

The Long Mynd, Church Stretton, Shropshire SY6 6TA

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## Welcome to the Midland Gliding Club

Our club, established in 1934, is one of the principal gliding clubs in the UK. The site is 1400 ft above sea level amidst the heather moorland on the Long Mynd, close to Church Stretton (A49 and rail station). The local environment is particularly attractive with superb views over the Stretton valley and towards the Welsh mountains to the west. Throughout the year we welcome visiting pilots from many other clubs and from abroad. The site is especially favoured with a 5m long west facing ridge that enables good ridge soaring in suitable conditions. Naturally we also make good use of thermal and mountain wave conditions when they are available. Frequently we experience combinations of all three sources of lift. Flights of more than 650 km and heights in excess of 20,000 ft have been achieved from the Long Mynd. For the non-flying family and friends who may accompany a pilot the area possesses many attractions and places of interest to visit including Cosford Aerospace Museum, Acton Scott Historic Working Farm Museum, The Secret Hills Centre, Stokesay Castle, stately homes and gardens and marvelous walking country.

The club is a member of the British Gliding Association and operates under the rules and guidance set by the national body. We employ professional instructors in addition to those who are club members, professional winch staff and office administration. Catering is operated on a franchise basis.

The club currently possesses a fleet of 5 two seaters (3 ASK21s, 1 ASK 13 and a DG505) 4 single seaters (a Discus, 2 ASK23s and a ASK8) and a Falke motor glider. Launching is by winch using our renowned retrieve winch system, by Pawnee tug aircraft or, when conditions allow, by the exhilarating bungee method. This is where the glider is launched smoothly from the edge of the ridge into a strong wind by an industrial strength elastic bungee rope pulled by an enthusiastic team of six people.



For many visitors their first encounter with gliding, or sometimes flying of any kind, is by taking one of our three **TRAIL LESSON** packages. The **STANDARD Trial Lesson** includes a pre-flight briefing and instruction in a two seat glider, usually launched by aerotow. **MILE HIGH Trial Lessons** start with a tow to over a mile above sea level. **Extended half day Trial Lessons** are also available. With all Trial Lessons temporary club membership is included for three months so that those who enjoyed their first gliding experience may return for further flights at club member's rates. Joining the club as a full member during the trial period entitles a £25 reduction in the membership/joining fee. See the separate Trial Lessons leaflet or our web site [www.longmynd.com](http://www.longmynd.com) for further information about the available options.

On summer evenings the club welcomes **GROUPS** of like minded people, perhaps friends or colleagues (up to 12 in number), who wish to try Trial Lessons as a team activity, followed by a meal in the clubhouse. All participants are briefed on the ground and in the air and gain hands-on experience only a few minutes into their first flight. Very quickly their feelings towards gliding and their aptitude for it are revealed. Few are unmoved by the experience. Most cannot resist repeating it. They may undertake further flying during the 3 month period of trial membership or, if truly hooked they will join the club and book a holiday gliding course, or perhaps do both.



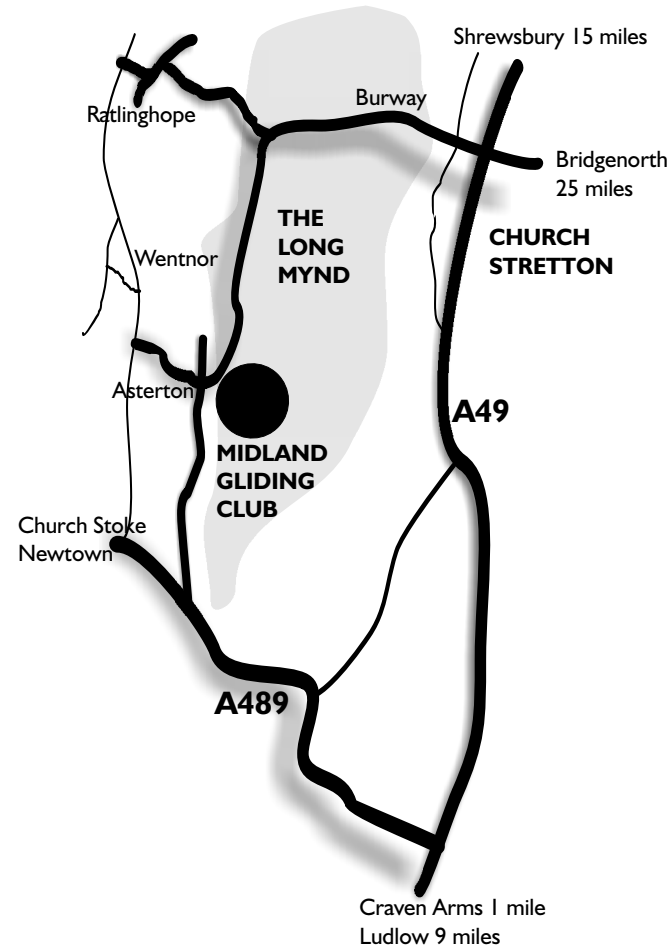
**HOLIDAY GLIDING COURSES** are offered from March until the end of October. They normally extend over a 5 day period from Monday to Friday though shorter ones can be arranged individually. We have been running pilot training courses at the Long Mynd since the 1950s and have enabled many hundreds of pilots to reach their cross country goals during that time. Going solo is the first step on the way. Courses are structured to meet individual needs from the absolute beginner to the established pilot requiring cross country training,

training to convert from the Private Pilot's Licence or hang gliding experience, refresher courses and for pilots with experience wishing to make progress in some particular aspects of their flying such as aerobatics or cloud flying. For beginner training no more than 4 pupils are allotted to a 2 seat training glider and instructor, with whom they normally remain for the duration of the course. In this way we ensure continuity of training and monitoring and rapid progress is possible. Prices of Holiday Gliding Courses include all flying and instruction but not food or accommodation, which are available on site at extremely reasonable rates. Depending on the time of the year a guarantee system operates to offer protection to the course member whose flying is disadvantaged by adverse weather conditions. Ask in the office for further details.

**FULL FLYING MEMBERSHIP** of the club confers access to all of the club's facilities, including use of the club's gliders at competitive rates. Except on holiday courses where professional instruction

is included in the course fee, instruction to all club members is free and those under 21 (or under 25 if in full time education) benefit from half price flying charges and discounted membership rates.

The **CLUB BUILDINGS** include hangar, glider workshops, winch garage and workshops, a comfortable centrally heated clubhouse with dining room, lounge, bar, office, briefing room and overnight accommodation. You have the choice of a bunk room or a private room with either up to 4 people in bunks or a double bed. Our extensive airfield extends to about 140 hectares with grass runways allowing launching, and importantly landing, in all directions. The club operates 7 days a week from March to the end of October. At other times we are usually open for flying, weather permitting, on Wednesday afternoon, all day Thursday and Friday and every weekend. Other days can usually be arranged in advance, depending on availability of launch staff, tug pilots and sufficient ground crew. During the summer **EVENING COURSES** for club members are held on several days each week. The annual cross country **TASK WEEK** is normally held during the week before the August bank holiday.



#### HOW TO FIND US

The usual approach route is from the east leaving the A49 at Church Stretton and following the Burway up the steep road onto the Long Mynd. The gliding club is about 5 miles from the cross roads in the town. There is another route from the west via Ratlinghope using minor roads and narrow lanes but it is less steep than the Burway. The route from the south via the A489 and Asterton is very steep, about 25% for much of the final section up the hill. All three routes are suitable for trailers with care but the Asterton hill will require a powerful tow vehicle. In the winter the roads on the top of the hill are often closed due to snow. We recommend that you call first on 01588 650206 if in any doubt.