

HAMPSHIRE HEDGEHOPPER



November 2017

The Official Newsletter of the LAA Andover Strut

This is YOUR newsletter. If you would like to sign up to receiving future newsletters, or know someone who might be interested in receiving these - please do join our Google Group by sending an email message to: LaaAndover@Gmail.com with SUBSCRIBE in the subject line.



Chairman's Chatter.....

Hi, Everybody.

Another month has literally flown by, last meeting was a talk by Anne Hughes, (who writes the ` Struts 4U ` column in the Light Aviation magazine,) about the prototype Beagle Pup, assisted by her colleague David Collings, she made for a very interesting evening.

This month should be equally as good, Capt. Brian Pill representing the Missionary Aviation Foundation, will talk about bush flying in Africa.

Also coming up at Popham, a Hog Roast, on 30th November, free to Spitfire club members, guests will be £7. Get your name down quickly as space is limited.

On a more serious note, if anybody offers you some small solar powered landing lights, let me know. They were stolen from another local airfield.

See you on the 13th November.

Keith

A Note from the Editor.....

This is the first time I'll be using the google group to distribute the monthly newsletter. Fingers crossed!

Please do have a look at items in yellow – these are imminent events.

One Rivet at a Time – Aerobility's New Frontier



For many years Aerobility have been at the forefront of disability flying in the UK. Over the years we have built up an expertise in the training of pilots with disabilities through our own flight training operations. We provide access to aircraft using hoists, and equip aircraft with hand controls for use by persons unable to use their legs.

In short we are the UK centre of excellence when it comes to all matters related to disability flying. All of this has been achieved with a user led organisation, many of our key personnel and volunteers have impairments. Inclusivity is the cornerstone of what we do, we try (and usually succeed) to make all aspects of our operation available to everyone.

In all these years we have successfully managed a small fleet of aircraft, ensuring that the maintenance and care of our fleet is carried out as and when required to the highest standards. However, regulation dictate that much of this work must be carried out by an approved maintenance organisation. What if we could do this work ourselves?



We believe that the next goal naturally falls to broadening our involvement with the actual aircraft, and to this end we intend to build our own aeroplane. This will not only be an exercise that secures another aircraft for the charity at a low cost, but far more importantly, to demonstrate that our fully inclusive philosophy can be extended to the building of our own aircraft. What better way to teach the fundamentals of aircraft design and flying than to build and maintain your own aircraft?



We will give anyone who wishes to be involved, the chance to participate. Subject of course to close supervision by key members of the team. Anyone, no matter what their level of impairment, will have the opportunity to participate. Some may only wish to place a single rivet, others maybe to be further involved. Just imagine the thrill to be had from seeing an aircraft fly and being able to say "I helped to build that".

We are equipping one corner of our hangar as a workshop. Again we will ensure that benches and tools, as far as we are able, can be utilised by wheelchair users and people with varying impairments. For many this will be their first exposure to a working engineering environment.



Over the last few months we have extensively researched the kit aeroplane market, spoken to many manufactures and sort the advice of previous builders and the LAA. Based on this research and our own extensive experience of working with disabled people, we have chosen to build a Zenair CH750 STOL. The CH750 is of metal construction, chosen because fabric skins and the way disabled people access aircraft, are not good bedfellows. We already have a very supportive relationship with the UK distributor Metal Seagull and the potential for adding adaptive controls is

extensive. The process of designing and certifying changes to the original design, is so much easier with permit aircraft. This will enable us to provide the aircraft with multiple modifications so ensuring that its controls are accessible and useable by people with many varied impairments. Of course we will ensure that the aircraft is not only built by all, but flyable by all.



Thanks to the generous support of Rotax UK, the aircraft will be powered by one of their lightweight 912is type 3 engines. The proven economies of this generation of aircraft, will enable us to fulfil our ethos of ensuring that flying is not only physically accessible, but also economically accessible.

We have received encouraging support from the Light Aircraft Association (LAA) which is the CAA delegated membership body supporting and supervising aircraft building and maintenance in the UK. Their expertise when it comes to self-building aircraft will be invaluable. Even members of the public have indicated that they would like to help with the donation of tools. But the bottom line is that this project will come to fruition through the efforts of Aerobility members. With our proven ability to deliver when it comes to disability flying, I have every confidence that we will all be able to look to the sky in the not too distant future and say "Aerobility built that". Can you think of anything more fulfilling?



On completion the aircraft will join the Aerobility fleet, providing low-cost flying for our licensed disabled flyers and, if regulation allows, training. Hayward Aviation have kindly donated operational insurance cover for the aircraft once we complete the build, and we can potentially carry out the maintenance ourselves, so running costs really will just be the fuel at around £30 per hour. Flight operations are therefore extremely affordable and less than the other aircraft the charity operate.



Despite much support from industry and members of the public, there are still a few items that we are desperately missing.

Specifically we are looking for a compressor, air tools, battery operated drills and other hand tools such as cleco pliers, files & deburring tools.

Please can you pass this request around your fellow builders and If you can help with tools or would like to be involved with the project, please email brian@aerobility.com.

Barton Ashes Fly In 2017

Bit late but here's a video of the Barton Ashes Flying 2017.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQ9TssuglQM>

Newsletter Cover Picture

Tom, who is originally from Bristol in England and runs a company called The Adventurists, recently went to Botswana with plans to set up the first-ever competitive helium balloon race in Africa, but the weather in Botswana just wasn't very accommodating. "The problem was finding a good weather window and it was difficult to protect the balloons as they kept bursting," he told the BBC.

The 38-year-old then moved his crazy experiment to north Johannesburg, South Africa, where the weather was welcoming enough for his flight. Tom spent two days filling his balloons with just enough helium to take him up into the air. On Monday 23 October he set off on his great adventure, tying his huge balloons to his camping chair and he had lift off! He described his feelings as "somewhere between terrified and elated."

We'll let you know when Tom is due to speak of his homebuilt, African adventure at the Bristol Strut (no pressure Mary & co!)

Andover Strut Winter Program

Once again, hopefully I have managed to put together a series of talks that will entertain, educate and generally discourage gossip amongst yourselves! Traditionally we commence our more structured winter strut meetings commencing September.

Hope you all enjoy what I have put together. I am always open to ideas for future strut evenings, include contact details etc. if you are able.

- Alan

13 November. This month we have a return visit from M.A.F (Mission Aviation Fellowship) in the name of Capt Brian Pill. Brian brings the good works of MAF to many clubs and organisations in the form of his illustrated presentation. MAF currently has a fleet of 51 aircraft, most GA and bush types operating in Africa, Asia, Eurasia & Latin America. This will be an occasion for strut members to support MAF in their wonderful work.

11 December. With the festive season upon us it will be time for our traditional Aeronautical quiz (Once again Bob, Malcolm we are not all aeronautical anoraks!). This will be followed by the equally traditional festive cheese n' wine. This will be the occasion to 'treat' your other favourite one to their annual evening of utter strut enjoyment!

January. From PPL to Channel 4! This title introduces Arthur Williams who some will know in person but most through the medium of Ch4 TV and his wonderful series on various airborne exploits around the world as experienced by someone wheelchair bound. Arthur became disabled as the result of a car accident whilst he was a serving Royal Marine. This left him paralysed from the waste down. Arthur gained his PPL with Aerobility and has become an active volunteer with the charity. It is here that I have got to know Arthur, further more we both own Yellow Piper Cubs! Finally you will also know that Arthur recently became an LAA Ambassador. So he is truly 'one of us'.

February. The title of this evenings talk seems fairly bland, Building & Flying PL793. This has been a project that has consumed Steve & Kaye Markham's time for several years. The object of the talk is really the build of the Australian Mk 26 Spitfire with the trials and many tribulations associated with this project. Suffice to say that the gleaming new Subaru engine on its stand became a talking piece in their front parlour for a considerable time! Steve supports the RAF Benevolent Fund and will seek to further their good work in return for his time with us at our meeting.

March. Another Steve, this time a well-known Popham face, Steve Boxall, a man that knows 'everything' about gyros, the airborne sort with the whirly bits on top. Steve will give a presentation on all aspects of gyrocopter operations, history and not forgetting how they defy gravity and fly! Steve has CPL, IR and instructors rating, I believe the only instructor with this combination in UK.

April. 'Lightnings and beyond' is the title of the last of our guest speakers prior to the start of the 2018 flying season. Vic Lockwood had an extensive career in the RAF with the Lightning being his great joy. His career subsequently spanned many facets of aviation and aerospace culminating in retirement with being a member of the Great War Display team. As the title suggest Vic will talk mainly of his time on that amazing English Electric creation the Lightning and all its marques.

May. And, finally to bring us down to earth the dreaded AGM! This will be followed once again by cheese, wine & nibbles

In the Pipeline

- Possible Strut Fly-Out to Stow Maries and/or a group visit to the FAST Museum at Farnborough.

Other Stuff In & Around



LAA OXFORD: Wed 8th November

Mark Davies:

James Sadler - the First Englishman to Fly

LAA BRISTOL: www.bristol-wing.co.uk

November 7th: Darren Lewington — Operations Director for Gloucestershire Airport, The History of Gloucestershire Airport

January 9th: Flying in 2017— BAC and Bristol Strut

February 6th: Bryan Pill - Keys don't Float! All I know about Float Flying

West London Aero Club – White Waltham (all start @ 19h30)

Flying Food will be open from 1800h – 1915h to serve hot meals and drinks

Wed Nov 8: Tim Hall - Aircraft cutaway drawings

Wed Dec 6: Paul Green and Chris Fopp - Trainers around the World. Flying Around the World in 2018 in a Bulldog and a Chipmunk

Wed Jan 10: Stuart Eves - How Astronomy Can Save The World (a discussion of how we can monitor threats from space)

Wed Feb 7: Wg Cdr Gary Coleman - 28 not out!

Wed Mar 7: Paul Beaver - The life of Capt. Eric "Winkle" Brown

Wed Apr 4: Barry Tempest - Five Decades in the Circus (a high wire act with no safety net)

**Wed May 2: Rich Graham - SR71 or F4 "Wild Weasel" operations in Vietnam
ANOTHER TALK NOT TO BE MISSED!**

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT?

A man parachuted out of an aircraft and his chute did not open. As he hurtled towards certain death he saw a man coming up to meet him through the air from the ground. As he zoomed by he called out "Do you know anything about parachutes?"

The man replied as he shot past, "No, do you know anything about gas stoves?"

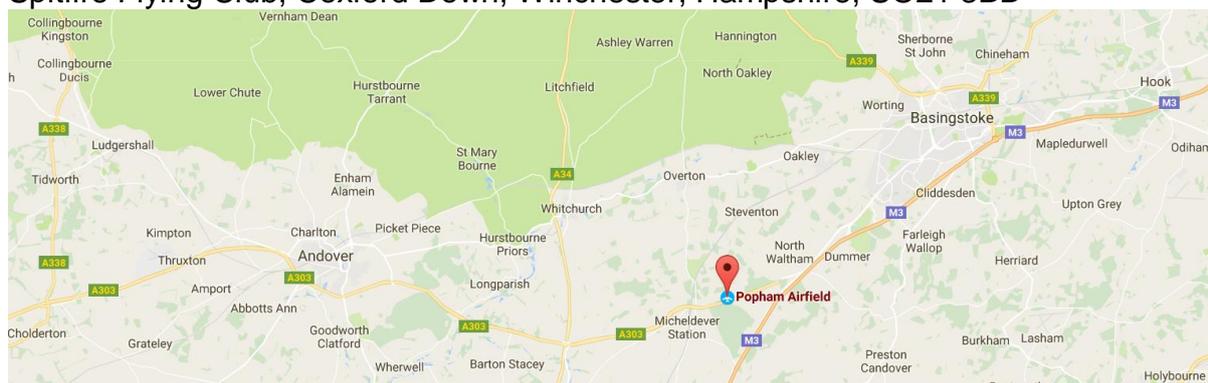
An Airline introduced a special package for Business men. Buy your ticket, get your wife's ticket free! After great success, the company sent letters to all the wives asking how the trip was. 72% of them gave the same reply; 'What trip?'

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

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Subs

Strut Membership subs are due at the beginning of the year (MAY). The annual subs of £15 can either be paid to Hon Treasurer, Eryl Smith or paid directly into the Club Account, details below.

Please don't forget to put your name as payment reference & ideally let Eryl know!

Bank: Barclays
Account Name: Andover Strut
Bank Sort Code: 20-59-14
Account No: 93409597
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