn cricket, and we will let you face the South Africans first to take the sting out of their deliveries.

14. You must tell us who killed JFK. It's been driving us mad.

15. An internal revenue agent (i.e. tax collector) from Her Majesty's Government will be with you shortly to ensure the acquisition of all monies due (backdated to 1776.)

16. Daily Tea Time begins promptly at 4 p.m. with proper cups, with saucers, and never mugs, with high quality biscuits (cookies) and cakes; plus strawberries (with cream) when in season.

God Save the Queen!

PS: Only share this with friends who have a good sense of humour (NOT humor)!