

The Aims, Goals and Objectives of Poole Flying Boats Celebration (UK Charity No.1123274) in spotlighting the Era of Flying Boats (Civil & Military) and Seaplanes associated with Poole

Ref: A0.1

- ◆ Progress our public-access Archive so that it becomes a comprehensive collection of important information

A0.2

- ◆ Reach out to those many families who were involved in this fascinating period during Poole's rich history

A0.3

- ◆ Identify, and share experiences with those who remember & recount the significant part that Poole played with inclusion of other organisations, researchers & authors, historians, and Flying Boat enthusiasts etc.

A0.4

- ◆ Place Poole as a Flying Boat Hub within a worldwide perspective, so that links can be formed accordingly

A0.5

- ◆ Develop reciprocal arrangements with other Charities & Organisations involved with the History of Poole; with the History of Flying Boats both civil & military, and Seaplanes (extending to global perspectives); in researching the interface with Social & Transport History of this era relevant to the PFBC Archives; and in promoting Tourism locally !

A0.6

- ◆ Engage with others through PFBC's very wide range of displays, presentations, materials as an Educational Resource, forum and website, press releases, articles, occasional PFBC publications, and other such items

A0.7

- ◆ Give priority to the expansion of PFBC's focus upon the range of local Schools, the Colleges & University, with the development of Educational Resources to further the provision of support for the pupils therein, as well as other sectors of society which feature in Community-based Further Education including U3A

A0.8

- ◆ Promote the Friends of PFBC Library Collection (comprising books, booklets, articles and other materials) so that this is a significant resource bank with readiness of public-access, to encourage study & research

A0.9

- ◆ Present the arrangement and the operation of the PFBC Office at Ashley Cross as a Community Focal Point to readily engage with those who express an interest in (and support for), what we are aiming to achieve

A1.0

- ◆ Arrange and promote Celebrations /Events which are meaningful to the Aims, Goals & Objectives of PFBC, and which are intrinsic to our charitable remit, in order to raise the public-profile & awareness of PFBC, alongside the spotlighting of the media & general public attention on the historical significance of these!

In 2006 a group of Friends in S. Poole formed the basis of 'Poole Flying Boats' to which 'Celebration' was soon added... Ken Sanson became Chair of our Organisation as Commodore PFBC and a Trustee; Harry Alexander Vice Commodore; with the other Founding Trustees being Adrian Borrill & Peter Steer...and also Aimée as the Archivist. Bertie Bowman opted to become a Trustee when time permitted. The Trustees immediately recruited local aviation author Leslie Dawson in the role of advisor & historian, and Capt. Bob Harwood (ex-BOAC) featured as our first PFBC Honorary Life Member: Like many of the Flying Boat Captains, Bob & his wife Audrey had chosen to make their home in the Lilliput area of Poole close to Salterns which had been BOAC's Marine Terminal, and also the Royal Motor Yacht Club (Enchantress) formerly the Royal Naval Air Station (RNAS Sandbanks) as HMS Daedalus II, to enjoy the delights of sailing within Poole Harbour.

In due course with PFBC growing very quickly in scope and membership an Hon. President was appointed - Jack Harris a flying enthusiast & avid collector aviation books and memorabilia, and volunteer on Southern Cross at Poole in 1976... Harry H. Pusey later took over as Senior Hon. Life Member, and Ian Andrews became the representative of PFBC HLMs. Harry had been at Poole with IAL ~ Traffic Manager, also i/c of Lisbon & Foynes, and later a renown global Consultant. Leslie Dawson became an Hon. Vice President, and Capt. James Peers (ex-Poole & Durban) our Hon. Commodore, Air.

In turn, Jeremy Waters became our next President, and David Mauleverer (ex-Master of GAPAN) Hon. Commodore, Air. The mantle of Snr. HLM passed to Vic Pitcher - Navigator BOAC Boeing 314As, + Head of the Int. Guild of Navigators.

In determining our Objects, PFBC worked with The Charity Commissioners, so that in March 2008 agreement had been reached that these provided a principal statement of Object as specification of Charitable purpose, to confirm our status:

A2.0

- ◆ *“ To advance the Education of the public in the awareness of the History of the Flying Boat services (both civil and military), together with the Seaplanes, based in Poole to the allied armed forces and to UK civil aviation during and after the Second World War, in particular but not exclusively by the establishment & maintenance of a public archive and by staging occasional commemorative events...”*

(UK Charity No.1123274)

More about Poole Flying Boats Celebration

With Charity status bestowed, various formats & methodologies were formulated and tried, to support PFBC longterm...

Consequently, The Friends of PFBC was duly formed under the guidance of Bertie Bowman then confirmed as a Trustee. The concept of Maia~Mercury, ie 'Composite Pair' aka the 'Pick-a-Back Pair' (only flown independently, when at Poole), has come to be regarded as relevant - with PFBC giving momentum to The Friends to support our charitable perspectives. [So PFBC (like Maia), is the Transporter uplifting The Friends (Mercury) to achieve through their intrinsic relationship, by way of undertaking specific Tasks & Projects with hopefully successful outcomes, fulfilment our various Objectives.]

With the retirement of Peter and Adrian from the Trustees, Babs Plumbridge joined with the remit of establishing PFBC Memories, as she was ideally placed as the daughter of Coxswain Gilbert Davis of IAL and BOAC's Marinecraft Units...

The MCUs at Poole were also represented by HLMs: Dave (Doug) Rose formerly with BOAC at Poole and out in Africa, and Bernie Wills formerly with the MCU of the Ministry of Civil Aviation - which held overall responsibility for Runways + Trots in Poole Harbour. Dave featured prominently in our first PFBC History Weekend held at clubhouse at Lake Yard formerly part of the Shipyard and Admiralty lands - later adjacent to RAF Hamworthy (today's Royal Marines' ATURM). Occasional Memory Days have been held at East Dorset LTCC (at Whitecliff) and the Dolphin Shopping Centre in Poole, as well as other Community-focussed venues such as the Hamworthy Library. PFBC is represented in Sydney & Durban.

We are also supported by a set of Presenters versed in the History of Aviation with emphasis on Flying Boats & Seaplanes and community-focussed /local history, who may represent PFBC in the immediate locality, and sometimes further afield. Presentations often feature prominently in our various Celebrations and Events, to underscore the significance of these...

Included within this Repertoire are:

Ref: B1.0 through to B2.0

'The Flying Boats at Poole'... 'Parkstone-on-Sea and the Flying Boats'...

'The Story of RAF Hamworthy'... 'The Remains of their FB Days at Lake'...

'The RAF in Dorset during WW2'... 'From Uncle Sam: US-built Flying Boats'...

'The Royal Naval Air Station Sandbanks - HMS Daedalus II: Seaplane Training'...

'Britannia Rules Waves & Skies: Centenary of Seaplane Flight from moving Ship'...

'Flying Boats of Bermuda and Poole'... 'The Schneider Trophy Contest of 1919'...

'Celebrating the influence of Sir Alan Cobham on the History of British Aviation'...

and B2.1.

'The Remarkable Maia~Mercury Story'... [PFBC for 2013]

...with more Presenters & Presentations in the Pipeline!

All the PFBC Trustees are required to complete a Probationary Period and specific Tasks before becoming fully fledged. With a very strong interest in maritime research (esp. Passenger Liners etc.) Stephen Macey joined as a Trustee in 2012, with responsibility for the Media... Following service with RUSI Stephen also enjoys certain expertise in military history.

In marking the 5th. Birthday of PFBC during 2011, we celebrated the acquisition of an Office rented from the Borough of Poole Council, where we are located above Parkstone Library at Ashley Cross, sharing the lovely Edwardian building (formerly a Fire Station) with Poole Library Services, and with a room of our own at last !

Our office space is proving invaluable for admin. work, introducing people to PFBC, and for holding meetings: It is also providing suitable storage for PFBC's Archive - comprising written information, articles, photographs, artefacts and memorabilia, together with our Display Boards, a photomontage depicting FB personnel + scenes covering a local perspective of the History of Flying Boats & Seaplanes, with the various Marinecraft Units etc.

It has also afforded us with areas to set up the Friends of PFBC Library Collection in a bookcase & on shelves.

This is referred to as *Gemma's Library*, for as the widow of former Hon. President Jack Harris, she generously arranged for PFBC to have a selection of books from his Aviation History Collection, together with a beautiful framed colour photograph of an ex-Poole Catalina No.2 *Altair Star*, moored at Lake Koggala in former Ceylon.

Just as Poole was once the UK's Hub for Civil Air Flying Boats, PFBC's Office is the Hub, and focal point for for the Friends of PFBC's Task Forces, which are established to initiate a specific task, tackle it & report back, so that the objective(s) and goals involved are attainable within an acceptable time-span & financial constraint:

Some of these Tasks eg sorting out Newsletters, and preparations for a Celebration or Event are well-defined... whereas the undertaking of Projects implies extensive research etc. ~ which requires a more flexible approach !

Projects (some of which will subsequently feature as PFBC Publications,) are a significant factor in presenting PFBC's Archive in a tangible way for the public, especially in a context of furthering Educational perspectives. These encourage study and research which potentially expand our appreciation of Flying Boats & Seaplanes etc. and importantly *the human factor* of those who played an essential ingredient in this special chapter of History. Various PFBC Projects significantly provide much scope for Community-Involvement, including Educational Interface potentially through the range of facets of research, techniques, skills & styles which can be deployed.

The Arena for Study & Research of Poole Flying Boats Celebration (UK Charity No.1123274) in spotlighting the Era of Flying Boats (Civil & Military) and Seaplanes associated with Poole

The arena of research and the subjects encompassed within this, are both significant & extensive for PFBC: These are not only largely representative of the whole field of the History of Flying Boats & also Seaplanes, but form an impressive matrix of interrelated topics essentially focussed on Poole that extend ways beyond !

The focus variously encompasses the following as already recognised and researched in a chronological order, but not exclusively: ~

- Ref: C1.0 *The early Hydroplanes aka Waterplanes which featured locally, and in Dorset*
- C1.1 *Seaplanes and Airships of the Royal Navy Air Service locally in the Great War*
- C1.2 *The role of Hill - Richards (Admiralty) Shipyard at Lake, for Seaplane Lighters*
- C1.3 *A Royal Air Force Training Detachment at North Haven, Sandbanks in 1918/19*
- C1.4 *Flying Boats and Seaplanes which competed for the Schneider Trophy in 1919 held at Bournemouth, and with links to Poole*
- C1.5 *The inter-war period with the occasional visiting Seaplane, or those brought in*
- C1.6 *The period immediate to the WW2 with plans progressed, and trialling of Poole*
- C1.7 *The relocation of Imperial Airways Ltd. Fleet from Southampton Water to Poole*
- C1.8 *The Maia - Mercury Story with a conclusion as separate aircraft when at Poole*
- C1.9 *The Transatlantic Crossings by British Flying Boats, Pan Am Clippers & others, inc. the return flight of Bermuda Sky Queen, from Poole in 1947*
- C2.0 *The subsuming of Imperial Airways at Poole by British Overseas Airways Corp*
- C2.1 *Purchase +Lend-lease of US manufactured Flying Boats & Seaplanes at Poole*
- C2.2 *Detachment of BOAC Flying Boats from Poole to Durban for Horseshoe Route; Shuttle Services to Foynes, also BOAC's Poole Training School*
- C2.3 *Delivery of former BOAC Poole Catalinas for Double Sunrise Route (QEA Perth)*
- C2.4 *Conjoint Ops of BOAC & RAF Transport Command at Poole's Marine Terminal*
- C2.5 *Fleet Air Arm's 765 at Royal Naval Air Station, Sandbanks as HMS Daedalus II for Seaplane Training 1940-43*
- C2.6 *Founding of RAF Hamworthy for the Military Flying Boats of Coastal Command viz Sunderlands of RAAF 461 Squadron + Catalinas on RAF 210*
- C2.7 *Intrinsic links between RAF Hamworthy with RAF Mount Batten & RAF Calshot also RAF Pembroke Dock, Oban, Stranraer & Castle Archdale etc.*
- C2.8 *The various Marine Craft Units of IAL / BOAC, the Ministry of Aviation (MCA) RAF and Fleet Air Arm, also the US Coastguard Rescue Flotilla*
- C2.9 *The families in Poole where members were based with IAL, BOAC, RAF & FAA as well as those with the MCUs (- including BOAC's Seawomen); also those once based here, who opted to make Poole their home*
- C3.0 *Air Sea Rescue; Operation Overlord; + repatriation of former Prisoners of War*
- C3.1 *Postwar Services of BOAC, interfacing with Hythe Maintenance + BOAC Hurn*
- C3.2 *The significance of testing at Poole, on the Development & Manufacture of FBs*
- C3.3 *Flying Boat Routes and Connections from Poole, in the immediate Postwar Era*
- C3.4 *Transfer to Southampton; inauguration of Springbok Route after trials at Poole*
- C3.5 *The Storage for Sale or Dismantling of Flying Boats at former RAF Hamworthy*
- C3.6 *The influence of Poole Flying Boats, and other connections upon Aquila Airways*
- C3.7 *Final visit 1976 by Sandringham Flying Boat - Southern Cross to Poole Harbour now restored & exhibited as Beachcomber at Solent Aeronautica*
- C3.8 *Other exhibits, esp. MoTaT Auckland where there is a former Poole Flying Boat*
- C3.9 *Formation of Poole Flying Boats Celebration as a Charity, and Friends of PFBC + also with support for the Bournemouth Air Festival (from 2008)*

As itemised, collated & categorised in PFBC's Archive, and the Friends' Library Collection

PFBC's Major Projects for Study and Research which have been already successfully initiated in highlighting the Era of Flying Boats (Civil & Military) and Seaplanes associated with Poole

Projects undertaken for PFBC feature a considerable amount of time, effort & dedication by those concerned: Each Project Leader is prominent in accepting responsibility and in encouraging the Project Team Members. The reward is the significant progress made in Celebrating the illustrious History of Flying Boats & Seaplanes.

There follows a selection of Major Projects which have been successfully initiated by PFBC's Archivist & Volunteers, for PFBC as a Charity is reliant on voluntary effort *ie* without financial remuneration - and expenses rarely claimed... Indeed, where a Project requires funding, it is expected that donors, sponsorship & grants should be sought in advance, or monies be raised from sales of associated PFBC Publications & other merchandise in order to support an initiative.

PFBC's Major Projects as specified:

	Notes	
Ref: D1.0	' <i>The Flying Boats & Seaplanes at Poole Storyboards</i> '	April 2009 unveiled upon 3 plinths at Whitecliff
D1.1	' <i>The Flying Boats & Seaplanes Poole Harbour Trail</i> '	Revised as 4 Poole Sections + 1 on the Harbour
D1.2	' <i>Identification of <u>all sites</u> associated with above Trail</i> '	Research was extensive, and virtually concluded
D1.3	' <i>Recognition through Plaques of the Significant Sites</i> '	Progressed through our design and negotiation(s)
D1.4	' <i>Postcard From...: The Network of Flying Boat Routes</i> '	Project was Launched Summer 2009 + Ongoing
D1.5	' <i>Storyboards for Hamworthy: Former RAF Hamworthy</i> '	Project went officially Public in February 2012
D1.6	' <i>Flying Boat & Seaplanes Personnel + Poole Families inc. Marinecraft & MCA Members, and Defence Units</i> '	With potentially <i>circa</i> 2,000 names & details of Personnel being compiled research is exacting !
D1.7	' <i>Our Community-Focus Project: Education Perspective</i> '	The Template for this has been put into good use
D1.8	' <i>An Aviation Storyboard for Bournemouth + Poole Bay</i> '	The draft of Storyboard prepared for discussions
D1.9	' <i>Loss of Maia Commemoration ... 70th. Anniv. May 2011</i> '	This inspired PFBC Commemoration May 2011
D2.0	' <i>Poole Harbour in The Great War ... Centennial Project</i> [PFBC is a Partner in this IWM Nationwide Project]	PFBC accepted by IWM as a Partner (Aut. 2011) A vast undertaking, to culminate during 2014-18

These Projects have also necessarily resulted in the expansion of the organisational structure and operation of PFBC... The group of Hon. Vice Presidents and their active involvement within the Charity now also includes the following:- Adrian Borrill (*rtd. Trustee*); Douglas Cook OBE (*Group Captain rtd. specialising in FB Squadrons + the SunderlandFBs*); Colin Cruddas (*FRAeS, Aviation Historian / Author, Archivist to Cobham Family*); Norman Hull (*Archivist Aquila Airways*); Mike Phipp (*Aviation Historian & Author, Archivist for Hurn*); Colin Pomeroy (*Sqd. Ldr. rtd. Prolific Author + Researcher*); June Topham (*WRN - widow of Geoff Topham FAA*); John Witcomb (*WW2 on RAAF 461, Groundcrew at RAF Hamworthy*)...

Also PFBC is very proud to have amongst its Hon. Life Members the remarkable John Alexander Cruickshank V.C. ! As well as distinguished HLMs who are representative of Organisations marking Aviation History & Achievement eg: John Evans (*Pembroke Dock Sunderland Trust and Museum*); David Legg (*The Catalina Association...also Plane Sailing*); Bryan Ribbans (*Seawings*); Colin van Geffen (*Presenter, Aviation Artist, esp. specialising in the Schneider Trophy Races*)... and maritime dimensions eg: Ian Byard (*re: British Power Boat Co Ltd.*) + David Ross (*British Military Power Boat Trust*).

The efforts of PFBC have been further supported by the Historians Andrew Hawkes, Richard Knott and John Wilson, amongst a growing contingent of Authors who are succeeding in raising the profile of their subject areas for all of us ! Included are those delivering Papers, and writing Articles eg: Chris Goss, Dr. Terry McDonald, and Kevin Patience...

PFBC enjoys recognition from various local entities especially Poole Maritime Trust and the Society of Poole Men... also from the Christchurch Branch of the Royal Aeronautic Society - whence we now conjointly host certain Events.

PFBC's Objectives in co-operation with others within our Networks of Support are expressed as follows:

- Ref: *To promote relations with other organisations in sharing historical perspectives, exchange material & support*
- E 0.1 *colleges and museums, as relevant, in order to involve our local communities and establish a national identity, which will be extended globally especially to those countries and places associated with Poole Flying Boats etc.*
- E 0.2 *To co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies & statutory authorities, and to both exchange information and advice with them.*
- E 0.3 *To progress the spirit of goodwill and working relationship with the Poole Library Services as our neighbours, so that we derive mutual benefit and co-operation from this appreciation of each others' purpose, and efforts...*

However, within this remit of co-operation, PFBC has prioritised the *Community-Focus* of our Mission Statement (an example follows of that CF itemised for the Media & Design Department of the Poole & Bournemouth College), whilst always acknowledging the need to benefit the Friends of PFBC & further such interests as supporters of PFBC.

Media & Design

Our Community-Focus Project:

The example given below serves as the Template for PFBC's initiatives for Community-based Projects as required:-

- Ref: More than 1,500 Families living in Poole & Bournemouth, were involved in various employment capacities in the Flying Boats and the Seaplanes operating from, or based at Poole Harbour over a 20 year period (1939-59).
- F 0.1
- F 0.2 Most of these were with British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC) with its Civil Passenger Fleet, and also inc. BOAC's Marincraft Unit; whereas others were with the Fleet Air Arm Station - or the RAF military base. Further, there were significant infra-structures + participants involved with transport, postal services, victuallers and publicans, also with many local families providing accommodation for their lodgers who were based here !
- F 0.3 Poole Flying Boats Celebration (PFBC) has been identifying, contacting and engaging those who remain today for their recollections and memories... This is an urgent quest to conduct such interviews, and other recordings plus video input, making transcripts etc., to build up the public-access Archive containing these unique records.
- F 0.4 Also, where appropriate, locating artefacts and photos - making good notes & copies of these where permitted.
- F 0.5 Whilst our prime focus is upon those who were directly involved (*tempus fugit*), and had firsthand experiences, there is also the significant need to extend this Project to those many people who are the next generation(s) ~ as descendants, and living in the localities of Poole & Bournemouth, and to those who can pass on information.
- F 0.6 Those who had parents involved in the Flying Boats and the Seaplanes Operations, and the supporting services, or perhaps bystanders /observers of this era - even catching the tail-end when these aircraft returned to Poole to be stored at two sites in Hamworthy (- and eventually sold or dismantled), have their stories to now recount !
Eventually with the dismantling of Flying Boats at Hamworthy, the precious scrap metal which was obtained was subsequently used to supply /establish a range of local-based companies eg Metalbox; Chalwyn Lamps etc. Whilst some BOAC Launches, Tenders and workboats passed to local operators for Harbour tours for tourists.
- F 0.7 Over the last 6 years PFBC has been making strenuous efforts to access these contacts by 'focussed networking' yet *the more you search the more you discover* - where this task is ever-expanding /becoming more imperative !
- F 0.8 Whilst the Project is designed to benefit the public through the public-access Archive of PFBC, there is often satisfaction & reward to those who have a story to tell (for it recognises their significance within this History). Moreover those participating in the recording and consolidating of the record will achieve personal satisfaction.
- F 0.9 There is also the high significance of this Project to the Communities & Localities of Poole and Bournemouth, so that it is recording an episode in our Local History where Poole (through BOAC), was regarded as being the Flying Boat Hub for the UK, also with its associated routes spreading to destinations literally across the Globe !
With BOAC's Flying Boat Ops being located at Poole, the decision to base its landplanes at former RAF Hurn has meant that we have today Bournemouth International Airport, with various associated aircraft companies.
- F 1.0 Likewise, in terms of the Century of British Aviation and Flying Boats contributing to a 'Golden Age of Travel' this significant aspect of our Local History assumes UK National and International dimensions and importance:, whereupon there is a growing awareness of, and interest in this subject matter, and also in our particular Project!

More Progress for PFBC as follows:

A significant step forward, has been the marvellous input from Sarah Austin in the improvement of the *PFBC Website*, whilst others continue to give terrific support eg: Barbara Cobb, Geoff Mason-Brown, Stephanie Mobley & Gabby Waters.

PFBC is very fortunate to have received support from Captain Bill Lock - who once piloted most classes of Flying Boats from Poole heading into the postwar era, until the relocation to Southampton, after which he was prominent in trialling... and from Basil Ratcliffe (*Councillor in Bournemouth*) who was formerly one of a trio in Ops at Poole in the postwar era, together with Brian Grinter, Ron Gubb & Gordon Reeves (Stewards), Patricia Miller (Clerk), and Bob Kent (Lake Yard). Their contribution in detailing information is significant in bringing various Civil Air Projects to a successful conclusion. Vital support is also gratefully received from the Family members of those similarly once based at Poole & elsewhere eg: Re: Capt. Taffy Barrow, Capt. Lewis Carey, Capt. Vic Hodgkinson, NO John Elliott, WO George Spencer & Donald Hill.

Also Tessa (Capt. Mountain), Val (Sidney Bradshaw), Yvonne (RO John Anderson Brown) and Elizabeth (Capt. Lobley), together with Vic Tridgell (on 765 RNAS Sandbanks) + Edward Walkey (on 210) and the RAAF 461 Squadron Veterans.

When PFBC enjoys the surroundings of the Haven Hotel at Sandbanks (WW2 control centre for Combined Ops at Poole), courtesy of John Butterworth, for those Trustee Meetings where others are invited to attend, PFBC receives support from Ian Andrews (*op cit...author, historian & former Town Clerk of Poole*) Brian Galpin (*providing tangible links with Poole Families*), David Mauleverer (*op cit*), Terry Mobley (*aviation buff & pilot*), Mike Phipp (*op cit...*), David Seymour (*War Memorials Trust*), and now joined by John Gully, David & SallyAnn Wakeford, Heather S, and Patricia W as Volunteers with specific roles.

Meanwhile, the six PFBC Trustees [Ken](#), [Harry](#), [Bertie](#), [Stephen](#), [Babs](#) & [Aimée](#) continue to give of their time & energies !