

*East of Scotland Strut of the Light Aircraft Association
December 2019 Newsletter*



Photo Wallace Shackleton

Co-ordinator's bit

Thanks to all who came to the last meeting for Colin Lourie's presentation on the Helicopter Museum at Weston Super Mare.

The next meeting is on Monday December 2nd at the Harrow at 2000 where Wallace Shackleton will be showing his photos from Oshkosh this year.

The current owners of Edinburgh Airport have been demolishing all the former RAF buildings within the Airport just after you cross over the rail bridge and after you pass the Turnhouse Golf Course.

I believe the only buildings left are the three electrical distribution buildings. The former control tower has succumbed to the demolition men and I suspect the former VCR has been cut up although a rumour circulated that it was to go to East Fortune.

There are still a couple of RAF buildings on the other side of the road at the former main camp but they are difficult to see through the vegetation. The end of an era.

Colin Lourie has some historically important photos regarding this on page 8.

Despite the recent cold, wet and windy weather the small number of good clear winter days has brought out our type of flying. Enjoy your aviation in whatever form.

Iain

Chairman's bit

The temperature was minus 4 degrees when I went to the airfield to fly last week. The idea of going up where it would be colder still did not appeal in my unheated aeroplane. Stories from others as to how toasty warm they were in their heated machines was too much. That's it, I am putting a heater in. A little research showed some pitfalls. It turns out that some are selling firewall heat boxes made of aluminium which would last about 15 seconds before melting. Having recently had a fire in the air this seems like madness.

Let's hope I can get it done before the warm weather comes back.

Have a great Christmas. There is bound to be one or two great flying days over the holidays.

Fly safe. Justin

Cover photo

Thunderjet in the long grass, taken by Wallace Shackleton at Oshkosh



The next meeting is on

**Monday 2nd December
at the Harrow Hotel
Eskbank Road, Dalkeith
at 8.00pm**

**Wallace Shackleton will
give a talk illustrated with his
photographs taken at Oshkosh
2019**



About the Light Aircraft Association:
www.laa.uk.com

With a history extending over 70 years, the UK Light Aircraft Association promotes safe and economical operation of sports and recreational aircraft. Representing the aviation interests of around 8,000 recreational pilots, amateur-builders and enthusiast members, the LAA oversees the operation of more than 2,500 light aircraft and the build of another 1,700, whilst providing sector-leading consultation and advocacy in aviation-related regulatory matters both in UK and Europe.

**This newsletter can also be viewed on
the Strut website:**
<https://eos-strut.org>

Wallace Shackleton will give a talk about his visit to Oshkosh 2019 at the December Strut meeting



Here's one more from Oshkosh. Don't forget, 8.00 pm Monday 2nd December at the Harrow Hotel, Eskbank Road, Dalkeith. Talk by Wallace Shackleton



Duncan goes to Yorkshire

In November Duncan Robertson went to the South Yorkshire Aircraft Museum, and here is his report.

The museum is situated on the south side of central Doncaster in an oasis tucked behind the Dome Retail Park and a modern housing layout called Lakeside, close to the A1 and just off J3 of the M18. The site is what's left of WWII RAF Doncaster.

At first sight it appears to be a collection of aircraft fuselages in a small compound with a hangar but it is far more extensive, with former RAF timber ops room and prefabs behind, and packed with treasures. The most significant display is that dedicated to the Falklands Islands conflict of the early 1980s and includes both British and Argentinian artefacts, all recovered by air and sea to Britain with photographs and dialogue. The Museum staff have restored the front half of the wreck of Gazelle XV411 which had been brought back after the conflict by ship, and a Westland Scout. There are engines and part airframes of Pucaros, Hueys and Daggers plus the main fuselage of a captured Aermacchi MB339A outside in the yard.



The museum seems to specialise in helicopters and has both the first and last Arctic Patrol Helicopters that served on HMS Endurance, (two Whirlwinds), plus a Lynx and a Sycamore. A Wessex HU5, which served in the Falklands, has a very good video in the cabin depicting a revisit to the islands by veterans, with good narrative.

There is a whole piston and jet engine collection and a prominent display of Canberra noses under a shelter outside topped off by the imposing nose of Vulcan B2 XE388, raised up as if to undercarriage height, so you can walk underneath it.

1950s jet fighters are featured especially Hunter noses. A tornado and Jaguar fuselage are bonuses.

As part of the extensive WW II exhibition, a section of the former Strathallan Lancaster KB976 is propped up against the back wall and as you progress around the edge of the hangar there are parts of a B17 and a Halifax with their stories told. The latter was of interest to me as I last saw it when it was in our shed at the Cotswolds Aircraft Restoration Group in the early 1980s and got passed on by various bodies before being donated to the SYAM. Outside in the courtyard is the bare metal fuselage of a DC3 which was used as a VIP transport by BOAC during the war.

Of further interest to me personally is the cockpit section of the prototype Jetstream 200, G-ATXH. It is now painted in red and white RAF training colours, instead of its original white overall scheme with amber cheat line, as it was subsequently converted to T.1 status for the RAF by Handley Page/Scottish Aviation. My school pal's dad, Johnny Allam was the test pilot for its first flight having previously been one of the test pilots for the Victor.

This is an absolute gem of a museum. One of the best I have been to. Sorry no photos as my phone packed up on the day but please visit for further details;

www.southyorkshireaviationmuseum.org.uk



(Photos used are from the Museum website)

New arrival at Montrose



Ed Lyon sent this in. A Hawker Hunter F1-serial WT619 has recently arrived at Montrose Air Station Heritage Centre. The aircraft was previously displayed at the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry and then returned to store in the RAF Museum's storage facility in Stafford but the RAF Museum has now donated the aircraft to Montrose.

This beautiful Hunter made its first flight on 29th July 1954 and is appropriate to Scotland as it was based at RAF Leuchars with 43 squadron in the 1950s. The cut-away to show its construction is a museum technique I had not seen before but which I like very much.

Farewell forever old Turnhouse

The old airfield from the year dot is in the last throes of demolition. So many of us grew up with this and remember the days of short trousers, going out on heavy bicycles with plastic rollfilm cameras and seeing 'what was going on', and quite often being allowed to go inside the fence. Such a shame my grandchildren will never know this. Thanks to Colin Lourie for these before and after photos.

The missing mountain in the background, bottom rhs, was a 'Bing', the local name for the many spoil tips left over from the shale oil mining business that continued until the 1960s. The waste found a new life in embankments for the new motorway system.

Justin has some interesting memories of the SAAB Safir below so I will try and find out more from him for another edition.



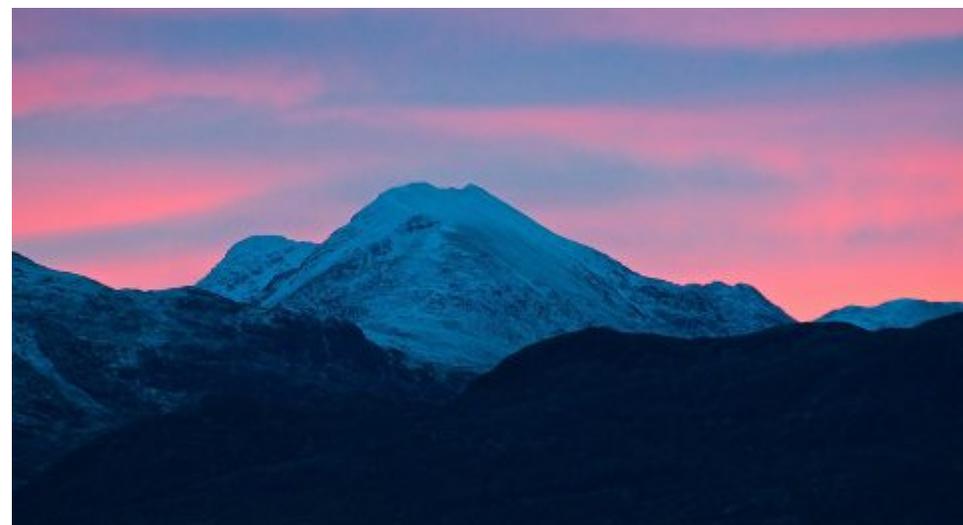


Just in, one last photo from Colin. All gone now, even the guardhouse.

LAA Scottish Tour May 2020

This was written by Neil Wilson in the Wessex Strut Newsletter, something I guess the East of Scotland Strut will want to be involved with again.

'I have been asked by the LAA to sort out a Scottish Flying Tour for 2020. Based from Perth from the 25th to 31st May, we plan to set off for places including The Great Glen, Glenforsa (meal and overnight stop) Plockton, Isle of Skye, Wick, Easter and hopefully many more airfields, stopping overnighting along the way. Details and updates will be put in the monthly LAA magazine and in this newsletter. If you would like to join us, please let me know, as I will be coordinating people, times, places etc with the help of our Scottish struts and friends. Dave Stokes and I are planning to go, along with Caroline and Ken, so why not come and do some touring and let's spread our wings. Send email to ; neil.wilson@laa.uk.com'



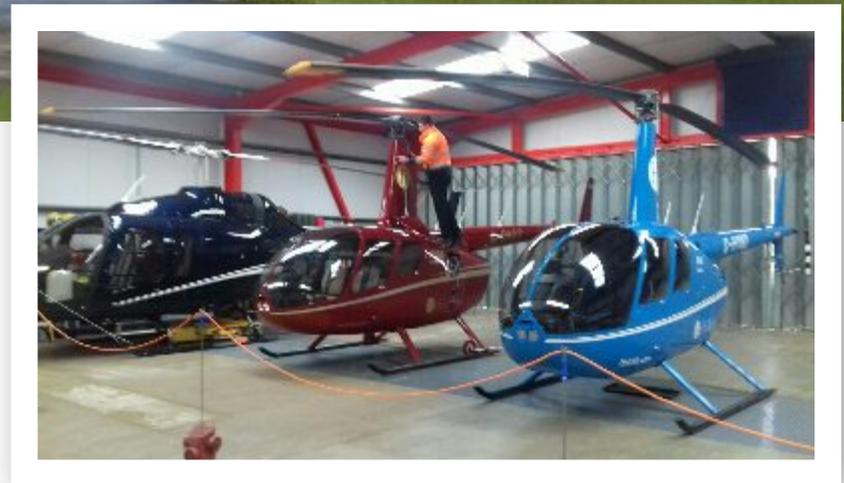
Duncan also goes flying helicopters



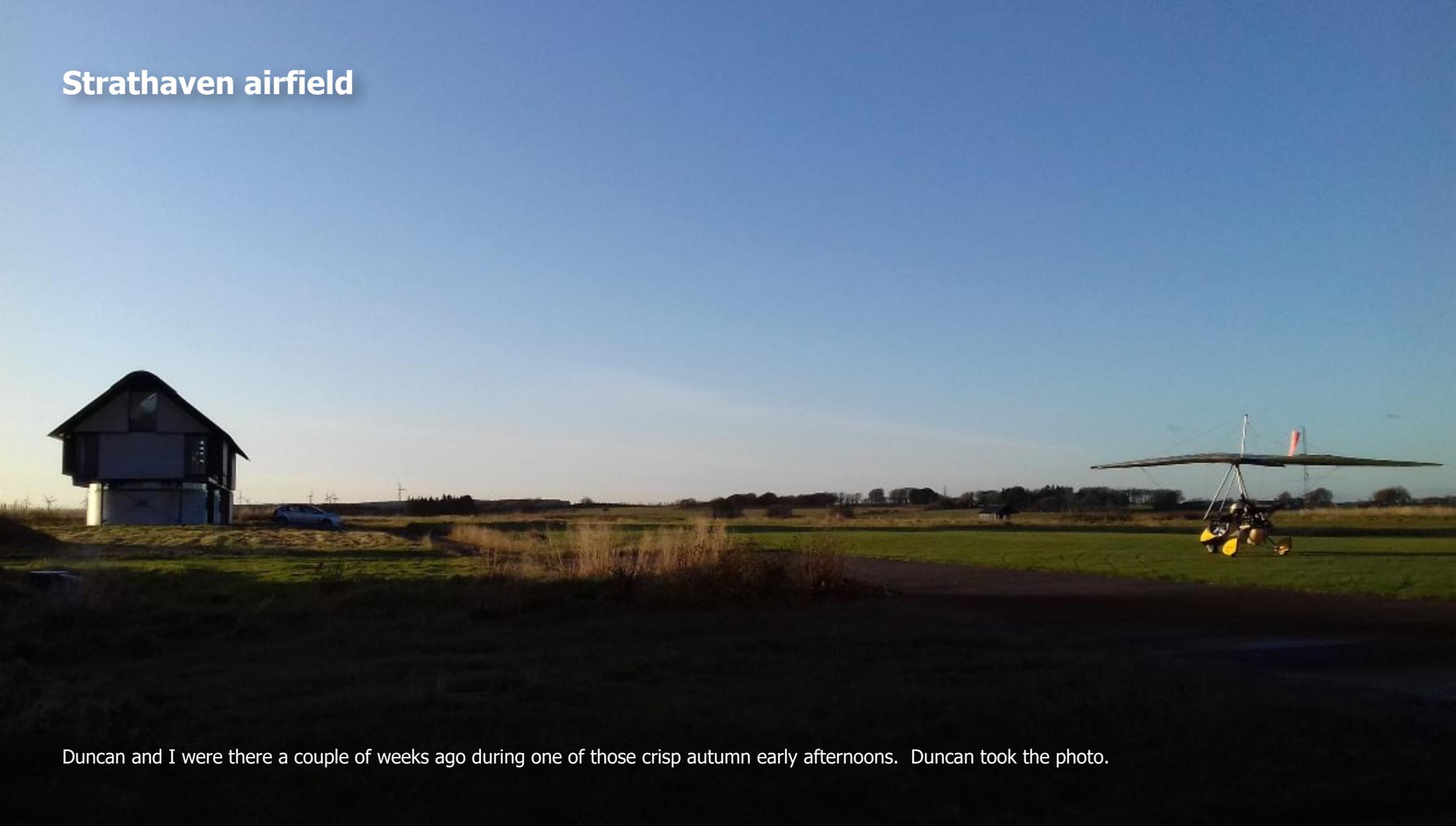
Good to see that Duncan Robertson is not squandering his retirement money on food and the roof over his head but spending it sensibly on flying a helicopter.

Earlier in November he went out to Heli Air in Cumbernauld and had a great flight on a bright morning over the Stirling area in a Robinson R22. 'Managed the cyclic ok but hovering is another matter. Kept getting into an oscillation. But a good experience.'

In the stable HeliAir also have an R44, an R66 (turbine) and a Bell 505 (modern version of the 206 Jetranger.)



Strathaven airfield



Duncan and I were there a couple of weeks ago during one of those crisp autumn early afternoons. Duncan took the photo.

From the LAA

We have a few remaining spaces left on our one day Rotax Engine course taking place on Saturday 7th December here at Turweston. The cost is £120 for LAA Members. To book a place please call the office on 01280 846 786 to provide payment details.

The LAA is offering five flying bursaries (of up to £1,500 each) to deserving under 30 year olds. This is to help post-solo students who are facing the most expensive part of their training - the dual and solo cross countries.

Wellington Airshow

A very nice, classic video here found by Ted Grossmith. It shows the airshow at the opening of Wellington Airport in New Zealand back in 1959 which was famous, or notorious, for having not one but three accidents, luckily with just pride being hurt and some metal being bent.

<https://youtu.be/BTN-x21W2kQ>



Build a Plane 2

Build a Plane 1 (on rhs) was built in Fife and is now flying.

Alisdair Stewart of Aerospace Kinross tells us that the money for their second project is being raised and that they have received significant government funding to create a venue for the organisation. For updates go to their website;

<http://www.aerospacekinross.com/>



Mew Gull at Sywell

David Beale with the replica Mew Gull he built a few years back. Seen at Sywell and photographed by Duncan Robertson.



The 'no bang' SST

The commercial SST is not dead but its next iteration will probably be smallish and aimed at fast global travel for the extremely wealthy, and completely bypass the earlier idea of mass transit. Several seem to be under construction but all bar one will suffer the curse of a loud sonic bang, so will have to cruise subsonically over land.

The X59 QueSST technology demonstrator is the one that may be able to fly over cities at Mach 1.5 with only a noise the sound of a car door closing to tell it is there. Listen (carefully) for it from 2023.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ziayfidibbe>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lockheed_Martin_X-59_QueSST



Drug smuggling subs

I suppose this could creep into the Newsletter under the classification of 'homebuilts'. For about 20 years Colombian drug barons have been building low profile semi submersibles and a few true submarines that are now starting to cross the Atlantic. One was scuttled recently off the coast of Spain.

Though they may cost upwards of a million pounds to build their cargo can be worth 150 times that, so they are only required to make a one way journey. Should you be tempted to sail in one, the toilet is a bucket!

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narco-submarine>



Lifting bodies

Apologies if I make errors here but I'm looking back at a flurry of e-mails between Jim Prettyman, John Mounce, Alan Swegle and David Webb. This deserves a carefully crafted article but instead;

The Dream Chaser, below, is an unmanned and versatile piece of equipment that can carry loads to and from space, dock, and land back on a conventional runway.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dream_Chaser

<https://techcrunch.com/2019/11/19/snscs-dream-chaser-spacecraft-can-supply-nasas-lunar-space-station-and-become-its-own-orbital-platform/>



Alan was involved in the development of the lifting bodies that influenced this back in the early space race days and knew many of the Test Pilots. What a wonderful collection of memories that must mean.



Blakesburg

From John comes this gorgeous collection of flying antique aircraft.

<https://www.eaa.org/Videos#.XcIImD97UQM.link>



Tim Berners-Lee

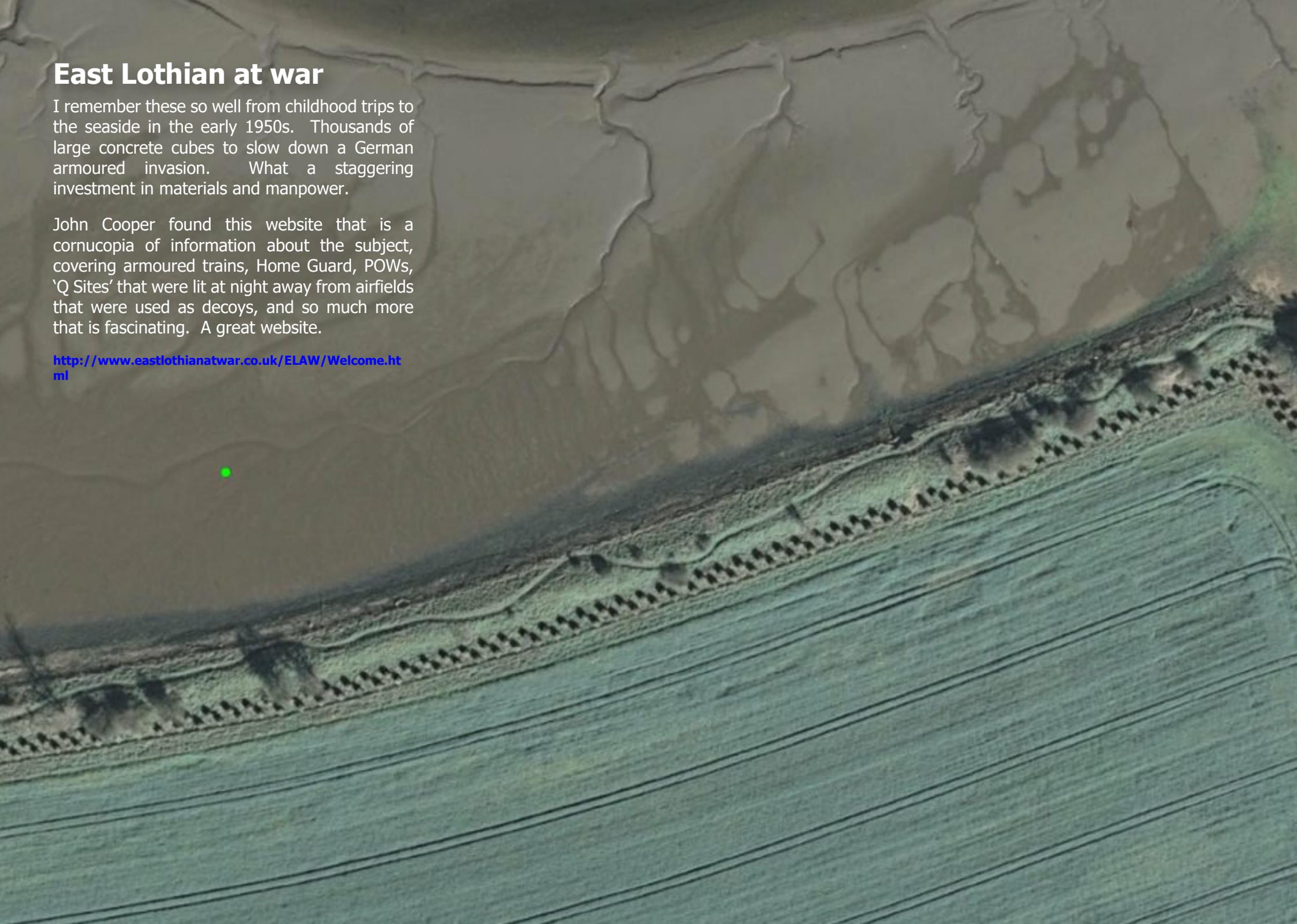
To round off this sequence, Jim points us towards the Richard Dimbleby Lecture, 'Sir Tim Berners-Lee: The World Wide Web - A Mid-Course Correction:' www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000bj15 via @bbciplayer

East Lothian at war

I remember these so well from childhood trips to the seaside in the early 1950s. Thousands of large concrete cubes to slow down a German armoured invasion. What a staggering investment in materials and manpower.

John Cooper found this website that is a cornucopia of information about the subject, covering armoured trains, Home Guard, POWs, 'Q Sites' that were lit at night away from airfields that were used as decoys, and so much more that is fascinating. A great website.

<http://www.eastlothianatwar.co.uk/ELAW/Welcome.html>





East of Scotland Strut contacts

Chairman; Justin Kennedy

6 Cammo Walk, Edinburgh EH4 8AN Tel 0131 339 8304 / 07798 661 985
justin@systemwise.co.uk

Co-ordinator and Secretary: Iain Gibson

102 Craigmount Brae, Edinburgh EH12 8XN Tel 0131 339 2351
inrgibson001@btinternet.com

Treasurer and Membership Secretary; Duncan Robertson

17 Cramond Avenue, Edinburgh EH4 6PP Tel 0131 312 7857
robertsons87@hotmail.co.uk

Newsletter Editor: Andrew Macleod

102 Gilmore Place, Edinburgh EH3 9PL Tel 0131 228 2774
andrewj.macleod@virgin.net

Safety Officer: Steven Borthwick

73 Galbraith Crescent, Larbert, Falkirk FK5 4AZ Tel 07707 856 680 / 01324 555 056
borthwick4@hotmail.com

Committee Member without Portfolio: Ed Lyon

14 Craigielaw Park, Aberlady EH32 0PR Tel 01875 870 117
edlyon@hotmail.co.uk

I

LAA Inspector: Tim Rayner

3 Fowler Street, Tranent EH33 1BU Tel 0187 561 3352 / 0779 515 3392
hipe@btinternet.com

LAA Inspector: Robin Johnson

Templehall, Midlem, Selkirk TD7 4QB Tel 01835 870 361 / 07836719350
robinj100@btinternet.com