



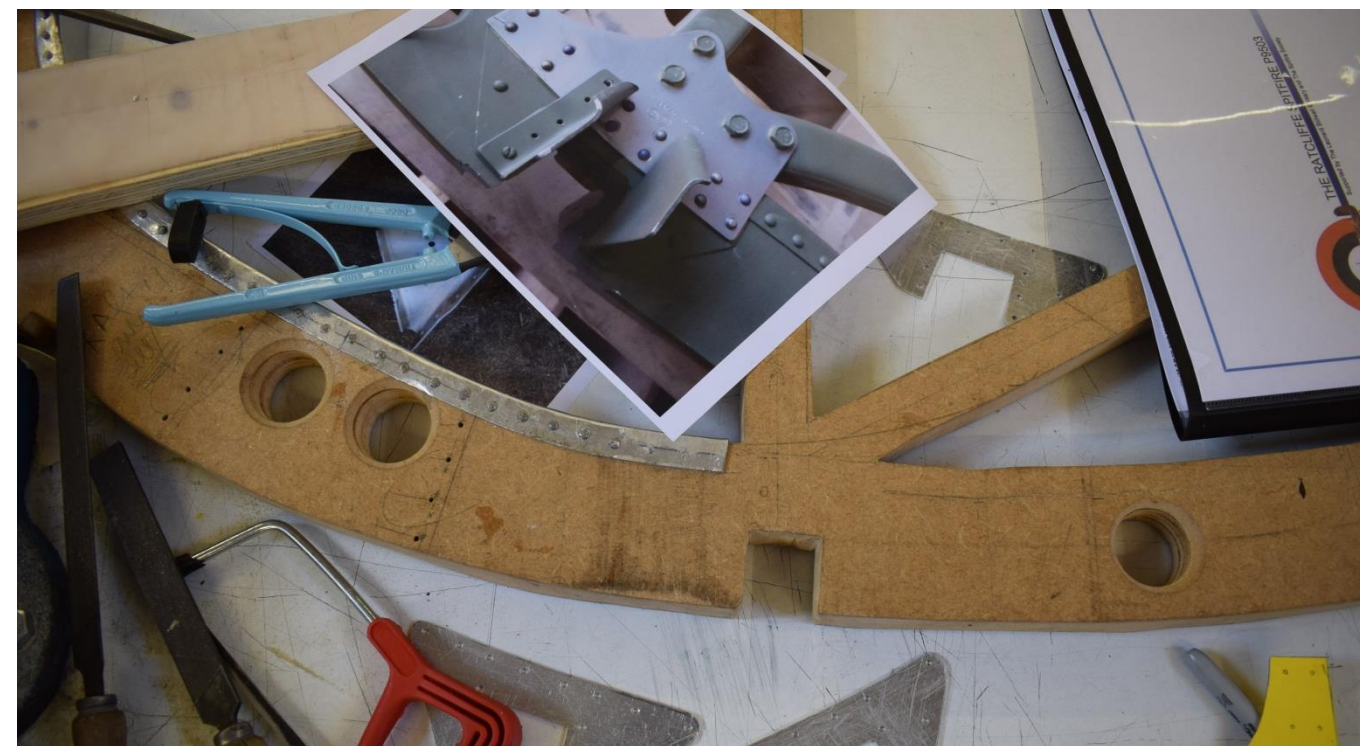
# THE RATCLIFFE SPITFIRE P9503

Supported by The Leonard Stillwell Bursary and The Spitfire Society  
THE WORLD'S ONLY SPITFIRE BUILT BY STUDENTS

# 14

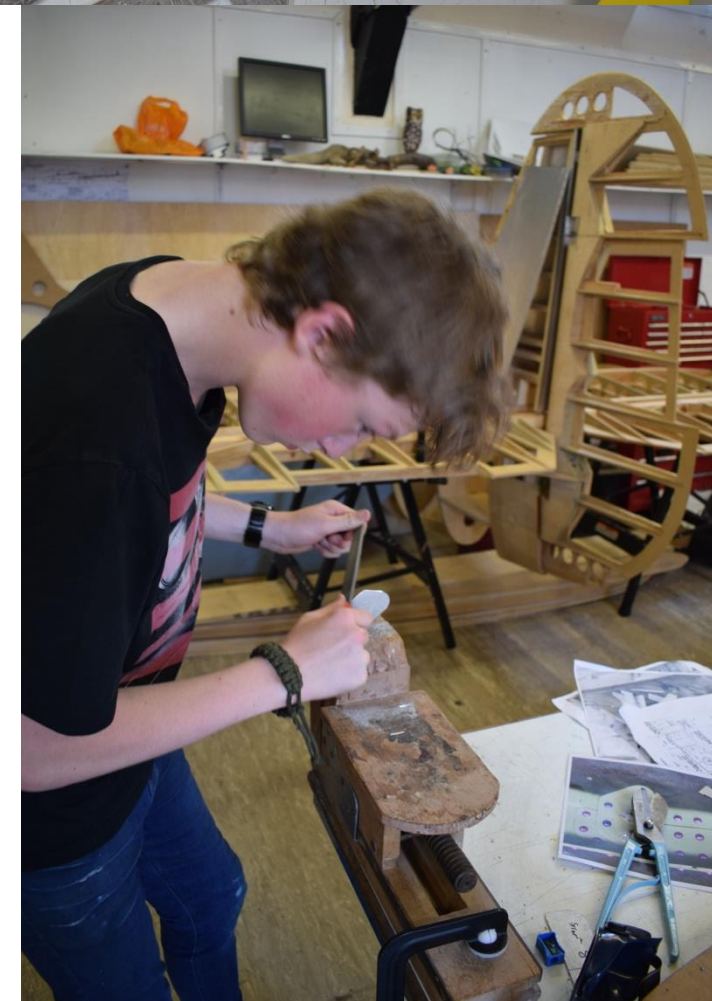
July 2017  
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This is a short final bulletin for this academic year and sees us really getting to grips with the dressing of the frames. Having learnt through practice, we are become more adept at folding aluminium neatly around the frames, avoiding small dents which shatter the illusion of machine-pressed parts. We have a good system

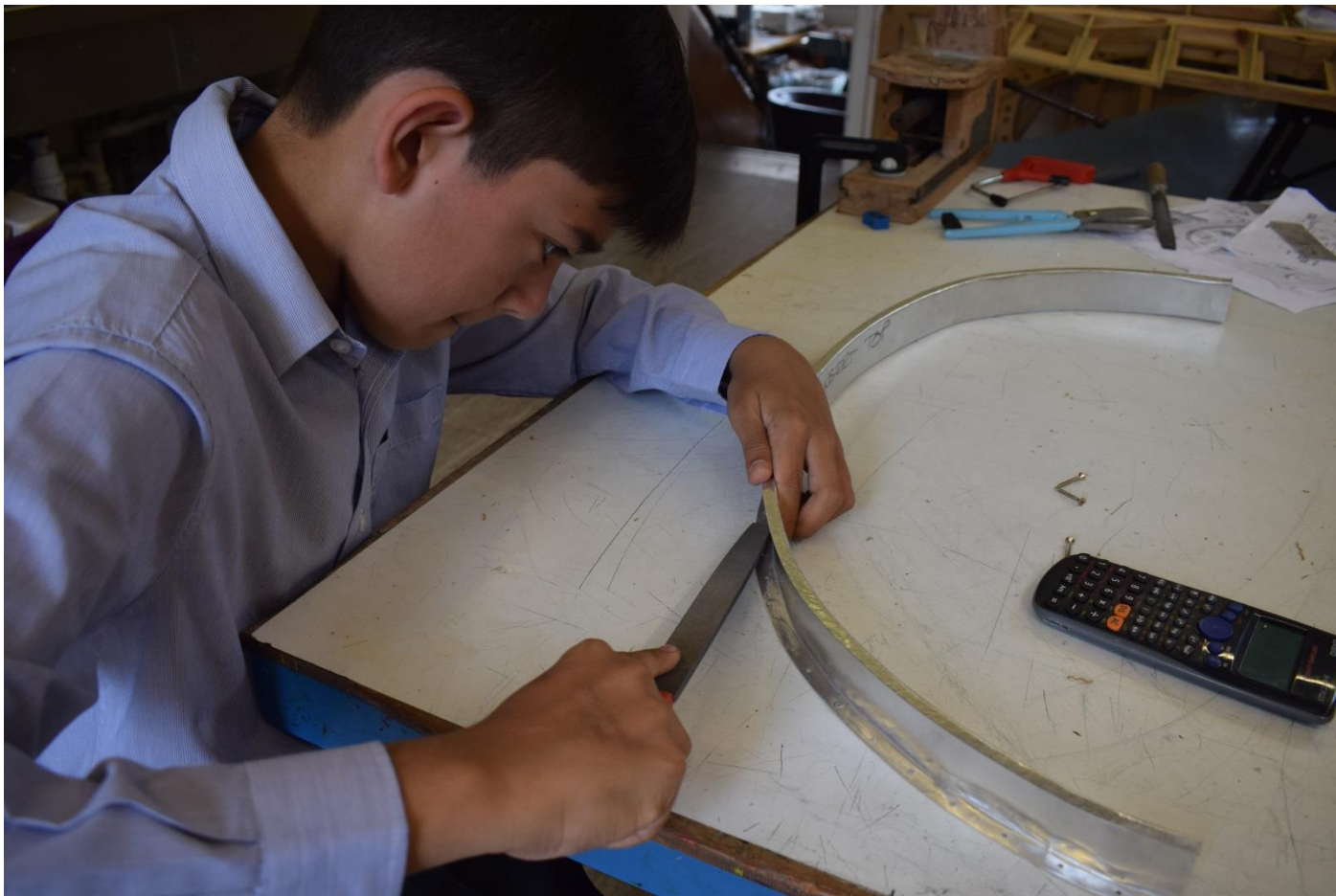


developing for creating the different brackets and other parts that attach to the frames, either for structural integrity or to attach other parts to. Airframe Assemblies have provided us, yet again, with invaluable help this year, Chris Michell sending me traced drawings of parts we just couldn't find details of, and even sending me a couple of original frame brackets for us to use as masters.

I am very happy with the progress that we are making, albeit on a smaller scale than we have previously been working at. We have sent two frames to Carlisle for final testing of the fuselage jig up with CAD Works Engineering, and next term we may be in a position to test fit all of our frames here in the jig; what a moment that will be, to see our fuselage together for the first time! The image to the left gives







us an idea of what the fuselage will begin to look like as it begins to take shape on a similar jig.



point we will need to seal them before we top coat it with flat cockpit green...now that will be exciting! I wish you all an enjoyable and restful summer, whatever you are doing, and will return sometime in October for Bulletin 15.

During the last week of term, in Activities Week, I set aside a whole day for the Spitfire, and we managed to get a good amount of work done. Focussing on Frame 8 and 11, it was our goal to make real progress with the brackets, rivets and other dressing parts. It will be sometime in September or October before these two frames are fully complete, at which



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