



Light Aircraft Association

# 70th Anniversary Sywell Rally

2nd-3rd-4th  
Sept 2016

## Britain's Biggest International Fly-In Event

- 1000+ aircraft
- Kit built, home built, vintage, classic, microlights, gyroplanes
- LAA 70 marquee
- Presentation theatre and speakers
- Evening entertainment
- Camping
- Air-side access



Sling 7 day build-a-plane challenge



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# 70 MARQUEE TO SHOWCASE PAST AND FUTURE

Let's celebrate 70 glorious years of flying for FUN at this year's LAA Rally

Brian Hope brings an update on preparations for the event



GARMIN



I must say it was very gratifying to see from the survey that 55% of you had attended the LAA Rally in the past couple of years. Given that for many members it is a long journey to Sywell, I reckon that's a pretty good result.

By now you will all know that 2016 marks 70 years of our Association, and we aim to celebrate that fact with an extra special Rally. We have already told you about the exciting Seven Day Build Challenge where a team from The Airplane Factory in South Africa with amateur volunteers from the UK will build a flat-pack kit four-seat Sling 4 in just seven days – and fly it on the Sunday of the Rally. This has never been attempted before and should prove quite a spectacle. Enough of that for the moment though as we have an update of the team's preparations overleaf.

Another addition will be the LAA 70 Marquee which will house a number of significant aircraft from the Association's glorious past – plus a look at what the future holds in store. It is amazing how far we have come, from the single-seat pre-war designed Luton Minor to the complex high performance kit aircraft of today, and the advent of electric and hybrid aircraft that hold the key to the efficient, green sport aircraft of tomorrow.

The Marquee will also feature a 60-seat presentation theatre where we will be featuring a number of seminars by expert speakers in their fields. We are delighted that **Adams Aviation** and **Garmin** are sponsoring the theatre, and they will be discussing the selection of avionics and other equipment for the aircraft builder.

Also already signed up to speak are:

**Dr Paul Robertson** from Cambridge University who will discuss Electric and Hybrid aircraft power systems. Paul gave an excellent talk at last year's LAA AGM and will bring us up to date on the pros and cons of these technologies, and his latest hybrid project.

**Ivan Shaw** needs no introduction, his Europa has been the most successful British design in the homebuilt arena. The Europa led to the Liberty, a certified American machine and though now officially retired, Ivan continues to evolve new ideas. Ivan will talk on the trials of the light aircraft designer, and hopefully will include his hilarious piece of advice on how to make money in the kitplane industry.

**David Faulkner-Bryant** was the Chairman of the PFA from 1972 till 1989, and saw the Association progress from a relatively low key status to a mature, well established organisation. Now in his 80s, David remains a keen LAA member and will bring to life some of his anecdotes of those earlier times.

**Kevin Dilks** brings a note of practicality when he talks about looking after your Rotax 912. The most popular engine used by kit manufacturers, the 912 is a very sound unit, but with its liquid-cooled heads, gearbox and many 'modern' attributes compared to the traditional aero engines, it requires different knowledge to install and maintain it. Kevin has worked with Rotax engines for many years, indeed he once worked with the company in Austria, and will explain how to ensure you keep your 912 in good health and get the best from it.

We have often spoken of the synergy between aeroplanes and motorcycles and we hope to include some period motorcycles in the LAA 70 Marquee. We also feature well known adventure motorcyclist and author, **Lois Pryce**, who was once described by *The Telegraph* as one of 'Ten Great Female Travellers', as one of our guest speakers. Lois has completed a number of long distance motorcycle journeys, including Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, and London to Cape Town, and it is the latter about which she will be speaking.

Further speakers are being added to the programme, which will be published in the August magazine.

The Homebuilder Centre, sponsored by LAS, has been a favourite amongst rally goers since its re-introduction and promises to be packed with interest again this year. An exciting new SSDR will be making its Rally debut along with a selection of wood, aluminium and composite projects, plus you will once again be able to try your hand on the English Wheel.

Make a date for 2, 3, 4 September – why not book your campsite slot now, via the LAA Shop, [www.laa.uk.com](http://www.laa.uk.com). Please remember that dogs are not permitted airside but have access to the exhibition site and campsite provided they are on a lead. Please download the Rally Poster from the home page and pin it up on your local airfield's notice board. ■



# SAWUBONA!

...or 'Hello and Greetings' in Zulu from the team at The Airplane Factory

**F**irstly and most importantly, a big thank you to everyone who applied to be part of the LAA Rally Sling Build Challenge. The UK builders have been selected and apologies to those who we couldn't take but we had limited places available.

The Sling build preparations are well underway in Johannesburg with boxes and crates being packed with precision to ensure no rib, panel or rivet is left behind.

It is the start of winter on the Highveld now which unlike England brings pristine flying conditions. Due to its height of 5,250 feet above sea level, the climate in Johannesburg and surrounding area is one of the best in the world. The nights can be quite cold, even below zero,

but during the day the sun shines and the temperature rises to 25 degrees Celsius.

No rain will fall in the region for the next four months! So if you are ever considering wanting to do a fly-in safari to South Africa, this is the time of year to come. The Airplane Factory are happy to advise and guide you on how to rent a Sling and fly in Africa.

So what have the team been up to? Well, Andrew Pitman has been busy organizing all the marketing plus the design of the LAA/TAF logos which will adorn the completed aircraft. Various permits, licenses and paperwork all need to be organised and obtained in order to be compliant to the various authorities.

Mike Blyth has been overseeing the packing of the airframe, engine, harness and avionics.

(Mike is the master of planning these sort of crazy feats and adventures).

Mike Dawson is in regular contact with Steve Slater and the LAA to ensure everyone is aligned between the two countries. Steve, Francis and Penny have all been busy sorting out all the necessary equipment, power, permits and security that need to be in situ to begin the build on 27 August.

James Pitman – well James has been busy in negotiations with a film company who are keen to film the Sling flying to different destinations in Africa as an adventure television series. I guess someone has to have the job flying to all these exotic locations. James has also been busy honing his skills in the non-powered flying arena by doing a base jumping course in North America, whilst dealing with business matters when he is on terra firma.

Butho, Tawanda and Peter have now all obtained their passports and are looking forward to showing off their assembly skills in England!

I don't think anyone can underestimate the complexities and logistics involved in bringing a kitplane from the other side of the world, assembling it in seven days and then flying it at the LAA Rally on 4 September. But the challenge is on and we look forward to meeting you all at Sywell!



(Left) The team from The Airplane Factory is busy preparing for the Rally.

(Photos: The Airplane Factory)

(Below) This is what we will be building – and flying – at the Rally, a Sling 4.

