



April 2014

This month's meeting Wednesday 16th April

Last month 25 members attended our first aid lecture given by the St John Ambulance. Rees kindly offered to play dead for us, I think he just wanted to lie down! Hopefully no-one will need to use it in anger but, if the need arises, I am sure we will all be more confident having attended.

Our speaker for this month will be our own Robbie Keen. Robbie is going to talk to us about obtaining his Instructor Rating - what is involved, what criteria have to be met and how to go about it. He will, no doubt, have a few funny anecdotes to throw in as well.

The FlyingShack will be open from 7.00pm for those who wish to have a chat and a drink prior to Robbie's talk commencing at 8.00pm.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you all that I shall be stepping down as Winter Events Coordinator as mentioned at the last AGM. So far nobody has come forward to take my place. So if you want the winter talks continue we need a volunteer. Any offers please. If you are interested contact me and I can tell you what is involved or, alternatively, ask

Rees or any of the other committee members. Nick.

Quote of the Month

"It is possible to fly without motors, but not without knowledge and skill."—
Wilbur Wright

Summer Fly-Ins by Andy Virgoe and Alan Coulon

Alan and Andy have been busy sorting a program for the coming season, they have been trying to arrange some new venues but several that looked promising have unfortunately not come to anything for various reasons but we do have the offer of the use of several strips by the landowners and need offers from more members to host the evening.

So please, anyone who feels able to help get in touch with Andy (andy@ashleworth.net 07852 606 606) or Alan (07906 072 902). Your help will be much appreciated.

Andy will soon need to sort his emailing out so please expect one or more test emails and please reply if requested to do so.

Log Book Signing - by Bill Austin

I have been signing log books for Club members since 1992. Over the years

regulation has increased and licensing has changed dramatically. I have decided that with all the changes to regulations and legislation it is now time for me to give up my rating as an R examiner. With effect from 30th June 2014 I will no longer be authorised to sign pilots' log books.

Wellesbourne Mountford Airfield

Wellesbourne Mountford Airfield, in Warwickshire, is to be sold for mixed-use development, following a decision taken by the landowners of the airfield. A proposal by the owners is expected to be submitted to Stratford District Council in mid-March, for consideration within its 'core strategy'. It's understood that any alternative action cannot be taken by airfield groups until this submission is placed with the council.

In an email to airfield users, seen by FLYER, Michael Littler, Wellesbourne Airfield Manager explained, "This is a proposal, not a planning application for the site – any comments can be directed through the Council's website." He added, "In the meantime, it's business as usual."

It's understood that an initial effort will be made to remind the council of its requirements under the National Planning Policy Framework to balance the proposal against the loss of amenity, both for businesses and leisure use of the airfield.

Tom Duck, Operations Manager at Wellesbourne Aeros, explained to FLYER, "We (the businesses based at the airfield) have only recently been told the news, and I think it's going to take a while for us to settle down. All the businesses are quite shocked, but also we've known it's been coming for a while, particularly since the development of land beyond the runway threshold."

A plan to build 99 homes near Wellesbourne Airfield was recommended

for approval by council planning officers in September 2013, despite safety concerns and nearly 500 letters of objection from the flying community.

Tom added, "From our point of view, it's always been coming. For instance, if the land is now worth £300,000 per acre, but to developers it's worth around £1m per acre, there's not much we can do to counteract that. But it's disappointing for us and everyone is keen to help to get the best possible outcome. I think for many people, it's a case of delaying, not stopping the development at the moment. With the rate of plans being accepted, it's likely to be about three to four years before it affects us. There are a few ideas being bounced around at the moment, but there's nothing concrete in place in terms of our next action – we'll probably take another look at it as a group once we know more."

Airfields which have successfully battled development proposals include Panshanger and North Weald airfield. In the latter's case, the local council chose to adopt a mixed-use approach, retaining many of the existing aviation facilities, while also releasing some land for further development. It remains to be seen whether this will be an option for Wellesbourne.

The airfield is currently home to a number of organisations, including Wellesbourne Aeros, South Warwickshire Flying School, a family-run airfield cafe and the Vulcan Maintenance and Preservation society.

www.wellesbourneairfield.com

(Editor's Note:- Members will have seen in Microlight Flying that Long Marston is also in the firing line for development as a housing site.)

Soap Opera?

A young girl walks into a supermarket and on her way round she sees the bloke who had flirted with her the previous

evening in a pub. He was stacking washing powder boxes on the shelves.

"You lying toad" she yells" last night you told me you were a stunt pilot"
"No" he says "I told you I was a member of the Ariel display team"

Half-Mil Maps

A new edition of the half-mil map of Southern England is published this month. If you want a copy then Mike Edwards at the Flying Shack will gladly provide you with one at this month's meeting or whenever you care to call in. If you intend picking up a copy at the next meeting it would be advisable to let him know so that he has copies available. E-mail him on info@flyingshack.com or telephone 01452 690046.

Dates for your Diary

20th – 21st April Halfpenny Green (EGBO), **Wings & Wheels Fly-in.** Vintage vehicles, stalls, entertainment. Landing fee £7. For information call 01384 221378

3rd – 4th May Popham Airfield **Microlight Fly-in and Trade Show.** See BMAA web site for details.

24th – 25th May Halfpenny Green (EGBO), **Wings & Wheels Fly-in.** Second World War re-enactors, encampments, displays, vehicles. Evening dance. For information call 01384 221378, for hangar dance tickets call 01384 221350

30th May – 1st June Sywell - **Aero-Expo.** More information at www.expo.aero/uk

1st – 6th April USA - **Sun 'n Fun,** Lakeland, Florida. Information at www.sun-n-fun.org

20th – 29th June [Somewhere in the Midlands](#), **Fly UK.** Will visit Land's End and John O'Groats. Raising funds for Children with Cancer. Register at www.fly-uk.org.

28th July – 3rd August USA - **Airventure,** Oshkosh, Wisconsin. More information at www.airventure.org

2nd – 3rd August Lundy Island, **Anglo Welsh Fly-in.** Tug o' War between the two nations on the island. Contact Pete White 01752 406660 or 07805 805679 or pete@aeronca.co.uk

9th – 16th August Hungary - World Microlight Championships, Dunaújvaros. More information at www.fai.org/microlight-and-paramotor

Acknowledgements

John Hamer for the Wellesbourne and Soap Opera items. Andy and Alan for the Fly-in update. John Sparks for the photos.

Summer Fly-ins

Andy and Alan would like to give you more views like these this summer. Can you help them achieve their objective?



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