

## **2021 -The year of the Guy (The Plane Guy).**

2020 was a year like no other, but things did not stand still, and it has given The Plane Guy (Andre Faehnrich and friends) the chance to consolidate and to build on all the work they have accomplished in aviation over many years.



To date, The Plane Guys is the winner of 3x awards;

- a) May 2016 - Award of 2015 Royal Aero Club "Certificate of Appreciation" at the Royal Air Force Club in London.
- b) Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2019 - "Most innovative & unusual display", at Buckinghamshire Scout Mission 00 Camp (1<sup>st</sup> UK joint Scouts/Girl Guides event).
- c) Sunday 18th August 2019 Winner of "The Claydon Estate's Choice", at "Cars in the Claydons", The Claydon Estate, Middle Claydon, Buckinghamshire, MK18 2EX.

Andre has been a STEM Ambassador for over 10 years, and he is fully DBS cleared for Scouts and Schools.

A brief summary under various headings of activities & initiatives for 2021;

Other activities are also undertaken, so if you have any specific requirements, then please get in touch and we can discuss.

## Annual Young Aviators event

The last annual event was 14<sup>th</sup> September 2019, and to that point we have flown 1,098x youngsters (349x non-Scouts, 737x Scouts and 12x ATC) and 168x adults on 910x flights, in 154x aircraft, flown by 162x pilots in 14x annual events at Sywell aerodrome, Northamptonshire.



**We flew our 1,000<sup>th</sup> youngster at Young Aviators 2019, here the pilot and the youngster celebrate**

The next event (the 15th Annual) is booked for 11th September 2021 and as always we are actively looking for sponsors. If you are interested, or want to display at, or participate (as Scouts & non-Scouts) or fly some youngsters, please contact Andre Faehndrich directly on e-mail [andre.faehndrich@ntlworld.com](mailto:andre.faehndrich@ntlworld.com), with your contact details, and the names of the youngsters that you would like to participate. Invites for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Young Aviators event will be sent out to all participants at the beginning of July 2021.

## Young Aviators 2021 – 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Event

**Sywell Aerodrome, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Proudly sponsored by AOPA UK



**Young Aviators Day - Proudly Sponsored by  
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association**



## **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)**

A STEM Ambassador for over 12 years, Andre uses a wide variety of tools to bring the STEM message to schools, youth groups, Scouts and others across the country.

Using a complete, but non-airworthy RANS S6 Coyote II aircraft (an ex LAA Hangar Queen) and working with Chris Jefferson of Sci-Hi-Education , with his amazing 1/3 size Hurricane, we do STEM days at Schools around the country.



**RANS S6 Coyote II – Hen and two chicks in Cambridge**



**Chris and his beautiful 1/3 size Hurricane at Brooklands Museum Aviation Day**

Andre is also looking at re-activating more of the approximate 2,500 LAA Hangar Queens (That is incomplete, forgotten or abandoned projects and aircraft). So if you have an aircraft, or you want to help re-activate a forgotten aircraft or build project, then once again please contact Andre Faehdrich directly, and we'll see what we can do together.

## Youth Build-a-Plane projects

Andre keeps tab of the approximate 38x Youth Build-a-Plane projects around the UK. He also supports existing builds, and gives advice to prospective projects, as and when requested.

Did you know that the only primary school in the UK, are currently building an SSDR (Single Seat De Regulated) a Fokker Eindecker, at Saint Ronan's School, Water Lane, Hawkhurst, Kent TN18 5DJ??.



**The Fokker Eindecker and it's superb finish - a real pity to cover it.**

or that the only all-girls school, Benenden School, Hemsted Park, Benenden, Kent TN17 4AA, are now building their 2<sup>nd</sup> build-a-plane project, another Skyranger under the BMAA "New Horizons" project.

The latest, and full list of all known Youth Build-a-Plane projects, will appear on the "The Plane Guy" web-site shortly.

## Aircraft and Engine moves

Over the years and before the pandemic struck, lots of aircraft have been successfully moved (approx. 40x) not only for YES (Youth & Education Support, the Youth Education branch of the LAA), but also the Royal Aeronautical Society/Boeing “Schools Build-a-Plane” projects.

Also lately, a large number of Jet Engine moves have taken place for not only the Vampire and Jet Provost (see later under Vintage Aviation) but others as well, which will be used for STEM.

## World Pedal Plane Gatherings

The UK have an annual competition of gathering as many pedal planes together in one place as possible, with our esteemed colleagues in the USA - the EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association).

The UK first set the trend going in September 2015, when YES (Co-ordinated by Andre Faehndrich) gathered 15x pedal planes at Brooklands Museum Aviation Day. With no event in 2016, YES upped the ante in October 2017 with 24x pedal planes. The EAA then joined in and at Oshkosh in July 2018 they gathered 28x. In September 2018, YES then got 31x together, and took the record back.



**31x pedal planes at Brooklands on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

The EAA then tried for a Guinness World Record attempt at Oshkosh in July 2019, and gathered 53x together, but Guinness did not ratify the record, so the USA took the record back. YES then managed 19x in Brooklands in September 2019.



**Feed me! – USA gathering of 28x in July 2018 in front of the Lockheed C-5 Galaxy, who looks about to have lunch!!.**

With COVID, both the Oshkosh July 2020 and the later that year the UK attempts were postponed.

So now we are waiting for Oshkosh 2021 and for the UK attempt in December 2021, so that each country retains their record for 6 months each, rather than 9-10 months (for the UK) and 2-3 months (for the USA) previously.

Andre would like to thank Mike Clews and The Joystick Club ([www.joystickclub.co.uk/](http://www.joystickclub.co.uk/)) at White Waltham for their huge support at the UK events over the years and we look forward to taking the record back to the UK in December 2021 (Venue & date to be confirmed).

Andre reckons there are approximately 70 to 75 pedal planes active in the UK, and so if you want to come along to help bring the record back to the UK, then please contact Andre Faehndrich directly.

The Australian International Airshow and Aerospace & Defence Exposition in Avalon on 23<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021, may this year also have a Pedal Plane gathering, so more information on that in a future update.

**Latest News** - The UK will host 2x record breaking pedal plane gatherings in 2021.

**New UK record** - On the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> September, at a STOL event at Popham, Hampshire, the current UK record of 31x pedal planes will be beaten, in a combination YES/The Plane Guy event.

**New World Record** - I have been in touch with the guys in the USA, and they are not going to attempt beating their existing record of 53x pedal planes, set in July 2019.

So the UK will take on and hopefully beat that record gathering of 53x, at Old Warden on Wednesday December 29th, in another combination YES/The Plane Guy event.

Thus the UK will establish two new records, and then for 2022, we can let “Battle re-Commence” in earnest ☺, with the USA in July at Oshkosh 2022 and the UK at Old Warden in December 2022, thus both sides of the Atlantic retaining the world record for 6 months each.

## Vintage & Heritage Aviation

Andre has also been busy with ground crew activities, and STEM events keeping the only ex-RAF Vampire T.11 in the world (WZ507/G-VTII) of the Vampire Preservation Group airworthy. Currently based at Coventry-Baginton, this beautiful aircraft attends various events, and also provides a centre piece to some STEM days around the UK. See <https://vampireflight.co.uk/>



### **A beautiful shot of a beautiful aircraft – WZ507 the only T.11 airborne in the world**

Another aircraft used for STEM (and the first Jet into the LAA Rally at Sywell, and which also took part in Young Aviators in 2019) is the beautiful Jet Provost MK 52 G-PROV, based at Nottingham-Tollerton.

More events with both aircraft are planned in 2021 onwards. Also moved over the last 18 months are Goblin engines (for The Vampire) and Vipers (for the Jet Provost) as well as a Derwent (Meteor) engine, which moved to Cranfield, where the Lightning T.5 XS428 is located.



Pilot Tatiana, with G-PROV, enthuses some Scouts at Young Aviators 2019 at Sywell Aerodrome



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XS458, Lightning T.5 in all her glory at Cranfield Aerodrome, Beds.

As a STEM Ambassador, Andre is now helping the Lightning T5 (XS458) team at Cranfield, set up a Heritage Centre. See [www.lightningt5.com/](http://www.lightningt5.com/) or join their Facebook page "Lightning T5 Group"

## **Preservation of a British Airways Boeing 747-436**

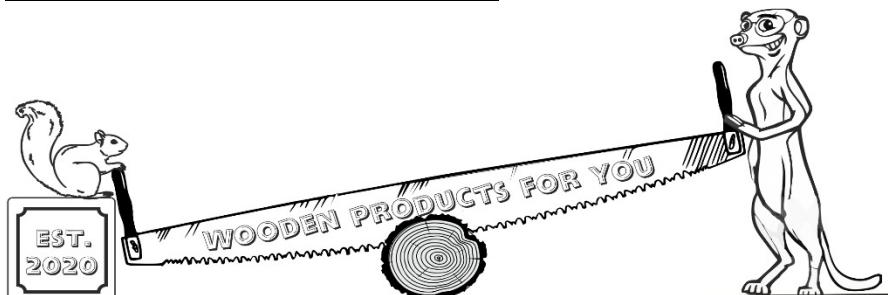
Between September and its final flight on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020, Andre was heavily involved in helping to preserve G-BNLY, a ex British Airways Boeing 747-436, in Retro Landor colours, which flew into its final resting place at Dunsfold Aerodrome in Surrey.



**Boeing 747-436 G-BNLY in "Retro" Landor colours at Heathrow**

Andre drew up a detailed STEM and Heritage plan, to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of British Airways in 2019, and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Boeing 747 in service with British Airways in 2020.

## **The Wood Store, Barton Ltd**



**THE WOODSTORE BARTON LIMITED**

We have started a new initiative for 2021, to produce pedal planes and to give employment to some wood & iron workers, apprentices and youngsters. Moving to larger workshop in Kempston, Bedford, the Wood Store hopes to be a hive of activity in the next few years.

The initiative also involves designing a new "super-sized" pedal plane, and eventually plans will be produced and sold in Metric and soon to be available, flat-pack pedal plane kits and complete pedal planes will be available to purchase.

Check out "The Plane Guy" website [www.theplaneguy.com](http://www.theplaneguy.com) for more details.

## Old Warden 2021

Previously involved with the 2019 set-up of the STEM Centre at Old Warden, Andre will continue his work with this local airfield & museum, subject to the lifting of COVID restrictions.

Andre and his RANs aircraft and a few pedal planes and his ever present Border Collie "Barney", will attend the August and October 2021 Air Shows, on the 1st week-end of each month.



**Barney the Border Collie guarding the RANs at Air-Britain Fly-in at Turweston in 2019**

So where to get more information on any of the above? – [www.theplaneguy.com](http://www.theplaneguy.com)  
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