



Commemoration - Preservation - Education

Trustee's Annual Report

For the period from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

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:

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.
- iii. 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.

- iv. To enhance the heritage education experience of the public by producing a variety of education materials.
- v. 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.
- vi. 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.
- vii. 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.
- viii. 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.
- ix. 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

The third year of Spitfire Makers has been another very busy year indeed.

Research to identify Spitfire production sites across Southampton and beyond has continued and added a lot more to what we know.

Despite the huge online petition and the strong objections we raised, the Original Spitfire Flight Shed at Southampton Airport has been demolished and now been replaced by some modern industrial units. Along with other sites

around the city we are in advanced plans to place a Spitfire Makers blue plaque to commemorate the work that was done there.

One of our joint patrons, Sqn Ldr Mandy Singleton has now retired from the RAF but will continue in this role, alongside her successor as Senior Engineering Officer for the BBMF, Sqn Ldr Dave Phillips. In January 2023 it was announced that Mandy was to be honoured with an MBE for her services to the BBMF and she has now received this award.



Sadly, we said goodbye to our second Honorary President, Don Smith, who died in February 2023. Several of the team attended his funeral and we remember with great gratitude and affection all that Don shared of his wartime involvement with Spitfire making. His technical knowledge, willingly shared, combined with his wry sense of humour gave us a great insight into the work carried out on behalf of Supermarine by the Auto Metalcraft company and others like it.

In June we took a stall to the Southampton Rotary Fabulous 40s garden party, and in September, we held another Heritage Open Day event, this one was entitled "Shirley and the Spitfire" at the Shirley Parish Hall – where our first commemorative plaque had been unveiled by Don.



Another guided walk around the Shirley Spitfire Trail took place later in September, and in July, Chair, Alan Matlock with several of the team, took a convoy of restored military vehicles on a city-wide tour of Supermarine sites. The convoy formed up at the site of the main factories in Woolston, visited the former home and grave of RJ Mitchell and ended up at the Solent Sky Museum.



Throughout the year Alan has given more of his extremely popular “Building Spitfires Without a Factory” talks. During the year April 2022 – March 2023 Alan gave 24 talks. For the remainder of 2023 there are a further 20 and for 2024 another 5 have already been booked.

Following an audition in Petersfield with ladies from the Hampshire WI, he is now on their list of approved speakers and has had more than a dozen invitations from WI groups across the county.

Alan’s talk, often with other project team members in support, has not only spread the story of the “Unknown Warriors” as Churchill referred to them, but also provided some regular income to the Spitfire Makers Trust through the speaker’s fees, the sale of merchandise and significant donations.

As well as WI groups, talks have been presented to Rotary, Probus, U3A and Soroptimist groups as well as local history societies and aviation groups across Hampshire. A Southampton-focussed talk was recorded as part of a City Council initiative to inform hospitality workers about different aspects of Southampton’s heritage and we also visited a “Friendship Club” in Woolston where local schoolchildren and those of an older generation meet together.

In October 2022 Alan received the Aviation Heritage UK INDIVIDUAL AWARD “*...for his pioneering 'Save the Spitfire Flight Shed at Eastleigh' petition/campaign ...which attracted 55,000 signatures worldwide (although sadly failed to convince the local planners to reject a developers' scheme...) and ongoing work to commemorate Supermarine's war-time dispersed production sites after the bombing of their main factories in Southampton.*” Ironically, the award ceremony in Cheshire was held in a hangar full of vintage aircraft which had been restored with funding from Vauxhall Motors!



Since the first of our Spitfire Makers plaques was unveiled in March 2022, we have placed another 3 in the past year. Plaques have been sponsored by individuals and heritage groups and we have received pledges of support for further plaques from individuals, schools and businesses.



Swards Garage Plaque Unveiling (June 2022)



Hollybrook Stores Plaque Unveiling (September 2022)

The unveiling of the plaque at the premises of Auto Metalcraft, a Supermarine subcontractor in Shirley, was particularly poignant as it was there that Don Smith had first gone to work as a 14 year old apprentice. BBC South Today filmed the event and although Don couldn't be with us we had been able to invite 98 year old Vera Saxby, secretary to the Works Manager there during WWII.



Vera Saxby with the Spitfire Makers team at the Autometalcraft plaque unveiling (Mar 2023)

During the course of the year we have also met and interviewed May Morris, a 105 year old Supermarine parts inspector and 101 year old Bryan Carter-Wardell, a Spitfire ground crew engineer. Their amazing first-hand recollections have added to our understanding of how much we owe to the Many who helped the famous Few to fly.

For more information please email... spitfiremakersresearch@btinternet.com
or go to... www.spitfiremakers.org.uk

“We’re not saving the world by doing this but we’re honouring the people that did.”



Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period 5.4.22 to 31.3.23

Balance brought forward 5.4.22 **£4771.59**

Income

Donations

General	713.54
Plaques	<u>2171.11</u>

Fund raising activities

Games	37.00
Merchandise Sales	250.85
Spitfire Talks	950.00
Public Walks	87.00

Grants	0
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Total Income **£4209.50**

General Expenditure

Office Admin/stationery	101.27
Website & IT	12.00
Bank Charges	72.00
Memberships / public insurance	0.00
Events	0.00
Merchandising	0.00
Sub total	185.27

Restricted Funds / Project Expenditure

Commemorative plaques	1629.30
SCC Grant Expenditure (Grant £2498.11 plus £100.76 TF from general funds)	2598.87

Total Expenditure **£4413.44**

Income minus expenditure **£4567.65**

Balancing Adjustment **£0.61**

Balance Carried Forward 5.4.22 **£4568.26**



Year End Accounts 2022

Statement of Assets and Liabilities presented as at 31st March 2023

Monetary Assets

Cash held in bank	4502.26
Cash held in petty cash	66.00
Total Monetary Assets	£4568.26

Represented by funds

Reserves Trust Capital	150.00
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Unrestricted Funds

General Funds	2651.65
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Restricted Funds

Commemorative plaques	1766.61
Grants	0
	1766.61

Total Funds	£4568.26
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Restricted Grant Expenditure

Southampton City Council Community Chest Grant £2498.11

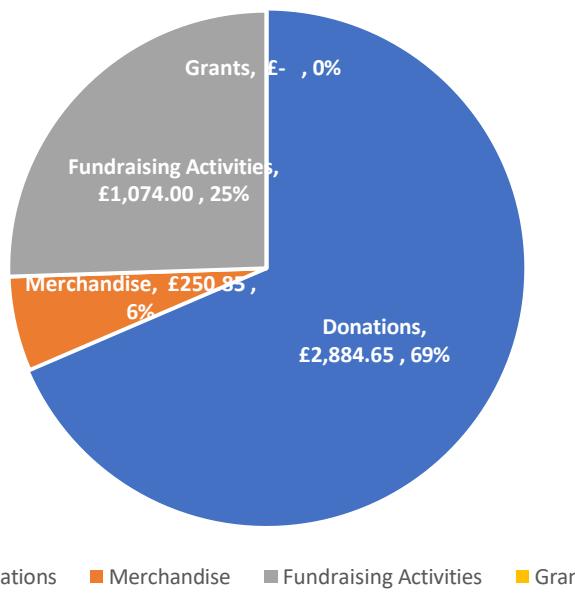
Received in 2021-2022 accounts, project delivered in 2022-2023.

Category	Spend	Total
Stationery, Admin and printing	185.86	
Zoom membership	100.72	
Covid / H&S supplies	22.20	
Meeting Room Hire	190.95	
Volunteer Expenses	90.31	
Membership and Training	75	
Heritage Open Day Exhibition, equipment and materials	996.92	
Heritage Walk Materials and Equipment	390.98	
Heritage Talks Materials and Equipment	545.93	
Funded by:		2598.87
Grant	2498.11	
Contribution by Spitfire Makers	100.76	

Comparative Expenditure 2021-2022 v 2022-2023. Impact of Grant on General Expenditure Spending

	office / admin / stationery expenses	Website and IT Expenses	bank charges	Memberships	Events	merchandising	Donation out	Plaques			Total
2021-2022	17.03	69.60	72.00	150.00	510.22	95.00	30.00	948.60			1892.45
2022-2023	office / admin / stationery expenses	Website and IT Expenses	bank charges	Memberships	Events	merchandising	Donation out	Plaques	Sub total	Total	
General	101.27	12.00	72.00	0	0	0	0	1629.3		1814.57	
SCC Grant	208.06	100.72	0	75.00	2013.89	201.20	0	0		2598.87	
Total	309.33	112.72	72	75	2013.89	201.2	0	1629.3		4413.44	

INCOME SOURCES 2022-2023



Income Sources 2022-2023

Donations	Merchandise	Fundraising Activities	Grants	Total (no grants)
£ 2,884.65	£ 250.85	£1,074.00	£ -	£ 4,209.50

Income Sources 2021-2022

Donations	Merchandise	Fundraising Activities	Grants	Total without grants	Total with Grant
£ 2,023.93	£ 174.00	£985.00	£ 2,998.11	£ 3,182.93	£ 6,181.04

The project funds from SCC were issued to Spitfire Makers at the end of March 2022 and received and banked in April 2022. This delayed the project start from September 2021 to April 2022. Despite this delayed start the project was able to continue and the project spend ran primarily from 4th April - 15th Dec 2022, with additional public outreach events in March 2023. The Heritage Open Day and Exhibition ran as planned, at Shirley Parish Hall, in September 2022. The finding and recording of Spitfire Makers from WWII continued throughout the project. The project was finalised with a plaque revealing event at The Masker's Theatre on 4th March 2023, which featured on BBC South and a public talk at Upper Shirley High School on March 7th.

The primary aim of the project was to promote the Heritage of the WWII Spitfire Making that took place across Southampton, to include running a Heritage Open Day and Exhibition. The grant enabled the Trust to purchase equipment and resources to enhance the organisation and to improve the experience for our volunteers and audiences at both the Open Day exhibition and at other public events. A key part of the project was to collect, archive and share photographs and information about Southampton based WWII Spitfire Makers. Alan Matlock, Chair of Spitfire Makers, delivered a series of educational outreach activities, including social media posts, public talks, walks and workshops that enabled the Spitfire Team to share the Spitfire Makers' stories on the Spitfire Makers website, create Spitfire Makers pennants and produce exhibition materials. Additional contributions from the Spitfire Makers Team included volunteering their time to deliver research activities, education and outreach, engaging with families to support the collection of details and photographs of WWII Spitfire Makers, as well as planning and delivering the Heritage Open Day event and Spitfire walk.

Through research and outreach, twenty further Spitfire Makers were added to the Spitfire Makers records, now 45 in total. The Heritage Open Day and Exhibition took place on 18th September 2022 at Shirley Parish Hall. Thanks to the grant, event planning meetings took place over Zoom and at community venues in Shirley. The Shirley Spitfire Trail Walk took place on 25th September 2022.

Spitfire Makers also supported a WWII Vehicles Jeep Run giving a guided talk at Spitfire Locations across the city including RJ Mitchell's house in Highfield, the site of the former Supermarine Factory by the Itchen Bridge at Woolston and secret Spitfire factories across Southampton, including those now with commemorative plaques in Shirley.

As a result of outreach and education activities, as well as making contact with former Spitfire Makers or their descendants, several offers of commemorative plaque funding have been made from individuals and a local secondary school (Upper Shirley High School).

Public talks and workshops have continued throughout the project, ten of these specifically for Southampton residents and two were an inter-generational events. As at 15th December 2022, 13 public Spitfire Makers talks had been booked for 2023.

A total of 592 Southampton residents took part in these activities in person with more people engaging via social media and TV.

Through collaboration with the City Ambassador Training courses and Upper Shirley High School, there will continue to be engagement that will reach secondary school students and young people. Upper Shirley High School is integrating local Spitfire Making into the school History curriculum and as of March 2023, fund raising for a commemorative plaque for the former site of the Sunlight Laundry, a secret Spitfire factory during WWII.

No of Southampton Residents in attendance

Talks

09.06.22	Lordhill History Society	55
15.06.22	Woolston Probus	45
07.07.22	Southampton Rotary Club	50
31.07.22	Military Vehicle Trust "Jeep Run"	35
14.09.22	Woolston Friendship Club – intergenerational gathering	40**
04.03.23	Plaque reveal and public talk, Masker's Theatre	40
07.03.23	Public talk at Upper Shirley High School fundraising event	60

Heritage Open Day

18.09.22	Spitfire Makers Heritage Open Day, Shirley Parish Hall	255
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Guided Walk

25.09.22	Shirley Spitfire Trail Guided Walk	12**
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Recorded Presentation for use in the City Ambassadors Course

24.10.22	Kiwi Education for Southampton City Ambassadors course	tba**
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WI Hampshire Speakers Audition

14.10.22 WI Audition, Petersfield Community Centre

75**

The WI audition enabled Alan Matlock to become a registered speaker for the WI across Hampshire.

7.10.22 Commemoration Plaque Donation received

15.12.22 Commemoration Plaque donation received

** used the portable microphone. (Talk to the Woolston Friendship Club, 14th September, the guided walk on 25th September (volunteer, Johnny Carrington used the 2nd one) and the WI Hampshire Speakers Audition on 14th October.

Banners, fleeces, promotional and exhibition materials funded by the SCC Community Chest grant were used at events from 18th September 2022 Open Day onwards.

Heritage Open Day and Exhibition - 18th September 2022 at Shirley Parish Hall (a former WWII Spitfire Making venue).

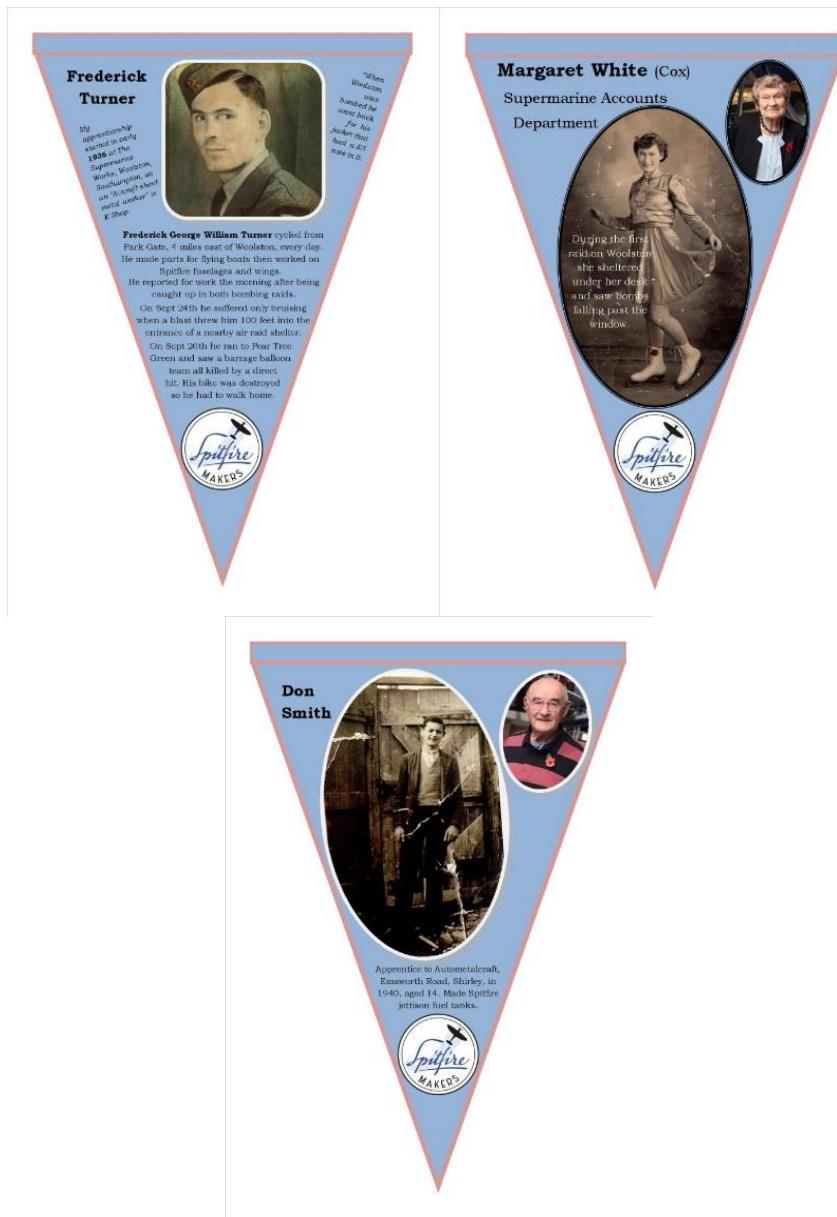


Spitfire Makers wearing new matching Team fleeces at the 18th September 2022 Shirley Heritage Open Day thanks to the SCC Community Chest grant.



Spitfire Makers Pennants

Once a Spitfire Maker's story has been shared with us, a Spitfire Makers pennant is made and also shared on the Spitfire Makers Charitable Trust website. <https://spitfiremakers.org.uk/projects/pennants/the-spitfire-makers/#Smith>



Thanks to the Community Chest grant an extra set of bunting has been printed to include 20 more Spitfire Makers' stories. The bunting is being used at events, exhibitions and talks. The pennants are also teaching and learning aids.



Pull up Display and Spitfire Makers Bunting Funded by the SCC Community Chest Grant used in the Exhibition at Shirley Parish Hall (and taken to subsequent public talks).



All ages learning about Spitfire Makers, using the pennants, at the Woolston Friendship Club

Alan Matlock, Chair of Spitfire Makers, filmed sharing the WWII Spitfire Making story for the City Ambassador Course.



**(Pull up banner and Spitfire Makers fleece in use funded by the SCC Community Chest Grant).
This recording will now be used to inform young people training as Ambassadors to promote the City of Southampton. Numbers of people using this resource will continue beyond the project.**

5. Equalities data for the funded project/work

As far as possible please complete the following tables. This information helps the council ensure it is supporting all communities in the city.

Total Number of beneficiaries*	592
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* By 'beneficiaries' we mean anyone who benefitted from the work/project. This may include the members of your organisation, your committee and the local community.

Ethnicity	No. of beneficiaries*
Asian – Bangladeshi	
Asian – Indian	
Asian – Pakistani	
Asian – Other	
Black – African	
Black – Caribbean	
Black – Other	
Chinese	
Mixed – White and Asian	
Mixed – White and Black African	
Mixed – White and Black Caribbean	
Other	
White – British	
White – Irish	
White – European	
Prefer not to say	592

Disability	No. of beneficiaries*
Disabled People	17
Prefer not to say	575

Gender	No. of beneficiaries*
Female	238
Male	354
Prefer not to say	

Age	No. of beneficiaries*
Under 18	32
18-24	
25-44	
45-60	
60+	
Prefer not to say	560

UK Armed Forces (any branch)	No. of beneficiaries*
Currently serving personnel or their family members	Not known
Former service personnel or their family members	Not known

6. Compliments and Complaints

If you have received any compliments and/or complaints about the grant funded project/work or your organisation during this monitoring period please provide a list briefly outlining the compliments and/or complaints (please remove all personal names / contact details from the list as these are confidential). For complaints please also list your actions to resolve them.

Compliments / complaints list attached:
No compliments / complaints to report at this time:

7. Promoting projects funded by SCC

Please tell us where you have acknowledged our support for your project/work. Tick all that apply.

<input type="checkbox"/> Signage	<input type="checkbox"/> Press Release	<input type="checkbox"/> Logos on documents
<input type="checkbox"/> Leaflets	<input type="checkbox"/> Launch	<input type="checkbox"/> Logos on forms
<input type="checkbox"/> Posters	<input type="checkbox"/> Website	<input type="checkbox"/> Logos on reports
<input type="checkbox"/> Radio	<input type="checkbox"/> TV	<input type="checkbox"/> Video

Acknowledged support on signage, leaflets, posters,

Other:

Public talks – verbally. Exhibition materials. WhatsApp amongst volunteers

Please briefly tell us how this grant has helped your organisation and/or service users (your comments will be kept on file and may be used to promote the council's grant schemes)

Spitfire Makers would like to thank Southampton City Council for the Community Chest funding which has greatly enhanced our ability to raise awareness of the WWII Southampton Spitfire Making Heritage.

The grant specifically funded The Spitfire Makers Charitable Trust with equipment to produce an Heritage Open Day Exhibition that could also be used for future public talks and events. Examples of the equipment are a projector, portable microphones and speakers for public walks, a folding table top display board, a table cover printed with the Spitfire Maker's logo, a pull up specially designed exhibition stand, a sail printed with the Spitfire Makers logo for outside events. This equipment is both professional and portable, suitable for taking to public talks. Volunteers and audiences are both benefitting from this quality presentation equipment.

As well as the equipment the team was able to purchase matching Spitfire Makers fleeces, name badges and hi viz jackets for volunteers. This has significantly contributed to building a stronger team presence at events. Matching fleeces have also enabled the team members to be easily identifiable at events to audiences. This has enabled better access to team members, who are able to offer greater assistance and access to information. The fleeces carry the Spitfire Makers logo, they are very smart in appearance and help promote the Trust.

Twenty further 'Spitfire Makers' were added to a 'Spitfire Makers Pennants' collection, which at the end of the Community Chest funding had grown from 25 to 45.

The additional funding of equipment has enabled our Chair and speaker, Alan Matlock, to deliver more public talks about World War 11 Spitfire Making across Southampton. Seven talks were delivered during the project period 2nd April 2022 – 7th March 2023 in the Southampton area. As at 15.12.22, 13 talks were booked for 2023.

In addition to the planned events in Southampton, delivered to 592 Southampton residents, the Trust's work has reached additional Southampton residents (and wider audiences) via features on the TV (BBC South and other channels), digitally via zoom and via collaboration with the Kiwi Educational Trust.

During this project, Spitfire Makers Chair, Alan Matlock received a National Award for promoting Aviation Heritage.

8. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the organisation, work or project?

National Award for Spitfire Makers

(Facebook Post 16th October 2022)



The work of Spitfire Makers Charitable Trust was recognised at the Aviation Heritage UK awards event in Cheshire on Saturday. Chair, Alan Matlock, was presented with the AHUK Individual Award which he accepted on behalf of the Trust project team.

(Alan Matlock received the award on behalf of the team wearing the Spitfire Makers fleece, funded by the SCC Community Trust grant.