



May 2016

SKYWRITINGS

Newsletter of the *Kent Strut*



Cross Channel

LAA Wings

I have heard from Paul Anderson who has completed his LAA Gold Wings. Congratulations Paul. Look up the requirements and see if you already have the documentary evidence in your log book that can be verified. Gary Smith signed off Paul.

Paul found he needed one extra tick and happened to be on a survival course the following day. This involved a helicopter mock up, a swimming pool, being turned upside down, escaping through a window while things are made difficult as your life raft is pulled away from you whilst being hosed down if you weren't quite wet enough.

Paul flies a C150 from Rochester but has plans to build a Sopwith Triplane!

Meetings

Last month we had a talk from Roy Ingleton on the history of early accidents involving civilianised Gotha bombers, but coming up to accidents we may remember at Manston and Biggin Hill such as the King Cobra and a



Nigel Read - Editor

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26th May Meeting

**An update on our strut organised Cross Channel trip for the LAA and The Red Baron trip from April Skywriting
Cobtree Manor Golf Club, ME14 3AZ 20:00hrs**

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botched barrel roll in an Invader. The more distant recollections were perhaps more interesting but generally was not quite what we were expecting.

This month we want to brief members on the cross channel trip we are organising on 25th June and ask if any members are able to help. The intension is to help with the admin side and provide packs of info so pilots can take it away and complete their knowledge. We will have Steve Solley based in Abbeville to help as necessary there. This should not take too long to discuss and Mike Negus will fill us in on some of the details of his trip to discover what happened to Manfred von Richthofn, as described in last month's *Skywritings*. (Mike organised the last speaker!)

Sometimes it's The Little Things Mike Negus

Flying, ah flying! Don't we all enjoy our past time whether pilots or passengers we are all flyers with a common interest. Talking of common interest, my chum Simon and I decided on Saturday 14th May to go on a little trip. A little thing, a short flight to the Fly In at Stow Maries which is developing in to a must go destination from the relatively humble and basic operation to save the largely intact surviving World War 1 airfield by Russell Savory and his great band of volunteers. Those of us who have visited before will see a change in the place year on year and in keeping with the time frame the airfield was set up in it now houses a permanent collection of remarkable aircraft as well as the building infrastructure.

The stars of the show for me at least are the superb modern built, but to all intents and purposes next off the production line aircraft, represented by a Sopwith Snipe, Albatros DVa and a BE2 all with original or even more remarkable reverse engineered engines. Several other replicas including a Bleriot, Sopwith Camel and a Morane monoplane complete the line-up.

It was despite a slightly pessimistic forecast not a bad day, the forecast crosswind was not too across at base and pretty much down the runway at Stow Maries so it all made for an uneventful flight. One thing, make sure when changing frequency you let the station you have been talking to know, ask me how I know.

The event was well supported with a number of aircraft flying in and a steady influx of the public by road. Among the stalls the LAA was kind of represented by the Build a Plane project from Grays in Essex. By all accounts they are struggling to maintain interest amongst their peers but there was no doubting the enthusiasm of the two young people we were talking to.

Unfortunately, we were unable to stay for the flying display as we both had to be back and had we stayed our departure would have been after the flying display. Next time we will stay as an Albatros and Snipe in the air, not seen since 1918 is well worth the trip, after all it is only a short flight, a little thing.

*Thomas and Emily from
The Gateway Academy
Build a Plane project*







Pitcher from Udimore Sussex. welcome.

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Sun and Fun continued

Some of the heavy stuff, including a DC3 with turbines.

Amongst the stands in the various halls :-

Whelen modern lighting, left.

A selection of Sensenich propellers





Of interest to anyone with a Narco Radio, (John Dean and

your editor) TKM Avionics are working on a direct replacement 8,33 KHz radio.

Below, Dynon panel



Bimble Chat Steve Solley

My flying is mainly half to an hours bimble around my local area. During the summer in the early evenings the costal breeze has dropped out leaving the air nice and still. These evenings I enjoy, especially with Manston closed down, giving plenty of uncontrolled air space.

So with only a listening watch on the radio and squawking 7000 up and away. Sometimes the views are incredible seeing well into France and across to London. Climbing to around 2000ft pull the power back and settle into a bit of slow flying admiring the views and possibly a bit of soaring! Circling the odd balloon has been known.

Last year I did break out and took one Grandson to Duxford. It was very straight forward and found everyone on the live side very welcoming. Also I went to Chatteris, Damien's Hall, Farthing Corner and also had a very pleasant afternoon at Sedlescombe

So this year a bit more breaking out and going further afield. At the moment Abbeville is one and Lincolnshire is another.

Happy flying.

Don't forget next month, we have our fly-in to Steve's Strip at Ripple.

Also Next Month I hope to have an article from Paddy Jordan's view of Sun and Fun and pictures from the car show at Sun'n Fun (American spelling).



Steve Solley's coastal view on a clear and calm summers evening

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Steve's Jodel

Dates for your Diary

- 26th May Strut Talk
- Cross Channel Trip and Mike Negus' trip to discover more about the demise of Baron von Richthofen
- 25th June X channel flyout
- 26th backup date
- 30th June Ripple Ice Cream fly-in