

Autogyro pilots swap tales of high adventure

Norfolk autogyro genius Ken Wallis has been visited by the friend who "reclaimed" his lost flying records. Andy Keech, who lives in Washington DC, has known Wing Cmdr Wallis for 22 years and he achieved three world records previously held by 88-year-old Mr Wallis, of Reymerston Hall, near Dereham.

Wing Cmdr Wallis now holds 17 world records for performance by autogyros which he has built himself and still pilots.

The two men, who correspond regularly, had plenty to catch up on as they swapped stories of their record-breaking attempts.

They were taking a particular interest in a long-range autogyro built by Wing Cmdr Wallis in 1984 which achieved 12 world records. But Wing Cmdr Wallis is perhaps most famous as being a real-life Q when he kitted out secret agent 007 James Bond with an autogyro in the film *You Only Live Twice*.

Wing Cmdr Wallis proudly showed off his record-breaking certificates which adorn his home. They are issued by the Paris-based International Aeronautical Federation, which governs world records, and signed by Prince Charles, Prince Phillip and Prince Andrew during their times as president.

Wing Cmdr Wallis first met Mr Keech, in 1982 and in his own autogyro he managed to claim three records previously held by Wing Cmdr Wallis but which had been broken by other enthusiasts.

Mr Keech, who achieved his records in an autogyro he built himself, said: "Ken is my close friend and mentor and I was pleased to get those three records back for him."



FOR THE RECORDS: Wing Cmdr Ken Wallis, left, welcomes pilot Andy Keech to his Reymerston home. Between them they hold all the world records for flying autogyros.