

--- BEGINS ---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 10th August 2016

'Mr Vans' to be Guest of Honour at 2016 LAA Rally



Dick VanGrunsvan, the creator of the Van's RV range of kit-built aircraft, the most popular home-built aircraft in the world, is set to be guest of honour at the LAA Rally at Sywell on 2nd, 3rd and 4th September. The Van's company founder and designer of more than a dozen different aircraft is making his first visit to the Rally from his home in Portland Oregon.

"We're honoured to be hosting 'Mr Vans' at Britain's biggest fly-in event" said LAA Chief Executive Steve Slater. "Since 1973, almost 10,000 aircraft have been built from Van's kits and the chance to meet the man behind the aircraft is a great way to help us celebrate our 70th Anniversary".

Mr. VanGrunsvan will be a keynote speaker on Friday and Saturday in the Garmin and Adams Aviation sponsored "Speakers Corner" in the 'LAA 70' marquee, which will also feature displays of aircraft from the earliest days of the British homebuilt movement. Other guest speakers will include the recollections of some of the earliest members of the Association, as well as long-distance adventurers, hybrid electric aircraft pioneers and VanGrunsvan's British equivalent, Ivan Shaw; whose Europa range of aircraft remains one of the most popular domestic light aircraft designs.

Other special 'LAA 70' attractions include themed static displays of WW1 replica aircraft and of 1930s racers, while a team of members will be building an aircraft from a kit in 7 days. The Sling aircraft is hoped to make its maiden flight on the final day of the Rally.

Owners of Van's aircraft from across the UK will be among the hundreds of aircraft expected to fly into Sywell each day, making the Northamptonshire airfield the busiest in Britain during the weekend. Due to the high level of traffic, owners are reminded that all arrivals are required to book a landing slot, available online at www.sywellaerodrome.co.uk, and to download and comply with the [Rally AIC](#).



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Recognised by Sport England. Member of General Aviation Awareness Council, General Aviation Alliance, The Royal Aero Club and EFLEVA - European Federation of Light, Experimental & Vintage Aircraft. The representative body in the UK for amateur aircraft construction, recreational and sport flying.

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The Light Aircraft Association – Making Dreams Fly.

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--- NOTES FOR EDITORS ---

About the Light Aircraft Association

With a history extending over 70 years, the UK Light Aircraft Association promotes safe and economical operation of sports and recreational aircraft. Representing the aviation interests of over 7,000 recreational pilots, amateur-builders and enthusiast members, the LAA oversees the operation of more than 2,500 light aircraft and the construction or rebuild of another 1,600 projects, whilst providing sector-leading consultation and advocacy in aviation-related regulatory matters both in UK and Europe.

www.laa.uk.com

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