



AIRFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE



OLD WARDEN AERODROME, NEAR BIGGLESWADE, BEDFORDSHIRE.

Protecting the worlds' aviation heritage

PRESS RELEASE : Queen's Award for Voluntary Service Presentation

On the 2nd June 2015 the Airfield Volunteer Fire Service, a registered charity based at Old Warden Aerodrome home of the Shuttleworth Collection, was honoured with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. The QAVS is described by the Cabinet Office as "the MBE for volunteer groups" and is the highest award given to voluntary groups across the UK for outstanding work in their local communities. The presentation was made on Sunday 6th September 2015 by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Mrs Helen Nellis, on behalf of the Queen, to Kevin Endersby, Secretary of the AVFS, and one of the founder members, and to Kevin Pettitt, the AVFS Senior Fire Officer. Colin Osborne, Chairman of the Trustees, thanked the Lord-Lieutenant for the presentation and the support she gave as one of the AVFS's Patrons. He also thanked the other Patrons present – Sir Samuel Whitbread and the Right Revd. Richard Atkinson, Bishop of Bedford – for their support. He said the AVFS were delighted to receive the award which reflects the dedication and hard work by each of the Service's volunteers.

The HM Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Helen Nellis, said:

"It was a genuine thrill to present the Queen's Award on behalf of HM The Queen to a group of dedicated volunteers who have worked tirelessly over many years to create a professional Fire and Rescue team which enables the Shuttleworth Collection to fly. I am very impressed with the group's attention to detail, their positive team spirit and the huge amount of care they take to ensure that spectators and participants in these historic airshows remain safe."

The Airfield Volunteer Fire Service (AVFS) was formed in 1994. Now 21 years on it is considered to be one of the best and highly respected Lower Category Rescue and Fire-Fighting Services in the UK, their work 'protecting the world's aviation heritage' is widely recognised within aviation circles. Members offer dedication, commitment and hard work to ensure that the Service maintains and develops this status.

The AVFS is looking to improve and expand its' fire station to incorporate better accommodation and service areas for the vehicles and equipment along with improved training rooms, storage and welfare facilities. The Shuttleworth Collection has kindly agreed to provide a new home which now needs to be fitted out and equipped so the AVFS can carry on with its' work protecting the world's aviation heritage and the people of Bedfordshire. The AVFS is appealing widely to individuals, companies, trusts and other bodies for financial and other help towards building the new fire station.

The AVFS is always looking to recruit more volunteers. There are opportunities for operational fire fighters and fire support members which include control and radio operators, first aiders, fundraising personnel, catering and general support, being those who may want to be involved in a non-specific capacity. Training will be given consistent with the job role so no previous experience is required.

For more information about The Airfield Volunteer Fire Service, the fire station appeal and recruitment please view the website for further details. (www.avfs.org)

Patrons

HM Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Helen Nellis

Sir Samuel Whitbread KCVO

The Right Reverend Richard Atkinson OBE, Bishop of Bedford