



BIGGIN HILL BUGLE

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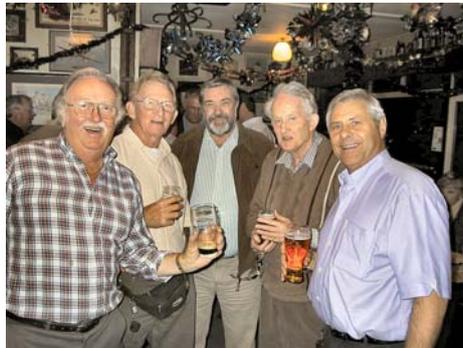
IN ASSOCIATION WITH PILOTS PALS
1ST FEBRUARY 2006



SPORTAIR REUNION

A wonderful evening with some old and revered friends was held at the Bar in honour of Brian Stevens, who started Sportair Flying Club and emigrated to Brazil some 32 years ago. He now runs a successful boating business far away from this sea faring nation that is full of aviators and experienced drinking people and story tellers. All stories being fully authenticated. **From left to right** Donna Coonan, Ian Franks, Gordon Franks, Roger and Jane Goodyear, Diana Franks, Ian Faggetter Arthur Hill, Julie Brewer, Ed Merton, Brendon O'Brien, John Willis, Brian Stevens, Gavin Dix & Mike Hogan

Below left, Mike Hogan, Ed Merton, Joe Merchant, Ian Faggetter with the latest 'Bugle' publication and below, Joe Merchant, Brian Stevens, John Bryan, Arthur Hill, John Willis.



Below : Golden Oldies, Ed Merton, Brendon O'Brien, Ian Faggetter enjoying the evening. – 3rd Jan 06



BIGGIN HILL EVICTION NOTICES

Dedicated aviation businesses have been threatened with eviction by Biggin Hill Airport because they operate from old buildings within the south side of the airfield. These dedicated people support aviation at the grass roots and provide a refuge for people with an interest in flying and indeed a future career in aviation. Pilots don't grow on tree's, they are bred at facilities provided by the owners and operators of such facilities. Aviation is an expensive occupation and those at the top who look down on general aviation and its pilots as a nuisance should understand that these very people will in the future become commercial pilots, or operators thereby keeping them in their comfortable offices pushing bits of paper around without a real future ahead of themselves in aviation. These evictions are viewed with deep disgust by private pilots and club members alike. It would be prudent for the airfield operators to look at the other side of the fence to see how the airfield really operates and why these well established businesses are there to support the general aviation community that provide the bread and butter for these very people – There has been many grandiose plans for this airfield over the last 40 years without forethought or adequate planning for the future of aviation

HIGHER AUTHORITY

Seems to have extended like a rash to Biggin Hill village with the closing of the one and only supermarket for two weeks or longer whilst re-furbishing is carried by the new owners, Waitrose. Once again someone at the top with ideas beyond their capacity have ignored the needs of thousands that live in and around Biggin Hill. Before the Supermarket arrived in Biggin Hill there were many different shops. Butchers, bakers, green grocers etc.,. The Supermarket destroyed these vital services in such a way that there is nothing if there is a hint of a strike, heavy snow fall. Previously there was always something to be had as supplies were local and we didn't have to contend with the hoards of outsiders devouring stocks at the slightest hint of one of these new day disasters – extreme weather planning. **Who dreamt that one up ?** Even the cash machines at the village banks run out of money in a crisis.

OVERHEARD AT THE BAR

The ultimate form of Birth Control is to go to bed wearing your 'flying suit' this is a guaranteed turn off.

The overheard mobile phone call – following the above remark cannot be repeated for fear of retribution, but it was explicit...!

BUGLE ON THE WEB

By popular demand this publication is available for all by visiting <www.pilotspals.co.uk> on the 1st day of each month.

By this method we can increase our communication skills and you the reader can add your points of view directly to the editor by Email to

<johnbryan@jbplstd.demon.co.uk>
Or by fax – 0870 055 8171
Or by phone 07867 544 142



YAO – JAPAN This unique airfield operates within a concrete jungle without complaint from residents or council officials. When the building around Biggin Hill is completed there will then be a reason to close it as a GA airfield and turn it into another disaster like West Malling. Biggin Hill Airport management should wake up to the reality of General Aviation and the reality of its importance. The editor has flown into Yao and around Japan and was impressed by their professional attitude toward GA flying. You have to remove your shoes within the flight planning centres. BUT, they are extremely helpful and will offer all their assistance without patronisation ..!

FRED THOROGOOD

Another of our airman is missing. Fred was a long term member of the PE Group and a jolly jovial person who will be missed around the bar and indeed the airfield. Fred passed away 30th December



POPLAR GROVE FIELD

Illinois – The editor delivered a Beech18 to this airfield in 1995 to Steve and Tina Thomas. In 10 years it has been developed into a very large fly-in centre with homes and personal hangars This is only an hours drive from Chicago – Biggin Hill could learn a huge lesson from these people. Check out their website

< poplargoaveairmotive.com >

