**What is "the Joystick Club"**

"The Joystick Club" was started about 6 years ago with the intention of enthusing youngsters about flying and aviation in general.

We are a group of aviation nuts, mainly retired, but mostly members of the West London Aero Club at White Waltham Airfield. We started off meeting once a month on a Monday evening during the winter with visits by road and air to various aeronautical events through the year.

We've encouraged scouts to come and camp at the airfield and take their Aviation Badges culminating in a flight around the local area. Talks to local schools and Beavers and Cubs visits to Waltham have been undertaken.

Pedal Plane production started after meeting members of the LAA "youth education strut" at meetings for "Schools Build a Plane" and LAA rallies. They had 2, and as a r/c model and Europa kit plane builder myself it was an interesting and seemingly straight forward project. But not content with the **American plans for Pedal Planes available www.**[EAA.org](http://eaa.org)**,** we've diversified with Spitfires, Hurricane, Me109, Red Arrows Hawk, Sea Fury and now we have a Dakota C47 and Hawker Typhoon with D-Day markings for 2019 75yr celebrations. We now make them with folding wings for easier transportation and push sticks for parent propulsion.

A phone call started us thinking of something larger for bigger children when a real disused aircraft a Piper **Tomahawk became** available, buyer collects! We arrived mob handed at Little Staunton airfield one Sunday morning and in 3 hours had the cockpit sawn off and lashed to a boat trailer. A camping trailer became ours and the two were mated together. Dummy folding wings and tail were made so that the cockpit controls worked those. Apart from the paint everything was free, but then simulation came to mind!

One of our group was into electronics and in a year, we had 3 screens erected in front of the windscreen and a PC installed under the cowling. Costs began climbing!

We were lucky to be at Bicester supporting their "Flywheel" events a couple of years ago when a member of the public came by and remarked we could use some more flight instruments, a business card and then a trip to CAE Oxford ensued.

A well-used but outdated **Piper Seneca flight simulator** became available and lots of heaving saw it in the back of a white van on its way to Waltham.

Then 2 characters came to help, one was into film making and gave us somewhere for Seneca hangarage beside possible use in the film world, and the other was Peter Dobson, met at an Air Pilots fly in at Popham. A way forward to mobilise and update the cockpit to run Windows XPlane 11 displayed via a projector was envisaged. Peter has worked tirelessly and worked miracles with the Inst. panel and hand built digital displays to rival most anything in GA flying. After 18months work the Seneca has returned to Waltham for final finishing and thanks to the" Air Pilots” we’re still solvent!

We are due to be at RAF Families Days at Odiham and Benson with Navy Wings Yeovilton, Bicester! , Traditional Boat Festival Henley, Middle Wallop Army Flying, and the first Sunday's of each month at Shuttleworth.

Mike Clews

HCAP,exBA, chair JSC