



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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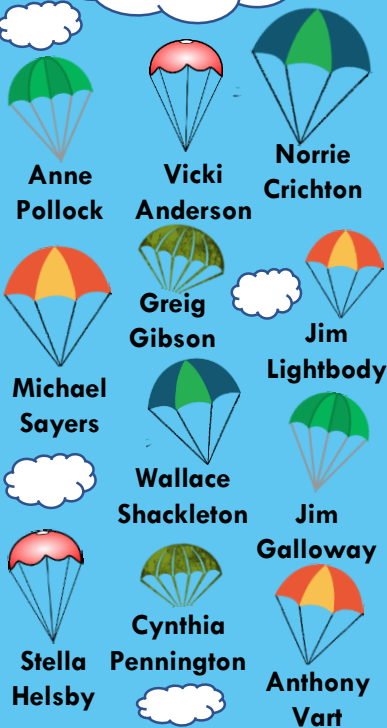
- ❑ NEWS FLASH – QUICK UPDATES
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NEXT ISSUE OUT JULY

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



NEW MEMBERS



Dear Members,

As we all begin to emerge from the pandemic lockdowns and false starts to a hopefully normal life it is indeed rewarding to know that we have been able to reopen the Air Station on a limited basis to both volunteers and visitors.

The working volunteers can only visit from Monday to Thursday between 10am and 4pm and obviously the current Covid protocols must be met at all times.

Our wonderful visitors have the run of the Air Station from Friday to Sunday and are also required to adhere to the current protocols.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of the committed volunteers who have worked tirelessly to ensure that the site was safe and welcoming for our visitors when we reopened.

Your dedication and hard work is always appreciated. To enable the future safe and secure opening of the Air Station to all it is hoped that the regular volunteers will start to make a reappearance and this will allow us to ensure that everyone is involved and

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS...

fully up to date on the current situation. We would especially welcome any of our regular volunteers who would like to help with the Friday to Sunday openings to ensure the safe movement of visitors around our site.

You are all very welcome to pop in on any Monday to Thursday for a catch up and a chat about the way forward in our recovery programme but unfortunately we are still not allowed to use the NAAFI building.

Our recent recruitment drive has been very successful with lots of new faces eagerly undergoing their retail training as well as training in all other aspects of the museum operation. We will have further recruiting sessions as we move forward towards recovery.

The most important item of business that is outstanding is our AGM and I fully intend to call an Emergency AGM as soon as we are cleared to do so within the Covid regulations.

There are lots of exciting opportunities and possibilities bubbling away behind the scenes and I am eagerly waiting for the AGM so I

share all of these exciting agenda points with you.

In the meantime please do visit the Air Station if you are able and if you would like to chat over any issues more personally you are welcome to drop me an email and we can arrange to chat informally on the phone.

I sincerely look forward to seeing our wonderful Air Station Museum slowly but steadily returning to normal.

Stuart Archibald
Chairman and Volunteer

Thank You
to our Amazing Volunteers



Pictured Top Left: Andy & daughter Brenda who have helped with landscaping; Top Right: New Volunteer Cindy cleaning the Anderson Shelter; Bottom: Irene has been giving shop training.

NEWS FLASH!

Quick Updates



Slingsby T38 Grasshopper Glider



Unfortunately progress on the T38 Grasshopper glider acquisition has slowed down at the moment. This is due to a member of the team restoring the aircraft on our behalf sustaining an injury – we all wish him a speedy recovery!

Battle of Britain Memorial Exhibition



The exhibition is definitely still planned, but has been delayed somewhat by COVID-19. However, discussions have now resumed. Keep an eye out in the newsletter for further updates.

Lights, Camera, Action!



Our very own 1940s room will be featured in a short film entitled 'Otto' which is being shot by Mearns Filmmaker JJ McGechan. The film follows the story of a WW2 German pilot shot down over Scotland. Crew visited the museum last month to shoot some scenes. Looking forward to the finished film!

Drone Test Flight



The museum is working with a group of students from the University of Dundee aeronautical society 'Haggis Aerospace' on the possibility of a drone flight test mission at the museum. The group are designing the drone for a national competition.

TINY TIGER MOTH TOUCHDOWN!



Landing at Montrose Air Station Heritage Centre last week was a scale model Tiger Moth aircraft.

The Model (57" wingspan) was built from scratch by Oliver (Olly) McLaren. Olly passed away in 2011 leaving 18 complete model aircraft in his home attic workshop, the Tiger Moth being one of his superbly detailed models. The model has been donated to Montrose Air Station Heritage Centre by Olly's daughter Fiona Dawson.

Olly began building aero models at secondary school in Dundee in the late 1940s along with his lifelong friend Jim Ruxton. They both regularly cycled from Lochee to Barry Buddon to fly their models. This friendship and love of aero modelling stayed with them for the rest of their lives despite interruptions from National Service.

Following one of Olly's last wishes, Jim kindly agreed to take the Tiger Moth model and refurbish and

rig it for presentation to our museum. With Fiona, also in attendance at the presentation were, Stuart Dawson, Jim Ruxton, Elaine Ruxton (Jim's daughter).

MASHC chairman Stuart Archibald said, "We are honoured to receive Olly's superbly detailed Tiger Moth model where it will be much appreciated by the many visitors to Montrose air museum".

Pictured: Top – the model Tiger moth on the museum's miniature runway; Bottom - Chairman Stuart Archibald & Fiona Dawson

Will 2021 see the return of the 'Squadron Scramble'?

Is it a bird? No. Is it a plane? We hope so! We all have our fingers and toes crossed for the return of the ever popular 'Squadron Scramble' Family Open Weekend and Fly-in this year. Planning has commenced and, if all goes well regarding COVID-19 restrictions, the hope is to hold the event on 4th/5th September. It is hoped that Montrose Rotary Club will also be able to organise a classic car meeting like they did back in 2019. Further plans and updates will be brought to you in the newsletter so watch this space!

A look back at some previous Open Weekends...



2014



2017



2018



2019