



New Year 2020 Update

At Christmas we sent an update talking about next year – well next year is here!

It may be a little soon for an update, but we can report that the fuselage – under construction at Airframe Assemblies – is 35% complete! As this is the first time a Whirlwind has been built for a good 80 years our construction partners have to take a considered approach – and costs occur that may not be expected.. so...

Funding-raising is (always) actively being pursued to continue the build – and help is, as always, needed in this regard.

More on how you can help below.

Membership Cards – are finally with us, so have been mailed out today to members that have not already received theirs.

Air Show news – we have taken a space for our stand at the East Kirkby Air Show this year. It's on the 1st August, 2020 – the same location as last year's AGM. The Air Show in East Kirkby, Lincolnshire (home of Just Jane and Spirit of Val) attracts numbers in the thousands, so we are hopeful of generating much more interest in the project without breaking the bank!

This is a step forward for us and we hope this activity will develop into the future as our build progresses. The more we are able to show at events such as Air Shows the more interest we hope to engender.



How to help the fund-raising campaign? Outside of direct donations – there's a raffle coming up! It's live on the website shop page, too.

As mentioned in the Christmas Update - we will be running a special raffle with a very special prize; the tickets will be £10.00 each and the draw will take place at the afore-mentioned Air Show.

The prize is.... a beautiful wall-art print of the famous picture of Whirlwind P7110 performing a near-vertical banking turn, taken from ahead. The picture is printed on aluminium and is a good size – 100cm x 75cm. You need a bit of wall space... It is from an original Westland Aircraft photograph, and has been expertly colourised.

The value of this lovely item is £150!!

Paper tickets will be delivered to you, our members, for (hopefully) onwards sale to any friends and family that may appreciate a chance to support the project and win such a handsome prize.

To pay for paper tickets delivered to you please use the website Shop site – and IMPORTANT – inform the Secretary (email address below) of which tickets you are purchasing AND send the stub to Chris. There are simple instructions included with your paper tickets.

Other than that... if you just want to purchase further ticket(s) just visit our website and go through our PayPal portal, pay £10 per ticket and the Secretary will then allot you an unused number.

Here's a link to our shop page.. just scroll down a little and you'll be there:

<http://www.whirlwindfighterproject.co.uk/shop/>

Here's a picture of this beauty on the walls of one of the members. Proving popular already!



copyright Anthony Pugh

How else to help the fund-raising campaign? Well – and just as a reminder - we are also running a funding campaign which goes through the easyfundraising.org.uk website. It works like this: see something you fancy buying from one of a variety of vendors, then go to the easyfunding site, download the app, put in your chosen charity (namely us) and go shopping. We get a percentage donation from that retailer at no extra cost to you or us.

Here's a referral link just to make it easy:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/whirlwindfighterproject/?invite=sx5hha&referral-campaign=s2s>

It's pennies that get added per purchase – but pennies make ££, and if enough of us consistently chip in we'll make a difference!

In some sad news – some may have heard that a stalwart of the project from inception to current status – namely Stu Hawkins – sadly passed away a little before Christmas. We have placed an appreciation and a picture on our website. Those of you that knew him on aircraft forums as Mr BlueSky – well that's exactly what we wish him. He will be missed.

We also wish to mourn the passing of one of very few remaining Whirlwind veterans – Reverend George Wood. He passed away at the age of 97 at his nursing home near Brighton. We send out a copy of George’s book to all new members – so you should all have that to refer to remind yourself of his life.

If you would like to read his a brief life story on-line – here’s a link:

<https://hawkertyphoon.com/the-pilots/rev-george-wood/>

His funeral is set for the 27th February, in Rustington, W Sussex.

A number of the team that works on the Whirlwind build – some of whom knew George personally – will attend.

May he Rest in Peace.

Best Regards,
Peter Lancaster
Whirlwind Fighter Project Membership Secretary

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The Whirlwind Fighter Project is a member of Aviation Heritage UK

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