



# Bournemouth Flying Club Newsletter

Summer 2008

## Helicopter Ambulance Visit

It was your typical Bank Holiday weather when the Dorset and Somerset Ambulance Helicopter visited BFC on an operational training mission—low cloud and heavy showers! The EC135 helicopter had to make an automatic approach to runway 08, having travelled from Henstridge where the weather was even worse! The opportunity was taken for a number of charities to hand over cheques and there was time for a brief look around the helicopter's facilities.

Tracy Bartram, the Trust Coordinator for our area, told us that it costs £3,500 per day, £1.2m per annum, to keep the helicopter in service and apart from two paramedics supplied by the NHS, the helicopter crews and ground



Examining the facilities

support are paid for purely by donations collected from the public. The Trust had been Bill Field's chosen charity for his year as President, and a cheque for £550 was handed over. There is a charity auction night coming up on 20 September at the Carrington House Hotel for the Trust and BFC



Bill Field presenting the trial lesson to Tracy

## Distinguished Lady—Betty Hockey

Betty will forgive us for revealing that she is 92 on 25 June and we offer her our congratulations. As members will know, Betty has a showbiz background going back over many years, and she was a recent Special Guest at the Garrison Theatre, Hurst Castle. In their programme they said:

"Betty was the Can-Can dancing girl who, with her sixteen strong variety show "Betty Hockey and the Nonstops", toured with



Betty in May 1944

ENSA during the war entertaining troops across the south of England and staging more than 1,000 shows, including several for the 160 troops who manned the gun batteries and searchlights at Hurst Castle. Now Betty once again visits Hurst to reflect on those shows that helped to maintain the morale among servicemen and women. Joining Betty on stage tonight are her daughter Gloria and friend Jill who, as young girls also performed at The Garrison Theatre, Hurst Castle in 1944 as "The Nonstop Babes" - reproduced by kind permission of the Friends of Hurst Castle.



Betty today—keen BRAA & BFC supporter

## Inside Story— Another distinguished lady



donated a trial lesson as a prize. One individual Bournemouth resident, Martyn Powell, whose life had been saved by the timely arrival of the air ambulance, made his own personal donation, and another, John Allen, made a substantial donation from his sponsorship and donations collected in the London Marathon. The helicopter was only able to stay for about half an hour before being called away to another road traffic accident in Dorset, and another timely intervention to save lives.

## Bournemouth Air Festival

Thursday 28 to Sunday 31 August will be a great period for aviation enthusiasts. Of course the Red Arrows will be there, and so will a host of other interesting aircraft. But of particular local interest will be the inaugural flight in a display, of the Folland Gnat, recently restored to airworthy condition. The Gnat will do a solo display and fly with the Red Arrows.

## Fun in the Force

President **Tony Erwood** gave us a talk on his life in the police, and it could have been sub-titled "Fun in the Force"! There were lots of amusing anecdotes, but space only permits us to recount one of them. Imagine the scene—a team of police officers have to enter a building where it is thought drugs are stored. Part of the team is at the rear of the house and part at the front creating a "containment". An element of surprise is required, so one of the officers at

## Events

**Bournemouth Red Arrows Association**  
(Every 2nd Tuesday in the month at 1945)  
**Bournemouth Flying Club**  
(Every Thursday in the month at 1930)

- 26 June Yeovilton by minibus
- 27 June Ferndown ATC BBQ—all welcome
- 8 July "Blandford's Military History" by Lt. Col. Bob Brannigan
- 14 July Fairford RIAT with RAEs
- 12 August "Today's Media" by Laura Ancell
- 9 Sept. "Aviation in the Middle East" by Ted Horn
- 3 Oct Windmill Swing Band
- 7 October Bletchley Park
- 31 Oct. BFC Dinner at Dudsbury Golf Club

## Under Investigation

Spinnaker Tower (Portsmouth)

RNLI Poole

Tangmere Museum

Shuttleworth Collection

Milestones (Victorian Village) Basingstoke

Middle Wallop—Music in the Air

Members' guests are welcome to join these events, but please note that members come first, and there may be a surcharge of up to 25% applied to guests.

the front, using a door entry device—namely his 6'5" and 17 stones of bulk—forces the door, removing not only the door but the entire surrounding frame, only to find his colleagues had already entered the dwelling through the *insecure* rear door. Who said the "Keystone Cops" were dead?

## Distinguished Lady Gwen Raggett

Gwen will forgive us for revealing that she will be 82 on 29 June. Few people know that Gwen received the M.B.E. from the Queen herself, in recognition for the more than 40 years voluntary service with the WRVS she achieved in 2005. Gwen is the Bournemouth organiser of the WRVS



Gwen Raggett M.B.E.

"Books on Wheels" service, bringing not only books, but articles from a whole range of popular magazines, on audio cassettes, to disadvantaged residents. Not content with the M.B.E., Gwen went on to receive a Volunteer Award from the Mayor of Bournemouth in May 2008 for her continuing service to the community through the "Books on Wheels" service. It's good to know we have such distinguished ladies in our midst, and may you Gwen and Betty, have many more years of being our good buddies!

## Flying Achievements

Major flying milestones have been achieved by BFC students. Congratulations!

Mathew Nesbit	First Solo	3.4.08
Nigel Draper	First Solo	4.5.08
David Pharoah	Cross Country	19.5.08
Paul Havel	Cross Country	16.6.08

## Obituaries

**Brian Ball** passed away at home on 18 March after an illness borne with great courage. His funeral took place on 31 March and donations went to the Durlston Ward of Poole Hospital or the Lewis Manning Hospice in Brian's memory. Brian was a long serving member of both BRAA and BFC and we will remember him for his warm and friendly personality and his illuminating and informative talks on his highly valued connection with the world of land speed records. Our deepest condolences are extended to Jenny, Russell, Debbie, Cooper and all members of the family to whom Brian meant so much.

**Lieutenant John Thornton** was just coming up to 23 when he lost his life in action in Afghanistan in March. John had been an enthusiastic member of Ferndown Air Training Corps and had given talks to BFC, most notably on climbing Kilimanjaro. His ambition had been to be commissioned in the Royal Marines and this he had achieved. John's funeral was held in Fern-

## Thai Classic Show

If you missed this show, you missed a treat! What a spectacular evening we had with Thai music and dancing, all shown off by such pretty young ladies in exotic Thai costumes, and oh-so-charming! The evening had been organised by Tony Howell and wife Pojama, and the compere was

Thai Charm



Geoffrey Westgate. Tony regaled us with some very acceptable crooning and the whole evening was rounded off with a sumptuous Thai buffet by chef Jan of KK Thai & Chinese Cuisine (747 Christchurch Road, Boscombe). It was a splendidly entertaining evening which we hope will be repeated. Your editor's personal favourite was the Tina Turner look-alike! All profits were donated to The Cardiac Children Foundation of Thailand and Rug Thai School.

## President's Charity—TWAS

Tony Erwood has chosen The Wessex Autistic Society (TWAS) as his charity this year. Millie Paterson, the Community and Events Fundraiser, visited BFC in June and gave an excellent presentation on the Society's work. Portfield School, located close to the airport, is a residential/day school for children with autism from ages two to nineteen, and also provides an advice and information service to parents, carers, children, and adults with autism.



Millie Paterson of TWAS with President Tony

Pupils' expenses are paid for by the local education authority, but all capital projects have to be funded by the charity. If you want to get further involved then email fundraising@twas.org.uk or phone 01202 483360 for more information. And when you get the opportunity to donate through BFC (social) events, please give generously to this charity making a difference in young lives.

## Obituaries continued

down in April and many members of BFC & BRAA joined the huge crowd which spilled out of the church, to celebrate his life. The service concluded with a flypast of the Folland Gnat. Our condolences are extended to his family and friends. A Young Achievers Foundation is being set up in John's memory and news will be given on this in due course.

## Short Finals

### Airborne Events

Bill Field has the plan for the Navigation Exercise competition worked out, and will be announcing dates and details in the very near future. Come on flyers, (and none-flyers, but budding navigators), get up there and have some fun and some useful experience too!

### Ops Centre News

BFC has taken delivery of a diesel powered PA28 (G-BZLH) for evaluation. A ground school check out is required on the FADEC operation and differences training is being undertaken by John Oades. A log book endorsement is required before being able to use the aircraft on rental.

### Fernando's Hideaway?

There's a new chef behind the scenes and his name is **Fernando**. Born in Genoa, he was chef at "The Hut" at Hengistbury Head until his recent retirement. He is working part time at the club, and is very versatile in the dishes he creates, from Italian, through continental to good old British! He also does requests provided, of course, he has the necessary ingredients. *Buono Appetito Fernando!*



Fernandop cmtemplates his menu!

### Aspirations—Palm Beach

**Ken Durran** gave a fascinating talk on **Palm Beach**, the most eastern city on the Florida Peninsula. This is where many of the rich folk, and we mean *rich* folk, in the USA have settled, and where the average age is 67! Over 52 percent of the population is over 65, and the names of the residents are like a



Ken Durran

Who's Who of the rich and famous. Names like Conrad Black (enjoying a different kind of vacation at present), the Dodge (motors) family, David Trump, and a whole lot more. It is the greatest concentration of **billionaires** (not common old millionaires) in the world, and the exotic car collections have to be seen to be believed. Makes Sandbanks look definitely second or even third division!

### Pilots' Forum

Bill Field attended and there is nothing dramatic to report. However, it is comforting to hear that the airport will not be applying any pressure to move General Aviation (GA) operations off the airport, but would oppose any new proposals for GA training operations.