

## Don Kitt MBE

Sadly we have to report the passing of one of our founder members and a great supporter of Martlesham Heath Aviation Society.

Don Kitt will be best remembered by many in the Ipswich area who regularly attended Don's famous Air Film Nights in the Ipswich Film Theatre. This popular, twice yearly event was started in 1978 and continued for 23 years. The theatre was always packed by aviation enthusiasts who shared Don's passion for aviation history so much so that there were two sessions per night.

Don was married to Maureen and in 1964 they started a charity to raise money for displaced and disadvantaged children in war torn Europe. The charity was called the "Ipswich Holiday Help for Children" and still operates today, donations are always welcome. [www.ihhc.org.uk](http://www.ihhc.org.uk) The money raised is used to give holidays to children in the Ipswich area whose parents need a break. It is highly thought of by social workers and school headmasters.

Don's other passion was for the music of George and Ira Gershwin and similar light music of the twentieth century. Along with Maureen they started "The Melody Makers" a small group of amateur musicians. The money raised through The Melody Makers also went to support the "Ipswich Holiday Help for Children" The group is still active today entertaining clubs and care homes.

The Melody Makers and the Ipswich Film Nights raised many thousands of pounds over the years but sadly Maureen did not live to share in Don's richly deserved award of an MBE in 2009 for "Services to the Community". Maureen sadly died from Leukaemia in 1999. Don always spoke of Maureen as an equal partner in both ventures and her absence at the presentation rather overshadowed his day.

Don will be missed by all who knew him, especially his colleagues at MHAS who were always aware that he could be outspoken in his beliefs which were always intended to be in the best interests of his beloved Martlesham Heath Aviation Society.

Don died on the afternoon of Tuesday 1st November in Ipswich hospital. He was 84 and had been unwell for several months. He leaves two children, Sally and David, two grandchildren and his devoted partner, Pat.

ALAN POWELL.