



# RAF Elsham Wolds Association



*Looking to the future, remembering the past*

## News Archive 2021 (For Current Updates, please refer to [Latest News](#))

*This page will be progressively populated with items as they cease to be relevant.*

**Note:** Any Items that remain current remain available on the website 'News' page.

### **November Remembrance 2021**

Regretfully, the Remembrance Church Service and subsequent wreath laying at the Memorial Garden on Sunday 7 November has been cancelled and will not take place, as planned.

**Added 30 October 2021**

### **Remembering All Who Served**

Despite cancellation of our Reunion and a Flypast by Lincolnshire's Lancaster (see below), those who served at Elsham, after opening 80 years ago, are remembered. On Sunday 29 August, several members and volunteers gathered at the Memorial Garden for a simple wreath laying ceremony. The occasion was all the more poignant with the presence of a younger generation of Air Cadets and a reading of 'The Exhortation', from Robert Binyon's poem - For The Fallen. This was recited by our newest member, whose uncle 'failed to return' in April 1942. **Added 1 September 2021**

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.

### **Cancellation of Flypast**

This morning, news was received that the BBMF Lancaster is unserviceable and remains at Duxford, where it has been undergoing maintenance. Unfortunately, this means the flypast planned to mark 80 years of Elsham Wolds, scheduled for this Sunday (29 August), has been cancelled. Hopefully, something can be arranged for next year!

**Added 26 August 2021**

### **166 Sqn Memorial Service and Wreath Laying**

The annual 166 Squadron Remembrance Service will take place on Saturday 4 September and be followed by a wreath laying following at the nearby Memorial.

For details please contact Wg Cdr Tony Lark RAFVR(T) (retd) by email email at:-  
[adj.866@rafac.mod.gov.uk](mailto:adj.866@rafac.mod.gov.uk).

Please advise if you are plan on being there - it helps with organising refreshments. Also, if you wish to lay a wreath please advise Tony so that you can be called forward during the ceremony. If the wreath is dedicated to a particular person or group, this can be mentioned.

**Added 24 August 2021**

### **Annual Reunion 2021 - Announcement**

The following update appeared on Social Media, late yesterday:

Due to continued uncertainty of the current pandemic, together with the possibility of localised Covid outbreaks, this year's EWA Reunion weekend will not go ahead. The continuing safety, not only of our members and their families but also of the caterers, musicians and entertainers remain our priority.

After considerable discussion, the Association Committee agreed that this was the most appropriate course of action. Those many members who have already reserved will be refunded. NOTE: Our Newsletter and web site will carry information of our November Service of Remembrance, when available.

**Added 28 July 2021**

### **Newsletter 63**

An 'Early Summer' Newsletter - i.e. the delayed since 'Spring' edition (see below) - has now been despatched to Members.

**Added 10 July 2021**

### **Memorial Room**

Following some relaxation of UK Government Covid-19 guidelines, the Memorial Room has reopened to LIMITED NUMBERS of Visitors.

Visits are by arrangement and further information, including contact details are given on our Memorial Room page. Covid infection rates and other factors will continue to be monitored for the safety and well being of both visitors and our Volunteers, who welcome them.

Any future changes in opening arrangements will continue to be posted on this website.

**Updated 11 July 2021**

### **Spring Newsletter**

To date, circulation of the Spring Newsletter has not been feasible for various reasons. Principally, we wish to include firm information about the 2021 Reunion weekend, with Booking Forms as necessary. Members are currently being consulted by e-mail, before deciding how to proceed. Further info is included in the Members Section of this site.

**Added 19 May 2021**

### **Betty Spencer**

With considerable sadness, it is advised that the wife of President, Fred Spencer, recently passed away. Her funeral was held in their local church, close to York, on 2 May.

**Added 10 May 2021**

### **Ken Duddell**

It is with regret and great sadness we announce that former Chairman, Ken Duddell, passed away this morning. He was 96 and would have marked another birthday in just four days time.

During WW2, Ken qualified and flew as a Flight Engineer in Lancasters – an aircraft he always considered to be “Queen of the Skies”. Early Autumn 1943 saw a posting to 460 Squadron at Binbrook, but his pilot failed to return from a ‘Second Dickie’ and he became a ‘spare bod’, along with the rest of the crew. A transfer to 12 Sqn at Wickenby failed to find a pilot, so Ken and his comrades were sent to 1667 HCU, Faldingworth. There, they met up with Sqn Ldr Whittet - a former Instructor about to join 103 as Flight Commander.

Relocating to Elsham that October, they survived nine trips to Berlin. When the Skipper and Navigator both completed second tours, the others found themselves 'spare' once again, flying with various crews to finish a first. In May '44, Ken became an Instructor at Blyton HCU, before a final move to 625 Sqn at Scampton, towards the end of the War.

He joined the Association around 1990. Without his stewardship, it would not have continued in the new Millennium or prospered to reach a 40th Anniversary in 2019. Such was Ken's dedication to all things Elsham Wolds and the pull of Lincolnshire, he and wife, Valerie, relocated to a house in Barnetby: coincidentally, on the site of the former station 'Waffery'. On ceasing to be so actively involved, after 13 years in the Chair, Ken and Val returned to their native Midlands, settling in Droitwich Spa.

An edited version of this announcement has been posted on Social Media and a fuller obituary prepared for the next Members' Newsletter.

**Added 25 February 2021**

### **Memorial Room**

With re-introduction of a UK wide 'Lockdown' earlier this week, the Memorial Room remains closed, in accordance with Government guidance. A further review will be conducted when this is lifted and there is a significant improvement in Covid infection rates (nationwide).

**Added 7 January 2021**

### **New Year + New Content**

New Year Greetings and best wishes for 2021 to Members and all visitors to the site.

As noted above [in item relating to New Website], older news is now archived. Items elsewhere are also being revised to accommodate improved content and the latest Newsletter is now available in the Members' Area.

**Amended 8 January 2021**