



July 2014

SKYWRITINGS

Newsletter of the *Kent Strut*

LAA and Kent Strut Rochester Fly-in! see page 6



Light Aircraft Association

Ripple Fly-in.

Words and Pictures Gary Smith



Nigel Read - Editor

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The annual "Ripple Farm Strut BBQ" took place this year on 26th June at the usual venue, 4nm behind the town of Deal in East Kent. For some members this may be too far to travel but for others it is a pleasant change to have an event upon the doorstep. The evening weather was kind, the light northerly wind favoured runway "36" but did little to aide the tricky approach.

July Meeting is in August!
**Kent Strut Fly-in Weekend 2nd ~ 3rd August at
Rochester Airport**

www.kentstrut.co.uk

Despite this we had 9 airborne arrivals :-

Mark Balding (Jodel from Biggin Hill), Julian Bone (Bolkow from Biggin Hill), John Carpenter (Cessna 152 from Clip Gate Farm), Rosemary + Richard Solley (C42 from Clipgate Farm), Gary Smith (RV9 Farthing Corner), John Luck / Alan (Gardan Horizon from Rochester), Ron / Sandra Armitage (Husky from Maypole), Paul Anderson (Cessna 152 from Rochester), Richard Warriner (Rans S6 from Heathfield).

By road there were three Austin Sevens, an MG TD and a little open top circuit racing car driven in by strut member Ron Parker. The BBQ was well attended by strut members and local residents alike (approximately 60 people), everybody enjoyed themselves especially the Ice cream desert served from Steve's 1970 Ice cream Van to the chimes of "teddy bears picnic".

A special thanks to Steve and his family for hosting the event and doing all of the organising and running around. A collection was made on behalf of the Kent Air Ambulance and collected £331.75.

The deteriorating weather expected from the west held out just long enough for myself and John Luck to return to Farthing corner / Rochester, both landing in the dark shadow of rain clouds to a light scattering of drizzle. 10 more minutes would have been too much!

Hope to see everybody (and some more new faces) next year.



Ripple cars

*R*on Parker brought this 1950 Healey Silverstone and provided the details and pictures: Donald Healey designed and built several models of vehicle, the car at ripple is chassis no E62 from a production run of 105 cars. The owner has raced and hill climbed it at most circuits in Europe over the last 50 years, and since his accident in 2003 Ron has continued to campaign it as and when requested. He has driven the Healey at various venues over many years either as set up engineer or race day pilot - le Mans, Montlhéry, Pau, Spa, Angoulême, Reims, Rouen, Dijon and



just about everywhere in GB. The engine is the Riley big four 2.4 litre. One of the sales pitches in 1949 was that its top speed was in excess of 100 mph., it still is, all these years later. Having been all over France and UK, Ripple must have been straight forward.

GOW 686 at Ripple left and on tour below



Pictures from Ron Parker





Husky—Picture Ron Parker



Picture Ron Parker



Ripple from the air.
Picture from Gary Smith
in his RV9 (above)
Can you see the strip?



Bolkow

Pictures on this page from Ron Parker



Bolkow



Gardan Horizon



Rans S6



Jodel DR1050



Cessna 150M



Ikarus C42

Wind Farm development refused!

A proposed wind farm of fourteen turbines 126.5m high at Bullington Cross (SO21 3QF) a few miles west of Popham has been refused planning permission by Winchester, Test Valley and Basingstoke councils. A number of grounds mainly spoil views of landscape, listed buildings, protected species and habitat (pilots are not a protected species until EASA says so) and effect on meteorological radar at Chilbolton are given. No mention of Popham but the military and gliding at Lasham (much further away) are included. Still a result is a result:-

8. The proposed wind farm by reason of its location, number and height of turbines would pose an unacceptable additional hazard to military aircraft, particularly helicopters, within an area of relatively congested aviation activity which is a designated MOD low flying training area where regular low level restricted landing manoeuvres are practiced by Chinook and other rotary wing aircraft. Relocation of such training facilities within the area, so as to avoid the wind farm, is not practicable due to other restrictions and the development would thus undesirably prejudice aviation safety or continued use of such operational training facilities contrary to national interests and guidance in National Policy Statements EN-1 and EN-3.

10. Insufficient information has been provided to demonstrate that there will be an acceptable impact on the safety of operations at Lasham Airfield from the proposed development or that mitigation can create an acceptable impact. As such the application is considered contrary to National Policy Statements EN-1 and EN-3.

July Meeting—Mega Fly-in at Rochester, invite to all LAAers.

Don't go to the Golf Club ! Don't go on the last Thursday of July either! Go to Rochester Airport on the 2nd or 3rd (or both) August. If you are driving and don't know the route by road—it's straight up Bluebell Hill from the golf club, middle or RH lane at the top and go straight on into the 40mph section and the entrance is on the Left, just after a second joining slip road and just before the speed camera! Also sign posted 'Hotel' and next to the 'Innovation Centre'.

As Rochester are having Rolls Royces and vintage motor bikes on the Sunday we are joining in and making a weekend of it. Also showing off our new gazebo!

We are offering **half price landing for LAA members** which covers parking, camping and soft drinks or tea on arrival. Food—pancakes (£1), during the day, Saturday evening BBQ and strut social) also available. £7 BBQ. Solleys Ice Cream. Lunch if required or Breakfasts in the Airport Café for those staying over. Café prices.

Camping on the airfield or stay in one of the nearby posh hotels. (Holiday Inn or Bridgewood Manor are nearest). Live Music on Saturday night from Lenny, (normally found in the tower), plus there is easy public transport to local attractions.

Rochester has the Norman Castle with it's three square towers and one round one and second oldest cathedral in the country. Guild Hall Museum and Charles Dickens Chalet off the high street behind Eastgate House.

Chatham Historic Dockyard has three ships to explore—HMS Cavalier a WW2 Destroyer and memorial to ships lost during the war; HMS Gannet a Victorian Gun Ship and HMS Ocelot a cold war era submarine. There is a Lifeboat museum with many boats from different periods.

The No.1 Smithery will have an exhibition on the first world war in addition to many models of boats. Another exhibition 'Hearts of Oak' explains how wooden ships were built.

The Ropery is a working museum, when built (1786-91) it was the longest brick building. Timed Tours for the Ropery and Submarine are booked on arrival. Along with each ship, 45 minutes is expected for each so you won't see it all in a day.

If you went to the Royal Engineers earlier this year (within the last six months) and kept the ticket that gets some money off entrance which is also reduced for English Heritage members. Entry ticket is valid for multiple visits for a year. There is also a store of RE equipment and a railway workshop and many historic buildings.

Not far away is the Medway Queen Paddle Steamer.

Not forgetting Medway Aircraft Preservation Society on the airfield, open on Sundays. Currently they are restoring a Short Scion.

It's the first time for many years that the strut has tried something like this with general LAA members invited so give it your support. **Volunteers from strut members would be most welcome, if only for a few hours.**

Contact Gary Smith 07849 169905 or Simon Pratt 07973 402986.

Laddingford Fly-in

Peter Kember has invited the strut to Laddingford on Saturday 26th July with Sunday 27th as a backup date if the weather is poor on Saturday. Laddingford Traffic-Safetycom 135.475 (also used by Old Hay)

PPR to Dave Watts 07712 502030

BBQ with collection for Kent Air Ambulance.

RSVP Email 2pk@peterkember.co.uk



Visitor to Laddingford last year



Dash for home

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Stop Press!! Ian McLeod's Pietenpol has completed the test flying with Jim Stevens.

www.solleysicecream.co.uk

*Could you find Ripple?
Right in the middle!*

Dates for your Diary

26th July Kent Strut invited to

Laddingford Fly-in. (bad weather backup date Sun 27th)

PPR Dave Watts 07712 502030

July Strut meeting will be held over to the first weekend of August for a BBQ and fly-in at Rochester—2nd/3rd August.

*1st August Young Aviators Day EGLG**10th August Panshanger Revival Day**16th August Combined Ops Airshow*

Headcorn which will also feature the Canadian Lancaster with the BBMF

28th August Strut Meeting BBQ EGTO

25th September Strut Talk, at Cobtree Manor Golf Club

Aviation Lawyer, Tim Scorer

30th October Strut Talk, at Cobtree Manor Golf Club

Tempsford SOE airfield

Fr. Peter Geldard