



## **WESSEX MODEL FLYING CLUB**

### **September Newsletter**

What a summer! We will remember this year for the long spells of fine weather and the ability to go flying without the hassle of making phone calls and limited access to our flying site. Whilst all around us turned brown, the patch remained incredibly green and resembled more of a golf course than a flying site only one year old. This is largely due to the good cutting regime by Chris Brack. As you will know, Chris has not been in the best of health this year and has had to take a break from the cutting. Several members were "coached" by Andy Morse into the intricacies of the mower and we managed to keep the patch in good order. Thanks go mainly to Peter Houghton and John Bird who did the lion's share of the work.

We're pleased that Chris is now back and slowly getting back into things. Welcome back Chris.

# STEM Day

We have received a nice letter from Lavington School about the STEM day. Looks like we will be needed again soon!



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Learning for Life

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Chairman Wessex Model Flying Club  
Peter Watts  
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20 July 2018

Ref: SCL/ALW/TAW

Dear Peter

**RE: STEM**

It was wonderful to welcome the Wessex Model Flying Club members into Lavington School, for the STEM Engineered for flight days this year, and continue our collaboration with pilots, engineers and designers as part of our STEM curriculum.

We have been lucky enough to tap into the BMFC and our local Wessex Model Flying Club expertise over two days of STEM activities this year (October 2017 and July 2018). As a club, you have nurtured potential; encouraging and inspiring our students to be the best version of themselves with an exciting, dynamic and far reaching enrichment opportunity that embraces creativity as a pathway into science, technology, engineering and math's.

The STEM day was an enriching experience for our school community, and the buzz and chatter from the students about their prototypes, flight engineering and testing was infectious, with many superb models undergoing extensive flight testing and training in the afternoon.

Once again, a seriously impressive static display of model aircraft and live demonstrations were further enhanced by the lengthy discussions with you and your colleagues, who were incredibly generous of their time, sharing experiences and expertise to bring the prototype models to life for our young Y7 and Y8 engineers.

Thank you very much for all your time, planning, organisation and resourcing for the day. It is always a fantastic day full of collaboration, energy and enthusiasm in Technology with you and your team. Please pass on our sincere thanks and appreciation to the members of the flying club.

We look forward to welcoming you back in the very near future.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Lowkis  
Headteacher

Anna Woodman  
Assistant Headteacher

We are building a good reputation for the club with this initiative and if anyone would like to become involved, please let me know for next time. We are hopeful this will lead to a more comprehensive content as the school has CAD, laser cutting and 3D printing facilities that just lend themselves to aero modelling.

### Poulshot track

Please be careful when accessing the track especially if your car has low clearance. The harvest has resulted in increased tractor/trailer use and the track has compacted nicely. The downside is the centre has been left high. This is being addressed shortly but in the meantime try to keep your car to the high points to avoid any damage.

### Safety at the Patch

The patch has been laid out to form "pits" areas which should allow for all wind directions. An area of grass has been left long to form a defined line between the flying line and the pits. In addition, two cones are to be used to define the pilots line. For the avoidance of accidents, these cones are to be positioned approx. 10 metres from the flight side of the long grass. Please

respect this layout as we have had two (non-injury) incidents recently and this should not happen. Also, the rule of no taxiing from the pits unless the tail is restrained and no taxiing in the pits are there for a reason as is the restraint of models. We all know the rules and when they are not followed, accidents happen. Sorry to be a bore but it is important and we want to keep our good accident record. Enough said!

## Barbeque

Despite the fact that I'm gutted that the cancellation, due to bad weather, meant I missed the BBQ, it was a really good day and enjoyed by all who attended.

Thanks to John Bird for organizing it and to Dave, who I understand was the "Masterchef". Richard kindly took a few photographs.



Impressive line-up



The crowds gathered



Looks like the burgers hit the spot!

What's Pat explaining to Simon? Captions please and we will put the best one in the next newsletter. No prize, sorry

### West Wilts Model Engineering Show at Westbury Country Park

Although we signed up to go to this event, we had to tell the organizers that we were not able to go. This was down to a few holiday clashes but mainly there seems to be a lack of interest in this type of event. The committee will have to decide what to do in the future but it may be likely that we devote all our efforts towards the events in Poulshot. It's a shame

as it gets our name around and now we have Poulshot site it's a way of generating interest and possible membership.

### Club evenings

Will begin in October, watch for email from Simon to confirm date

And finally..... (yes, it's back!)

Wife texts husband at work on a cold winter's morning;

"Windows frozen, won't open."

Husband texts back;

"Gently pour some lukewarm water over it."

Wife texts back 5 minutes later;

"Computer really knackered now."

Peter Watts

September 2018