

Fraser Clapham

Recently I was thrilled to be accepted for a place on one of the Honourable Company of Air Pilot's scholarships at the Derbyshire and Lancashire gliding club. This was an incredible event, and I hope to outline what made it such a special experience.

The first clear point was the gliding. Camphill is an amazing place to fly from, and the gliding opportunities were phenomenal. Whether it be the clear view for miles around, or the less than conventional runway, there's something about Camphill that makes it unique. So naturally, gliding from there is stunning. The club possesses an impressive fleet of gliders, and during my week

there I had the opportunity to fly two of them. The majority of my flying took place in a Puchacz glider, however, when it was broken one day (a slightly rough landing broke the wheel) I had the opportunity to fly a K-13, a slightly more vintage glider.

A second reason this experience will stick in my memory forever is the excellent all round standard of the tuition. The instructors were experienced and highly informative. Before partaking in this scholarship I had very little aviation knowledge. I had flown a few times before, but never received proper instruction. The trainers at Camphill quickly changed this though, and imparted an impressive quantity of their knowledge onto me and my fellow students. From predictions of meteorological conditions to crazy ways to stall a glider, the instructors always seemed to have a vast array of experience to reach from.

I must also give credit to the members and my fellow attendees for my supreme enjoyment of the course. The members of Derbyshire and Lancashire gliding club were incredibly welcoming, and made a clear effort to interact with us, making sure the week was spent in a fun, social environment. Equally, I found the other attendees of the scholarship good company. We had many fun evenings discussing our aviation interests, and what had brought us to this course.

In conclusion, this course was an amazing experience, and I cannot thank the Honourable Company of Air Pilots enough for this opportunity. It's something I'll remember forever, and I hope to pursue this far into my future.

