



RCA Flying Update - Autumn 2021

Welcome to the latest edition of our Solent Airport Daedalus E-Newsletter which celebrates the return of community events to the airport. We hope this edition finds you and your family safe and well.



Whilst we have been fortunate enough to provide a service to our airport operators and visitors throughout the majority of the past 18 months, the lifting of COVID restrictions over the summer has given us the opportunity to open our doors and welcome the community back to Solent Airport.

We were proud to support the recent Lee Victory Festival and had the control tower looking its best covered in bunting and flying the Union Flag.

We have been running tours of the airfield since the lifting of lockdown restrictions. These have proved hugely successful and we are thrilled with the positive response.

Without exception, our visitors have expressed delight at being able to appreciate the breadth of activity at the Airport, meeting the team and learning more about the fantastic work they do.

The past year has been tough for many people and many businesses. As a key part of the economy, the aviation industry faces an unprecedented challenge as it begins the path to recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. A strong General Aviation sector is key to this recovery and we really value the support and encouragement we receive from our neighbours in achieving ongoing success.





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The last day of tours for 2021 will run in October; however we will resume these in Spring 2022 and look forward to welcoming our neighbours and members of the community to join us.

Keep an eye on the website www.solentairport.co.uk for details of upcoming community events and airport tours.

“.....a huge thank you from the six Lee National Women’s Register ladies. We all thoroughly enjoyed our visit, and what a bonus to be so near the Catalina.....”



Solent Airport’s First Wedding

The airport was thrilled to host its first wedding recently. Our warmest congratulations to the happy couple Lilian and Nick.

Lisa and the team at Café 05 transformed the café into a beautiful reception venue and created a fabulous spread.



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Spitfires

Following a very successful period of operation here earlier in the summer, we are pleased to announce that the Boulton Flight Academy and their Spitfires will be returning to Solent Airport to operate passenger flights between 17th October and 26th November. Thereafter they will undertake training flights until December.



Our grateful thanks to Mark Rutley for this Spitfire photograph.

We look forward to having the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate the excitement as these classic aircraft take to the skies over the Solent again.

Catalina Floatplane

Another very special visitor to Solent Airport during September was the Catalina floatplane, evoking memories of when Naval aviation began at Lee-on-Solent in 1917 during the First World War. The Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) opened the Naval Seaplane Training School at Daedalus as an extension to the seaplane training station at nearby Calshot. Initially, aircraft were transported from their temporary hangars to the top of the nearby cliff, then lowered by crane onto a trolley which ran on rails into the sea. Permanent hangars, workshops, accommodation, and a new double slipway were soon constructed.



Our grateful thanks to Terry Coombes for these Catalina photographs.



Our recently launched new website: www.solentairport.co.uk will keep you updated with details of upcoming events, including Halloween fun, a community open day and exciting Christmas activities.

Keep in touch either by checking into our website or by using our email address: solentairport@gmail.com, which is the best way to contact us with any ideas or suggestions. We would love to hear from you.

We are keen to make this newsletter available to anyone with an interest in activities here, including local residents' associations, business groups, companies based at the airport and their teams. Please feel free to share with others who may find it of interest.

With our Best Wishes

The Solent Airport Management Team