



Welcome to the  
**JERSEY AERO CLUB**



## **DECEMBER 2015 MEMBERS NEWSLETTER**

No doubt, everyone is very busy planning their Christmas celebrations and enjoying the odd Christmas party or two! I'm certainly really looking forward to the Christmas trip to Dinan which is proving more popular than ever! All our thanks to James for organising it yet again!

### **NEWS FROM THE FLYING DESK.....by James Evans**

It may be winter (officially!) but we currently have 2 pilots completing their night qualifications and 2 new PPL students have just commenced their training.

Following feedback from some new pilots, I am considering putting together an evening of ditching training in the new year. This would consist of an actual life raft deployment in a hotel swimming pool, followed by brave pilots attempting to gain access to the raft while fully clothed, much harder than it sounds! This would be followed by dinner and discussion, so please feel free to let me know if this would be of interest?

The annual trip to Dinan on the 12th Dec is fully subscribed, we have 54 people staying for dinner on Saturday evening, mostly local but also one from Guernsey and one from Wellesbourne.

*Thank you all for your support, Happy Christmas from all in the Flying Department, James.*

## SOCIAL



The recent wine tasting event proved yet again very popular and we are very grateful to Flo Aranda of Randall's for hosting it.

The evening was supposed to be followed by an evening meal, but with only 12 people booked, this was cancelled. For future events, Mike Fleming, in charge of Social, is looking for a minimum of 25 people to keep the kitchen opened, therefore covering the additional cost of keeping staff on.

## COMMITTEE NEWS

New role on the committee- Geoff Clarke has taken the role of Club's Captain. One of his jobs is insuring that all the club notices are updated as and when necessary. So, if you have anything you would like to display, contact Geoff on [committee@jerseyaeroclub.com](mailto:committee@jerseyaeroclub.com)

## AOPA news ...by Richard Hawkin



### **BECOME A MEMBER THIS CHRISTMAS**

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association UK is part of the largest association of pilots in the world, with over 430,000 members in over 66 countries. AOPA UK is a not-for-profit organisation which exists to serve the interests of its members as aircraft owners and pilots, promoting the economy, safety, utility, and popularity of flight in [general aviation aircraft](#).

AOPA UK provides the vital voice that speaks for the interests of UK pilots, for issues including and not limited to airspace access, aerodrome access, threats of aerodrome closure, pilot licensing, aircraft regulation, and flying costs. It speaks not only to the UK authorities but to Europe and the rest of the world through IAOPA's seat at [ICAO](#), the United Nations body that oversees civil aviation throughout the globe.

**AOPA Channel Islands Region** is a part of AOPA UK. Channel Island residents who are AOPA UK members enjoy the full benefits of AOPA UK membership, a **5% discount on Jersey Avgas and Guernsey Jet A1 and Avgas**, as well as representation in Channel Island aviation matters, plus a monthly newsletter.

**AOPA Channel Islands Region** is actively involved, consulted, and represented in local aviation issues affecting general aviation, such as airspace changes, airport works and planning, and airport fees.

***By the time you read this, your partner may be scratching their head for that ideal Christmas gift. Well, drop the hint! Or just sign up yourself.***

If you're a student pilot, membership costs just £20 for up to two years or until you get your licence. Already licensed pilots can join take a one year membership for £92 or a two year membership, including aircrew card, for £216.

Join AOPA UK today by visiting their website at [www.aopa.co.uk](http://www.aopa.co.uk).

## **YOUR STORY...this month... Chipfest 2015 .....by Joe Brown**

Held around 3 times throughout the year at various locations, Chipfest is open to operators and pilots of de Havilland Chipmunks (and in the last few years Scottish Aviation Bulldogs) with the emphasis being on formation flying.

*Pictured right - G-APPM Jersey, G-BBND Old Warden, G-CIGE Dunkeswell.*



The last of these events was scheduled for September 18-20 and held at Sywell. The weather forecast was changeable with a line of showers crossing the country from Southwest to Northeast on the first day (Friday). Lots of people elected to stay at home and travel up on the Saturday morning. The two aircraft with the furthest, and the one with probably the shortest distance to travel all made it to Sywell that Friday evening.

*The two who had furthest to travel, Edward Moore, Jersey, Andy Foan, Dunkeswell.*

So, over dinner the plan was hatched that whilst waiting for other aircraft, instructors and pilots to arrive the following morning we would use the time to do a 'dawn patrol' to a nearby farm strip that conveniently has a pub right next to it that does good coffee. Wake up call duly received at 0630 and we all met by the



aircraft in high spirits ready to do the first sortie.



*Getting ready for our Dawn Patrol and then the fog came*



*Waiting to go, Saturday morning*



By the time the fog had cleared, around 11am, the event organizers and instructors had appeared, a white board had been put up and our names and relevant aircraft registrations had been put against Blu formation. It was a good to blow the cobwebs away and we all came back with big grins after an hour of practicing vic, line-astern, echelon left and right formations and changing lead so that everyone got a chance to fly in every position.



*First formation sortie.*

When we got back to Sywell more aircraft had turned up. The next sorties saw 3 formations head off to the designated training areas North and South of Sywell, and all ended with some great run & breaks to land giving the whole event a bit of an airshow feel to it. Indeed, there were quite a few spectators who turned up just to watch the sight of Chipmunks (& Bulldogs) coming and going.

A late decision was made to fully exploit the good weather and so with Frank Curry's Tigermoth, with Edward Moore 'freezing my butt off' in the front seat, as lead and James Evans, who had arrived from Jersey that afternoon on his way to watch the airshow at Duxford taking G-APPM we went for a 'Sunset Patrol.'



*It was a bit surreal. A Tigermoth with Frank & Edward in it, an aeroplane that I now associate with being in Jersey (Papa Mike) being flown by someone that I associate with being in Jersey (James) and having travelled from Jersey myself the day before it was a bit like 'Jersey' had been transported to Northampton. A great flight nonetheless, and one that will linger in the memory because it was so spontaneous.*

Sunday morning dawned with the same fog as the previous day, but at least we had time to enjoy breakfast and have a fully briefing before the first sorties of the day.



*Sunday line-up.*

The event culminates in The Balbo. All aircraft take part in one formation. This year we were tasked with flying over one of the pilot's children's birthday party about 10 miles away from Sywell. *(Really it was an excuse to fly the formation.)*



*It was a great weekend with lots of fun flying. About 15 aircraft turned up and everyone managed to get at least 4 sorties in during the weekend.*





*Edward & Frank*



*Andy Foan.*



*Joe Brown*

***As an interesting addition to Joe's article, DAVID ESTERSON sent me the following...***

When I first worked at Denham Airfield in 1964, things were fairly basic. We operated one Chipmunk and an Auster as a subsidiary of The London School of Flying at Elstree. In those days, Denham was just a non radio grass field, with a fuel pump and a bar. Beatrice Bickerton, the daughter of the airfield's owner, decided to bring us up to date, and installed a new 2 way radio in my office, with just her and myself as licensed operators.

The Chipmunk had an old 8 channel radio and we installed a crystal on the new Denham frequency. I briefed our regulars on this new fangled equipment and encouraged them to give it a try. The elderly (about my age now!) vicar of Kensington received my briefing and set off on a slightly misty day for some local area flying. Some time later when I was in another part of the building, I heard someone on the radio. I went through to the office and announced 'Station calling Denham, say again your callsign'. This threw our flying vicar who replied 'Hallo David this is Gabriel, Abraham.....!' This was just before the Marple's guide to aviation was finished (the M1) and he was lost. I asked what he could see and after a bit of a delay he said he could see a lion. I told him to circle round it and the other instructor immediately took off and retrieved him from overhead Whipsnade Zoo with 'left a bit, right a bit!' (The white lion is carved into the chalk of the downs, just next to the zoo!)

A few months later the M1 solved navigation problems for the world north of Watford. It was virtually the only dual carriageway running north/south, and was



black north of Luton and white south. If you became 'uncertain of your position', you only had to fly east or west until you found it, and then follow it home. It prevented many unwanted excursions into the newly established London Zone.

**Next month...*Flying the Beaver in Alaska...by Mike Le Galle***

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Christmas Club trip - Dinan - Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December

Club Night - Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Quiz night - TBA

## **THE PLANE SPOTTER'S CORNER.....by Bob Sauvery**

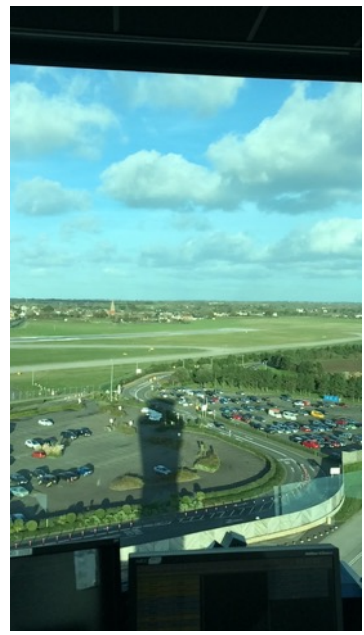
Another 4 pictures from Bob's collection....if you are wondering about the blue skies....those were taken in May 2009.



## VISIT TO AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL.....

Altogether 13 people visited the control tower recently and all seemed to enjoy it very much.

In fact, I already have 4 people awaiting another visit. So, should you wish to join in, just let me know. I am hoping to get it organised between the 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> December.



Photos above sent by Mike Fleming....looking as he is about to take over!

## AND FINALLY....

Hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and New year! Looking forward to seeing you at the club.

*Eveline*

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