

October 2024 Newsletter

Please send any contributions, letters and comments to editor@glosterstrut.co.uk either directly or via the Contact Us web page.

Chairmans Chat

What happened to 2024, I just cannot believe that the clocks are due to turn back at the end of the month and that the Christmas ads have started to appear on the box already, ridiculous!, but the big players are hoping to get into our pockets as soon as they can, so we are blasted from now on. The chill in the winds gets us winding up the thermostats again, or should I just add another warm sweater! Our passion for flying gradually diminishes as we look to the sky and think maybe not today...doesn't look too good, so we leave the old bird tucked up in the hanger. Just occasionally we get a gin clear bonus day and we get up and away to enjoy a flight to our favourite coffee clubhouse, known as the £80 sandwich (or something like that).

This year has been something of a "mixed bag" with our summer events being interrupted by poor weather causing a couple of planned visits being cancelled at the last minute, but we usually have a plan B in mind, so the show went on and we made the best of it. A BIG "thank you" to our members who pitch in and help run our summer programme at Croft Farm, we could not run the BBQ's etc. without your generous support.

At this point I would also like to thank those of you who have contributed to our Strut newsletter, tales of flying adventures, old stories and tips on "how to" or "how not to" are all very welcome, keep them coming chaps! , John Cooper our newsletter editor is always on the lookout for fresh input.

Must dash, I see the mince pies are on special offer at the local supermarket!!

Fly safe—Mike

The Wit & Wisdom of Aviation

Pilots - looking down on people since 1903.

Harry Hopkins

The last meeting

Mike Waldron opened the meeting with an account of the origins of his current project – his Pietenpol Air Camper. Back in 1979 He had attended the Popular Flying Association's rally at Leicester where he saw a Pietenpol for the first time. However, he

elected to make a scale replica SE5A his first project and as most of you have seen made an excellent job of it. Nevertheless he'd been bitten by the bug and, having an empty workshop, when he saw a partly built Pietenpol project offered for sale he went to take a look at it. It turned out to be, like the curate's egg, - good in parts - and he managed to get it for a sufficiently low price.

The seller was the aircraft's second owner and fortunately the original builder had made a good job of the structure. The seller, on the other hand, had badly bodged his contribution – engine mount, fuel tank and covering. Hence Mike's early work was in removing most of the covering (which came complete with paint runs), heavy exhaust, fuel tank and engine mount with built in downthrust. In short, the project was going backwards. Those who have been lucky enough to see it since can vouch for the standard of Mike's work, although he made clear he was not aiming at a concours finish but was emulating that seen on Gerry Holland's Baby Ace where the Dulux paint was applied with a roller.

He's now on the last leg, with all structural work and covering complete, engine installed and cowled and just a lot of connecting up to do. As our American cousins say "90% complete and only 80% still to do"!

After a short refreshment break, that well known aviation photographer Dave Haines took over to give us a slide show of some of the more interesting of the 550 aircraft which made it to this year's Rally.

Many thanks to both Mike and Dave for a great evening's entertainment.

In the News



LAA Annual General Meeting

Warden Aerodrome, Bedfordshire SG18 9EP 5YD (and on Zoom)

Sunday 20th October, 12:00 (full programme 1100-1400)

Sales and Wants

Take a look at the Sales and Wants page of the website and grab yourself a bargain.

<http://glosterstrut.co.uk/sales.php>

The next meeting

Tim Houlihan's Italian Adventure

Glos Strut Flea Market

Tim Houlihan will present his flying trip to Italy: it did not as planned, so we will hear of diversions, bad weather, but success in the end ... well done Tim ... tell us all about it!

We are also running a mini "Flea Market", so bring along any items you have to dispose of (all that stuff that has been gathering dust out in the garage /piles of old flying books / instruments or gadgets) somebody will love it! Price it and name tag it. Please let the Chairman know if you intend to bring any bits and pieces along.