



Conference

Friday 14th June 2019

Omev Suite,
Station House Hotel,
Clifden,
Co. Galway

**EVENT
COST**

€20

INCLUDES
TEA/COFFEE
& LUNCH



Programme

10.00am ~ 10.30am	Registration & Tea/Coffee
10.30am ~ 10.45am	Official Opening <i>by Group Captain A.J.H. Alcock MBE, RAF (Retired)</i>
10.45am ~ 11.30am	"Alcock and Brown - Dispelling the Myths" <i>by Kevin Glynn</i>
11.30am ~ 12.15pm	"Colonel James Fitzmaurice and the First East-west Transatlantic Flight 1928" <i>by Teddy Fennelly</i>
12.15pm ~ 12.30pm	Questions and Answers Session
12.30pm ~ 1.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm ~ 2.15pm	"Irish Air Corps ~ The History of Military Aviation in Ireland" <i>by Brigadier General Rory O'Connor</i>
2.15pm ~ 3.00pm	"Alcock & Brown: Archives and Artefacts in the RAF Museum's Collections" <i>by Peter Elliott</i>
3.00pm ~ 3.15pm	Tea/Coffee
3.15pm ~ 3.45pm	The Role of Irish Airports in Irish Aviation "On a Wing and a Prayer, the Story of an Iconic West of Ireland Airport" <i>by Joe Gilmore</i> "Shannon Airport - Europe's No. 1 Technical Stop for Business Jets on the North Atlantic with a History of Aviation Firsts" <i>by Joe Buckley</i>
3.45pm ~ 4.30pm	Moderated Session to deal with 'The Past, Present & Future of Irish Aviation' <i>Moderator: Senator Pádraig Ó Céidigh</i>

Biographies

Group Captain A.J.H. Alcock MBE, RAF (Retired)



Inspired by the aviation careers of his Uncle and Father, Tony grew up wanting to fly. While at senior school he joined the Air Training Corps and qualified as a glider pilot at 16 and a single engine Pilot at 17. Tony joined the RAF at 19 and was flying Lightnings at 22. Notable assignments were: 3 years Exchange officer duties with the USAF serving on 43 Tactical Fighter Sqn, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska; Phantom specialist officer at the Central Tactics and Trials Organization (he was awarded an MBE for this work); flew a specially painted RAF Phantom to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Alcock and

Brown, 60 years of Rolls Royce powered flight and 30 years of NATO: Head of the NATO Tactical Evaluations Division, Europe. He served in the RAF for 35 years and flew mainly Lightnings and Phantoms, but also did conversion training to fly helicopters. Command posts included 29 (F) Sqn and 23 (F) Sqn; RAF Wattisham and RAF Mount Pleasant, Falklands. He is married with 2 children and a grandson.

Kevin Glynn



Kevin Glynn qualified in electronic engineering in the early 1980s before the word PC was invented.

He ran a computer and software company for 30 years before changing career to film making.

In the last 10 years, Kevin has made several documentaries, a feature film and many award-winning short films. As a young teen, Kevin's interest in Aviation started with model aeroplanes, which he still flies. Kevin qualified as a microlight Pilot Instructor and in 2011 published a book VFR Flight Guide -

Ireland. He owns a full-size aeroplane - an Aeroprakt Foxbat, and has flown all over Europe, even over the Alps. Kevin was featured in the RTE TV program 'Plane Crazy' - which he is!

Lecture: "Alcock and Brown- Dispelling the myths."

The truth is sometimes stranger than fiction and in the case of Alcock and Brown, the myths that have grown around their achievement have hidden from view a very compelling real story.

Kevin will examine some of the myths and explain what really happened and this will be framed by aviation feats before and after. This compelling story will be delivered in a fun-filled, multi-media, action-packed presentation.

Biographies

Teddy Fennelly



Teddy Fennelly was Managing Editor of the Leinster Express for 20 years and was a Director and Media Consultant with the Leinster Leader Group of Newspapers that included the Limerick Leader titles Dundalk Democrat, Tallaght Echo as well as the Leinster Leader, Offaly Express and Leinster Express. He is a member of the Chartered Institute of Transport and Logistics. Currently President of Laois Heritage Society and Chairman of the Laois Heritage Forum, Teddy has written numerous books, mainly historical and biographical, including the biography of Ireland's most famous aviator, Col

James Fitzmaurice, titled *Fitz and the Famous Flight*, published in 1998. Col Fitzmaurice, in 1928, was co-pilot on *The Bremen*, the first airplane to fly the Atlantic east to west.

He is currently in the process of restoring the first aircraft built and flown in the Republic of Ireland (a monoplane built in 1909 by the Aldritts, a family of motor engineers of Portlaoise) which he repatriated from a private museum in the south of England where it had been housed for the past 40 years.

Lecture: "Colonel James Fitzmaurice and the first east-west transatlantic flight 1928."

Alcock and Brown flew the Atlantic in 1919, a mere 16 years after the first sustained flight by the Wright brothers in 1903. Because of a much greater degree in difficulty, mainly due to the prevailing winds, it took another nine years for the ocean to be flown in the other direction. All attempts by aviators from various countries ended in failure, many with tragic consequences.

But the Atlantic was finally conquered in both directions when a Junkers W33, *The Bremen*, took off from the Irish Air Corps base at Baldonnell on Thursday, 12 April 1928 and landed on American soil at Greenly Island, off Newfoundland, 36 hours later. The crew consisted of two German aviators, Capt. Hermann Koehl and Baron von Huenefeld, and the Irish co-pilot, Comdt (later Col) James Fitzmaurice.

Teddy Fennelly tells the fascinating story of Ireland's most renowned aviator, known popularly as Fitz, and his flight into aviation history.

Biographies

Brigadier General Rory O'Connor, General Officer Commanding Air Corps



Brigadier General Rory O'Connor had always wanted to be a military pilot and joined the Irish Air Corps as an Apprentice in 1982 at the age of 18, prior to obtaining an Air Corps Cadetship in 1986. After commissioning as a 2/Lt in 1988, he commenced his Wings' Course and qualified for his military pilot's wings in 1989. He qualified as a QFI in 1990 and instructed in the Flying Training School for a number of years, flying the SIAI Marchetti and Fouga Magister, and he also had the opportunity to fly as part of the Silver Swallows. He moved into air transport in 1997, flying the King Air 200 before converting to the Gulfstream G-IV in 1998, where he spent most of his subsequent flying career. Brigadier General Rory O'Connor was also very fortunate to be involved in the project that selected the Pilatus PC-9M as our future training aircraft and was in charge of its introduction into service in 2004.

Following his staff course in 2005, he has held numerous appointments in Operations and Support functions in Air Corps HQ, as Wing Commander No 1 Ops Wing and he also served overseas in EUFOR Tchad in 2008.

Lecture: "Irish Air Corps – The history of military aviation in Ireland."

Peter Elliott



Peter Elliott is the RAF Museum's first Curator Emeritus, having retired in 2016 after more than 31 years with the Museum. His final position was as Head of Archives, responsible for the Museum's two-dimensional collections. In his earlier career, Peter worked as a technical librarian, including two years at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough. He has been a member of the Royal Aeronautical Society's Historical Group Committee since 1998, and Chairman since 2012. He is currently studying for a PhD, focused on the development of aviation museums in the UK.

Lecture: "Alcock & Brown: archives and artefacts in the RAF Museum's collections."

The RAF Museum holds Arthur Whitten Brown's archive, together with other documents relating to the two transatlantic fliers, items of equipment used on the flight and some of the awards they received. These will be described and illustrated. The lecture will also give an indication of material held by the RAFM dealing with Irish personnel who served in the Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force.

Biographies

Joe Gilmore



Joe has responsibility for the ongoing development of Ireland West Airport Knock, involving attracting new routes and business, involvement in the development of improved infrastructure for the region for economic growth and building upon being the gateway to the West of Ireland and the “airport of choice” for business and leisure travelers across the West, North West and Midlands regions. Joe qualified with an honors degree in Physics/Electronics and also an MBA, and has over 20 years’ experience in senior management positions held in both multinational global businesses and Irish-owned private and public sector organisations.

Lecture: “On a Wing and a Prayer, the Story of an Iconic West of Ireland Airport.”

Joe Buckley



Joe joined Shannon Airport in 1978 and has held a number of executive roles within Airport Operations and Business Development. His current position is Business Relations Manager.

He was an early advocate of extending US preclearance to Business Aviation and played a key role in the subsequent opening of the world’s first US preclearance facility at Shannon Airport. This allows passengers on Business Jets to preclear US Immigration & Customs at Shannon and fly directly to over 200 US airports

His work in developing preclearance for business aviation was recognised at an international level when he was named by the prestigious magazine Aviation Week, as one of the top European Business Aviation Leaders for 2013. He was the first Irish person to receive this honour.

He has positioned Shannon as the number one airport on the North Atlantic for technical stops by Business Jets and has actively promoted the development of a Centre of Excellence for Business Aviation.

Biographies

Since the early 80's he has also been involved at a national and international level on a number of issues of strategic importance to Shannon and served as a Director on the Shannon Airport Authority Board from 2004 until 2011.

In 2012 he was appointed by the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport to the Shannon Change Management Task Force. In 2013 he was reappointed by the Minister as a Director on the Shannon Group Board and served until August 2018.

He works closely with both political and commercial VIP's to develop relationships which will provide an overall long term business and strategic benefit for the Shannon Group. He is the Shannon representative on a number of international aviation industry associations and has worked with these groups on various developments such as Business Aviation preclearance.

Lecture: "Shannon Airport - Europe's No. 1 Technical Stop for Business Jets on the North Atlantic with a History of Aviation Firsts"

Senator Pádraig Ó Céidigh



Pádraig is an Independent Senator. He is the rapporteur of the Public Consultation Committee for SMEs and currently a member of the Joint Committee on Transport, Tourism & Sport and the Public Consultation Committee. He chaired the Joint Committee on the Future Funding of Domestic Water Services. He is the founder of Aer Arann Express and Aer Lingus Regional. A fluent Gaelic speaker and Connemara native, Pádraig received his third level education in NUIG before having careers in accountancy, teaching and as a solicitor. Pádraig is also a Harvard University

Alumni. He was named Ernst and Young Irish Entrepreneur of the Year and represented Ireland in the World Entrepreneur of the Year and the former Chair of the Alumni Board. He chaired the Judging Panel for the Irish Entrepreneur of the Year until 2014, and a member of the EY World Judging Panel. He is an Adjunct Professor of Entrepreneurship and Business in NUIG and board member of Croke Park Teo.

Friday 14th June 2019

To reserve a place on this conference please register now...



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It is an action of Galway County Council's Heritage & Biodiversity Plan 2017 - 2021



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

