



The Fly Navy Heritage Trust

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FNHT Supporters' Newsletter

A message from Mike Nixon OBE FRAeS – CEO of the Fly Navy Heritage Trust.

This Newsletter is my first as Chief Executive. You can see my profile below. I have been connected with the Trust for a number of years through Rolls-Royce, and I am thrilled to be joining the team at this crucial point, when we are launching our ambitious endowment appeal. Please spread the word as much as you can: we need to widen the net for volunteers and supporters, and to keep maritime aviation heritage alive in the minds of Government and the public, particularly during the lean years of fixed wing aviation before the new aircraft carriers arrive.

Our New CEO...

The Trust is delighted to welcome Mike Nixon as our new Chief Executive Officer. The Trust has reached a stage where a full-time CEO is needed to drive forward the plans to expand the Trust's activities, in order to ensure the financial future of the Royal Navy Historic Flight and indeed our continued support to the Fleet Air Arm Museum and St Bart's Memorial Church.

Mike, who served for 30 years in the Royal Navy and 8 years as the Senior Vice President and Military Advisor UK for Rolls-Royce Defence, is uniquely qualified to lead the Trust in a major ten year development programme to preserve and promote the nation's Naval aviation heritage.

Mike commanded both at sea and ashore in his naval career, including leading an eight nation operation to clear the North Arabian Gulf of mines following the first Gulf War in 1991 for which he was awarded the OBE. As a Naval pilot, he also commanded 705 Naval Air Squadron with responsibility for Naval flying training.



Mike is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society, an Upper Freeman of the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators, a member of the Institute of Directors, and a Founding Trustee of www.fly2help.org, an aviation-based foundation lifting the horizons of families facing trauma or tragedy, the disabled, the bereaved and those with mental, physical and life-limiting illness.

... and New Trustees

The Trust is also delighted to welcome three new Trustees since our last newsletter was issued in November 2010;

Rear Admiral Ian Tibbitt CBE – Ian is a retired Air Engineering Officer with wide experience in the management and procurement of military aircraft both rotary and fixed wing.

Nick Whitney MBE – Nick is the Senior Vice President for UK Government Business at AgustaWestland and takes over from Graham Cole as the AW representative. Nick has been a long term supporter of many of the Trust's activities and events.

Tim Boughton QCM OStJ – Tim, who is ex FAA, now works for Barclay's Wealth in The City and brings his entrepreneurial skills and High Net Worth contacts to the Trust.

The Royal Navy Historic Flight update by Mike Abbey

The display season is upon us and the RNHF pilots met in April for their annual week of refresher training, updates and comparing diaries to ensure all air shows are covered. With limited hours on each airframe we have two pilots qualified on each aircraft type to get us through the display season. This year we have the prospect of three aircraft available and our display programme is available on our website www.royalnavyhistoricflight.org.uk and will be continually updated as we move through the season.

The RNHF Chipmunk, used for pilot assessment, training, refresher, keeping current etc, is out most weeks, treading the RNAS Yeovilton circuit and its surrounds. Although rarely seen on the display circuit WK608 is a vital part of the RNHF makeup. We are also very fortunate to have access to civil registered aircraft, namely a Piston Provost and Jet Provost. The RNHF Commanding Officer uses these aircraft for training in the lead up to flying the RNHF Sea Furies. For the first time we can now use that word in plural as the T20 VX281 becomes resident in the RNHF hangar alongside Sea Fury VR930 (which we hope to see back in the air later this year). The T20 is owned by Naval Aviation Limited (the business end of the Fly Navy Heritage Trust) and it will be operated by the RNHF in support of our goals. All our aircraft act as a living memorial to those that have served in the Royal Naval Air Service and Fleet Air Arm and bring pleasure and enjoyment to millions attending air shows around the country, providing a link between the Royal Navy's historic past and today's audience.

The photograph shows both Swordfish LS326 and Sea Fury VX281 ready for Yeovilton's Air Day 2011 Press Launch. The Air Day is on the 9th of July this year and the RNHF Swordfish, T20 Sea Fury and Sea Hawk are scheduled to display on that day. Do come and see the aircraft, meet the pilots, engineers and the team behind the Fly Navy Heritage Trust who have the task of raising funds to ensure we keep these fabulous aircraft out and about at air shows for all to see.



Newly-arrived Sea Fury T.20 VX281 with Swordfish LS326 immediately prior to flying for the RNAS Yeovilton Air Day Press Preview, 11 Marc 2011
[©Lee Howard]

Following on from the last news update in November 2010, the 'Min Strip' survey on the Sea Hawk is complete, the hydraulic hoses have been replaced and the 'Minor' is complete.

Tooling is being manufactured to do the corrosion inspection on the Nene engine which will commence shortly. All being well, the ejection seat will be the last item to be tested before the Sea Hawk starts flying again, hopefully in June .

Swordfish LS326 has had a new set of cables fitted and should be ready for the display 2011 season.

Staying with Swordfish, the wings for Swordfish W5856 progress well with BAE Systems at Brough in Yorkshire. The team there have completed the assembly of the two lower wings and assembled them with the stub wings and centre section to prove the fit and clear inspection. The starboard top wing now has the "special" reinforced main spar and the engine mounts have been completed and have been trial assembled to the front fuselage and the engine ring to prove fit and again clear inspection. The dinghy box has been made ready to be fitted into the centre upper wing. The Commanding Officer of the RNHF has a print of the 'Channel Dash Heroes' by Phillip E. West on his office wall. It was signed by Edgar Lee and shows him helping his pilot Sub Lieutenant Brian Rose from the cockpit of their downed Swordfish, into a dinghy that would have been stowed in one of these boxes, following their attack on the German warships Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and Prinz Eugen, in what has become known as 'The Channel Dash', some 70 years ago.

This will be my final Flight update for the FNHT newsletter as I have just finished my handover to my successor, Ian Sloan. You can see his biography below.

By Nick Foster: *on behalf of the Trustees and all the Supporters and friends of the Fly Navy Heritage Trust, we would wish to thank Mike Abbey for his outstanding efforts in keeping the Historic Flight in such good shape during his tenure. The Flight has gone through a difficult period of unserviceability and Mike has worked tirelessly with many different agencies both within the RN and with the Commercial Sector to reach the stage*

where the Flight's aircraft are mostly back in the air and on the display circuit. Thank you from us all Mike and the very best wishes in the future as you leave regular service in the RN: like John Beattie we will undoubtedly see you around the Flight for some years to come.

Historic Flight's New Commanding Officer.



Lt Cdr Ian Sloan was born and brought up in Lockerbie, South Scotland, and was bitten by the flying bug from an early age. He joined the Royal Navy in January 1998 after studying civil engineering at the University of Abertay, Dundee.

During training with the Royal Navy Flying Grading Flight at Roborough he was selected for fixed-wing training and continued flying training on the Tucano at RAF Linton on Ouse and the Hawk at RAF Valley, before joining 899 Naval Air Squadron at RNAS Yeovilton for Sea Harrier training.

On completion, Ian then spent over two years on 801 NAS, serving in HMS Ark Royal and HMS Invincible and deploying on exercise throughout Europe and North America. He also took part in trials in support of the Sea Harrier Operational Evaluation Unit. On leaving 801 NAS, he moved to RAF Valley in Anglesey, where he was the Royal Navy Qualified Flying Instructor on 208 Squadron, responsible for the Advanced Flying Training of RN, RAF and Indian Air Force student pilots on the Hawk. He then migrated to the Harrier GR9 at RAF Cottesmore where he deployed to Afghanistan and flew numerous operational missions in support of Operation HERRICK.

Ian then returned to the Hawk, this time on the staff of Naval Flying Standards Flight (Fixed-Wing) at Yeovilton where he was the Hawk 'trapper', responsible for standards and practices of all RN operated Hawks. He also managed to fly in the Grob and Jetstream as part of the job.

Ian joined the Royal Navy Historic Flight as a Sea Hawk pilot in 2009 and took over as Commanding Officer on 6 May 2011. He lives in Somerset with his young family; his favourite hobby at the moment is running after his (particularly active!) children. A stoical Scotland rugby fan, he enjoys most sports, whether participating or simply shouting support.

Naval Aviation's Two Seat Sea Fury arrives at Yeovilton



Piston Provost, flown by John Beattie.

The aircraft has spent many months in the careful hands of Kennet Aviation based at North Weald Airfield being brought back to flying condition. She finally passed the CAA final Test Flight at the end of February and was given her Permit to Fly.

The Fly Navy Heritage Trust is delighted to announce that our Sea Fury T20 has at last flown into RNAS Yeovilton to be loaned to the Historic Flight for the Flying Display Season.

Lee Howard, the RNHF photographer, was able to meet VX281 as she arrived on a clear spring afternoon at Yeovilton on Friday 4th March and took some of the stunning shots shown here from Henry Cooke's





The aircraft was flown down to Yeovilton by Lt Cdr Chris Gotke RN, one of the two Service pilots who will display the T20 this season. Chris said on arrival 'She is just a joy to fly, I am so privileged to be one of the Sea Fury pilots this year'. Lt Cdr Dave Mackay will now also be working up his display routines before the display season starts later this month.

As this newsletter goes to print the T20 is flying her Practice Display Authority routine in front of RAdm Tom Cunningham (Chief of Staff, Aviation and Carriers), prior to being cleared for the season.

A round-up of FNHT activity since Nov 2011.

FNHT's website.

We launched our new website back in November and since then have received over 3000 hits from 52 countries around the world! We have had many compliments on the quality and ease of navigation around the website and are extremely grateful to the web designer who produced the site and keeps it up-to-date for us. If you have access to the internet, do visit us at www.fnht.co.uk, tell your friends about the site and save us as a favourite so that you can keep up to date. There is generally new information posted several times each month.

Ambassadors Dinner in HMS Victory 2 Feb



The Second Sea Lord (Vice Admiral Charles Montgomery CBE ADC) very kindly hosted a Dinner on our behalf in the Great Cabin on board HMS Victory. Our newly recruited 'Ambassadors', a group of celebrity and influential individuals including Nick Mason (from Pink Floyd), Kristin Scott Thomas, Sir George Martin and Frederick Forsyth enjoyed a superb evening along with several of our Trustees who explained the vision and way forward for the Trust and showed how we need the Ambassadors support and connections in order to generate the serious amounts of funding that we are seeking over the coming years. The Dinner itself was very generously sponsored by Rolls-Royce plc at no

cost to the Trust. The outcome of this Dinner will be a Reception and Dinner to be held at the Fleet Air Arm Museum on 23rd June where our Ambassadors hope to raise a significant sum (several million pounds) to launch our Endowment Appeal to ensure the financial security of the Historic Flight into the future.

Sea Fury Dinner – HQS Wellington Wed 2 March 2011

The Trust held its annual Charity Dinner on board HQS Wellington, moored alongside the Embankment in London on 2nd March. The Wellington is home to the Honourable Company of Master Mariners and their 'Clerk' is Commodore Angus Menzies RN Retd. Angus was kind enough to offer this prestigious venue for our dinner and what a superb location and naval ambience the ship provided.

In all 78 guests attended a Cocktail Party followed by an excellent dinner served in the impressive 'Court Room', which is in fact the ship's original engine room. Our guests were entertained by a string quartet provided by HM Royal Marines Band Collingwood, concluding with a flawless rendition of the Post Horn Gallop by Band Corporal Sarah James RM.



The theme of the evening was to celebrate the contribution and sacrifice

made by Fleet Air Arm personnel during the Korean War between 1950 and 1953. The evening was presided over by our Chairman, Rear Admiral Terry Loughran, who set the right tone for the evening with a light-hearted introduction and scene-setter before dinner.



Our guest of honour was Captain A J 'Spiv' Leahy CBE DSC, who was a Sea Fury pilot with 801 Squadron during the conflict. Spiv gave a moving and amusing account of life as a young pilot during those demanding operations. We were also grateful that other veterans were able to attend including our President, Admiral Sir John Treacher KCB FRAeS, who was a Seafire pilot in 1950 and Lt Cdr Jock McCandless DSC, an 801 Sea Fury pilot. Jock and Spiv are seen here with Lena Leahy and John Beattie (a former Historic Flight Sea Fury pilot).

The Senior Serving Guest was Vice Admiral George Zambellas DSC, himself a FAA pilot and now the Deputy Commander-in-Chief Fleet, who responded on behalf of the veterans and proposed a toast in their honour. VAdm Zambellas also gave several very positive and upbeat remarks about the future of Naval Aviation after the setbacks announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review last year.

The dinner was also of course a fundraising event for the Trust and we were lucky enough to have the Chairman of Bonham's Auctioneers Mr Robert Brooks to act as our auctioneer to raise more money on the night. We are hugely grateful for not only the generous prizes that were given to us, including two handmade model Sea Furies, an original oil painting of the Flight's Sea Fury and Firefly (both Korean veteran aircraft), seen here, plus other superb prizes. Together with a table raffle and ticket sales we were able to raise in the region of £12000 for the Trust; a tremendous result in today's difficult financial climate.



This was a very enjoyable evening and strongly supported by many of our corporate sponsors including BAE Systems, Rolls-Royce, AgustaWestland, Lockheed Martin and Loders Motor Group, but also several of our individual supporters and Trustees.

HQS Wellington is a super venue and we hope to return there for future FNHT fundraising events. We are extremely grateful to all our sponsors and supporters for making the event such a success.

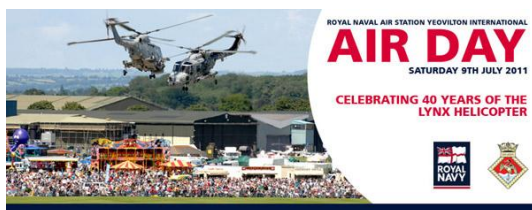
Upcoming Events during 2011

Swordfish Golf Tournament – Bowood Hotel, Spa and Golf Resort, Mon 6 June 2011

There's still time to support this extremely popular event once again to take place at Bowood in Wiltshire. Details of how to sponsor a team or come and play yourself can be found on our website or by contacting Nick in the office on 01935 842005.



Yeovilton International Air Day – Sat 9th July 2011



Once again the FNHT will have our Supporter's Marquee at the Air Day and we will be delighted to see you and your family and friends once again in July. We have been able to secure pre-booked reduced price tickets at £16 per adult (£5 for children under 16) which you can obtain through the office on 01935 842005. We are also pleased to inform you that we will once again be offering complimentary drinks throughout the day and

also a pre-booked sandwich lunch at £5 per head. More details are at the back of the newsletter.

FNHT Open Days – Sept & Oct 2011

Many of you will recall that one of our most successful fundraising events have been the Charity Flying Days held over the past decade. Unfortunately, due to various factors and particularly significantly increased costs to us to put these events on, we have decided to postpone Charity Flying Days for the time being.

Instead we are going to run smaller open day events at the Historic Flight including the opportunity to get airborne for limited numbers of visitors on a first come, first served basis. The first of these should take place in September this year and details will be posted on our website and by keeping in contact with the office.



[RAISE MONEY FOR FNHT WHEN YOU SHOP ONLINE!!!!](#)

Did you know that over 50 of our Supporters have already raised almost £300 by using Easyfundraising when shopping online?

*You can raise extra money for the Trust at **no additional cost to yourself** by using www.easyfundraising.org.uk and bring in much needed funds on a regular basis. You can now do all your online shopping via this method and if you use **Ebay – they donate a whopping 20%** of the purchase price to FNHT! Please, please continue to use this avenue of purchasing and tell all your friends and relations to sign up to easyfundraising and nominate the FNHT as their chosen Charity. We can tell from our easyfundraising account that 52 of you have already signed up – thank you very much; **but what about the other 400+ supporters who receive the newsletter by email and can use the internet for shopping?** Details on how to sign up are as follows:*

*All the major on-line outlets, Ebay, Amazon, Currys, M & S, Tesco, John Lewis, Boots, Argos etc etc have pledged to donate a percentage of all money you spend through their websites to a charity/cause that you nominate. All you have to do is register as a user at www.easyfundraising.org.uk and then find 'Fly Navy Heritage Trust' as your cause. You then go straight to whichever on-line store you wish and make your purchase. We then receive a quarterly cheque for the full amount that has been donated by the companies you have used. It's a simple as that.....**please use easyfundraising whenever you purchase anything on-line and save the link in your favourites**; the money you help raise goes directly to keep the Historic Aircraft in the air. Please tell all your friends and relations to use this fundraising site as well!*

easyfundraising
.org.uk

FNHT Personalities.

RAdm Terry Loughran – Chairman of Trustees

Cdre Bill Covington – Deputy Chairman

Capt Mike Nixon – Chief Executive Officer

Mr Bill Burgess – Company Secretary

Cdr Sue Eagles – Campaign Director

Mrs Sue Dible – Office Manager

Cdr Nick Foster – Events Manager

If you have received the newsletter by post it means we don't have an email address for you. If you would prefer an e-copy (which saves us money) – please let the office know.

FULL LIST OF FNHT EVENTS FOR 2011

Further details are available on our website at www.fnht.co.uk or contact the office on 01935 842005.

Monday 6th June - Swordfish Golf Tournament, Bowood
Thursday 23rd June – Ambassadors Dinner at FAA Museum
Saturday 9th July – FNHT Marquee at Yeovilton International Air Day
A Saturday in September tbc – Open Day at RNHF (1)
A Saturday in October tbc – Open Day at RNHF (2)





Fly Navy Heritage Trust

Members' Marquee & Enclosure

Yeovilton Air Day



Saturday 9th July 2011

Join us in our Exclusive Marquee and Enclosure and:

- take a break from the hustle and bustle of the day, sit under cover or outside and enjoy the air displays
- bring your own picnic or enjoy a light lunch organised by the Trust for only £5 per head (pre-booked only)
- enjoy complimentary drinks from the FNHT Staff
- enjoy the company of like minded people and Senior Naval Guests
- take the chance to win a car and other superb prizes by buying our Grand Draw Raffle Tickets

FNHT Members are also entitled to purchase advance tickets at reduced prices (£16 Adult, £5 Child under 16) and keep Naval Aviation Heritage alive.



To join us at Air Day, contact the office with your ticket and lunch requirements at:

Fly Navy Heritage Trust, RNAS Yeovilton, Ilchester, BA22 8HT

Tel: 01935 842005

email: office@fnht.co.uk