



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2010

Editor: Michael Sullivan

A NEW FACE FOR THE SUMMER. (WHEN IT GETS HERE)



Our flying field is taking on a new face for the 2010 flying season as we wait impatiently through a rain-sodden run-up to Easter for signs that summer is about to arrive. The row of wooden tables, (above left) designed to make handling models and running up their engines safer and more comfortable, is growing. The design of Matt Dawson's prototype table has been refined and member Roger Darvell has produced several more. Still more tables are to be assembled from "kits of parts", provided by Matt, at a work party at the field on May 8th. Meanwhile Roger has been laying more paving stones (above right) around the fixed, metal table near the pits. Once the puddles drain away and the mud dries out, Harefield will have a more sophisticated look and more than a few members will be enjoying new freedom from "Harefield back-ache"

BELOW LEFT: Mike Pugh tries out one of Roger Darvell's model tables, adjustable to take twin engine models, to run up the OS 52 four strokes in his big ARTF De Havilland 88 Comet. Note the working landing light in the nose.



GIVE YOUR MODEL WORKSHOP A SPRING CLEAN. CLEAR OUT ALL THAT STUFF YOU WON'T USE AGAIN, AND FLOG IT AT OUR BRING AND BUY AT THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN CLUB ON THURSDAY, APRIL 8TH AT 8-0 P.M.

DIARY DATES

Organiser David Orrells learned that the Clement Danes school hall will be open and available for **INDOOR FLYING** this **GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2ND.**

Doors open 8-0 p.m.

There is to be a maintenance **WORK PARTY** at the field on **FRIDAY, APRIL 16TH**. Lunch provided.



THE CHINK IN OUR ARMOUR

More than once the padlock on our main gate has been found with the locking pin hanging down uselessly (see left). It is an open invitation to the thieves and fly tippers who miss no opportunity to get their vehicles into our field. The padlock keyhole should face downwards to keep rain out of the mechanism. But the locking pin must be pushed upwards, and clicked into place BEFORE you withdraw the key. Double check it before you leave. Do not underestimate the swift opportunism of passing undesirables. A padlock left open and unattended once disappeared in minutes and it cost the club a small fortune to buy new padlocks and keys. Listen for the click—every trip!

GARLIC PONG TO BEAT THE BUNNIES.

Last year's attempt to sort out our rabbit hole problem by filling the holes with sand sprinkled with Jeyes Fluid has not worked. The bunnies have been digging out the sand with renewed vigour. (see right). The field is now to be sprayed regularly with an environmentally-safe animal deterrent. Its pong of garlic offends the sensitive snouts of rabbits, squirrels and deer. A specially-purchased spray is to be used to apply a fine mist of the stuff frequently enough to persuade them to dig their holes somewhere else. The field will be given its first treatment after the holes have been filled again by the work party on Friday, April 16th. (See the front page of this Newsletter.)



DON'T BE SHY, NOW.....

A review of incidents at our flying site has revealed that that some expensive crashes have involved members who recently passed their "A" certificates. Dispassionate study of the likely cause has thrown up the theory that newly-passed members, anxious to exercise their new freedom, have been caught out by the phenomenon of getting seriously "rusty" through the weather-related winter inactivity, and/or of the challenge of a new model that calls for more sharpness on the sticks than a docile trainer. Matthew Dawson, Club Training Manager, offers "refresher" sessions for those of you who may still not feel 100 percent on top of your new models. Just give him a call on 07950 862299 to arrange it. Don't be shy, and don't be proud! On the field it is also reasonable to ask any experienced or confident flyer to stand by your elbow as you get airborne, and perhaps get you out of trouble if your model threatens to get away from you. Your learning curve didn't end with that A Certificate. A little humility can save you the grief of a smashed up model and another hole in your wallet.

CALLING ALL GREEN FINGERS

The local SPRINGWELL GARDEN CENTRE is offering a ten per cent discount to WLMAC members. If you are one of those people who finds the time for gardening as well as model aircraft, pop in there to see what's on offer. Be ready to show your WLMAC membership card. The entrance to the Centre, well signposted, is on your right just as Springwell Lane gets ready to run parallel to the canal. Proprietor Avril, who grows her own plants, points out that discounts do NOT apply to "special offer" items.



PICTURED ABOVE RIGHT. This was the Easter present left on our doorstep by a fly tipper who left a trail of debris along Springwell Lane and the entrances to other properties. It would have taken a tipper truck to carry out this brazen raid and it is by no means the first time it has happened. Our site is a juicy target and more than one assault on the entrance gate has been made. A complete set of tools—hacksaw, crowbar, hammer etc, was recently left at the gate by someone we believe to have been disturbed by the arrival of a WLMAC member. Newsletter makes no apology for banging on about the threat of intruders. It is meant to impress, particularly on recently-joined members, the need for the greatest care in securing the gate and the club house when arriving and leaving. Be vigilant. Be diligent!