

Visit to HeliOps, Somerton Thursday 23 May 2024

By Rosanne Crowther.



Sea King HC4 ZE427, at Merryfield and bathed in golden evening sunshine, June 2015. © Richard Macauley

Rosanne has very skilfully procured a visit to the Maintenance and Storage facility of the HeliOps organisation at Somerton, Somerset.

Despite the fact that the Fleet Air Arm has not flown the venerable Sea King since 2018, the familiar shape of this aircraft can still be seen in Somerset skies after the 'out-of-service' date.

Perhaps more widely known and seen are the aircraft of the Historic Helicopters organisation whose aim is to preserve and restore to flying condition, vintage Military Helicopters. A very enjoyable visit was made to their facility in May last year.

But returning to HeliOps, they are a highly successful company that has a demonstrable track record of aircrew and groundcrew training, with both live flying-training from its own heliport at Portland and overseas; and also synthetic training on the simulator facility at Culdrose. All this based around the Sea King airframe but also some other aircraft types.

As the Sea King is still operational with some Air Arms around the world, HeliOps has an important role with a niche market in continuing to train personnel still involved in flying and maintaining this aircraft type.

VISITS FORM

Please complete this form and return it to **Rosanne Crowther, SoFFAAM Visits Co-Ordinator, St David's, 5 Church Close, Martock, Somerset, TA12 6DS** no later than **Sunday 14 May 2024**. A donation of £10.00 per person is requested for this visit. You can pay by BACS using Society of Friends Fleet Air Arm Museum. Sort Code 30-99-98. Account Number 00857987. Please use your 'surname/HeliOps' as a reference.

A cheque is also acceptable, payable to SoFFAAM accompanying this form. Alternatively, you can pay cash on the day.

Photocopies of this form are acceptable if you do not wish to tear out this form from your copy of Jabberwock. You can also download a copy from the SoFFAAM website.

www.fleetairarmfriends.org.uk

HeliOps Somerton

Their location is just South of Somerton on Jubilee Trading Estate
Jubilee Park, Badger's Cross Lane, Somerton, Somerset TA11 7JF

The post code will get you to Jubilee Park with your SatNav and HeliOps is in the Northern part of this Trading Estate.

You must be at the site for a 10:30 start and ready for the introduction to the HeliOps organisation and we will be shown around by the General Manager. The visit will last approximately 1.5 hours. Visit their website for more information about this company

www.helioperations.co/locations/somerton/

We are only allowed 15 guests so this visit is restricted to Members only.

Name	Address	Tel No.	Membership No.	Paid

Lunch

For those who wish to join in a group lunch, we are going to The White Hart, Market Place, Somerton, TA11 7LX after the HeliOps visit. The cost is £12.00 per head for a mixed platter of sandwiches, crisps, tea or coffee. Please make your payment out for £22.00 if you want to join in the Lunch.

Please tick this Box to be included in the Lunch

Please advise if you have any dietary requirements

If you have any questions, please contact Rosanne Crowther on: 01935 822143