

The Cat's Aweigh !



Hawker Centennial... 'Hearts & Minds'

On Sunday 25th. August, at the appointed hour, we stood upon the highest point at Pinecliff close to Canford Cliffs, and awaited the unmistakable sound & sight of a Catalina. With concerns about 'visibility', we were not disappointed as G-PBYA Miss Pick Up (visitor to B'mth Air Fest 2012) soon came into view in making a return visit to Poole Bay, + stirred emotions with a *tear-in-the-eye* & faster heartbeat.

A marvellous prelude in the run-up to this year's Air Fest.

This place had been selected because of its significance to the former seaside home of Sir Philip Joubert de la Ferté ~ who as *AOC Coastal Command 1941-43* was a prime-mover in the acquisition + deployment of Catalinas on *lend-lease*.

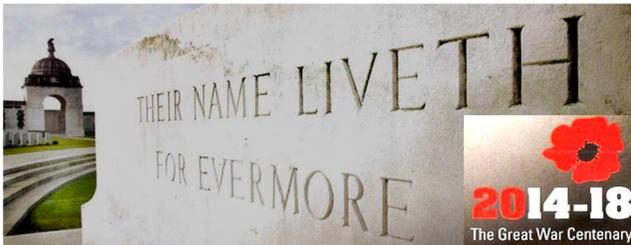
With an overnight stay at Newquay (ex-RAF St. Mawgan) Airport G-PBYA skirted Cornish, Devon & Dorset coasts.

After passing Swanage for a glimpse in murky conditions, G-PBYA flew on towards Poole Harbour and appeared in clearer skies right over Sandbanks before heading directly by the tip of Hengistbury Head to just east of the Needles: 'A matter of minutes from completing the aircraft's round Britain tour.' *A very proud & successful moment indeed !*

Concert 2013... 'Flanders Remembers'

Whilst our intense focus is upon our Project AYE MA'AM, PFBC affirms its commitment to the Great War Centenary.

Meanwhile, PFBC has 2 tickets for the Concert at the Royal Hospital Chelsea on Thursday 7th. Nov. at 6.30 (for 7pm): If you would like to represent PFBC on this occasion then please let us know *asap*... There is a Reception afterwards.



Keynote Presentation by David Legg 23rd. Jan. ~ 'Catalinas: Past, Present & Poole'

Great News for 2014

PFBC's conjoint New Year's Event with the RAeS

After the outstanding popularity & success of last year's Event, this conjoint *Annual Celebration* involving PFBC and the RAeS is booked at Bournemouth Univ. ~ **Thurs 7 pm 23rd. Jan 2014.**

David Legg will be presenting *Catalinas: Past, Present & Poole*

So note this date in your new diaries (recently appearing on sale), as this promises to be yet another Event of exceptional quality, for ourselves~ and well-supported by local members of RAeS.

It's marvellous that David, who is certainly the leading authority on Catalinas, is delighted to be invited as our Guest Presenter !



'Cat's Aye' at RAF Hamworthy in WW2

Friends of PFBC Subs... Your Help Please with Subs

Your Subs are the main source of income to cover Office rental

It's that time again for the Annual Subs (*still just £5=*) are being collected... However, because of the dramatic rise in the cost of postage Your Help is requested to check whether you have paid and to send a cheque or to complete your Standing Bank Order.

[Standing Orders are perfect as they also help Bertie + Friends with admin., *prompt the memory* & of course save on postage.]

Thank You so very much

Bertie x

ALL CONTACTS PLEASE

Poole Flying Boats Celebration

For the attention of:-

Parkstone Library Buildings

1 Britannia Road Parkstone

Poole Dorset BH14 8AZ

For membership of Friends... and renewals contact Bertie Bowman.

For bookings of tickets for PFBC Celebrations contact Ken Sanson, and all other general enquiries - PFBC's Office new reg'd. address.

PFBC Email: info@pooleflyingboats.com

PFBC Website: www.pooleflyingboats.com

and please mark clearly who you are contacting...

This now includes PFBC's John Gully as our Archivist and also Heather Sturman - Celebratory Events/ Socials

Also Terry Mobley has a new PFBC Welfare Officer role

Poole Flying Boats Celebration

Charity No. 1123274

PFBC

THE PICK A BACK PAIR



PFBC Friends' Newsletter: Autumn 2013

www.pooleflyingboats.com (THE PICK A BACK PAIR in colour)

A 'big thank you' to all who have been in contact to express gratitude about the *PFBC Storyboard for Hamworthy* Event. It is great to be congratulated; and an honour to be involved ! Well done to Maria Burns for her computerised graphic work.

What a fitting tribute to the 70th. Anniversary for the RAF's time there with Coastal Command's RAAF 461 & RAF 210 Squadrons 1942-3 during the gruelling Battle of the Atlantic. We also celebrated various other associations of Hamworthy and the story of Aviation, set alongside local history interest.

This was possible due to donations which funded PFBC Plinth and Storyboard - especially from the [Cobham Family Archive](#).

Also, the superb hospitality from [Robin Culpan at Lake Yard](#) where we were all able to enjoy our refreshments afterwards; and special thanks to Richard Nicholson of Leisure Services, who positioned a marquee for a convenient spot by the prom.

We commemorated the 30 servicemen who lost their lives on active service when based at RAF Hamworthy in these times !



Poole Flying Boats Celebration

Contd..

Gathering by PFBC's Plinth in Hamworthy Park, to await the unveiling of the Hamworthy Storyboard covered by an ensign, is a selection of those attending our Celebration - 2nd. August. Commodore Ken Sanson is nearest person, with Lady Cobham and Fred Winwood...far left is John Witcomb, and Leo Bulcher accompanying Cllr Judy Butt, then Hon Pres Jeremy Waters etc.



Set against the backdrop of the Wareham Channel & Brownsea Terry Mobley accompanies Australian Air Attaché Peter Wood of the RAAF who is guided thro' a history of RAF Hamworthy by John Witcomb, a veteran of the ground-crews from the time when RAAF 461 Squadron (with Sunderlands) was based here. and patrolling so far out into the Atlantic & the Bay of Biscay!



We all sent our very best wishes to Grp Cpt Douglas Cook OBE who was unable to be there due to ill-health... Douglas was so inspirational from the outset, in getting this Project underway!

B'mth Air Fest 2013

Red Arrows en route - passing Sandbanks

Red Arrows' Stats:

RAF Aerobatic Team
Motto = Éclat
(Excellence)
AC = T1A (Modified)
BAE Hawk Trainer
AC Crews = 9 Pilots
= 91 Support Staff
Base = RAF Scampton
Formation Date: 1980
Predecessor 1965-80
AC = The Folland Gnat

Also, we remember
Jon Egging who was
sadly lost (in Red 4)
when returning from
the Air Fest in 2011



Photo Courtesy of Mike Phipp

Bournemouth Air Festival, 2013... 'Spectacular!'

It was an early start 7am, opening-up for the 4 days of the Fest, as well as setting out our displays beforehand on Wednesday! Yet it was so worthwhile, with 30 PFBC Friends as Volunteers, eager for action and richly entertained by spectacular aviation... inc. Libbie who returned here + Mike Phipp for book-signings. Thank You to all who took part & made our presence a success; PFBC also congratulates the Organisers of this remarkable Event.

For despite the absence of the Catalina G-PBYA and the Vulcan, there was so much to enjoy with nostalgia, excitement & thrills for the immense numbers who attended in marvellous weather.

Our slot in the Veterans' Tent attracted a range of visitors from those realising for a first time the significance of Flying Boats, and Poole, to those with Memories to share about their Families' involvement with an era which we are Recording /Celebrating!

Now we are reflecting on how PFBC can proceed in the future; in particular, how our commitment justifies further expenditure.

RMYC & PFBC conjoint Event with Eric 'Winkle' Brown

We are greatly looking forward to this Evening on 12th. Oct.: With more than 90 Attendees, a third are Friends of PFBC! This promises to be an excellent event, with a splendid meal.

I hope to get the opportunity to ask Eric about his nickname: Notwithstanding a rebuttal, the speculation is that this term once referred to eager youngsters who used to hang-around Airfields (+ Yacht Clubs) offering to run errands, or ask for little tasks to be given, on the oft chance of a reward by way of a sitting in the cockpit, or as a pax on a short taxi / flight.

Former Colleagues share their Memories from the time as Stewardesses with BOAC



Later that afternoon ex-BOAC Steward - Brian Grinter, also met-up with Libbie!



Libbie explaining about the various elements of PFBC's AYE MA'AM HLF Project to a visitor