



# CHEERIOOO



The Newsletter of  
No 46 Squadron RFC and RAF  
July 2017

## SENSATIONAL CENTENARY!



### Court Circular



**BUCHINGHAM PALACE**  
June 2nd  
The Queen, accompanied by  
Princess Alexandra, the Hon.  
Lady Ogilvy, honoured guests,  
kings with her presence today.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
June 2nd  
Prince Henry of Wales this  
afternoon arrived at Changi  
Airport, Singapore, and was  
received by the British High  
Commissioner to the Republic of  
Singapore (His Excellency Mr.  
Scott Higham).

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
June 2nd  
Prince Henry of Wales this  
afternoon celebrated his 60th  
birthday at the British High  
Commissioner to the Republic of  
Singapore (His Excellency Mr.  
Scott Higham).

### Wedding

**Lord Edmund and  
Victoria, Lady Rose**  
The marriage took place on  
Saturday, June 3, at St George's  
Church, Sandhurst, between Lord  
Edmund and Victoria, Lady Rose,  
widow of Lord Rose, and daughter  
of the late Lord Bunsford.

### Service dinner

No 46 Squadron RFC and RAF  
Air Marshal Sir Frederick Smeeth  
presided at the 100th anniversary  
dinner, given at the Officers  
Mess, RAF Benson, South  
Oxfordshire, on Saturday, June 3.  
Air Marshal Sir Frederick Smeeth, CBE, CBE, AFC, RAF  
captain John Smeeth and Captain  
Tony Muller also spoke.



The 100th at RAF Benson was an outstanding success with the highest attendance since before our last Disbandment; 160 members and guests enjoyed food and wine of an exceptional standard served with impeccable professionalism by the RAF staff. Our friends, the Cholsey Silver Band, performed the public premier of our very own official squadron march—The Spirit of 46. The exceptional generosity of our Benefactors paid for all the administrative costs, buses, the beautifully engraved whisky tumblers, other gizzits and free booze all night!

Of particular note was the large number of sons and sons in law (24) who attended; there were also a lot of new faces and we hope they and the sons realise what a great night is to be had and that

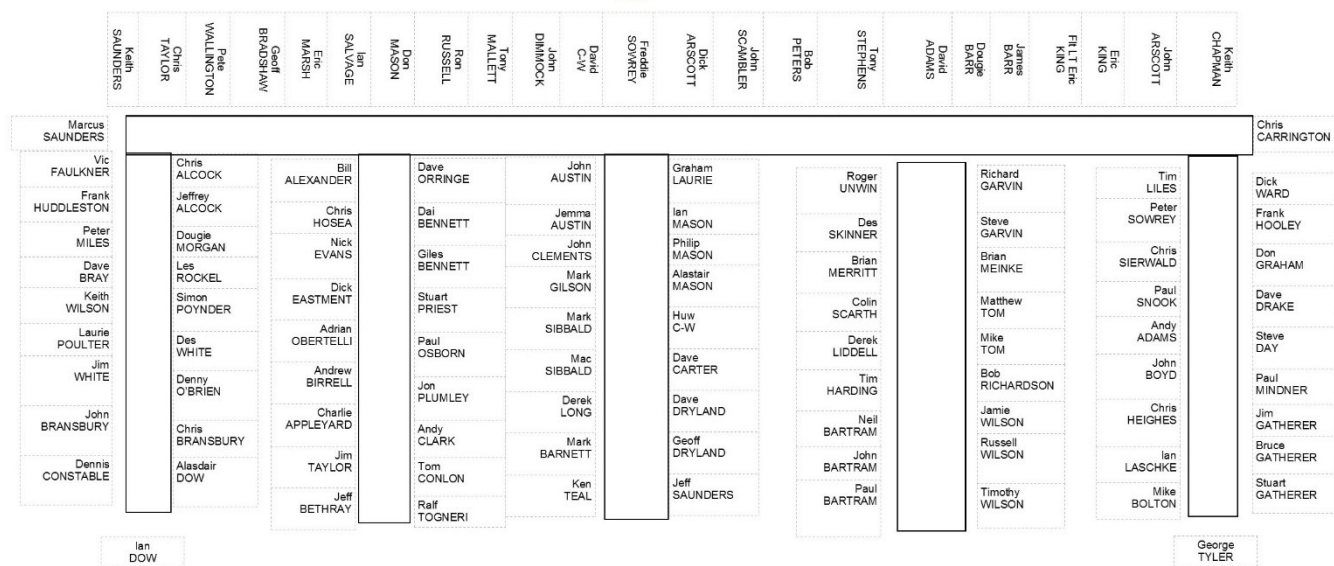
**The 101<sup>st</sup> will take place at Wolfson College  
Oxford on Saturday 2 June 2018.**

Book your room now:  
<http://www.lintonlodge.com/>  
*You can always cancel!*

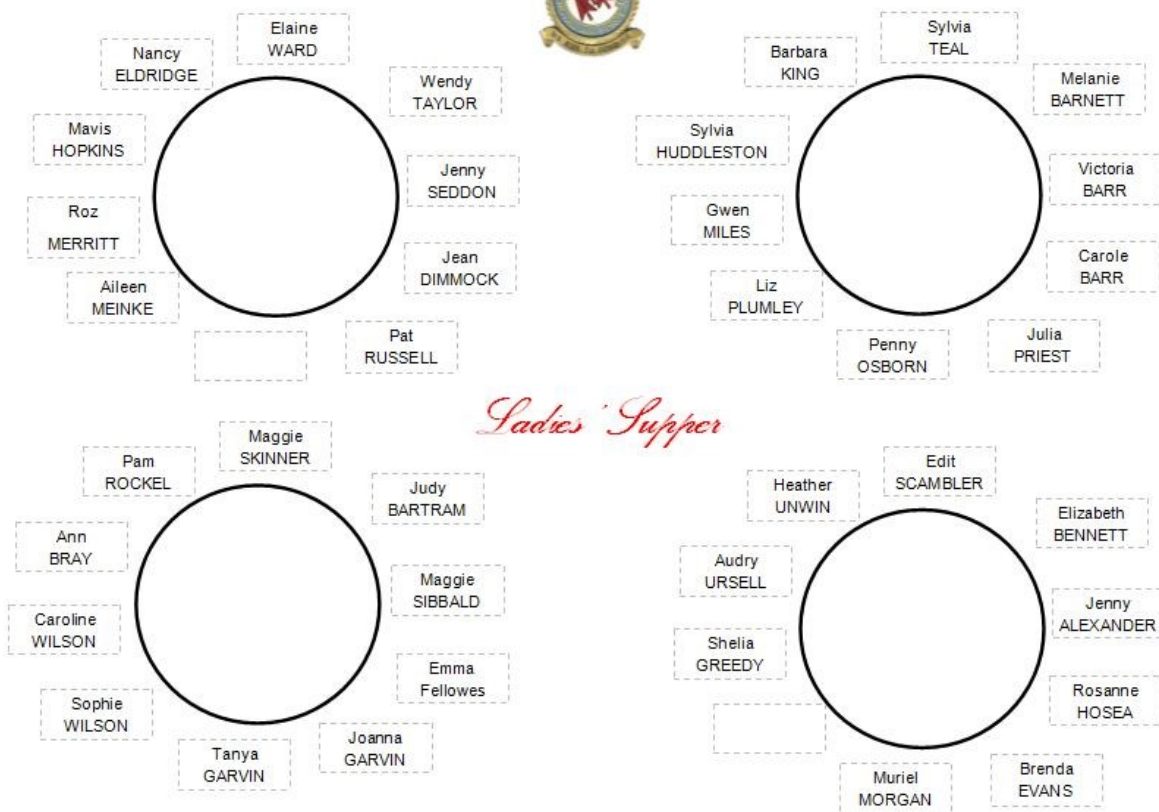
Pictures in Cheerioooo are on:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/46-squadron/>

Videos of the speeches will appear on YouTube in due course



*The 100th Reunion Dinner of No 46 Squadron, Officers' Mess, RAAF Benson 3 June 2017*



*The 100th Reunion Dinner of No 46 Squadron, Officers Mess, RAF Benson 3 June 2017*

Horst ABROMEIT, Peter BARRETT, John BLENKINSOP, Adrian BROWN, Dennis BUCK, Roy BUTLER; Tim CARTER, Don CHAPMAN, John DANIELS, Alan GREEN, Harry GRIFFITHS, George KIRK, Ian HAMPTON, Pat THOMAS (came to the Reception), Dave HIGGS, Bob WARD, Chris HOOPER-SMITH, Mike KEMP, Bob DUNCAN (came to the Reception).





## Dorchester Abbey

Pentecost  
Sung Eucharist  
4th June 2017



With members of  
No 46 Squadron  
Royal Flying Corps  
&  
Royal Air Force



On 13 October 1969 at RAF Abingdon, the Standard of No 46 Squadron was presented by HM King Olav of Norway, in commemoration of the Squadron's operation with Hurricanes in Norway in 1940. The Standard was laid up at Chichester Cathedral on 31 August 1975.

We welcome members of No 46 Squadron RFC & RAF to our service this morning, to remember their comrades and give thanks for the enduring friendships that are at heart of the Spirit of 46.

This Squadron is unique in the Royal Air Force (and possibly amongst all aviation organisations worldwide) in that it is the only one to have held consecutive annual reunions since 1918. As the Squadron was only active for a total of 34 years and was disbanded in 1975 this is an astonishing record and amply demonstrates what we call the enduring "Spirit of 46". This year's Reunion is the 100th and was held yesterday evening at RAF Benson.



A magnificent turnout by the Squadron at Dorchester Abbey. We were made to feel very welcome by the Rector and the Congregation. Padre Phillip Corrigan of RAF Benson gave a very apt, relevant and uplifting Homily.

David C-W  
reads the lesson

Eric King, Tony Stephens and Dougie Barr read the [Roll of Honour](#) of No 46 Squadron.

### Absent Friends



**Alan Parker.** Only a few days after last year's Reunion we lost Alan Parker, one of our Loadmasters from the early 1970's. After leaving the Service, Alan, perhaps better known to most of us as 'Noddy', took up residence with his wife Dianne on the beautiful Ionian island of Paxos in Greece. He regularly made the trip back to join us at our Reunions and it was always good to see him on his visits to UK. I have fond memories of flying with Noddy on No 52 Sqn in Singapore in 1968 and 69. Noddy then went on to serve with 46 in the UK and Masirah. After disbandment of 46 in 1975 Noddy moved on to other aircraft types and latterly served with the VC10 force before his retirement. Unfortunately, as was reported in his wife's note to us last year, he was undergoing treatment for cancer at the time of our last gathering. Sadly, he passed away only three days after our 2016 meeting. He will be sadly missed.

In August, we were all shocked to hear of the death of Robin, better known to us all as **Bob, Evans**. Virtually every year we could rely on seeing a suntanned Bob and his wife Brenda at our Reunions and he was ever cheerful and full of vitality. After the disbandment of 46 Squadron in 1975, Bob initially moved to the Puma helicopter force with 230 Squadron then joined the Hercules force with 24, 47, and 70 Squadrons. Bob was held in high regard as a loadmaster on the Herc, ultimately becoming an examiner. In 1976, their son Nick was born and we are pleased to see Nick with us today and his wife Brenda is also attending the Ladies Supper tonight. Bob retired in 1983, but maintained his links by joining the R Aux AF. Again, he will be sadly missed.

**Kenneth Nichols.** Ken passed away in September last year. He was a first tourist pilot when he turned up at Odiham with the 4 other first members of the reformed 46 Squadron in August 1954 to fly the NF12 Meteor with Colin Gower as his nav. Colin and Ken left the Squadron when the Javelins arrived and Ken, on a Short Service commission left the Service quite soon afterwards.

Finally, **Pete Boley.** Peter was on Andovers in the early days from 67 to 69.

Perhaps, as a final note, we should also remember on this weekend those members of the Squadron who lost their lives on board HMS Glorious on 8th June, 77 years ago. Next weekend the GLARAC Association (Glorious, Acasta and Ardent) remember the event in their reunion in Plymouth. Therefore, I would ask you all to rise and drink a toast to 'ABSENT FRIENDS'.

*Dai Bennett 2017*

## The Spirit of 46 March



Everybody attending (and Benefactors) received a CD which contained our March and loads of tunes by Bands of the RAF. We also included a pre-War recording of Sussex by the Sea and a Luftwaffe march for Horst and Paul!

## The Spirit of 46 March

The March had its genesis when, over early evening drinks in the hills of Cyprus, Flt Lt Roger Unwin MBE, ex 46 Squadron, talked his guest Lt Col Wayne Hopla, then Senior Director of Music of the Household Division, into agreeing to compose a "jolly" march for the Squadron. The completed March was adopted by the Royal Air Force in June 2015, one of only 15 official RAF marches. This recording was made by the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas in December 2016 under the baton of Lt Col Hopla. The March was first performed in public at the 100th consecutive Reunion of the Squadron. It was played by the Cholsey Silver Band under its Director, Mr Peter Church. Other RAF music has been added to fill the CD. The No 46 Sqn aircraft on the cover were painted by Flt Lt Rusty Steele-Morgan, ex 46 Squadron.



Dave Adams introducing the premiere of the March. He presented a specially commissioned conductors baton to the composer of the March, Lt Col Hopla via Roger Unwin.



Roger Unwin playing the March with the Cholsey Silver Band



## Mementoes



This is where it started 100 years ago.  
The original pilots of No 46 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps  
La Gorgue, France, April 1917

"First among this legion of the unsung were those who fell, for every victory demanded a victim. Many, especially the half-trained novices and those condemned to fly ill-designed aircraft, were shot down within a few days of arriving at the squadron. Others, through experience and enjoying efficient machines, succumbed to foemen superior in skill or numbers. Many fell prey to the vagaries of chance.

Although they may have had their moments of triumph, their bouts of single combat, their gestures of chivalry, and even their occasional victories, they were flyers of no fame, whose proudest boast was to have been of the honourable company of No 46 Squadron of the Royal Flying Corps."

From "No Parachute: a Fighter Pilot in World War I - Letters to my Wife" by Lieutenant ASG Lee, 46 Sqn RFC, France, 1917

This moving card was commissioned by David C-W and a copy given to all who attended.

A little goody bag for all the gizzits!



Bob Richardson and Russ Wilson very generously presented each Member and Guest with an engraved whisky tumbler reminder of the 100th.



and a nice pen to deface the menus!



## News, Gossip and Scandal:

### Members report:

**John BARTRAM.** John is still living by the Westbury White Horse near Keevil DZ. The cement works chimney "Smokey Joe" was demolished in September 2016. Become old enough to draw my state pension a week after the Reunion. Still enjoying being grandparents to Lucas who keeps us very active!

**Dougie Barr.** Dougie continues to work as a Programme Assurance Consultant, mainly in Central Government and the Security Services. Money for old rope as they all make the same mistakes!

**Dave BRAY.** Dave is enjoying retirement. Work is a dirty 4 letter word! Plenty of overseas travel plus twice weekly bad golf.

**Don CHAPMAN.** Don wishes everyone a good party.

**Andy CLARK.** Andy is enjoying his pension(s). Looking forward to catching up with old friends.

**John CLEMENTS.** John is still enjoying Wales and does not think he will be moving again unless an extremely rich widow turns up.

**Peter CROUCH.** Dougie writes: I have been unable to contact Peter and fear the worst. Does anybody have contact? I have tried the Aircrew Association.

**David CRWYS-WILLIAMS.** David is still upright and travelling all over the place. Long may it continue? Tenth grandchild arrived in 2017, so decided not to have any more children.

**John BLENKINSOP.** Primary Progressive MS is real 'pain in the ar\_\_e'. I was diagnosed shortly after leaving in 2004. My retirement has not been exactly as I planned it. I am permanently in a wheelchair. However, Carol, 47th wedding anniversary tomorrow, and I do as much as we can, which includes 3 or 4 trips to the sun every year. I still drive, an adapted Motability VW Torran, without having to use my legs. PPMS affects people in completely different ways. Sadly there is no cure, and so I plan on staying as active as I can, for as long as I can.

**Chris HOOPER-SMITH.** Chris now living happily in Jersey. Please give him a ring if you come over. 01534 490449

**Graham LAURIE.** Graham's first Call to Arms was the 50th at RAF Abingdon 1967 - seems like yesterday!

**Tim LILES.** Tim says - same old, same old. Still playing croquet - some you win some you lose. Much walking - 1000 miles plus a number of Scottish mountains. Time in the garden. Body slowly falling apart. Do call in if you are near.

**Derek LONG.** Derek has now moved to Baldersby, N Yorks. Tel 01765 640382, Mobile 07989 9177610. He would love to see anyone passing through the area.

**Tony MALLETT.** Tony reports - first year he didn't fly an aeroplane since 1950, but did helm a yacht in the club's veteran's race. Despite the age handicap benefit, we didn't win.

**Peter MILES.** Peter has had his left kidney and attached cancerous tumor removed in major op in January. He is recovering well and hopeful no further cancer issues.

**Bob PETERS.** Bob has been in his flat now for nearly 2 years and is very comfortable there. Golf, bridge, and bell-ringing occupies him along with 11 grandchildren (soon to be 12).

**Laurie POULTER.** Laurie is spending retirement swanning around in his new motor caravan. Beats working for a living.

**Steve ROBSON.** Steve is busy on memorial to Charles Rolls and Britain's first international aviation meeting. Planning permission achieved, now the fund raising starts.

**Keith SAUNDERS.** Keith is in good shape and is still helping to run and lead walks with his walking club, Chair and Treasurer of Friends of Slaithwaite Spa. My matriarch ewe is aged 16.

**Freddie SOWREY.** Freddie had a great year for all the family - 100 years since his father shot down the Zeppelin L32 at night falling at Billericay. The Council unveiled a memorial stone and the Brewery produced a "Billericay Zeppelin" and "Sowrey Ales".

**George TYLER.** George retired 10 years ago and is living with his partner of 15 years, Barbara who is a physiotherapist in Tunbridge Wells. They split their time between 2 x 40 year old sons and 6 grandchildren in the UK and France.

**Roger UNWIN.** Roger visited 2 of the Squadron's antipodeans in 2016 and received excellent "Spirit of 46" hospitality. Thanks to Des Skinner and Les Rockel. Roger continues to take the pills but has not, as yet, put on his football boots! Still looking over Lyneham airfield but no aircraft spotted.

**Pete WALLINGTON.** Unfortunately, Pete fell recently and broke his hip resulting in surgery for a hip replacement and his recovery has not been as quick as he had hoped. Nevertheless, he did attend the hundredth.

**Dick WARD.** Dick and Elaine are spending February in England instead of Spain for the first time in 8 years.

**Jim WHITE.** Jim is still here and still in one piece!

**Geoff DRYLAND.** Geoff is suffering from 2 slipped discs at the moment. Operation was in March but his son Dave had to drive the Roller to the Reunion. Just celebrated my Golden Wedding with Gill (hence slipped discs!!!!)

**Brian MEINKE.** Brian is trying to find somewhere warmer to live. Portugal?

**Jo MARVIN.** Jo had planned to attend but tragically his wife died just before Christmas and he needs to be abroad in June to sort out her estate.

**Peter BARRETT.** Peter is very sorry to miss the 100th Reunion but hopes to see you all sometime in the future.

**Dave HIGGS** Loretta sends her best wishes to the Squadron. David remains in a nursing home. I have received a lovely note from Loretta about how they are coping. Please contact me if you would like a copy.

## Benefactors

The majority of Members attending made donations. In addition the following Members who were unable to attend made donations: As a small sign of our gratitude, Benefactors received a defaced menu, the CD, a pen and goody bag!!!

**Peter BARRETT, Derek BENDALL, Adrian BROWN, Tim CARTER, Dave HIGGS, Chris HOOPER-SMITH, Mike KEMP, George KIRK, Bob WARD, Steve ROBSON, John KANE, Alan GREEN, John DANIELS.**

**Sheila Greedy and Jenny Seddon** (nee Gifkins) also made donations.

**THANK YOU ALL**

## The Reception



Doug Morgan, Denis Constable,  
Jeff Bethray



Des Skinner looking up to Dave Adams  
(every body does!)



James Barr talks to Peter Sowrey



Tom Conlon with both Eric Kings



Pete Miles tries to control Bob Duncan



Dato Steve Day chatting up Gwen Mile



Ian Mason and sons



Bones Dryland, Don Graham,  
Tony Stephens



Suzie and David Crwys-Williams



Ian and Alastair Dow



Dobbin Austin listening intently to  
Steve Garvin



Two Daves, Adams and Bray



Paul Snook and Mark Quincey Gilson



Selfie anyone?



Mike Bolton, Bob Peters  
Keith Chapman



Steve Garvin and son



Ian Mason, Frank Huddleston  
George Tyler



Dick and John Arscott





John & Christopher Bransbury  
Elizabeth Bennett.



The Ladies



Carole & Victoria Barr



Nancy Eldridge, Jeff Saunders  
Dave Drake



Il Alexander, Paul Snook,  
Roger Unwin  
Dave Bray



Keith Wilson, Dave Drake,  
Mark Gilson



L-R Pete ('Junior') Wallington (nav),  
Geoff Bradshaw (pilot), Chris Taylor  
(nav), Keith Saunders (nav), Eric  
Marsh (pilot)



Stu Priest, Paul Mindner, Pat Thomas



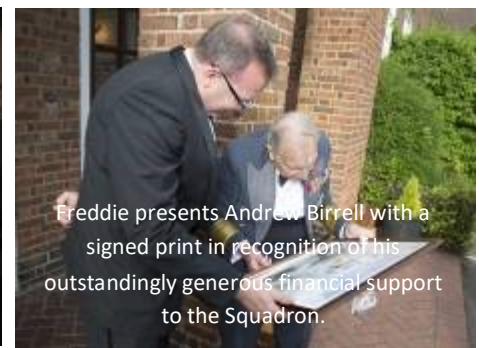
Sir Freddie and Dougie with Don  
Mason our 95 year old Stirling  
pilot, at his first Reunion.



Freddie presents flowers to  
Carole Barr



Health & Strength  
Dougie Barr and Laurie Poulter  
mix the magic



Freddie presents Andrew Birrell with a  
signed print in recognition of his  
outstandingly generous financial support  
to the Squadron.



Ladies Supper



Ladies Supper



Ladies Supper



The fantastic RAF staff



Ladies Supper



The Superb  
Cholsey Silver Band staff



