

# RAF in the sights of bursary winner Ollie

by Helen Devonshire

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ONE of this year's James Whalley Memorial Bursary winners wants to follow in the footsteps of his grandfather and become an RAF pilot.

Ollie Hudson was one of the winners of the Guernsey Aero Club's annual 'try and fly' bursaries.

The winning five were chosen from a record number of entries and the others were Aaron Coulson, Nicola Lloyd, Lynda Gray and Nicolai Allen.

The would-be pilots, aged between 16 and 40 years, include students and a doctor.

The five recipients were announced at the Aero Club's open day, which saw another record with more than 600 people coming through the club's gates.

Aero Club chairman Patrick Millar said it was particularly pleasing to see so many more children and young adults showing an interest in aviation.

'While there is a smorgasbord of career options open to school leavers now, it's great to see a rekindling of interest in what may be considered more traditional roles like pilot, firefighter and even a role with the armed services,' he said.

'The bursary is a unique opportunity for Guernsey residents, thanks to the ongoing generosity of the Whalley family, who hope to inspire others to love flying as much as their son James did.'

In the last five years 25 Guernsey people have obtained their private pilot's li-



**Ollie Hudson, left, was one of the five recipients of the James Whalley Memorial Bursary for this year. He is pictured with Guernsey Aero Club chairman Patrick Millar.**

cence on the island through the Aero Club's Flight Training School, which operates all year round.

Elizabeth College student Ollie, 17, said he was very happy when he found out he was a recipient of the bursary.

'I've been interested in flying for a long time, partly because my grandad was an RAF pilot in the Second World War. I was extremely happy when I found out I received a bursary because it means I am able to do more flying and gain more experience which will help me in the future.'

'The bursary will help me continue to learn how to fly as I have had one trial lesson for my 17th birthday and I am very keen to develop my knowledge and skills.'

He hopes to make flying a career and would like to join the RAF as a pilot after university.

Mr Coulson, 18, works at ASG.

'I have always had an interest in flying since I was younger but only in the past couple of years has it really become a big interest of mine and something I have become very enthusiastic about doing.'

He was really happy when he found out he was picked as one of the winners.

Mr Coulson said the bursary would help as it would enable him to learn more by having lessons and allow him to gain more flying hours.

'In the future I would love to have a career as a pilot as it is something that interests me greatly and although it would be a difficult job, it would also be a very rewarding job.'

The Whalley family started the scheme in memory of their son James, a commercial pilot who died in an avalanche in 2011.