

RIAT

It was announced this week that the International display debut of the F-35B Lightning II at RIAT will not be happening this weekend, as the entire fleet has been temporarily grounded following an engine fire on a development aircraft during take off on June 23rd. Engine maker Pratt & Whitney is examining the engine which caused the fleet to be grounded but has not released any details about the likely cause of the engine failure. Perhaps our September speaker, a former F-35B test pilot, will be able to shed more light onto this incident! This announcement has shifted focus to the arrival on the 09th July of three Sukhoi SU-22 "Fitters" of the Polish Air Force, this being the first time they have performed a role demo display in the UK.



Sukhoi SU-22M "Fitter" © Adrian Pingstone

2014 also marks the 50th display season of the "Red Arrows" and there will be a unique "Reds" flypast at RIAT with lead aircraft of other display teams from France, Switzerland, Italy and the Breitling jet team. I have been attending Fairford since the early 1980's, however this year will be the first time attending with my wife and two children, this will be quite a different day out to which I have experienced in the past! A review of the trip will follow in the September newsletter.

VULCAN NEWS

XH558 is now well in her stride for the season and completed a great display at Waddington – one of the key Vulcan bases. Now confirmed is the display on 30th August at Shoreham and Bournemouth. However one disappointment is that the people's Vulcan will not be flying at RIAT this weekend so if the Vulcan.

CHARLES ROLLS OF ROLLS-ROYCE

Even in Southbourne, the site of his fatal crash, few people locally are aware of that fateful 12th July in 1910. Rolls was a great pioneer – he co-founded Rolls-Royce Limited in 1906 and encouraged the meeting between the Short and Wright brothers which resulted in the world's first aircraft manufacturing facility. His patronage of the Shorts at a key time ensured their survival and onward progress. A commemoration at the memorial plaque, access from the Broadway, will take place on Saturday at 12.30 with a talk by the author of the recent biography 'Charles Rolls of Rolls-Royce'. The book has a foreword by Lord Montague whose father was a friend of Rolls.

MEMORIAL DAY AT HOLMSLEY SOUTH

The Friends of the New Forest Airfields (FONFA) held a commemoration on 29th June to remember the fallen. As well as the RAF, representatives from the following Air Forces that had flown from New Forest Airfields were present, Australian, Canadian, Czech Republic, and Republic of Slovakia. Canon Ray Hubble took the service which was attended also by local MPs Mayors and Christchurch and Fordingbridge Air Training Corps Squadrons.

Any newsletter contributions, ideas or comments to:

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