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Airspeed



Newsletter of the Montrose Air Station Heritage Centre

www.rafmontrose.org.uk

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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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In memory of Michael Brewis

**Much-loved friend,
colleague and volunteer**

All at Montrose Air Station were deeply saddened by the news of the sudden passing of our much-loved friend and colleague, Michael Brewis, in early August.

Michael was an exceptionally valued member of the team and it's fair to say that, through his hard work and dedication, he latterly became one of our cornerstone volunteers.

Although only a member in more recent years, Michael most certainly made an impact, and achieved an incredible amount in a relatively short period of time.

He became one of the museum's main researchers and was always looking to gather new information

about the history of Montrose Air Station and improve our knowledge of all those who served there. His work, alongside wife Sian, on the recently unveiled Animals at War exhibition, was second to none.

He also operated the museum's Facebook page, which was no easy task, and it very quickly flourished thanks to his regular updates and fascinating content. He played a big role in keeping interest in the museum alive during the pandemic and was instrumental in gaining new followers from right across the globe.

It was evident to all that Michael put his heart and soul into each and every task or project he undertook

on behalf of the museum. This was recognised not only by his fellow volunteers but by all those with whom he crossed paths. Whether it be a local history enquiry from overseas, or a member of the public looking to arrange a visit to the museum, Michael was always on hand to assist to the best of his ability.

The countless comments and messages left by visitors on the Facebook page thanking Michael for his time and efforts are testament to this.

So thank you once again Michael for everything that you achieved for the museum. You were truly one of a kind and will be sorely missed.

**CALLING
ALL
MEMBERS!**

AGM

**WEDNESDAY 6TH
OCTOBER 2021
18.30 hrs**

*In the museum's
HANGAR 1B.*

ALL WELCOME.

*This will be our first AGM
since the COVID-19
pandemic began.*

CHRISTMAS BUFFET

**SATURDAY 11th DECEMBER
2021
TIME TBC**

**Royal British Legion,
Montrose**

£10 per head

Entertainment included.

**Members can bring a
plus one.**

Tickets will be available from the shop or please email Secretary Neil Werninck to reserve a ticket to collect on the night.
neil.werninck@rafmontrose.org.uk

VOLUNTEERS AT WORK

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



This issue's volunteers are Mike Craib and Peter Grant. Shown here opening the Meteor's canopy in order to refit the blind flying panel.

THE LITTLE KNOWN STORY OF MONTROSE'S OWN WAR HORSE



Top: Wallace & Vic in Mouvaux, France; **Middle:** Capt. Alexander Wallace; **Bottom:** the new exhibition at MASHC.

If you have not already done so, please visit the museum and take a look at the recently unveiled 'Animals at War' exhibition featuring the incredible story of Captain Wallace, MC and his faithful steed, Vic.

Husband and wife team - Sian Brewis and the late Michael Brewis - discovered the fantastic story, which is one of both courage and companionship.

In 1914, a local vet chose a lovely chestnut mare named Vic from a Montrose farm to accompany his son Alexander Wallace to the battlefields of the Western Front.

Together they saw action at both the Somme and Passchendaele, and through these times of adversity formed an incredible bond.

Both survived the war and were reunited when Wallace purchased Vic at a London auction. He later returned her home to her Montrose farm.

Wallace eventually emigrated to the US but always kept in touch with the family who cared for his 'old girl' Vic.

NEWS FLASH! Quick Updates



UP, UP, UP AND AWAY...



The museum is currently working hard to find a new home for our aircraft modellers. Earlier this week the caravan, which was located between the Robertson and Butler buildings, was carefully removed from the site thanks to the help of local crane company Whyte Cargo.

MODEL ENTHUSIAST?



Our gift shop is now a key retailer in the Montrose and surrounding area for AIRFIX and CORGI Aviation Models. We will also soon be expanding our stock level to include a selection of paints, brushes and glue. Also make sure to watch the Facebook page for news on our exciting shopping evenings on the run up to Christmas.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!



With COVID-19 restrictions beginning to lift, we would like as many regular volunteers as possible to return to site. All of our volunteers possess different skills and talents – all of which are in demand! When you return to site you will be given an up-to-date safety briefing.

THE NAAFI RETURNS



Just to let you know that the NAAFI is now officially open. Tea, coffee, milk and sugar are provided, but bring your own food. Food preparation is not allowed.

NEW MEMBERS

Bill Duncan	Brian Murray	Andrew Rodgers	
Joe FitzGerald	Hazel Brockie	Allan Forbes	Ian Davidson
John Dorward	Ben Malcolm	Tony Ratcliffe	Davis Sharp
Lawrence Stewart	John McGougan	Cameron McGougan	Peter Babbs
Brian Thorby	John Greene	Davie Henderson	William Mutch
Thomas Duncan	Vaughan Jennings	Stephen Webber	Alan Saunders