



Newsletter - December 2020



Welcome to Air-Britain's December newsletter.

Due to uncertainty around overseas travel, at the moment we currently have no plans to run aviation tours in 2021. However tentative planning for the Fly-In IS going ahead. Meanwhile the Publications Committee are hard at work on the full range of annual books which will be announced here in due course - the first to appear will be Business Jets & Turboprops Quick Reference 2021 (BizQR 2021), hopefully at the beginning of February. Several hardback books are also in production, and we will release more details shortly.

2020 Membership Survey - LAST CHANCE!

If you haven't already done so, please do take a moment to complete the Air-Britain Members' Survey at <https://air-britain.com/web/survey2020/> - the link will be active up to 31st December 2020. The more results we get, the better understanding we will have.

Participation is anonymous unless you opt to enter your membership number in the prize draw, with the lucky winner receiving a current Air-Britain publication of their choice.

Air-Britain Magazine distribution issues

We are aware that there have been issues with the late arrival of the November issue to some of our members. All our magazines are collected by Royal Mail from our printers in Southampton at the same time and enter their system simultaneously so unfortunately we don't have any control over their onward journey from that point.

Please rest assured that we are as frustrated and annoyed as you are with the situation, especially as it only applies to some postal areas with others not experiencing any issues. Royal Mail are being deluged with the huge number of parcels that are being sent as a result of more online shopping due to the Covid-19 situation while at the same time struggling to comply with safe working procedures. Some sorting offices are managing better than others.

The December issue is now at the printers - the *Air-Britain News* team put in an immense effort to get it to them early so that they could go out for delivery to UK addresses before Christmas - we can only hope that they get to you a timely manner!

Branch News

The Covid-19 situation has encouraged several of the Air-Britain branches to explore new ways of holding their monthly meetings, and several are now active on Facebook and Zoom. Full details of all our extensive Branch network and contact details can be found on our website at <https://air-britain.com/web/branches/> - you are bound to find something for everyone there.

Sue Bushell
Newsletter Editor

IMPORTANT!!

The warehouse at Tonbridge is now **closed** and will reopen for business on **Monday 4th January 2021**.

A huge thank you to the Sales Department (John and Mark) who have worked their socks off getting all our orders into the postal system by 14th December. They have been working all weekend and started at 05:30am to get through them all. I am sure you will all join with me in congratulating them on going the extra mile to make sure hundreds of parcels were despatched.

But be aware, while everything has gone out of the Warehouse door, postal systems in the UK are very slow in some areas, while parcels to Australia and NZ are held at the export depot due to lack of capacity.



The fruits of John and Mark's labours have left the building ... and are on their way to you.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

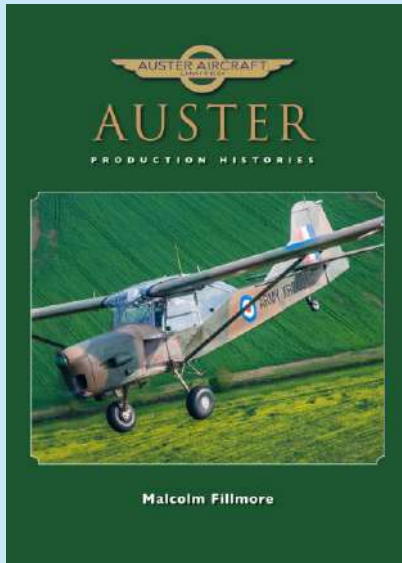
Digital Photo Archivist

Air-Britain urgently needs a volunteer to handle digital photos donated by our present (and deceased) members. They would need to set up a resilient storage location (dedicated hard drive or other storage, paid for by Air-Britain), receive donated collections and set up a structure so that images could be indexed and easily located. The aim is to make images available for Air-Britain's books and other publications and, hopefully, make the collection accessible for our members. The volunteer would liaise with Rod Simpson within the overall photo archive team and, ideally (but not necessarily) would be located in south-east England. If you think you could help, please contact Rod at <mailto:rodaeroplan@gmail.com?subject=Digital%20Photo%20Archivist>

Website Support Team

Air-Britain urgently needs volunteers to join the team to help administer our website. The website is our shopwindow to the world and is currently being further developed to support more online archival material and simplify access. The role would include updating web pages and helping support users requiring password access. If you have, or know someone who is familiar with the Wordpress application and would like to join the team, please contact Phil Kemp:
<mailto:philipdkemp@btinternet.com?subject=Website%20Support%20Team>
or <mailto:phil.kemp@air-britain.com?subject=Website%20Support%20Team>.

AVAILABLE NOW!



AUSTER – Production Histories

by Malcolm Fillmore

Detailing the histories of every Auster built, *Auster - Production Histories* is the companion volume to *Auster - The Company and the Aircraft* published in 2018 which told the story of Auster and the

many derivatives produced over twenty-plus years.

Members £29.50 Non-members £39.95 - *click on the image to be connected to the sales website.*

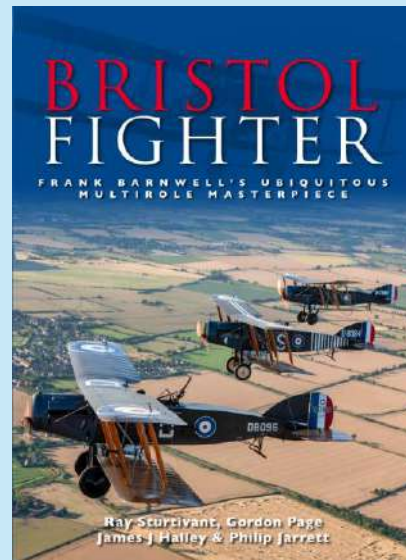
COMING SOON!

BRISTOL FIGHTER

*by Ray Sturtivant, Gordon Page,
James J. Halley and Philip Jarrett*

This 480-page, 1000-illustration hardback is with the printers now.

Watch our website for details on publication date and pricing.



Watch out for announcements about new books on our website, Facebook page and the Air-Britain Message Board - <http://air-britain.freeforums.net/> - BEFORE placing your order.

Please DO NOT ring the Sales Department with queries. Instead, where possible please contact them by email on sales@air-britain.com and they will reply as soon as they are able to.

IMPORTANT!

As a result of the current coronavirus restrictions and to protect our staff, at present no visitors are allowed onto the warehouse premises in Tonbridge.

These restrictions will apply for the foreseeable future. We are also experiencing long delays in the processing of secondhand orders and are at present not able to satisfy overseas orders.

ABPic News

The various (and ongoing) lockdowns occasioned by Covid-19 have seen encouraged many of our photographers add historic images to ABPic.

One of our projects is to digitise and add photographs from the Jenny Gradidge Collection, which was generously bequeathed to us. To whet your appetite, below are just a couple of the many shots Jenny took over a long and fruitful aviation career.



Tiger Moth G-ANZZ at Kidlington on 26th April 1959. Despite this mishap, the Tiger is still active today. (© Air-Britain J M Gradidge Collection)



The Automobile Association's DH.89A Dragon Rapid G-AHKV at Elstree on 14th June 1958. It was cancelled as Permanently Withdrawn From Use on 9th September 1969. (© Air-Britain J M Gradidge Collection)

More fine additions are the collection of HS125s taken by Ken Haynes and his friends, many taken at Hatfield and featuring early colour schemes and including many in bare metal or primer.



HS.125 Srs 600A N41BH [256040] at Hatfield on 30th May 1974, two days after its first flight. (© Dick Winfield/Ken Haynes Collection)



HS.125 Srs 3B/RA 2125 [25164] for the Brazilian Air Force at Hatfield in April 1970. (© John Woods/Ken Haynes Collection)

Hopefully these lovely shots will encourage you all to delve into your collections. We would love to see more de Havilland Moths (of all species!) and Miles aircraft, especially those on foreign registers.

THE AIR-BRITAIN SECOND-HAND SALES LIST

While we are still affected by the care we have to take over COVID-19, the second-hand sales department is now back up and running. New lists are being produced monthly and the December ones are available on the Message Board and the website. So get in early! There is a new email address to use to place orders and make enquiries:

<mailto:m.fillmore@athertonbailey.com>

The lists are available on the website at:

<https://air-britain.com/web/books-2nd/>

and Message Board at

<https://air-britain.freeforums.net/board/67/second-hand-books-magazines>

to peruse at your leisure. We have added 1,200 additional titles in the past nine months!

Air-Britain News and its electronic sister eABN



The December edition of *Air-Britain News* is at the printers. But did you know that we also publish an electronic version, which is released on the same day that the paper version is despatched to the printers? This means you can read it up to 2 weeks earlier than the posted copy, save postal costs and all the illustrations are in colour. A subscription costs **£35.99** per annum, and single copies are **£3.99**.

Back issues (from January 2010 onward) are also available.

For more details go to <https://pocketmags.com/air-britain-magazine#>

If you have an eABN only subscription (i.e. not printed), then you can activate your Air-Britain membership by going to:

<https://www.air-britain.co.uk/actmembers/acatalog/AddOn.html>

EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGES

The Air-Britain email address system is changing from Air-Britain.co.uk suffixes to Air-Britain.com. You may start receiving redirection emails from the Air-Britain Webserver Administrator advising of the change when you send an email, please rest assured that these are automatically redirected to the email address mentioned in the text of that email so you will not need to resend it yourself - just change the recipient's email address in your mail programme address section ready for next time.

This newsletter is just one element of Air-Britain's presence on the web. Most can be accessed from our [Main Website](#) which includes links to

- our secure [Sales site](#), where Air-Britain publications can be ordered
- [ABPic](#) - Air-Britain's online photo gallery with well over 600,000 images. Open to members and non-members, all images are screened prior to acceptance. A great way of showing and sharing your images. You, the photographer, retain all ownership rights. Members are frequently asked to share their images with others.
- The [Air-Britain Message Board](#) where members can share on a range of subjects and where we will announce new publications and other news of the organisation, often in advance of the printed magazines. We are adding production lists to our Message Board offerings: they can be found under Aviation History > Aircraft > Sub-Boards. A guide on how to register can be found [HERE](#)

In addition we have

- [AB-IX](#) - Open to members only, AB-IX is run as part of groups.io. An online discussion forum for aviation research topics only. Members can set their own message preferences (single messages, daily digest or read on the web) within groups.io. For more details contact the group owner
- The [Air-Britain Facebook](#) page - this is where we share details of Air-Britain happenings, as well as other selected items related to aviation.