

# Oranges & Lemons



## The Friends of St Clement Danes

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towards the cost of this magazine

**Issue No. 42**  
**Autumn 2016**

# The Friends of St Clement Danes

Registered Charity No. 1048757

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## O&L Bulletin

Izabela Seabrook (*Editor*) & Daniel Kettle Esq (*Manager*)

# The Friends of St Clement Danes

Bulletin  
No. 42  
Autumn 2016

 ROYAL  
AIR FORCE  
St Clement  
Danes Church



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***“Enabling the sacrifices of the past to support the challenges of the future”***

## Editorial Note

Iza Seabrook



Welcome to the autumn issue of Oranges & Lemons. St Clement Danes is thriving after its renovation and I hope the following pages give you a taste of what our church is like every day (as well as during those special occasions). Come see us soon!

If you have articles or pictures you wish to submit for the next issue, please email me: [iza.seabrook@gmail.com](mailto:iza.seabrook@gmail.com)

## THINGS TO DO

- **Tell your friends and neighbours about us**
- **Visit us whenever you are in London**
- **Pray for all who work and visit here**
- **Help out on one Sunday a year**
- **Become a guide to a group of visitors**

Please contact us: 020 7242 8282 or [stclementdanesh1@btconnect.com](mailto:stclementdanesh1@btconnect.com) or through the website if you can help out, especially on a Sunday; be a sidesman / woman, macebearer or read a lesson; we can support and encourage you in your new duties.

## Chairman's Letter

Group Captain Mark D Heffron CMgr FCMI RAF



It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the autumn 2016 edition of Oranges & Lemons and commend to you the articles we have put together in this edition. Firstly, I have the pleasure in announcing that the newly appointed Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Hillier has kindly agreed to become our Patron, taking over the role from his predecessor. We are honoured to have such support for the Friends and we thank Air Chief Marshal Sir

Andrew Pulford for all his support over his time as Patron.

Over this last year The Friends of St Clement Danes have been able to support our church and congregation in many ways. You will be pleased to know that we have assisted in the clothing for the Church Macebearers, have bought a 'frame' allowing the grand piano to be moved around the church without being damaged and have funded personnel alarms for the church staff on those occasions when they find themselves alone and may need assistance. This work allows the church to remain open to the public and to make best use of all we have. In addition, we are reviewing our history as there are many accounts as to how and when the friends originally formed. This will make for good reading in future and is a key part of the church's overall history.

It was with heartfelt thanks that we said goodbye to two of the Friends Board of Trustees at our April meeting: Peter Kettle and John Rowling. Peter has served on the Board for more years than

he admits to and in many areas, such as purchasing our gifts and also the production of Oranges & Lemons. John has served in many areas also and again will not admit to the numbers of years he has put into the Friends! I wish to express publically the appreciation of the Board of Trustees and all members of the Friends for the work that both Peter and John have given over the years. We will miss you, but hope to see you at Friends events in the future.

Finally, I am delighted to say that word continues to spread as to work of the Friends, especially around RAF Stations and Units. All, bar a handful of Units, now have Friends representatives and we are slowly beginning to see more regular serving personnel join our numbers. We also continue to be engaged with other military charities and bodies through which we hope to reach those who used to serve. Thank you for your support in this and all areas of the work of the Friends.

### **‘The Shepherd’ by Frederick Forsyth**

Friends may like to know that **BBC Radio 3** is broadcasting a new adaptation of Frederick Forsyth’s classic aviation Christmas story **‘The Shepherd’** on **Christmas Eve**.

The programme will feature evocative music and sound effects, including the Vampire’s jet engine and the Merlin engines of the Mosquito shepherd aircraft.

Frederick Forsyth became one of the youngest pilots in the Royal Air Force at the age of 19, when on National Service from 1956 to 1958.

## From the Resident Chaplain

The Rev'd David Osborn RAF BD AKC PGCE



It is heartening to report that the ministry of the Central Church of the Royal Air Force is in a good place. Throughout a busy summer we have seen an increase in the number of visitors - accompanied by many favourable comments in our visitors' book. The church is being used extensively for worship, naturally, as well as by concert promoters, from large scale performances to quiet lunchtime recitals.

Above all the church remains a place of tranquillity and peace in a bustling part of London; an oasis of calm in a busy world. A place where people can come and pray, and reflect on their lives, whether as casual visitors or as people on pilgrimage to see their loved one's name in our Books of Remembrance.

The work of the Friends is vital to this ministry and we are all grateful for the support and encouragement you offer in our work.

Our music has been re-invigorated by our new Director of Music, Simon Over, and you can experience this for yourselves at the Annual Friends Concert in November. Please do join us for that event – although if you are not able to do so, then by all means join us for Sunday worship at 11am.

With every blessing from St Clement Danes and thank you for all that you do for us.



*You are cordially invited to  
The Friends of St Clement Danes*

# **ANNUAL CONCERT**

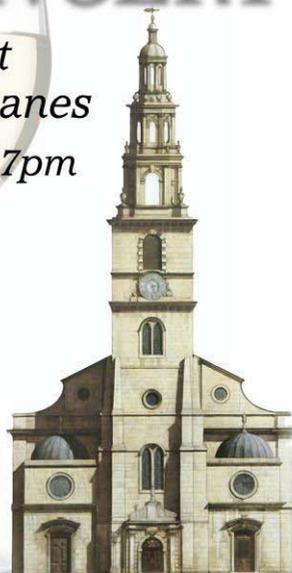
*The Band of the RAF Regiment  
and the Choir of St Clement Danes*

*Thursday 24th November 2016 at 7pm*

*Donations: £17 per person for pre-ordered tickets  
and £19 per person at the door.  
Cheques are payable to 'RAFCTE'*

*Tickets are available by telephone: 01285 713300  
or email: [dmr@rafcte.com](mailto:dmr@rafcte.com)  
Or post to: Friends of St Clement Danes Concert  
Douglas Bader House Horcott Hill  
Fairford Gloucestershire GL7 4RB*

*Registered Charity No.1048757*



# COVER STORY:

## The Origin of the Friends of St Clement Danes

Daniel Kettle: an Interview with Group Captain John Thomas

Contrary to even our own documented history of the beginning of the Friends, we are fortunate enough to have been guided and reminded as to the formation of the Friends of St Clement Danes by the founder himself.

Born in 1921 Thomas John Samuel Thomas, known as John, grew up in the village of Cwmgors in South Wales. John's relationship with the RAF began in 1940 soon after the outbreak of the Second World War when he volunteered for the service whilst studying at Swansea University, joining in April 1941. Within the war years John served as an aircraft engineer.



During the war he served in West Africa, both in Sierra Leone and the Gold Coast, where several squadrons of

the Sunderland seaplanes were based. As a flight engineer John flew with the Sunderlands whilst having opportunities to teach aircraft engineering to West African forces.

Released from the RAF in 1946, John then returned to South Wales to resume university studies, graduating in 1949 from Lampeter University, where he studied History and Theology. In 1949 John was ordained as an Anglican Priest and then served in St David's Church, Llwynhendy in Llanelli for a couple of years.

Following his service to the RAF he had always wanted to return to the Force and did so in October 1951 as a Chaplain; he served in this capacity for the next 25 years, achieving the rank of Group

Captain and Assistant Chaplain in Chief, Air Ministry. In August, 1951 he married Enid and she dutifully accompanied him to all of his postings including Aden, Libya, Cyprus, Singapore and throughout the UK.

From December 1971 until December 1976 John was the Resident Chaplain of St Clement Danes (pictured right) and it was in his last year there that he founded the Friends. The Inaugural Service of Dedication and Thanksgiving was held on Sunday 10th October 1976 in the presence of HRH Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester. It was a grand occasion with the church full on both ground and upper levels.



The idea of the Friends came to John in 1975. He was seeing lots of people in the church, perhaps praying or looking within the Books of Remembrance and he rarely saw them again. It occurred to him then that these visitors might like to belong to an association to link and tie people together. At that time the church was run by relatively few people and John had a degree of autonomy in terms of decision making.



To progress his idea John spoke with the then Chaplain in Chief, Air-Vice Marshall Hewitt Wilson and the Air Member for Personnel, Air Marshall Sir Harold Martin (Mickey Martin of Dambuster's fame), both of whom were personal friends. John was also on cordial terms with HRH Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester (pictured left), and was confident that with his personal approach she would agree to become Patron in Chief of the Friends' Association.

This duly happened. Indeed, John went to Kensington Palace to arrange the Princess's involvement in the Service. It is also the reason why her son, the present Duke of Gloucester, followed his mother as Patron in Chief of the Friends' Association.

Another personal friend of John's, Lord Elworthy, Chief of the Defence Staff (pictured right), a very early member of the Friends, readily agreed to give the Address during the Service. Lord Elworthy remained a Friend until his death. Sir Neil Cameron, then Chief of the Air Staff, read the Lesson in the Service; he too was a good friend of John. In addition, John recognises the invaluable support of his then secretary Elaine Tame and her husband Wing Commander Freddie Tame, who was Secretary of the Guild of St Clement Danes, which would organise the front of stage.



During the early part of 1972 John was appointed a Queen's Honorary Chaplain. In December 1976 he retired from the RAF and passed over the helm of the Friends to the then new resident chaplain of the church Glyndwr Rhys Renowden. Many years later in 1996, under Air Commodore Felicity Peake's leadership of the Friends, the Friends achieved its charitable status.



Now nearing his 95th birthday, although by his own admission his mobility is diminished, his mind is still exceptionally sharp. John is now in the process of writing his own biography but this will be for his family only and won't be published.

Sadly, John's wife Enid is no longer with us. John still takes a very keen interest in St Clement Danes, its ministry and various

activities. In addition, still a member of the Friends, John enjoys reading the articles within the editions of Oranges and Lemons.

Since finishing his tenure at the end of 1976, John has returned many times to the church and even taken some services! His last visit was about 10 years ago. He still very much agrees with the general approach and ethos of the Friends of St Clement Danes and feels that it is a job being well done.

## **Trustees' Book**

Located within the crypt at St Clement Danes is The Trustees' Book. The book contains the names of people who have died since leaving the Royal Air Force.

Names can be included at the request of family members of the deceased, for which a fee of £40 is payable.

To download the application for an entry in The Trustees' Book, please scroll to the foot of the following page within St Clement Danes website:

[www.raf.mod.uk/stclementdanes/friendsofscd/friendstrustees.cfm](http://www.raf.mod.uk/stclementdanes/friendsofscd/friendstrustees.cfm)



# **Annual General Meeting of The Friends of SCD Thursday 24 November 2016 at 4pm The Crypt Chapel, SCD, Strand**

All members of the Friends are entitled to attend and vote. It is hoped that as many as possible will be able to attend.

Notice issued by Chris Priebe, Hon Secretary.

## **Agenda**

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Chairman's Opening Remarks
4. Election of Council Officers and Members
5. Minutes of 2015 AGM
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Membership Secretary's Report
8. Any Other Business
9. Date of next AGM

As in previous years, audited accounts will be available at the meeting and will be published with the minutes in the next Oranges & Lemons.

A copy of the Friends of St Clement Danes Constitution will also be available.

# 75th Anniversary Commemoration

## Peter Neville Lewis Esq

On 12 August 1941, Bomber Command carried out the first major daylight raid on Nazi Germany, targeting power stations near Cologne. A force of 54 Blenheim bombers led the attack and two more were designated to navigate several Spitfire squadrons to meet the returning bombers and provide cover and support.

One of these two (V5859) was flown by Flt Lt Gwilym Lewis and his crew of two.

Sadly, 12 of the Blenheims were shot down including the two navigator escorts. V5859 eventually crashed after heavy flak damage, with the loss of all three lives, just outside the village of Philippine across the R Scheldt estuary from Flushing (Vlissingen). The farm where the Blenheim fell still exists and the photos taken by the Germans as proof identify the spot clearly.



Five years ago (2011), on the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it was decided to erect a Memorial to the three crew and a Dutch civilian who was also

killed as the plane hit a part of the farmhouse where he was sheltering. About 80 people attended this ceremony including

relatives of those who died, representatives from the RAF and RAFA (Holland) and even the last few eyewitnesses from 1941.

Now another five years on, the Philippine Historical Society (PHS) wanted to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and this was supported by the Mayor of Terneuzen, an important local municipality.



And so at 6pm on 12 August, around 100 people assembled in the centre of Philippine to walk the 800 yards to the crash site at Buyck's farm.

A local band preceded the group which included Dutch and Polish veterans together with Peter

and Gay Lewis, son and daughter in-law of the pilot of V5859.

A short ceremony, with speeches from the Mayor of Terneuzen and the President of the PHS, took place. The Last Post was sounded, wreaths were laid and our national anthem accompanied the raising of both the Union Jack and the Dutch national flag.

To conclude, there was a fly-past of four classic planes, two of which were 1944 Austers which had seen active reconnaissance

service, against a background of clear blue skies. It was a perfect ending to a moving and very special event.



The special affection with which the Dutch have for our armed services and the part they played in liberating Holland had been splendidly demonstrated. Philippine is very proud of this Memorial and the local people will continue every year to honour the memory of those who gave their lives for Dutch freedom in World War Two.

## From the Registers

We are delighted to share in families' excitement when they come to St Clement Danes for a Baptism or Wedding.

### Baptisms

Benjamin Theodore Goodwyn (6 March)  
Florence Arianne Mae Thorley (1 May)  
Martha Alice Florence Foat-Nicholls (23 May)  
Imogen Rose Bagnall (29 May)  
Archie Africa Holt (5 June)  
Rafe Miles Kumar Dawe (5 June)  
Lily Grace Banks (3 July)  
Rafe Alexander Barda Catling (10 July)  
Jemima Poppy Hughes Gilbert (13 July)

### Weddings

Sandford Anthony Patrick Loudon & Romy Jane Finbow (16 April)  
James Sion Taylor and Blaine Campbell (14 May)  
Gordon Power Cookson & Victoria L Comonaco McVeigh (21 May)  
Toby Benedict de Belder & Leanne Marie Peters (28 May)  
Stephen John McCann & Margaret Tough (18 June)  
David Laurence Whittingham & Wendy Rothery (2 July)  
John Christopher J Cartwright & Francesca S O Poglia (23 July)  
Oliver James Maskell & Alyson Frances Walter (23 July)  
Jack Tomas Bright & Lucinda Mary McKittrick (20 August)  
Greg Smith & Rachel Johnson (20 August)

**Requests for Baptisms and Weddings should be made  
to the Resident Chaplain**

## Readings and Services\*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Third Reading</b>
<b>6 November 3rd before Advent Baptism</b>	Choral Eucharist and Baptism	Job 19.23-27a	2 Thessalonians 2.1-5,13-17	Luke 20.27-38
<b>13 November Remembrance Sunday</b>	Service of Remembrance	Micah 4: 1-5	John 15: 9 - 14	
<b>20 November St Clement</b>	Choral Eucharist	Proverbs 15.1-4	Philippians 3.17-4.3	Luke 14.7-11
<b>Year A Begins</b>				
<b>27 November Advent Sunday</b>	Advent Sunday Service			
<b>4 December Advent 2</b>	Choral Eucharist and Baptism	Isaiah 11.1-10	Romans 15.4-13	Matthew 3.1-12
<b>11 December Advent 3 No morning Service</b>	RAF Benevolent Fund Carol Service at 3pm			
<b>18 December Advent 4</b>	Choral Eucharist	Isaiah 7.10-16	Romans 1.1-7	Matthew 1.18-25
<b>24 December Midnight Mass</b>	Choral Eucharist	Isaiah 9: 2, 6 & 7	Titus 2: 11 to 14	John 1: 1 to 14
<b>25 December Christmas Day</b>	Choral Eucharist	Isaiah 9: 2, 6 & 7	Titus 2: 11 to 14	Luke 2: 1 to 14
<b>8 January Baptism of Christ</b>	Matins	Isaiah 42 verses 1 to 9	Matthew 3 verses 13 to 17	
<b>15 January Epiphany 2</b>	Eucharist	Isaiah 49 verses 1 to 7	1 Corinthians 1 verses 1 to 9	John 1 verses 29 to 42

<b>22 January Epiphany 3</b>	Matins	Isaiah 9 verses 1 to 4	Matthew 4 verses 12 to 23	
<b>29 January Epiphany 4</b>	Eucharist	1 Kings 17 verses 8 to 16	1 Corinthians 1 verses 18 to 31	John 2 verses 1 to 11
<b>5 February 4 Before Lent</b>	ATC Service	TBC		
<b>12 February 3 Before Lent</b>	Matins	Deuterono my 30 verses 15 to 20	Matthew 5 verses 21 to 37	
<b>19 February 2 Before Lent</b>	Eucharist	Genesis 1 verses 1 to Chapter 2 verse 3	Romans 6 verses 18 to 25	Matthew 6 verses 25 to 34
<b>5 March Lent 1</b>	Eucharist	Genesis 2 verses 15 to 17 and chapter 3 verses 1 to 7	Romans 5 verses 12 to 19	Matthew 4 verses 1 to 11
<b>12 March Lent 2</b>	Morning Prayer and Colour Lay up	Genesis 12 verses 1 to 4a	John 3 verses 1 to 17	
<b>19 March Lent 3</b>	Eucharist	Exodus 17 verses 1 to 7	Romans 5 verses 1 to 11	John 4 verses 5 to 42
<b>26 March Lent 4 Mothering Sunday</b>	Matins	Exodus 2 verses 1 to 10	Luke 2 verses 33 to 35	

\*Correct as we go to press, but please check the website closer to the date or phone the church to confirm.

All services start at 11am unless specified otherwise

**Lunchtime Concert Series**

**St Clement Danes Young Artists'**

**Tuesdays, 13.10-14.00**



**Please join us in the beautiful space of St Clement Danes Church  
for a Tuesday lunchtime recital  
Concerts are not ticketed, so just turn up  
For further information see a season programme inside the church,  
or visit [www.facebook.com/scdyoungartists](http://www.facebook.com/scdyoungartists)**

We'll have to take a break through December, as the church becomes busy with extra services through Advent. However, artists are being booked for all the Tuesdays through November. The programme is shaping up as follows:

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November – NO CONCERT**

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November – Hanna Tradcz - Viola**

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November – Anyssa Neumann - Piano**

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – Trisquel Arts Ensemble**

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November – Clare Simmons and Chris Brannick – Piano and Percussion**

**We look forward to seeing you at a concert soon!**



# A PoW Air Gunner (Part 1)

Albert D Gunn ACA

(from Scottish Saltire Aircrew Association)



Albert Gunn volunteered for aircrew in 1943 and commenced Initial Training at Bridlington followed by Elementary Air Gunnery School at Bridgenorth in Shropshire and then to Dalcross near Inverness for Browning gun practice flying in Avro 'Ansons' from which he qualified as an Air Gunner with the privilege to wear an AG brevet and to 'put up' his sergeant's stripes. His Operational Training was carried out at Lossiemouth on Vickers Armstrong Wellingtons'



before converting onto 'Halifax' heavy bombers at Riccall near Selby

from where he eventually posted to join No. 51 Squadron at Snaith, not far from Riccall. The story continues in Albert's own words.

"We were listed on the Battle Order for 29th December (1943). This was to be the eighth of a series of heavy raids on Berlin. The force was made up of 457 'Lancasters', 252 'Halifaxes' and 3 'Mosquitoes'. The route was virtually straight in over Holland to a turning point north of Leipzig, then the bombing run to Berlin. We were briefed and enjoyed our bacon and egg pre-flight meal, and then it was down to the crew room to get dressed. One of my duties was to collect 2 pigeons in containers, which each aircraft carried on the basis that, should we ditch in the North Sea, we could send off a pigeon with our position. I am afraid that none of us had much faith in surviving a ditching in the North Sea in winter and waiting for a pigeon making its way back to Yorkshire.

We had flying suits issued but most of us found them too bulky and restricted movement. I wore the issue thermal vests and long johns, then my normal shirt and tie, two sleeveless pullovers, the normal issue sleeved pullover and normal trousers. I wore normal socks, and then electrically heated slippers covered by the heavy white woollen seaman's stockings, which folded over fur-lined boots. I then donned an electrically heated waistcoat on top of which I wore a white polo necked sweater and, finally, my battledress uniform jacket. I had heated gloves, covered by a pair of fine nylon gloves and then leather gloves.

As we would be flying over the North Sea, we had to wear Mae West life jackets and, finally, our parachute harness with which we used a chest pack. The harness had to fit properly especially between the legs but this was uncomfortable for a long flight and

many crew members left the straps loose. In an emergency, the time taken to fasten them could mean the difference between life and death. Keeping warm was a constant battle and both gunners had the problem that, although body, hands and feet had the benefit of heated units, legs and arms did not.

We took off just before dark and everything went smoothly. We had maximum loading of fuel and bombs and we were soon climbing through cloud on course for the Dutch coast. We had no problems until nearing the German border with Holland; an aircraft quite close to us was attacked by a fighter and returned fire. Not long after this incident, the engineer reported we were losing power in our starboard outer engine and this became sufficiently serious to close the engine down and feather the propeller to avoid drag. As we



were in a stream of over 800 aircraft, we decided to carry on with three engines and, in fact, were able to continue until we began to lose power on the starboard inner engine. With this obviously serious situation, we started to lose height and decided we had no choice but to turn back. By this time we were well into Germany and could see the defences of Hanover in action on our port side but, despite jettisoning our bomb load, we could barely maintain our altitude. We were uncertain of our actual position and thought we were over Holland and Andy Baird, our pilot, was having great difficulty controlling the aircraft and it was decided we had to abandon it. First to bale out was Pilot Officer Coryton, as the only officer in the crew and had taken the place of our sick bomb-aimer who was in hospital. I left my turret and collected my parachute pack, sadly leaving the pigeons to their fate.

I slipped on the 'chute and, to my horror, the pack landed on the floor having pulled out the straps which, in theory, do not come undone until after the parachute opens. I folded them as best I could, holding the lot to my chest and then had to negotiate the main spar, climb down under the cockpit instrument panel into the nose. I noticed the altimeter showed just over 2,000 feet and only the wireless operator and the pilot were left.

I was faced with a very draughty black hole in the floor and, without hesitation sat down. I made sure I had the parachute handle in one hand and, holding the pack as tight as I could, thrust myself out. I had a vague impression of the tail going past and pulled the handle. My parachute opened with a jerk, which gave me a very stiff neck for some days and I found myself falling gently in cloud with no idea what was waiting at ground level.

It only seemed seconds after my parachute opened that I heard the aircraft seemingly come back towards me but, in actual fact, it was going into a dive towards the ground, which it hit with a tremendous explosion. I doubted that Jack and Andy could both have escaped from the aircraft. I started to swing at the end of my parachute and, when trying to stop the swinging, I suddenly saw some darker area to my right and hit the ground with a thump at the edge of a field. The cloud base had been almost to ground level and it was pouring with rain. I quickly gathered my 'chute and harness together and tried to hide it as best I could in some shrubs and bushes. A vehicle on the road only a few yards away suddenly lit up the area.

We had been instructed to move away from the area where the aircraft had come down and I could see the glow of the crash in the distance so I headed off in the opposite direction. I still thought that I might be in Holland and could, perhaps, make contact with the Resistance. I could hear music as I approached what turned out to be a village and a dance was in full swing. It was about 7.30pm and the bomber stream was still flying overhead towards Berlin. I crept past a courting couple at a corner by walking through some gardens and made my way out of the village on the opposite side and on into the country. I looked for somewhere to shelter for the night but any place I approached seemed to be well protected by barking dogs. I had walked for some hours when I realised that someone was following me. When I stopped, they stopped. We continued in this way until I could see that I was approaching a t-junction and would have to go right or left. On my left, just short of the junction, was a large tree so I quickly moved behind it so that I could see what my follower would do.

I was immediately aware that something was wrong when a torch was shone in my face and a rifle could be seen in my chest. I was aware of a man in uniform but could not make it out apart from a small button at the front of his hat coloured, I thought, red, white and blue. I thought they were the colours of Holland and said to him "Dutch?" to which he replied, "Va". At that point the person following me approached and my "friend" issued an obvious challenge, to which a woman's voice replied. The guard was German and obviously thought I had said "Deutsch", to which he correctly replied "Va". He quickly searched me and my bar of chocolate, reserved for the flight home, went into his pocket. The woman disappeared to return with a group of armed men. One, with a Luger pistol, had no doubts as to what should be done with me but, fortunately, the Police Chief was also present and we proceeded towards the village where we tried to waken one person up by throwing stones at his bedroom window, without success. We carried on to a small store where they managed to wake the occupants. They were after using the telephone to report my capture and, whilst the owner cranked the handle of his old fashioned telephone, a commotion started further down the hall. Eventually two women appeared, virtually dragging a very frightened girl of about 14 years of age, who was literally shaking. She must have known some school English and was pressured by the adults to question me. The first question was "American?" then "Canadian?", "English?" to all of which I replied "No". She gave up at that and escaped back down the corridor. I must have been a frightening sight to her as my face was dirty, scratched and bleeding from landing through the bushes.

Our next stop was the local Police Station where the Police Chief acquired a dry coat and we were shown into the kitchen where a large stove gave off a wonderful heat. I started to steam in minutes

as, by then, I was soaking wet. The policeman was fairly elderly, as was his wife. Sitting at the table was a middle-aged couple trying hard not to look at me. I was astounded when the door burst open and a young boy of about 14/15 years old came into the room wearing a swastika armband and gave the Nazi salute, to which all the adults stood up and responded. The boy spoke reasonably good English and demanded to know where my comrades were. I replied that they were all dead. He quickly responded by saying that that was not true as they had already captured some of them. I thanked him and it dawned on him what he had given away.

My next stop was the local telephone exchange but now under guard of two soldiers. I had been told to stand in the centre of the room whilst they occupied the only two chairs. By then I was getting very tired, as it was now almost 3am. I edged back to a table and managed to half-sit and must have dozed off when I felt a wallop and landed on the floor. One of the guards was standing over me but, on the intervention of the other guard, he left me lying there, which suited me fine. Eventually, a Volkswagen Beetle arrived and we all piled in but then had to get out to push it. Next stop was Beilefeld Town Hall, which was a reception centre for shot down aircrew and I immediately spotted Coryton, our bomb-aimer, who called out that all the German officers spoke English. I was searched and then handed over to two Luftwaffe officers who were to escort me to the Luftwaffe aerodrome at Guterslow, where I was placed in a cell. Later that day two guards escorted me to the main building which entailed marching across the parade ground where all the windows around the square seemed to be filled by cheering, or jeering, Luftwaffe airmen. Both guards were quite short and I stepped out to get off the parade ground as quickly as possible, so I suppose it looked quite funny.”

**...to be continued...**

# News from 296 (Stoke Newington) Squadron Air Training Corps

## Cadet Flight Sergeant Jordann Webb

Welcome to the latest article on behalf of 296 (Stoke Newington) Sqn ATC. We hope that you have had an enjoyable summer. The Cadets from 296 Squadron certainly did. The Squadron calendar started the summer



period off with our Annual Easter Camp to the Isle of Wight, where we participated in full-bore shooting, field craft, swimming, rock climbing, as well as sailing and canoeing.



The Cadets were then prepared for our Summer Camp which this year was hosted by RAF Cosford. RAF Cosford is not only home to No 1 School of Technical Training (part of the Defence School of Aeronautical Engineering) but also to the Aerosystems Engineering and



Management Training School and No 1 Radio School, with all three coming under the Defence College of Technical Training. The RAF School of Physical Training and the Defence School of Photography are also based at Cosford. RAF Apprenticeships are delivered there and the station was recently recognised as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

As well as all of this I and some of the Cadets managed to have a look around the Midlands Air Ambulance. This amazing Unit is a charity responsible for funding and operating three air ambulances serving the communities of six Midlands counties: Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire and the West Midlands. This constitutes the largest air ambulance operating region in the UK.



Since 1991, the charity has responded to more than 46,000 missions averaging 2,000 per year, making it one of the longest established and busiest air ambulance organisations in the UK.

The charity's three aircraft each carry a crew comprising pilot, two paramedics or flight doctors plus full life-support medical equipment. Operating from strategically located regional airbases, 90 per cent of the region is within an eight minute reach.

If a patient reaches hospital within the Golden Hour (60 minutes after the injury) their chances of survival are dramatically increased. That is why the rapid response of the Midlands Air Ambulance is so vital in an emergency



situation. What is not widely known is that Midlands Air Ambulance receives no Government or National Lottery funding. Each Midlands Air Ambulance mission costs £2,500 and in excess of £7 million is needed each year to keep its three air ambulances operational. This is donated entirely by the public and local businesses, with four in ten of those we help funded by Gifts in Wills. Our thanks goes to Paramedic Karen Baker for showing us round the helicopter, including the equipment, and giving us an insight as to their day-to-day duties.

The world renowned RAF Museum is adjacent to the site which allowed the Cadets to get an insight into the history of the RAF as well as bygone aircraft.

Huge thanks goes to ALL of the Station staff from the Support Staff to the Station Commander who made our stay memorable and educational.

The Squadrons 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary generated great interest among many of our members. Fortunately our Squadron Adult Warrant Officer Singh

served in the Squadron for 40 years (having joined as a Cadet in 1977) so his knowledge and experience provided an incredible insight into the Squadron's past.



His time as a volunteer began as a cadet, where he was part of the Squadron's band which was authorised by Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother to wear a blue and white plume for the bands service and displays.

In AWO Singh's time with the Squadron, he attended over 35 Annual camps, travelled all round the UK and abroad. His service and dedication has played a crucial role in the running of the Squadron.





I was privileged to be presented the award of 'Deputy Lieutenant's Cadet for Hackney'. The Deputy Lieutenants role is to arrange visits of Royal Family members, provide their escort, present honours on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen and to liaise

with UK military forces and the local community they represent. Having such a prestigious job comes from service and charity, which makes the award even more humbling.



Our newly promoted Sergeant, Sgt Crawford (formerly Cadet Warrant Officer of the Squadron) passed his Initial Senior NCOs Course at RAF Cranwell, and returned to RAF Cranwell to attend his Drill Instructors

Course. He was then invited back to the 2016 Drill & Ceremonial Camp as one of the Instructors.

The camp put on a spectacular show: a continuity drill, marching band display, a fly-by and an aerial display by the Red Arrows and aircraft from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. The Cadets performed to a crowded audience, culminating in a spectacular fireworks and musical show in the evening. All this celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ATC.



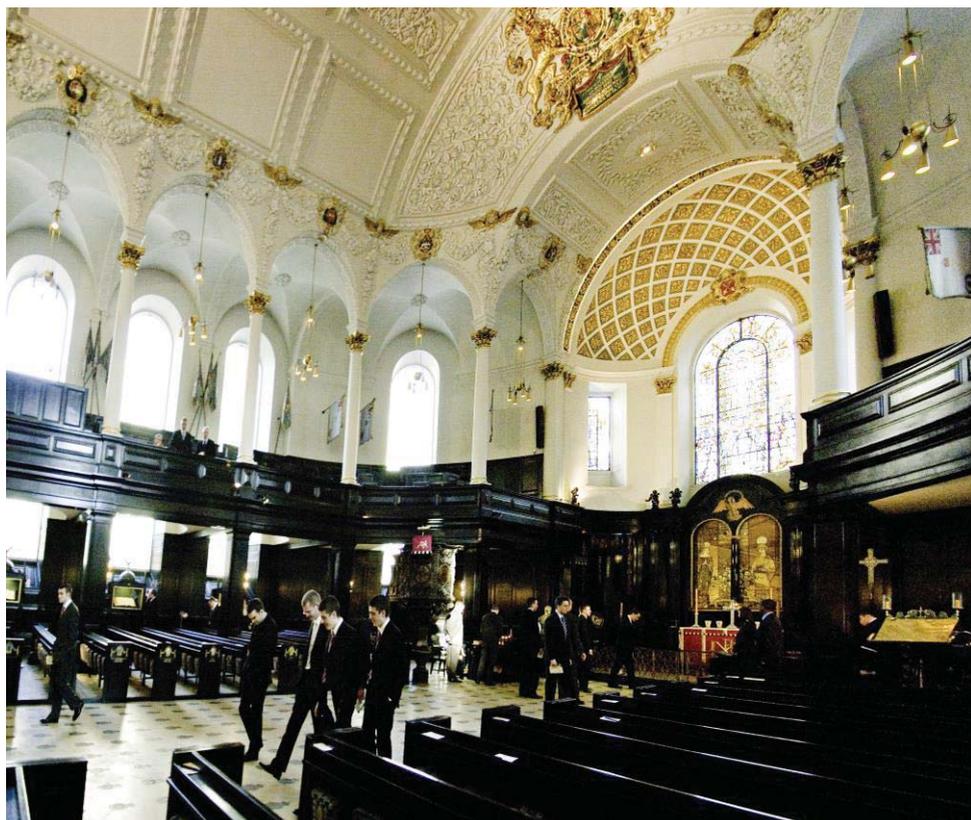
I was selected to be a part of the Continuity Drill Display Team and my appointment as Cadet Warrant Officer was approved and presented by the Commandant Air Cadets, Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty RAFR.

The ACO Torch Relay saw each of the Regions and Wings take the torch to as many different places within their Wing as possible. 296 (Stoke Newington) Squadron selected Cadet Sabio & Cdt Tomlin to be a part of the relay team and with them the Torch visited: 10 Downing Street, Buckingham Palace, The Ritz, Trafalgar Square as well as St Clement Danes Church (among other notable locations in London).

Our newly purchased Squadron Banner will be blessed at St Clement Danes on Sunday 23 October 2016. If anyone wishes to join us please contact Flt Lt Ian Perring RAFVR (T) via email: [Firstaid.london@aircadets.org](mailto:Firstaid.london@aircadets.org)



To find out more about 296 (Stoke Newington) Sqn ATC please visit our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/296squadron/?fref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/296squadron/?fref=ts)



## Legacy Appeal

If St Clement Danes is as important to you as the thousands of people it remembers within its walls, we would ask you to consider leaving a gift in your Will for the future preservation and maintenance of this beautiful sanctuary.

It is a simple process. You can request a free Legacy Giving Guide from the Church Manager.

More information is on our website:

[raf.mod.uk/stclementdaneshome](http://raf.mod.uk/stclementdaneshome)

## Application to become a Friend of St Clement Danes

Please complete and return to: The Friends of St Clement Danes,  
Strand, London WC2R 1DH

### Current Categories to join the Friends are:

**Normal Membership** by Direct Debit

**Corporate Rates** please contact the Membership Secretary at the church.

**Serving RAF Personnel** please contact your Station Representative

*Membership renewals are made from 1 July each year. Part-year subscriptions may be made initially to cover an intermediate period.*

### Please tick the category that you are applying for:

- I wish to join as a single member** and authorise a debit of £22pa\*\*
- We wish to join as joint members** and authorise a debit of £33pa\*\*

*\*\* From my account until further notice; I enclose a completed Direct Debit instruction (page 40)*

- I enclose a completed **Gift Aid Declaration** (turn page)

Name and Surname.....  
RAF Rank (if applicable).....  
Address.....  
.....  
.....Postcode.....  
Telephone.....Email.....  
Signature.....Date.....

**GIFT AID DECLARATION**

I would like The Friends of St Clement Danes to reclaim tax paid on all donations and subscriptions I have made to this charity since 6 April 2011 and any such future payments. I realise that I can only sign this Gift Aid certificate if I have paid enough in Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax to cover the amount that all charities that I donate to will reclaim for each tax year. Council Tax & VAT do not count and I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given.

I know I can cancel this declaration at any time by advising The Friends of St Clement Danes.

Signature.....Date.....



# Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit



Originator's Identification Number **9 4 2 2 6 7**

Please fill in the whole form and send it to: Hon Treasurer, The Friends of St Clement Danes, Strand, London, WC2R 1DH

1. Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

To: The Manager	Bank or Building Society
Address	Postcode

2. Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

3. Branch Sort Code  
(from the top right-hand corner of your cheque)

4. Bank/Building Society account number

5. Reference Number  
(Hon Treasurer to complete)

6. Instruction to your Bank or Building Society  
Please pay The Friends of St Clement Danes direct debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with The Friends of St Clement Danes and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s)
Date

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account.



Our mission is to encourage growth in the membership of the Friends of St Clement Danes through promotion of what St Clement Danes provides spiritually, socially and culturally.

**Central Church of the Royal Air Force**  
Strand, London, WC2R 1DH  
[www.raf.mod.uk/stclementdaneshome](http://www.raf.mod.uk/stclementdaneshome)



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