



July 2015

# SKYWRITINGS

Newsletter of the *Kent Strut*



## Hot Weather, Hot Newsletter!



*Chris Reynolds's Piper J3 Cub from Pent Farm at Ripple with the strut's new banner pinned up behind (courtesy of Steve Solley)*

**T**he Summer has really got underway with fly-ins, hot weather and burgers galore.

In this issue we have reports from Shobdon, Ripple and Laddingford and lots of pictures.

The theme continues with our "July" meeting which as you can see below is in AUGUST with half priced landings for LAA members. Proof required if we don't know you!



Nigel Read - Editor

### *Contents*

*Shobdon p2*

*Ripple pp3-6*

*Heveningham Hall*

*P7*

*Laddingford &  
more Fly-ins/outs*

*p8*

**July Meeting is in August!**

**Fly-in at Rochester, Sunday 2nd August  
BBQ, Burgers and Pancakes, free Tea, Landing offer.**

[www.laakentstrut.org.uk](http://www.laakentstrut.org.uk)

## Shobdon - Gary Smith

The popularity of summer "wings and wheels" type events feature quite heavily in the flying calendar and Shobdon "summer fair" is no exception. Located on the Welsh border it could not be regarded as "local" but most aeroplanes have the 1:45 endurance required (from Kent), you just have to find the courage to attend.

Three strut members made an early start on Saturday 27th June, routed north of the Heathrow zone, straight over Oxford airport and direct to Shobdon for a trouble free flight to the 15th "Food and Flying Festival". The event grew from a humble food festival in the local town but rapidly expanded beyond the towns facilities. The airport offered a more sizable location which suited everybody and the "Food and Flying Festival" has become tradition, expanding year upon year.

Starting at the east end of the runway - classic cars and motorcycles cover the apron and helicopters offer rides in the background. An entertainment area for children comes next and before the control tower a set of "stationary engines" can be seen puffing away. In front of the clubhouse a shaded bar area entertains the public and fills them with "tummy stuff" on behalf of the aero club. Moving down the line past the main hanger a pair of BA Swallow aircraft stand on the apron with appropriately chosen cars from the era parked alongside, numerous other vintage aircraft are close by. As you enter the display area a sculptor cuts animals from logs with a chainsaw (battery operated!) and the main arena stand in front of you surrounded by perhaps 15 marquees. Having visited most of the food ones (the main reason we go) and observed the other home made produce and items for sale we watched the air display and observed the golf buggies taking people on guided tours of the aircraft on the flight line (if you fly in then you are technically an exhibit).



The photo captures the atmosphere of the event as John Dean "upgrades" his Jodel for a "summer racer". Keep an eye out for this event next year, well worth making the flight for.

Note, it is actually open for both days of the weekend.

## Ripple Fly-in

Another successful summer fly-in to Steve Solley's Farm Strip at Ripple near Deal was held as our June meeting. There were planes, vintage cars, motor bike and ice cream van, burgers, sausages, more ice cream, a steam powered boat and strange flying things without wings! I will let the pictures tell the story:-

*Gary Smiths RV9 which suffered a puncture :-)*



*Jodel D120 owned by Richard Warriner*



*Steve Solley's Jodel D112 and some of the visitors (also a caravan site)*



*Glen Everett's Pietenpol Air Camper*

If we have not added a picture of your strut aircraft to the strut's new web site, send one to the editor or John Dean!





Bruce Alexander's EXEC 162F  
which has the Talon engine



This is one of Steve's neighbours.  
The flight was short but ended  
with a perfect two point landing.



Gary showing his many talents, the  
Vagabond muscles are still there.  
Success eventually:....



...Chris Reynolds heading to Pent  
Farm



*Reims Cessna 150M Aerobat and Richard Warriners other mount,  
a Rans S6-116*



Seven aircraft flew in, Steve's Jodel already being there. The Luscombe (Beryl) was in Spain, several drove in who normally fly, Brian and John with Colin Evans and your editor and John Luck in John's MGC.



*Lagonda and MGC*





Not the tea earn but a relatively modern steam boat, owned by another of Steve's neighbours. The dog clutch is disconnected as the prop is lubricated by water.



Ariel



Steve's MG at Farty for a committee meeting



Someone reported a plane crashing so the firemen were unexpected but unnecessary visitors. They were unaware of a farm strip at Ripple but are now.

A rather long Chevrolet pick up.



As usual the donations for food are to go to this year's chosen charity, curtesy of Steve's generosity. £ 442 was collected for the disabled flying charity that use Shadows at Old Sarum, APT Charitable Trust [www.disabledflying.org.uk](http://www.disabledflying.org.uk)

## Heveningham Hall from John Dean

One of the delights of the UK Fly-In season is the event at Heveningham Hall in Suffolk which usually takes place in July. The Fly-In is organised by Halesworth Lions Club and forms part of the Heveningham Hall Country Fair. <http://www.countryfair.co.uk/>.

Heveningham Hall is a Grade 1 listed building in Heveningham, Suffolk. The present house, dating from 1778-80 and incorporating work from an early 18th-century building, was designed by Sir Robert Taylor for Sir Gerald Vanneck, 2nd Baron Huntingfield. It has extensive grounds with sufficient space for a 550m runway (*excellent forward planning, Ed*) as well as a large area for the Country Fair. Much work goes into marking out the runway and erecting a scaffold tower from which ATC is conducted.

Whilst the aerodrome area is separate from the Country Fair, only a very short walk gives pilots and passengers free access to all the other events taking place including Classic Cars and Motor Bikes, Stationary engines, Craft Tent, Food Tent, Log Cutting and many other "Happenings". More than enough to keep you occupied for the whole day.

ATC is in the hands of John Hill and is conducted in a very professional but friendly manner. On Saturday with excellent weather there were about 50 aircraft on the ground so at times the circuit was very busy but never seemed to get frantic. There was a short air display at around 13:30 with the Breitling Wing Walkers and the Twister Duo.

A number of Strut members made it on Saturday but it would have been good to see a few more. Unfortunately, the weather on Sunday was not so good and the number of aircraft visiting was sadly depleted. It really is a good day out & suggest you put it in your diaries for next year!



*Clockwise from top left:-*

*Events ring,  
Log cutter,  
The latest in*

*Victorian Ipads, Booking in tent, and Heveningham Hall.*

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*Sedlescombe (Spilsted Farm)*[www.solleysicecream.co.uk](http://www.solleysicecream.co.uk)**Laddingford Europa Fly-in**

The same weekend as Heveningham, 34 Europas flew into Laddingford. This Motor Glider version came from Luxembourg, while Gary Smith flew Ian Mcleod's Piet. from Farthing Corner.

**More Fly-ins**

Don't forget the Strut fly-in to Rochester on Sunday 2nd August, LAA members are also invited and on Saturday the 15th August we are planning a fly-out to Bill Coles strip at Sedlescombe. See supplement to the newsletter- Noise abatement etc!

**Dates for your Diary**

July—No meeting in July!!!!

2nd August LAA fly-in to

Rochester organised by the Kent Strut. BBQ

15th August Packed Lunch Fly-out to Sedlescombe BBQ????

27th August, Evening BBQ at Rochester. (Early start)