



BNAPS News July 2011

BNAPS News Vol 1 Iss 3 – July 2011

BNAPS is actively seeking more people to join the Supporters Club. Anyone with an interest in the B-N and local aviation heritage is welcome. Anyone who can help with workshop refurbishment and VCN restoration work, please contact Bob Wilson or any of the other trustees, see contact details on page 4.

Steady Increase in BNAPS Supporters Club Membership

Following on from the BNAPS Supporters Club inaugural meeting on 16 March there are now 30 signed up members. Due to other commitments there has been some delay in getting membership cards out, this will be rectified in the next few weeks.

Meanwhile if any current members know of anyone who would be interested in joining please pass on the relevant information.

As a point of clarification, whilst BNAPS has contact with B-N Group from time to time as a charitable trust BNAPS is a completely independent organisation.

BNAPS Trust

BNAPS is a Registered Charity, No. 1100735, set up to "preserve the history and aircraft of Britten-Norman with the support of members' subscriptions, sponsorship and donations"

BNAPS registered address is:

The Great Barn,
Nether Wallop,
Stockbridge,
Hampshire,
SO20 8EN

Trustees are Peter Graham, Bob Wilson, Guy Palmer and Bob Wealthy.

Peter Graham is the present chairman of the board of trustees.

BNAPS Fundraising Success at the Bembridge Street Fair 30 May 2011

Thanks to BNAPS consultant and Supporters Club member John Kenyon, BNAPS participated in the Bembridge Street Fair on 30 May 2011 by setting up sales stalls in the driveway of his home, St Denis in Bembridge High Street. Also thanks to donations of items for sale by John, Norman Hobbs, Peter Gatrell, Bob Wilson and Chris Michell together with BNAPS books and B-N memorabilia supplied by BN Historians, sales on the day raised over £260 for the restoration of Islander G-AVCN making the day a great success – even the threatened rain held off until late afternoon.



BNAPS sales stalls set out in St Denis driveway



Peter Gatrell recruited his great grand-daughter to help on the day

East Wight Workshop Nears Completion

Work on the electrical installation has now been completed. The next phase of the work involves painting the floor, walls and roof and fitting out work benches, shelving, cupboards and a secure access storage area for controlled parts.

Although the refurbishment work has taken longer than expected it is essential that the workshop is set up properly to enable restoration of airframe components to proceed in a controlled and efficient manner.

Any one who is willing to help with painting and related tasks to complete the preparation of the workshop please contact Bob Wilson or any of the BNAPS Trustees (see contact details on page 4).

VCN Parts Cataloguing and Condition Survey Work in Progress

Apart from the main airframe components now secure in the East Wight workshop, a large quantity of other parts have been temporarily stored elsewhere on the Island. BNAPS Trustee Guy Palmer is leading the activity to log in, identify and assess the condition of all G-AVCN components. This activity will continue in parallel with work on the main airframe components.

From the parts inventory a "wants list" will be generated for those parts that are not suitable for re-use and the need to obtain replacement for missing items. Priority items will be identified as determined from the top level restoration planning schedule.

BNAPS Joins the British Aviation Preservation Council (BAPC)

On 21 May 2011 BNAPS was invited to be represented at a meeting of the BAPC held at the East Midlands Aeropark regarding application for BAPC membership. BNAPS Trust Chairman Peter Graham was invited to give a presentation to the audience about BNAPS and its aims and objectives assisted by BNAPS Trustee Bob Wealthy. Also representing BNAPS was John Kenyon who was on hand to advise BNAPS on BAPC matters from his long association with the organization. In 1967 John had proposed formation of an organisation called the British Aircraft Preservation Council BAPC and subsequently became its Chair. This was done whilst John was chair and founder member of the Northern Aircraft Preservation Society [latterly the Aeroplane Collection Ltd]. Subsequently the BAPC took on a wider brief and became the British Aviation Preservation Council.

Having given the BNAPS presentation the proposal that BNAPS should be accepted into the BAPC was put to the vote and received unanimous approval.

For more information see the BAPC website: http://www.bapc.org.uk/html/members_alpha.html BNAPS' BAPC membership will give access to advice and assistance from other BAPC members and if needed financial assistance in the form of short term interest free loans that may be granted by the BAPC for specific purposes associated with aircraft restoration and associated activities.

Peter Graham was fortunate to meet Dr Robert Fleming of the Vulcan to the Sky Trust who offered to come down to the Island and give us the benefit of his experience of returning Vulcan XH558 to flying condition that may be of some help in addressing the "Fly or No Fly" issues associated with BNAPS restoration policy for Islander VCN.

Prior to the meeting the attendees had met up at the East Midlands Aeropark where amongst the aircraft on show was the Britten Sheriff G-FRJB that was in the final stages of a complete static restoration. The Sheriff was the last aircraft design by John Britten before he died in July 1977. G-FRJB was substantially complete when the Sheriff Aerospace Company, based at Sandown Airport run by John Britten's brother, Robin Britten, hit financial difficulties in 1984 and ceased operations. The abandoned Sheriff, less engines, remained in open storage at Sandown for 2 or 3 years until it was acquired by the East Midlands Aeropark as part of its growing aircraft collection.

For more about the Sheriff project members may like to purchase a copy of a book on the subject - see BNAPS Items for Sale on page 4

BNAPS on the web

In the near future it is envisaged that BNAPS will create and maintain its own website covering news, progress reports, related articles and on-line sales facilities. A members-only access facility will enable BNAPS Supporters Club members to view heritage photo galleries and articles and other documents related to B-N and local Isle of Wight heritage as well as up to date aerospace news that may be of relevant interest.

In the meantime the following links give access to general information about BNAPS:

<http://www.woottonbridgeiow.org/social/?cat=69>

<http://asp-gb.secure-zone.net/v2/index.jsp?id=58/112/2749&startPage=23>

<http://bnhistorians.co.uk> (note that BN Historians website is not updated at present)

Solent Sky Aviation Museum Hosts BN-1F First Flight 60th Anniversary

The 60th anniversary of the official first flight of the BN-1F was celebrated on 26 May 2011. The event was organised jointly by BNAPS and the Solent Sky Aviation Museum at Southampton.



Peter Gatrell (left) receives his certificate granting honorary life membership of BNAPS from Peter Graham, chairman of BNAPS Board of Trustees

Peter Gatrell, the man who originally built most of the BN-1F as the first person employed by John Britten and Desmond Norman, was guest of honour accompanied by Peter's wife Brenda and family members. After the welcoming address by Alan Jones, Solent Sky Museum's Director, Peter was presented with a certificate granting honorary life membership of BNAPS by Peter Graham, chairman of the BNAPS board of trustees, in recognition of his work on the BN-1F aircraft and his outstanding contribution to the B-N Islander G-AVCN restoration project.



The Bembridge built BN-1F aircraft on display at the Solent Sky Aviation Museum Southampton

Recent access to previously unseen historic records means that the BNAPS book about the BN-1F will be revised and available soon as an expanded second edition, see items for sale on page 4.

BNAPS Items for Sale - Price List July 2011

1. Trislander 40th book (2nd edition) @ £3.50*
2. Islander VCN restoration book – "The Story So Far" (2nd Edition) @ £3.50*
3. Nymph and Freelance book (1st Edition) @ £5.00*
4. Britten Sheriff book (1st Edition) @ £3.50*
5. BN-1F Finibee book (2nd edition to be released in September 2011) @ £4.00*
6. Trislander lapel pins @ £2.50
7. Aviation at Bembridge book (3rd Edition planned for end of 2011) @ £6.50
8. BNAPS "Charlie November Restoration" mug @ £6.00*
9. Postcards depicting B-N Islanders and Trislanders @ 50p each or 3 for £1.00
10. Islander 40th pens @ 50p
11. BNAPS enamelled lapel badges @ £2.00
12. BNAPS sew on patches @£1.50
13. Islander 40th key rings @ £1.00
14. Islander 40th mugs @ £2.50
15. Islander VCN A3 colour print @ £2.00
16. B-N Caps (original style logo) @ £3.50
17. BNAPS polo shirts blue or grey L, XL £15.00 each

Items marked * are available to BNAPS Supporters Club members at 50p off marked price

Above items are normally on sale at BNAPS events or place an order by e mail or by writing to the address below. UK post and package will be in addition to prices shown above.

Forthcoming BNAPS Events in 2011

Subject to confirmation nearer the time the following events are proposed:

20 July – social get together at the Propeller Inn Curry Night,
-please let us know if you plan to come along so that a table can be booked in advance

21 August - BNAPS Summer Barbecue in conjunction with the Propeller Inn 12 noon to 3pm – details to be advised

20 September - Talk and video about "The Schneider Trophy 80th Anniversary Commemorative Flight Event"

25 October – Talk and video presentation by BNAPS Trustee Bob Wealthy "40 Years of Aurigny Air Services Trislander Operations 1971 - 2011"

Events later in the year and for 2012 are at the planning stage and will be announced in due course.

Note: Entry charge for talks is £1.00 for BNAPS Supporters Club members and £2.00 for visitors.

IoW Aviation Exhibition at Shanklin Chine

An exhibition about Isle of Wight aviation history is now on display in the Shanklin Chine Heritage Gallery. The exhibition will be there until October this year.

Also there is an interesting account of the WW2 PLUTO (Pipeline Under the Ocean) project which was essential for delivery of fuel across the Channel to support D-Day operations.

How to contact BNAPS:

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