

## ***Keeping in Touch..... Number 52***

***Welcome to this week's KIT. Thank you so much if you sent something in this week. Please keep the articles coming. We have, with Philip Simpson's blessing, postponed his quiz until next week –see more on the final page.***

***The deadline for next week's KIT is noon on Wednesday. Please send anything to [c.a.curtis@ntlworld.com](mailto:c.a.curtis@ntlworld.com). Or ring us on 01480 350787***

### ***Remembering His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh***

***- from Alex Wedderburn MBE***

At the height of the Cold War in 1965, Sqn.Ldr.Ken Briggs and Flt. Lt Alex Wedderburn, along with their young families were stationed at RAF Laarbruch on the Dutch/German border. Ken was a flight commander pilot on a Canberra Photo Reconnaissance Squadron while Alex was a navigator on a Canberra Nuclear Strike squadron, roles which were important parts of NATO's nuclear deterrent.

That same year, on a morale-boosting tour to the front line, the Queen and Prince Phillip visited various military bases in West Germany. One of them was Schloss Benrath and it was here that Ken's wife Cathie and the wife of Ken's navigator had the honour and pleasure of meeting the royal couple.

Later, Prince Phillip alone, visited RAF Laarbruch. At a reception in the Officers' Mess, our group of four, tactically positioned by the Station Commander, were honoured to be introduced to the Duke. We found him most affable and easy to talk to. He asked if we lived on or off base. I said that we lived in a well-furnished married quarter on base while my newly wed pilot lived off base in a hiring in the neighbouring town of Goch. With him having a naval background and being a pilot, he seemed to have a natural affinity in talking to us. There was no stuffiness about him. The conversation was more on family issues and less on our lives as aircrew. It is with pride I look back to our meeting that day.

Having been a PE teacher before joining – up, I was able, in the RAF, to indulge my sporting interests to the full which included hill walking and climbing. This led me to being a volunteer instructor on athletics and expedition training at the Burghead Outward Bound Moray Sea School on the Moray Firth, near to Gordonstoun School, the Duke and Prince Charles's *alma mater*. There was a close connection between the two establishments, both using the medium of "The Great Outdoors" as an important part of education and character building.

Students, if they wished, during their 4 weeks stay at the OB School could take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Where better than a Sea School, close to the Cairngorm mountains to complete sections of the D of E. Award, whether it be bronze, silver or gold?

The Duke helped inaugurate the OB Trust and was President for many years. The motto of Outward Bound is "To Serve, to Strive and not to Yield", a fitting reminder of the wonderful service the Duke gave to his Queen and country.



## ***Irene calling.....***

### **HRH DUKE OF EDINBURGH PRINCE PHILIP**

The Prince a handsome Sailor  
Distant cousin of our Queen,  
First met her while aboard a ship  
A shy and pretty teen.

His dreamy eyes of piercing blue  
Imprinted on her heart,  
T'was many years before she'd tell  
She'd loved him from the start.

Too young of course, so life went on  
And different paths they'd tread,  
But now and then their paths would cross  
Love clicked, and romance led.

This First Lieutenant brave and strong  
With Naval career assured,  
Went down on one knee, and proposed  
His love for her matured.

They married, went to Malta  
She became a Naval Wife,  
For five years life was normal  
Calm and easy with no strife.

But life is never easy,  
And the King fell ill and so,  
They took his place in Kenya,  
Her duty was to go.

The King died not long after  
And Prince Phillip had the job,  
He told her 'bout her father  
Held her tight and let her sob.

Returning, she took duty  
A Monarch, she was Queen  
He knelt, pledged and kissed her  
As she sat there so serene.

Their married life was fruitful  
Four children strong and fine,  
The public on their doorstep  
He kept them all in line.

They're all grown up now older  
And some did lose their way,  
But always he would listen  
Though always had his say!

He didn't suffer fools much  
He had a forthright way,  
He's innovative thinking  
Was creative, plans he'd lay.

Conservation, Climate change  
He took a part and led,  
Charities of many kinds  
He helped them all, it's said.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award  
Has helped youth strive and grow,  
Adventures, skills of every kind  
And friendships too we know.

His death is sad, the country mourns  
His Queen and family too,,  
We wish him heavenly peace and love  
We will remember you.

cc. IRENE CARTER



### ***The Day I met the Prince.....***

I attended Cophthall Grammar School in Mill Hill in the early 1960s. A new sports stadium was built nearby, initially for the inter-county school sports. The stadium was to be officially opened on the first day of the games by the Duke. At school in first year needlework we all had to make an apron and cap in white cotton for our domestic science lessons the next year, complete with our names embroidered on them in green daisy-chain stitch. They were not fashion accessories!! For reasons I cannot recall I was one of a small group of girls, dressed in this attire, who were to go and prepare the sandwiches for lunch for the Duke. We were also lined up to meet him. He looked us up and down and then with a twinkle in his eye said , "So you're all expectant cooks are you?" He knew what he was saying!!

***Chris C***

### **I saw the Duke of Edinburgh once.**

While working for the financial board of Cambridge University in the 1970's, Prince Philip visited the Senate House, next door, as part of his role as Chancellor of the University. We were all allowed to leave the office and watch the parade to the Senate House. He was the only royal I have ever seen and it was a very special day.

***Gill German***



In 1960 The Queen and the Duke were to drive through Girton .The whole village turned out to wave .

As they slowly passed Father noticed that The Duke was on our side, my father gave him the navel salute as three of his brothers had served in the navy in the last war.

The Duke noticed Father among the crowd , turned in his seat and saluted back .What a lovely sign of respect.

***Charlotte***

Many years ago, prior to my last job I used to teach in Dagenham, and to help with out of hours activities, some of us developed courses for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. They were particularly useful for children who were not usually academic and could show other, practical skills.

I taught First Aid and all my groups passed - a measure of the pupils keenness and determination rather than my skill at instructing. It was so good to see pupils of less ability really getting a lot out of their D. of E. activities.

At least one of them went on to get Gold and others Silver or Bronze.It wasn't possible for me to see them get their awards so I never met the Duke of Edinburgh, but I know he's left a lasting legacy of helping youngsters to thrive. .

***John Williams***

### ***The Duke of Edinburgh Award***

Taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme made a huge difference in many lives. In our aspirational working class home, my brother and sister worked their way through the Bronze, Silver and onto the Gold. How wonderful to be invited to Buckingham Palace for the presentation. Working towards the award involved effort at school, at church, in the community and going on treks with local army personnel. Ever since, my brother has tackled tough terrain and once cycled alone across peaks in Scotland, resting in bothies. Both siblings went on to gain degrees; my architect sister worked with Norman Foster; my brother was offered a doctorate at Oxford, but chose IT instead and a lifelong capability in designing software. I did not have the guts to tackle the DoE, but enjoyed outward bound summer holidays with wonderful teachers in the Christian evangelical group Crusaders. I think Prince Philip's mentoring across disciplines, challenging young people to set worthwhile goals, had enormous consequences across the globe. I put a little of this into the condolence book on the [www.royal.uk](http://www.royal.uk) website.

***Sally Runham***

# The Duke of Edinburgh and I

*from Pete Davies*



Like many Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme participants, I met the Duke when I went to my Gold Award presentation in Buckingham Palace.

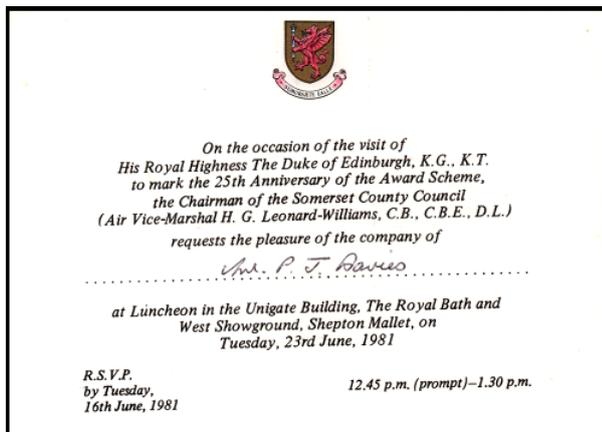
*(right—with Dad and little brother outside the Palace)*



The following year, I had a phone call from the Avon County Youth Service to see if I'd be willing and able to represent the county's participants at an event to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the scheme. I think it was only a week or so before the event was due to take place and maybe an administrative oversight had led to these last-minute arrangements.

At the event were various 'bigwigs' (Council Leaders, Lord Lieutenants etc.) along with my fellow representatives from each of the other counties in the South West. After lunch, we representatives were invited to all go and meet with the Duke. At that point, it became apparent that maybe the other counties had put rather more thought into who they sent. Whatever aspects of the scheme the Duke asked them about, they all seemed to have done rather exceptional things – spending several months helping build hospitals in Botswana, sailing single handed around Great Britain, taking up a new sport and now hoping to represent England at the next

Commonwealth Games or whatever. When it came to my turn, he asked me what I'd done for the service section of the award and I was able to tell him that I'd spent an hour or so, most weeks, doing gardening, tidying and the like in the churchyard of a nearby church. Having heard other's achievements he seemed a little surprised and unsure what to say about my much more modest commitments...but he was very friendly and polite none the less.



The fact that some 40 years later I still knew where I could find the invitations from those events, probably indicates that I still have good memories from them.

This photo was taken in February 1981. That year marked the 400th anniversary of the Cambridge bookshop, Bowes & Bowes, where I then worked. As Prince Philip was Chancellor of the University, he often visited the city, and on this occasion spent about 45 minutes in the shop, speaking to staff (who had been briefed) and, reportedly, "sharing a joke" with customers.

I was given the task of explaining what was then the latest technology to Prince Philip. In those pre-computer and internet days this comprised a microfiche reader and the "Index of British Books in Print" on two small sheets of plastic! Prince Philip asked me to find his book "Environmental Revolution" on the system ..... and, fortunately, I did.



Prince Philip showed a keen interest in all aspects of bookselling during his visit, which, on reflection, was rather more informal (and less "vetted") than might be the case today. This photo was taken in February 1981. That year marked the 400th anniversary of the Cambridge bookshop, Bowes

**Andy Fleming**

## Earth Day



April 22<sup>nd</sup> marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this event coordinated by the Earth Day Network of 193 countries. In many places, Earth Day forms part of Earth Week: a longer period of climate awareness that includes activities and campaigns. Most will spend Earth Day in their home although some activities are now permitted. Some actions we could consider:

Support eco-friendly companies such as Tookeys (washable cups and plates), Just Sharing (support of small businesses in countries most impacted by climate change), and the three new refill shops in town centre, amongst others.

Consider your choice of travel: some friends have recently bought electric bikes for the journey from Chestnut Road down into town, good for them. Church members have set the pace with electric cars.

Reduce food waste, which is currently 6.7 million tonnes per year in the UK, and costs £10.2 billion: quite a lot of school computers/ books, hospital operations or overseas aid.

Watch your water – using less means more for our rivers and wildlife.

Recycle and reuse – means less harmful mining of valuable earth resources.

Reduce energy use, wear warm clothes in the house or switch to a supplier that uses only renewable sources.

Nev and I are playing catch up on many of these issues, with lots of church members taking a lead. When we can meet again, it may be nice to swap notes on how to take some ideas forward  
- **Sally**

### **Nobles Field AGM**

Noble's Field AGM is being held at 7.30pm on Monday 26th April on Zoom. The meeting ID is 744 165 2074 and the passcode GE3gvt.

Our AGM is scheduled to include a talk by Dr T Reed: "Nightingales in St Ives - a year on the Waits". You may remember that we have previously held our AGM in the Free Church hall.

Thank you very much,

Tim Thomas,

Secretary, Noble's Field Committee

### **Thank you from Peter Ball**

*I wanted to write to say just how much I have appreciated KIT over the past year. For somebody who has been a member of the Free Church for nearly thirteen years I have loved learning more about both the history and the people who make up our church. Despite not being able to meet physically through all the stories and insights into peoples lives as well as the fun parts of KIT I feel if anything closer and more in fellowship with the people who make up our wonderful church.*

*All that is missing now is the physical meetings, worshipping together and the hugs!!!!. They, we all hope, will be able to return soon. In the meantime stay safe and love to all*

## Lockdown Lament

I won't arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,  
I'll sanitize the doorknob and make a cup of tea.

I won't go down to the sea again; I won't go out at  
all,

I'll wander lonely as a cloud from the kitchen to  
the hall.

There's a green-eyed yellow monster to the north  
of Katmandu  
But I shan't be seeing him just yet and nor, I think,  
will you.

While the dawn comes up like thunder on the  
road to Mandalay  
I'll make my bit of supper and eat it off a tray.

I shall not speed my bonnie boat across the sea  
to Skye  
Or take the rolling English road from Birmingham  
to Rye.

About the woodland, just right now, I am not free  
to go  
To see the Keep Out posters or the cherry hung  
with snow,

And no, I won't be travelling much, within the  
realms of gold,  
Or get me to Milford Haven. All that's been put on  
hold.

Give me your hands, I shan't request, albeit we  
are friends  
Nor come within a mile of you, until this trial ends.

*Anon.*

## Philip's £1000 group challenge quiz

*Due to pressure of space this week we have, with Philip's agreement postponed his quiz until next week. What some of you may not know is that during his career Philip worked for the Royal Family for ten years. He has kindly given us his unpublished memoirs of these times. We will publish extracts over the next few weeks - there are some fascinating insights.*

### *One more memory of D of E - from Catherine*

James Hare our younger son, did all the Duke of Edinburgh awards, completing the Gold award when we lived in Sawston. I went with him to receive his Gold award to St James Palace where Prince Philip joined us and chatted with the students. He was full of banter and asked if there were guests who had completed their awards 20 years ago. When someone said, 'Let's hope it will go on for another 20.' He quickly quipped 'I won't be around then, but keep going!' An airline pilot who was about 5.4' spoke to us. He said that he was given the opportunity to fly airplanes, even though he was not tall enough for their regulations, because they recognised that he was a 'finisher' because he had completed his Gold award.

I think it helped James that he had completed Gold when he applied for Med School and he was accepted. He is now a Consultant Radiologist in Warrington Hospital.

I do hope that the awards will continue! They were a great idea. - even though it meant that I had to clean lots of tent and camping kit!!

## Next Zoom Coffee Morning



**Will be on Thursday 22nd April**

**From 10:30 am.**



**Please contact Barbara if you wish to join for the first time.**

**[barbara.duffett@ntlworld.com](mailto:barbara.duffett@ntlworld.com)**