

# New RAeS President

**Sir Colin Terry, KBE, CB, BSc(Eng), CEng, FREng, FRSA, FILog, FCGI, FRAeS**

Sir Colin Terry is a member of the Engineering Technology Board (ETB) and was chairman of the Engineering Council UK (ECUK) until 12 May. He became chairman of Meggitt plc in July 2004 and is an advisor to several international aerospace companies. Latterly, he was group md of Inflite Engineering Services at Stansted.

An RAeS Council member since 1999 and Fellow since 1994, Sir Colin became chairman of the Learned Society Board last year. He had a long career in the Royal Air Force, attaining the rank of Air Marshal and Chief Engineer (RAF), Head of Logistics and Commander in Chief of Logistics Command.

Educated at Bridgnorth Grammar School in Shropshire and the Royal Air Force Colleges of Henlow, Cranwell, Bracknell and RCDS, Sir Colin has an Honours Degree from Imperial College in aeronautical engineering, and is currently President of his College Association. He is a member of the Courts of Cranfield University and Imperial College, and sits on The Queen's Award for Enterprise Advisory Panel; he is also a Council Member and Fellow of the City & Guilds of London Institute and a Freeman of the City of London.

He holds a current PPL and, having trained as a military pilot, he has been a Flying Officer in the RAF VR (T) on an Air Experience Flight since 1999 and has flown cadets since 1986. Appointed a KBE and CB (and awarded the OBE for service in the Falklands), he is also a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.



# Farnborough site dedicated

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) founded the Historic Aerospace Sites Program in January 2000 to promote the preservation and recognition of significant aerospace accomplishments. On 22 April this year, the AIAA, the RAeS and the Farnborough Air Sciences Trust (FAST) conducted a ceremony at Trenchard House, Farnborough, to designate Farnborough as an historic site.

Master of Ceremonies was Sir Donald Spiers, RAeS Farnborough Branch President, who conducted the ceremony with honourable guest speakers Colin Balchin, Mayor of Rushmoor; Anthony Springer, AIAA Council Member and Historic Sites Program Chairman; Richard Gardner, FAST Chairman; Dr Donald Richardson, AIAA President; and Gerald Howarth, MP for Aldershot. Other special guests were Mary Fagan, Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire; Air Cdre Bill Tyack, RAeS Farnborough Branch Chairman; Rosemary Balchin, Mayoress of Rushmoor; and Emily Springer, AIAA Staff. In front of nearly 200 guests at the open-air ceremony, as well as various media reporters and a BBC

television crew, Don Richardson delivered a heartfelt address before unveiling the plaque to designate Farnborough as an historic site.

Aerospace excellence at Farnborough began in 1905 when Lt Col James Lethbridge Brooke Templer relocated his Balloon Factory, part of the Army's Corps of Royal Engineers, to Farnborough Common as the new Royal Balloon Factory. Later, the Royal Balloon Factory grew into the Royal Aircraft Factory. On 16 October 1908, Samuel Franklin Cody made the first successful powered, heavier-than-air flight at Farnborough in his Cody 1(b), derived from the Wright Flyer. Samuel Cody is said to have tethered his aeroplane to a tree and attached balances to it to measure thrust. After that tree — the 'Cody Tree' — died, some RAE apprentices made an aluminium replica.

Lord Trenchard, Father of the Royal Air Force, founded the Royal Flying Corps in 1912 and established his headquarters at the former headquarters of the Balloon School of the Royal Engineers, built in 1907. The Royal Flying Corps merged with the Royal Naval Air Service on 1 April 1918 to form the Royal Air Force,

while the Royal Aircraft Factory was renamed the Royal Aircraft Establishment (RAE) to avoid confusion. Lord Trenchard's headquarters, now known as Trenchard House and recognised as the first building associated with the RAF, recently became the home of FAST, housing its office and a museum containing much of the FAST collection.

Over the years, the RAE headquarters, living at Farnborough alongside the Air Accident Investigation Branch, evolved into the Defence Research Agency and then the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, before recently being divided into the private QinetiQ and government-owned Defence Science and Technology Laboratory. Trenchard House is now a listed building, as are the nearby 24-foot wind tunnel and clock tower, where even whole aircraft were tested, and the transonic wind tunnel, which played a major role in the development of Concorde.

Before and after the ceremony, there was plenty of time to tour the diverse and well-cherished FAST collection in the museum.

Other places that the AIAA have



*Left to right: Tony Springer, Emily Springer, Dr Don Richardson, Air Cdre Bill Tyack and Richard Gardner, with Philip Riley and Dr Mike Philpot (RAeS Farnborough Branch Committee Members).*

designated historic sites include the Boeing Red Barn at the Seattle Museum of Flight; Kitty Hawk, North Carolina; Annonay, France, where the first balloon launch took place; and Tranquility Base on the Moon. The AIAA welcomes more nominations for historic sites, including in the UK.

**Craig F. Eckersley,  
RAeS Preston Branch**