



Welcome to Our First Newsletter!

Dear Friends and Supporters,

What an incredible evening we had on January 10th, 2026! The Mark Long Trust's official launch event at the beautiful Petwood Hotel in Woodhall Spa exceeded all our expectations, and we're thrilled to share the highlights with you in this very first edition of our newsletter.

When we set out to plan this launch event, we hoped to bring together our community of aviation enthusiasts, supporters, and friends to celebrate the beginning of something truly special. What we experienced that night was beyond our wildest dreams, an evening filled with warmth, generosity, and an overwhelming show of support for our mission to help people experience the joy of aviation.

Despite facing an unexpected village-wide power cut that tested everyone's resolve (and our nerves!), the spirit of the evening never dimmed. In fact, it seemed to bring everyone together even more, creating an atmosphere of camaraderie and shared purpose that perfectly embodied what the Mark Long Trust is all about.

The result? An astounding £10,000 raised through our charity auction alone—funds that will directly support our work in making aviation accessible to those who might not otherwise have the opportunity to experience it.



A Night to Remember

From the moment guests arrived at the historic Petwood Hotel to the final dance of the evening with local band JFK (Just for Kicks), every moment was filled with excitement, laughter, and genuine connection. We witnessed the power of community coming together for a cause close to all our hearts, and we couldn't be more grateful to everyone who made it possible.

In the pages that follow, you'll find detailed highlights from the evening, heartfelt thanks to our incredible supporters, and a glimpse into what this successful launch means for the future of the Mark Long Trust.

Beth Long

The Petwood Hotel

The support and facilities provided by the Petwood Hotel were second to none. The 3 course meal was outstanding and all of the staff were fantastic – even coping through a village wide power cut for 30 mins of the night. Thank you Emma and your team for providing us such as great facility and making our launch extra special.



Sean Dunderdale

The amazing Sean Dunderdale from BBC Lincolnshire acted as the Compere for the evening and did a brilliant job keeping the audience entertained and keeping the event on track. Sean was also our auctioneer encouraging guests to bid for the 12 unique auction lots. All of the items were very popular with a flight in the Typhoon Simulator going for the highest figure of the night at £2700 – thank you to BAE Systems for kindly donating this!

Thank you to all of our bidders and winners.

Mark Sugden - Chairman, Mark Long Trust

Suggs – the Chairman of the Mark Long Trust gave an opening speech, introducing the Trust and explaining the format of the evening. Throughout his speech he had his fingers crossed that the power would return – which amazingly it did at the very end of his time on the stage!

We were also delighted to welcome a very special guest to the evening — Mark Morris, the first Mark Long Trust scholar, who was joined by four wonderful members of Flying Scholarships for Disabled People (FSDP). It was a privilege to have them with us and to celebrate the shared values and mission that unite our organisations.



Charity Auction

The Trust had been donated a unique array of 12 auction items ranging from experience days, to framed photos, to a spitfire model. The auction was a lot of fun with plenty of friendly encouragement from around the room. The 12 items sold for an outstanding £10,000. It was very hard to say which was the "Top Prize" but the item that went for the highest figure was a Typhoon Simulator flying lesson courtesy of BAE Systems.



The After Party

Music was provided by local band JFK (Just for Kicks) who put on a spectacular show with a variety of songs that got everyone up dancing.



Thank you!

This evening would not be possible without the dedication of our committee members who give up their time to organize events such as this. Our thanks also go to several companies who gave up their time or gave discounted services. There were The Petwood Hotel, Peachy Events, Think Colour Print & Packaging and KMG Venue Décor. Thanks to everyone involved the funds raised will ensure that we can carry on our journey to help people experience the joy of aviation.

