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# Brissle Strutter



Newsletter of the LAA Bristol Strut

JANUARY 2024

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## Message from the Chair

Dear Strut members,

It was such a joy to spend a pleasant evening together with around two-thirds of Strut members at the start of the month, enjoying some great food, good conversation – and a quiz to stimulate the little grey cells. There are more details further on in the newsletter, but I would like to take this opportunity to say thank-you again to Mary Leader for her amazingly long service as the Newsletter Editor, and to Trevor Wilcock for his 10 years as Strut Chair – as well as his wise counsel since I have taken over. I'd also like to say a heartfelt thank-you to the other Committee members for their support during this first year of my being Chair – as well as to all of you who have supported the Strut in any way through the year! And it has been a good year – even if our first couple of attempts at fly-outs only managed to generate a couple of aircraft participating each time – but we've had some first-class presentations on a wide range of topics as well.

Next year we already have a pretty full programme in the first 6 months of the year with briefings from Border Force, the CAA Airspace Infringement Team and Sky Demon, as well as Dave White talking about his foreign adventures, as well as flyouts, our first ever Strut fly-in (more on that in January) and some more social get togethers. I would encourage all members to (a) put the dates we've already got into their diaries, and (b) to provide any feedback/thoughts/ideas you've got on the programme – especially if you've got ideas about places to go for visits or people to invite as speakers. This is your Strut, and by and large what you get out of it will depend on what you put in! Our January meeting will provide an opportunity to hear about what you did last year, and what you're planning for this year – as well as a briefing and discussion on the Strut fly-in. Don't forget that you can see what's on not only at the Strut website (<https://bristolstrut.uk>), but also on our Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=bristol%20strut>). Until then, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year – and I'm looking forward to an even more exciting year of flying related activities in 2024!

Safe flying

Neville

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## Next month's meeting

We start the New Year at BAWA on **Tuesday January 9** (note: not our usual first Tuesday in the month). Guest speakers—you! Tell us about your flying activities in 2023 — or even flying-related ones (Oshkosh anyone?). Projector and laptop will be there so bring any pictures on a data stick. Usual time, 19:30 for 19:45 in Room 4.

## Last month's meeting

Fifteen of us gathered for a Christmas celebration at the Willy Wicket pub (look it up online if you want to know the origin of the name!); an excellent meal in a pleasant environment.

Treasurer Alan reprised his role at quizmaster by providing a quiz between courses (was it significant that it involved pub names as well as aircraft?).



Mary Leader was presented with a bouquet to thank her for her outstanding 26 years as editor of the Brissle Strut newsletter, and your editor received the Ian Leader Trophy for his 10 years as Strut chairman before unloading the job on to Neville!



## Strut Library

For some years there has been virtually no call on the collection of aeronautical books we hold. It has therefore been decided to dispose of them. As a first step, a list of the books is attached to the Newsletter circulation to Strut members. If you are interested in any of these (a small contribution to Strut funds is suggested!) they will appear at the January Strut meeting; alternatively, if you can't be there please let our librarian Alan know ([treasurer@bristolstrut.uk](mailto:treasurer@bristolstrut.uk)) which you would like.

## Information from the CAA and elsewhere

Version 4 of the Skyway Code is now available [here](#). The key updates to this version are:

- Key retained EU law for aviation
- Updates to aeronautical information, including UK Flight Information Service (FIS) frequencies and Frequency Monitoring Codes
- Updated operational guidance, including fuel management and crossing controlled airspace.

The CAA have published a new [Safety Sense Leaflet 32](#) providing guidance on reporting safety occurrences in GA operations in GA and related activity. Read it to make sure you understand when occurrence reporting is mandatory; even when not, you are encouraged to do so. Accidents and serious incidents must be reported to the AAIB.

You heard about and saw it first at the November Strut meeting: the all-new PilotAware Rosetta FX! Now this month's LAA *Light Aviation* includes an advert for it, and more can be found [here](#).

The next AIRAC update is on January 25; don't forget to keep your electronic databases current. Incidentally, if you use EasyVFR and had problems with the last AIRAC upload, please contact the editor for a solution.

## Where to go in January

*Light Aviation* vouchers: Dunkeswell (£8 from 6 Jan), Fishburn, Tatenhill

*Flyer* vouchers: Not available at time of printing

## New Strut member

Welcome to our newest Strut member—Karl Bradford. We hope to meet him at our January meeting and find out a little more about him.

## Ethanol Free Petrol

Ron Perry has a few words to say:

*For some time, Esso Super unleaded E5 has been used in the Bristol area as despite the E5 nomenclature no ethanol was added. This changed in October 2023 when some ethanol was added. Many of us then had to change to either 100LL or UL91 as appropriate for the engine concerned. Unfortunately the cost of the new fuel was circa an extra £10 on the hourly rate!*

*I then had an unrelated discussion with a chap from the South coast (no names!) who believed that BP Ultimate in their area was still without ethanol. I tested a sample in the Bristol area (albeit with a rather out of date test kit) and no ethanol was apparent. This may be of interest but I would emphasize that accurate testing should be used by anyone considering it's use in any aircraft!!*

## Tailpiece

It's important to wear appropriate protective equipment when flying., particularly in winter..

