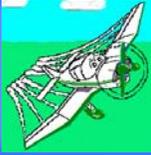


August 2014



# SKYWRITINGS



Newsletter of the *Kent Strut*

**Last BBQ of the season!**



Light Aircraft Association



*See p4*



Nigel Read - Editor

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We are back at Rochester again this month on Thursday 28th August for our last BBQ of the season before returning to the golf club in September. We have pictures of our successful weekend fly-in at Rochester, reports of trips made by strut members to Audley End House and Duxford, a planned charity drive and what may be a slightly out of date report on TG aviation's activities.

We had 27 aircraft visit over the fly-in weekend, most of course on Sunday when the weather improved and many vintage and not so old Rolls Royce's joined us, lining up opposite the flyers. The Saturday BBQ was not as well supported as we would have liked, possibly because of the poor start to Saturday which turned into a very nice evening. Were members on holiday or keeping Saturday evenings for something else? A lot of you missed a good evening with live music. Don't miss the next one!

**28th August Meeting  
Kent Strut BBQ at Rochester Airport  
Fly or Drive 18:00hrs**

**www.kentstrut.co.uk**

## Letter from Steve Solley

Dear Sir/Madam

I realise that we all receive plenty of charity requests each year but I offer no excuses for sending this one to you.

I have decided to take part in the charity car challenge - Monte Carlo Madness. Richard (*Steve's son*) and myself will be setting off on Saturday 6th September 2014 and have been given just three days to drive from Dover to Monte Carlo in Monaco.

Where's the challenge in that you may ask? Well, one of the conditions is that our cars must cost no more than £200.

The charity is Martha Trust, which cares for people with profound physical and multiple learning disabilities across Kent and Sussex. You can find out more about their amazing work at [www.marthatrust.org.uk](http://www.marthatrust.org.uk)

We are committed to raising at least £1,500 for Martha Trust and we will personally be paying for the car, fuel, tax, insurances and obviously any running repairs along the way. Ideally, though, we'd like to raise far more.

Having never run a marathon or cycled the length of the country, we wanted a gentle entry into the world of fundraising, but something requiring a bit more effort than buying a red nose or a charity t-shirt.

I understand completely if you don't feel able to make a donation but I would like to stress that we'd be grateful for donations of any amount - and I do mean any amount.

We'd also be grateful if you could make your donation through the Gift Aid scheme which means that Martha Trust can get the tax back. We've set up a Giving Page to help you at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/solleyscooperstars>.

Cheques can be made payable to Martha Trust and anyone able to donate £100 or more will get a mention on the side of our car.

Thank you in anticipation of your generous donation and we promise to keep you informed of our progress!

Yours sincerely

*Stephen Salley*



*Stop me and buy one!*

### Audley End House - well worth a visit. *Gary Smith*

How good would it be to fly to a stately home that is open to the public? A recent discovery by members of the Kent strut shows this is possible and the adventure is available every day throughout the summer.

English Heritage look after many properties throughout England, one of which is Audley End House located 8nm due north of Stansted Airport in Essex. By coincidence there is a private strip nearby. It was during our 15 minute walk into Saffron Walden that we saw signs for the house. It turns out that the 17<sup>th</sup> century house, once owned by Lord Braybrooke has been restored and the rooms and gardens are open to the public and what a splendid place it is to visit. For an entry fee of £15 (free for those with English Heritage membership) one can visit the entire house with its original furniture including 800 books, the enclosed gardens or the grounds which include a lake, stable block, Ha-Ha and extensive kitchen



gardens / green houses. It is open from 10:00 and one could easily spend the entire day there. Home to the Polish contingent of SOE during the war.

The airstrip is home to VF restorations, there is an honesty box for the £5 landing fee but they do require PPR (as it's very close to Stansted's air space and has trees at one end —up hill to the south).

Audley End House - well worth a visit. (House Post code CB11 4JF, 01799 522842)



## Flying Legends Duxford 2014 July 12th Mike Negus

So after a 2 year break I thought a trip to the air show would be in order as it looked to be a good line up and so it turned out to be. This is all about the heavy end of the warbird scene which I have a fascination and interest in, there is so much going on and lot's I guess that I am not aware of. It is well known about the Canadian Lanc coming over and this is bound to generate a lot of interest in the non aviation fraternity which can only be a good thing one would hope with a lot of coverage I expect in the news and TV. This of course is the high end of the business and as events at Manston and Panshanger have shown there is still a lot of apathy out there amongst the general public for retention of our flying facilities so in some way maybe this will raise awareness. Is there any way we can bolt on to this event?

Rambling again so back to the original thinking. *Duxford*. The weather of course plays such a vital part in the success of these events (fingers and everything crossed for our fly in at Rochester in August) and as the weather at the end of the week before was to say uncooperative as several Strut members will attest, Saturday dawned grey and heavily overcast but broke by mid morning into a glorious day and light winds. However a number of acts due in from the continent arrived a bit late for the display although this did not detract from the aircraft present. Some of the peripheral entertainment and stalls were well worth exploring and Eric 'Winkle' Brown, a sergeant pilot who flew P Popsie in the Dam Busters Film was worth a chat to and the daughter of Barnes Wallis Mary Stopes-Roe was also there. Entertainment was provided by among others a Laurel and Hardy lookalike act, very convincing, a band from Windsor playing 40's music and a trio of rather attractive girls from the States who have been there before called the Manhattan Dolls.

The aircraft of course are the main draw and featured amongst them were 11 spitfires up in one hit including 4 x Mk1 types a sight that may not have been seen since the 1940's. A beautiful P40C in a polished aluminium finish, Super Constellation sponsored by Breitling, Boeing P26 Peashooter brought over especially from the States, two Gladiators and many others with a fine aerobatic display by Anna Walker in her Bucker Jungman.

I don't know how many photo's our esteemed Editor will be able to include but hopefully there will be enough to give a flavour. Enjoy!





**Letter from Mark Girdler** news on Manston and TG's operations (dated 11th July)  
Hi All

Sorry this has taken some time to put out but Sue and I spent yesterday driving back from the court hearing in Leeds in time to make the council meeting regarding the possible compulsory purchase of Manston, only to find we were refused entry as it was full.

Our hearing on Wednesday was for an injunction to allow us to use the runway unlicensed in accordance with all the CAA rules until our main case against the airport can be heard. Whereas in London the judge seemed to be coming round to our way of thinking that there would be no cost to the airport for us to do this, in Leeds he stated his opinion that as land owners they would have an obligation to ensure this was carried out safely. He believed this would involve staffing, insurance and council rates all adding up to about £1m. As we do not have this sort of money we could not cover damages to them should we lose the main case which is to prove that our lease gives us rights to use the runway.

He felt that the injunction application should have been filed before the airfield closed but this would have meant covering £10,000 a day losses. He did go on to say that he felt there was a serious case to answer in respect of the rights in the lease and he could see we had been trying to address it with the airport over the last 16 years.

We felt we had no choice but to fight our corner but did not expect it to be such a drawn out affair. The Judge has not ruled on costs yet, but they will be considerable and any donations towards these will be gratefully accepted.

We are down but a long way from out, and are committed to fighting on for our rights under our lease. We have special vouchers available to help support our operation and ensure that we can continue this fight to stop redevelopment of the airport. They start at £25 and have no upper limit. These can be used against flying during their 6 month validity or be allowed to expire, donating the money to our cause. Please let your friends know about these vouchers and get them to give us a call if they would like to support our fight.

We can now confirm our commitment to Pent and Lydd and hopefully improve our facilities at both places. If you need help with travel then please get in touch and we can try and put people together for shared travel. We are flying from Lydd 7 days a week up to 18:45, and are enjoying the into wind runway!

We would like to thank everyone again for their continued support,

Best Regards from all the team at TG,

Mark Girdler

<http://www.tgaviation.com/>

Tel: 01843 823656

*Fly-in Photos—Rochester* Saturday & Sunday 2nd & 3rd August



Seven RV's:-

*RV4 G-CDJB from Nayland*



*RV6 G-ONUN from Bolt Head (Devon) to Seething*



*RV6 from Hinton to North Weald*



*Nick Hampton's RV8 from Headcorn*



*RV4 from Gloucester*



*RV9A from Rayne Hall Farm, to Damyns Hall*



*RV9A from Henstridge*



*Two from Farty, one from Laddingford, Simon & co's Luscombe,  
John Dean's Jodel and Peter Kember's Hi Top Europa*



*Tecnam P92 from Horsham*



*Sierra P2002 from White Waltham*



*Europa XS from Sleep*



*Mike Fountain's Cherry BX2 from  
Greenwood Farm*

*PA17 from White Waltham*

We also had on Saturday RV6,  
G-RVAN from North Weald, leaving  
for Bennington the same day. Other  
visitors : Stamp SV4C G-BLXP from  
Maypole, PA22 G-ARNG and on both  
days Lucy Luscombe & Jodel D120  
AYGG from Farthing Corner.



*Mike Hallam's Rans S6-116 from  
Jackrells Farm*

*Part of the line up on Sunday*

Tea, Pancakes and Solley's ice cream went down well. A number of aircraft called in on the way to another destination, such as this Topsy Nipper. C172 Skyhawk G-BHUJ from North Weald popped in on the way to Seething as did PA28 G-CPTM from Liverpool to Deauville.

Bill Cole and Ian Park drove up from Sussex on Saturday and flew up on Sunday in DR400 G-CGPJ from Spilsted Farm. Steve Solley and Barry Webb flew their respective Jodels respectively from Ripple and Clipgate.



**Laddingford Fly-in** Saturday 26th July

Forty eight aircraft were at Laddingford with thirty two Europas. I think this includes the residents. It was mainly a Europa club Fly-in with a couple arriving from the Netherlands but the strut was in attendance with Gary Smith and Nick Hampton in their RV's, Rob Brown in his Jodel, Grahame Hammond in his Jabiru and I just caught sight of Europa SHSH with I presume Stephen Hayman heading for home. 140 sausages and 100 burgers were consumed and after expenses £300 was left for the Air Ambulance.

*Two strut RV's at Laddingford**Grahame and Rob's aircraft. RV and Turb are residents**The Dutchmen**G-SHSH based at Rochester*

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Yours sincerely

*Stephen Salley*



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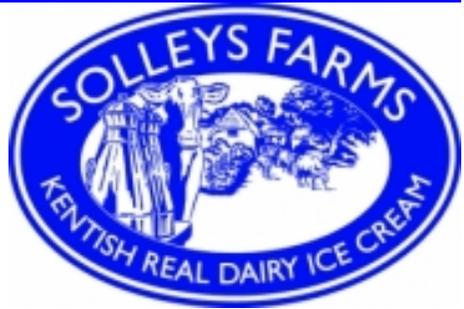
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**Dates for your Diary**

- 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  
Temsford SOE airfield  
Fr. Peter Geldard
- 27th November Strut Talk, to be  
confirmed!
- December TBA Christmas Dinner