

Skywritings

The Kent Strut Newsletter May 2024



We are having a bit of a revamp, so if things look and feel rather different, it's because they are. The news and events calendar will pop up each month, but fattened and improved, no doubt, by your contributions if and when they arrive and with just the essentials if not. So sometimes there'll be a skinny edition, other times not, but it allows us to keep things coming at you regularly.

This is a skinny one, because there's far more to say about Manston and we are still recovering. If you wish to contribute, as one who volunteered or as a visitor, even if with only a comment, please do, via the Strut e-mail address. The cover shows the star of the show, undoubtedly, despite what we may think of our aeroplanes.

The short version, meanwhile: Friday and Saturday brought excellent weather and a benign breeze. Sunday was much as forecast, with much of the country weathered off, but the SE dried up early and a dozen or two aircraft arrived. The steady stream on Friday was but a warm-up event. Well over 150 aeroplanes landed on Saturday, with all the Strut volunteers working hard. Simon Tilling flew his Navion in and saw how busy we were. At the peak, aircraft were parked along the whole of Echo taxiway and much of Alpha also, with others across the road, too. Amazing. The arrival of the Dakota from North Weald made everyone's day, upstaging even the most interesting of the rest.

Pilot & public feedback has been very positive. On the whole, the locals like to see the airport being used. Martha Trust and Brain Tumour Research will be sharing the money taken on the day and from various donors, which is still coming in. A far more comprehensive account of Mankosh is forthcoming!

Roll the credits!

Here's the list, all of whom it took to make it happen:

RSP Manston Airport	Venue & Organiser
Azimuth Associates	VIP organiser
LAA Kent Strut	Organiser
RAF Manston History Museum	Venue & Organiser
Reclamet	Financial & Equipment
True Environmental Services	Equipment Support
Mitie	Security arrangements
Polar Helicopters	Aircraft Bookings, Radio comms & refuelling

Aerolegends	DC3 G-ANAF static display
GI Fire & Rescue	Aircraft & Domestic fire & rescue service & pollution response
Powermain	Mobile lighting
Hewbourne	Grounds maintenance
RightGuard Security	CSAS traffic control operatives
Flightline Aviation	Light aircraft static display

Volunteers:

Max Rennie	Nebosh H&S Landside
Michael hill	Nebosh H&S Airside
Adrain Dowling	Ground handling
Brian Watkins	Ground handling/tour guide
Greg Nocentini	Ground handling/tour guide
Thomas Blake	General helper
Jenny Blake	General helper

We can add to that list all those companies and individuals who sponsored the tombola, all the Museum volunteers, the Strut marshalling team, the fell-into-it LAA tent volunteers and, of course, Steve Hoskins who conceived and implemented the idea.

The Strut gang (in no particular order):

Chris	Mike	Terry
Lee	Nigel	Peter
John C	Gary	Richard B
John D	Dinesh	Richard Shone
John L	Trevor	Richard Solley
John T	Stephen	Nic

Thank you also to Jim, Ron A and Ron L, who made valiant attempts to make it but were thwarted by circumstances.



Winding back to April, at the Manston Museum café, we enjoyed our interactions with Michael and Karen from Border Force, whose talk on the intelligence work was well received. S-gar was not ignored!

March saw us back at the PAFRA home in Rochester learning about a lesser-known aspect of Martin Baker: the aeroplanes. Our own Jim Hearndon gave a fascinating talk on the evolution and development of the MB marques; as one whose interest is not generally in that era, I was intrigued and fascinated. I hope Jim will talk to us again.

Forthcoming Events:

Scramble: Saturday 1st June

The Tilmanstone strip (Boy's Hill), will be the venue for a Furry Fly-In picnic, **weather permitting**. There's a 500m grass strip oriented 02/20 and nothing else, so bring the pickernic baskets, Boo Boo, jump into the aeroplane and join the fun. Pilots flying an aeroplanes without a Bear (or approved furry alternative) will be sanctioned with a landing fee. 51.2035359, 1.2999792 / 51°12'12.7"N 1°17'59.9"E is the place; check google for the aerial view if you are unfamiliar with it. **Watch WhatsApp for the latest and if it's a go, that's where the Go will appear**. Then, if you want to come, please ring Steve for a quick briefing 07768 984507.

For those pilots and aircraft that can do it, there's then

Thursday 27th June

The June Meeting is the annual Fly-In and Barbecue at Solley's Farm, Ripple, where Stephen's warm welcome includes camping facilities and car parking. Drive or fly-in. The runway is just shy of 350m & the ice cream airfield awaits.

July

If interest is sufficient, Steve will organise the trip to Damyn's Hall and the onward trip to visit the Secret Nuclear Bunker, postponed from last year due to 'summer' weather. A minibus full would make it work. Please wave via e-mail if you are interested.

August

The Rally at Leicester. Watch the magazine for details of booking in.

Skinny indeed, you cry. Fear not, the full-fat version will materialise.

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