

HAMPSHIRE HEDGEHOPPER



March 2017

The Official Newsletter of the LAA Andover Strut

This is YOUR newsletter. If you would like to contribute or pass some interesting news on – please get in contact. If you are currently working on a project or have a friend currently working on a project, and have a few pictures – please share them with us.

Chairman's Chatter.....

A very short bit from me this month as Craig, our new volunteer newsletter editor, wants to get the presses rolling early.

Firstly, a big Thank-You to Craig for stepping up and taking on the role of editor. I was reluctant to have to reduce the style of the Hedgehopper but I really did believe that it was time for some new blood at the helm. Obviously Craig will develop it as he sees fit, but one thing he will need is the support of you, the Strut members. So if you have any suitable articles, stories, photos etc. please send them to Craig, his details will be elsewhere in this newsletter.

We have a potentially busy time in the Strut soon. We want to have a presence at the Microlight Trade Fair, our pitches are already reserved. This year sees some exciting changes both in layout and content, so please do volunteer to assist over the weekend. Obviously the weekend finishes with the Aero/Auto Jumble on the Monday and a presence there would also be useful to promote both the LAA and the Strut.

Anyway that's all from me I can hear the presses whirring away already.....
Bob

Andover Strut Winter Programme

Monday 13 March 2017: Airships of the 21st Century

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.

Monday 10 April 2017: 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.

Monday 8 May 2017: Annual General Meeting

Your opportunity to have *your* say about how *your* strut is run. Please do come along with your comments, questions and feedback.

Andover Strut Summer Program

Monday 12 June 2017:

Our traditional Bums-on-Seats night followed by Fish & Chips.

Monday 10 July 2017:

We will be firing up the BBQ, possibly for a fly and natter evening (weather permitting), with additional activities if possible

Monday 14 August 2017:

Our winter evening programs start again. Do you know any interesting people, projects or planes that would be able to put on an interesting evening talk? If so, please let us know!

Key dates for the diary:

Wednesday 8th March 2017:

Tim Hall - 'Flight' magazine cutaways. Not 100% sure what time this will kick off or what this talk will involve but looks interesting! Who hasn't spent time looking at their favourite cutaways?

West London Aero Club, White Waltham Airfield, Maidenhead, SL6 3NJ – Contactable on 01628 823272

5 to 8 April AERO Friedrichshafen - Germany

Contact website: www.aero-expo.com



Is anybody planning on flying over for this??? Let us know if you are please.

Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 April 2017:

Popham Microlight Trade Fair

Saturday 1 May 2017:

Popham Aero/Auto Jumble and Classic Car Rally

Sunday 21 May 2017: Fly in

Andover Strut Flyin at Popham

Thursday 1 to Saturday 3 June 2017:

AeroExpo UK festival of aviation. Held at Wycombe air park - <http://www.aeroexpo.co.uk/>

30 June – 2 July 2017:

4th Annual BMAA SSSDR Rally to be held at Enstone Airfield, Oxfordshire.

In the Pipeline

- 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.

Out and about: Wessex Strut | Anniversary Fly-In

This year The Wessex Strut we 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.

Out and about: Devon Strut | March Fly Out - Scramble to Kemble

The last few weeks have been pretty non-conducive to aviation (on the weekends anyway!), but that's not going to stop us from trying to organise a Strut SCRAMBLE some time in March. We intend to fly as a Strut to Cotswold Airfield, (Kemble) in Gloucestershire, with its long runways (08-26) and excellent facilities making it an ideal place to go for lunch whilst we're waiting for it to warm up out there.

So, what's going to happen is we are going to keep our beady eyes on the weather. As soon as it looks promising at the weekend, we'll call a Scramble on the Thursday and confirm it on the Friday (assuming the weather isn't too "iffy"). We'll include ideal meeting times, so we can all arrive more or less together and have lunch as a Strut. The committee will take charge of notifying Kemble of our intentions but you, the pilots, will still need to PPR in the usual way, as well as doing your own preflight briefings for Wx, NOTAMs etc.

Keep your eyes out for the emails and keep your fingers crossed for the weather!

Interested? Contact Chris on thechristopherjackson@googlemail.com

CAN YOU HELP OUT?

1-3 September 2017: LAA Sywell Rally

Once again we will offer to run the campsite to help out the rally. Are you able to help out with a bit of time here? If so, please get hold of Alan Lovejoy.

Engine Mount Project Assistance

Are you able to help out? I am keen to learn and any assistance in this regard would be massively welcome. Limitless supply of tea/coffee & biscuits on hand!

I am looking to get this Aerovee (VW 2180cc) engine (below) mounted onto this rather unusual firewall (below) with ideally a new engine frame (or plan B perhaps modifying the existing frame). You will notice the firewall mountings are angle stock.

Please contact Craig on 07726104788. Plane based on a private strip just outside of Newbury.



AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT?



Paddy and Mick get a pilot to fly them to Canada to hunt moose. They bag six. As Paddy and Mick start loading the plane for the return trip, the pilot says, "The plane can only take four of those."

The two lads object strongly. "Last year we shot six, and the pilot let us put them all on board; he had the same plane as yours."

Very reluctantly, the pilot gives in and all six are loaded.

However, even with full power, the little plane can't handle the load and down it goes and crashes in the middle of nowhere.

A few moments later, climbing out of the wreckage, Paddy asks Mick, "Any idea where we are?"

"I think we're pretty close to where we crashed last year," says Mick.

Japan...

A few months back we had a great talk by Patrick & Linda Elliot. They recounted their difficulties in Japan – and clearly they are not the only ones! Poor guy!

From the Daily Mail....Maybe we will get Colin to share his story with us in the future...

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4283982/Pilot-grounded-Japan-mission-fly-world.html>

Why You Should Join Our Club...

If you have an interest in light (or possibly heavy) aviation, be a home builder (or considering a project), a PPL holder, a LAA member or a plane spotter and you live not a million miles from Popham Airfield in Hampshire joining the LAA Andover Strut will give you access to like-minded people, interesting aviation related talks and the opportunity to take part in the various events we hold throughout the year. Annual membership is £15 a year – please speak to Eryl Smith.

How to find us...

2nd Monday of the month start at 7:30pm till we finish
Spitfire Flying Club, Coxford Down, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 3BD



The Strut Committee

Chairman: Bob Howarth
bobhowarth99@btinternet.com
01980 611124 or 07710 744098

Strut Secretary: Keith Picton
keith.picton@ntlworld.com
01264 396074 or 07927 008500

Events: Alan Lovejoy
alan.lovejoy18@gmail.com
01256 413354 or 07831 606075

Treasurer: Eryl Smith
eryl@smithwinchester.net
07836 294963

Editor: Craig Hopkins
LAAAndover@gmail.com
07726104788

Wise Sage: Dicky Bird
dickybird2@talktalk.net
01722 323683

Wise Sage: Malcolm Rogan
mrogan@nomansland.free-online.co.uk
01794 390322