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Take flight with British Gliding at New Scientist Live 2018



Come and learn more about the science of unpowered flight with the British Gliding Association (BGA) at the New Scientist Live at London's ExCel.

Take the controls of our two-seater glider simulator with one of our pilots and instructors at our interactive display.

There's also the chance to win a 'Discover Gliding' voucher where you can experience the thrill of gliding for yourself in a trial lesson at a club near you.

All you have to do is visit us in the Technology Zone and enter our competition for your free chance to win!

BGA New Scientist Live 2018/19.09.18

Andy Perkins, Chairman of the BGA, is delighted the BGA is exhibiting at New Scientist Live 2018. He said: "We are looking forward to showcasing not only how gliding is accessible as a sport for all, but also how gliding can lead to a career in the flight-deck, engineering or other professional role within aviation and aerospace."

Mr Perkins, a senior first officer and trainer on 777 with a major UK airline added: "I began gliding when I was 3-years-old and soloed at the soonest possible opportunity.

"Gliding gives a true appreciation of the air and develops superb handling skills that are essential for all pilots. You can now solo a glider age 14 and, if considering an aviation career, gliding is the perfect way of developing technical skills as well as team working and leadership skills that are crucial on a modern flight-deck.

"If you are considering a career in aviation I suggest having a look at gliding. In my opinion, it is the perfect starting point and still an important, fun and enjoyable way to fly."

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 40,000 feet, travel at average speeds of over 100 miles per hour and vast distances of 1,000km all within the UK.

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.

For more information visit www.gliding.co.uk. You can also follow the latest news from the British Gliding Association on Facebook and Twitter.

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Note to editors

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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 7,000 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.