

Winter break weekend and 2017 AGM

Each season always finishes with an AGM combined with a winter break weekend – but early in the following year! This season's AGM was held over the weekend of 3/4 February at Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset. The location itself is worthy of a visit, being a genuine Elizabethan manor house and now a beautiful, events, learning and conference centre.

Most of the AGM attendees first gathered at the Fleet Air Arm Museum at Yeovilton in, typically for the season's events, wet and windy weather.

Fortunately, the warm and dry hangars of the Museum house an amazing history of British



Naval Aviation. From stick-and-strings biplanes taking off from 1st World War cruisers on semi-suicide missions, to the lifesize simulation of the flight-deck of HMS Ark Royal, the guided tour was fascinating.

Saturday evening started with a presentation on Dillington House itself, the history of its ownership and the origins of its architecture. One point I noted, because we occupied the 'Lord North' room, was that this was indeed the

former home of the infamous Prime Minister, blamed by many for the loss of the former American colonies in the 18th Century. (I wondered if he perhaps got out of the bed on the wrong side!)

The formal business of the AGM followed and was agreed unanimously. The Treasurer, Keith Bunker, has completed his two years but, thankfully, stood for a further year and was duly elected by the 37 members present.



The only trophy for which we had a candidate this year was the Confession Trophy. I was very happy to pass on the trophy to such a worthy recipient as Mel Bush, who confessed to attempting to reverse his Eclipse 33 out of his berth on Cherbourg marina without first re-fitting her steering wheel, causing some consternation to fellow marina dwellers. Happily, no damage was done. However, Mel took the citation with him – leaving me again with Eric

Lowe's massive propeller/trophy – with the mild excuse that it would not fit the overhead locker on his plane back to Glasgow!

The committee presented the outline plans for 2018:

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| Fowey | 4-8/5 |
| Plymouth - Torbay and back cruise in company | 25–28/5 |
| Plymouth Pantaenius Fireworks | 7-10/8 |
| Falmouth/Malpas | 7–10/9 |
| Chepstow (boat-less rally) | October |

Assistance will be sought from Port Officers and other members to organise and run these events.

The weekend concluded with a visit to Barrington Court on Sunday morning – in bright sunshine! This is another beautiful Tudor manor house a short distance from Dillington, especially known for its wood panelling and its gardens. My thanks are due to John Oldham for his help in organising much of the AGM weekend.

The next AGM is planned to be held over the weekend of 23/24th February 2019 at Bristol with the now customary format of visits and meeting. In a break from tradition, this will coincide with the National AGM held in the same location but hosted in conjunction with the SW Branch. The programme will be set to avoid conflict of the AGM meetings but with the various visits we plan to be common to both.

Tony Wildig
MOA SW Branch Captain