

HAMPSHIRE HEDGEHOPPER

February 2017

The 'Last' Official Newsletter of the LAA Andover Strut

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Chairman's Chatter.....

Well, this is it, the last issue of the Hedgehopper as we know it..... perhaps for the time being at least. As the committee have not been inundated with editorial volunteers we have decided to take a rest from this format and in future we will just issue a short e-mail letting you know of Strut activities and any important issues on a monthly basis. However, if anyone feels so inclined to pick-up the editorial baton and breathe new life back into the Hedgehopper please let us know.

Following last month's excellent talk by Richie Piper on the antics of Hans and the GWDT we had a whip around for a cause close to Richie's heart. The daughter of a close friend, Hannah Cubin, passed away unexpectedly and her parents set up a collection in support of Hants & IOW Air Ambulance. The collection on the evening amassed some £120+ for the Air Ambulance which the Strut has increased to £150.

Strut Winter Programme

A quick summary of the program for our winter season.

February – a change of plan for our February evening, we welcome Keith Vinning from PilotAware for 'An Evening with PilotAware'. This new hi-tech device is designed to keep us all safe whilst flying and to avoid, amongst other things, that accidental trip into controlled airspace and the CAA inquisition that may follow.

In March we will be having an insight into Airships of the 21st Century. Paul, a fellow strut member, has arranged that his friend Robin Hexhouse will join us to talk to us about the new airships that we may see in the skies in the future. Robin works on the Airlander project currently at Cardington.

April's title will be Biggles Bi-plane. A second visit from Steve Slater, this time without his CEO hat on. Steve will give us a talk on his involvement on the rebuilding of the BE-2 look-alike.

And then we come to the AGM, your opportunity to have *your* say about how *your* strut is run.....

Strut Summer Program

As we get ready for summer we have some ideas that you may enjoy...

- The June Strut evening will again be our traditional Bums-on-Seats night followed by Fish & Chips.
- July and August will see us firing up the BBQ, possibly for a fly and natter evening (weather permitting), with additional activities if possible, and
- then we return to our Autumn/Winter evenings, planning for which is advancing nicely.

Possible Strut activities in addition to the Strut evenings include...

- 29th/30th April Popham Microlight Trade Fair
- 1st April Popham Aero/Auto Jumble and Classic Car Rally
- 21st May Andover Strut Flyin at Popham
- We also hope to have our fly-in at Barton Ashes and one at either Old Sarum or Middle Wallop – but these latter two options have yet to be confirmed.

- Possible Strut Fly-Out to Stow Maries and/or a group visit to the FAST Museum at Farnborough.
- LA Sywell Rally – once again we will offer to run the campsite. This is becoming increasingly difficult due to the low number of strut volunteers, so if we are to continue we need some additional assistance.

Chart Update

I'm sure that many of us fly more safely and accurately by using electronic gizmos and apps these days but believe it or not it is still a CAA requirement that we all fly with an up-to-date chart. Well, the Southern England Half-Mil Issue 43 is due out at the beginning of March. Popham will be getting a supply in stock next month. Make sure you're up-to-date.....

Wessex Strut Anniversary Fly-In

This year The Wessex Strut are holding their 40th Anniversary fly-in at Henstridge on Sunday 23rd April, put the date in your diary if you wish to attend.

The event is open from 10.00am to 5.00pm with free landings, while discounted fuel (AVGAS and UL91) will be offered on the day.

They are also inviting a local vintage motor bike club to attend and line their bikes up for show, as well as modern and vintage aircraft from various clubs and owners. The airfield based company Aircraft Coverings who represent Poly Fiber will also be on hand to give demonstrations and talk with aircraft owners. The LAA will be in attendance meeting LAA members in the marquee. Food and drink from the kitchen including all day breakfasts, curry and more, will be available.

Please refer to their website www.wessex.strut.org.uk nearer the time for joining details and circuit patterns. You will need to get a code from the website before you leave home, and quote it when first calling up the airfield please. The airfield will be closed from 1.00 - 2.00pm so that spectators and pilots can walk around the visiting aeroplanes, so please keep this in mind.



The Strut Committee or Who's Who

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