



Wings and Wheels 2009 Wrap Up

Thank you to all of you who joined us on the day to enjoy a superb turn out of aircraft, cars, motorbikes, static engines and lots more.

We would also like to thank those of you who gave us feedback about the event. Below we have endeavoured to address the issues that were raised.

First let us talk about some of the changes to Wings & Wheels. In previous years the event was organised and staffed largely by volunteers from the Vintage Aircraft Club (VAC) and entry was by donation, the amount collected being used to offset the cost of airfield preparation and clean-up and any printing and administration costs for Turweston Flight Centre Ltd (TFC). Over the years the event had grown to a size that was too large for a small group of volunteers to handle and in 2009 TFC took over the organisation. Since the formula for the show worked we were keen to run it along the same lines as before.

Based on feedback from 2007 and 2008 we felt there were some areas that could be improved. To that end we re-organised the catering, added a children's activity area and a craft fair to make the event more appealing to families, and had a more formal arrangement for the vintage and classic car displays and public car parking. We spent a lot of time on the event plan and advertised the event on our website and in the local press. What we did not do was contact the car clubs early enough to promote the event through their publications. We also did not do a leaflet drop in the local villages this year. These were missed opportunities on our part.

A few people were disappointed that there was an entry fee on the gate and some queried where the 'proceeds' were going. The entry fee was to cover the costs of putting on the event, some of which were: Portaloos, St. John Ambulance, car parking marshals, signage, brochures, plaques, skip hire, septic tank emptying, airfield preparation and clean-up, children's activities, PA system, advertising, and administration. We spent a lot of time planning the event and several people commented that it seemed well organised.

No event can remain the same from year to year; some things have to change and there is always room for improvement. We realised that some of the changes we had implemented needed explaining. We also realised that we needed more feedback from our exhibitors and visitors, which many of you have provided.

Of the suggestions we have received for next year there is one that really stands out: that of charging a £5 per vehicle fee for exhibitors and £5 per person for the general public. This is something we are seriously considering for 2010. It is our intention to keep the entry fee for all participants as low as possible. Other suggestions include more car-boot-style stalls and re-siting some of the cars.

Several other big events were taking place on the same day, notably Goodwood Revival and the 50th anniversary celebration of Cambridge Airfield and we know this affected the aircraft turnout at Turweston (although it was still good!). The Vulcan fly-by, while wonderful, proved disappointing as there was a technical hitch and it had to leave after only one pass. We would like to add a decent flying display in 2010, weather permitting.

The next job is to determine the date for the 2010 event. We want to avoid any conflict with other similar shows if possible; if you know of any other events scheduled for September next year please do let us know. You can email us on info@turwestonflight.com, send a form via the website or call the office on 01280 705400.

We are grateful for all the feedback and suggestions we have received and will try to take it all on board to produce a better Wings & Wheels event next year. Please join us!