



Issue 11 : Feb11 -Mar11

# Contrails

## Newsletter of the Christchurch Aviation Society

### January Talk - 'Jet Heritage' by Mike Phipp

In January 2010 Mike Phipp gave us a talk entitled Hunter One which was the account of one man's aircraft (mainly jet) fleet. Following the untimely death of the owner, Mike Carlton, the aircraft of 'Hunter One' were offered for sale by Christie's in October 1987 and those unsold remained in store until Jet Heritage was set up at Hurn in 1989. From Hunter One there remained a maintenance and refurb ability with Eric Hayward continuing as the king pin of the operation.

Another Hunter was acquired and other typical aircraft that formed the core of the organisation were a Venom, Gnat (G-NAAT) three Sea Hawks in various stages of repair. Hunter G-HHUN/XE677, following a 4 year refurb and painted red, was active on air displays from 1994 until her tragic fatal loss in 1998.

Swiss Vampires came up for sale in 1991 and for the firm price on one, a second was included and these were delivered in their high visibility target tug markings to Hurn by Swiss pilots. Shortly afterwards the Swiss offered up their Hunters and four were acquired.



Photo of G-PSST - Miss Demeanour by Mike Phipp

### First Flight of the Spitfire - 5th March 1936

The 75th Anniversary of the first take off by the prototype, K5054, will be marked by the 'Grace' two seat Spitfire flying from Eastleigh at 11.30 across Southampton Docks and Mayflower Park and on down Southampton Water. On board with Carolyn Grace will be Nick Hancock who won the design competition for the Spitfire memorial.

### Meetings List

- 02Mar11**, Hunting the Konigsberg by Kevin Patience
- 04May11**, AGM followed by talk and video on Dorset Police Air Support Unit by Philip Cottrell
- 01Sep 11**, From Eagle to Raptor by John Batchelor, a cutaway artist (including drawings for the Eagle).
- 03Nov11**, Guns of the Spitfire, by David Warhurst, the story of the Poole Royal Ordnance Factory

Around this time the Jordanians were looking to form a Historic Flight and with Jet Heritage showing a sound competence in classic jet refurb they were the natural choice to supply their needs. G-BOOM was one of the aircraft that formed the RJAF Historic Flight and after the team was operational they flew many air shows in UK before departing for Jordan. Jet Heritage adopted a version of the Jordanian Crown in their logo.

Other aircraft that were part of JH were a Sabre, Piston provost (XF877), Gnat and another Hunter G-VETA (Very Expensive Toy Aeroplane). One Hunter, G-HVIP was owned by a German who had to travel to UK each time to fly as he good not get authorisation to fly it in Germany. A Jet Provost T4 8458M/XP672/G-RAFI was taken on for refurb as was Gnat XR537/G-NATY.

In 1996 Jonathan 'Flapjack' Whalley took a half share in a Hunter and became MD of Jet Heritage for a time during which his other company Heritage Developments took on an ex Swiss Air Force aircraft J4104 a former target tug. In 1997 she was returned to UK and as G-PSST her new owner passed her through the Jet Heritage system for refurb and across to AIM in '98 for a dynamic paint scheme. This aircraft is now probably the most prominent and well recognised Hunter known as Miss Demeanour. Jonathan also oversaw the creation of the Jet Heritage Museum. When Jet Heritage failed financially, the aircraft not otherwise owned remained with the Museum which became the Bournemouth Aviation Museum.



### Visits

**March 16**, RNAS Yeovilton, Cobham Hall, the reserve collection of dozens of aircraft and hundreds of artefacts stored in a lottery funded hangar. 11am at Cobham Hall just north of the Museum. RN Historic Flight, meet at the Museum Car park at 2.15pm to embark in bus. Names to Steve Robson

**11Aug or 13 Sep**, visit to Rolls-Royce at Bristol, early start as visit is 09.45 to 14.30 approx and includes lunch. Limited to 12 people. Names to Steve Robson

### Other Events

**Bournemouth Aviation Museum**, Vintage Transport Day, 6th March

**Friends of New Forest Airfields**, 13th March -Members Morning 10:30 – 12:00 (CAvSoc welcome) . Public Open 12:00-16:00. RAF Sopley