

The
CLASSIC AVIATORS
TURWESTON AIRFIELD *Club*



“Preserving our past aviation skills for the future”

60 Years of Aviation

The collecting and flying of antique aeroplanes is no new thing and our organisation is privileged to have been involved practically from the start. This long association has allowed us to be selective with the aircraft we are privileged to operate. Historical provenance, flying qualities and ability to be used to generate revenue to keep the collection going is all important. Spanning 1910 to the late 1960s the collection amounts to sixteen aircraft, including restoration projects. It includes a large inventory of memorabilia, aircraft engines, period tools and equipment and a unique library of aircraft manuals, documentation and drawings representing sixty years of collecting.



The 1946 Stampe SV4-d with 180 hp Lycoming engine. This modification was made many years ago and is an official Stampe Factory conversion intended to extend the civil and military service life in the late 1960's.

The collection is split between the Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome in Essex, where a majority of the first war aeroplanes and early memorabilia are displayed to the public, and the Classic Aviators Club base at Turweston, Northamptonshire. It is here that the classic training aircraft are hangered along with the collections Sopwith Camel and original 1917 Pup.

The Classic Aviators Club and Heritage Collection is self supporting and depends on club members, enthusiasts and volunteers to help to keep all elements of the collection functioning. Our income is generated from flying training, public events and the film industry when productions require the unique aircraft, pilots and crew that we have at our disposal.

HELPING TO STOP THE DISAPPEARING SKILLS FOR MAINTAINING AND FLYING ANTIQUE AIRCRAFT

The Classic Aviators Club was not only conceived to preserve the skills for flying classic and antique aircraft, it was for all the elements of early aviation. We came to realise some years ago that quite rapidly and in parallel with the loss of piloting skills the expertise to maintain and operate early aircraft was also fast disappearing. These skills still manage to exist with some individuals and micro organisations that retain the knowledge to keep old aircraft flying safely, but they are few and far between. Engineers with the broad experience needed are retiring and depart without handing their talents over to others. Therefore its imperative that new people who are willing to learn the talents can be found to take over.

Our aim is to find potential engineers and help them to increase their knowledge to look after the aircraft in the collection.

If you have an interest and wish to learn more about our organisation, please make contact and we will be happy to discuss further.

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