

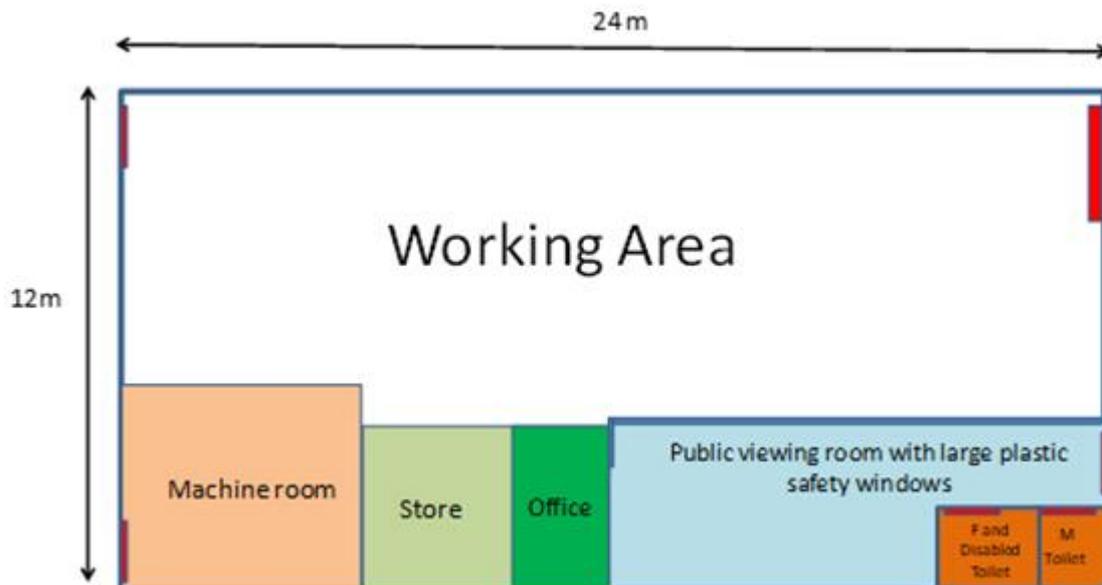
# GHC Newsletter Spring 2019

It has to be said the GHC doesn't take a breather and rest on its laurels! You can argue it's very much entitled to, having completed the massive second hangar project in August 2018. However, we move on with our development "vision", and the next stage is to construct a workshop for the maintenance and restoration of vintage gliders – and teaching the skills required.

## THE PROPOSED WORKSHOP

The plans are pretty well finalised. A 24m x 12m insulated building situated to the west and behind our two hangars.

### Proposed GHC Workshop Floor Plan.



We haven't got it signed off by the LGS CoM or East Hants DC as yet, but we're not expecting any problems. The overall cost for it to be fully equipped is estimated at £130k, but we can kick-off with an insulated shell, which will have practical uses, for £70k. So that's our initial funding target, £70k, we're currently just short of £20k raised. All donations, large or small, most welcome. See our website, <http://www.glidingheritage.org.uk/>, DONATIONS tab, for details of how to contribute.

## NEW GLIDERS

### BERGFALKE 2

This Scheibe built (1963) 2 seater arrived at Lasham at 4am (!) on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April having being trailed from near Munich by Geoff Moore and Rainer Karch. Rainer has very kindly donated the glider and its trailer to the GHC. It last flew in March 2012 so it needs a very thorough inspection before flying again, it's an EASA glider not Annex 2. The intention though is to get it flying as 2 seaters seem to be far more popular for flying by our members than single seaters! We're also looking to take it to the international VGC rally at Tibenham at the end of July.



(Gary Pullen shaking hands with Rainer Karch, photo courtesy of Colin Simpson)

### **DART Prototype**

BGA 1187, first flew 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 1963. This has been donated to the GHC by Robin Birch and was trailed to Lasham from Cirencester on Tues 7<sup>th</sup> May by Lemmy Tanner. We know it needs some work doing on it to get it airworthy, but it has been flying (at Aston Down) in the not too distant past. 15m span and a fixed undercarriage, with a wooden spar (later Darts had metal ones) so it's a bit of a "lead sled". However, in recent times many Darts have had to be scrapped because of metal spar corrosion problems, so we don't have this potential problem with the prototype.



(The original Slingsby marketing photo of the prototype. Not in this livery now!)

## LOCAL EVENTS

Our “Supporting Local Events” programme enthusiastically led by Hilton Thatcher and his team has just kicked off with the 3 day Popham airfield festival, 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> May. The first 2 days were aviation focused and the third, Bank Holiday Monday, a very big classic car event. Very strong Northerly winds on the opening Saturday meant we could only fly the “Beast” (YS53) in, the Steinadler having to wait to the next day. A great deal of interest in the GHC, especially on the first 2 days with the aviation enthusiasts. An unexpected spin-off was a horde of aircraft spotters arriving at Lasham on the Saturday after coming from Popham. Gary Pullen, having spotted the opportunity, soon had them organised in taking GHC hangar tours, which from their donations raised a considerable amount of money.



(After setting up at Popham Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May, photo courtesy of Paul Haliday)

By the time you read this the “Basingstoke Festival of Transport” will have gone ahead on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May. We’re taking the prototype Prefect.

### Other scheduled events:

- Sat 25<sup>th</sup> May, Goodwood open day
- Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Jun Odiham Kestrel club event
- Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Jul Bentworth fete
- Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Jul Medstead fete
- Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Sept Alton classic car show

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

- UK National vintage rally at Sutton Bank. Sat 25<sup>th</sup> May to Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Jun. Expected that at least 2 GHC gliders will be attending, the Foka 4 and prototype Prefect, though they will only be (hopefully!) flying Tues – Thurs.
- GHC AGM. Date not finalised but likely to be a Sunday in July.

- International VGC rally, Tibenham, Norfolk, Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Jul – Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug. there should be a significant GHC attendance at Tibenham.
- Lasham vintage task week starts Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Aug.
- This isn't a GHC event but nevertheless I'll flag it. Hilton Thatcher is organising a 4 day coach trip to the Wasserkuppe (very famous gliding site and museum) in Germany, 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Our webmaster, Paul Haliday, will shortly be adding a link to the GHC website that will give full details. If you're interested please don't come back to the GHC, go directly to Hilton – [avad94@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:avad94@dsl.pipex.com)

## **FLYING**

It's great that we've had our Dutch friends and colleagues visit us again this Spring. This year 5 of them – Johan van Dijk, Robbie Stikkelbroeck, Robbie Vroegop, Joop Duijs, Tony van Ryswyck (Hope I've spelt those correctly!). Over 3-4 days they had a number of flights in the "Beast", Steinadler, and prototype Prefect. Note back in 1951 this Prefect spent a short time in Holland and was registered as PH1 – the first one on the Dutch glider registration list.

Otherwise if there's a dark spot in what is a very bright GHC firmament it's the lack of flying of GHC gliders by Lasham based GHC members. It's cheap! The first hour is £24 (£2 per 5 mins) and the next 3 hours £12 (£1 per 5 minutes), after that it's free. So fly for 5 hours or longer and it costs just £60, compare that with LGS prices! As I've already said our two 2 seaters are proving popular, though that might be because the norm is for them to be at or near the front of the CW hangar! So getting access is the main problem? Could well be, but that's why we make the first Sunday in the month a special efforts flying day. However, Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May was not a bad day at all and hardly anyone turned up. Suggestions welcomed – other than rude ones!

## **WEBSITE**

Keep up-to-date with the latest news, <http://www.glidingheritage.org.uk/>

## **WHAT'S IN THE OFFING + FUTURE PLANS**

Getting the Bergfalke and Zugvogel 3b flying is what we're looking at in the short term, maybe also the prototype Slingsby Dart that we've just acquired, though that's definitely third on the list and may have to wait till the winter. Beyond that it's the proposed workshop and reaching the funding target we're aiming for so we can start the actual construction.

OK folks that's the Newsletter. I hope you've enjoyed reading it. The GHC since its inception has been a remarkable journey. Looking back to the start of the whole enterprise in the spring of 2012 nobody would have believed we could progress to where we are today. What we have achieved is down to great funding generosity plus the huge efforts of our, primarily Lasham based, members who bring a diversity of considerable skills, both practical and administrative, and apply them with great enthusiasm.

Glyn Bradney (GHC Secretary)

11<sup>th</sup> May 2019