

January 2024



WAYPOINT

Newsletter of Priory Farm Aviators
www.flypfa.co.uk



Committee Members

John Fielding (chair), Bob Sage (airfield owner), David Brown (Deputy Chair & Facilities),
Mik Horne (Treasurer), Alan McNeal (WX station, R/T, Waypoint editor), Richard Flagg (webmaster),
Sean Simington (social events booking), Julian Campbell, Nigel Hall., Paul Jackson, Maurice Edwards.

2024 - here we come!

Here we are with another year gone and a new one starting. What's to come I wonder, assuming the various warlike madmen in the World don't capitulate us into increasing conflict so that we peaceful aviators can get on with our innocent & stimulating pastime? Having aired that worrying thought, let's turn to more cheerful matters - what's coming up for our happy little airfield and its inhabitants in 2024!

Well, the first thing is that the chief inhabitant Bob Sage is off on a spotting trip to the far east this month so we won't see him for a short while. We wish you a stimulating trip Bob!

Annual subscriptions are due today!

They remain at just £40 for the year. Note: From now **you will need to pay by bank transfer** or cash in person to Bob. Bank details are:

Account: Priory Farm Aviators Account No: 33333094 Sort Code: 20-62-53

Please settle your membership promptly to save Bob a lot of work chasing late payers.

The AGM

On the 10th January we will hold our Annual General Meeting, in the Tibenham Airfield clubhouse. Watch out for an email giving more details. This year we will elect a new Chairperson - to be decided at the AGM along with a new committee for the coming year. *(The committee members shown above are the existing, 2023 members).*

John Fielding will conclude his Chairmanship of seven years with a report on the highlights of 2023 at Priory Farm. *(to be included in next month's Waypoint).*

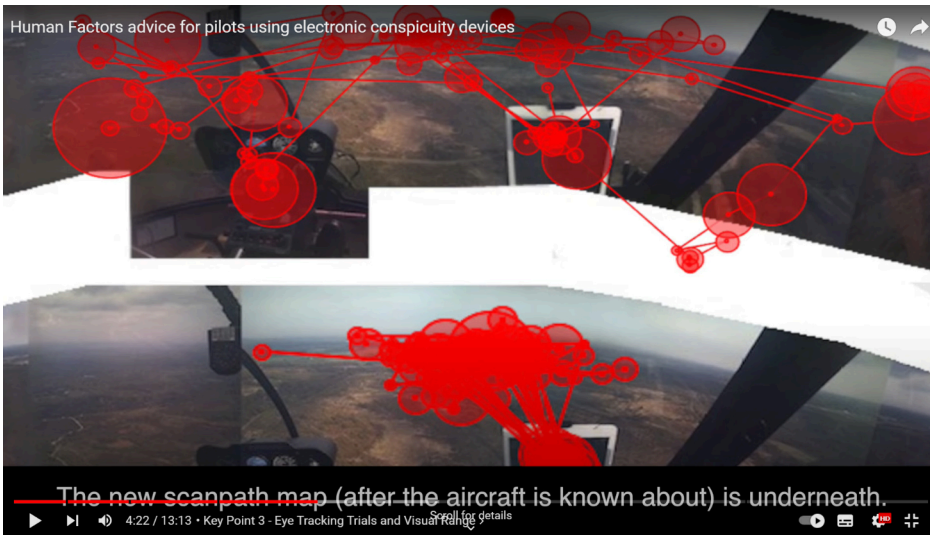
After food and the formal part of the meeting, Simon Stoodley & Matt Hyde will entertain us with the full story of their recent adventure to the North Cape & back through Europe. I am sure this will be much fuller account of their adventures than the brief trip diary and pictures I was able to show in Waypoint - and you'll be able to ask questions!

Plans for 2024

As I expect you will remember, David Brown is organising a trip to Norwich Airport, including the control tower so that will be a good one for April and hopefully lots of great flying for all of us. You may be able to fly into the airport on beneficial terms so watch out for updates on this from David.

The Airfield

Nothing much to report, except that the runway & manoeuvring areas have been very wet on occasions so have a care for your aircraft's reduced take-off performance on the soggy surface and try to damage the surface as little as possible.



Human Factors & Electronic Conspicuity

Our resident Instructor/Examiner Linda Smith has suggested we take a look at a newly published article on how Human Factors affect the use of Electronic Conspicuity (EC), and what can be done to enhance airspace safety for GA pilots operating in uncontrolled airspace. The study has come via the CAA and GASCo (*General Aviation Safety Council*). The full report can be found on the CAA

website, but there's an interesting YouTube video on the topic which may be a bit easier to digest. Here's the link to the CAA website article...

[CAA electronic conspicuity article](#)

and here is the link to the You Tube video...

[You Tube video link](#)

I've had a look at it and can recommend it as very interesting viewing which just might help you avoid an 'Airprox' or worse - an aerial collision that we all hope will never happen to us.

I am reminded that when I did most of my flying, electronic conspicuity devices and wizardry such as Sky Demon did not exist. Most of my flight planning was done by drawing lines on a map, a stopwatch and a 'wizzwheel', (*Google it!*), or by ADF bearings and flying VOR radials.

How things have changed and I have to say have got better & easier! Stop laughing! In the mid 90s I did install the 'latest thing' - a panel mounted Skymap GPS which was a revelation. Most other pilots pointed to it and said "What's that thing" so come on - I'm not THAT ancient! Seriously, read the article and watch the video as its well worth viewing.

The Christmas Party



About half our membership turned up to the 'Gamekeeper' on Old Buckenham Green for the second Christmas Party event hosted by the pub. Once again they did a good job for us and the party was much enjoyed by everyone. Our thanks go to Sean Simington who booked the venue, dealt with our menu choices and ran the evening in a fun and entertaining way. Thanks Sean!

When most of us had downed our food, John Fielding rattled his glass and called us all to order. This is what he said...

"Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

It was exactly seven years ago, as Sharon and I were leaving the Christmas Dinner that our esteemed former chairman Paul Jackson quietly took me aside and whispered something gently into my ear: Would I consider standing to be chairman at the next AGM? I was flattered to be asked as I knew it would be a gateway to a world of RESPECT and POWER which was obviously irresistible to me.



In actual fact, I thought it would be a pain in the backside ... because ... all my life I have embraced the motto ... NEVER VOLUNTEER. I needed to weigh up the pros and cons of being chairman and having little intelligence myself, HAD IT BEEN AVAILABLE, I would have turned to ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE to help me decide.

These days, I ask Artificial Intelligence to make ALL the important decisions in my life. This afternoon, I asked ChatGBT to tell me why someone should NEVER volunteer ... and it said:

"No more pesky obligations, no more noble acts of kindness. It's time to prioritise your own needs and desires, because who needs the warm fuzzy feeling of helping others when you can have extra nap time, Netflix marathons, and guilt-free laziness? Embrace the luxury of never volunteering – it's the epitome of self-centred bliss!"

Then I asked ChatGBT to explain why you SHOULD always volunteer and AI told me: By lending a hand, you unlock a world of personal growth. Discover hidden talents, make lifelong friends, and bask in the warm comfort of making a difference. Plus, it's the perfect excuse for getting out of the housework ... so unlock the secret to happiness through volunteering. Embrace it, my friends, and let your kind spirit shine!"

I was slightly taken aback to read this second piece of AI because I believe it contains real wisdom. The older I am, the more I value human kindness.

Our committee is inhabited by a lovely group of people who are not only generous with their time and efforts ... but are kind in SPIRIT!

Talking of lovely people, one of the kindest people on our Committee is especially important tonight. This man has enjoyed a lifetime in aviation although like many on the committee, he doesn't have an aircraft to fly. No task is beyond him. After years of the club putting up with an unreliable webcam and weather system, he set his mind to finding a solution ... and made it happen. When we needed a new editor of Waypoint after Paul retired, he didn't hesitate to take it on with great gusto. Every year at our Father's Day fly-in, he operates the radio service with the trained professionalism and goodwill that is his trademark.

He is someone I have frequently turned to when there's been a sticky situation where his mature, informed opinions are invaluable. MORE IMPORTANTLY ... he wrote something nice about me in this month's Waypoint!

Raise your glasses for a toast please to a very kind man ... and this year's winner of the John McCleod trophy...ALAN MCNEAL!!"

Wow! I didn't see that coming with the consequence that unusually for me I could find little to say on the night except 'thank you'. I will say a few words here and some minor corrections!

I have been lucky enough to enjoy various aspects of GA since



1978. Piloting, aircraft ownership, running a syndicate, being an aircraft sales broker, air to ground radio operator, doing AFISO air traffic work in Blackbushe & Fair Oaks control towers and latterly training & examining radio operators on behalf of the CAA, which I still do.

I stopped flying some years back. Since then I have endeavoured to remain in aviation with the ROCC work and helping run the PFA, because I love being in aviation and I enjoy being a small part of such a happy airfield like Priory Farm. You seem to appreciate my efforts, which is why getting the McLeod Trophy this year is very pleasing indeed - so once again thank you. The corrections? I didn't set up the webcam - that was committee member Mik Horne....and the weather system would not have been rigged and maintained without the able assistance of Chris Barnes, David Brown and Simon Stoodley. Credit where its due!



Right, back to the Christmas dinner. The fun & games comprised a very tricky Confectionery Name quiz from Sean, won by Helen. There was also an Origami competition won by Linda's partner Lawrence, The Raffle was amazing well supported with a great number of prizes! Lots of good fun all round.

We had a cunning Cross Out word quiz and a hilarious balloon inflating contest from John & Sharon. the winner being whoever achieved the biggest balloon size without it bursting. There was a lot of laughter, quite a few red faces and a few bangs before the winner of a bottle of bubbly was declared to be - David Brown!

Rather than post the many pictures from various PFA members the event here in Waypoint, attached to my January Waypoint email will be An additional file - a rollup of the best pics in a PDF file. Enjoy - and.....



This lovely winter scene at Priory Farm comes from John Fielding's extensive photo library