



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2012

Editor: Michael Sullivan

POLICE APPEAL FOR INFORMATION FOLLOWING GREAT PLANE ROBBERY NEAR OUR HAREFIELD SITE

Hertfordshire police made an internet appeal for information about the theft of large scale model aircraft and associated equipment from a locked van outside a house in Berry Lane, Rickmansworth, only just down the hill from our Harefield site in Springwell Lane.



Well known large scale model enthusiast Richard Rawle returned from a day's flying and decided to unload his van the next morning. But overnight thieves forced open the vehicle and made off with the contents—the biggest and the most valuable item being the biplane (pictured left) a third scale model of the full-size American homebuild "Fly Baby Bipe", painted to resemble a WWI fighter.

It is likely that the thieves were after any tools they might have found in the van, but decided to take the attractive contents anyway. They left behind the top wing of the biplane, suggesting that they didn't really know what they were nicking. The police called it "an audacious burglary" and said that more than one person was likely to have been involved in it. Model shops and model magazines have been circulated with details of the stolen goods. Thieves have been targeting commercial vans parked outside private premises as well as garages and garden sheds. Model aircraft people are urged to carry out a careful review of their workshop security.

NOTE. RICKMANSWORTH is covered by the **HERTFORDSHIRE** Constabulary. Our Harefield site comes under the **METROPOLITAN** Police. If you have occasion to summon the police to our site, dial 101 and selected the Met from the menu you hear.

Quote the number CHS 51538 OF 23/12/11.



THE MONTHLY MEETING AT THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN CLUB ON THURSDAY, APRIL 12TH IS A BRING AND BUY.

Have a good rummage through your workshop and make that long-delayed decision to get rid of stuff you really don't need and haven't used for a long time!

BACK IN THE BLUE AT HAREFIELD.

David Orrells's camera captures an intriguing newcomer to Harefield, the electric, pusher amphibian foamie "Icon" (above left) that appeared on Peter Emanuel's stall at the last monthly meeting. The sight of it had Stewart Wilkinson reaching for his wallet. Gordon Tarling's mighty electric crop duster (above), its whirring propeller frozen by Orrells's fast camera shutter speed, has re-appeared with a suitably beefed-up undercarriage.

A bumper attendance at the March monthly meeting enjoyed an indoor flying session combined with an exhibition of members' winter projects.



Above: A critical going over for Graham Spencer's impressive Westland Lysander. Above right: David Whiteley fires up the fairy lights on his semi-scale DH Chipmunk. Below left: Richard Norris shows Brian Hourican over his elegant civilianised, post World War One SE5a. Below right: Roger Woods with his near-complete, plans-built scale model of the Airspeed Courier of the early thirties.



Above left: Model or microlight? Peter Emanuel parked his monster ARTF Extra 300 with its 111cc petrol engine and 28 inch prop for all to admire. Above right: We are all fascinated by anything that flies! Broad beams of delight as an indoor flying contestant wafts by at head height. A high degree of flying skill emerged as members took it in turns to fly the club's featherweight, electric powered models around the indoor course at the Battle of Britain Club. Right: A well-justified smile of pride from Felix Scicluna, who came out tops at indoor flying .

IT'S NOT JUST MODELS OR SCRAP METAL THEY'RE AFTER! Steve Woolnough recently had occasion to report to the police that his Astro Turf front garden in Ipswich had been nicked. All 100 square feet of it. And that, he said, was far too heavy for just one person to carry. Let us keep our eyes peeled!

