



Issue 26 - Oct14-Dec14

Contrails

Newsletter of the Christchurch Aviation Society

CAvSoc

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)

Our September talk was by Derek Redman who is the local area representative for the Mission Aviation Fellowship. He started with a film clip showing the MAF at work on a case in Papua New Guinea where a woman was experiencing complications during child birth. An overland journey would have taken over 24 hours negotiating rivers and using jungle roads. A 20min flight by MAF reached her and was able to bring her to a hospital where both she and her baby were saved, unlike an estimated 11,500 others each year who do not have access to such a service..

Having got our attention Derek ran through his background in the RAF and his post as Honorary Chaplain to the Canadian Forces for which he had led the remembrance service for the Dieppe tragedy.

MAF is a Christian organisation whose mission is to fly light aircraft in developing countries so that people in remote areas can receive help. The organisation is of a size that every 3mins a MAF aircraft is taking off or landing somewhere in the world.

The organisation was created in 1945 and flew its first mission with a de Havilland Rapide in 1948. It now operates on an airline basis with 140 light aircraft,



typically a Cessna Grand Caravan or deHavilland Twin Otter and other general aviation types that can cope with arduous conditions. With 300 staff in Africa and Asia their role encompasses healthcare, literacy, refugee, disaster relief taking essential supplies and acting as air ambulance when life is at stake. A key ability is to avoid roads which may be mined or subject to bandit attacks and MAF has even flown above and over a war zone. In addition to its main role MAF assists other organisations such as Medicaid and Médecines San Frontières, transporting personnel and goods as needed. Typical stats are 250 flights in a day moving 600 people to 1700 destinations and in a year 6.7million Kgs of freight.

The picture (courtesy of MAF)

Sea Vixen News



Foxy lining up for a fast (and low) goodbye, see below



Foxy left Bournemouth, as a base, for the last time on September 12th for an official handover to the Fly Navy Heritage Trust on 16th September. The owner, Julian Jones of Drilling Systems, handed over the 'keys' to Commodore Bill Covington CBE of the FNHT who said that the intention is to keep G-CVIX flying. Foxy will undergo a maintenance programme during the Winter.

Vulcan

Thursday 25th September saw the last flight of XH558 for 2014 with flypasts at former V-Force stations such as Waddington,(her main operational base) Scampton, Coningsby, Honington, Wyton, Gaydon, Wittering and Cottesmore.

Gaydon is now home to Jaguar Land Rover and Aston Martin where the fly past resulted in thousands of workers being granted time to leave their work places to see the Vulcan - truly the Spirit of Great Britain.

Funding is still necessary to take the aircraft through the rest of 2014 at a time when there is no income from air shows. Pledges have been made towards 2015 which is expected to be the last flying year for XH558

Meetings for 2015 - at Druit Hall commencing 8pm

Wed 7th Jan - "Transatlantic Betrayal, the Development of the RB211 and the Collapse of Rolls-Royce in 1971" by Andrew Porter.

Wed 4th Mar - "Paragliding, the Ups and Downs" by Neil McCain.

Wed 6th May (AGM) - "Earliest Pioneers of Aviation (prior to World War 1)" by Peter Roe