

Impington Village College Model Aeroplane Club

Based near Cambridge we fly Free Flight, Radio Control and Control Line aircraft



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Website ivcmac.bmfa.uk

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Aero Ecology Project

Some club members were surprised to see a model plane towing a butterfly net at a recent Friday evening meeting. This was a test flight for a high altitude insect sampling project with Cambridge University.



PhD student Reuben contacted the club for advice. The initial thought was to fly the net under a Heli Kite, but a bit of research showed that the CAA have a height limit for kites of 200ft. Reuben wanted to collect samples from 1,000ft.



Reuben constructed a lightweight net and we decided to trial this behind an FMS Easy Trainer.

The drag of the net was somewhat below the thrustline, so there was quite a bit of downward trim requiring a bit of up elevator to hold level flight.



After a bit of trial and error, we got the net flying in a very stable manner behind the model without any wobbling or rotation. On the first short trial flight of under 2 minutes and under 200ft, Reuben caught 3 insects.

Now the concept is proven, we will be using a larger Bixler model with FPV and iNav to tow the net up to 1,000ft (using the BMFA Article 16 authorisation) where we plan to cruise at that height for 15 minutes and see what we catch. Interestingly there is very little proper evidence of a decline in insects other than the fact that fewer get squashed on car windscreens these days.

A video of the test flights and a few out takes is [here](#).

Guess what this is.....



It's a lead weight fitted just under the rudder on a Grumman Bearcat at IWM Duxford. Presumably if you were a "Big Pilot" you would have to get the engineers to remove it. It was a piece of lead about 2" x 4" x 4", so quite a chunk of ballast to get the CG right.

Laurents surplus model kits

Regular visitor Laurent Leboucher came along to a recent Friday evening meeting with a large box containing 2 CAP 232 kits. He had accidentally purchased more than his requirements LOL.



He asked if we could find some worthy recipients for them, but sadly there weren't any so Jon Oakley had one and Marco Sejak had the other..... I couldn't take them home myself on the orders of the current Mrs Paul.



Marco with a large box

Night Flying once again



Greggs Night Radian and Alans Night Tundra pictured before a successful evenings flying in the dusk at IVC a few weeks ago. Video [here](#).

Shuttleworth training day



Trevor snapped this awesome photo of a Chipmunk landing over a Piper Cub at the flying training day at Old Warden at the end of April. And what's even more amazing is that it was taken with a mobile phone (Pixel 9).

Flying in St Andrews Church

George Adam arranged for us to fly in the church and has written an article for them which is reproduced below.

On Saturday 2nd May a group of model flyers from the Impington Village College model aircraft club met in historic St Andrew's church Histon to celebrate the club's 80th anniversary by setting a record for the largest number of model aircraft flown in a church.

The intrepid flyers managed to fly 10 aircraft at once in the building.



The record breakers pose with their aircraft

The aircraft involved were a mixture of radio-controlled quadcopters and lightweight (20 grams) electric aeroplanes, as well as very lightweight rubber powered models. St Andrew's is a particular challenge to model flyers as it has four very large central pillars. The flyers varied in age between the younger (10 yrs) and older (80+ yrs).

This was a fitting celebration for the club's 80th year as a model aircraft was flown in church at the funeral of the club's founder, Ray Malstrom (formerly a teacher at Impington Village college).

The club would like to thank the vicar and church wardens for allowing this unique event to take place. Video [here](#).



If you land in the collection plate it's forfeit!!

The first clear reference to the Church of St Andrew is given in 1217, but there is evidence that there was a church on this site at least a century earlier. In 1270 a new chancel and transepts were added to the old tower. The present tower has been constructed within the outline of the original pre-14th century tower.

Chris Hinsons Gotha bomber



This is Chris's 1:48th scale plastic Gotha bomber built from a Japanese kit. It was actually very heavy – almost as if made from aluminium. Chris built it many years ago.



The most amazing thing about the model apart from the general detailing was that Chris hand painted all the individual lozenges after drawing them on the wing with a pencil – what patience and good eyesight!

Seen at the 80th FF day



Tony Harpers nice outdoor models built a few years ago. Can you name them?

Front right is the Marquita, left is the Starduster and back right is the Stardust.

SAM 35 Magazines

Richard Staines has a large collection of these magazines dating from January 2018 through to December 2022 and sadly will be disposed of for recycling unless someone rescues them.

If you would like some or all of these, please contact Richard before he fills his blue bin with them!!

Devlopments at the Cottenham flying site

This is still a great site for flying with close cut grass suitable for smaller wheels. The development has really started to take shape and it would be a good idea to avoid impaling any small children in their gardens.....



Picture taken from an FPV Easystar using the old DJI FPV camera system. This is actually a screenshot from the video.