What a six months it has been! Since opening our Heritage Centre in April, and welcoming The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh just three weeks later, we have had an excellent holiday season, stretching well into October. Well over 6,000 people have visited us and our visitor books reveal that they come from all over the world, and the visitor comments are a delight to read. So many are amazed at our history, our displays and the rescue of this wonderful military chapel. We have recognised several important anniversaries this year - the 70th of D-Day and the 100th of the start of World War I among them - and we are advancing our plans to mark important milestones in 2015. Key among them is the 75th anniversary of the loss of our Sunderland, T9044 - which sank in the Haven Waterway in November 1940.

And this is where you can help! With T9044’s 75th firmly in sight we are launching our new Membership Categories and our greatly valued Friends are the first to hear of this. These are the three categories, each offering further levels of support.

‘Friend’: Annual Subscription - £25. ‘Friends’ receive the quarterly ‘Webfooter’ newsletter and enjoy access to the Chapel exhibition at no further charge for twelve months. When a ‘Friend’ is accompanied by friends or family additional members of the party can gain access to the Centre at a reduced rate of £3 adult and £2 child.

‘Member’ - Five Year Subscription - £100. ‘Members’ receive the quarterly ‘Webfooter’ newsletter, a Sunderland lapel pin, an individually engraved plaque and your name added to a ‘scroll of honour’. When accompanied by friends or relatives up to five additional members of the party may enter free of charge at any one time. Larger parties catered for by arrangement. Membership also provides access to special offers and advanced notification of events which we are arranging regularly.

‘Fellowship’ - Lifetime Subscription - £1,000. ‘Fellowship’ entitles a quarterly copy of Webfooter, a Sunderland lapel pin, an individually engraved plaque and your name added to a ‘scroll of honour’. When accompanied by friends or relatives up to five additional members of the party may enter free of charge at any one time. Larger parties catered for by arrangement. Help us to recover T9044, our unique Battle of the Atlantic veteran which has become such an important element of the Pembroke Dock heritage story.
‘Flight From Oban’ Print
Sunderland T9044 has taken to the skies again, thanks to Welsh artist Tim Jenkins. Entitled ‘Flight From Oban’, his superb study was on display at the Guild of Aviation Artists annual exhibition in London and was snapped up by Sunderland Trust Friends and ace supporters Trevor and Hennie Richter of Portsmouth. They promptly donated it for display at the Heritage Centre as a thank you for help received when Trevor was writing a book on his father’s wartime RAF story.

Tim Jenkins brought the painting from London and handed it over to Sunderland Trust Volunteers Marilyn Mitchell and Margaret Clark. It has now been made into a limited edition print with just 210 copies signed and numbered by Tim. The 210 figure is from 210 Squadron, which operated T9044 from Oban. It flew from Scotland to PD on 9th November 1940, sinking in a gale three days later. Other signatures on the first 50 prints are John Pearce, a 210 Squadron ‘webfooter’, and Mrs Betty Martin, wife of the late Wing Commander Derek Martin, pilot of T9044 and Sunderland Trust Patron.

‘Flight From Oban’ makes an ideal Christmas present! Signed copies are available from the Trust for £20. (No extra charge for postage to ‘Friends’).

Rolling Exhibitions
Several exhibitions have featured at the Centre since April - the latest being ‘Men Of Many Nations’ focusing on service personnel from all over the world who served at PD in wartime. Canada, Australia, USA, The Netherlands and the island of Mauritius were all included. Uniforms from all three services are currently on display and in November we will again run our popular ‘Medals Week’ to coincide with Armistice Week.

Books and Magazines
Our ‘Pre-Loved Books’ section at the Centre has proved very popular and we have raised considerable funds through the sales of unwanted books. We also sell copies of aviation magazines which are duplicates of those in our archive. If you have books - on aviation, maritime or military subjects - which you do not require, please consider donating them to us. They may be important additions to our rapidly growing library archive, or we can sell them to raise funds. And we are pleased to have unwanted aviation, military and maritime magazines. If you can help please contact Glynnis on 01646 684220 or e-mail glynnis.iles@sunderlandtrust.com
HMS Erebus - It's Our Ship!

The amazing discovery in Canadian Arctic waters of HMS Erebus is a hugely exciting story for Pembroke Dock. Erebus was built at Pembroke Dockyard and launched in June 1826 as a bomb vessel. It was later converted to a survey ship for polar explorations and was lost, with HMS Terror, on the ill-fated Franklin Expedition in the 1840s which was attempting to find the fabled North-west Passage.

A display panel on Erebus has been created for the Heritage Centre by Volunteer Ted Goddard. “This is a remarkable story,” said Ted. “Erebus is the only survivor of over 260 ships built for the Royal Navy at Pembroke Dockyard between 1814 and 1922. She was the 28th vessel launched here and went on to play a central part in one of the world’s maritime mysteries which only now is being unravelled.

We have sent a letter of congratulations to Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper.”

Seaplane Tender Airborne

After several years displayed at the old Flying Boat Centre the Trust’s rare Seaplane Tender has been transported to its new location in the grounds of the Heritage Centre. The big move went perfectly thanks to local firms Main Port Engineering, which provided a large crane, and Nolan Transport with a lorry.

The 37 ft long 200-class Seaplane Tender, donated to the Sunderland Trust several years ago, will be worked on by a volunteer team and returned in time to its wartime look sporting RAF roundels.

Masterminding the transfer was Volunteer Greg Laycock who said: “We are most grateful to the teams from both firms for all their help. For many years these craft were a daily sight on the Haven - now this is a very rare survivor.”

The Sunderland Trust is adding to the team which will work on the Seaplane Tender in the coming months.
T9044 Treasures

Sunderland T9044 continues to give up its treasures. Significant recoveries by the PDST Dive Group from the site of T9044 include major components of the front turret, including the turret ring - and the turret’s ultra-rare Vickers ‘K’s machine gun has now gone on display.

These are from a now unique example of the power-operated Frazer-Nash front turret on our Sunderland. The parts will be worked on by workshop volunteers and the turret reconstructed.

After a year ‘under wraps’ the Vickers ‘K’ can now be displayed at the Heritage Centre. In remarkable condition when recovered by the Dive Group in September 2013, it underwent initial conservation by Volunteers, led by the late Mike Hurley. It was soon realised that the gun might be capable of being brought back into action and it was entrusted to firearms and explosives consultant George Geear, of Chapel Bay Fort Museum, in Pembrokeshire. George arranged for the weapon to be deactivated and officially ‘proofed’, a process which took several months. This was funded through a generous donation from the Maritime Air Trust.

Welcome Volunteers

New recruits to the Volunteer Team are Colin Taylor, Ted Goddard, Joyce Cockerill, Lillian Roderick, Paul Wilson, Ruth Ashworth and Sue Carr. The new Volunteers are helping in all areas of the Trust - Front of House, Workshop, Coffee Shop, Archive and Research. If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining the Volunteer Team please do ask them to get in touch.
Farewells
Sunderland Trust members have been involved in poignant ceremonies to remember two of our most ardent supports from within the ‘webfooter’ community. The ashes of our Patron, Wing Commander Derek Martin, have been scattered over the site of Sunderland T9044, which he flew in 1940. And the ashes of Australian pilot Gordon Singleton were scattered on the airfield where he made wartime aviation history. Gordon’s wife, Pat, and grandson, Kerry, were joined by friends at Angle Airfield where in May 1943 he landed his Sunderland on the grass after an epic Atlantic rescue. This was the only occasion that a Sunderland was successfully landed on land. Gordon died, aged 97, last year.

Members of Wing Commander Derek Martin’s family were taken on the Port of Milford Haven pilot boat Picton following a memorial service held at the Heritage Centre, attended by Derek’s wife, Betty, family and friends. Derek, who died in June, was the last surviving airman who flew Sunderland T9044. The weekend also marked the final reunion for the 210 Squadron Association after 25 years. A reunion dinner was held at the Cleddau Bridge Hotel during which Mrs Betty Martin and family made a generous donation to the Sunderland Trust which is especially acknowledged.

Stalwart Volunteers
In 2014, since moving to the Heritage Centre, Sunderland Trust colleagues have said a sad farewell to three of the longest serving and staunchest members of our Volunteer Team - Mike Hurley, Allan Ross and Colin Hancock.

Mike and Allan took on the daunting task in 2003 of dismantling the first Pegasus engine from Sunderland T9044 and beginning the long conservation process. Their successes and skills are there for all to see today in the remarkable display of artefacts from T9044. This pre-dated the formation of the Sunderland Trust and their remarkable contributions were a major factor to the successful setting up of the UK’s only Flying Boat Centre - visited by over 30,000 in five years and forerunner of this Heritage Centre.

Colin signed up, along with Kay, for the new crew team at the Flying Boat Centre in 2009 and was ever present as the project forged ahead. A man of so many skills, Colin could turn his hand to anything, and had a great sense of humour.

Mike died in June and Allan and Colin died in August. All the Sunderland Trust Team miss our friends so very much and sympathies and thoughts remain with their families.
Special Visitors

Among the many visitors to the Heritage Centre this year were Admiral Terry Loughran, a former Captain of the Royal Navy’s flagship aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal, and actor John Altman, who starred as ‘Nasty Nick’ in BBC’s long running ‘Eastenders’. They and their ladies were in Pembrokeshire as guests of the Rev Mike Brotherton and his mother, Beryl, at Angle.

Said Admiral Loughran: “I saw the Chapel from the outside last year when the Battle of the Atlantic memorial stone was dedicated. To see it transformed into a wonderful heritage centre is a delight and full praise to the Sunderland Trust for what they have achieved.”

There were triple celebrations when Australian couple Ken and Gladys May called at the Heritage Centre. Not only were they back in town after nearly 20 years but it was Ken 91st birthday and their 69th wedding anniversary. Ken - then a Sunderland aircrew member with 461 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force - and local girl Gladys, were married in September 1945 after a wartime courtship. Within months Gladys travelled to a new life in Perth, Western Australia. While at the Centre Ken and Gladys were recorded by Volunteers Barry and Margaret Clark for the Sunderland Trust’s Oral History project.

Said Barry: “It was fascinating to hear their memories of PD in wartime, including when Gladys was bombed out of her home by the Luftwaffe. She met Ken when she was working at a café, a popular venue for service personnel. Their recollections are very important additions to our oral history.”

Joining Gladys and Ken on their ‘Return to PD’ were daughter Jennifer and son-in-law Chris Turnbull.
Dive Duo Julie and Dai Humphreys

Julie and Dai have been married for 32 years and they started diving in 2008 after Dai had been speaking to Nick Hammond (founder member of the Dive Group) in work and mentioned he was interested in learning to dive. Nick invited Dai on his next ‘try dive’ in the swimming pool, and he was hooked. Then it was Julie’s turn. “Although I had always loved swimming and being in the water I didn’t fancy the idea of diving as the thought of all the gear would put me off,” said Julie. “And then I went with Dai on the next ‘try dive’ and I was hooked too and I couldn’t wait to be underwater again! So, basically it’s all Nick Hammond’s fault!”

Dai and Julie had a holiday in Tenerife and booked their first PADI course with a dive centre in Abades, and that was it. “We came home and Nick ‘persuaded’ us to join the Dive Group. We continued our learning and training with Nick and everyone in what is now the PDST Dive Group, and had to crossover training agency from PADI to BSAC. Once we were experienced enough we had our first dive on T9044. It was very difficult conditions and visibility compared to when we started diving (and a lot colder too!) but it was amazing to see a Sunderland flying boat which had been there for so long and there was so much left of it.”

The dive duo are now BSAC sports divers and are currently training to be Dive Leaders, as well as having PADI advanced diver qualifications. Unfortunately Julie missed a whole year of diving due to having two major operations, but she is fine now and hoping to make up for lost time. She has got 12 dives to catch up with Dai!

Added Julie: “I remember my father taking me to see the last Sunderland in Pembroke Dock when I was very little and being amazed at how something so big could take off from the water and look so graceful in the air, and here I am being able to dive on this one!”

Dai and Julie Humphreys - on dry land and underwater in conditions you will never find around T9044!
Facebook
Alex reports: The Pembroke Dock Sunderland Trust Facebook page really is a must see! Over the past few months, the interest in our Facebook page has increased tremendously. We have almost reached our next milestone of 800 page ‘likes’. Each article posted reaches hundreds of people all over the world. Our latest Millennium Falcon article reached over 4,300 Facebook profiles in just 2 days! Facebook lets us interact with the public and keep our supporters up to date with the latest news and events on a daily basis. It gives our visitors the opportunity to keep in touch and share their thoughts and ideas with us. If you have any stories or information you would like to add to our page, please contact Alex and we can share it with our Friends and Supporters worldwide.

Cake Crew raise £100 for Macmillan
Home-made cakes were flying in all directions when the Volunteer Crew at the Pembroke Dock Heritage Centre staged a fundraising event on Friday for Macmillan Cancer Support. The event was very well patronised and raised nearly £100.
Some of the ‘crew’ are pictured with Mrs Dilys Hanmer of Pembroke, Hon President of the Pembrokeshire Branch of Macmillan Cancer Support.
Left to right: Carol Porter, Mrs Hanmer, Marilyn Mitchell, Sue Clarkson, Gill Saldanha, Kay Hancock, Rik Saldanha, Peter Mitchell and Derek Lawrence.

‘Friends’
Greetings to all our ‘Friends’ worldwide who really spread the word. We depend on you, not just for your contributions of time and stories to our archive, but also donations of artefacts to our collection, and supporting us and following our story. As ever grateful thanks are extended to you all. If you know anybody that would like to be kept up-to-date with our story, please do encourage them to support us by purchasing a subscription and becoming a ‘Friend’ - this really does make a difference to us.

Phone us on 01646 684220, or visit our website: www.sunderlandtrust.com

Legacy Giving
Leaving a Legacy or a Donation is a very special way to support the Trust’s work. To find out more about Legacies and Donations we have a document which provides further information. This is available on our website: www.sunderlandtrust.com/legacy-giving/ and is also available by post on request. Please contact Glynnis Iles on 01646 684220 or write to us.

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