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Airspeed



Newsletter of the Montrose Air Station Heritage Centre

www.rafmontrose.org.uk

Registered Scottish Charity No. SC023193

Welcome to Airspeed; a bi-monthly members' publication presenting news, stories and updates from Montrose Air Station Heritage Centre. Members are invited to contribute stories and comments for future editions. Please send to:

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WELCOME BACK!

After a bit of a break, Airspeed is back and ready to inform members of all the latest goings-on at the museum!

We hope to get things up and running again and aim to produce bi-monthly editions as we did throughout 2021.

**NEXT ISSUE
OUT JULY 2022**

HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

**Sunday 29th May 2022
Mid Links, Montrose
1 – 5 pm**

**The Air Station will have a
pitch at this event in the
Butterfly Park.**

**Please contact the museum or
Chairman Stuart Archibald
Stuart.Archibald@rafmontrose.org.uk
if you are interested in helping
at the event.**



In memory of Andy Lawrence

**Much-loved friend and
dedicated MASHC volunteer**

All at Montrose Air Station Heritage Centre were deeply saddened to hear the news of Andy Lawrence's passing in December last year.

Andy was an incredibly kind, friendly man and a much-loved friend to many at the museum, as well as being an extremely hardworking, active volunteer. Andy first became involved with the museum in 2012 and during his time volunteering, he was instrumental in the repair and restoration of our 1941 David Brown Taskmaster RAF Airfield Tractor, which became his pride and joy.

Andy's funeral procession passed through the Air Station grounds and

touching floral tributes were laid alongside his beloved tractor.

Andy's family, friends and MASHC members wanted to ensure his memory was kept alive at the museum so quickly went to work to raise funds for a memorial bench. The bench is now in position in front of the Meteor aircraft and faces the Red Lichtie Spitfire replica. It is planned to spend the remaining money from the collection on a car port for Andy's much-loved tractor.

Andy will be sorely missed by all at the museum but the tractor and his lovely memorial bench will remain a fitting tribute to him and all of his hard work and dedication.



TOP: Andy in 2019 driving his beloved tractor to help to move the Anson; **MIDDLE:** The plaque on Andy's memorial bench; **BOTTOM:** the memorial bench in situ with views of the Red Lichtie Spitfire replica.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

With COVID restrictions now lifted, Chairman Stuart Archibald is encouraging all volunteers to come back to the museum. There are a lot of exciting opportunities ahead to get involved with. Volunteers can get access to the museum between 10am – 4pm Monday to Sunday. We hope to see you soon! Please also spread the word if you know any other budding volunteers!





NEWS FLASH! Quick Updates

**MASHC now has
167 members!**

LOCAL AWARDS

In March, the Montrose Rotary Club held a ceremony at the Park Hotel to recognise the contribution of volunteers to individuals' lives in and around Montrose. Pictured is Chairman Stuart Archibald receiving the Certificate of Appreciation - in recognition of all the volunteers at Montrose Air Station - presented by Rotarian Ross Thomson.



HUNTER MODEL DONATION

Last month, the museum received an anonymous donation of a fibreglass model of the T7 two seat Hawker Hunter trainer. It is believed that it was used in drop trials to test and confirm the aerodynamics and flight characteristics of the proposed two seat variant. The model will be fully restored and proudly displayed next to our Hawker Hunter F1.



ROLLS ROYCE ENGINE

A few weeks ago, the museum received a sectioned Rolls Royce Spey engine from the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow. This artefact will play an important role in our STEMstart® program. Big thanks must go to CVR Motor Engineers in Markinch for helping safely deliver the engine.



SHINY TWO HAS 'FIN'ALLY ARRIVED!



In February, the Joint Aircraft Recovery and Transportation Squadron (JARTS) helped to deliver the II(AC) Sqn Centenary Tornado Fin, which was gifted to the museum by our wonderful friends at II(AC) Sqn.



The Fin was originally on the specially liveried centenary II(AC) Sqn Tornado GR4 aircraft. When the aircraft was eventually grounded and written off, the Squadron decided to keep hold of the special Fin.



The unique Fin design features a BE2 aircraft - which was flown at Montrose and during the First World War - making it an excellent meaningful addition to the museum's collection.

The museum is incredibly honoured to have received the Fin and the squadron commented: "II(AC) Sqn are delighted to have been able to donate the Fin to Montrose - their Spiritual home".

Our very own Tornado GR4 aircraft is due to arrive at the museum in the coming weeks and the special Fin will be exhibited alongside it. Look out for further updates in the next issue!

TOP - II(AC) Sqn Tornado with the Fin pictured in 2012 at Leuchars; **MIDDLE:** Fin arriving in Montrose from RAF Lossiemouth. **BOTTOM:** Our chairman and the JARTS team with the Fin.

JET PROVOST COCKPIT TRAINER

A fine example of a Hunting Percival / BAC Jet Provost cockpit section has now arrived at the museum. It was built as a procedural trainer for student pilots.

The Jet Provost prototype first flew on the 26th June 1954 and, after lengthy proving trials, was formally accepted by the RAF in 1957 as the primary "ad initio" Basic Trainer. The Jet Provost in all its variants finally retired from RAF service in 1993. During its long service period 734 aircraft were built.

We are extremely grateful to the team at the National Museum of Flight at East Fortune for accepting our bid for this essential part of the story of pilot training in the RFC / RAF from 1912 to today and beyond.

We are also extremely grateful for the generous support once again from our friends at CVR Motor Engineers in Markinch who helped to get yet another important artefact to our museum safely and professionally.

We will now spend some time working to prepare this wonderful exhibit for our visitors to enjoy.



VOLUNTEERS AT WORK



In this regular feature we showcase some of our hardworking volunteers and the range of tasks they undertake whilst working at the museum...



Volunteer Stella Helsby is pictured here carefully dusting the Sopwith Camel. All of the exhibits at the museum (big and small) must be kept in tip top condition for our visitors!