June 2026

The Bodmin Flyer

We have had our fair share of changeable weather but as May ends we've had some stunning days and as a result lots of flying taking place. Arfur gives us his airfield update and advice plus a new twist in the tale of our airfield cat! Find this on page 4. Phil Gray has an update on airfield maintenance and also we have a few words from our chair, Corinne.

On Tuesday 16th March we had a visit from pupils and staff from Berrycoombe school in Bodmin. See Pete's report on page? It certainly sounds like they had a good time. Pete has also written about our Ladies Day Fly-In and VAC event. As often the case the weather stopped flying visitors but didn't stop the team making the drive in visitors very welcome and provided hangar tours etc.

What's this I hear you say, A Spitfire at Bodmin Airfield? Well this particular one is a full scale concept model of the Aerolite Spitfire Type 433, which will hopefully be built here at Bodmin at a fraction of the cost of an original. The team revisited wartime government plans to replace aluminium for a composite alternative called Gordon Aerolite. These wartime plans were later abandoned in 1940 but the team have continued to create the Aerolite Spitfire. I hope to get a more in-depth article in next month's newsletter.

If you want to take a look at this full size concept aircraft we are hoping it will be at our Action Stations event this coming weekend, 6th June so please come along and join us. There will be military vehicles as well as planes. As with all our events we need as many volunteers to help on the day as possible. We need marshals for both planes and cars to ensure our guests are safely parked. Catering assistance and FOD collectors are a must but most of all we need you to give our guests a great Cornish welcome.

I was very pleased to hear club members Lucy Reeves and Tom Hennessy-Jones have both been able to get Flight Instructor Scholarships with the Honourable Company of Air Pilots. Out of several hundred applicants they were both able to get fully paid scholarships so they will hopefully both be able to teach students here at Bodmin before too long. Well done both!

Lucy and Tom to train as FI's

Jay Gates has sent me a few photos and some information about a few of the visitors we had in the last weeks of May. He says:

'The first two came in on the 23rd and there are lots of comparisons to mention.

One built in 1946, one built in 2016, exactly 70 years apart.

Comparisons include 'Old to New', 'Slow to Fast', 'Gentile to Hooligan', 'Comfort to Extreme'!!

G-AIBX is a 1946 Auster Autocrat, same as those owned by members Richard Saw and Tony Buick. Visited from Compton Abbas.

G-IHHI is a 2016 Extra 300 Aerobatic Aircraft. Piloted by Mark Jefferies, who is a champion British Aerobatics pilot, who has flown all over the world, and is a member of the Global Stars aerobatic display team, and whose aircraft was in the colours of that famous Extra 300 display team. He was at Bodmin to prepare for an aerobatic display he was giving over Padstow, as part of the weekend celebrations. He came from his base at Little Gransden airfield in Bedfordshire, and returned there after a second call into Bodmin, after the display to get fuel before heading home.

On Saturday 30th we had this visitor. G-AYPO is a Piper L-18C Super Cub in her original markings as part of the French version of the Army Air Corps, known as ALAT - Aviation Légère de l'Armée de Terre.

She was built in 1959 and went directly for service in the former French colony of Algeria in North Africa, where she remained until Algeria got their independence in 1962, when she returned to France.

Now owned by a former CFC member, Tony Knowles, who previously hangared her here at Bodmin, she is now based in Dunkeswell"

Piper L-18C Super Cub

Fly safe,

David Young, Editor

Chat from the Chair

Corinne Dennis

I'm disappointed.

In recent weeks it has become apparent that Ed is losing café items to theft when he's not there to take payments. All members had benefited from having cakes, crisps and drinks etc left out after closing time, available for all, in the expectation that club members are all honest and wouldn't rob Ed of his hard earned income. Apparently not so. If on reading this you recall that you may have inadvertently forgotten to pay for a can of coke or slice of cake when he wasn't about just do the decent thing and leave some change where he can find it. In the meantime all those items are now being removed when he leaves, though he's is still leaving tea and coffee available for self service after hours, which I feel is very public spirited under the circumstances.

On a more positive note I would like to thank all those who leant their help on maintenance day in May when a huge amount was achieved by some stalwart volunteers – some of whom aren't even club members! Do come and lend a hand at the next one, it's a jolly band of generous minded labourers and you'll be able to go home with a warm fuzzy feeling of achievement for having been public spirited!

Resume of Committee Meeting 14.05.26

Updates were discussed regarding the kitchen extractor system, and the wedding venue project, plus other possible ideas for bringing in non weather dependent (and non aviation related) income streams to help boost the financial situation. Plans to produce a video to market the giro and the required fire audit were discussed. The H1 keysafe has been installed and is being used. There had been no safety issues since the last meeting.

Arfur reported that Kevin Stuart (member) has established in coordination with Dynon that an in-house fix would not be possible. It was resolved that the unit will be returned to Mendelssohn for repair (probably replacement) at a cost of some £850. Upon the return of the unit (which will be under warranty) a decision will be taken to whether sell the ex-IC unit and install the repaired unit in SF (full touch-screen) or keep it as a spare.

Membership remains low with approximately 60 members not having renewed from last year. It has been difficult to ascertain reasons for the low renewal rate and when

possible some committee members will call previous members to better understand the situation.

Given confusion surrounding extant reciprocal agreements which resulted in a number of uncollected landing fees at a recent event, it was confirmed that the only agreement in place was that with Perranporth. All other visiting pilots that are not CFC members (some pilots from Roach are) must pay the posted landing fees.

Phil Gray reported on the great success of the recent maintenance day, thanked the volunteers and informed the next scheduled day will be

Finance

In spite of the last month being successful for the school, the meeting raised its general concern of the difficult state of club finances and resolved that a wider discussion would take place at the next meeting cover issues such as additional revenue generation, fall-back options and planning. LW commented that the new accounts structure will improve the visibility of specific product/revenue/cost lines to enable strategic decisions to be better informed.

Marketing & Media Strategy Report

THJ commented that the recent event (Pasty Fly-in) provided a good result given improved exposure given on social media (SM). It was agreed that use of SM had enhanced the 3 recent BYP event and it is hoped that future events will benefit from more exposure and may generate more interest in CFC.
Whilst some video footage and photo's are available THJ requested that more is done (by the FI and others) to provide material for SM & would be enhanced if posts "tagged" CFC.

Events Destination Bodmin

NR reported that the recent BYP event was successful and that future events are planned for 31st May and 7th June and a summer "Holiday Club" is scheduled for 31st August – all subject to confirmation.
Pete White gave a roundup of the events program, the success of those to date (when wx permitted) and requested more volunteers to hep with forthcoming events.

In AOB

Tim Elkins reported the intention to attend Newquay event on 2th June with the "Tech Girls" with the RV-12. PW and CD offered advertising banners for use at this event.

AB advised that recent increases in fuel costs to CFC have made it necessary to increase fuel prices to members and non-members. These new prices are now published as normal. In addition, fuel price driven surcharges are now being made on all club aircraft operations – these are published also.

May 2026 Newsletter – GOM and DTO snippets.

By Arfur Bryant

May has been a very good flying month with over 500 movements. At last we have had a few spells of excellent weather!

Just a few quick parish notices this month from me…

Please honour the HOLD POINT sign for RW31 in particular. That hold point should not be past without making a radio call stating either “C/S Ready for departure” or “C/S Holding RW31”. There have been several instances this month of aircraft taxiing passed the sign with aircraft on finals. In this case, the correct action for the pilot of the aircraft on final approach is to go around. If the taxiing aircraft cannot get his/her departure call off due to radio traffic, then the taxiing aircraft should stop at the Hold.

Any pilot who wishes to be reminded of the renewal date of Medicals and Licence ratings should bring me their documents for scanning onto the Flypro system. They will then be reminded 30 days before the expiry of that renewal.

Our new smartphone Fuel Payment system is working very well, so please use it. I am always happy to show you how. It is easy and quicker than using the paper chit system!

One of our C152s, G-CMTK has suffered a heavy landing at some point in the last 50 hours, resulting in damage to the engine support strut. This was found at the latest 50-hour check. There is no way of knowing when it occurred but all pilots please make note that any severe/heavy landing in a DTO aircraft should be reported to the Instructing Staff as soon as possible so that a check to be made by the engineers.

A small key has been found on the dispersal. It looks like a starter key for a light aircraft. If anyone is missing such a key, please see whoever is manning the Tower.

And, finally, it appears that the airfield cat, previously known as Claudia/Claudius is actually named **Buttons**! A very nice lady from Millpool visited a few weeks ago and recognised Buttons who apprarently ran away from his owner’s home because he was being bullied by other cats in the house. Although we offered to return Buttons to his owner, we were asked to keep him as he had ‘found a good home’.

Fly safe!
Arfur Bryant
General Operations Manager and HoT

Airfield Maintenance update

By Phil Gray

I hope this message finds you well.

CFC held its first Maintenance Day of the year on Sunday, 3 May, and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who volunteered their time and effort to help improve and maintain our facilities.

A special welcome and thank you go to our new members, Matthew Stevens and his partner, who did an excellent job clearing weeds and tidying the front patio area. Their contribution was greatly appreciated.

I would also like to recognise Peter Williams, whom many of you will know as a dedicated team player and valued member of the club. Peter regularly undertakes maintenance work around the airfield throughout the year, not just on organised maintenance days. On this occasion, he strimmed around the runway markers, along the airfield boundaries, and the pathway leading to the clubhouse.

In addition, Rick and his son, despite not currently being club members, generously gave their time and carried out numerous tasks around the airfield. Their support was invaluable, and we are extremely grateful for their efforts.

The following work was completed during the maintenance day:

- Cleared weeds and vegetation from around the store cupboard and tidied the surrounding area.
- Investigated electrical issues affecting both refrigerators and tested all associated plugs and sockets.
- Removed and replaced a faulty faceplate.
- Restored both refrigerators to full working order.
- Conducted a survey of the loft area for the installation of extractor fans.
- Painted the walls in the men's toilets.
- Painted the wall in the ladies' toilet adjacent to the hand dryer.

• Painted the walls in the exit area leading to the rear staircase of the clubhouse.
• Weed-cleared the majority of the paved area at the front of the clubhouse.
• Carried out a survey of the new fuel tank's power requirements.
• Cleaned the valley gutter between Hangars 2 and 3.
• Unblocked the downpipe serving Hangars 2 and 3.
• Cut grass around the runway marker areas.
• Cut back grass along the pathway leading to the clubhouse.
• Removed vegetation and overgrowth around the pump house.
• Excavated and installed a drain together with 20mm clean gravel at the top of the external steps adjacent to the hangars.
• Repaired several loose timber sections of the fence along the route to the clubhouse.

While a significant amount was achieved, there remains a substantial list of maintenance tasks that need to be completed, along with routine jobs that require ongoing attention throughout the year.

If you are able to offer any assistance, no matter how much or how little time you can spare, please get in touch. Your support is invaluable not only to fellow members but also to the young people, families, and wider community who regularly benefit from our facilities.

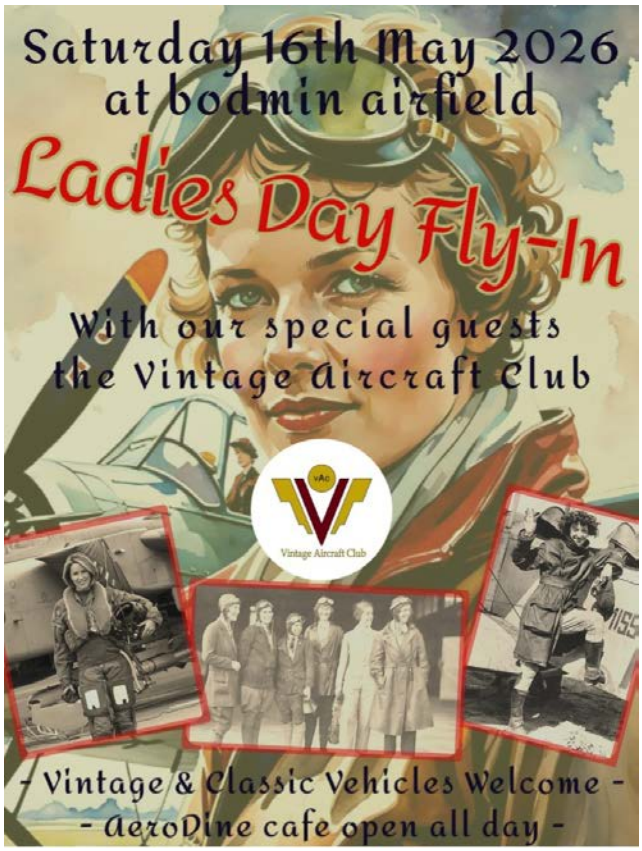
If you would like to help, please contact me in advance so that tasks can be planned and allocated efficiently:

Email: prc-southwest@outlook.com
Telephone: 07813 893358

Thank you once again for your continued support, commitment, and contribution to the club.
Kind regards,
Phil

Ladies Day Fly-In + VAC Visit to Bodmin Airfield

By Pete White



We had a superb poster, the event was advertised in very good time and we had the promise of groups of lady flyers from the Midlands and the S East of England.
On the day we had some very special guests and good friends of Bodmin Airfield visiting us... Anne Hughes a lady pilot and chair of the Vintage Aircraft Club and the renowned artist and builder of the Kernow Flying Flea, Chris Dobrowolski.
Our usual pre event briefing of the volunteer helpers was a little bit more relaxed than usual because the weather gods had definitely won the day and there was little chance of any visiting aircraft.
So we all re mustered as Hangar tour operators and I announced to all of our road visitors about the prospect of seeing our based aircraft and the fact the AeroDine cafe was there at their service.
Suddenly smiles popped up all over.
So we began a very active day of hosting visitors of all ages from near and far and what a brilliant day of social bridge building and giving our visitors the opportunity to 'get up close' to our aircraft and sharing our passion. Some of which will hopefully culminate in a more regular visit by most of them and perhaps scenic flights or a PPL from others. Just proving that you don't always actually need aircraft flying in to have a very successful event day.
My sincere thanks go to the great team of volunteers who are always willing to give of their time for the benefit of our little club.
You're all diamonds brightly shining on Cornwall Flying Club's aeronautical tiara!
A big thank you to the team; John Colgate, Tim Elkins, Fiona & Steve Blatchford, Maldwyn Evans, Chris Bovet- White, Corinne Dennis, Nigel Ramsay, Gemma Makin, Richard Saw & Archie Vasiliou. Not forgetting Ed & Jago our culinary heroes.

Chris Dobrowolski and his creation

US registered Maule had been parked for a few days so not technically a visitor that day but a fine aircraft for visitors to see.

TOPNAV 2026 at Bodmin Airfield

Pete White

Whatever your views on egotistical despots selfishly upsetting the world balance for their own aims, I am putting the blame in that direction for our low take up of TOPNAV entrants.
But I am sure that other world events have unsettled not only the world of GA but all of us in one way or another.
However the weather did also play its part this year as we had to postpone our original TOPNAV date from Saturday 2nd May to the next mutually convenient opportunity, Tuesday 5th May.
From the original list of hopefuls we were down to and grateful to see Carl and Marc Payne with their Cessna FR172E Reims Rocket G-RROK, all set to 'run the race' after the briefing and lunch and in turn, followed by the customary quick scramble.

Initially the weather was a little troublesome but it did come onside after lunch enabling us to proceed with the event therefore continuing the now long association we have with the Royal Institute of Navigator's TOPNAV Competition.
After their aerial navigation adventure around Devon and Cornwall, the Payne brothers returned for a well earned cuppa and cake. This was their second time of entering the TOPNAV journey and we wish them all the luck in the world for the results but at least we could assure them that they would come first in the Bodmin branch of the competition.

Hopefully 2027 will see more entrants wishing to use their basic, initial skills learnt when they first ventured into the world of flying in what may be a challenge but its also a lot of fun.

BODMIN AIRFIELD VISIT

Berrycoombe Primary Academy - Tuesday 19th May 2026

By Pete White

After many years of successful visits by Schools, Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and numerous other youth organisations, we have perfected a formulae to suit most curriculums and the information needs for badge work to cover both aviation and transport subjects.

Using this well tried plan coupled with our team of dedicated volunteers we welcomed 44 pupils from Berrycoombe Primary Academy to our Bodmin Airfield. Their coach was a little delayed but this gave us all time to sneak in a crafty coffee before our silence would be broken by the shrieks of delight and the busy chatter of our young visitors. Once the welcome and briefing was completed the four groups of pupils were led to their learning stations to begin their aeronautical adventure at Bodmin Airfield. The excited youngsters from Years 1 & 2 of this Bodmin based Primary School were quite distant from their normal domain and were now immersed in the environment of flight. The wonderment on their fresh faces with their perpetual smiles signalled to us 'oldies' that they were definitely loving the experience. Yet at the same time it was reminding us of the joy we felt when we first connected with aviation.

The weather abated sufficiently for the school party to enjoy their packed lunches on our patio benches whilst their teachers and adult helpers took advantage of our 'in house' culinary range from the AeroDine cafe.

Before the coach's arrival we managed a short Q&A session but this group certainly had the wind up their tails, to quote my mother-in law, who was once a primary school teacher. They were all overjoyed at being able to sit in an aircraft and to learn about the different forms of construction and to find out how an airfield operates.

The time came to say farewell and the joyful throng filed out of the clubhouse and down the path to their waiting transport. I sat with our great team of volunteers, Tim Elkins, David James, John Cook & Richard Saw, a little weary but enjoying the sound of silence (Simon & Garfunkel I believe). Another successful mission from the CFC Education team and more sowing seeds for the future of our planet. Thanks Guys I really do appreciate you for giving up your time and efforts to make yet another party of school children leave our airfield full of joy and smiling.

Pete White

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Pete@Aeronca.co.uk

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Home of Cornwall Flying Club

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LUNDY SUNDAY FLY-IN

Sunday 5th July 2026

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Contact Ed on
01208 636246 - hello@sipshift.co.uk

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NOVEMBER 2025

SHARE FOR SALE

A 1/10th share in a Cessna 172 – G-BGIU is based here at Bodmin Airfield.

Please call either Bob Harris on 07972 303253 or Nick Straw on 07714 627600.

Bodmin Airfield
Home of Cornwall Flying Club

Cornwall Strut

www.bodminairfield.com 2026

EVENTS

May 2nd THE TOPNAV Competition: - Fun Flying using the basic skills we were all taught! Navigate and fly a course using just a chart, a watch and eyes with just a touch of skill.

May 16th Ladies Day Fly-In & Vintage Aircraft Club (VAC) Visit to Bodmin Airfield: - Vintage and Classic aircraft with a mixture of Classic vehicles on our Ladies Day event.

June 6th Action Stations– Military themed Fly-In. Military vehicles join the fun.

July 5th Lundy Sunday: - The 26th Anniversary of Lundy fly-ins by the Lundy Team.

September 12th The Cornwall Strut Fly-In: Always a fitting end to a season of fun flying.

All events are supported by Cornwall Flying Club and the *Cornwall Strut* of the LAA.

Our *AeroDine* cafe is open for food and drinks all year round.

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Stephen Austen tel 07515776521 or email stephen.austen88@gmail.com

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