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Jago Roberts, 21, one of the pilots in the Glide Britain project.

‘Glide Britain’ launches national video campaign to inspire more people to go gliding!

An exciting new video campaign is being launched to encourage more people to discover the exhilarating sport of gliding.

Eleven gliding clubs from across the UK are involved in the first-ever ‘Glide Britain’ campaign spearheaded by the British Gliding Association (BGA), which uses a series of short films to share the experiences and passions of men and women who go gliding to tempt more people to give the sport a try.

The launch films on YouTube will also be shared online and across social media channels providing an unrivalled, privileged view of Britain’s vast and varied landscape where the sky and clouds become a playground.

Dave Latimer from the BGA said: “If you ever wanted to know what inspires and motivates men and women of all ages and backgrounds to go gliding then the Glide Britain campaign does just that!

“Gliding is so much more than flying. It’s a community which brings people of all ages and backgrounds together because of its inclusivity. It doesn’t matter if you’re male or female, young or old and we can also fly many with disabilities in specially adapted gliders.”

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Glide Britain has been developed by a group of volunteers and the British Gliding Association, the governing body for the sport in the UK which represents more than 80 gliding clubs stretching from the Highlands of Scotland to Cornwall in the south-west tip of England.

Roy Nuza is from York Gliding Centre. He said: "We're really excited to be part of the Glide Britain campaign and helping to inspire people to discover gliding.

"It's exhilarating! It's the perfect way to get active, make friends with like-minded people and have great fun, which is what gliding is all about," added Roy, who has more than 30 years' gliding experience and is a qualified British Gliding Association instructor.

Jago Roberts, 21, was one of the volunteers to travel around the UK with the Glide Britain team filming gliding activities at each of the clubs visited as part of a two-week tour.

"It's the best feeling to be flying amongst the clouds, taking in the wondrous views and harnessing the earth's natural resources," said Jago, who plans to use her gliding experience to pursue a career in aviation.

"Every time I fly a glider it's a new adventure," Jago added, "each flight has a new experience to offer which allows me to develop my flying skills. Everyone should have the opportunity to experience that feeling."

Glider pilots fly unpowered aircraft in the same naturally occurring currents of air that birds use to fly. Using these invisible currents of air, known as 'lift', gliders can soar to great heights of up to 30,000 feet, travel at average speeds of over 100 miles per hour and travel distances of 1,000km!

Gliding is an inclusive sport and enjoyed around the world by people of all ages and physical abilities, and subject to completing the required training, you can fly a glider solo at 14-years-old. There is no upper age limit.

Each year pilots from gliding clubs across Great Britain represent the UK at World and European Championships at both junior and senior level.

The series of videos which spotlight gliding at clubs across the UK are available now on Glide Britain's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAsyazUSKdSI3yHjvzH5nag>

For more information about gliding, or to find your nearest club, visit the British Gliding Association at www.gliding.co.uk

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Notes to editors

For more information, recording and photo opportunities please contact:

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Clubs involved with the British Gliding Association's Glide Britain project:

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Burn Gliding Club, The Airfield, Park Lane, Burn, Selby, North Yorkshire, YO8 8LW. Telephone 01757 270296.

Cambridge Gliding Club, Gransden Lodge Airfield, Longstowe Road, Little Gransden, Bedfordshire, SG19 3EB. Telephone 01767 677077.

Cotswold Gliding Club, Aston Down Airfield, Cowcombe Lane, Chalford, Stroud, GL6 8HR. Telephone 01285 760415.

Herefordshire Gliding Club, Shobdon Airfield, Shobdon, Herefordshire, HR6 9NR. Telephone 07585 702427.

Lasham Gliding Society, Lasham Airfield, The Avenue, Alton, Hants, GU34 5SS. Telephone 01256 384900.

Mendip Gliding Club, Halesland Airfield, New Road, Draycott, Cheddar, Somerset, BA5 3BX. Telephone 01749 870312.

Midland Gliding Club, The Long Mynd, Church Stretton, Shropshire, SY6 6TA. Telephone 01588 650206.

The Yorkshire Gliding Club, Sutton Bank, Thirsk, North Yorkshire, YO7 2EY. Telephone 01845 597237.

Trent Valley Gliding Club, The Airfield, Kirton in Lindsey, North Lincolnshire, DN21 4GG. Telephone 01652 648777.

York Gliding Centre, Rufforth, York, YO23 3NA. Telephone 01904 738694.

Key Facts

- The British Gliding Association (BGA) is the governing body for the sport of gliding in the UK and represents more than 80 gliding clubs stretching from the Highlands of Scotland to the south-west tip of Cornwall in England. Wherever you live, you are never far from your local gliding club!
- Gliding is an inclusive sport and enjoyed by people of all ages and physical abilities. Subject to completing the required training, you can fly a glider solo at age 14. There is no upper age limit.
- Many people first experience the thrill of gliding by taking an introductory discovery flight at a BGA member club and become hooked!
- There are currently around 8,500 glider pilots in the UK.
- Each year pilots from gliding clubs across Great Britain represent the UK at World and European Championships. Britain is represented at both Junior and Senior level, and the Women's World Championships.
- Aerobatics are an established and growing part of gliding, and an excellent means of improving and developing pilot skills and confidence. Whether young or more senior in years, aerobatics does not discriminate. It is all about flying skill, airmanship and having fun.
- Gliding brings the science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) agenda to life to inspire the next generation of pilots and engineers using the principles of aerodynamics and lift which keep an unpowered aircraft airborne.