

2023 -The year of the Guy (The Plane Guy).

2022 was a year like no other, but things do not stand still, and it has given The Plane Guy (Andre Faehndrich 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 has been 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 27th May 2019 - "Most innovative & unusual display", at Buckinghamshire Scout Mission 00 Camp (1st 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 17 years, and he is fully DBS cleared for both Scouts and Schools.

So The Plane Guy is not so plain, but totally determined to Inspire, Educate and Encourage youngsters and adults, to consider a career in the wonderful world of aviation in all its forms.

A brief summary under various headings of activities & initiatives for 2021 to 2023 is as follows.

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

Annual Young Aviators event

Every year since 2006, bar 2020 due to Covid, we have run an annual day of Education, Inspiration and above all else Fun, at Sywell Aerodrome, in Northamptonshire.

Every year has been terrific and different, and it this that is the attraction of Young Aviators.

The 14th annual event held on Saturday 14th September 2019, and it was here where we flew our 1,000th youngster, giving us to that point - 1,098x youngsters (349x non-Scouts, 737x Scouts and 12x ATC) and 168x adults flown on 910x flights, in 154x aircraft, flown by 162x pilots.



We flew our 1,000th youngster at Young Aviators 2019, here the pilot and the youngster celebrate

A write up on most Young Aviators events since 2006 can be found on the following web-site;

www.theplaneguy.com/youngaviators

Young Aviators 2021 – 15th Annual Event

Sywell Aerodrome, Saturday 11th September 2021

Proudly sponsored by AOPA UK



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

We had another absolutely amazing day of Education, Inspiration and most of all Fun at Sywell Aerodrome on Saturday 11th September 2021.

We had lots more firsts, with the most amazing being proudly sponsored by AOPA UK (Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association). We were in negotiation with AOPA UK in 2020, but Covid put paid to that event, before an agreement could be reached. This year it was possible, and we are delighted to welcome AOPA UK as one of our sponsors, and perhaps we can organise similar, albeit smaller event, run by AOPA UK, at other airfields around the UK.

This event another first was reached, when we had our 1,000th Young Aviators flight. So now, after this years event, we have flown a total of 1,220x youngsters (360x non-Scouts, 848x Scouts and 12x ATC) and 186x adults on 1,037x flights, in 173x aircraft, flown by 185x pilots in 15x annual events at Sywell aerodrome, Northamptonshire.

One final first for this year was the participation by Fly2Help (www.fly2help.org) with their travelling airport display, which generated a lot of interest, and we hope that they will participate again in 2022.

Young Aviators 2023 – 17th Annual Event

Deenethorpe Aerodrome, Saturday 9th September 2023



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

We had another fantastic event, on this the warmest day in 2023.

We also had another 1,000th, when Keira from 1st Thaxted Carver Air Scouts, became our 1,000th Scout to fly at a Young Aviators event.

We also had many other high-lights some of which were;

Hottest Day of the Year – 100+ Young Aviators wanting to fly

For the 17th year, Andre Faehndrich, AOPA STEM Ambassador, organised the Young Aviators Day at Deenethorpe Aerodrome on Saturday 9th September. For the third year AOPA has fully sponsored the event which, as always, was fully subscribed to Scout and Air Scout Groups and also non-Scouts, with over 100 Young Aviators in attendance and raring to fly.

The event wouldn't be possible without an Airfield willing to host the event, the volunteer Marshalls to keep things safe on the ground and Pilots, from far and wide, who volunteer their time, and aircraft, to support the event and take the youngsters aloft for the highlight of their day in all types of flying machines.



Selection of aircraft at Deenethorpe for Young Aviators

For many Young Aviators this is the very first flight they have ever made, and few if any had ever had a flight in a light aircraft, microlight or gyrocopter:



Pre-flight – ready to go



First time flyer – enjoyed every second

While the flight was the highlight of the day, there were plenty of other activities to keep the Young Aviators engaged and learning during the day. Activities included an introduction to aviation charts, map reading and basic navigation techniques, drawing static aircraft, quiz, and cockpit "tours":



Drawing & sketching aircraft



Cockpit visits

It was also a delight to fly some Jermiah Giraffees, as part of the superb “Giraffees on Tour” initiative (see www.giraffeesontour.co.uk) where over £43,600 has now been raised to date.



Navigation exercises for all



Even a few Jermiah's flew



Cockpit experiences



Freedom to fly – in a glider

One young enthusiast proudly showed me his aviation related Instagram Account which has 146,000 followers.

Other highlights of the day included the Ice Cream van arriving and when Mick, Airfield Manager, brought out his military vehicles, another first for a Young Aviators event.



All aboard for a different type of Young Aviator experience – another first!!!.



The smiles on the adults and youngster faces



and away they go!!!

The armoured convoy was last seen heading East loaded with Young Aviators, who perhaps have a different career path in mind!.

Amongst all the gloom often surrounding the future of General Aviation, seeing the enthusiasm for aviation in the faces of the Young Aviators gives us hope that General Aviation will be taken on by younger generations. But the seed of aviation as a career has to be planted and nurtured and no-one other than those engaged with GA already is better placed to do this.

AOPA, by sponsoring events such as this one, hope that this is a catalyst to a secure future for GA – an investment in the future with a long-term return on the investment of income from our members.

GA is desperately short of Airfields and businesses who are willing to step-up and host events that can bring the excitement of GA, whatever the role, to the next generations. AOPA would be interested to hear from any Corporate or Individual member who are considering hosting STEM events, with a view to giving advice and potentially sponsorship. Email us: info@aopa.co.uk and tell us your plans.

Mick Elborn AOPA UK - 10 September 2023

A quick summary to date -

To date we have flown 1,421x youngsters (393x non-Scouts, 1,016x Scouts and 12x ATC and 221x Adults, on a total of 1,243x flights with 208x aircraft flown by 223x pilots.

The next event -

The next event (the 18th Annual Young Aviators) is booked for 7th September 2023, at Deenethorpe Aerodrome, near Corby, and as always we are actively looking for sponsors and participants.

If you are interested in, or want to display at, or participate (as a Scouts or a non-Scout) or fly some youngsters, please contact Andre Faehndrich directly on e-mail andre.faehndrich@gmail.com with your contact details, and the names of the youngsters that you would like to participate.

Invites for the 18th Annual Young Aviators event will be sent out to all participants at the beginning of July 2024.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)

A STEM Ambassador for over 17 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 Faehndrich directly, and we'll see what we can do together.

Youth Build-a-Plane projects

Andre keeps tab of the approximate 39x 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 SDR (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, Beneden School, Hemsted Park, Benenden, Kent TN17 4AA, are now building their 2nd 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. 40) 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.

New World record – Old Warden - 29/12/2021

UK Pedal Plane Gathering sets new World Record.



What a line up - The beautiful Westland Lysander with her 59 chicks (Andre Faehndrich & Ron Shell).

Wednesday 29th December saw Shuttleworth play host to the UK world record attempt for the biggest gathering of pedal planes – which was duly beaten with a total of 59 in attendance.

The event, run in conjunction with The Plane Guy, The Joystick Club and YES, bettered the previous record of 53, which had been set at Oshkosh in the USA back in July 2019.

Andre Faehndrich (The Plane Guy) was the organiser once again behind the event, said: “It was time to restart the friendly Trans-Atlantic competition between the UK and USA, so Covid did us a favour, by enabling us to spread the UK and USA gatherings evenly apart at six months, rather than the previous odd time frames”.

With special thanks to Matthew Stoddart-Kennedy for organising the Lysander as the backdrop to the record photo.

History of the Event

The record was first set back on 15 September 2015, when Andre, then part of YES, gathered 15 pedal planes together with the Joystick Club at the Brooklands Museum Aviation Day.

Following a year off due to a lottery grant application by Brooklands (subsequently successful), on 15 October 2017, Andre and YES once more upped the ante with a total of 24 pedal planes. It was then that Andre's partner in crime, Ron Shell discovered the "Pedal Plane" Facebook page, then with a mere 850 members. They joined and declared the "UK sets World record pedal plane Gathering at Brooklands Museum".

After a few private posts between Andre and some Pedal Plane enthusiasts in the USA, it was agreed to start a friendly trans-Atlantic challenge between the UK and USA.

So when the USA pedal plane enthusiasts first got involved, they gathered 28 pedal planes at Oshkosh on 25 July 2018. Andre attempted to get a dismantlable Pietenpol (now owned by the LAA) to that event, but only made it Dublin, Ireland, as all flights to Chicago were booked solid for days.



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

Andre and YES then followed this up with 31 pedal planes on 16 September 2108 at Brooklands Museum Aviation Day. For a video taken at the event, check out - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=koyajEvV314&ab_channel=GrahamCoyoteWiley



31 pedal planes at Brooklands on the 16 September 2018 - Andre Faehndrich

The pedal plane enthusiasts in the USA on 24 July 2019 attempted to go for a Guinness World Record, and managed to gather 53x together – but alas due to some technicalities Guinness did not verify this as a record, but Andre agreed with his US colleagues that their record would remain, but would be very hard to beat. In the meantime a Gee Bee video was posted on the Pedal Plane Facebook page, which went viral via the USAF and membership jumped to 8,900 members. Andre then only gathered together 19 at Brooklands Museum Aviation Day in September 2019, but was determined to win back the record, but we all had to wait awhile.

COVID forced all efforts in 2020 to be postponed, but there was a virtual Pedal Plane Parade organised by the USA on 25 July 2020, which drew together 27 pedal planes from all around the world, including two UK entries, and these cameo'd Andre's border collie Barney, at the end of both UK videos - <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=299827354590716>

(Barney also appears at all the Old Warden Air Shows, with The Plane Guy and his static RANs S6 Coyote aircraft, which is also used in schools for STEM, alongside a 1/3 size Hawker Hurricane).

The current world record

The USA were unable to pull together a gathering at Oshkosh in July 2021, and a proposed gathering (albeit smaller than the UK & USA) at the Australian International Air show in Avalon Airport initially in July and then postponed to November 2021, was also cancelled due to Covid. So Andre saw the ideal time to move the 2021 UK gathering to late in the year, and once more pulled together with The Joystick Club and YES, his Belgian customer and several individuals, with 1, 2, 3 or 4 pedal planes, to make the record gathering seen at Old Warden on 29 December 2021, and thus beating the current USA record.

The following groups and individuals must be thanked for helping in one way or another;

Fellow organisers - Carol de Solla for her promotion of the event and Ron Shell, who in particular was a background star, who not only designed the stickers for the event, but also the pedal plane layout, and he stitched together the record photograph, in dare I say it, "record time", and was a superb left-hand man, as usual.

The Joystick Club, White Waltham – Mike Clews, David & Mary Oswald, John Baker and Lottie, Dave Scott, Tony Phillips, John Porter, Robert Gibson, **The Wood Store Barton Ltd**, Kempston, Bedford - Lily Clark, Finley Harris, Tommy Dwyer and Daniel Baxter; **The BMAA** - Terry Viner; **The LAA** - Steve Slater (CEO), Anne Hughes, and Sue Stowe, **YES** - Stewart Luck and last but not least **Prepare2Go** - Sam Rutherford, based in Brussels, Belgium, for letting us use his yet to be delivered pedal planes (Sam's daughter Zara, became the youngest woman to fly a small airplane solo around the world in January 2022 - see <https://flyzolo.com/>)

Andy Daws (and Anon), Brackley, Northants. Jim Crawford, Oxford; John O'Connell, Ely; Alan Twigg, Bicester; Ellie Doak, 1st Sywell Air Scouts, Northants; Peter Kobrin, Ernesford Grange Primary School, Coventry; Tim Crockett, Farnborough; Alan Davies, Barton-le-Clay; Andy "Woody" Woodruff; Chris Bradford; Malcolm & Mary Lampard and Mark Adams.

Finally these are the groups and individuals who provided the 59 pedal planes;

Owner	Based	Type	Number
Alan Davies	Barton-Le-Clay	Christen Eagle	1
Alan Twigg	Bicester	Gee Bee	1
Andy Daws & Anon	Brackley	Gee Bee & P-51	2
David Oswald (JSC)	Beaconsfield	DC-3 & P-51	2
Ernesford Grange School	Coventry	Tiger Moth	1
Jim Crawford	Oxford	Tiger Moth	1
John Baker (JSC)	Maidenhead	Spitfire	1
John O'Connell	Ely	Harvard	1
LAA	Turweston	Pietenpol	1
Prepare2Go	Brussels, Belgium	Piper Cub (6), P-51 (1), Spitfire (2), Stampe (6) & Tiger Moth (4)	19
Robert Gibson (JSC)	Maidenhead	PA-22	1
Ron Shell	Swindon	P-51 (2)/Tiger Moth (1)	3
The Joystick Club	White Waltham	Various	11
The Plane Guy	Barton-le-Clay	Tiger Moth	1
The Shuttleworth Trust	Old Warden	Various	7

Tim Crockett	Farnborough	Harvard	1
YES (Stewart Luck)	Audley End	Tiger Moth & Spitfire	2
YES (The Plane Guy)	Kempston, Bedford	Tiger Moth & Spitfire	2
1st Sywell Air Scouts	Sywell	Tiger Moth	1
TOTAL			59

It was also a great pleasure to see so many youngsters come to the event with their parents and grandparents and enjoy themselves so much, while pedalling the pedal planes after the record shot, and hopefully we have inspired a few more young aviators of the future

Also providing much entertainment on the day were the following additional activities, organised by Shuttleworth themselves;

Airfix Make 'n' Paint with IPMS Brampton.

Awesome Aviation Art activity with the LAA.

Stupendous Stomp Rockets with YES.

Wicked Whirlybirds from the Shuttleworth Discovery Team.

Sensational Realflight Simulators (with OWMAC).

So that just leaves me to say a really BIG THANK YOU to everyone.

The pressure is now on the US team to try and beat 59 at Oshkosh 2022 on Wednesday 27th July, and we're already working on the next UK record attempt, scheduled for December 2022 at Shuttleworth.

On the ground, visitors were not only able to pedal some of the aircraft, but were also treated to a variety of other activities such as;

- Airfix Make 'n' Paint (with IPMS Brampton);
- Awesome Aviation Art activity (with the LAA);
- Stupendous Stomp Rockets (with YES);
- Wicked Whirlybirds from the Shuttleworth Discovery Team; and
- Sensational Realflight Simulators (with OWMAC)

“What a superb day, with a new World Record of 59 and framed by the wonderful Lysander, the record photograph made a truly iconic record of this first pedal plane gathering at Shuttleworth. Thanks a million to all at Shuttleworth, as well as all the many groups and individuals who brought their pride and joys along to the gathering” said Andre, reflecting on a superb event.

Now the next gathering should be at Oshkosh on 27 July 2022, so let's see what the USA pedal plane enthusiasts can gather together.

Plans are already being drawn up to go bigger and better at Shuttleworth in December 2022. See you there!.

Commemorative Mug

A commemorative mug has been produced especially for the event and if you want your own personal mug, these can be ordered via the Plane Guy web-site -

www.theplaneGuy.com/pedal-plane-gatherings and send an e-mail to Andre Faehndrich, and we'll take details and send you a mug or two or three!!.



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 2023 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



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/ or join their Facebook page "Lightning T5 Group"

Preservation of a British Airways Boeing 747-436

Between September and its final flight on Friday 4th 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 100th Anniversary of British Airways in 2019, and the 50th Anniversary of the Boeing 747 in service with British Airways in 2020.

Old Warden

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

Andre and his RANs aircraft and a few pedal planes and his ever present Border Collie “Barney”, will attend all the Sunday Airshows at Old Warden between May and October.

So why don't you swing by and say “Hi” to all the team at one of the Sunday Air Shows between July and October.

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

More Information or to make a booking;

To get more information on any of the above? – please see;

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