

## NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2021



Launch queue summer 2020  
(Photo Martin Clark)

### **FLYING ACTIVITIES FOR 2021**

We have some provisional plans for this year. Of course, any planned activities that we are thinking of are subject to us being able to get back into action! But here are the ideas we have so far:

#### **Mid-week flying**

We will fly regularly on one full weekday each week. The default will be Wednesday, but we will be flexible to allow for the weather, with confirmation sent out by WhatsApp. Instruction may be available for those that need it and of course launching for anyone else. Other mid-week flying days may be organised by anyone as and when the weather is good – all you need to do is to persuade enough people to make it viable, find a tug pilot and let everyone else know!

#### **Pre-solo and early solo courses:**

There will be two courses, led by Mike Dodd and Bob Pye. The dates are yet to be decided, but we'll let you know as soon as we can. If you think you might be interested, get in touch with Mike ([michael\\_dodd@shobdon.com](mailto:michael_dodd@shobdon.com), 01531 890807 or 07711 143012) or Bob ([bob\\_pye@hotmail.com](mailto:bob_pye@hotmail.com) or 07814 670370), so that they can add you to their list of possible attendees. Nearer the time we will be asking for a deposit to secure your place, which will be equivalent to five 2,000 ft. aerotows (or a daily equivalent if you can't do all five days).

During these weeks, there will of course be launching available, so all members are welcome to turn up and fly (but don't forget to help out when you're not flying!)

**Soaring and cross country week:** Dates to be decided.

This will be for everyone that is solo; if you are solo but not yet self-authorising, there will be enough instructors around to get you flying, but there probably won't be any formal instruction. There will be informal help and advice around on the weather, NOTAMs and suitable tasks.

Soaring in the lovely Libelle  
(Photo Bobbie Jones)



### **SOCIAL ACTIVITY**

We have held several Zoom quizzes and talks this winter (thanks to Ken Powell for organising the sessions) and circulated details of talks organised by the BGA or other clubs. If you have any ideas for further talks, please don't be shy to let us know so that we can arrange something.

### **HANGAR AND WORKSHOP**

Some of you will be aware that the roof is being replaced on our workshop and the hangar next door. During this time some of the residents of the hangar have moved their aircraft into our hangar to keep them safe. We are pleased to be able to help our neighbours out.



A full hangar (photo Mike Hayes)

The 'MT' workshop  
(Photo Bob Pye)



In preparation for the roof work, we needed to remove or protect all the property in our workshop and on the mezzanine. Huge thanks to a working party that tackled and cleared the workshop the Saturday before last and completed the job on the mezzanine last weekend.

After the roof replacement we have arranged for builders to come in and lower the mezzanine floor, so as to make that area more accessible and effectively bigger, with more space between the floor and the sloping roof. When that is complete we will move equipment and furnishings back up there so as to make a working, social and training area. In the longer term the plan is to create a clubhouse in the old workshop ... watch this space! Or perhaps more appropriately watch 'that' space!

### **MEMBERSHIP**

We have been delighted that a number of new members joined during last year, in spite of the difficulties we have had in getting you into the air. Welcome all and we hope to be able to get your training properly under way before too much longer.

**Subscriptions and trailer parking fees ... no increase in fees! ...** but they are due on 1<sup>st</sup> March. The Committee has held the subscriptions and parking fees at the same level again, so our subscriptions are still the same as they were in 2014!

For those of you that paid a membership subscription last year, there is a discount available this year, to acknowledge the lack of opportunity you had to fly last year.

I am very pleased to say that Mike Saunders is taking over from me as Membership Secretary and he will be in touch with details shortly.

**Flying fees ...** have also stayed at the same level.

### **POSTSCRIPT**

And maybe we'll get some wave flying before too long. If you've forgotten what wave looks like, here's Bob's picture from a few weeks ago.

