

Fowler Pavilion – Some additional internal & external photos taken of the finished Fowler Pavilion





Old Framlinghamians The Society of
www.oldframlinghamian.com



















Fowler Pavilion - Some internal photos taken of the installed Fowler Display





Vickers Wellington Bomber
Range: 1,500 miles / Payload: 2,000kg / Crew: 5 or 6



Avro Lancaster Bomber
Range: 2,000 miles / Payload: 8,000kg / Crew: 7



Douglas DC3



THE DEREK FOWLER STORY

PICTURE COURTESY OF THE DEREK FOWLER STORY

The life and times of the benefactors of this pavilion

The Fowler Pavilion: This building was made possible through a substantial bequest from the estate of 'Yola Peter' Fowler, in memory of her husband, Derek Colin Fowler OF (G35-40). These displays reflect, in particular, Peter Fowler's wish that there should be a proper memorial to Derek's distinguished war service in the Royal Air Force. They go on to explore Derek's fascinating career as a private pilot to a Greek shipping millionaire, and to show the strong bond of friendship that existed between Derek and a number of his school-friends leading, in retirement, to a series of annual reunions for those friends and their wives, hosted by Derek and Peter at some of Suffolk's finest restaurants.

Derek Colin Fowler 1912-2008 / Yola Mica Augusta 'Peter' Fowler 1907-2014

THE DEREK FOWLER STORY
The life and times of the benefactors of this pavilion

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(G35-40)
the pavilion



An East Anglian Childhood
Derek was born in Southwold, in East Anglia, in 1912. He spent his early years in the town, which was a busy port and a popular holiday resort. He was a member of the local football team and a keen sportsman.

Framlingham College
He passed O-levels in 1930 and went to the first boarding school, Framlingham College. He was a member of the school football team and a keen sportsman. He was a member of the school choir and a keen singer.

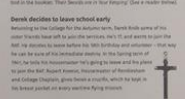


RAF Recruitment Office
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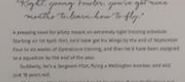


Outbreak of War - 1st September 1939
The school was closed on 1st September 1939. Derek was a member of the school football team and a keen sportsman. He was a member of the school choir and a keen singer.

Evacuation to Repton School
Derek was evacuated to Repton School in Derbyshire. He was a member of the school football team and a keen sportsman. He was a member of the school choir and a keen singer.

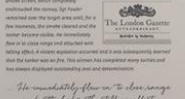


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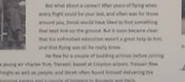


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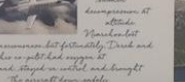


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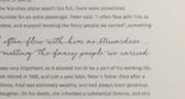


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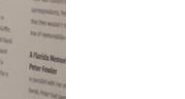


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Grumman Gulfstream 1



The ill-fated Learjet

THE DEREK FOWLER STORY

Flight Lieutenant Derek Fowler DFM (G35-40)

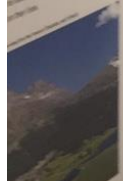
The life and times of the benefactors of this pavilion



ing must be made. Derek was not flying at the
could give their constant reassurance. When
Derek had left, he had left a message for
to a friend of his to read the message and to
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A Jet-Set Lifestyle

Peter wanted to learn to fly. They bought a
Cessna Skylane, on which she trained, then a
Piper Pawnee, and finally a Cessna
Citation. To her great delight, Peter was
soon an accomplished pilot, and took on at
least an equal share of the flying. They also
bought a Hughes 300E helicopter, which Peter
loved to fly.

They bought a house in Seaside, Florida,
to add to their homes in Suffolkland, Grace and Monte Carlo, and flew
regularly between them. In Florida, they had a wide circle of friends,
particularly at their exclusive Seaside country club, and were regular
visitors at the Seaside Beach Museum of Art.



Derek had always tried
to keep in touch with a
group of his
schoolfriends - in
particular, Paul Griffin,
Mike Dobson and David
Brent. In 1993, David
Brent suggested a
get-together at the Dufford airfield, and Derek and Peter flew over for it.

The annual reunion lunches

Dufford put in train a series of great annual lunches, hosted by Derek and
Peter, for friends, across and partners, for which they would fly over from
Suffolkland each summer, usually staying at Hildesheim Hall for a few
days. They were memorable occasions for everyone. Amongst them were
David Brent (G34-40), Paul Griffin (G32-40), James Gray (G34-40), Michael
Carr (G30-40), Roger East (G30-40), Mike Dobson (G30-40), Bill Lawrence
(G30-40) and Alan Sandison (G30-40). Griffin, Carr and Sandison were all
members of that winning Garter House rowing team of 1963.

Paul Griffin's diary records those events every year from 1983 to 2005 -
essentially at Hildesheim Hall, but from 2002 onwards, at Suffolkland - Derek's
childhood home. The last lunch was at the Crown Hotel, Southwold, in May
2003. Mike Fowler drove Derek and Peter over from Hildesheim, and they'd
just arrived when, suddenly, Derek was struck down, apparently with food
poisoning. Derek insisted the lunch went on without him, but told the
hotel to send him the bill, as usual.

By the following year, Derek had developed prostate cancer, which the
news would eventually tell him. He no longer wanted to be anywhere but at
home in Suffolkland, and Peter began disposing of their houses in Grace,
Monte Carlo and Florida. His illness was a long one and must have left him
in great pain, and Peter nursed him till the end, which came in October 2008.

Honouring Derek's memory

Peter was shattered by her loss, and never entirely recovered from it. Her
driving force, now, was to create a lasting memorial, firstly to Derek's
war-time service, and then to their lives together in retirement. She
approached a number of organisations: the Imperial War Museum at Dufford,
the RNU Lifeboat station at Southwold, and Southwold Museum, to name
but three. All these seemed promising avenues to start with, but never met
her exacting requirements to preserve Derek's name with a particular
development, and to safeguard his medals and wartime memorabilia.
By now it was 2011, and Felicity Griffin - Paul Griffin's widow - put Peter
in touch with the Society of Old Framlinghamians to see if they could help.
There was no discussion about money or a permanent memorial - Peter
had almost given up hope on that score, and was already exploring other
memorial options in Florida - she just wanted to be sure that the medals
and memorabilia would be preserved and displayed.

The Society was only too happy to help and, by the middle of 2011,
Peter was content that she could now relax. She told her principal
correspondents, Peter Inwood-Dobson, Chris Essex and Norman Parker,
that they wouldn't hear anything further until after her own death, when a
box of memorabilia would be delivered by her solicitor.

A Florida Memorial to Derek and Peter Fowler

In parallel with her efforts to honour
Derek, Peter had been thinking about
their lives together, and particularly
their time in Florida - a special place for
Peter, who'd spent memorable parts of
his childhood there.

Friends there knew that the Seaside Beach
Museum of Art was of special
interest to Peter and Derek, and put
Peter in touch with Cindy Galtman, the
museum's chief executive.

It was 2012, and Peter wouldn't miss
the family home in Suffolkland, so most
of their correspondence was by email.
In 2013, Cindy and her husband,
holocaust in Suffolkland and met Peter
for tea in St Merris.

From there, things moved swiftly,
and Peter made up her mind to
bequeath the majority of her estate to
fund "The 'Old Peter' and Derek Fowler
Endowment for Acquisition and
Exhibition". The legacy is currently the

largest in the museum's thirty-year history.
In August 2014, Peter was due to have lunch with an old friend, but
didn't arrive at the restaurant. On visiting the house, she found that Peter
had had a terrible fall, and suffered a fatal head injury.

This is Doctor Johannes Burger - I have instructions to pay you \$1 million!

The first the Society knew of Peter's death
was when, in January 2015, the trustees
received this astounding message from
Peter's Luxembourg solicitor. His letter
read:

*"I have instructions
to pay you
One Million Dollars!"*

There were no particular stipulations on
the size of the money, simply that it was "in
commemoration of Derek Fowler". However,
from a knowledge of the history, the
Society's trustees were in no doubt that
Peter would have wanted it to be used to
create a permanent memorial to her
husband, and they were delighted that the
College was of like mind.

Following a period of due diligence to
properly establish the source and nature of
the funds, the Society made a gift of
£100,000 to the College. This secured the
financial springboard for the creation of
The Fowler Pavilion and will, in due course,
lead to a further named
development at Broadbeard
Hall, Framlingham College's
prep school. Appropriately,
perhaps, as Broadbeard Hall
was given to the College by
the 50th and is a living
monument to Framlinghamians
and residents of Suffolk who
had their ties in both worlds
then.



ing on 1st April 1941, he'd have got his Wings by the end of September. to six weeks of Operations training, and then he'd have been assigned squadron by the end of the year.

Suddenly, he's a Sergeant Pilot, flying a Wellington bomber, and still just 18 years old.

It's January 1942. He's assigned to 38 Squadron, flying Wellingtons out

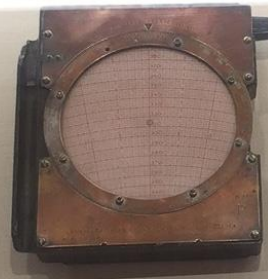
Derek's Lancaster Crew: Derek at extreme left; Wireless Operator Fred Garnham at centre.

By now, his Commanding Officer thinks Derek needs a break, but Derek insists on carrying on for a few more months until he's forced to go on leave in early 1943.

that his unfinished education wasn't a great help to him, and that flying was all he really knew.

He flew for a couple of budding airlines before joining a young air-charter firm, Transair, based at Croydon airport. Transair flew freight as well as people, and Derek often found himself delivering the morning papers and a couple of lobsters to Brussels and Paris.

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Derek's Crucifix
Rupert Kneess, who was the College's chaplain and Housemaster of Rendlesham, gave this to Derek when he heard he was planning to join the RAF. Derek kept it in his breast pocket on every flying mission.

Woods Mk III navigational computer
Displaced by the word computer - there was nothing else about this vital navigational tool. The knurled Bakelite knob was used to adjust the position of the continuous canvas band, marked with radial lines, to correctly reflect the aircraft's speed, and the outer brass ring was then adjusted to show the angle of the wind to the direction of flight. The correct course to

Distinguished Flying Medal
Awarded to Derek for exceptional valour during his Wellington bomber operations against enemy shipping one night in October 1942. He was just 19 at the time (you can read more about this in the journal above). The criteria for the

Derek's wartime Campaign Medals
In addition to the 1939-45 Star, which he earned for his military service throughout WWII, there are the Africa Star - with its clasps depicting his work in North Africa in 1942-43, and the France and Germany Star which was particularly associated with his service in bomber command. The other round medals are the War Medal 1914-18 and the Defence Medal. Unlike his DFM, which was presented to him soon after its award, these campaign medals were delivered by post some time after his demobilisation.

The emblem of 325 Squadron
The squadron was formed in March 1941 and based at Downham Market, it was equipped with Lancaster bombers and formed part of the elite Pathfinder Group in Bomber Command. It was soon re-equipped with Mk III and later with Mk IV Lancasters. The squadron disbanded in September 1945. The

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consciousness but fortunately, Derek and his co-pilot had oxygen at hand, stayed in control, and brought the aircraft down safely.



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and the France and
ber command. The
Unlike his DFM,
his were delivered

The emblem of 635 Squadron
The squadron was formed in March 1944 and based at
Downham Market. It was equipped with Lancaster Mk I
bombers and formed part of the elite Pathfinder
Group in Bomber Command. It was soon re-equipped
with Mk III and later with Mk IV Lancasters. The
squadron disbanded in September 1945. The squadron

635 Squadron Photograph, May 1945
This commemorative photograph was taken after Victory in Europe Day (8th May 1945), when the
German High-command had agreed unconditionally to representatives of Britain, America and
the Soviet Union. The photograph shows the officers and other ranks in front of one of their Lancaster
bombers. The squadron disbanded just as the war ended, with the unconditional surrender of Japan,
on 2nd September 1945.





Fowler Pavilion - Some internal and external photos taken on 10 July 2017







The spotlights on the wall show the position of the Fowler display









Fowler Pavilion - Some external photos taken on 8 April 2017 showing all windows in old pavilion now replaced





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Fowler Pavilion - Some internal and external photos taken on 4 April 2017













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