



MUNICH58.CO.UK

6TH FEB 1958. MUNICH

GEOFF BENT • ROGER BYRNE • EDDIE COLMAN • DUNCAN EDWARDS
MARK JONES • DAVID PEGG • TOMMY TAYLOR • LIAM WHELAN
WALTER CRICKMER • BERT WHALLEY • TOM CURRY • ALF CLARKE • DON DAVIES
GEORGE FOLLOWS • TOM JACKSON • ARCHIE LEDBROOKE • HENRY ROSE
ERIC THOMPSON • FRANK SWIFT • KENNETH RAYMENT • BELA MIKLOS
WILLIE SATINOFF • TOM CABLE

NEVER FORGOTTEN



#FLOWERSOFMANCHESTER

SUPPORTERS REMEMBRANCE EVENT 2024

Welcome ~ Rev John Boyers

Pride of Football ~ Pete Martin

There Was a Group of Young Boys ~ Kady Cavannagh

The Lads They Played a Simple Game ~ Kady Cavannagh

Busby's Babes ~ Steve Douglas

Munich Remembered ~ Alan Jones

Act of Remembrance ~ Rev John Boyers

The Flowers of Manchester ~ Pete Martin

Closing Prayer ~ Rev John Boyers



THE ACCIDENT

On 6th February 1958 the airliner carrying players and backroom staff of Manchester United, plus a number of journalists and supporters, crashed in a blizzard on its third attempt to take off from Munich airport. United were returning from Belgrade where they had just beaten Red Star Belgrade in the European Cup and had stopped off at Munich for re-fuelling. Twenty-three of the forty-four passengers on board the aircraft lost their lives.



THE SUPPORTERS REMEMBRANCE EVENTS

On behalf of Munich58 we'd like to welcome you to the 2024 Supporters Munich Remembrance Event

Every year two remembrance events take place under the Munich Plaque at Old Trafford. One is on February 6th and the other is prior to the home match nearest to the anniversary of the crash. Both events are run and organised by Munich58, an independent organisation founded in 2001 to ensure that the memory of The Busby Babes endures for future generations.

Mike Thomas, co-Founder of Munich58, will provide the opening address.

Rev. John Boyers, the former Manchester United Club Chaplain has acted as MC for the events since 2015. Although Rev. John retired in 2018, he has, at our request, kindly agreed to join us again this year.

Following Rev. John's welcome, Pete Martin, will sing "The Pride of Football", a song that he wrote for the 50th anniversary of the crash in 2008.

The Act of Remembrance is where we remember those who lost their lives. Rev. John will read out the name of each person, a wreath will be laid on behalf of The Club and Mike Thomas will place the Munich58 Tribute Book, containing over 2,000 tributes from football fans around the world, underneath the Munich Plaque.

Pete Martin will sing "The Flowers of Manchester", a folk song that was written

in October 1958 and which is sung every year at our remembrance events.

Steve Douglas, Kady Cavannah, and Alan Jones will read poems they have written about The Busby Babes and the Munich crash.

Finally Rev. John will lead a closing prayer and blessing before Mike Thomas closes the event.



The annual remembrance gatherings under The Munich Plaque have always been, and will continue to be "by the fans, for the fans".

However, Manchester United witnessed the growth of this event from 6 people in 2001 to thousands in recent years and have acknowledged the work that Munich58 does. In 2014 The Club approached Munich58 to offer their kind assistance in any way we felt appropriate.

For our remembrance events they provide the PA system and raised platform for the speakers and singers, promote the events on the Club's website and social media channels and fund the

printing of this memorial brochure which has been designed by Elaine Giles from Munich58.

It is heartwarming that in just 23 years what started as an informal supporter gathering with only a handful of people has now become the remembrance ceremony attended by an ever increasing number of supporters.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your continuing support for this event.

Elaine Giles and Mike Thomas
Founders ~ Munich58
munich58.co.uk



THE MUNICH58 STORY

2024 not only marks the 66th anniversary of the Munich air crash, it also marks 23 years since Munich58 was founded.

It was back in 2001 that Mike Thomas and Elaine Giles launched **munich58.co.uk**, a website that has subsequently become the definitive source of news, articles, videos and exclusive photographs related to the crash, as well as information about those who lost their lives and those whose lives were changed forever.

The website's digital tribute book currently contains over 2,000 emotional entries from football fans around the world.

In addition to running the website, Elaine and Mike, who are both public speakers, deliver talks about The Busby Babes, the crash and the aftermath of Munich to schools and groups as well as organising two supporter-led memorial events each year at Old Trafford.

In the days that followed the accident, fans gathered on the forecourt at Old Trafford to pay their respects and to share their grief and every year since, on the

anniversary of the crash, fans have done the same.

Mike and Elaine attended their first memorial event over 20 years ago. It was a simple but poignant tribute attended by a handful of people. A Manchester United supporter sang The Flowers of Manchester and at 3:04pm there was a minute's silence. Following the silence those old enough to recall the events personally shared their emotional memories.

Contrast that with 2023 when there were two events, gathering between them in excess of 3,500 attendees.

Visit **munich58.co.uk** to learn more about one of the darkest days in Manchester United's history.



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THE MUNICH CLOCK

On 25th February 1960, Dan Marsden, Chairman of the Ground Committee at Manchester United, unveiled the Munich Memorial Clock in memory of those who died in the crash.

The clock is located overlooking the Munich Plaque at the top of the junction of South Stand and East Stand.

Contrary to a common misconception the clock is not fixed to show 3.04pm, the time of the crash.



THE MUNICH PLAQUE

The Munich Memorial Plaque was unveiled on 25th February 1960 by Sir Matt Busby. The Plaque was inscribed with the names of the victims in black and gold glass and was placed above the entrance to the Directors' box.

When Old Trafford was renovated in the mid-1970s, the plaque had to be moved from the Directors' entrance however it could not be removed without damaging it, so it was walled up within the Main Stand and a new memorial was made.

A third plaque (the current one) was installed in 1996, coinciding with the erection of the statue of Sir Matt Busby and the second one was put into storage before being placed in the Club's museum.



THE FLOWERS OF MANCHESTER

One of the songs that is sung at our Supporters Remembrance Events at Old Trafford each February is The Flowers of Manchester. This article provides a little bit of history about the song.

The Origins

The Flowers Of Manchester was sent into a folk magazine, Sing, anonymously in October 1958. The words were printed, but no music accompanied it, apart from a note saying it was to the tune of High Germany. It later transpired that the lyrics were actually written by Eric Winter, the editor of Sing.

The first known musical recording was by The Spinners, a North-West based folk group, on their album 'Quayside Songs Old and New' on an old HMV-CLP1500 educational label issued in 1962. It was recorded at Cecil Sharp house by Peter Kennedy.



Phillips issued an EP on its Fontana label TE17493 in 1967 titled 'Flowers of Manchester'. This EP also contained Manchester Rambler, Droylsden Wakes and Sunshine (a song for Lancashire CC). This was a live version, different to the earlier studio one and

THE FLOWERS OF MANCHESTER

was the record that Mick Groves, a Salford lad and one of the five members of the original Spinners, has donated to the museum at Old Trafford.

It was re-released by The Spinners on their album “Black & White” (Philips International 6382 047) where it was sung solo by Mick Groves.

Hanky Park, a Lancashire-based folk duo, recorded a version which has been played at Old Trafford over the PA in recent years at the match nearest the anniversary.

In 2008 Mick Groves released a charity version of the record to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the crash.

Singing at Old Trafford

Although supporters have been meeting up at Old Trafford on 6th February each year since the crash, it was only in recent times that singing The Flowers has become a regular occurrence.

United fan Gez Mason started the tradition around the Year 2000. To promote the event, in the days leading up to the anniversary, he stuck a sheet of A4 paper to a wall near the Munich Plaque advertising the date and time along with the words “Singing The Flowers Here”. While Gez encouraged people to join in, more often than not he was the only person singing!

In 2006, Gez gave up the role of leading the singing and Pete Martin, another local United fan, who is also one half of the Hanky Park duo, took over. Although Pete doesn’t promote and organise the event (that is the role of Munich58), to this day, he continues to lead the singing of The

THE FLOWERS OF MANCHESTER

Flowers of Manchester at our Supporters Remembrance Events at Old Trafford each year.

Changing Lyrics

It is accepted practice in folk music to allow the words of a song to be changed as long as it doesn't significantly alter the main theme of the song.

One of the lines in the original song was "There was ice upon the wings and the aircraft never rose". In 1969, after the official enquiry into the crash cleared Captain Thain of any blame, Mick Groves successfully requested that the line be changed to "There was slush upon that runaway and the aircraft never rose".

In October 2020 two further changes were made. Srinivas Rao, a United fan based in India, contacted Munich58 asking how the official lyrics could be changed to include Johnny Berry who, although didn't die at Munich, never played again. At the time the song was first written Berry's career wasn't officially over hence his name not being included in the original lyrics.

The first was changing the line "And Ireland's brave Jack Blanchflower will never play again" to "Johnny Berry and Jack Blanchflower will never play again".

At the same time, the line "Big Duncan he went too with an injury to his brain" was officially changed to "Big Duncan he went too with an injury to his frame". Duncan didn't die from a brain injury as initial thought. His cause of death was actually kidney failure.

SIR BOBBY CHARLTON TRIBUTE

In commemorating the 66th anniversary of the Munich air disaster, we pay homage to a figure who epitomized resilience and excellence - Sir Bobby Charlton. A survivor of the tragic crash, Charlton's journey transcends the boundaries of football, symbolizing a spirit of undying perseverance.

A quintessential Busby Babe, Charlton's career with Manchester United is etched in the annals of football history. His emergence from the shadows of the Munich tragedy to become one of the game's greatest is a testament to his indomitable spirit. Charlton's prowess on the field was matched only by his unyielding determination off it, embodying the resurgence of a team and a community shattered by loss.



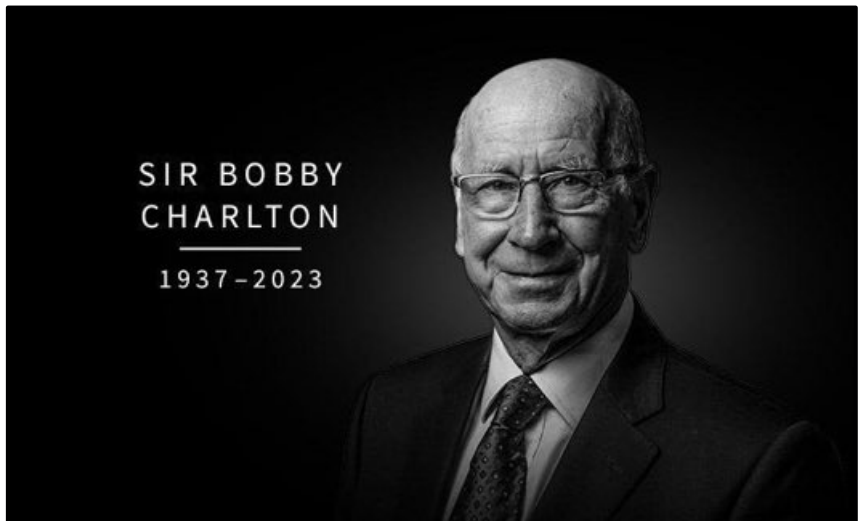
His contributions to Manchester United are legendary. Charlton's role in securing the club's first European Cup in 1968 stands as a pinnacle of his career, a triumph that served as a beacon of hope and rebirth for the club. His skills, leadership, and sportsmanship on the pitch earned him the reverence of fans worldwide, making him not just a club icon but a global footballing hero.

Off the field, Charlton's dignity, humility, and commitment to the game's values have left an indelible mark. As we remember those we lost in Munich, we also celebrate the life of a man who, through the darkest times, illuminated the path forward with hope, grit, and an unwavering love for the game.



Bobby Charlton's legacy is not just in the trophies and accolades but in the enduring spirit of resilience and excellence he instilled—a true United legend, forever in our hearts.

RIP Sir Bobby Charlton



THE FLOWERS OF MANCHESTER

*One cold and bitter Thursday in Munich, Germany
Eight great football stalwarts conceded victory
Eight men will never play again who met destruction there
The flowers of English football, the flowers of Manchester*

*Matt Busby's boys were flying, returning from Belgrade
This great United family, all masters of their trade
The pilot of the aircraft, the skipper Captain Thain
Three times they tried to take off and twice turned back again*

*The third time down the runaway disaster followed close
There was slush upon that runaway and the aircraft never rose
It ploughed into the marshy ground, it broke, it overturned
And eight of the team were killed as the blazing wreckage burned*

*Roger Byrne and Tommy Taylor who were capped for England's side
And Ireland's Billy Whelan and England's Geoff Bent died
Mark Jones and Eddie Colman, and David Pegg also
They all lost their lives as it ploughed on through the snow*

*Big Duncan he went too, with an injury to his frame
Johnny Berry and Jack Blanchflower will never play again
The great Matt Busby lay there, the father of his team
Three long months passed by before he saw his team again*



THE FLOWERS OF MANCHESTER

*The trainer, coach and secretary, and a member of the crew
Also eight sporting journalists who with United flew
And one of them Big Swifty, who we will ne'er forget
The finest English 'keeper that ever graced the net*

*Oh, England's finest football team its record truly great
Its proud successes mocked by a cruel turn of fate
Eight men will never play again, who met destruction there
The flowers of English football, the flowers of Manchester*

Author: Eric Winter (1958)



THE PRIDE OF FOOTBALL

*So many years, since you were taken,
the pride of football, our Busby Babes.
We've shed our tears, and watched the newsreels,
whilst you have slumbered, in your graves.
Though life's moved on, the Reds continue,
we've plumbed the depths, we've touched the sky.
Our mem'ries of, the flowers of Manchester,
like Man United, will never die.*

*Roger Byrne, our worthy captain,
Geoff and Eddie, Salford brave,
David Pegg, and Tommy Taylor,
Mark and Liam, such pleasure gave.
For all you men, you football stalwarts,
death was instant, life was gone.
For fifteen days, of pain and struggle,
mighty Duncan, lingered on.*

*We don't forget, the other victims,
United players who survived.
Some played on, achieving glory,
some too injured to make the side.
Our thoughts now turn to all non-players,
this tragedy, was theirs as well.
The wretched grief, for friends and families,
so far removed from where they fell.*



THE PRIDE OF FOOTBALL

*You are the strength and inspiration,
for those who play your roles today.
We look for flair and pace and passion,
to play the game United's way.
Though life's moved on, the Reds continue,
we've plumbed the depths, we've touched the sky.
Our mem'ries of, the flowers of Manchester,
like Man United, will never die.*

*Will never die, will never die,
like Man United, will never die.
Will never die, will never die,
like Man United, will never die.*

Author: Pete Martin (2008)



THERE WAS A GROUP OF YOUNG BOYS

*There was a group of young boys with passion and skill
With courage and pace they'd attack teams at will
An opposing player's nightmare but a manager's dream
The Busby Babes they were known as, oh what a team
With Matt as their father he'd allow them to play
Flowing football, steely grit was the show on display
But they relished a challenge, a much bigger test
So they ventured into Europe again to play against the best
But the loss of innocent lives that the club was about to mourn
The dreams of the players and fans would be shattered and torn
How great they could have been, tragically we'll never know
Due to that dark day in Munich in heavy slushy snow
It shouldn't have happened and we all ask ourselves why
But their spirits will live on, their memories will never die
So rest in peace as God has dealt your fate
To all the Busby Babes who were lost in '58*

Author: Kady Cavannah



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THE LADS THEY PLAYED A SIMPLE GAME

*The Lads they played a simple game
After seeing them you could never look at football the same
Champions of England
All home grown
But known far & wide beyond their home
On the way back from a trip
Tragedy struck
Which made the world believe United would slip
But through the ashes flowers regrew
& Manchester United became anew
New faces, new names, new heroes too
But the Busby Babes we will never forget you
Although so long ago you did depart
No length of time will ever heal our hearts
Lest we forget that flowers grow through the ash
You will never be left alone in the past
For the Flowers of Manchester shall live on
Not just on this day but past tomorrow's dawn*

Author: Kady Cavannagh



BUSBY'S BABES

*On a snow shrouded sixth of February
nineteen fifty-eight, the 'Lord Burghley' Ambassador took off an hour late.
From Belgrade to Manchester after a three-all draw they landed in Munich
to wait for a thaw.*

*Europe's Top Cup...Semi-finals now waiting,
sat on the runway cold engines hesitating...
Up slippery steps, banter and card schools dealt,
pot luck where they sat, for a tight seatbelt.
B...E... A... six-o-nine roared into life while Bela Miklos held tight to his wife.*

*Rolled twice through deep slush to 85 knots...
Pressure gauge low... the plane had to stop.
All off for a brew, Mark Jones lit his pipe,
late going home, but nobody griped.
Fastened overcoats, downed stewed tea
due now for lift off at fifteen-o-three.
Captain Thain and Co-Pilot Ken slowly revved up to one hundred and ten.*

*The boys thought of home and seeing their girls...
Brave Billy Whelan said to his pals...
'Well, if this is the time...I am ready.'
As the Ex R.A.F. aircrew held the kite steady.
They attempted to take-off, the final third,
engines strained to gain a soaring bird.
Passed the return point, the plane slushed offside, skidded through fences,
across the white tide.
A German home, a garage, bedevilled their slide...
The Airspeed 57 just lay on her side.*



BUSBY'S BABES

Great keeper Gregg made the best saves of his career, rescued Vera and Vesna despite his dazed fear, went back for his teammates to help pull them clear.

*Eight Busby Babes became ageless that day,
young men forever, in Heaven they play.
Captain Roger Byrne, born leader from Gorton,
Pendleton's finest full back, Geoff Bent,
'Snakehips' Eddie Colman, from Ordsall, the youngest that went...*

*Doncaster lad David Pegg on the left, out wide
Dublin's fleet footed Billy Whelan inside,
Mark Jones, Yorkie centre half, to turn back the tide, Dudley's colossus, Big
Duncan, stood firm alongside.*

*Barnsley's Tommy Taylor led the front line.
Accompanied by 'owd boss Walter Crickmer,
Trainer Tom Curry and team coach Bert Whalley,
who magic-sponged their shins when they got hurt.*

*New dad Bela Miklos, fan Willie Satinoff,
Captain Rayment and steward Tommy Cable...
All now sit on God's top table... with Frank Swift
and seven sports writer mates
still typing up big match updates.*

*Red Star pleaded with UEFA... 'Respect! Wise up!
Award United the Champions Cup.
Alas a 5-2 with Milan ended our run
a heartbroken semi, it was over and done.*



BUSBY'S BABES

*Winger Johnny Berry, half back 'Twiggy' Blanchflower broke their bones
lost footballing powers, lucky to rise from their hospital beds
never again pulled on Red Devil's Red.*

*Other scarred Babes healed,
played on to glory those names...
led by Sir Matt and Jimmy Murphy to football's acclaim...
Brickwalled stopper, new skipper Bill Foulkes,
Thunderboots, Bobby Charlton.
Keen right winger, Kenny Morgans.
Artful dribbler, Albert Scanlon.
Deadly in the box, Dennis Viollet.
Gifted goalies Harry Gregg and Ray Wood.*

*All these players did everything they could
to honour those boys up in the sky
And keep the Red flag flying high!
God Bless Them All.*

Author: Steve Douglas ~ poet and lifelong Red



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MUNICH REMEMBERED

Red Star Belgrade, shared the final game played, in the reign of the brave Busby Babes.

With a tense three-three draw, on an aggregate score, The Babes has scored five, Belgrade, only four.

Flying home, undefeated, their mission completed, they landed at Munich, with a need to refuel.

*They relaxed as they waited, some talked and debated, some were reading, and some playing cards,
Then they boarded the plane, to continue again, still so unaware, of the nightmare that came.*

Abandoned, aborted, two take-offs were thwarted, the passengers, silent, descended again.

*They returned to the lounge, heavy snow falling down, convinced, that they'd cancelled the flight.
Fifteen minutes, no more, they were hauled back on board, no laughing, no joking, as the twin engines
roared.*

Destiny calling, the speed needle falling, they ran off of runway, they ran out of time.

*Roger Byrne, Geoff Bent, Liam Whelan, David Pegg, Tommy Taylor, Eddie Colman, Mark Jones,
Walter Crickmer, Bert Whalley, and the trainer Tom Curry, and a further eleven, surrendered their souls.*

Four gravely wounded, Matt Busby included, Duncan Edwards, and co-pilot, would soon slip away.

*The Munich survivors, came home and inspired us, rekindled the flame in our hearts,
Though the decades have passed, all those memories last, of a team so supreme, we can only wonder,
At what might have been, but they're with us, it seems, their spirit, still drives, on our teams,
Let the red banner fly, Busby Babes, never die, they're alive, in this Theatre.....of.....Dreams.*

Author: Alan Jones (1998)



UNITED REVIEW

MANCHESTER
UNITED
FOOTBALL CLUB



MANCHESTER
UNITED
v
NOTTINGHAM
FOREST
Kick-off 3-0 pm

22nd February

4d.

NUMBER 22

OFFICIAL

1957-58
SEASON

PROGRAMME

UNITED WILL GO ON . . .

On 6th February 1958 an aircraft returning from Belgrade crashed at Munich Airport. Of the twenty-one passengers who died twelve were players and officials of the Manchester United Football Club. Many others still lie injured.

It is the sad duty of we who serve United to offer the bereaved our heartfelt sympathy and condolences. Here is a tragedy which will sadden us for years to come, but in this we are not alone. An unprecedented blow to British football has touched the hearts of millions and we express our deep gratitude to the many who have sent messages of sympathy and floral tributes. Wherever football is played United is mourned, but we rejoice that many of our party have been spared and wish them a speedy and complete recovery. Words are inadequate to describe our thanks and appreciation of the truly magnificent work of the surgeons and nurses of the Rechts der Isar Hospital at Munich. But for their superb skill and deep compassion our casualties must have been greater. To Professor Georg Maurer, Chief Surgeon, we offer our eternal gratitude.

Although we mourn our dead and grieve for our wounded we believe that great days are not done for us. The sympathy and encouragement of the football world and particularly of our supporters will fortify and inspire us. The road back may be long and hard but with the memory of those who died at Munich, of their stirring achievements and wonderful sportsmanship ever with us, Manchester United will rise again.

H. P. HARDMAN, CHAIRMAN