

Well here we are, Christmas is over and a new year is upon us. Hopefully you got all the new kit that you wanted and are ready for the coming season. Unfortunately the New Year's Day fly in was somewhat washed out, but there have been a few good flying days since then. Hey, the days are getting longer and Spring is on the way.

The next Club meeting will be:

Wednesday, 29th January, 2014

and will be the **Bring and Build Night**

This is aimed mainly at the WWI model build so that we can have a themed flying event during the Summer. Bring along your models, part built models or even parts of models and we will have a mutual help and encouragement evening. This could be particularly helpful if you are new to the old art of balsa bashing and would welcome a bit of guidance, or maybe you are just finding something a bit awkward and could use a few extra hands. The evening is not by any means limited to WWI aircraft so bring whatever you are working on.

Some people have already said that they will bring along completed and part built WWI models and Jonathan is bringing a new kit to show how most of these models start life and talk through the construction sequence, plans, etc. with anyone who may be wondering what is involved.



There should also be some discussion on what will be involved with the actual WWI event, so if you have any views then please come along and voice them.

No doubt you all saw the excellent piece in a previous issue of BMFA News about our display at RAF Halton. (You do read it don't you?) Unfortunately it left people wondering who HWDMAC were. The December issue now carries an extension item explaining our full name and a bit more about the Club.

If you do not read the BMFA News you may be missing what has become a very good magazine. It still carry's the usual reports of contests and specialist groups, but now has some excellent articles of a general nature. For example, the December issue has items on multi-rotor craft and potential dangers of LiPo batteries. The latter has some interesting photographs that vividly bring home why these batteries should always be treated with respect.

The magazine also has the usual trade adverts and one that caught my eye (only because it was next to the item about our Club) was for Component-Shop. They have a good range of all those components that are not available from the bigger name suppliers and are an option to Maplin. www.component-shop.co.uk
www.maplin.co.uk

Chairman's Update



First of all may I wish you all a very happy new year 2014. I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year with family and friends.

My important news this month is to advise you all that your committee has purchased a mini club house and mower storage facility based around a 20' steel container. It has been delivered to the Flackwell site and will soon be positioned just inside the gate to the flying field. One end of the container has double doors that allow the mower to be driven in for storage after use. The other end on the long side has a window and personnel door for club members to access using the same key as our Flackwell gate key. One essential exercise needed to make the container fully operational is to line the interior with a plywood skin to minimise

condensation. Please let John Quelch or Andy Trevina know if you are available to help with this exercise in the February/March period.

Your committee has also decided that we need a high degree of reliability from our field mower during 2014 and to achieve this we have asked a "Toro" mower specialist company in the Aylesbury area to carry out the necessary service work. This should be complete by the end of January.

Finally I would encourage you all to come along to our January 29th club meeting as we would like to get your input to our plans to celebrate the centenary of the start of WW1. You will note in this newsletter that I have "rescued" an excellent semi-scale WW1 model for sale from an ex-member and if you have nothing else then I would encourage you to purchase it as a route to getting involved in our plans.

Alan Bristow

Fly a Spitfire

Have you ever wanted to sit in a Spitfire cockpit, and then fly it? Well you can. Of course it is only a simulator but a very real feeling and experience .



I recently had the opportunity to visit the Maidenhead Heritage Centre, the upstairs of the building is devoted to the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) Museum which is the history of the wartime civilian pilots who moved all the new aircraft from the factories to the airfields. Very interesting in itself but the gem of the visit was to discover a full size fuselage section (cockpit only) containing all the controls and instruments of a Spitfire linked to a computer.

There are three computer screens mounted on the top of the fuselage in front of you giving a panoramic view of your flight, a fourth screen is mounted above these three which shows an external view of the aircraft. This is useful as it gives an indication of the angle of attack of your aircraft if you don't look at the instruments. The cost is only £5 for a quarter hour flight with an instructor outside of the cockpit to help you. There is also a one off admission charge to the Museum of between £3 and £3.50 valid for a year.

It is recommended to phone and book your flight in advance as it can be very busy at weekends; a midweek booking is best if you are retired or can have time off work. Open from 10.15am to 3.30pm Tuesday to Saturday.

The address is 18 Park Street, Maidenhead, phone 01628 780555. A lot more information is available at <http://www.atamuseum.org/your-visit.html>.

Why Maidenhead? Well, the headquarters of the ATA was at White Waltham airfield, just up the road. They flew Anything To Anywhere.



Roger Aslett

(Thanks Roger. Great opportunity to print a couple of Spitfire pictures. Ed.)

The Editor is always keen to receive items of interest for inclusion in the Newsletter. These should preferably be, at least loosely, related to the Club or aero-modelling, but anything that even mentions aircraft or flying will be considered. Of course, I reserve the right to edit items to make them fit or remove libellous or inappropriate comments. If there is something that you want to say but don't want to produce a complete article, do not worry, just let me have some notes and I will convert them for you. (No, that's not a money laundering offer!) The general deadline for any particular issue is 10.00 pm on the Tuesday of the week before the next meeting, but this is sometimes open to negotiation. Contact details are on the back page. Malcolm.

Droning on

A number of members are experimenting with FPV flying and Mitch Mabbutt gave a very good demonstration at the RAF Halton event last year. However, apart from being fun and an interesting exercise is there any use for the technology and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) generally? Well, put aside ideas of bombing seven bells out of your noisy neighbour (illegal) and filming the nudist beach at Studland (anti social) and consider some of the items on the following links.

- Help reporters cover stories (the BBC is [currently trying them out](#));
- Help [estate agents to sell luxury homes](#) by showing off that stunning aerial view;
- Deliver [beer to music festival-goers](#);
- [Track the Sumatran orangutan](#) and other endangered species;
- [Make movies](#) (Parts of Skyfall and The Smurfs 2 were filmed with a drone).

And finally a comprehensive [item from the BBC](#).

Club House Update

I am pleased to inform you that on the 24th of January our new mower/club house container was delivered to Flackwell at 8.00 am and, after a discussion with Colin & Andy Secker and Patsy Enright at midday, it was repositioned by 3.00 pm that afternoon.

The final agreed position of the container is next to an existing container owned by Patsy Enright. Our unit has the double doors for mower access opening into the flying field. Access into the club house section is via the personnel door within the hard standing area of the car park. To achieve this situation the existing club wooden shed was cleaned out by John Quelch and I and Patsy then moved the empty shell out onto the path of the the flying field before repositioning the container.

We now have two tasks as follows:-

- 1 – Reposition the club shed in the hedge. This requires levelling the ground, laying our existing paving stones on a sand base and then man handling the shed back into place.
- 2 – Sorting out the content of the shed. *Gentlemen, the shed content is in an appalling condition; it is dirty, wet and looks as if it has been hosting a field mouse convention for several years!*

John and I bagged up 5 sacks full of junk and I took them to the tip on my way home. The remaining items are in the container for further sorting. (See pictures below.)

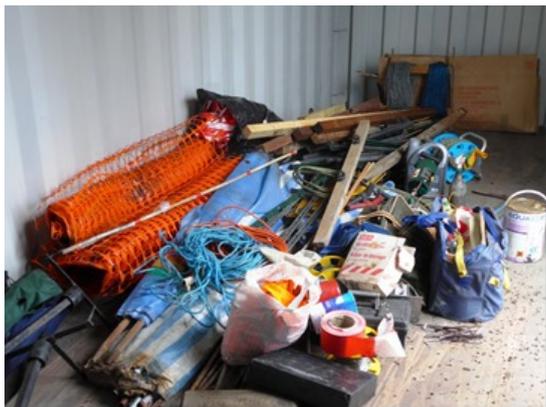
This note is therefore a **request for volunteers** to help John and I carry out actions 1 & 2 above. Item one needs some younger and fitter members to help with shifting the paving stones into position and then moving the shed. Please bring along some rakes and spades plus a bow saw for this task. Item 2 is the sorting task including the very grubby contents of the green plastic box that was located next to the wooden shed. I make no apologies for advising you that I will dump anything that is not claimed as useful by attendees at that session so please come along if you think that you can save anything of use.

I would like to see the both tasks completed next Saturday morning the 1st of February (Start at 10.00 am) so please find time to give us a hand with this work.

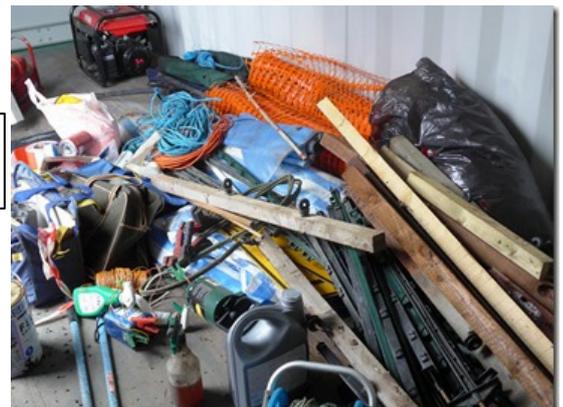
Thank you in advance for your help with this sorting task.

Alan Bristow

PS It is still very muddy so bring your wellies



Shed stuff that needs sorting or disposal.



Some pictures of the container.



Container in situ



Door and Window

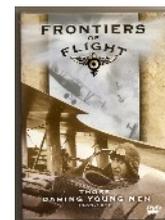


Mower access

In the Mood

Just to set the right mood and possibly provide some inspiration for the WW1 evening we will have a DVD of *Frontiers of Flight* playing. This is the story of flying from 1903 to 1918.

Steve



Committee Members 2014

Office	Name
Chairman	Alan Bristow
Deputy Chairman	Stephen Berry
Treasurer	John Compton
Secretary	Henry Hall
Membership Secretary	Mike Winston
Competition Rep	
Safety and Training	Jonathan Harper
Flackwell Rep	Andy Trevena *
Chinnor Rep	Nick Thomas
BFMA Representative	Ian Thompson
Newsletter Editor	Malcolm Connell

Contact details removed for web site

Meetings and Events in 2014

Date	Event
29 January	WW1 Bring and Build night
26 February	Talk by Tony Eaton – Glenn Miller’s disappearance
26 March	Table top sale (Items less than £30)
23 April	Concours
28 May	Talk - Speaker and subject to be advised
24 June	WW1 Flying Event at Flackwell
5 July	Possible Gala at Flackwell
23 July	Scale flying at Chinnor
27 August	Possible public show
24 September	Auction (Items mainly £30 or more)
22 October	by Sean Bannister – Subject to be advised
26 November	AGM and Subs payment
6 December	Hamper competition at Flackwell