

NEWS & EVENTS  
FROM FENLAND

AIRFIELD  
INFORMATION

TALES FROM  
THE TOWER

WINGS & WHEELS  
2019 REPORT

# ***Fenland Flyer***



WINTER 2019

THE QUARTERLY FENLAND AIRFIELD MAGAZINE

# PILOT INFORMATION

N52 44:37 W000 01:80			EGCL		6 ft AMSL
6 nm SE of Spalding.			FENLAND		
c/s Fenland Radio 122-930 A/G.			BKY 116:25 358 45:1 GAM 112:80 137 46:4		
Rwy	Dim(m)	Surface	TORA(m)	LDA(m)	Lighting
18/36	600x30	Grass	18-600 36-600	18-518 36-600	† Thr Rwy LITAS 4-25°
08/26	670x18	Grass	Unlicensed		Nil.
† Lighting by prior notice. Rwy 36 unlicensed for night flying. IBn 'FE' Gn.					
Op hrs: Tue-Sun 0900-1700 or SS whichever is earlier, and by arrangement.					
Landing Fee: Microlights, Fixed wing and Helicopters £5.00; Twin £15.00.					
Hangarage: Ltd. Maintenance: Available, 01406 540461. Customs: 24 hrs PNR.					
Remarks: Operated by Fenland Aero Club (Licensing) Ltd, Fenland Airfield, Holbeach St. Johns, Spalding Lincs PE12 8RQ. Flying Instruction and maintenance by Fenland Flying School, Tel: 01406 540461. PPR at night and to non radio aircraft. Visitors welcome. Circuits at 1000 ft aal, LH on Rwy 26 and 36, RH on Rwy 08 and 18. Rwy 18/36 - all landing aircraft to vacate via the western taxiway only and exercise caution crossing Rwy 18 to park or for fuel. All taxing aircraft are to use western taxiway as eastern side of Rwy 18/36 is unavailable for aircraft use.					
Noise Abatement Procedures overleaf.					
Departing helicopters should air taxi to Hold A before departing via runway-in-use.					
Warnings: Inset lighting on Rwy 18/36. Aircraft movements confined to marked grass runways & taxiways. Displaced thresholds on Rws 18 and 26 due to public roads.					
Restaurant: Licensed, Wed-Fri 1200-1600, Sat & Sun 0900-1700, Tel: 01406 540330					
Fuel: 100LL, UL91, Jet A1 by PPR only.			Tel: 01406 540330 Clubhouse/A/G. Email: secretary@fenlandairfield.co.uk Website: www.fenlandairfield.co.uk		

Robert Pooley ©

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2019

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Please note, information above may be out of date. For informative purposes only.

## Contact Information:

Runways Restaurant: 01406 540330 ex 21, Tower & ATC: ex 22 Fenland Flying School: 01406 540 461

Fenland Airfield, Holbeach St Johns, Spalding, PE12 8RQ [www.fenlandairfield.co.uk](http://www.fenlandairfield.co.uk)



## WELCOME TO FENLAND AIRFIELD

**Fenland Airfield is home to the Fenland Aero club. The club was established over 40 years ago to promote the amateur sport of flying at affordable prices.**

We are a non-profit organisation made up of our members who are a diverse cross-section of people and ages: young and old, student and retired. Fenland Airfield is 10 miles south-west of the Wash, close to the Lincolnshire market town of Spalding. We exist to serve both members and the local community through a number of public and flying events, and to provide facilities for the flying enthusiast and flying member. Flight experiences, flight instruction and aircraft hire are all available through the Fenland Flying School operated under CAA regulation by highly experienced flight instructors. Many commercial pilots start their professional career by first obtaining the Private Pilots Licence (PPL). At Fenland some students aspire to that ambition today. But flying is not just a career - it's for fun too. There's no upper-age limit to obtaining a pilots licence, even well into retirement.

**Come over to Fenland Airfield - have a flight with one of our instructors – join the Fenland flyers. We are open to all members of the public, flying and non-flying visitors. Visit our clubhouse and Runways Restaurant. Why not try their Sunday Lunch?**

### Airfield and Clubhouse Opening Times:

**April-October: Tuesday - Sunday 9am to 5pm Closed Mondays**

**November-March: Tuesday - Sunday 9am to 4pm Closed Mondays**





# FLYER NEWS

2019 has seen quite a few changes at the airfield. We have gained an exciting new restaurant - Runways. Kerry and the new team have been doing an amazing job and had lovely comments from pilots and the general public! Runways undertook a number of renovation and decorating jobs in the clubhouse, generally brightening it up and adding some new internal doors for heat. We hope to welcome more members of the public in 2020! In August, 6 aircraft containing 11 of our members flew to our twinned airfield in Sézanne, France, and received an incredibly warm welcome, with the best food and champagne on

offer. Liam from the club said: "The best weekend ever, no hospitality could beat it." They were taken on some amazing outings and had a great time. Back at the airfield, we've undergone some general maintenance such as repainting the runway numbers and we're now covering Saturdays on fire cover as well as Sunday. Our annual Wings and Wheels event was amazing (more info in this magazine) and we've had a number of other fly-ins all of which have been great fun. Thanks to all our members and visitors for another great year. Here's to the crisp, clear winter flying days.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

8th December - Christmas Fly-in

5th April - Pilot Spot Landing Challenge

19th April - Vintage Aeroclub Fly-in

**SAVE THE DATE: WINGS & WHEELS EVENT  
SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST 2020**



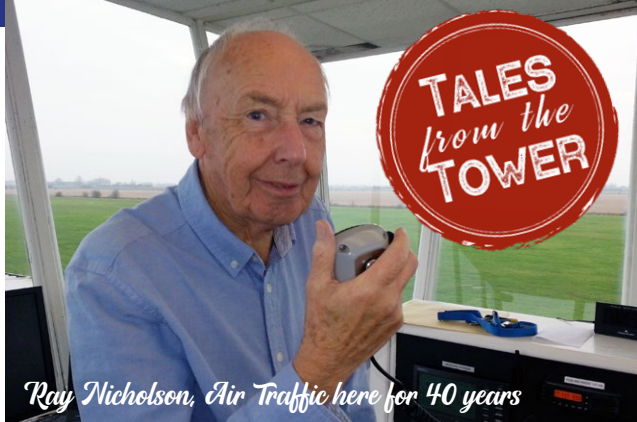
## “SOMETIMES ONE HEARS AND SEES THINGS IN THE TOWER AT FENLAND THAT BRING A SMILE TO ONE’S FACE ”

The most recent was a pilot having just landed on runway 36 asked: “Why are there lights down the centre of the runway?” Replying, I advised we haven’t any lights down the centre of the runway.

A sharp reply from the pilot: “Well there are, I’ve hit two already”.

One Sunday morning the silence was broken by “Speedbird 4233” (British Airways) asking if he could fly up runway 36. A bit taken back and having no reason to deny this request, I waited in anticipation. The aircraft was now visual on final. It was a large twin engine turbo-prop in British Airways livery. As it passed the tower, in every window of the aircraft a face and arm was seen waving frantically, before it departed to the north. I later found out it had been hired by enthusiasts to fly around some small airfields.

Our biggest surprise was when the Red Arrows came up the runway quite low. Club members had gathered outside the clubhouse with cameras at the ready. No one expected the Red Arrows to put ‘Smoke On’ - everyone disappeared in a mixture of red, white and blue smoke. Nobody got a picture.”



## MESSAGE FROM FENLAND FLYING SCHOOL



Originally, the flying school was an integral part of the club. Along the way, the school became separated from the club, but is still very closely aligned and we still aim to provide members with flying and tuition at the most affordable rates. Nowadays, the relative cost is much lower in real terms compared to the average wage. Consequently, it has never been a better time to take up the challenge of learning to fly.

Surprisingly, the average person in the street still thinks of flying as a pastime for only the rich, privileged few. However, more and more people from all walks of life are discovering the joys of aviation; whether it's purely for fun or more increasingly, as a stepping-stone to an aviation career.

Here at Fenland Flying School, we are in an enviable position of having available a delightful grass airfield in the south of Lincolnshire. Our skies are open with few restrictions which means better value for students who don't have the congestion and waiting times that incur extra expense. We always recommend having a trial lesson, before taking the plunge and committing to anything. A trial lesson will have you discovering the joys of handling a plane and tasting the freedom that it brings. They also make the perfect gift for someone that has either long yearned to do it, or is just 'aviation curious'.

The Fenland Flying School is staffed by lifelong aviation enthusiasts who are keen to share their passion for flying in a relaxed and friendly club atmosphere. Why not pop over to the airfield to say hello and also sample the superb clubhouse restaurant.

# Wings & Wheels

11th August 2019

# Report



**OVER £500 RAISED FOR THE EAST ANGLIAN AIR AMBULANCE**

Wings & Wheels 2019 was our best year yet. We loved seeing all of the happy faces along with the huge variety of things to see and do - which included car clubs and their spotless vehicles, to traders selling books, DVDs, delicious cakes and more. We even welcomed a WW2 Landing Craft.



A special thanks to Mick Wass for the wonderful photos.



Of course, a summer event wouldn't be right without the British summer, when a rather heavy prolonged shower did throw a few spanners into the works towards the end of the afternoon. Luckily, it held off long enough for everyone to enjoy the day.

Kerry and her team from 'Runways' - who run the restaurant at the Airfield - put together a great variety of food and many people enjoyed the ukulele band putting on an amazing performance.

We also raised over £500 for the East Anglian Air Ambulance, and would like to thank everyone who donated towards their amazing commitment to their jobs.



**THANK YOU TO THE BEECH 18  
FOR THE SURPRISE FLY-OVER!**



### ***A message from James, Events Manager:***

This was my first year organising the event and I did think at times that I had definitely bitten off more than I could chew, especially since I was organising it at the same time as planning my wedding! (Thank you to my patient wife).

Eventually it all pulled together and I need to thank everyone who helped on the day, and in the weeks/months before. I also need a special thank you to MCS Inflatables who managed to provide a fantastic soft play with only a few days' notice after a very last minute cancellation.

**Wings and Wheels 2020 is on Sunday 16th August.**  
To be the first to hear the latest news, head to our Facebook Page.  
Just search 'Fenland Wings & Wheels' and give us a Like.



## THE GALLERY

Fenland airfield sees a lot of non-flying visitors. Many are photographers such as Karl Skerstins. His long standing interest in aviation has always lent itself to becoming the subject matter of his photography. You can contact Karl on 07505 881080 for more information about his work. Here are a few examples of the aircraft he photographed at Fenland.



# PASSING PASSIONS

In 2008 a research paper ignited the popular press telling us hobbies, pastimes and even professions are inherited.



The scientific study surveyed over 2,000 adults in the UK. The research went on to suggest we have what they termed the Hobbies Gene. According to this, a tendency for trainspotting might not be too far removed from us all.

Parents are often encouraged to share their hobbies with their offspring. Let's discount the pushy-parent syndrome: they who meticulously plan their child's life in an attempt to re-live their own. A person has just to browse through Mums Net to see some eye-watering examples. But the activity done in our own leisure time for pleasure does, it would seem, pass on with benefits to some of our children.

Many of us are grateful for the numerous teachers and instructors who diligently encourage the inquiring youngster, but hobbies and interests may not be inherited by gene but by the passion itself.

We older ones young in mind if not body, may well remember the first spark of interest catching hold by being around people speaking excitedly about something new, something completely alien perhaps.

There may well be many flying today because of their parents or even grandparents interest in flight; a snapshot moment when as a parent you realise you can share something with your child - at long last. But there are also those who caught the flying bug as a result of a friend or chance meeting. Either way, it was the individual's passion that held the interest. Software not hardware may be the reason, not merely the presence of a gene.

# FLYER PROFILE

When you're young with your whole life in front of you, what inspires and excites you the most?

Amy Ward, a young woman from Crowland who had thoughts of becoming a police officer or working with animals, knew instinctively what lay ahead when she took her first flight at Fenland Airfield.

"My first flight was here at Fenland and it was amazing," she said. "I knew it was the right decision. It did then and still does feel so unreal, I love it so much."



Amy joined Fenland Flying School at Fenland Airfield in May 2019, the start of her ambition to become a commercial airline pilot. For Amy and many other people the first step is to obtain the Private Pilots Licence (PPL) which anyone can hold from the age of 17, although training can start at a much younger age. How did Amy's journey begin?

"The most significant thing in my life that has made me want to become a pilot is watching a lot of airshows and being inspired by the pilots flying and performing aerobatics. For as long as I can remember me and my parents would go to airshows: to Southend, Duxford and to war re-enactments where there would be an air display."

Amy told us that from a young age she wanted to be in the front seat... "I wanted to know what it would feel like actually flying," she said.

Her friends all think it's amazing that she's training to become a pilot. "My best friend gives me a lot of encouragement especially during the harder parts of the training. He loves hearing all about my flying which is great, because I love talking about it."

Amy likes most things people her age like: "I love to go shopping, to travel, and TV sitcoms," she says. "I also like to cook and bake a lot, when I get the time as I'm at Fenland as much as possible." Her conversation changes to her one passion as she describes her early flying experiences.

"When I went solo I was full of adrenaline and very happy that I had made this milestone. I talked myself around the circuit as if I was talking to my instructor. Afterwards it felt like I was really making progress. People say you will always remember your first solo - I know I'll always remember mine."

"The most difficult part of my training has been trying to master the landing. I think what makes it quite challenging is the different conditions - it seemed to take forever. Personally, I've found various exercises such as stall recovery, spin awareness and steep turns the most fun. This is because not only are you learning skills that are crucial and needed for you to be safe, but it requires you to think and act quickly. I enjoy those sorts of challenges."

And what of the future?

"With a bit of luck, I'd like to be working for an airline operating out of the UK and being able to do something I love everyday. That's another thing that motivates me, as it's something I really want to do and I know I won't give up."

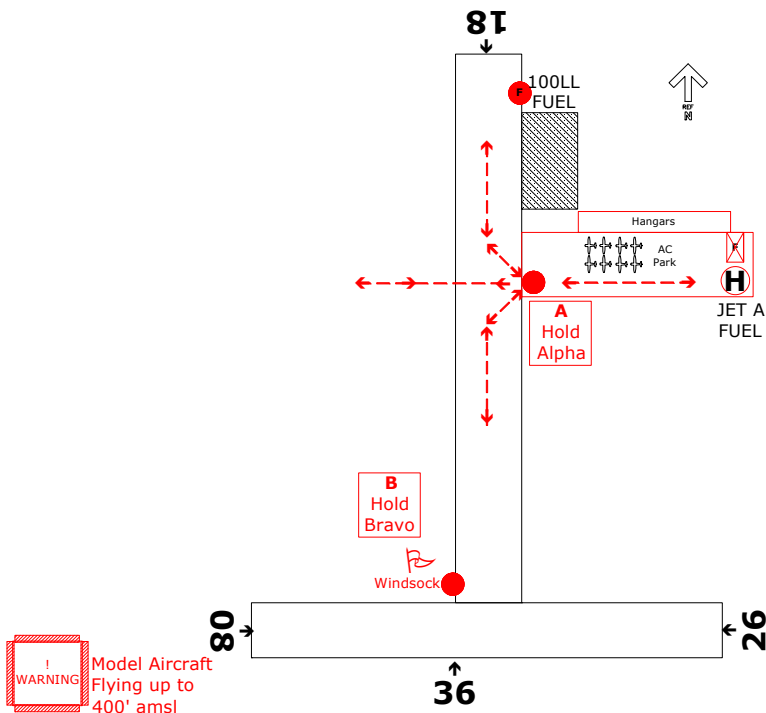
# HELICOPTER INFORMATION

Airfield Rules &  
Conditions of Use

EGCL

FENLAND

## HELICOPTER ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES PROCEDURE



### HELICOPTER ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES PROCEDURES

Helicopters will generally arrive and depart via **Hold Alpha**

Arriving helicopters to air taxi from **Hold Alpha** to parking or the relevant fuel installation

Departing helicopters to air taxi from parking or fuel to **Hold Alpha** and **depart** from that point

Generally there will be **NO** arrivals or departures direct from parking area or fuel installations - all movements to be via **Hold Alpha**

### Fenland Radio

- A/G - 122.930

### Circuits 1,000ft QFE

- Rwy 18 Right Hand unless advised by ATC
- Rwy 36 Left Hand
- Rwy 26 left Hand
- Rwy 08 Right Hand

### Operating Hours:

- Tues – Sun 09:00 to 17:00 hrs & Public Holidays
- Airfield Closed on Mondays
- Fuel available outside normal hours by arrangement

# COME FLYING!

INTRODUCTORY FLIGHTS FROM £40

TRIAL LESSONS FROM £103

**FENLAND**  
Flying  School



**GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE**

**01406 540461**

**INFO@FENLAND-FLYING-SCHOOL.CO.UK**

## Runways



JOIN US AT FENLAND AIRFIELD FOR  
ANYTHING FROM A CUP OF TEA AND A  
CAKE TO A ROAST DINNER.

**BOOKING ADVISED FOR SUNDAY LUNCHES**

**MEET THE RUNWAYS TEAM**

**BOOK A TABLE: 01406 540 330**

**WINTER OPENING HOURS: TUES - FRI. 10AM - 2.30PM / SAT - SUN. 9AM - 4PM**