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Brissle Strutter



Newsletter of the LAA Bristol Strut

MAY 2025

Message from the Chair

Dear Strut Colleagues,

It was great to see so many of you at our April meeting – and to be able to discuss both the Strut fly-in, and our proposed changes to meeting dates. The new set of dates is shown later on in the newsletter, and will shortly be up on the Strut website – and in the June Struts4U column.

Plans are coming on well for the Strut fly-in, and we've already sold 20 drive-in tickets – and you should have seen the poster appearing in a number of places – as well as at the end of the newsletter. Do spread the word amongst your flying friends – the more attendees the better! We could still do with a few more volunteers to make sure that no-one gets overloaded on the day (and I know some of you can't make it) – I'll be dropping out a separate note on that in the next week or so.

Finally – don't forget that our May event is the Strut fly-out to the Popham BBQ on Thursday 22nd May. These are always a great evening, and do try and come if you can. I will have 2 seats available (departing from Oaksey Park probably around 16:30) for anyone who would like a lift! See <https://www.popham-airfield.co.uk/bbq-fly-ins-2025> for more details.

In the meanwhile – hope you're able to make the most of the fabulous weather at the moment, and stay safe!

Happy landings

Neville

Sad News

We were sorry to learn that our former Treasurer Steve Pemberton died on 19 March. With an initial career in the RAF, a birthday present of a trial lesson while posted to Akrotiri in Cyprus led to his gaining a PPL. In recent years he has been active as a magistrate and as a listening volunteer with Samaritans.

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Contact Information

Strut Chairman:

Neville Parton
07825 138077
chairman@bristolstrut.uk

Treasurer/Membership Sec:

Alan George
treasurer@bristolstrut.uk

Secretary:

Mary Leader
01275 541572
secretary@bristolstrut.uk

Newsletter Editor:

Trevor Wilcock
newsletter@bristolstrut.uk
Editorial Address:
17 Vowles Close
Wraxall
Bristol BS48 1PP

Webmaster:

John Leather
webmanager@bristolstrut.uk

This month's meeting

BAWA meetings are paused for the summer with our thoughts more towards getting airborne and, as mentioned on Page 1, let's take advantage of the Popham evening BBQ on Thursday 22 May. Hope to see you there!

Last month's meeting

..... is discussed by Neville on Page 1. In detail, on arrangements for future meetings at BAWA, we agreed to amend our regular meeting day from the first Tuesday in the month to the third Thursday, for best access to meeting rooms. We will normally be in our usual Room 4, but occasionally in Room 1 (upstairs in the main building; use front entrance). So plans for the future are:

18 Sep, 16 Oct (Room 1), 20 Nov, (no meeting in Dec), 15 Jan, 19 Feb, 19 Mar (Room 1), 16 Apr.

We have also booked the Skittle alley for Saturday 25 October with the optimism that we must eventually beat Bristol Aero Club!

Information from the CAA and elsewhere

A reminder that the new LAA online Permit Revalidation procedure is now live. The process was initiated for G-DENS on 15 April; the Permit Check Flight has been conducted (mandatory for this first occasion under the new procedure, but normally 3-yearly in future), and the inspection is lined up for early May.

And a reminder from the CAA, particularly relevant with this week's hot weather:

TAKE 2 is a simple, proven approach to help stay clear of controlled airspace. Whenever you can, plan to remain at least 2 nautical miles from the edge and at least 200 feet above or below controlled airspace.

Flying in warmer weather you may want to increase your planned margins to allow for turbulence or thermals to avoid inadvertent climbs into controlled airspace.

There's more information on TAKE 2 on the [Airspace & Safety Initiative](#) website.

Most civil VHF channels have converted to 8.33 kHz voice channel spacing and all VHF equipped aircraft are required to be 8.33kHz capable. The CAA is working with the Military to convert remaining allocations before the end of 2025, this includes allocations supporting Military exercise and Training Areas (MTA), Air Defence Identification Zones (ADIZ), Lower Airspace Radar Service (LARS) and Military Air Traffic Zones (MATZ). All conversions will be notified in the UK AIP, pilots are reminded to ensure they are using the latest information

News from Bristol Aero Talks on their next meeting: *On Tuesday May 13th Fraser Wilson FRAeS CEng, Head of Design at Retro Track and Air will give a talk outlining their activities and capabilities.*

Retro Track and Air describe themselves as "The Gloucestershire Company Keeping Vintage Aeroengines and Silver Biplanes Flying". They repair and overhaul historic piston engines from all the major manufacturers of the WW2 era including the Bristol Pegasus, Mercury, Centaurus & Jupiter. In addition to engines, they manufacture Warbird aircraft primary structures and systems. On the "Track" side they have restored many historic F1, F2, F3, FJ & Sports Racing Cars originally built and raced during the 1950-1970 period.

This talk will be held at 7:15 pm at Aerospace Bristol in The John James Theatre.

No booking needed; there will be the usual 'bucket' collection to cover expenses as you leave. Some Strut members will remember our visit to Retro's impressive facility in 2022.

The next AIRAC update is on May 15th; don't forget to keep your electronic databases current.

Puzzle Picture

Last month's picture: Brize Norton. Correct answer as usual from Phil Mathews.



And this month: identify the aircraft; bonus point for the bird!



Where to go in May

Flyer free landing vouchers: Bagby, Skye, Haverfordwest, Perth

Light Aviation

2/3 May: Cardiff Airport Charity fly-in

3/4 May: Popham Microlight Trade Fair

10/11 May: Pooleys Air Weekend (by invitation), Compton Abbas

17 May: Bodmin Ladies' Day

22 May: Popham BBQ evening

30 May/1 Jun: Kemble Great Vintage Fly-in Weekend

1 June: Wessex Strut fly-in, Henstridge

Tailpiece

How things were managed before GoPro!



LAA Bristol Strut Fly-In



All Welcome!
Saturday 7th June *
 (weather reserve Saturday 5th July)



OAKSEY PARK



Vehicle museum and Classic Aeroplane Co. Hangar open
 Overnight camping available for visiting pilots (basic facilities)
 Food available in village (walking distance)
 Limited number of drive-in tickets available in advance (£10)
Please note – no general access for the public



£15 Landing fee (free with 75L of fuel – includes free tea or coffee on arrival)
 BBQ & cake stall
 £10 overnight camping
 Prizes for furthest visitor, oldest aircraft and most meritorious flight!
 Meet the Bristol LAA strut
 All proceeds to Wiltshire & Bath Air Ambulance



PPR or book drive-in tickets via
events@bristolstrut.uk

