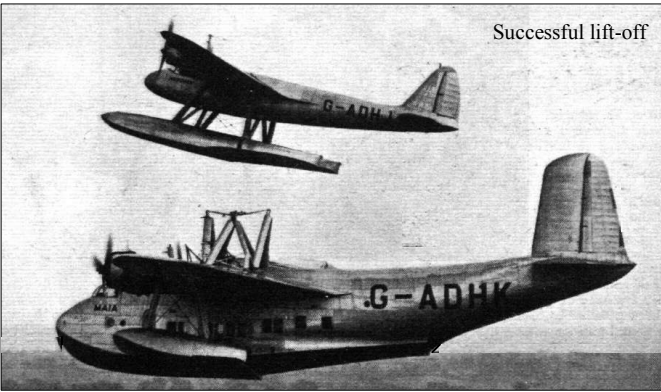


PFBC Friends take up the Challenges

The Pickaback Pair also provides an example of a Task Force in successful operation, from the annals of Aviation History. In achieving a Transatlantic Crossing (20th.-27th.July 1938) from Southampton, passing (*independently*) across Poole Bay, in heading to Foynes by the River Shannon in Western Eire. Here, a contingent belonging to Imperial Airways Ltd. (IAL) had copiously prepared for the arrival of *Maia* and *Mercury*. *Mercury* was subsequently craned onto a cradle astride *Maia*. At the pointed hour they took off together, flying Pickaback until at 1,000ft. out above the Atlantic lift-off was achieved. *Maia* as the ‘Transporter’ was able to return to home waters whilst *Mercury* flew triumphantly towards Newfoundland !



After delivering her ‘mail’ to Montreal and then New York, a return flight continued as a series of unassisted shorter hops via Botwood, The Azores, and returning back to The Solent.

This venture had taken much foresight and forward planning; coordination and cooperation; with the significant teamwork. It had achieved attainable goals - with successful outcomes; variously within a specified time frame & according to plan.

In much the same way as the Pickaback Pair, a PFBC Task Force is given the opportunity towards achieving *its potential* to the ultimate benefit of our Poole Flying Boats Celebration: There is a clear brief with an explanation of what is attainable, and agreed to by those wishing to be involved in the new TF. Within this framework there are *Volunteer & Confidentially Agreements*, with the clear undertaking to support those who volunteer, also an understanding that travel & other expenses cannot be met at present by PFBC as still a *fledgling* Charity. Milestones, stages & destinations will be reached on the way, meeting with other members of your TF, reporting progress, within time frames but at a pace for an enjoyable experience! *and it is key* that you will enjoy achieving a positive outcome.

and May the ‘Task Force’ be with You !

Two TFs have had long term commitments starting in 2008:

- in advancing preparations for the new website for PFBC - as guided by [Andrew Borrill](#) PFBC’s Postholder for IT
- in designing and progressing a [Storyboard](#) as a conjoint project for PFBC and BoP in using highly recommended [Maria Burns](#) for graphic design, and in securing a major sponsor in Barclays Commercial to cover our outgoings

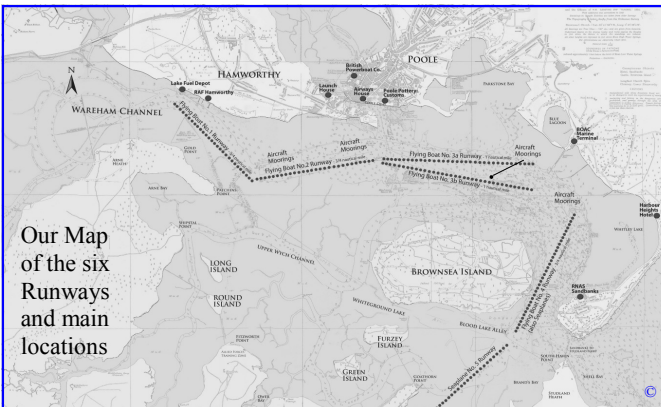
[*After 15 proofs, the TF input over 7months so far, and involving support from 7 members of our team working alongside others, the Storyboard is set to be unveiled at 3 sites in better weather: More info. about this exciting project & unveiling to follow soon.*]

At a meeting in January various PFBC Friends accepted the invitation to attend, and to enjoy a Presentation by Harry for the Trustees to demonstrate the importance of TFs to PFBC. Those present then had the opportunity in groups to discuss how they would like to be more involved with Task Forces ! The outcome was most rewarding in confirming that PFBC is moving in right directions for those wishing to participate.

A great deal of interest was particularly indicated in getting involved with the next stages in finalising the details & sites within our *‘Poole Flying Boats and Seaplanes Harbour Trail’*. Aimée has been adding to our ‘PFBC Poole Harbour Map’ a series of detailed *locational* maps which now need to be confirmed with photographs, notes and pinpoint recordings.

If you wish to be involved with this, or with other Task Forces please volunteer...also provide suggestions for fund raising !

PFBC Friends are most appreciative of our members Bob Kent and Sylvie - who have been instrumental in providing those contacts for our fledgling Charity with staff at Lake Club... *also* to Robin Culpan and Mary Pixley for making PFBC’s History Weekend at Lake Club possible 28th.Feb - 1st.March (*for details please see next column*)



Our Map of the six Runways and main locations

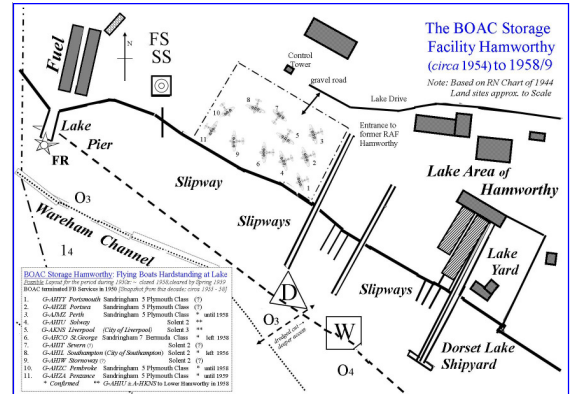
‘Out and About’: History Days and Weekends

PFBC has now proudly presented its first History Weekend for our wonderful Friends in the Lake Club at Hamworthy & with Lake Shipyard’s Old Comrades Association (LSOCA) !

Lake’ Yard is the landowner of the former RAF Hamworthy which then became a part of HMS Turtle in time for D-Day. After this, it came under the control of Transport Command: Next in peacetime used by BOAC when the 24 ‘Hythe Class’ as converted Sunderland Mk IIIs received their civil aviation registrations to implement scheduled services for passengers, when Flying Boat Ops at Poole entered their busiest period...

With the cessation of BOAC’s Flying Boat services in 1950 it became a BOAC Storage Facility for disused Flying Boats. Then from 1954 with the arrival of the Royal Marines, the hardstanding was gradually cleared with most being scrapped within the compound which was well-secured as the ATURM. As the Royal Marines needed space for their Training Unit those few remaining Sandringham ‘Plymouth Class’ on site were moved to a corner with *G-AHZA Penzance* the last one. Early in 1959 it too had gone to scrap for ‘Wallis Whitecap’.

** So this has been the first important History Weekend for PFBC! **



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The PFBC Task Force organised its rota over the weekend so that periodically there was someone to be present when the Lake Club Members viewed PFBC’s range of [Display Boards](#). These depicted mainly in photographs with text - also a few maps and illustrations the Flying Boats at RAF Hamworthy on RAAF 461 Squadron and 210; then right up to the 1950s.

The people at Lake Shipyard witnessed these times firsthand and have provided their accounts of what occurred next door ! This is a significant way for PFBC not only to recruit more Friends and involve others, but importantly to reach out into our localities to engage those with memories and an interest !

Some Things on the Way to a Forum

PFBC has recently 'gone both hi-tech, and certainly global' ! This has been due to the generosity of HLM [Bryan Ribbans](#), - the creator of the excellent website www.Seawings.co.uk

Bryan is from the Felixstowe Area, which was the home of its Royal Naval Air Station as an experimental unit, where new types of flying boats were developed in the Great War. The Marine Aircraft Experimental Establishment (MAEE) conducted research from Felixstowe from 1945 until 1958. BOAC had a Storage Facility there for discontinued aircraft ~ others were stored at Lake, Hamworthy during the 1950s.

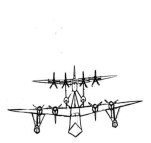
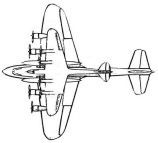

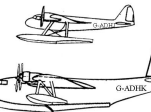

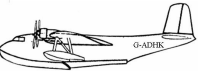
So like many of us in Poole, Bryan's enthusiasm has origins from witnessing the 'final days' of the British Flying Boats.

Over a delightful curry and a Guinness served at the RMYC, Bryan described to the PFBC Trustees the 'workings' of the highly successful Forum attached to the *Seawings* website... Within days Bryan contacted PFBC with plans for a Forum which will generate great interest in our Charity worldwide, and to our absolute delight PFBC's Forum site has followed. <http://pooleflyingboats.forumup.co.uk/>

This is a marvellous way to share information with others ! PFBC gets many requests for contact(s) to learn more about what variously took place & about those who were involved: PFBC's Forum can now make such contacts more succinctly. Any new information will be of enormous benefit to Archive. Above all PFBC and Friends will be now able to encourage many more people worldwide to join & to become involved.

Bryan's great idea & fantastic input have given us our Forum, so **'A Very Big Thank You to Bryan from PFBC Friends !'**

The Pickaback Pair Story told in Pictures by PFBC Archive

1 	2 	3 
Maia & Mercury take off together	Composite pair seen from above	The Flying Boat & Seaplane climb
4 	5 	6 
Mercury then lifts off from Maia	Mercury flies to Canada & USA	Maia lands back at Foynes' Base

PFBC Friends...with Bertie Bowman

With his talent for public speaking & a wealth of knowledge of the illustrious history of Poole, the Harbour, and its FBs... Bertie Bowman (a Trustee) is delighted to take PFBC Friends forward under his guidance, and then map out new horizons !

When you wish to pen a note and to be in contact with Bertie with offers of help, or on any matter special to PFBC Friends - then please mark it for his attention and send it to our PFBC reg'd address: 113 Banks Rd., Sandbanks, Poole BH13 7QQ

The same applies to offers of Membership of the PFBC Task Forces - or assistance to benefit PFBC's Archive: Contact [Harry Alexander](#)

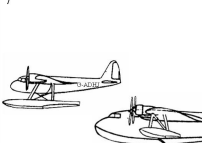


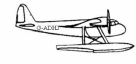
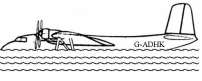

PFBC Friends exists for *You* to support PFBC's aims and objectives, and for *You* to have the opportunity to become involved in Friends, and within our Events & Celebrations !

Involvement has various dimensions & many opportunities; but by just being a Friend, and supporting PFBC is so vital to the success of this Charity as we reach & pass milestones. Please do what you can, nothing more than that is expected. Every contribution from Task Forces, to our Celebrations, to fund raising, even just mentioning PFBC to your contacts will progress what we do now and what we wish to achieve, in raising the profile of PFBC with the public /communities !

The Flying Boat services left here 60+ years ago, and Lake's last vestiges of this remarkable episode in Poole's illustrious past were dismantled just a decade later - 50 years this month. Without PFBC, Poole would not have the quickly expanding public-access Archive for this significant part of our History.

Here is your opportunity to play *Your* part in this Celebration!

For a Print Copy for our Younger Supporters: Contact PFBC

7 	8  FOYNES ← IRISH SEA → POOLE	9 
In the War they were flown apart	Maia made Poole-Foynes flights	Mercury flew spy plane missions
10 	11 	12  POOLE FLYING BOATS CELEBRATION Charity No 1123274
+ used by the Free Dutch Air Force	Bombing sank Maia at Poole	PFBC honours Maia & Mercury

Poole Flying Boats Celebration

Charity No. 1123274

PFBC Friends Newsletter: March 2009



THE PICK A BACK PAIR

www.pooleflyingboats.com (THE PICKABACK PAIR in colour)

A great welcome to our inaugural PFBC Friends Newsletter.

The Trustees look forward to the time soon when a structure will be in place for the PFBC Friends to compile, and to edit their own newsletters /publications in support of the Charity. The day will probably come when PFBC Friends becomes a group in its own right recognised by Charity Commissioners to then significantly support Poole Flying Boats Celebration: Especially in the raising of funds to meet those requirements that are stipulated, of a minimum of £5,000 annual turnover !

The title of THE PICKABACK PAIR has been chosen to mark the relationship between the parent Charity & PFBC Friends. As with the concept of assisted flight, when achieved in the pairing of *Maia* with *Mercury* in reaching distant objectives. It represents the symbiosis between these 2 special entities in far destinations which at one time could barely be imagined. As with the Mayo Composite (more popularly known as the Pickaback Pair) - each was reliant on the other for success...

Together, literally **'the Sky is the Limit'**, in mapping out our future as we patiently build upon all those many things which have already proved to be milestones in the growth of PFBC: *The Celebrations, Presentations, Meetings and other Events*.

We have now reached a total membership of 350+ receiving our PFBC Newsletters, and 10,000 potential *Forum* contacts. With a fantastic selection of PFBC Honorary Life Members marvellous links are being forged worldwide for our Charity.

We have a new PFBC website currently under construction, and have commenced our programme of Local History Days. Those vitally important PFBC Task Forces are progressing, and PFBC's Public Access Archive is expanding amazingly ! *For News about various PFBC Friends' Matters please read on...*