

# THE FULMINATOR

The magazine of the HMS Fulmar Association. December 2020

Hi All and I hope this finds you all healthy and looking forward to what will be a very eventful 2021 in many ways. I don't intend to wax political but I for one am very interested to see what will change for the better or worse in the next few months and beyond. However my belief is that a new drive to buy British is not going to be a bad thing to embrace. To that end I have already started by purchasing several single malts and Red Kite organic beer from the Black Isle Brewery.

Two items of news you may not have seen that will interest some of you. Firstly plans to build a new rocket factory in Forres has been submitted by Satellite Launch Company, Orbex who already has its HQ on the Forres Enterprise Park. This is hoped that it could create up to 300 new jobs.

And secondly plans have been submitted for a new £33 million Aviation College as part of the University of the Highlands and Islands complex. This will be built near the RAF Lossiemouth land-mass, probably near the new Poseidon facility and is intended to provide an aerospace centre of excellence for students interested in the Armed Forces and Aerospace careers. The UK government is providing £21 million with the balance coming from the private sector.

The Fleet Air Arm has a new boss, Commodore Nick Walker assumes the role of Commodore Fleet Air Arm and Deputy Director of Naval Aviation. Highlights of his brief to the latest FNF meeting is on page 4.

The Buccaneer Aviation Group has moved from Bruntingthorpe to the former RAF Base at Kemble (Now Cotswold Airport). For members based in the South West this is going to be a lot nearer than previously and allow more of you to attend the Fast Taxi Days they hold each year. The FAABA made a donation to help with the movement costs.

The FAABA also make an annual donation to the Blind Veterans Fund. The HMS Fulmar Association does not as we are a non fee paying group with no assets or cash reserves.



## HMS Fulmar Online

There are a number of places online where you can find info on Fulmar and other misc. related RN and FAA matters. A dedicated Fulmar page can be found on [www.faaba.co.uk](http://www.faaba.co.uk) and looking at the tags on the left of the page. The FAABA also has its own Facebook page and I administer a 809 Naval Air Squadron page. Other Facebook pages are: RNAS Lossiemouth 1946-1972, Royal Navy's Wafus, Fleet Air Arm Armourers, The Unofficial Fleet Air Arm Association Group, Aircraft Carriers of the Royal Navy, HMS Ark Royal (R09) 1955-1979. Many other associations have their own pages, can you easily search these out using key words and association names.

**The HMS Fulmar Association is open to anyone who served at RNAS Lossiemouth in any capacity and whatever rank, rating or civilian status in any squadron or support unit within the station or its satellite airfields and ranges.**

**Contact [Stoforddave@sky.com](mailto:Stoforddave@sky.com) or phone 07766 098065 for further information**

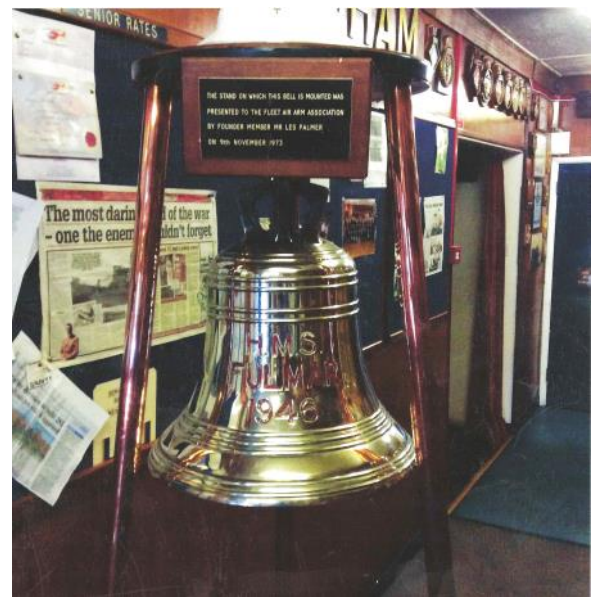
## Latest News from the Heritage Centre



2020 was a very fragmented year with the Centre having to remain closed from its usual opening date at Easter until July. As I am in the identified most vulnerable group (having had COPD for a number of years) I was not able to carry out any duties at the Centre but Roger Uncles managed to get a few shifts in to keep some RN influence ongoing. A lot of the usual income was not forthcoming as group visits were not allowed but the centre did manage to get some visitors who made some

most welcome donations to the centre and the two holiday cottages were almost fully booked during the times it was allowed to let. In addition the centre was eligible for Government funding so whilst not making money it pretty much was self sufficient for the time it opened. We have to thank Chris Tuke for carrying out the lions share of the work during this time. He was also able to carry out Lighthouse visits which provided additional funds to the charity.

At the time of writing we are in full lockdown on mainland Scotland and have no indication as to when restrictions will be eased to a level where museums, cinemas etc will be allowed to open. My best guess is when all the over 50's and all vulnerable groups have been given at least one jag we can hope for some easing of restrictions so I'm not expecting much before May. Something to be aware of is that bookings are now managed by the Centre rather than as previously by the NTS. So if anyone would like to book either of the two cottages please book through myself as any bookings I confirm gets the Navy Wings a donation of 5% of the booking cost. So please, when restrictions are lifted come visit and support this venture and help keep our heritage alive in the area. Every visitor to the Centre is also welcome to tour the Lighthouse if you so wish and are fit enough to climb the stairs!! There is no fixed cost to visit although we are grateful for any donations you may wish to make.



## The Fleet Air Arm Memorial at the NMA Alrewas

As most of you will know there is a commemorative stone in place at the memorial site at Alrewas (Staffordshire, post code DE13 7AR) which commemorates everyone with an association with HMS Fulmar be it in RN service or civilian support staff. This memorial is maintained by donations from the various RN and FAA Associations and administered by the Fly Navy Federation (FNF). A servicing and cleaning contract carried out by the NMA staff on site was offered to the FNF which costs £198 per annum and at the last FNF meeting held online in October it was decided to accept this and review it next year. The stone is showing signs of deterioration which can be repaired by replacing cracked stones and reapplying the lime mortar. This will cost approx. £1500 and the Associations present at the meeting pledged to provide funding to allow this to go ahead in the Spring when the temperature increases enough to allow the mortar and pointing to set in hopefully drier and warmer conditions.

# The Buccaneer Aviation Group

As some of you may know we have been supporters of the group for some while and have visited the group on several occasions during our reunion weekends at the RCH at Coventry where we were well looked after. They have recently moved from Bruntingthorpe to Kemble in the Cotswolds which cost them a lot of money they could ill afford. In an effort to raise funds they have come up with a plan to create levels of support and it is hoped that you, our members look kindly on this project and give it your support.



## The Buccaneer Buddies TBAG Supporters Group

Contact Mike Overs (TBAG Group Secretary & Admin) to Join:  
michaelovers@btinternet.com / 07785 282440

### NA39 Tier (Bronze)

**Cost**  
£25 p/a / £100 lifetime /  
£75 family p/a

**Rewards**  
Welcome gift (TBAG Pin / Keyring)  
Quarterly TBAG Newsletter  
History of TBAG Book  
5% Shop Discount

### Buccaneer S1 Tier (Silver)

**Cost**  
£35 p/a / £140 lifetime /  
£105 family p/a

**Rewards**  
NA39 (Bronze) Tier Rewards  
PLUS...  
5% Shop Discount (up to £20)  
5% off Events  
Quarterly Raffle (worth up to £100)

### Buccaneer S2 Tier (Gold)

**Cost**  
£50 p/a / £200 lifetime /  
£150 family p/a

**Rewards**  
NA39 (Bronze) & S1 (Silver) Tier  
Rewards  
PLUS...  
Biannual TBAG Magazine  
Entry to the Annual Supporters Event  
Bi-annual Back Seat Anti-Det Run  
Raffle (worth £250)

### Buccaneer 544/894 Tier (Platinum)

**Cost**  
Any monthly donation over £20  
/ £1000 lifetime  
/ £750 family p/a

**Rewards**  
NA39 (Bronze), S1 (Silver), & S2 (Gold)  
Tier Rewards  
PLUS...  
Bespoke Access to the Aircraft  
Annual Raffle for a Fast Taxi Ride  
(subject to serviceability & Covid –  
2022 onwards)

## The Future of the Royal Navy?

Small drones are being trialled on the new River class patrol boats with Pumas from 700X NAS based at Culdrose embarked on HMS Tamar. These boats, including HMS Spey have a flight deck (but no hangar) to enable Wildcats and/or Merlins to land on and pick up a detachment of Royal Marines (a 50 man messdeck is inbuilt for them). Pumas are approx. four and a half feet long with a 9ft wingspan, they weigh about 6Kgs and can survey up to 270 square miles of ocean for about two and a half hours endurance. These patrol boats can also be used for counter piracy/terrorism/smuggling duties and of course on fishing patrol and UK water security. They have also carried out trials with the Metropolitan Police using the ship as a floating HQ for a command base for their RIB speed boats. Tamar and her four sister ships will also be deployed around the world on long term deployments.

**In Memorandum** regrettably this last year has seen a few of our Naval family cross the bar. Calm Seas and Peace to them all.

Fred Stoner 809, 764 and 736

Jim Brown 736, 800 and 801

Colin Garness 764, 800 MARTSU and at Yeovilton ERS after retirement.

Bill Gaw 800

Apologies to families of anyone I may have missed

## SERVICE NEWS

**Veterans ID card scheme** Not much progress on this unfortunately, but it is still the intention that they will be provided, at no cost, to all who have served in HM Forces. The process is in place for those now leaving the Service, and will eventually be rolled-out for veterans. Details at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-veterans-id-cards-rolled-out-to-service-leavers>

## THE FLY NAVY FEDERATION

The FNF meet twice a year usually at Yeovilton in the FAA Museum and if anyone wishes for any point to be raised please get in touch and I will pass it on to the Secretary for inclusion in the next agenda which is provisionally booked for Friday 26th March. The last meeting was held by Zoom on Friday 30th November chaired by Jock Alexander.

**The Commodore FAA** outlined the great work being carried out by all arms of a very busy FAA. This includes supporting Covid response at home and abroad, whilst continuing to train hard, introduce new equipment, and prepare for the first operational deployment of HMS Queen Elizabeth and the Carrier Strike Group in 2021. These are amazing times for the FAA (including a Cdr RN being CO of 617 Sqn RAF - the Dambusters - ready to deploy F35s on HMSQNLZ next year) with a lot of positive media coverage of Navy Aviation.

**NAVY WINGS.** Jock Alexander explained that with no flying taking place it has been a difficult year for the charity, but that things remain positive. There has been wide interest in the social media and FAA dits, excellent interest in the lottery, and consequently a very good increase in online sales. The ex-RN Historic Flight aircraft are planned to transfer to Navy Wings ownership on the 1st of January 2021. It is hoped that several of the key aircraft will be flying early next year, along with the many associate aircraft, now including a Stinson Reliant, Wessex Mk5, and Sea Kings Mk4 and 5. The exciting prospect of being able to offer passenger flights in the likes of the Swordfish and Sea Fury is a real possibility for 2021. The Charity was helped recently by a Government Culture Recovery Fund Grant which helped ease the charity through 2020.

**ANYFACE ASSOCIATION** A new association has asked to become involved with the FNF and it is one which will interest some of you. It is open to anyone who has served on any AEW squadron in any capacity and more information can be found at:

[www.anyfaceassociation.com](http://www.anyfaceassociation.com)

**FAABA** membership is still rising slowly and costs only £10 pa so please, if you are not yet a full member please consider doing so, it assists the Treasurer greatly in organising reunions and to help fund the various charities we support some of which have already been referred to in this newsletter. At present the HMS Fulmar Association is still piggy-backing off the FAABA so any support you can give is helping everyone in the two groups.

And finally.

Why do people pay to go up to the top of tall buildings and then pay to look at people on the ground through a telescope?

If you're wrong and you shut up, you are wise. If you're right and you shut up you are married!  
If sex with three people is called a threesome and sex with two people is called a twosome I now understand why they call you handsome.