

# 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF AIR CRASH ON 9TH AUGUST, 1968.



Maureen  
McLindon and  
her cousin  
Mary Fletcher



The Liverpool Catholic Ramblers' Association lost seven very dear members in the air disaster on 9<sup>th</sup> August, 1968. The good people of Langenbruck, (where the crash happened), have honoured their memory since that time and have a Memorial dedicated to the victims. Betty Reith lovingly tended the Memorial for 40 years and now it is Irmi Moosmayr who kindly performs this task.



**Betty with her granddaughter in 2008**

Several family members attended a special Mass celebrated by Fr. Michael Schwertfirm in Langenbruck on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 and they were warmly received by the community there. The Mayor,

Michael Franken, presided over the proceedings and a brass band accompanied the congregation on their procession from the church to the Memorial in the graveyard. There is a picture of this Memorial on the front cover.

We are aware that we were not the only ones to suffer great losses and so our thoughts and prayers are with all the families who lost loved ones in 1968. The Fletcher family lost Mary, (cousin of Maureen McLindon), and here in Liverpool, the Hall and Staunton families suffered losses too. We also remember the crew members who perished on that fateful day.

We are grateful to the clergy for the many Anniversary Masses celebrated in memory of the girls in August.

As sad as the loss of the girls is, we can take comfort from the fact that they will never grow old or frail. We will always remember them as lovely, happy young beings.





**Pauline and Danny Fletcher, Des McLindon, Tony Baxter, James Flett (Tony's grandson), Viktoria Braunstein (Irimi's daughter), Fr. Martin Fletcher, and Irimi Moosmayr.**

**Mary Fletcher was the sister of Danny and Fr. Martin, Maureen McLindon was the sister of Des and Jean Baxter was the sister of Tony.**

**Irimi Moosmayr looks after the Memorial. She inherited the task from Betty Reith who kindly tended the Memorial for many years. Irimi and her daughter acted as guides and interpreters for the weekend. Des, Danny and Martin met them 10 years ago at the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial Mass and procession.**



**A Marching Band leads the congregation after Mass to the cemetery where the Memorial is situated.**



**Prayers at the Memorial - The Mayor, who presided over the ceremony, Fr. Michael Schwertfirm and Fr. Martin Fletcher.**

**Fr. Martin is reading the Gospel of the day in English.**



**The Mayor, Michael Franken , with Des McLindon and Tony Baxter watching Pauline and Danny Fletcher laying a tribute.**



**The gentleman placing a large bowl of flowers is Josef Pfab, whose son made the cross on the Memorial as a replacement for the old one which had been on the Memorial for almost 50 years.**

## COMMEMORATION

**9<sup>th</sup> August was a particularly poignant date in the LCRA calendar this year as it marked the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Air Crash in Germany when seven of the Club's Lady Members lost their lives travelling to Austria for a Walking Holiday.**

**The Anniversary has been well publicised around the Liverpool Archdiocese with Masses celebrated at so many churches. Further afield, Masses were said at St. Mary's, Hornchurch, St. Werburgh's, Chester, Our Lady Star of the Sea, Broadstairs and Sacred Heart, Edinburgh, (a Jesuit parish). Prayers were offered here at the Metropolitan Cathedral, SFX and other parishes, also at Ministeracres, Northumberland—the Headquarters of the Passionist Order.**

**Coverage was received from the Cathedral Newsletter, the Catholic Pictorial, the Catholic Herald and the Liverpool Echo.**

**Today we remember our dear friends and all the victims of the 1968 Air Crash as we offer our prayers on their behalf in the Annual LCRA Mass.**

**Chris Dobbin  
President - LCRA**

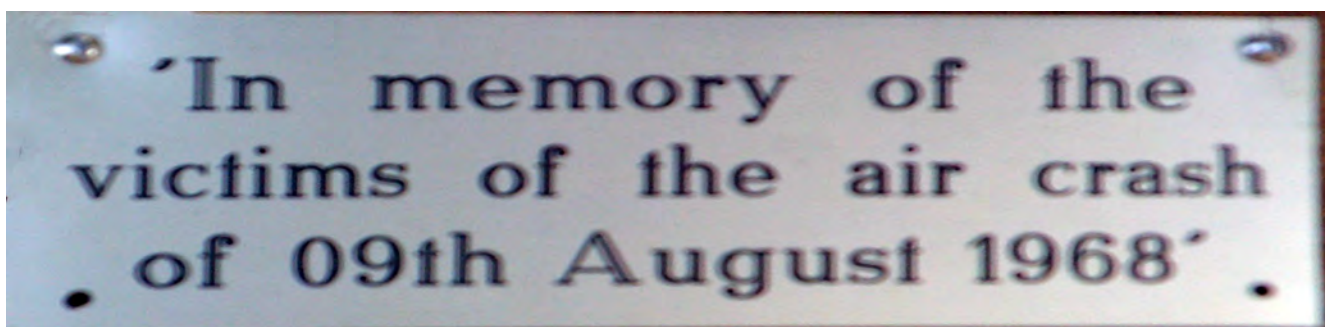


This photo shows a plate which Danny and Pauline Fletcher had commissioned in Ireland to be presented to the people of Langenbruck and was placed at the Memorial during the service.

The ceramic plate, created by Siobhan Brennan of Crazy Glazing, Youghal, Co. Cork.



This plaque is on the Memorial Cross in the churchyard.



## **Pfarrei St. Katharina - Langenbruck**



**These are two views of the Catholic church in Reichertshofen Germany where the Memorial Mass took place on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2018.**



**A recent photograph of Betty Reith who tended the Memorial for 40 years before handing the reins to Irmi Moosmayr.**

**Pictured is Michael Klepmeir, the proprietor of the local motor car dealership in Langenbruck. He witnessed the air crash and was the first on the scene of the accident but unfortunately he was unable to do anything to help .**



**Many thanks to our photographers Horst Richter, a German Journalist and Tony Baxter. Thanks to Hilda Laycock for writing much of the script helped by the Liverpool Catholic Ramblers President Chris Dobbin. Edited by Ed Quinn and printed by Hope University.**