

22 (Sandy) Squadron
Air Training Corps
Officer Commanding
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Date: 8 Mar 06

PRESS RELEASE

The Concorde Experience

22 (Sandy) Squadron were proud to welcome former Concorde Pilot Captain John Hutchinson to their HQ on 7th March, for a special guest presentation evening. Also invited were Cadets and Staff from 2500 (St Neots) Squadron.

The evening proved very informative and entertaining. John Hutchinson captivated the Cadets and Staff with his life of flying, not only on Concorde for fifteen years, but 60 other Aircraft with his time in the Royal Air Force and Civil flying career, including the Jet Provost, Vampire, Shackletons and Boeing 747s to name just a few, but his love of Concorde outshone all of the aircraft, it was plain to see. He said "It was a beautiful aircraft to fly, you could fly it with one finger and a thumb, it was that easy, and flying at nearly 60,000 feet and at a speed of Mach 2 you could see the curvature of the earth, it was as though the aircraft was hanging in the air, as there is no sensation of the supersonic speed, from Sandy to Hyde Park Corner in London supersonic would take two minutes". He also said he couldn't believe he got paid for being a Pilot, it was his "hobby" and something he had always wanted to do from the age of 8.

Cadets were intrigued with his humorous tales from his flying career, and the famous people he had met including Douglas Bader, film stars, politicians and sports personalities. They also had a lesson in aero dynamics, facts and figures, and the events that led up to the eventual demise of this "Speedbird".



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The evening concluded with a Concorde video and question and answer session. Cadet Hillier asked him if he had ever been a passenger on Concorde, to which he replied he had many times and thoroughly enjoyed it. He then told the Cadets if they ever wanted to be a Pilot, whether it is in the RAF or Civil flying to – go for it – it is the best job ever and a wonderful career.

With grateful thanks to John Hutchinson for his time, this certainly was a presentation not to be forgotten.

Margaret Bell

Flight Lieutenant
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Distribution:

Biggleswade Chronicle
The Comet
St Neots Town Crier
Air Cadet Magazine/website
RAF News
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Encls: Group photo - Concorde 3
Captain Hutchinson - Concorde 1



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