



BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT BUGLE

News from our Airport at Biggin Hill - established 2005



CLUB AND AIRPORT NEWS

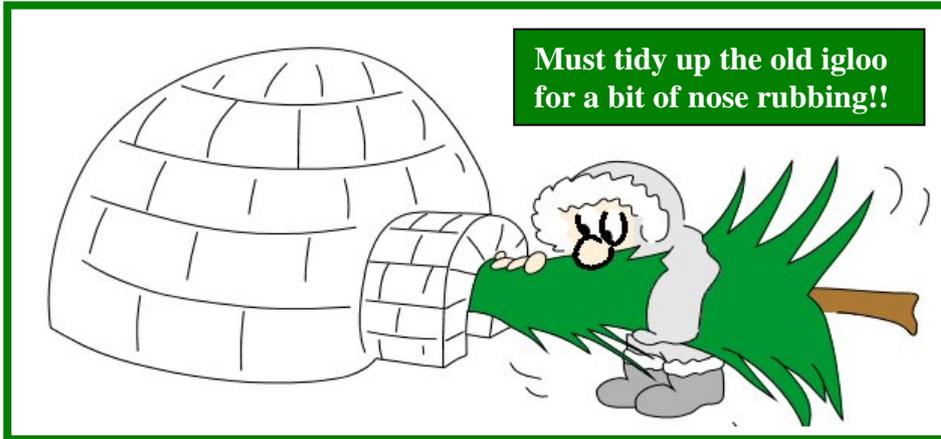
BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB LTD

In Ass. with BigginHillReunited.co.uk

ISSUE No. 58

www.bigginhillclub.co.uk

1st December 2009



LIVING DOWN BY THE RIVER



Derek and his friend John sipping a cold beer on John's patio at Shoreham, on the banks of the river Darent, as they practice their drinking skills for the coming festivities during the last of the summer outdoor sunshine.

Around the village of Biggin Hill, much time and effort is put into these fabulous displays each year by the families who celebrate this seasonal time with their traditional lighting skills.

OUR CHRISTMAS BAUBLE



This wonderful giant bauble has been specially produced, by us the inebriated, to help you celebrate the festivities around the bar at the Old Jail during this Xmas period. If you care to ply us with beverages during our attendance, we have many stories and tales to relate about the spirit of Xmas, far more than Charles Dickens ever told. Not so much the 'Pickwick Papers', which becomes, more like the 'Pickled Paupers' as you listen to their / our colourful tales of woe.

THE HOUSES BRIGHTLY LIT



POLICE SPEEDING ALERT

The police are active around Biggin Hill stopping motorists on the pretence of speeding, followed by the breathalyser. If you drive too slowly they will probably stop you anyway. This is a no win situation, so be warned. Perhaps we should take up burglary as it seems a much safer environment. They never seem to get caught, and when they do, they are often let off with a caution, and carry on with their career. If they are challenged, they claim to be misunderstood.

LAST VIEW OVER AIRFIELD



This lonely scene was taken prior to the closure of the 'Pilots Pals Bar' (31st August 2007) and was a wonderful view, gone forever –this was an enviable watering hole for the pilots and social members who were interested in aviation.



Many came for a last farewell drink and a final sunset. Soon after it was raised to the ground with memories fading to the open sky..!



ANOTHER FADED MEMORY



Times have moved on. How many can remember these far off days with the famous Surrey & Kent bar in the background behind the old Aircoupes, Chipmunks, Tiger Moths, Hornet Moth, Prentices, and even a Cessna 172 and Piper Tripacer. Flying rates were about £2.50p per hour wages were around £5.00 a week. So you see, flying has always been expensive, and so was beer at 10p a pint.

WEST MALLING AIRFIELD

This airfield was used as a landing area during WWI. In 1930 it became a private landing field named 'Kings Hill'. In 1932 it was renamed 'Maidstone Airport' and



finally renamed 'West Malling' when the services took it over. The RAF left this airfield in 1965. It was then used for glider flying

thereafter until 1969, although it remained as a well manicured airfield, it was used for some very good 'Warbird Airshows' for a few short years. The associated area was sparsely populated by residents who successfully lobbied against the airfield. Now they have a new township, which has many hundreds of houses with very narrow winding roads, restricted parking for its residents, even worse, for friends who should happen to visit, as there is nowhere to park. We hope the lobbyist's are now happy, their village having been over-run as a result, with a huge increase in traffic over the last few years clogging up their once quiet village, where it was previously possible to park without restriction. Now they have traffic wardens as well.

REFERENCE TO THE ABOVE

Spotted locally: Postman collecting mail from a busy main road post office, with his large postal van parked on double yellow lines (*yes, but*) which is also a bus stop as well. (*tricky one*). Yes but, there is no where else to stop to collect the heavy sacks – but you are facing the wrong way also (*yes but*), I am going to the next mail collection point down the road). Traffic Warden diligently writing ticket whilst postman was hidden from view collecting mail from the interior of the mail posting box.

THE MOVING TABLE STORY

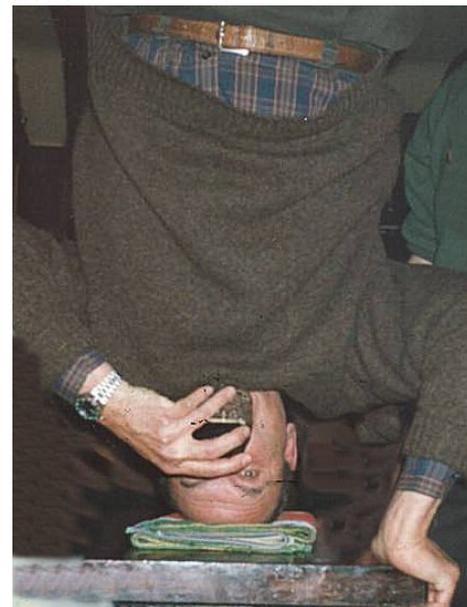
One thing Medical Students and Fighter Pilots have in common is the love of good beer! The medics and pilots of 1941 were no exception and many a happy night was spent in the Whyte Lion adjacent to Farnborough Hospital. The medics who were on secondment from Guy's Hospital in London donated a wooden table to the pub suitably carved with 'Guys' and the date 1941. The pilots in the true spirit of vandalism, or was it a sense of history, proceeded to carve their

initials all over the table top. The table was for many years at the Whyte Lion before finally somehow being donated to the Officer's Mess at RAF Biggin Hill via Dusty Miller, a local Biggin Hill character, where it remained in pride of place for many years until the station was finally closed down in 1992, by which time the table was in a sorry state.

It may have been involved in various Mess athletic activities, one of which requires progressing round the room without actually touching the ground whilst playing imaginary instruments. Another was doing a head stand on the table top and drinking a pint of beer whilst inverted!

The table was finally donated to the RAF Chapel of Remembrance at Biggin Hill. One of the parishioners lovely restored it to its former glory, and it now once again has pride of place in St George's Room. Those pilots and medics have long since gone but their initials remain on the table top as an important part of history.

Inverted beer drinking is a lost art but if you care to move those glasses to one side I would be pleased to show you how it is done!



Geoff Greensmith demonstrates the art of making a fluid flow uphill. Do not try this without safety personnel nearby. It is not necessary to be an acrobat to do this, but safety should be in mind.

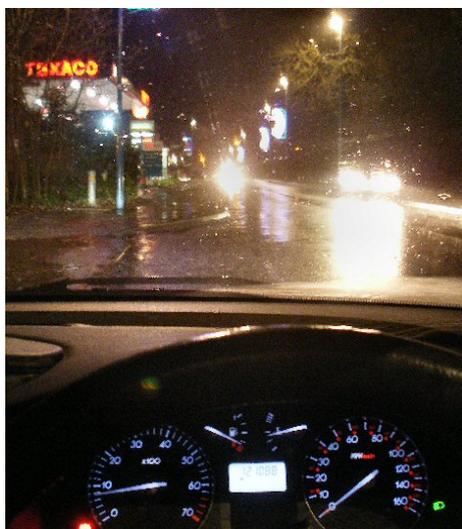
CHAPEL OF REMEMBRANCE

Geoff would like to remind those who support the Chapel that the Commemorative booklet is now available (£5 by post). Cheques made payable to Friends of St Georges Chapel.

THE UK's NOVEMBER FOGS

Usually this is the month of fogs, but this year has seen more rain than usual at Biggin Hill.

Fortunately Biggin is 600 feet up, and even at this rate, it will take a long time for the rest of the UK to fill up before reaching us. At least we will have time to build our boats.....



MESSAGE FROM THE BUGLE

We are venturing into our fifth year of publication and hopefully we will be able to continue with your support. There has to be a story behind the drunken (pilot chappie) trying to gain access to his house which is probably next door..!

JB & JW would like to take this opportunity to wish all their supporters a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

