



[bristolstrut.uk](http://bristolstrut.uk)



# Brissle Strutter



Newsletter of the LAA Bristol Strut **MARCH 2026**

## Message from the Chair

Dear Strut Member,

Kia Ora – or greetings again from New Zealand!

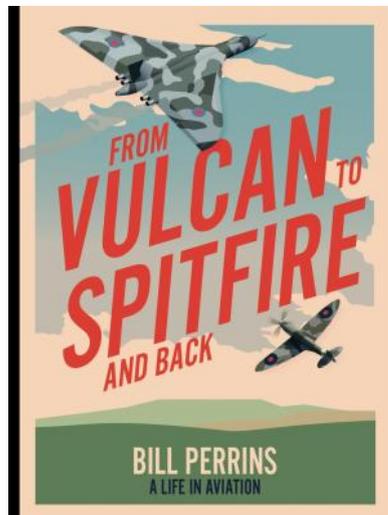
I'm delighted to hear that you had such a great evening with Wes talking about his Jodel build – I'm really very sorry to have missed it! However, I have finally managed to get some flying in the Southern Hemisphere, with a Tiger Moth trip out of Wanaka – fabulous scenery and then the opportunity to fly 500' and 250' circuits – not something I've ever had the opportunity to do in the UK! I also visited the World War 1 part of the Omaka Aviation Heritage Museum (mostly funded by Sir Peter Jackson) – but the biggest surprise was finding a complete Bristol Freighter parked outside. Anyway – I won't bang on too much as I understand the flying weather in the UK hasn't been great (I think I read 50 days continuous rain at Bodmin?) – but will wish you rapidly improving flying days, and look forward to seeing you for March's presentation.



Neville

## This month's meeting

..... is at 19:45 on Thursday 19th March, BAWA Room 1 (in front building). Our guest is Bill Perrins, ex RAF Vulcan pilot (took part in the Black Buck raid against the Falklands), Spitfire pilot on the display circuit and one of the team of pilots on the last flying Vulcan XH558.



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## Last month's meeting

We had the pleasure of hearing from Wes Massam about the build of his magnificent Jodel D140E. Wes is a professional in composite and wood construction. Built on a barge in Bristol Harbour over a period of around 20 years (and started before he even had a pilot's licence!), the aircraft is a masterpiece of craftsmanship and justifiably won the Best Jodel and Best Plans-built awards at the 2024 LAA Rally. There is considerable attention to detail, extending to Wes's forming of the many metal parts and making the upholstery.



## Information from the CAA and elsewhere

Sad news: an end to GASCo Safety Evenings. GASCo's operations are being wound up after more than sixty years, as the charity no longer has a sufficiently secure and sustainable funding base to continue operating at a level consistent with its charitable purpose. However I have previously advised you of my involvement in the Bristol Local Airspace Team. The next meeting of LAIT is on 26 March, to be followed by a networking event and a GASCo Safety Evening to which local flyers are invited; see page 3.

An interesting [GA MOR report](#) from the CAA. Would you be clear about the purpose of the ATC instruction when you were already at a holding point? And here's [another one](#) on overflying glider sites.

The UK Airprox Board's latest *Insight* newsletter is [here](#).

Back in the October Newsletter I mentioned the new Met Office Aeronautical Visualisation Service (MAVIS), developing the grouping of all aviation-specific weather information in a single domain. Things have moved forward and **from 24 March legacy Met Office aviation services will retire**, so it's time to get familiar with MAVIS. Two very useful webinars have been held recently, and the information from them should be available soon. The team is developing the service rapidly and appears to be responding effectively to user comments—the website includes a place to provide such comments. Make use of the pin feature to bring up your preferred METAR/TAF observations on the text screen.

The next AIRAC update is on March 19th; don't forget to keep your electronic databases current.

## Where to go in March

Early in the season for events, but [Swansea Airport](#) are starting the ball rolling with their 1st Annual St David's Day fly-in on 1 March.

Landing vouchers:

*Flyer*: Cumbernauld, Dornoch, Oaksey Park, Strathaven

*Light Aviation*: Brighton

## Tailpiece - Structural test #2 of several



USAF just had to go one better than last month's Luscombe!



**GASCO**

## **SAFETY EVENING**

Cotswold LOW  
AIRPORT

**NATS**

Bristol  Airport

**FREE**

Bristol Airport & Cotswold Airport are jointly hosting a Safety Evening, supported by GASCO and Bristol ATC

Local pilots and airspace users are invited to join us:

From 16:30: Informal Networking Event – Negus B747  
and/or 18:00: Safety Seminar – AV8 Restaurant  
(Light refreshments available)

**Topics:**

- Airspace Infringement Awareness
- Threat & Error Management
- Effective Radiotelephony
- Questions & Answers

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
Cotswold Airport  
GL7 6BA

Flight safety resources can  
be found at [gasco.org.uk](http://gasco.org.uk)

Registration is  
required:



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