



ACHF 2024 Summary

A Jolly Good Year

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

It's been an eventful year for the ACHF and we wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of everything that's been achieved this year thanks to your ongoing support.



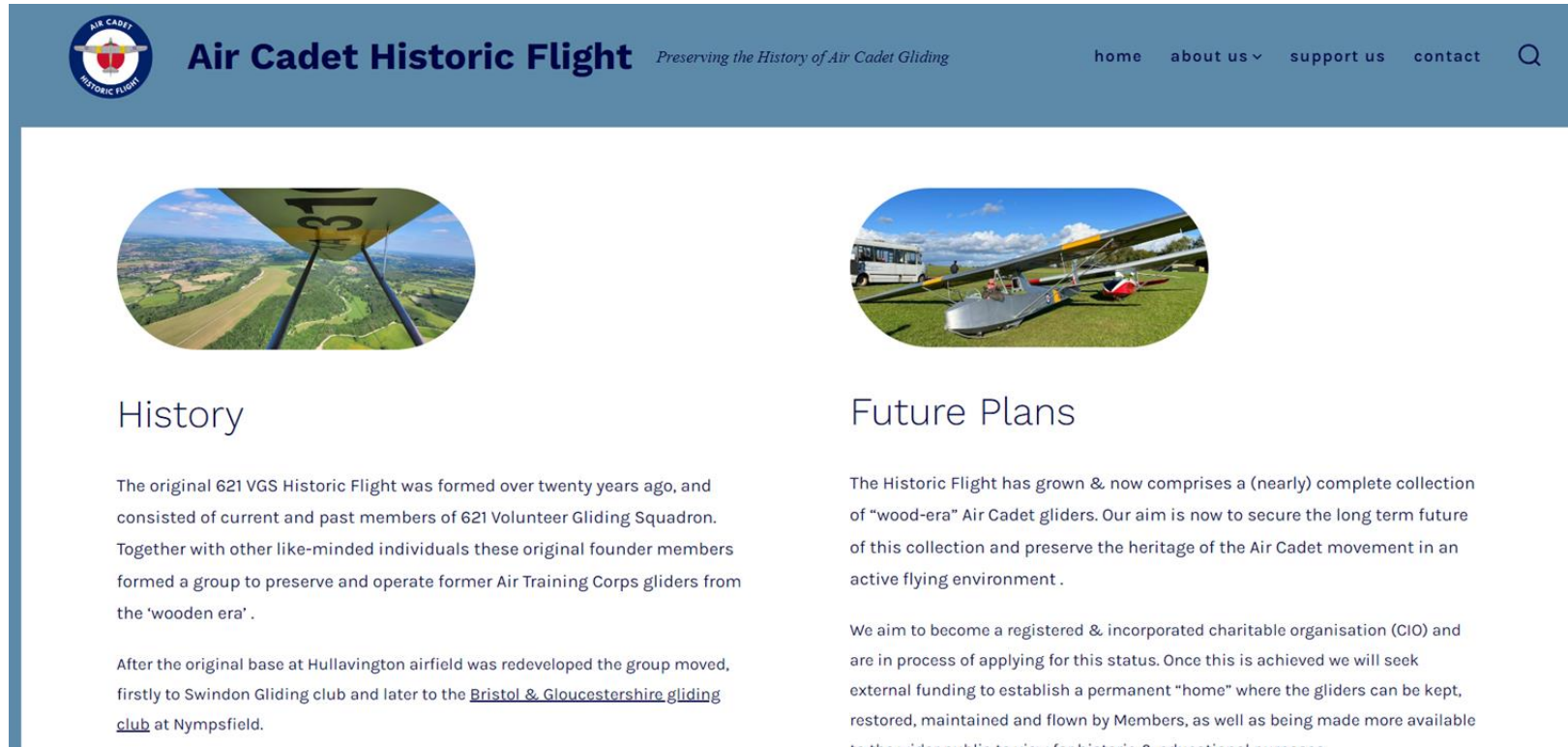
We changed our name and created a brand for ourselves

It wasn't an easy decision removing 621 from our name, but in the spirit of inclusion and wishing to cast our net wider than our 621 VGS comrades, it was absolutely the right choice.

Some have also questioned why we did not use our flagship Sedbergh for the logo. Again, it was felt that the T-31 is actually the more commonly flown aircraft in the Air Cadets and therefore more befitting to our rebrand.



We launched a new website



History

The original 621 VGS Historic Flight was formed over twenty years ago, and consisted of current and past members of 621 Volunteer Gliding Squadron. Together with other like-minded individuals these original founder members formed a group to preserve and operate former Air Training Corps gliders from the 'wooden era'.

After the original base at Hullavington airfield was redeveloped the group moved, firstly to Swindon Gliding club and later to the [Bristol & Gloucestershire gliding club](#) at Nympsfield.

Future Plans

The Historic Flight has grown & now comprises a (nearly) complete collection of "wood-era" Air Cadet gliders. Our aim is now to secure the long term future of this collection and preserve the heritage of the Air Cadet movement in an active flying environment.

We aim to become a registered & incorporated charitable organisation (CIO) and are in process of applying for this status. Once this is achieved we will seek external funding to establish a permanent "home" where the gliders can be kept, restored, maintained and flown by Members, as well as being made more available to the wider public to view for historic & educational purposes.

www.aircadethistoricflight.org.uk



We applied to the Charities Commission to become a CIO

The committee, have been busy beavering away this year submitting an application to the charities commission to become a CIO. It's been a long wait since the application was submitted in July but we finally received a long list of clarifications to respond to in mid-November. We have dutifully responded and hope to be able to share more news in the New Year.

Becoming a CIO is a critical step in being able to secure more funding for the ACHF's future. It will also allow us to claim Gift Aid. Something which you may have noticed we sought your permission for in the latest round of application forms.



We did a static display at DE&S Abbey Wood Families Day



We purchased and erected a trailer tent



and it survived both Storm Bert and Storm Darragh!

We recruited 16 new members this year and increased our BGGC membership to 60%

We are exceedingly grateful to all our new members and are encouraging as many as possible to also join BGGC as associate or full members depending on their activity level with the ACHF.

Don't forget, as a member of the ACHF, you are entitled to 50% off associate membership of BGGC.

In addition, we are keen to recruit more associate ACHF members so please feel free to forward the membership brochure and sign-up form to anyone you feel might be interested!



We had our future vision turned into an artist's impression



Thank you to @maddydraperart

We bid farewell to 621 VGS with our Mk III proudly displayed at the Disbandment Dinner at the Helicopter Museum in W-S-M



We created an ACHF 'Uniform'



Although we agreed the 'targets' on the back of the Mk 1 jackets were a somewhat flawed design!

A central graphic for the ACHF Merchandise Catalogue. At the top is the ACHF logo, a circular emblem with a biplane and the text 'AIR CADET' and 'HISTORIC FLIGHT'. Below the logo is the text 'ACHF Merchandise Catalogue' and the 'Logos logo'. At the bottom are three small photos of people wearing ACHF merchandise: a man in a grey jacket, a man in a light blue shirt, and a woman in a grey jacket.

Soaring in Style



There will be more opportunities to order from the catalogue next year!



We continued to maintain the fleet



We welcomed several visitors including ex-staff cadets and members of FOGIES*



*Former Old Gliding
Instructors Extension
Society



We formed a syndicate to purchase a new land rover!



We are really close to bringing the Grasshopper back to airworthiness



We secured an extra hangar slot for the Prefect



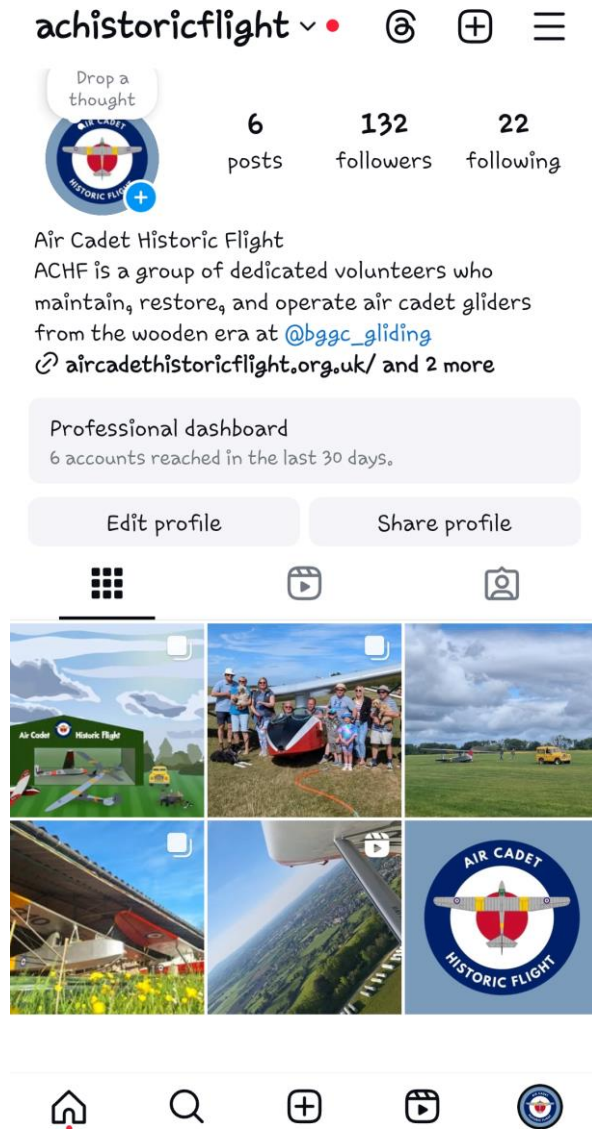
We produced various marketing materials for events



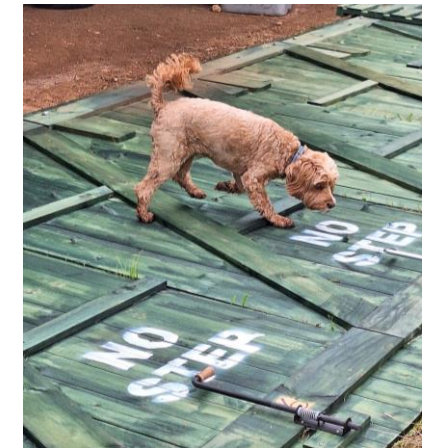
Our Social Media has Grown

We have attempted to post more content on our social media channels and this year started an Instagram account too - @achistoricflight.

If you haven't done so already, please give these pages and profiles a follow and engage/share posts where you see them – this continues to boost our exposure.



Most importantly – we had fun whilst doing all of these things!



Your Committee

It's been a while since we've published anything containing the names and roles of the current committee. Naturally, should our CIO application be successful these roles will be formally re-elected. The committee meets monthly to discuss a standing agenda to ensure the smooth running of the ACHF.

Chairman & Chief Pilot – Adam Clarke
Vice-Chairman – Geoff Beard
Secretary – Julian Rees

Treasurer – John Williams
Operations – Daryl Mansbridge



What will next year bring?

- A static display at the Abingdon Air & Country Show on Saturday 14th June 2025.
- A continuation of our 'HF Days' - planning to regularly meet on each 1st Saturday and 3rd Wednesday of the month.
- More scheduled visits from both current and ex-air cadets.
- Growing our associate membership and continuing to secure our future.

Watch this space to find out more.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support.

