

Crowdfunding bid to help recover wartime artefacts

A SPECIAL reception at Pembroke Dock Heritage Centre saw the launch of a unique aviation project and a fundraising initiative to help raise more for a wartime Sunderland flying boat, which sank 75 years ago.

On view for the first time was the impressive full size replica Sunderland cockpit.

And the Square Knot crowdfunding website has been set up to raise money for the recovery of Sunderland T9044 from Haven.

The RAF's air officer for Wales, Air Commodore Adrian Williams, made a return visit to view the cockpit project, and was joined by service veterans and representatives of local organisations.

They were welcomed by Gareth Mills, chairman of Pembroke Dock Sunderland Trust, which runs the centre. The cockpit project, he said, was funded through the MoD Community Covenant and he praised the team involved in creating the replica.

By Telegraph Reporter

whnews@westerntelegraph.co.uk
Twitter @WTelegraph

"It has been constructed entirely by volunteers. There were no plans, only photographs and the knowledge of those volunteers who actually worked on Sunderlands."

"It has involved a lot of volunteers but special thanks must go to Rik Saldanha, who is leading the project, and to Paul Tomlinson, Baz Clark, Peter Sherwood, Mike James, Chris Howell, Colin Evans, Ron Boreham and Graham Clarkson."

The crowdfunding website is a major fundraising initiative with the aim of raising much more for Sunderland T9044.

See details sunderlandtrust.com/crowd-funding/

Guests received a special fundraising pack. Call on 01646 684220, email enquiries@sunderlandtrust.com for further details.



Air Commodore Adrian Williams on the Sunderland cockpit flight deck with Rik Saldanha (left) and Ron Boreham. Ron served on Sunderlands in the 1950s. PICTURE: Martin Caverney Photography