

# The Affray Submarine Memorial Trust

## Progress Update No. 2

The Affray Memorial Fund has now become a "Trust" and is registered in Guernsey, Channel Islands as a Charity. The registration number is CH389. The deposit bank account has also been set up and we welcome donations towards installing the memorial plaque and paying for its upkeep. Donations can be made directly from any UK branch of the NatWest Bank, the details are:

**NatWest Bank, Account Name "Affray Submarine Memorial Trust",  
Account Number 74320025, Sort Code 60-09-20**

Anyone who wishes to contribute financially by making a donation towards the initial cost and upkeep of the "Affray" plaque may now do so by credit transfer. Payments should be in favour of "The Affray Submarine Memorial Trust". Please support the Trust, so that our goal of installing the plaque in Alderney can be achieved in time for the 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the loss, which will be on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

The formal Planning Permission for the plaque has now been granted by the States of Alderney. We can now proceed to the "Building Regulations" stage and submit a design for the foundations that will support the stone plinth. One of the aims of the Trust is that the plaque should be located in an easily accessible public place. This will enable future generations to conveniently see the plaque, be aware of the Affray story and understand the sacrifices that were made. The stone (with the plaque attached), will weigh almost six tons! We are delighted that the States of Alderney has seen fit to endorse our endeavours and henceforth the memorial will be prominently displayed in a significant public location. We will also be arranging public liability indemnity insurance, to take effect as soon as the plaque is erected. A local building surveyor has also been appointed to carry out annual maintenance inspections on the monument, to make sure it is always in good condition and in a fit state of repair. The order has now been given to the casting foundry in Sheffield, for the pattern making and bronze casting of the plaque. This will take about a month to make, then it will be shipped off to the stone mason in Guernsey. When the stone plinth is being carved, the holes for the bolt fixings will be made and a trial fitting of the plaque will take place. The completed stone will then be shipped over to Alderney and placed on the prepared foundations during the weekend of Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April next year. A weekend has been chosen for this activity, as the adjacent road is narrow at this point and the delivery lorry will obstruct public access. Consequently, a temporary road closure has therefore been arranged for a quiet day traffic-wise, so that the plinth can be unloaded safely. The "Time Capsule" (with its contents!) will be placed in the base of the stone plinth on the Sunday morning at about 11:00 am.

We have diligently checked and double-checked that the inscriptions on the plaque will be correct and absolutely accurate in all respects. It is a sad fact that the two existing UK National memorials which mention the "Affray" crew by name, both have errors of omission and spelling mistakes. This is a deplorable situation and it is highly disrespectful to the memory of the Affray, its brave crew and the training party who all died while serving their country. The Alderney monument will therefore be the only one that is truly accurate, as well as being displayed in an appropriate coastal setting, where the plaque can be freely seen in a prominent public place. The orientation of the monument will be such, that the observer reading the plaque will also have a direct view out to sea and the last resting place of the Affray.

If you are planning to come over from the UK mainland to Alderney for the ceremony, Aurigny Airways have frequent flights from several major airports to Alderney (via. Guernsey) and tickets for April 2012 are now on sale. If anyone intends to use this option, it is highly recommended that bookings are made as early as possible, because the seating capacity is very limited on these flights. The Aurigny Airways website can be found at [www.aurigny.com](http://www.aurigny.com) Last April, when a small group of us sailed out on the motor boat for the wreath laying ceremony, the sun shone all day and the sea in the English Channel was as calm and flat as the proverbial "mill pond". Later that day, we debated a plan to erect a memorial to the Affray on Alderney, while sitting on the outdoor deck of the Braye Beach Hotel and gazing out to sea. Let us hope that when we all gather again at the same location next year, the weather will hopefully be just as wonderful, by way of blessing our endeavours. We shall of course be thinking of those 75 souls that might be looking down on us, when we pay our respects by laying wreaths on the waters and unveiling the memorial. Our only regret will be that it will

have taken 61 years to achieve the objective of erecting a dedicated Affray memorial. Let us wish that history will look favourably upon us and hopefully the culmination of our efforts will be a suitable atonement. Continued public awareness of the Affray tragedy is the only gift that we can give to those who perished on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1951.

If you want to attend the events, the only critical things for you to consider are the travel and hotel details to suit your particular requirements. If you are travelling from the mainland UK, the ideal plan would be to fly from a local airport to Alderney via Guernsey. If you go to the Aurigny Air Services website at [www.aurigny.com](http://www.aurigny.com) you can view the flight options and fares. I recommend that you make the booking as early as possible, as these flights get filled up very quickly and the fares increase the closer they get to the take-off date. Alderney is a small island with only one small town, but there are several good hotels and guest houses available, most of which are within walking distance of where the memorial will be unveiled. I have attached a list of the contact details of all these hotels/guest houses, in case you need them. If you don't have internet access, please write to me at the address given above. However, I work overseas most of the year and it may take some time for me to reply to you.

For placing items within the "Time Capsule", any contributions of suitable artifacts (such as letters or photographs) will be very welcome. Items should be unfolded, not stapled and no bigger than A4 size paper, in order to fit inside the capsule. If you can't attend in person for the ceremony, please enquire at the e-mail address below for details of a postal address where artifacts can be posted in advance. We will then place all the items into the capsule on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2012, when it will be sealed and buried in the foundations of the monument at about 11:00 am.

We look forward to meeting all our friends and relatives of the Affray crew in Alderney from Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2012. Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> are the recommended "flying days" from/to the UK mainland, but if you are on a limited schedule, the main activities will be as follows:

- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April, laying the time capsule in the monument foundations at about 11:00 am
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April, unveiling the memorial plaque at 10:00 am
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April, boat trip to the Affray wreck site for the wreath laying, departing Braye Harbour at 09:30 am

If you intend to take part in the wreath laying ceremony at sea, please let us know as soon as possible (see e-mail address below), because the seating capacity on the motor boat is strictly limited to 12 passengers only. The boat is fitted with a seabed scanning sonar, so it will be possible to "see" the outline of the Affray on the monitor. This will be the first ever opportunity for relatives and friends to participate in an organised wreath laying at the wreck site.

We are ordering some poppy wreaths direct from the Royal British Legion workshops, which will cost 20 pounds each. These wreaths are a special "floating" type with waterproof poppies for laying at sea and they will incorporate the "Affray" crest in the centre. Let me know if you want to purchase one of these wreaths. There will also be an opportunity to bring your own standard poppy wreaths and lay them at the memorial when it is unveiled. If you want to have one of these please let me know, or you can just bring some flowers if you prefer. There is a local flower shop conveniently in Alderney, the name is Alderney Nurseries Flower Shop, 21, Victoria Street, Alderney GY9 3TA, telephone 01481-822807 ask for Leigh Newton, or e-mail [alderneynurseries@cwgsy.net](mailto:alderneynurseries@cwgsy.net) You will have to order your flower requirements in advance for collection on the morning of Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April or for delivery c/o the Braye Beach hotel. The deadline will be 09:30 for collections or deliveries, as the ceremony starts at 10:00.

For further information or any other specific enquiries, please refer by e-mail to Martin Allen at [martinallen01@hotmail.com](mailto:martinallen01@hotmail.com) Any relatives, dependents or friends of the Affray are all very welcome to attend the unveiling ceremony. Please contact Martin to request a copy of the proposed itinerary. Impartial advice on availability of public transport options from the UK mainland and hotel accommodation in Alderney is also available if required.

*Martin Allen, Volunteer Secretary of the Affray Submarine Memorial Trust*