

VULCAN CORNER by Steve Robson

Last Sunday XH558 made her first public appearances of 2014 at Cosford and Welshpool Airshows. Next Sunday is a display at Wellesbourne, Stratford on Avon where an enthusiast team maintain in taxi condition XM655 which was built 50 years ago and retired from the RAF 30 years ago into Wellesbourne. The Vulcan will not display at RIAT this year but is planned to be at the Goodwood for the Festival of Speed (28June), Farnborough (18-20July), Yeovilton (26July) and confirmed for Bournemouth Air Festival on Saturday 30th only. Although the flying season has started some of the aircrew have yet to complete their training flights and as these are not revenue flights the Vulcan to the Sky Trust is asking for donations in the form of 'Training Shares' to help with this significant cost.

www.vulcantothesky.org

CALSHOT NEWS by Steve Robson

While the rest of the world (or so it seemed) was focussed on Portsmouth and Normandy on the 6th June a small but significant dedication happened at Calshot Spit on the approach to the Sunderland hangar. Primarily a repair station for Sunderlands, during Operation Overlord, RAF Calshot provided Air Sea Rescue launches for the rapid recovery of downed aircrew. A memorial was unveiled by Hampshire Councillor Keith Chapman and Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust founder Kenneth Bannerman and a similar memorial was unveiled at Hamble the day after. The Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust aims to preserve and protect our priceless airfields as well as educate the nation to the rich heritage and contribution they have made to our society both past and present. One facet of this work is the erection of memorials at sites of National and historical importance such as Calshot and Hamble. The extensive web site is at www.abct.org.uk and is well worth a visit – but allow yourself some time! The picture, courtesy of The Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust, shows Kenneth Bannerman, the memorial and standard bearers from the RAFA and British Legion.



D-DAY DISPLAY AT RAF LYMINGTON/ USAAF STATION 551 / PYLEWELL HOUSE by Chris Gilbert-Norton

The Red Arrows flew into Bournemouth last Saturday, so that they could then display at a D-Day show hosted by the



Newtown Park estate in aid of Help for Heroes. The former WW2 ALG was located next to Snooks Lane, Portmore and was home to the USAAF 50th Fighter Group flying the P-47 Thunderbolt in 1944. Engaged primarily in escort and dive-bombing missions, the 50th FG also covered the beaches during the invasion of Normandy on 6th and 7th June, finally relocating to France on 25th June. On static display outside one of the original blister hangars were a Boeing Stearman PT-13D Kaydet and Hurricane "P3886", actually AE977, which started life as a Sea Hurricane, operating from Yeovilton in Somerset. It crashed in



1942 and was beyond economical repair. It was found in 1960 and remained in storage until 1994 when a full restorations programme was initiated by Hawker Restorations. The scheme it now wears is that of Hurricane Mk.I P3886 (UF-K) from 601 'County of London' Squadron, flown from



RAF Tangmere in 1940 by Flg Off Carl Davis. Davis was one of a handful of American pilots to fly in the Battle of Britain and he became the first American-born ace of the Second World War before being killed in action during September 1940. Flypasts included two Spitfires, one being ex RAF Uxbridge gate guardian "dataplate" rebuild Spitfire RW382, the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Dakota ZA947, Harvard FE788 (G-CTKL) and a Piper Cub L4H Grasshopper. Traffic leaving the site after the flying finished soon snarled up in the narrow lanes surrounding the airstrip, but it had been a good afternoon, with the opportunity to visit a rarely accessible historic wartime ALG.



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