

MAXWELL CHIVERS

You see Flight Lieutenant Max Chivers DFC RAF(Rtd) every year as Honorary President at the Remembrance Day Parade. He has had two full careers, one in the Royal Air Force, and a second as a publican.

Max was born on October 3rd 1920, and lived in Essex, where he went to school and later met his future wife Peggy, who was then fifteen. Max was sixteen. They married in 1943, and have now been together for sixty three years.

His career in the RAF began in 1940 when he was 19 years old. After qualifying for his wings in California, he had a distinguished war career, flying many different types in action, including a total of 40 bombing operations. One was a long range attack on ships in La Spezia harbour in Italy, after which, two night fighters damaged the aircraft's fuel tanks. Max escaped destruction by vigorous flying, but he had to ditch the aeroplane in the Atlantic, saving all seven crew. Three days later they were rescued. Max received the DFC for this, and with his crew became members of the Goldfish Club.

He stayed in after the war and was one of the brave pilots who flew the Berlin Airlift. He flew 170 trips in that very difficult environment: poor aircraft, threatening passes by enemy fighters, awful weather. Later he continued a full flying career, converting to jets and travelling all over Europe and the Middle East.

After he retired from the RAF in 1960 he and Peggy moved into the licensed trade, first taking the Kings Head in Abbots Langley, and then spending twenty nine years at The Swallow in Ruislip.

He had a distinguished later career as an officer in the ATC, including nine years as CO of 101 Squadron (Kingsbury and Kenton). In addition as a member of No 6 Air Experience Flight he spent eleven years giving cadets flying experience in Chipmunk aircraft at White Waltham and later Abingdon, finally hanging up his flying boots in 1978.

For many years he has been a prominent member of our Royal British Legion. He joined on the advice of his postman, and has found it much to his liking. He always has positive ideas for the Club, and was recently made its Honorary President.

Max and Peggy brought up three children, a boy and two girls, and now have six grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren. He and Peggy are now retired, but retain contacts with many RAF associations. They are a cheerful couple, with a very positive outlook and a great interest in all the people they know.

Stan Grierson