

THE FULMINATOR

The magazine of the HMS Fulmar Association. March 2023

Hi All and a happy 2023 to you all wherever you are in the UK or wider world, I hope this finds you all healthy and happy and enjoying the unpredictable weather. Currently I am looking out to sea through a snow storm! 2022 was an eventful year with both the Fulmar 50th weekend and the FAABA Reunion weekend held up here in Moray. A few new faces attended both events who we hope to see again in June at the Royal Court Hotel, Keresley near Coventry. The dates are 2-4th June and the cost of an all inclusive 3 day package is £185. Forms available on the FAABA web page or contact me and I will send you one. The hotel has changed its way of booking reunions so please do not contact the hotel yourself but return the completed form to Rob Harper. Full payment is required 8 weeks in advance but it is possible to cancel if there are extenuating circumstances.

For those of you who served on 849 they are holding their annual reunion this year at Lossiemouth in the Golf View Hotel on the 14-17th September. If anyone is interested please contact Mick Penn on mike@gmpwin.co.uk

We now understand that there are no plans for the Royal Navy to run an International Air Day at RNAS Yeovilton in 2023. It is understood the Royal Navy is continuing to look for a commercial partner to run the event.

And finally something to watch out for! Britain's Top Guns, the Fleet Air Arm Story a 90 minute documentary will tell the story of sacrifice, comradeship, invention and achievement that begins in 1908 with the Admiralty first mooting the creation of the Royal Naval Air Service. Viewers will meet generations of the FAA family, and follow today's personnel both at sea and on land bases. Crucially, they will discover the historic aircraft FAA pilots landed on carriers - the ultimate flying skill, revealing the story of the FAA, mixing testimony of veterans from WW2 onwards with action sequences right up to the present day. It will cost £25 and is expected to be available in October 2023.



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 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
849 NAS Gannets
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 finectydave@gmail.com or phone 07766 098065 for further information

Minutes of the FAABA AGM held at Elgin 8 the October 2022

Below are some of the matters talked about at the meeting.

The use of badges for attendees (Ladies & Gentlemen) at Coventry was confirmed. A list of attendees will be sent to all those attending Coventry 2023. Jimmy Andrews gave a short update of the hotel currently being upgraded and new staff now onboard.

The FNF is still going but most meetings are now on Zoom. A Full RN Brief is always given by the Yeovilton Commodore. (However no brief available on this occasion!!)

The Secretary informed the meeting about the availability of the Veterans Rail Card (up to 30% discount) and for those in receipt of a War Pension a free Oyster Card for travel throughout London.

Phil Glover gave an update on the website. All members and non-members we know of who have recently passed away appear on the website via the links on the left of the Home page. You can also find details of the 2023 reunion to be held at the Royal Court Hotel Keresley (near Coventry). Brief details are as follows: 2-4th June 2023 £183 for a 3 night package (other deals available). Booking forms can be sent to those not able to access the Members section of the FAABA website. Please contact me if you want one.

Alan Breward gave a short update on the NMA. The FAA Memorial has been dwarfed by the Submariners memorial! Cleaning of the FAA Memorial is funded by the FNF and is due at this time. To be mentioned at the next FNF meeting 30th October.

The Fly Navy Federation (FNF)

The meeting due to be held in March 2023 was cancelled due to a high number of Associations not being able to attend so the last meeting was held via Zoom on Sunday 30th October 2022. The Chairman, Jock Alexander opened the meeting and some of the topics covered were:

Navy Wings Update: Jock Alexander reported that Navy Wings has had a very good year, attending around 35 air shows and events, with the Seafire proving to be a real asset and very popular aircraft. Swordfish W5856 is flying, but on a CAA Permit to Test, whilst it awaits its Permit to Fly. This is required before the aircraft can take part in any events. Swordfish LS326 is finally nearly with the Trust, and once she is she will be prepared for flying as well. Seahawk WV908 is now out of storage, and is being rebuilt to be returned to flying status, hopefully within the next couple of years

The Navy Wings Lottery (<https://lottery.navywings.org.uk>) and online shop (shop.navywings.org.uk) continue to be extremely popular, and the shop has some great Christmas cards and present ideas. Please advertise to all members the 15% shop discount code applicable to each association: Ours is FAA FULMAR15 or FAABUCCANEER15

Remembrance Sunday Cenotaph March and Embankment FAA Memorial. Anyone wishing to march at the Cenotaph this year with the Buccaneer Association platoon can apply to Brian Stanley for a ticket. After the Cenotaph march past there is a small service at the FAA Statue on the Embankment followed by tot time and a few pints in the Tatershall Castle (a Thames barge moored up a bout 200 yards away from the statue). It is a good chance to meet up with members of other Associations and enjoy time with old mates.

FAA Memorial Service at Lee on Solent. Every year there is a small service by the FAA Memorial at Lee on Solent originally held to honour the TAGs, but as there are now so few of them left the FAA Assn has taken it over. They normally have a dinner on the Saturday Evening with the service on Sunday lunchtime Dates are the 20 and 21st May and you are all welcome to attend.

The following email has been sent out by Phil Carpenter, secretary of the FNF. If anyone can help please contact him.

Dear All, Following on from the great success of the fundraising campaign for Navy Wings' Fleet Air Arm/Naval Aviation documentary, things are progressing rapidly. The team are now looking for suitable candidates to interview, and tell their story in the film. The first group that they are looking to find interviewees from are those who served in World War Two, and up until 1950. They are particularly interested in anyone who served at sea, and especially in the Battle of The Atlantic, Arctic Convoys, Madagascar, Mediterranean, Normandy, BPF. Other groups will follow later. Ideally they would like two or three candidates from each association, who it is felt have a particularly good story to tell. If anyone of you know someone who fits this brief please ask them if they are interested in telling their story. See more at <https://flynavyfederation.org.uk>

FAA Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA). The annual maintenance contract (£224 p/a) has been renewed (29 Oct 2022), and is working well. Overall, the memorial remains clean and in good condition, with Jeff Cook and Alan Breward thanked for providing reports and photographs. The previously reported cracks on the Carrier surround are being monitored, and with no major degradation reported there is no requirement for urgent repair work at this stage. The addition of a dynamic aviation element to the memorial, proposed by Commodore Nick Walker, is being pushed-back to 2024, in order to align with the 100th anniversary of the first use of the term 'Fleet Air Arm' in official documentation. Commodore Walker will be submitting plans in 2023, as well as seeking industry input. The plan is that repair work will be re-assessed when the memorial is surveyed, and repairs carried out at the same time as the additions to the memorial.

FAA Memorial Church - St Bart's. Steve George reports that the Memorial Pathway project has now gained Planning Permission. The next stage, after approval by FAAMC Trustees at the upcoming AGM, is for the architects to obtain three fully costed quotes. The Trustees will then make a decision on proceeding with an appeal for funds, and subsequent build. Steve continues to draw bespoke FAA cartoons, as well as illustrating the Flight Safety calendar. If associations would like cartoons drawing for a small fee, please contact him directly (wismageorge@icloud.com) for more information, as well as for copies of the Flight Safety Calendar.

Covesea Heritage Centre. 2022 has been a successful season, our best to date in terms of footfall and donations received, both of which have more than doubled from 2021. Dave Clark has received requests for information ranging from FAA Display Teams, Aircraft Incidents, Mountain Rescue activities to the history of the ATC (due to be replaced in 2024). A record number of Cadets have visited and the lighthouse has been booked as a wedding venue several times (one couple signed the book in front of the ship's bell after getting married on the beach). The accounts are healthy, with few liabilities other than the car park upgrade (funds from the filming of The Crown are paying for this), hopefully completed before the new season commences on the 1st of April 2023. The cottages have averaged over 70% occupancy and have been very profitable. The Lighthouse has been completely repainted, and this is expected to last for a minimum of 15 years. Relations with the station's History Room have improved, and we have been exchanging photos and information on a regular basis, thanks mainly to the helpful attitude of the new Head Guide (ex Army). A concern going forward is the projected cost of our energy bill. It has been forecast to increase by over 400%. As charities are classed as businesses, there is no Government help. The concern is that any rent increases to cover the costs would price the cottages out of the market. This is a concern for the lighthouse and cottages in the main, as the Heritage Centre has solar panels which cover some but not all of the bill. . A tot was held following the meeting, the first FNF tot since the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Sunday toasts were raised to Absent Friends, Those at Sea, and the King.

Pearls of Wisdom

I'm responsible for what I say, not what you understand.

My tolerance for idiots is extremely low these days. I used to have some immunity built up, but obviously there's a new strain out there.

My mind is like an internet browser. At least 19 open tabs, 3 of them are frozen, and I have no clue where the music is coming from.

SERVICE NEWS

The RN Benevolent Trust Care Home, Admiral Jellicoe House in Portsmouth is a 66 bed Residential, Nursing and Dementia home and is due to be completed later this month with an official handover on April 25th. It will be open to any Vets who need care. More details can be found at www.rnbt.org.uk/ajh. If you know of anyone who this facility may benefit please make them aware of the opportunities it offers.

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 Royal Navy will have all new 'eye in the sky' uncrewed aerial technology to find and track threats as part of a c£20m contract.
Powerful surveillance sensors from Thales will be fitted to an S-100 uncrewed air system provided by Schiebel and feed real-time images and radar data back to Royal Navy warships on the front line from 2024.

This new flexible and tactical uncrewed air system will be known as 'Peregrine' - a name with strong historic links to the Fleet Air Arm. Alongside the Navy's Wildcat patrol helicopters, Peregrine will enable round-the-clock surveillance of targets over Gulf waters, and will be available for a spectrum of operational tasks to support allies and partners in the region, including during missions countering pirates, terrorists and smugglers.

700X NAS is based at Culdrose and operates Drones. In 2020 it successfully carried out trials on the Fishery Protection Vessel HMS Mersey.



Some of the guys who visited the WO&SNCOs Mess at RAF Lossiemouth in October last year. The Mess Manager was presented with a signed print of a Buccaneer

And to finish, a groaner or three! Its been reported that will.i.am has been spotted in Yorkshire, Apparently he's visiting his cousin will.i.eckaslike.
I never believed my Dad would steal from his job as a council road cleaner but when I got home last night all the signs were there.
Watched Ladies golf on the TV last night. Same old same old, crap at driving but brilliant with an iron.



Above. Some of the guys who attended the Fulmar 50th at the Lossie-
mouth RNA Club in June 2022
Below At The Mansefield October 2022

