

Les White - Co-founder of FONFA

It is with sadness that we record the passing of Les White at the age of 92.

Les was one of the original Trustees, who set up the Charity in the 1990s. Further details will be listed here, when they are received.



FONFA Trustees in 2002 (left to right)

Standing: Les White, John Brooks, Charles McKenzie

Seated: Ann Baily, John Lay, Betty Hockey, Bernard Baily

(Les White, Charles McKenzie, Ann Baily, Betty Hockey and Bernard Baily are all now deceased)

Leslie R White 1928 - 2021

An Obituary by John Brooks

Les was the principal fountain of an idea to build a memorial to the 12 Airfields based in the New Forest during WWII

Amongst his many talents ranging from gardener through after school working at a sheet metal factory in New Milton/ Air Cadet/RAF service/Air Observer/shop keeper in Highcliffe then becoming a Magistrate and a very talented author.

Amongst the books he published locally was "The Lure of the Blue" which featured his story being told as a young boy growing up in the New Forest during WWII. At the time of the story Les was living New Milton.

This book was read by a farmer in Bransgore, Mr Bernard Baily, he was so impressed by the story that he contacted Les and arranged to meet him.

Les told Bernard that it was his intention to construct a Cairn memorial in Lyndhurst car park using material from the 12 airfields, Bernard suggested that as he had land on the edge of Holmsley airfield he would donate a site to build a permanent Portland Stone memorial that his friend Basil White who lived in Sopley, a retired Architect who was very interested in helping out, could design and arrange the planning application. So FONFA was set up.

This was agreed and a Charity was set up seeking donations which then took place and the Charity being funded and ultimately registered by the Charity Commission in 1997. Eventually with Les appointed as the Chairman ultimately the memorial was dedicated on August 16th 2002 with an attendance of over 1500 persons present aided by a flyover of the Red Arrows on a date arranged by Les.

Les continued as Chairman and conducting the annual re dedication services at the memorial until he decided to stand down in 2006 and retired and I took over as Chairman as well as being the Treasure