



LAA MEMBER UPDATE. Thursday 30th April.

Dear fellow LAA member

First of all, and above all, I hope you and your loved ones remain well and not too frustrated by the lack of aviation. While there may be a little longer yet before flying can properly resume, our thoughts are turning to 'when', rather than 'whether' and we and the CAA are already beginning to make plans for a safe and prompt return to the air for us all, when the time is appropriate. In the meantime, I hope this update and some new initiatives from us will help keep you in touch.

SEE YOU DOWN THE PUB?

Well virtually at least! Join me and some fellow LAA members at a virtual flying club bar **this Friday evening, 1st May, from 6 to 7.30pm**, for a catch up and chat over a (real) beer (bring your own!). Just log on at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85426805353> and join us for an informal chat about the LAA, aeroplanes, flying and well, anything else really! Come as you are, though on second thoughts, no pyjamas!

LIGHT AVIATION MAGAZINE

Big thanks to Brian Hope and the production team. The May edition of the LAA magazine is currently being printed and post-office permitting, will be coming through your letterbox early next week.

You may be aware the Flyer magazine has announced this week, that from the July edition, is going digital-only; offering electronic editions in the future. Can I reassure you that we have no plans to follow likewise, Light Aviation is our single most important means of communication and this continues to be endorsed by member surveys, when over 98% of members support the magazine.

LAA YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Looking for something to do while you're confined to base? We have now launched our own YouTube channel, accessed via a button the LAA website homepage, via www.laa.uk.com/tv or by searching 'Light Aircraft Association' on the YouTube video platform.

The content is being kicked off with six 'LAA Explorer' videos featuring LAA Ambassador Arthur Williams; looking at Ownership, Maintenance, Preventative Measures, Engines, Avionics and simply, Flying for Fun! If you search the LAA Archive section you'll find short films including Susie Coreth's lovely film of her father Mark's Flight2Hope flight to Israel in his Jodel, spectacular bush flying from Africa and footage from past LAA Rallies and Shuttleworth air shows, as well as air safety briefings – with more to come!

LAA on FACEBOOK

Don't forget too, our Facebook page "Light Aircraft Association", which we update with the latest news, plus links to other interesting videos. In the first four weeks since lockdown it was visited 62,000 times!

RETURNING TO FLIGHT

At the time of writing this, Government advice remains that leisure flying is not considered an essential activity and travel to an airfield should only be contemplated if it is absolutely necessary. Whatever the CAA advice on 'maintenance flights', we recommend discretion in carrying out flights or travelling to airfields at this time.

The LAA position is that while aircraft maintenance and limited associated flights have been deemed essential work by the CAA and can be continued subject to appropriate safeguarding being adopted, we should not abuse that privilege.

A good question might be, do you really need to carry out this flight immediately? It may be that by waiting a week or so, no real problem in the current benign ambient conditions, the flight will become much less sensitive in terms of public opinion and COVID risk. Just because someone can fly, it doesn't necessarily mean they should.

Also, we recommend that members check if their airfield is open. The airfield's duty of care to employees and users may mean they elect to remain closed. The same may apply if they haven't made appropriate runway inspections.

In preparation for an eventual end to the COVID lockdown, the LAA has prepared advice to aircraft owners. LAA Technical Leaflet TL 2.32, available via the LAA website and Facebook page, provides detailed information on precautions if access to the aircraft can be gained but further storage is contemplated, and advice on planning the eventual return to service of aircraft from storage.

Among the key elements of the technical leaflet are:

- * Engines. Inhibiting, oils and return to service after storage.
- * Fuel. The risks of 'stale' mogas. Water or organic contamination
- * Airframes. Inspection, cleaning, wildlife infestation. Corrosion prevention and remedies.
- * Propellers. Inspection and maintenance
- * Documentation. Make sure you're legal when flying can recommence.
- * Initial flying tasks. Keep initial flights simple. Keep them safe.

The leaflet is available to all interested pilots via the 'Aircraft and Technical' section of the LAA website, or can be downloaded at <https://tinyurl.com/y85vv687>

CONTACTING US

While all our staff are working from home and our Cloud-based IT systems mean that we are handling all member enquiries as normal. Some activities such as NPPL licensing and

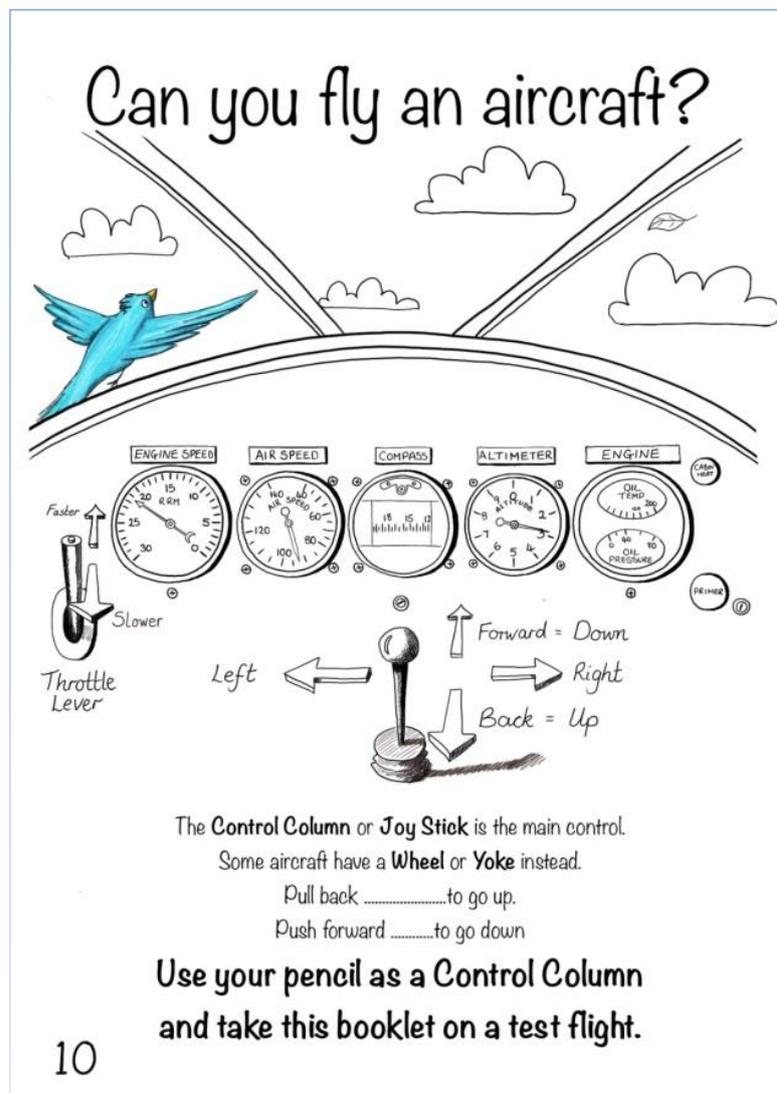
Permit First Issues, which require CAA input, may be delayed by the similar lockdown at the CAA Gatwick offices. PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO TELEPHONE LAA HQ.

AND FINALLY.....

Don't forget that if you've got bored aviation-minded children or grandchildren click on: http://www.lightaircraftassociation.co.uk/2020/News/art_update.html for information on the LAA Aviation Art Competition which runs until Tuesday 30th June. Prizes include tickets for a family visit to one of the Shuttleworth Collection's spectacular air shows at Old Warden in Bedfordshire.

Also, once we can resume access to airfields we'll be launching our young person's Airfield Adventure Guide, a booklet available from LAA HQ and via your local LAA Struts.

One page though, we decided might come in useful for all of us. Print it off and see whether you can use it for continuity flight training during the lockdown!



Stay safe – maybe see you for that virtual beer on Friday night!!

Steve Slater