

Hi everyone

Welcome to the April Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter... The April edition of the Biggin Hill Airport "BUGLE" by John Bryan is also available for viewing/downloading on the Social Club's website at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk>

Please keep sending him your stories of interest, and photos, etc., for inclusion in future issues. Quite how he manages to find things to write about every month, I'll never know! (his direct email address is [johnbryan@jbplstd.demon.co.uk](mailto:johnbryan@jbplstd.demon.co.uk), or you can send items directly to me to pass on)

#### EMAIL ADDRESS UPDATES AND ADDITIONS

Thanks to those who have sent amended email addresses and welcome also to those that have recently added their names to the database.... For current member names see <http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk> and go to the link to the database membership..

#### REX PARKER

I heard just too late for last month's Newsletter that another old Biggin Hill'ite (probably known only to those in the 60's and 70's), Rex Parker, died on 24<sup>th</sup> February in France. He had apparently been fighting lung cancer and was in remission at the time but an infection got the better of him.

#### JOE MERCHANT

As many of you will have heard, Joe has launched a new project to complete his book about Biggin Hill, the airport, and it's people and events... To help with that, Joe has launched a new website at <http://www.pilotspals2010.co.uk/> and he is hoping to make contact with many old friends who can help with anecdotes and photos relating to those times. Have a look at the site and make contact with Joe – he would love to hear from you, and would welcome your help with this project..

I was also able to persuade Joe that Facebook would make contact easier for him, so he can now be found there – if you can't find him, have a look on my own pages and he will be in my friends list there.. (see <http://www.facebook.com/bigginhillreunited> )

#### US PILOTS LICENCES

For the many people who hold 61.75 FAA licences (often called a "restricted FAA licence" or "piggyback licence"), which is based on their current UK licence, and still have the paper version, you are reminded that as of today (31<sup>st</sup> March 2010) your US licence is no longer valid. The only "piggyback licences" valid now are the plastic credit card style licence which also includes the "English proficient" statement. For more information a very useful summary by a Belgian pilot can be found at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/faa.pdf> - "Standalone" FAA licences are unaffected.

The CAA have apparently been empowered by the US authorities to "oversee" US registered aircraft operations in the UK (and other EEC countries authorities in theirs too). So, when flying N registered aircraft, do not be surprised to be ramp checked by a CAA inspection team (there have been several at Biggin Hill recently!), who will go through both your's and the aircraft's documentation with a fine tooth comb – you have been warned..

#### THE CHELSFIELD CHICKS

Old (well, not so old really) Biggin Hill'ite, Vicki Jackson, who has been an active airfield person for many years, has joined forces with a friend to raise money for Harris Hospicecare. Their email follows:

"We are taking part in this walk to support Harris HospisCare who provide invaluable palliative care in the community to patients with terminal illnesses. Sensitive care is needed by many at some stage and what nicer way to support their continued work than by taking a late-spring walk through the

bluebells. We may not be spring chickens!! but we'll 'cluck' our way through and hope you will sponsor our efforts by making a donation to help us reach our target.

This is our first year and we would like to thank you in advance for all your support.

Love, Vicki & Kim”

To help them reach their target, please go to: <http://www.justgiving.com/chelsfield-chicks>

#### GORDON JONES GATHERING

The afternoon of Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March, saw a gathering of many of Gordon's friends and colleagues at the Old Jail. Ably organised by Graham Balls, assisted by Peter Greenyer, there were some amazing pictures, slides, and trophies, on display. It was really good to see so many people attending to make this a good send off for Gordon – full report, including photos, in this month's Bugle...

#### BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB LTD

Still the occasional application for new and renewals coming through...Thanks for your support  
If anyone has sent in their renewals or applications and not yet received their photo membership card, please give me a shout..

Anyone still wishing to renew, details can be found on the club site at [www.bigginhillclub.co.uk](http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk)

For details of current concessions that remain available to members (Remember - if it is not on the webpage, then it is no longer available) please go to <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk> and follow the “concessions” link on the homepage, rather than phoning me to ask.

That's about it for this month...

John Willis

Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally:

Something different this month. I have been sent a number of links to interesting videos over the last few months. I thought it may be good to share some with you – just follow the links....

A 1933 publicity film for American Airways (now American Airlines, of course)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCnWLR28pfE&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCnWLR28pfE&feature=player_embedded)

(Do also check out some of the other video's listed down the right hand side of the screen...)

British Pathe video's of the Biggin Hill Air Fair in the 1960's

<http://www.britishpathe.com/record.php?id=40876>

<http://www.britishpathe.com/record.php?id=48943>

(For even more video's – just type biggin hill into the search box at the top of the page!!

An amazing film about Stephen Wiltshire – wow, I wish I had such a memory!!

<http://video.stumbleupon.com/#p=0k4lsi1dqj>

If you like an adrenaline rush – then this is for you. I don't think I will try it though!!!!

<http://www.tubewatcher.tv/198>

Enjoy.....

If anyone else has good examples of, for example: - Governmental stupidity and removal of the population's right to live a normal life, or simply any unusual and interesting stories or anecdotes that you feel may interest our readers, please email them to me as a possible inclusion in a monthly "and Finally"...)