

Milton Heritage Society

Visit to FONFA Heritage Centre and Airfields Tour

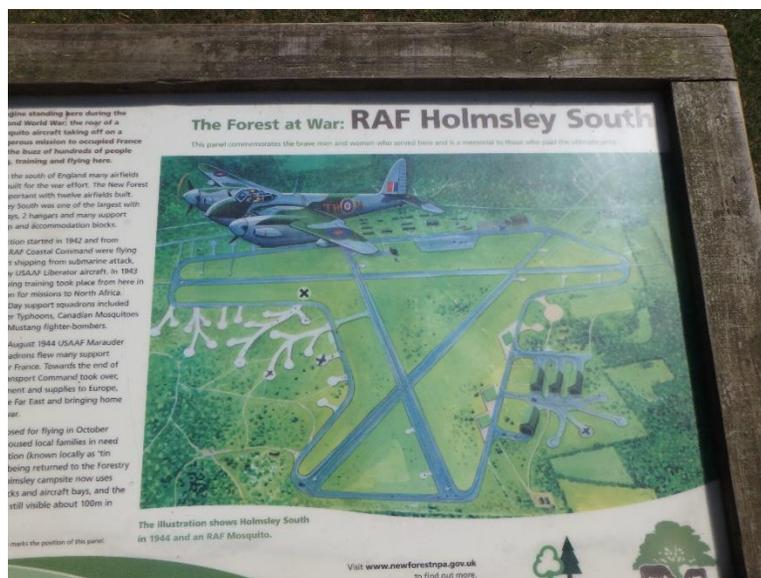
On July 4th, the first FONFA airfields tour took place in bright sunshine, with Milton Heritage Society members. An itinerary was organised with Dr Henry Goodall, FONFA Chair of Trustees, and included a morning visit to the Heritage Centre Museum, lunch at 'The Three Tuns' in Bransgore, followed by visits to the New Forest Airfields Memorial at Holmsley South and the WWII airfield site, plus the aircraft dispersal pans, which are now occupied by the Holmsley Camp and Caravan sites. The tour then continued on to include the WWII airfields at Beaulieu and Stoney Cross, and the Canadian Memorial at Mogshade, near Boldrewood, before returning to New Milton.



The Group at the New Forest Airfields Memorial



New Milton Heritage Society Chairman Nick Saunders described the tour as, “A fascinating and really enjoyable day, guided around some of the New Forest WW2 airfields”. He continued, “I thought the models and dioramas were superb and really add to the story. I was particularly impressed with the museum and with the three large, interactive display units that you have. They are truly superb and give a lot of information to the visitor.”



New Forest National Park information board at Holmsley South

The group was smaller than originally planned, but this allowed more time for personal interaction and stories to be shared. Henry Goodall commented, “We hope that this will be the first of many such tours, enabling us to share knowledge of the local wartime history with a wider audience. **'There is no substitute for standing on the ground where history was made'**. We have so few sites in this country, compared with on the continent, where this is still possible, so making use of every opportunity to share our knowledge of local history is a must.”



Remains of the WWII main runway at Beaulieu airfield