

2012

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Town pays tribute to historic efforts

by Graham Brown

THE CONTRIBUTION of different generations tied by a bond to Arbroath was marked at a special service yesterday.

The Signal Tower Museum hosted an ecumenical service commemorating the folk involved in building the Bell Rock Lighthouse in 1811 and the people of the burgh for their Second World War effort to buy the Red Lichte Spitfire.

Low cloud put paid to plans for a flypast by one of the iconic aircraft and a Dakota from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, but people who gathered at the seafront were treated to the sight of two Vampire jets passing just off the Angus coast.

Arbroath lifeboat Inchcape and the station's inshore craft were also launched on exercise as part of the afternoon tribute.

Angus Provost Helen Oswald said it was fitting that plaques marking such important aspects of local history should be unveiled together.

"These two different plaques are unconnected in what they mark, but both have a very special and close association with the town," she said.

The Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) in Scotland commissioned the Bell Rock plaque to honour the men involved in the construction of Robert Stevenson's structure.

"The Bell Rock Lighthouse was built on

a dangerous rock, 11 miles out to sea and as such it is one of the most significant engineering achievements in modern history," said Professor Roland Paxton, from ICE.

"The masonry work on which the lighthouse stands hasn't had to be replaced for 200 years, which shows the high standard of its construction."

In the second unveiling, RAF Squadron Leader Jonathon Greenhowe, whose family are from the town, revealed a refurbished Wings for Victory plaque commemorating the efforts of the people of Arbroath in raising £5,000 for the Red Lichte Spitfire EP 121.

Ex-Arbroath publican and former Spitfire pilot Bert Drummond (89) was



among the invited guests at the service.

Mrs Oswald said: "I am honoured, on behalf of Angus Council, to accept the gift of the plaque from the Institution of Civil Engineers and have been delighted to meet many special guests, including Mr Drummond."

Squadron Leader Greenhowe and Mrs Oswald at the ceremony.
Picture: Kris Miller.