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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:

Editor, Jodi Thomson  
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## CALLING ALL MEMBERS – WE NEED YOU!

As the country approaches the one year anniversary of when it first entered lockdown, its fair to say that the past 12 months have been extremely tough for our museum. So we'd just like to say a big thank you to all our members for continuing to support us through these testing times. You are the lifeblood of this museum – helping to keep the history of Montrose Air Station alive for future generations. Why not also recommend membership to family/friends?

### MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR THE YEAR 2021/2022 ARE NOW DUE

Please renew online before 1<sup>st</sup> April: <https://membermojo.co.uk/mashc>



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## NEXT ISSUE OUT MAY

Please contact the Editor (details above) with any photos or articles you would like featured!



**Let's all roll up our sleeves for the COVID-19 vaccine and make 2021 the year we get back to all the things we love!**

*To all our members and volunteers,*

To begin with may I take this opportunity to thank all those who sent their condolences on the passing of my Father at the end of November and then just a short 11 weeks later on the sudden passing of my Mother.

To say that the past 6 months have been extremely difficult for my family would be a massive understatement.

As we now all look towards the future it is extremely heartening to see that the vaccination programme is rolling out fairly rapidly and I continue to take advice

and guidance from my Vice Chairman Steve Regulski who has been tasked throughout the pandemic to monitor all Government regulations and to advise accordingly to ensure the Health and Safety of all our volunteers and visitors.

I would like to thank Steve at this point for his tireless dedication to this difficult and sometimes unpopular task.

We remain a viable and vibrant Museum and a major visitor attraction in the north east of Scotland and I am determined to reopen fully just as soon as it is safe to do so.

Behind the scenes members

of my Board of Directors and Board of Trustees have been working extremely hard on new opportunities and projects which will all help us to hit the ground running once we get the green light.

I remain very excited about the future and I can assure you all that there are some very exciting and creative projects coming up during our recovery year.

Once again thank you all for your patience and continued commitment after what has been a very demanding year for all of us.

Forward Together.

Yours Aye,

**Stuart Archibald, Chairman**

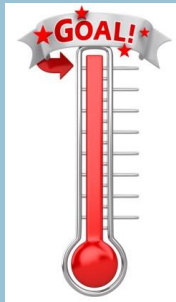
# HERITAGE HEROES SAVE THE DAY!

We are pleased to announce that our online JustGiving fundraiser for the Slingsby T38 Grasshopper Glider has achieved its target! A total of £1,662.01 was raised by generous donations and with the addition of gift aid we reached our original goal of £2000.

A special thank you must go out to our very own Vice Chairman, Steve Regulski, who made a significant donation towards our appeal which allowed us to buy the air frame outright. It's great to know that we have our very own Heritage Hero.

The funds raised from the online appeal will therefore help cover transport, re-building and display costs.

We look forward to the air frame arriving in Montrose as soon as COVID restrictions allow – watch this space!



Vice Chairman, Steve Regulski, pictured above.



## SPOTLIGHT ON...

### BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN HAROLD WHITWORTH BECKE



In this section we will showcase the life and times of men and women who trained and served at RAF Montrose.

Brigadier General John Harold Whitworth Becke served with No.2 Squadron when they arrived at Montrose in 1913 to form the first operational military air station in the UK.

Becke departed with the Squadron to France in 1914, serving throughout World War 1 as a Squadron, Wing and Brigade Commander in the Royal Flying Corps.

He retired from the RAF in 1920 and lived in Edzell, Angus. From 1938, he supported the Air League of the British Empire in establishing the Air Defence Cadet Corps in Scotland and became the first 'commandant' of the Air Cadets in Scotland.

We have chosen to commemorate Becke in this issue due to his connection with the Air Training Corps and our recent acquisition of the Slingsby T38 Grasshopper Glider which would have been many cadets' first experience of flight.

Becke passed away in 1949, and his grave is in Edzell Churchyard, Angus.



Left: Becke's arrival at Upper Dysart on 26 February 1913.

Right: His headstone in Edzell.



## NEWS FLASH!



## Quick Updates

### ANOTHER FACEBOOK MILESTONE...

Our Facebook page now has an incredible 6000 followers – an increase of 1500 in the past year!



### 'TWIN' POPPY WALL

Members Michael Brewis & Carol Sanders have been in touch with RAF Hornchurch Heritage Centre in England who are planning to create their very own poppy wall inspired by ours. The two museums share a connection through Wing Commander Brendan Eamonn Fergus 'Paddy' Finucane, DSO, DFC & Two Bars (pictured right). Finucane attended No.8 Flying Training School at RAF Montrose in 1938, before being posted to No.65 Squadron at RAF Hornchurch on 12th July 1940.



### UNIVERSITY PROJECTS



### HQ BUILDING RAMP

The museum will be working together with Edinburgh Napier University 3<sup>rd</sup> Year – more details to follow.

The HQ building ramp is nearing completion and will greatly improve accessibility for wheelchair users.

## MEMBERS' PHOTO CORNER



This atmospheric night time shot by member Dale Dempster shows our entrance gate lit up by the recently fixed WW2 era lamp post.



Captured by member Neil Werninck this fantastic picture shows our Red Lightie Spitfire 'weathering the storm' during our recent snowy weather.