



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire presents prestigious Award from Queen to local volunteer group

Air Vice Marshal (Retd) Paul Luker CB OBE AFC DL, Deputy Lieutenant, attended a special ceremony on Thursday 16 October 2014 to present the Farnborough Air Sciences Trust (FAST) with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2014 on behalf of Nigel Atkinson Esq, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire.

The prestigious UK National Honour is the MBE for groups of volunteers who work in their local community for the benefit of others. It sets the national benchmark for excellence in volunteering, with the work of those awarded judged to be of the highest standard.

The group was bestowed with an exclusive commemorative crystal alongside a certificate signed by Her Majesty, in recognition of their outstanding contribution. Group representatives also attended a celebratory Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace earlier in the Summer.

Air Vice Marshal Luker said, 'It is a great pleasure to present this Award to Farnborough Air Sciences Trust. I know that the Award is particularly special for the Trust, being presented on the 106th Anniversary of Samuel Cody's first flight. The work of all FAST's volunteers is a clear demonstration of how effective voluntary effort can be to our community and it has been a great pleasure to help them celebrate their contribution.'

Mr Richard Gardner, Chairman of the FAST Trustees, said, 'To receive such official recognition at the highest national level is an enormous honour for everyone at FAST. As an all-volunteer charity, which has successfully over twenty one years established a world renowned archive, and educational and heritage air sciences facility at Farnborough, the birthplace of British military aviation, this Award should help inspire future generations to help safeguard this precious legacy.'

The group was one of 111 across the country to receive the Honour for 2014. Twenty seven groups from Hampshire have won The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service since it was created by Her Majesty to mark the occasion of her Golden Jubilee in 2002.

For details of all this year's Award winners and information on how to nominate a group, visit www.direct.gov.uk/qavs.

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For further information about the group please contact:

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Note to editors

About The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

In 2002, in celebration of Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee, the Queen's Golden Jubilee Award for Voluntary Service by Groups in the Community was established. Its purpose is to recognise groups of individuals who are giving their time freely for the benefit of others. It is the highest honour that can be bestowed upon groups of this kind and is equivalent in status to the MBE. As such, the Queen's Award not only serves to provide recognition of volunteer groups, but also demonstrates the high respect in which volunteering is held.

The Cabinet Office manages The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Groups must be nominated for the Award – self nomination is not permitted. A group (two or more people) can be nominated if it is based in the UK, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. The group has to have been volunteering for the benefit of people in the UK or overseas for at least three years and more than half its members must be volunteers who have the right of residence in the UK. Groups solely concerned with fundraising for charitable purposes are not eligible. Further details on entrance criteria and the nomination process are available from www.direct.gov.uk/qavs.