

HALE HALL MODEL CLUB NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2022



Club website link - <https://hhmac.bmfa.org/>

Hale Hall YouTube channel - [HH YouTube](#)

Welcome to the March newsletter. This month we have some site news, a look back at Wartime Inskip and some dates for your diary.

New Runway

Those of you who have been at the field recently will have seen that preparatory work has started on providing an additional runway at right angles to the existing one. The idea of one has been put forward many times in the past, but has always been rejected because of the height of the hedge and the reluctance of the previous landlords. Now that the hedge has been lowered considerably, and is planned to remain that way (and there are no objections from the current landlord), it has become feasible to provide an additional North/South runway, albeit shorter than the main one. The safety and practicality will be assessed during initial trials before we decide to make it a permanent facility.

The new runway is not yet in a condition to be used; an update to Flying Rules and Regulations will be issued when it is. Please continue to operate for the time being in accordance with the current rules.

It cannot be emphasised too strongly that, when the new runway becomes available, it will be of the utmost importance to remain well clear of the "Sensitive Area" to the northeast so that we do not regenerate the complaints of previous years.

The Green Door

As part of our plan to make the club hut last a little longer Roger Milne has put his carpentry skills to good use by making a new door. This has now been fitted, many thanks Roger, an excellent job. The hut has also had a spring clean which will hopefully make it a more pleasant space to be in. John Cartmell is going to give the first aid kit a refresh.

Show and Tell

Our Show and Tell evening will be returning after a long Covid enforced break on Tuesday 5th April at 19:30 at the BAE Lightning club. Please bring along your latest project to present to the club

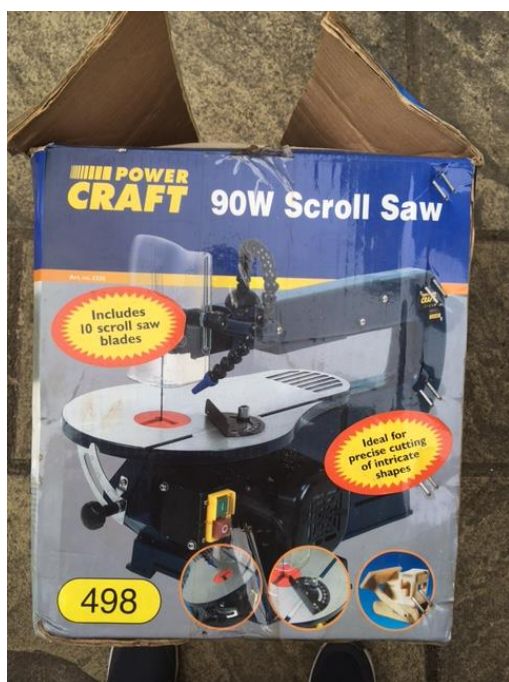
members. It can be a finished article, work in progress or just a set of plans. In addition, there will be a presentation from ex BAE, ex UClan supremo Billy Beggs on some of the projects he has been involved in since the last Show and Tell. If you have any modelling items that you wish to dispose of or swap, please bring them along.

Record Breakers

A reminder that the club will be taking part in the BMFA world record attempt on the 15th May. I have registered the club for the event; I am waiting for further details on what to do on the day. Club members will also need to register, I understand that will be possible from the 4th April.

For Sale

Paul Hartley is having a clear out and has a scroll saw for sale.



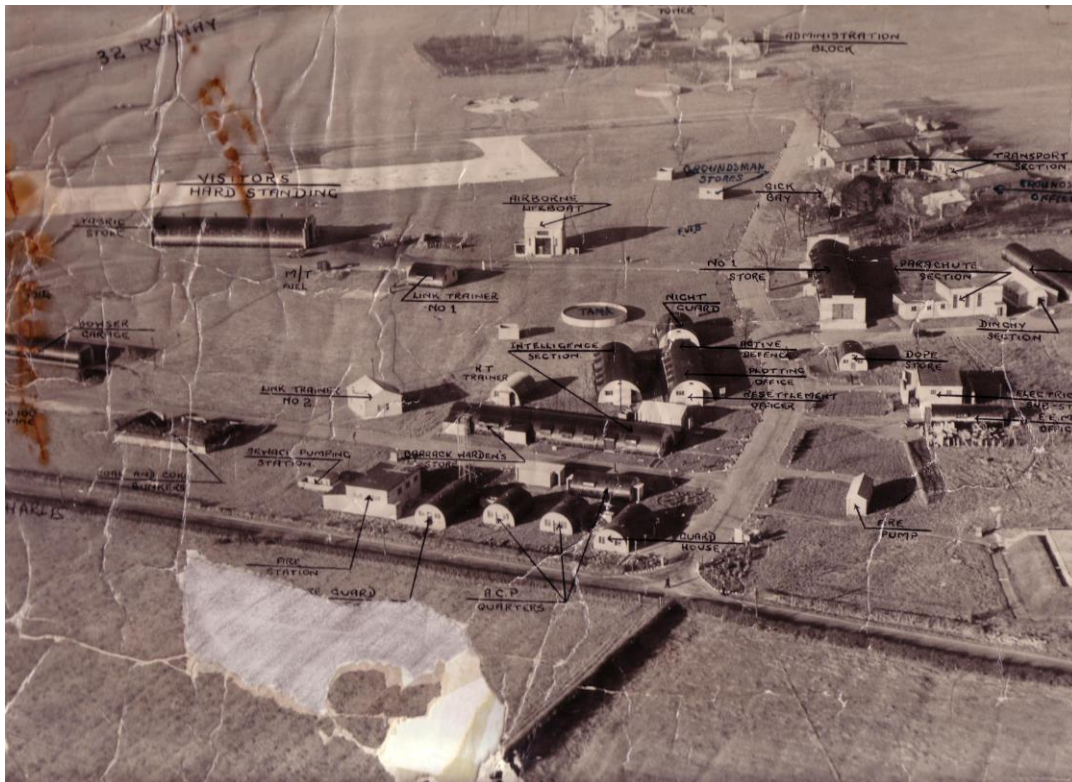
The 90W scroll saw is for sale at £30

It's in very good condition having only been used a couple of times.

You can contact Paul on 07432621700 or paul.hartley40@tiscali.co.uk

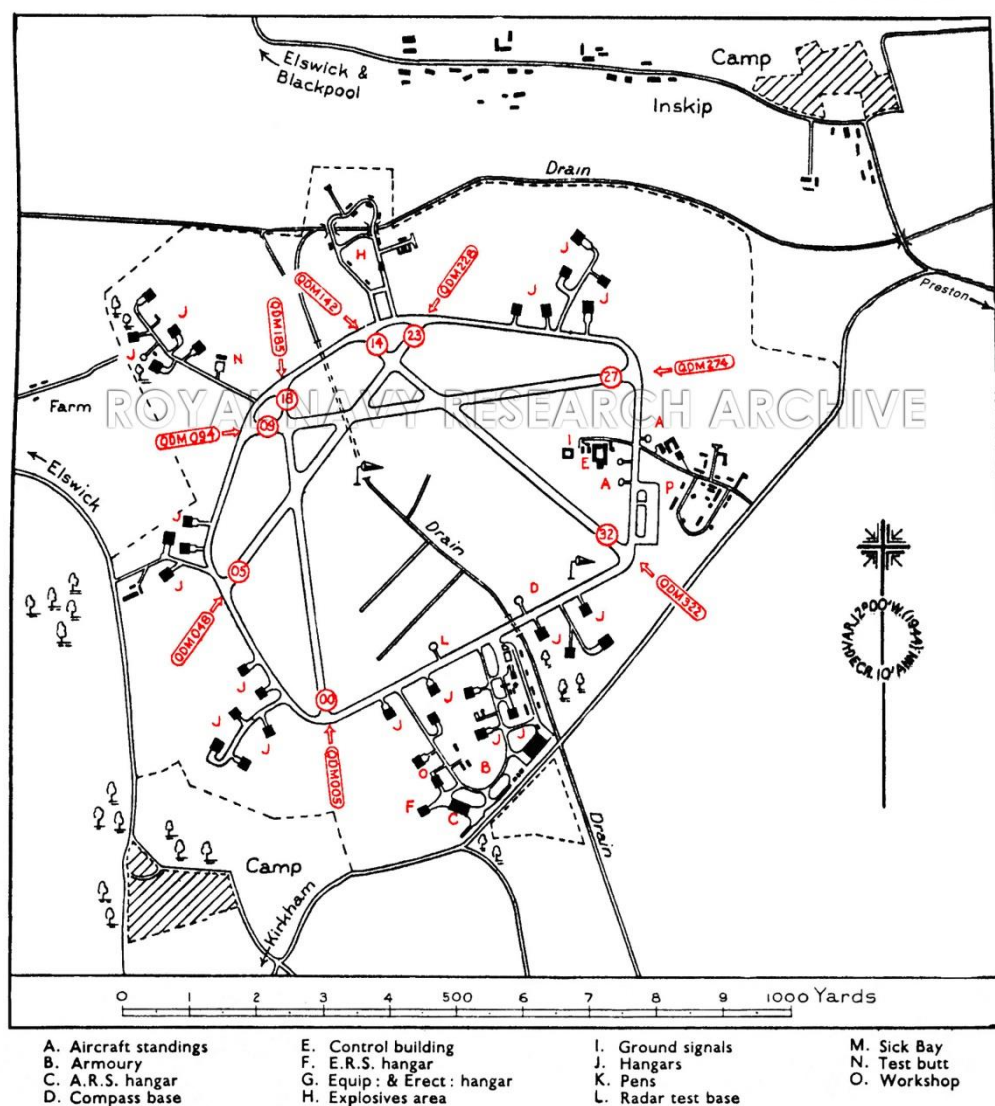
A Wartime story

A chance conversation with Dagenham Dave at the field a while ago led to a discussion about the aerials that dominate the skyline to the north of the Hale Hall field. They are part of Defence Communications Service Agency Radio Services Inskip, a tri-service communication centre owned by the Royal Navy and designated RNAS Inskip. Dave had the opportunity to have a tour round the facility, whilst there he noticed some interesting pictures showing the site during the Second World War. Dave thought it would make an interesting article for the Newsletter and sent me some photos.





With my curiosity fired up I decided to discover the wartime story of RNAS Inskip. After some research on the internet and borrowing a book on 'Lancashire Airfields in the Second World War' from Neil Skinner revealed that the story began back in 1942. The War Office was looking for land to build an airfield in the area and on the 4th June 1942 600 acres of farmland were purchased from its owner Lord Derby. The Fleet Air Arm (FAA) had a requirement for training bases around the country and the Fylde area was considered a good location with easy access to the coast and Morecambe Bay. Several local houses and hotels were taken over to provide accommodation. Building work on the airfield commenced immediately to the standard FAA format with four runways connected by a taxiway. Six sites were dispersed around the airfield, the main technical site was in the South west corner with 6 hanger sites, an explosives area, a living and administrative area plus the control tower. The site was designed for a maximum of 145 aircraft with 32 hangers for storage and 2 larger hangers for maintenance. There were two off site accommodation areas in Inskip and Wharles providing accommodation for approximately 1600 personnel, 30% of which were Wrens.



Airfield layout



Originally named Elswick after the nearby village RNAS Inskip was commissioned HMS Nightjar on the 15th May 1943. Its main role was operational training for anti-submarine and two seat strike crews. The first squadron to arrive were 747 Squadron on the 9th June 1943 with a mixture of Fairey Albacore, Fairey Swordfish, Fairey Barracuda and Avro Ansons. It was joined two days later by 766 Squadron which added Fairey Fulmar, Boulton Paul Defiant, Fairey Firefly, Gloster Sea Gladiators and Sea Hurricanes to the list of types. The Squadrons were known as No

1 Navy operational training unit specialising in torpedo and radar training. A range at Preesall was used extensively by the training squadrons and had two substantial targets. One a mock aircraft carrier constructed of steel and mounted on a gantry whilst the other resembled a submarine conning tower.



Squadron in front of a Firefly on E Site 1944.



Radar controllers at Inskip 1944.

During the course of the war other squadrons were based at Inskip along with several other aircraft types. HMS Nightjar was decommissioned on 2nd July 1946, the site being retained as a storage site for HMS Blackcap. The runway was never used again by aircraft but was put into service by RAF Weeton which housed the RAF driving school. The site was developed as a major Navy radio station opening in 1959 with about 90 masts scattered across the site and used for ship to shore communication. The hangars were taken over by British Nuclear Fuels Ltd as a secure storage site and were in use until 1994.

The runways were broken up in 1974, the concrete being used to build the M55 motorway.

RNAS Inskip was finally paid off on the 8th March 1995. The radio unit remains operational, now known as the Defence Communications Service Agency Radio Services , Inskip. The old control tower is used by the sea cadets and known as training ship Nightjar.



2022 google maps, the outline of the airfield clearly visible

So next time you drive past or glance up at the towering aerials just imagine what a busy place the area around Hale Hall would have been during those war years.

What's on

Summer is on the way (well almost!) so it is time to plan some days out.

Hale Hall Events

The club have the following events planned this year, exact dates may be weather dependent!

Show and Tell – 5th April – 19:30 at the BAE Lightning club

Training/Assessment day (practice for or take your A / B certificate) – Late April

BMFA World Record Attempt – 15th May

Warbirds Meet – June date TBD.

Summer Solstice – June – around the 21st.

Fun day – Late July/Early August

Mince pie meet – Late December

BMFA - In the air tonight

The BMFA continue to host webinars that cover a wide range of modelling activities.

<https://itat.bmfa.uk/>

Full size and model shows

Some bad news – the BMFA has announced that the Power Nationals at Barkston Heath have been cancelled again, this time by the Station Commander.

Full Size – Duxford – Flying day – general aviation Saturday 23rd April

Full Size - Shuttleworth – Old Warden - Season Premiere, Sunday 1st May

Full Size – Duxford – Flying day – VE day Saturday 7th May

Full Size – Duxford – Flying day – model aircraft Sunday 8th May

Full Size – Duxford – Flying day – D Day Sunday 5th June

Full Size – Cosford Air Show – Sunday 12th June

Full Size – Duxford – Summer Air show – 18th, 19th June

Model show - Weston Park. 17, 18, 19th June.

Model show – LMA - Cosford 2nd, 3rd July.

Full Size - Shuttleworth – Old Warden, Fly Navy, Sunday 3rd July

Full Size – Duxford – Flying Legends 11, 12th July

Full Size – RIAT – Fairford 17, 18, 19th July

Model show – Beer & Warbirds – Buckminster 15, 16, 17th July.

Full Size – Southport Air Show – 9, 10th July

Full Size - Royal International Air Tattoo - 15-17th July

Full Size – Farnborough International – 18th – 22nd July

Full Size – Duxford – Flying day – The Americans Saturday 23rd July

Full Size – Duxford – Flying day – Young Aviators Monday 1st August

Full Size - Shuttleworth – Old Warden - Family Airshow, Sunday 7th August

Full Size – Blackpool air show – 13, 14th August

Model show – LMA - Elvington 13, 14th August.

Model Show - LMA – Much Marcle - 3rd, 4th September.

Full Size – Duxford – Battle of Britain Air Show - 10, 11th September

Full Size – Duxford – Flying Finale Saturday 8th October

Full Size – Duxford – Flying day – BMFA model aircraft centenary Sunday 9th October

Parting shot

So that is the end of another newsletter, I hope you found it interesting. For future newsletters I would like to include as many of your projects and especially first flights as possible. So please document the occasion with a few photos or contact me and I will try to come down with my camera. I do have some ideas for future articles, but the success of the newsletter will only continue if you, the members, provide me with some copy. Anything aircraft related will be more than welcome, days out, trips, build logs, full size or something for the Curiosity Corner.

Don't be shy; if you don't fancy writing a full article, just send me a few notes and I will do the rest.

If you have any suggestions on subjects to be included in the Newsletter, drop me a line.

In these days of data protection we need to ask members if they have any objection to be included, either by name or photograph, in the Newsletter. If you do not wish to be in the Newsletter please let me know.

Cheers,

Andy Holden.

You can contact me at andy.holden56@btinternet.com