

*East of Scotland Strut of the Light Aircraft Association  
June 2022 Newsletter*



*Photo Andrew Macleod*

## Chairman's bit

Well done to all those Strut members who came and helped us set up at East Fortune for the Fly-in.

In view of the last minute postponement we did rather well. Around 20 movements.

The wind changed 90 degrees suddenly mid-afternoon which gave first time visitors experience of both exciting ends of East Fortune East.

The word from those who returned to Perth for the last night Ceilidh of the Round Scotland Tour was that the visit to East Fortune East had been special.

Thanks must go to the Strutter guys for entertaining them and the Museum of Flight for their concession on the day. Great time had by all.

Fly safe. *Justin*

## Spadeadam Danger Area

*Alex McClintock forwards this.*

'As Spadeadam Danger Area is relatively close to us I thought the GPS jamming trials notified in the AIC below may be of interest to (or affect) some Strut members. I was flying within a stone's throw of there yesterday.

The first two trials have passed but as there are dates in September, October and November of this year it may be worth including the information in the next Newsletter. The document can be viewed in the link below: Aeronautical Information Circular P 034/2022'

## Co-ordinator's bit

Thanks to all who helped or supported the LAA Round Britain Tour visit to East Fortune, especially to Keith Griggs for enabling the use of his strip.

In the event due to weather the Friday visit was postponed to Saturday because of the wet and windy weather not co-operating. I understand only a handful of visitors managed to get out and about from Perth while they were up here.

The next meeting will be at the Harrow Hotel on Monday June 6th at 2000.

One item that needs addressed is whether or not we have a summer fly-in and when and where. If you cannot make the meeting let me know your views and I will make them known.

In the meantime the weather seems to be more co-operative and the days are getting longer so enjoy your aviation.

*Iain*

## Cover photo

Tantallon Castle, taken from Alex McClintock's Kitfox on the evening we wound up the East Fortune Fly-in.



## The next meeting is on...

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June**  
**at the Harrow Hotel**  
**Eskbank Road, Dalkeith**  
**at 8.00pm**

**Don't forget to pay your  
bargain annual £25.00  
subscription**



**About the Light Aircraft Association:**  
[www.laa.uk.com](http://www.laa.uk.com)

With a history extending over 70 years, the UK Light Aircraft Association promotes safe and economical operation of sports and recreational aircraft. Representing the aviation interests of around 8,000 recreational pilots, amateur-builders and enthusiast members, the LAA oversees the operation of more than 2,500 light aircraft and the build of another 1,700, whilst providing sector-leading consultation and advocacy in aviation-related regulatory matters both in UK and Europe.

**This newsletter can also be viewed on  
the Strut website:**  
[eos-strut.org](http://eos-strut.org)



# LAA Scotland Tour and Strut Fly-in at East Fortune East

27 and 28 May 2022



The weather was against us with high blustery winds on the Friday so nobody came, but Saturday was milder. The visitors who flew in seemed to enjoy their visit to East Lothian, the Museum of Flight, and to see the nearby Sopwith 1½ Strutter being built by the APSS.

We had two visitors from Edinburgh University's Hyperloop team who had previously given an excellent presentation to the Strut about the project one dark windy night in February. Eralp Calhan was given a flight by Justin Kennedy in his Europa and Sam Mohamed went up with Alex McClintock in his Kitfox, and they both seemed to enjoy the experience. Photos on the next page.

Some of our visitors alongside, including a very nice and well travelled dog. Thanks as always to Keith Griggs for all his hard work and for making his airfield available, and to Tim for cooking food all day.





Sam and Alex



Eralp and Justin








**Group photo half way through. £300 was raised in contributions for the Nicola Murray Centre for Ovarian Cancer research at the Western General in Edinburgh. The Foundation added 'What a fantastic photo, Keith! Exciting hobby!'**





An attractive but curious garden, the one with the swirly pattern on the right, that Alex and I spotted on our post-Fly-in trip round East Lothian.

We thought it was odd because the design could only be seen from the air and it didn't seem complicated enough to be a maze.

My guess is that it may be an aid to contemplation and meditation as you walk around it, there is something similar in George Square, Edinburgh, or maybe the gardener has a new lawnmower and has gone mad!



## From Colin Lourie

Something I've not done in over 30 years - visit the cockpit of a commercial airliner. On a recent flight out of Edinburgh the Easyjet Airbus A320 had to get off the stand while waiting for a slot. It taxied to (what I call) the lazy-lane just off the threshold and shut down its engines for around 20 minutes. The captain announced that under these circumstances the cabin door could be opened and passengers were welcome to come up and have a look. Whoosh!





## More from Colin

If you ever happen to be in Athens, there's a nice wee treat right in the middle of the city, only 10 minutes walk from Syntagma Square.

Outside the War Museum, there is a small collection of ex-Hellenic Air Force aircraft, comprised of:

Lockheed F-104G Starfighter, North American AT-6 Harvard, North American F-86D Sabre, Bell - OH-13S Sioux, Northrop F-5A Freedom Fighter, Republic F-84F Thunderstreak. Photos on next two pages.













## *Iain Gibson's report on his visit to the LAA*

The opportunity arose to attend an LAA Strut get-together at Turweston at the end of March and I travelled there with Neil Geddes of the West of Scotland Strut.

The meeting was opened by Steve Slater the CEO who gave a run down on the current position in the LAA.

It was intimated that the annual fly-in was unlikely to be held at Sywell this year mostly due to Sywell changing to an Air/Ground operation, and the probationary period limited the number of movements that could be taken. As a result a smaller scale fly in will be held at Popham near Basingstoke at the beginning of September.

A Presentation was made by Stewart Luck of the YES strut on their aims and activities.

Pete White of Bodmin Airfield presented a piece about the environmental benefits of an airfield. This followed the unexpected discovery of a Wild Flower meadow within Bodmin. It was also mentioned that Turweston had started to use Shrubs and hedges to define various areas on the airfield rather than erecting fences.

A general discussion took place about such subjects as trying to recruit younger members to the LAA, and the office will hold a list of speakers prepared to talk at Strut meetings.

All in all a worthwhile venture and it was good to be able to talk face to face with other Strut leaders. It was also a welcome alternative to the Zoom style meetings we have had over the last two years.

*Iain*

## *Rex's Hangar*

Tony in London asks if we have come across this site? 'Rex's Hangar has dozens of vids about the history of aircraft development featuring a number of weird and wonderful planes.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/RexsHangar/videos>

'I was nosing around looking for information about the giant Tarrant Tabor after finding a reference to it in an article about timber construction in aircraft. Tarrant was actually a house builder here in the south who turned to making wooden parts for aircraft during the first world war. The Tabor had an interesting monocoque fuselage and triplane wings in truss form - all constructed in wood. There is a neat little video in Rex's Hangar about the Tabor and its sad end.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-oONPvIBt8>

'More strange flying and non-flying machines:'

<https://youtu.be/SNtA1cbIUSA>

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## *Flight 134*

John Whitfield found this video about Malaysian Airlines Airbus Flight 134, which took off from Brisbane with all three pitot tube covers still in place. How could that possibly happen?

As so often it was a series of unusual events, but thank goodness for a smart piece of Airbus technology that saved the day.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f80WwpNuaxg>

## *Catch a falling rocket*

From Ian Wales comes this link about Rocket Lab, a US company that owns a launchpad in New Zealand and specialises in small rockets. The plan is to reuse the boosters, using a helicopter to catch the rocket when falling back from space. Problems at present but looks like this idea will work.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=rocket+lab+helicopter+capture&ru=%2fvideos%2fsearch%3fq%3drocket%2blab%2bhelicopter%2bcapture%26FORM%3dHDRSC3&view=detail&mid=771DE4C3EE748588085977>

## *Tragedy in China*

Al Swegle takes a particular interest in all things Boeing related and was concerned by the recent, hard to explain, crash of a China Eastern airliner. The original link is lost but here is a Reuters comment that refers to it. Flight data suggests someone in the cockpit pushed the Boeing 737-800 into near-vertical descent, according to a preliminary U.S. assessment

<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/flight-data-china-eastern-jet-points-intentional-nosedive-wsj-2022-05-17/>





If you have a Fly-in or event you would like publicised in the Newsletter, please drop me a line. I won't know about it unless somebody tells me.

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18-19 June	Easter Airfield, Summer Solstice
	<a href="https://www.easterairfield.co.uk/">https://www.easterairfield.co.uk/</a> or <a href="mailto:dhmunro@me.com">dhmunro@me.com</a> or mobile 07967 715304.
9-10 July	Lamb Holm
23-24 July	Sollas Beach, Highlands and Islands Strut
30-31 July	Easter Airfield (contact as above) Highlands and Islands Strut
Annual Fly-in	
30 July	Kilkeel, N Ireland



## LAA 'GRASS ROOTS FLY IN' POPHAM AIRFIELD 2nd to 4th September 2022

The LAA will be heading for the green grass of Popham Airfield in Hampshire for a new event on 2nd, 3rd, 4th September 2022. The LAA Grass Roots Fly-In will on one hand take the Association back to its traditional roots, while continuing to offer the first chance to see some of the latest aircraft and products in the recreational aviation market.

A joint venture with Popham Airfield, the LAA Grass Roots Fly In will continue the theme of the recent LAA Rallies at Sywell, in particular as a social event bringing flyers from around the UK and Europe to meet fellow enthusiasts. The event though will be developed on a more intimate scale. The grass runways at Popham and the airfield's famed rural ambience will mean that the event will focus on the fly-in and social element as much as on a large exhibition campus.

Said LAA CEO Steve Slater: 'The LAA Grass Roots Fly In is going to be different to the LAA Rally and we're still working on plans for the continuation of a larger scale LAA event in the future. Our move from Sywell though is a great opportunity for us to focus on creating a refreshing new take on the traditional LAA calendar fixture, something both different and at the same time taking us back to our roots.'

"The LAA Grass Roots Fly In will make the most of Popham's grass runways and its reputation as one of the most friendly and enthusiastic airfields in the country, to offer members and guests alike a great weekend at the start of September'.

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