



The versatile DHC Chipmunk is three-quarters of a century old. A celebratory flypast took place in September and **Peter Foster** was there

**M**arking 75 years of the de Havilland Canada DHC-1 Chipmunk, a massed formation of the historic trainers formed a '75' shape in skies above Leicestershire on September 24. The aircraft had been flown into Leicester Airport in Stoughton specially for the event.

The true 75th anniversary was May 22, when numerous aircraft gathered at Old Warden in Bedfordshire to celebrate the occasion, but the weather sadly prevented the hoped-for formation flypast (although they did manage a very impressive 'Diamond 16'). Undeterred, event co-ordinator and Chipmunk enthusiast Carol De Solla took on the considerable

task of restaging the event, in hope of achieving the airborne '75'. In the end, a three-day gathering was hosted at two locations: Leicester on September 23 and 24 and Peterborough Conington Airport in Cambridgeshire on September 25. Congratulations to all involved. **FP**

ABOVE: Sixteen Chipmunks form a big '75' in the sky on September 24 ALL PETER FOSTER



ABOVE: A gathering of Chipmunks at Leicester Airport, Stoughton



ABOVE: The 1953-built WZ879 (G-BWUT) wearing RAF livery