



FRIENDS OF LONG COMPTON CHURCH

#### NEW FLCC EVENTS 2015

17th October 2015

Hot Fingers Jazz and Swing

Autumn 2015

Children's film event during half term to be confirmed

28th November 2015

Craig Ogden Classical Guitar



# Summer Newsletter 2015

## *SIGH FOR A MERLIN The Golden Age of Aviation*

*Tony Edwards, Past President of the Royal Aeronautical Society and local Whichford resident, presented a truly memorable evening of rare video footage of the world renowned Spitfire pilot, Alex Henshaw, the Coventry Blitz and the Battle of Britain (Page 2)*



*Tony Edwards and his fascinating talk on the life of Spitfire pilot Alex Henshaw see page 2*

## LEOS STRINGS

*Leos (Pronounced Lee-oss) Strings, a string quartet of young musicians founded by cellist Rachel Shakepeare, came to play at Long Compton church on 16<sup>th</sup> May and they certainly knew how to entertain! (Page 3)*



*Leos Strings Quartet raising the roof see page 3*

## RECORD FUNDS RAISED BY THE FRIENDS

*Donations of over £10,000 for renovation work (Page 4)*



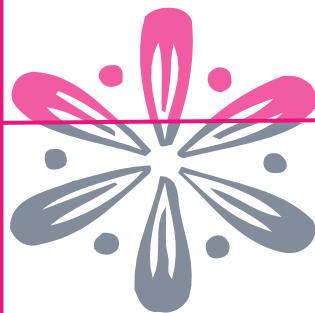
*Friends of Long Compton Church fundraising activities see page 4*

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Introduce a friend to the FLCC

Contact John Brown for subscription enquiries on 01608 684578. Tell your friends about our charity, subscriptions are £7 single and £12 joint. Help us to preserve our beautiful church for future generations to enjoy.

THE FRIENDS OF LONG COMPTON CHURCH  
Are proud to present



## HOT FINGERS

An evening of eclectic vintage string music. From the red hot era of jazz in the 1920s to sophisticated New York swing music of the 1930s, this highly acclaimed band perform music from their best selling albums.

17TH OCTOBER AT 7.30PM AT LONG COMPTON CHURCH  
For Tickets: SueKlatt@gmail.com or call 01608 684813

## *Sigh for a Merlin and the Golden Age of Aviation*

**Tony Edwards BSc, MBA, CEng, FRAeS, Past President of the Royal Aeronautical Society and local Whichford resident came to give a talk at the FLCC AGM on 21st March as a tribute to the world renowned Spitfire pilot, Alex Henshaw.**

**The talk was very timely and commemorated 75 years since the Battle of Britain and the life of Winston Churchill who died 50 years ago the very same evening.**

**Tony is a truly fascinating person. Even if you have no interest in Spitfires, within five minutes of meeting Tony you become infected with his enthusiasm and stand in admiration of his knowledge. You become as interested as he is in everything to do with the Spitfire and the charismatic, dare-devil pilot, Alex Henshaw MBE. The talk let Alex Henshaw tell his story in his own words through rarely seen vintage video footage. However the talk was more than just a tribute to Alex Henshaw, it included:**

### **The Coventry Blitz**

There was a brief recollection of the Coventry Blitz including rarely seen Luftwaffe video footage and ending with a moving message of hope and reconciliation by the Provost of Coventry Cathedral.

### **The Golden Age of Aviation**

Which began by Alex Henshaw (1912-2007), telling his remarkable story through exclusively filmed video footage and narration by Tony Edwards. It included the Kings Cup Air Race, his world record flight from London to Cape Town and back, testing Spitfires and the African adventure.

### **The Battle of Britain**

There was a unique introduction to the Battle of Britain narrated by Winston Churchill.

### **Sigh for a Merlin**

The second part of Alex's story continued with his wartime contribution as Chief Production Test Pilot at the Spitfire Shadow Factory at Castle Bromwich and his dare devil displays over the city of Birmingham, including a flight upside down along a major thoroughfare in Birmingham. Latterly Alex personally tested more than 3000 brand new Spitfires and numerous Lancaster bombers.

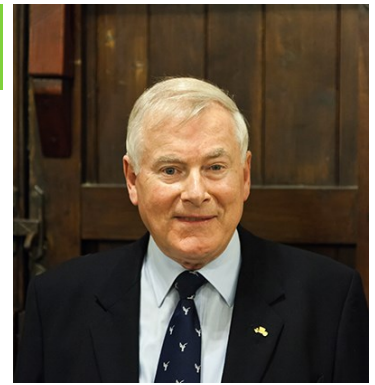
### **Tony Edwards**

Tony is a Rolls-Royce apprenticed engineer who has led a number of technology-based companies in the USA, Canada, Denmark and the UK – General Electric (USA), Motorola, Bombardier / Canadair, Lucas Aerospace and Messier-Dowty. He put together the latter as the only European based aerospace equipment company with a global market share of more than 50%. Later, he was seconded to the MoD where he served as Head of DESO (Defence Export Services Organisation)

He gained an MBA with Distinction from the Harvard Business School and then joined the faculty as a lecturer. More recently he was a Visiting Professor at the UK Defence Academy.

He has served as a trustee for a number of charities connected to the armed forces and he has been responsible for raising several million pounds for these charities.

Uniquely, he was elected President of the SBAC (Society of British Aerospace Companies), President of the Royal Aeronautical Society and Chairman of the Air League. He was awarded the Air League Gold Medal for Services to the Cause of Aviation.



*Tony Edwards and his fascinating talk on the life of Spitfire pilot Alex Henshaw*



*Alex Henshaw*

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The sigh refers to the noise that the Merlin engine made due to the vast amount of air it consumed.

37,000 test flights had been made with Alex Henshaw flying an estimated ten per cent of all Spitfires ever built.

## *Dates for your Diary—FLCC events for 2016*

**12th March 2016**

AGM followed by a fascinating talk

**Autumn 2016**

from David Grey on his successful vineyard in Kent  
Wine tasting and wine "bluff" evening with local wine enthusiasts to be arranged in Village Hall, in partnership with Sheldon's

**3rd December 2016**

Brian Kay and his brilliant Chorale return to enchant for an unmissable pre-Christmas event.





## *Leos Strings Quartet*

### *They certainly know how to entertain!*

Leos (Pronounced Lee-oss) Strings, a string quartet of young musicians founded by cellist Rachel Shakespeare, came to play at Long Compton church on 16<sup>th</sup> May. In the first half of the performance, their repertoire included well known classics, jazz and an eclectic mix of unique arrangements inspired by sources as diverse as Tom Jones, Queen, Disney and even Europe, known for their hit The Final Countdown.

The second half was a series of requests from the audience who appreciated the relaxed and informal atmosphere as well as the now legendary

FLCC welcome of wine and sausages!

Jackie, reviewing the performance on the Leos-strings website, summed up the evening very eloquently saying:

‘Thank you for a wonderful evening recital in Long Compton Church, Warwickshire. The Leos Quartet certainly know how to entertain! It takes rare talent to be able to totally engage a mixed audience with a wide age range and a variety of musical preferences, but you do that with apparent ease. Your ensemble playing was warm and engaging and you obviously enjoy

making music together. Not many quartets can move so smoothly between classical, romantic, jazz, pop and folk with such skill and technical excellence.’



## *Craig Ogden Returns to Play for FLCC*

### *Book Now!*

Here is an advance notice and an important date for your diary!

Craig Ogden is due to return to Long Compton Church and we are thrilled to host an evening of beautiful classical music by one of the most exciting guitarists of his generation.

Craig has played for us twice before to sell out events so book early to avoid disappointment!



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## CRAIG OGDEN

7.30pm on Saturday 28th November 2015

Long Compton Church

Tickets £15

£13 with book early concessions

Wine and refreshments available

For all FLCC Events  
Hot Fingers and Craig Ogden

Contact Sue Klatt for tickets on 684813  
sueklatt@gmail.com



## VOLUNTEERS?

We are looking for volunteers to support us by becoming "street wardens" to help collect subscriptions and donations. This is a vital part raising funds and an activity where "many hands make light work". Anyone can volunteer and a typical patch involves only a few hours each year. It's a fun activity which gets you out meeting people and every penny helps maintain and improve our lovely Church and its village setting. Please join us and call John Brown on 01608 684578.

## OUR WORK IN 2015

We have continued to contribute to the grass cutting in the churchyard and funded repairs to the drystone boundary walls which were becoming unsafe; they are so much an important part of the rural setting of the church. We have also funded work pruning trees in the churchyard, including some of the ancient yews, opening up views of the Church from Main Street and the surrounding countryside. Also the steps to the gate near the War Memorial have been repaired and plans are afoot to repair and recondition the elegant little gates to Main Street as well as resurfacing the path that runs parallel to Main Street. Hopefully, the latter will be completed in time for Remembrance Sunday in November when the path gets used by local people and our village veterans commemorating those who gave their lives for our freedom as a nation.

Work on the Church itself has been ongoing keeping it wind and watertight and on the refurbishment of the inside of our delightful little chantry chapel renowned as an "architectural gem" by the famed architectural historian, the late Nicholas Pevsner.



## DAVID NOBBS

I am sure that we were all saddened to learn of the death of David Nobbs earlier this month. TV screen writer and best selling author and the creator of Reggie Perrin, David was our speaker at the 2014 FLCC AGM and all who attended the meeting and the packed talk were captivated by his charm and wonderful anecdotes. Our sympathies are with his family and friends at this difficult time.

## RECORD FUNDS RAISED BY THE FLCC in 2014

*Donations of over £10,000 for renovation work to the fabric of the Church!*

	2014	2013
Subscriptions from members	£2,024	£1,838
Donations	£953	£1,295
Activities for generating funds	£11,479	£6,333
Associated expenses	£5,052	£1,364
Sponsorship	£2,544	£678
Grants to repair and improvement of church	£10,134	£3,850



## Key FLCC Facts Year 2014



**Membership over 300 members**

**Grants given to the Church  
£10,134 in 2014**