

Newsletters are sent to current permit holders for information only.

**How time passes !** A couple of months ago (in newsletter #50) I showed pictures of a flooded airfield and a puddle strewn access track. Well, here is the current view, kindly sent in by Robbie, our local resident, a few days ago. The runway is good, the weather is good, but where are the planes?

**Well, we all know the answer:** on March 23rd the UK government imposed extraordinary "lockdown" rules to prevent Covid-19 getting out of control with potentially lethal results.

**The current restrictions** are well documented by the government at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> and the New Forest National Park [here](#). The FC has also [documented its advice](#). Our national organisation, the British Model Flying Association BMFA, is currently repeating the [guidance for modellers to be patient](#) and stay home. We, the Beaulieu Model Flying Committee BMFC, have contacted all current permit holders with this advice (newsletter #51) and [posted notices](#) to the same effect.

**The rest is history**, as they say, and I am sure you, like me, have been following every twist and turn of the virus pandemic and the shocking spread of infection and loss of life it has caused. Ironically, the lockdown has coincided with one of the best spells of early summer weather that we have had for years, and a great deal of splendid flying weather has been lost.

**We do not know when the lockdown will end**, or indeed, how: will it be a sudden reversion to "normal", a gradual relaxation of restrictions, or something in between? However, rest assured that your committee is considering various options, and is in contact with the Forestry on what activities are possible. As soon as the government decides that some relaxation is viable and we have agreement from the FC, we will notify all permit holders. Until that time I can only ask for your continued patience. Please do not go to the airfield on the offchance you could "get away with it" as the FC and the local police are monitoring these areas.

**Current permit applications** are temporarily halted at the moment as we don't know when full flying operations will resume. The permit process has been more difficult this year, because of CAA registration and competence testing. Everybody has now negotiated their way through this, thank you all for your support.

**My building project news:** As I mentioned in a previous newsletter (#50) I started doing some (traditional) building as a way of keeping me active during my convalescence: the WW kit for the BAe Hawk (EDF). It is a serious bit of woodwork, a skill which I haven't exercised for quite a long time. Then there is all the fitting of the fan and its ducts, forward and back, not to mention the servo installations, some local, some remote, and the final killer: an all-flying tailplane! The pictures below show some of the stages and I am pleased to say that it is now complete, and potentially flyable. When, however, is another question!



**A personal note from me:** Thank you to all those who sent kind regards on my recent operation. I am glad to say that now, 3 months later, I am substantially recovered and returning to normal again.

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