



Trustees' Annual Report

For the period from: 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

Overall Objective

To research, collect, preserve, commemorate, and share the heritage of the WW2 Spitfire Makers generations for the public benefit of future generations in Southampton, Hampshire, and beyond.

Objectives

The Trustees have a commitment to achieve the objects of the Trust in the following ways:

To research and collect memories from the Spitfire Makers and their descendants of Spitfire manufacture and associated WW2 stories, especially those at risk of being lost to future generations; to engage a range of organisations and individuals in obtaining and contributing to that research.

To raise public awareness of the roles played by both women and men, civilian and military, in supplying the Spitfire parts and planes during WW2, in Southampton, other parts of the UK and other parts of the world.

To commemorate sites of Spitfire production and the people who became Spitfire Makers in Southampton, Hampshire, and other locations by producing memorial plaques and / or education boards to inform the public about these sites.

To enhance the heritage education experience of the public by producing a variety of education materials.

To share the Spitfire Makers generation World War 2 stories in different ways to reach wider and harder to reach audiences, e.g., via websites, social media, talks, exhibitions, education boards, schools, care homes.

To preserve the WW2 Spitfire Makers heritage for future generations by raising awareness of the locations of the dispersed facilities that produced Spitfires from 1936 onwards.



To preserve the heritage of the Spitfire Makers stories for public interest by archiving and depositing researched information and artefacts with public and charitable archives.

To share stories of the Spitfire Makers with different audiences by organising public meetings, exhibitions, celebrations and events in Southampton, Hampshire, and other locations, to recognise and honour the role played by the “so many” who worked to supply “The Few” with the iconic Spitfire.

To advance education for the public benefit by the sharing of research about Spitfire Makers with audiences of different age groups in and around Southampton, other parts of the UK and via the www.

Our Main Achievements during the year

It has been two years since the launch of The Spitfire Makers Charitable Trust. The Spitfire Makers Memorial Plaques project was launched to a capacity audience in the Shirley Parish Hall on 23rd February 2020, and the Trust was set up in early March to manage the project and any other projects that develop from the research.

Over the past year, despite continuing Covid 19 restrictions, we have been able to move forward with our projects. We were able to keep in touch with our supporters and followers through our Facebook page and also with the Spitfire Makers website, which was launched in June 2021. Both of these media outlets have enabled us to reach a worldwide audience, with several of our posts having over 30,000 views.

In early September 2021, we were pleased to arrange a talk for our supporters by our Patron Sqn. Ldr. Mandy Singleton, of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. Mandy was accompanied by the Senior Pilot of the BBMF, Sqn. Ldr. Mark Discombe and together they gave an interesting talk about the history of the BBMF, their different planes and how they maintain and fly them. The presentation was entitled “The Few that Enable the Many” and reflected the way that the small team of the BBMF display their planes to many millions each year. The talk was followed by a lively Q & A session with the audience.



Mandy & Mark with Alan Matlock, our Honorary President Don Smith, and Edna Penney whose husband Ray was a Spitfire Maker.

Shortly after the presentation Mandy's tenure with the BBMF ended but we were delighted that she has agreed to remain as our Patron. We were also delighted when the new Senior Engineering Officer of the BBMF, Sqn. Ldr. Dave Philips agreed to continue our association with the BBMF, by also becoming our Patron.

In March 2020, we were awarded a grant from Southampton City Council via Southampton Voluntary Services to set up an event in Shirley, to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day in May 2020. Sadly, the event had to be postponed due to the pandemic restrictions, but we were finally able to arrange an exhibition and guided walks in September 2021, as part of the Heritage Open Day events that were taking place across the city of Southampton. The event was entitled "The Journey to Peace" and reflected on how the people in the Shirley area lived and worked throughout WW11, from 1939 onwards, and celebrated the peace in 1945. The exhibition was held in the Shirley Parish Hall, the wartime site of a secret "Shadow" factory making parts for Spitfires, and the walks were guided around other "Shadow Factory" sites within the area.



The Journey to Peace exhibition

As a project we also seek to reveal the wider role played by women during WW11; it is documented that at this site, the former Rechabite Hall, now Shirley Parish Hall, 60 out of the 70 Spitfire Making staff were women. It was a fitting location for such an exhibition and well received by the local community. Reports of the event can be found on our website and social media.





During the summer of 2021, we were pleased to be able to support and attend other events in the area, notably, the launch of the Salisbury Secret Spitfire project and also the 400-year anniversary of Peartree Church in Woolston, Southampton, the first purpose built Anglican church in the world. As the church is situated very close to the site of the original Spitfire factory our exhibits were well received.

In late summer 2021, we were saddened to hear that the original Supermarine Flight Shed situated near to Southampton Airport was to be demolished. Due to the building of a motorway, and changes to the ownership of the surrounding buildings, the existence of the Flight Shed had been unknown until the planning request was submitted. A Spitfire Makers online petition was set up which gained over 50,000 signatures. Working with several other heritage and aviation organisations, historical evidence was presented to Southampton City Council but sadly, this was not successful, and the building could not be saved.

The Spitfire Makers Plaques Project has continued throughout the year and in November 2021, thanks to fund raising efforts by Shirley Local History Group, we were able to order our first plaque which was to be placed on the Shirley Parish Hall.



Due to the pandemic restrictions, the unveiling of the plaque was postponed until March 2022. We were delighted that our Honorary President, Don Smith, was there to unveil the plaque in the place where he had worked in 1940 as a young apprentice. As noted in our report last year, we had received funding for two more plaques in early 2021 and have since received funding and pledges for three further plaques.



Alan Matlock with Don Smith and Val Stoten who unveiled the plaque

In September 2021, a member of our team once again honoured the memory of the Supermarine workers who lost their lives in 1940 during the bombing raids on the Supermarine factory, by placing a poppy marker on each grave. From this has grown another project to find a way to mark each grave and also place a permanent memorial to the workers.

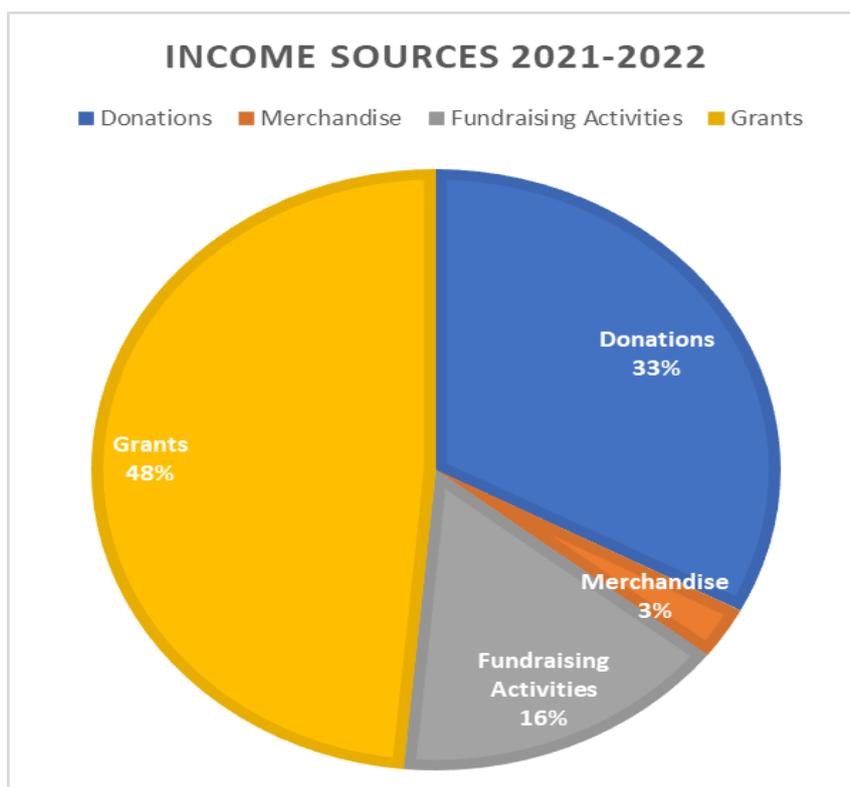
One of our objectives is to involve the local community in our projects. After our events in September 2021, further walks were arranged and also talks on “Building Spitfires without a Factory” at several community venues around Southampton. This in turn has created interest from a local school and also a heritage group who would like to raise funds for a plaque.



During the year we have continued to follow up leads to confirm the location of further Supermarine production facilities both in Southampton and beyond. Our media outlets, events, and talks to local heritage, community, and aviation groups, have provided several new leads as well as information and memories relating to the workers. A talk to the Royal Aeronautical Society’s Isle of Wight branch was filmed by the Wight Aviation Museum and has led to an invitation for the team to visit the Museum at Sandown Airport and the nearby Spitfire restoration factory.

Financial Review

Despite the initial delay in fundraising, due to Covid 19 restrictions, the Trust, with its dedicated project team and many supporters, has managed to increase its project income from £827.47 in 2020-21 to £6007.04 this past year. This is an outstanding achievement for the Trust, given the Covid restrictions that were still in place. 48% of that income was from a Community Chest grant from Southampton City Council for equipment and heritage outreach projects that will take place in the forthcoming year and £1500 was for the sponsorship of three memorial plaques, the first of which has been installed. Once the Shirley pilot project is completed the Team will be looking to expand the commemorative plaque project to other areas in Southampton and fund raise accordingly.





Year End Accounts 2022

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period

1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

(presented to 4.4.22 to include accruals).

Balance brought forward 1.4.21		£657.00
<u>Income</u>		
Donations		
General	410.92	
Refreshments at events	84.27	
Spitfire Makers Team	28.74	
Plaques	<u>1500.00</u>	
		2023.93
Fund raising activities		
Raffles	223.00	
Games	76.00	
Merchandise Sales	174.00	
Spitfire Talks	395.00	
Public Walks	117.00	
		985.00
Grants		2998.11
Total Income		£6007.04
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Office Admin/stationery		17.03
Website & IT		69.60
Bank Charges		72.00
Memberships / public insurance		150.00
Events		510.22
Merchandising		95.00
Donation (Margaret White Funeral – Hon President until 26.11.21)		<u>30.00</u>
Total Expenditure		£1892.45
Balance Carried Forward 5.4.22		£4771.59



Statement of Assets and Liabilities (presented as at 4th April 2022)

Monetary Assets

Cash held in bank	4705.59	
Cash held in petty cash	66.00	
Total Monetary Assets		<u>£4771.59</u>

Represented by funds

Reserves Trust Capital	150.00	
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Unrestricted Funds

General Funds	1477.08	
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Restricted Funds

Commemorative plaques	646.40	
Grants	<u>2498.11</u>	
		3144.51

Total Funds		<u>£4771.59</u>
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Structure, Governance and Management

Structure

The Spitfire Makers Charitable Trust

<i>Governing Document:</i>	<i>Trust Deed dated 5th March 2020</i>
<i>Constituted as:</i>	<i>A Charitable Trust – not registered as a charity</i>
<i>Trustee selection:</i>	<i>Trustees appointed by the Board of Trustees on a 3-year tenure</i>

Governance

The Trustees are responsible for the governance of the Trust. The Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no payment or benefits from their role.

A Project Team has been set up to carry out research, set up events and fund raise.

The wellbeing, health, and safety of all Trustees, volunteers, and supporters is paramount.

The Trust works closely with local history, heritage, and community groups.

The following policies and procedures are in place to ensure compliance with all legal and internal governance requirements:

Safeguarding the Vulnerable Policy
Code of Conduct & Good Practice Guide for Volunteers
Health & Safety Policy
Equal Opportunities & Diversity Policy
Financial Guidelines
General Data Protections Regulation Document
Data Protection Policy
Risk Policy and Risk Register
Trustee Roles and Responsibilities



The Trustees

Name	Role	Date Appointed
Alan Matlock	Chair	5 th March 2020
Michaela Lawler - Levene	Treasurer	5 th March 2020
Christine Richards	Secretary	5 th March 2020

Advisors

<i>Historical Advisor – Supermarine & Spitfire</i>	<i>David Key</i>	<i>Hursley.park@gmail.com</i>
<i>Historical Advisor – Shirley Local History</i>	<i>Vicki Stacey</i>	<i>Shirley Local History Group</i>
<i>Historical & Architectural Advisor</i>	<i>Liz Webb</i>	<i>Shirley Local History Group</i>
<i>Technical Advisor – Aviation</i>	<i>Robert Stidworthy</i>	<i>Volunteer at Solent Sky Aviation Museum</i>
<i>Photographer</i>	<i>Sarah Penfold</i>	<i>Infinityphotography@hotmail.co.uk</i>
<i>Project Team</i>	<i>David Kessel</i>	
<i>Project Team</i>	<i>Johnny Carrington</i>	

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the above Trustees' report.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Signature:		Date:
Full Name:		
Position:		