

Hi everyone

Welcome to the Biggin Hill Users Database August Newsletter. Sorry it's a little brief this month, but I have been away for the whole of July and have little to report. ...

JB's August edition of the Biggin Hill Airport "BUGLE" is also now available online on the Social Club's website at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk> ***As always it is NOT included here - to view it, once in the Bugle section, via the link on the homepage, click on the appropriate month's link.*** As always, please keep those stories coming in for inclusion in future issues. (JB's direct email address is [johnbryan13@sky.com](mailto:johnbryan13@sky.com), or you can send items directly to me to pass on: [john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk))

Welcome particularly to the new Database members who may be receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time.....

### **DEREK ARCHER**

It is with sadness that I have to advise of the loss of another old Biggin Hill'ite, Derek Archer.

Derek passed away after a short illness on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 2015 aged eighty four. He leaves wife of 59 years, Brenda, and their two children, Allison and Jane, as well as his seven grandchildren.

Derek will be known to many old Biggin Hill'ites as he learnt to fly on Austers at Air Touring Club in the late 1960's when they were located in their "Pillbox" clubhouse over on the West side of the airfield. He flew very regularly and was actually in the bar when a group of members decided to club together to buy Bolkow Monson, G AYPE, in 1974. He joined them as a founder member of what became the "Papa Echo Group" that still operates at Biggin to this day. He remained a member of the group until 2007, when he sold his share to Gary Merchant.

A printer by trade, having started D. Archer and Company Print Finishers in 1963, he also formed Westarch Productions with fellow Biggin Hill'ite Peter Westacott as a sideline to print Peter's well known paintings. These include the Anniversary painting showing the Concorde flypast with two Spitfires at the Biggin Hill Air Fair.

Derek was a hard worker who was still actively working and managing his printing business until just two weeks before his death.

His funeral was held at the Beckenham Crematorium on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July. The family would like to thank the current members of the Papa Echo Group who very kindly put up the Derek's former aircraft on the day of the funeral to enable it to perform a flypast of his home as the funeral party left there. Derek's widow and the family were hugely touched. A most fitting tribute for a man who just loved to fly.

He will be missed by his many friends and colleagues. R.I.P. Derek.

### **BOB LEE**

Apologies for missing this last month – We had another sad loss in June. Bob Lee, formerly a member of 600 Sqd Flying Group in the 1960's passed away after suffering from a serious illness for some months. Along with brothers Stan, Fred, Dennis, and Eddie, the Lee family were known to most of us oldies from that period.

Bob grew up locally in St Pauls Cray, but lived up in Norfolk for many years. His funeral was held at Hoverton on 25<sup>th</sup> June. He will be missed by his many friends from that era, and very much by me personally as we spent a great deal of time together back then. R.I.P. Bob.

### **PETER GREENYER'S EPIC CLUB RUN**

Congratulations to Biggin Hill's Peter Greenyer and Graham Balls for their participation in the recent Comanche Owners Club run across the North Atlantic in PA39 G-LARE. Accompanied by other Twin Comanches from the UK and Europe, the pair made the crossing via Wick in Scotland, Reykjavik in Iceland, Narsarsuaq in Greenland, to Goose Bay and St John's in Newfoundland, returning the same route after a few days.

A great achievement and a tremendous trip I'm sure....

### **CAFÉ AND VIEWING AREA**

Although I have yet to try it for myself, having been away, I am assured the new Café and Viewing area (Known as The Lookout Café) has apparently been very well received. The Café opened its doors on 15<sup>th</sup> July, and has seemingly been kept quite busy with many local residents paying it a visit already. Hope to see you all there from time to time when you visit Biggin for a coffee and a chat with friends.

### **EVENTS AT BIGGIN THIS SUMMER**

There are three major events coming up this Summer at Biggin commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Britain:

18<sup>th</sup> August – Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar and Biggin Hill Airport play host to a unique recreation of the main sorties flown by aircraft from Biggin Hill 75 years ago. It is hoped that up to 18 Spitfires and 6 Hurricanes will participate in this recreation.

For details & tickets see: [www.biggin75.co.uk](http://www.biggin75.co.uk)

18<sup>th</sup> September – BBC Radio 2's "Friday Night is Music Night" will present "The Battle of Britain at 75" live from the Rizon Jet Hangar and in cinemas Nationwide. Presenters Dermot O'Leary, Jeremy Vine, Sophie Raworth and the BBC Concert Orchestra bring to life the stories from 75 years ago.

For details & tickets see: [www.battleofbritain75.org/friday/](http://www.battleofbritain75.org/friday/)

19<sup>th</sup> September – watch a unique screening in the Rizon Jet Hangar of the iconic film 'Battle of Britain' starring Sir Michael Caine, Sir Laurence Olivier, and Sir Michael Redgrave, surrounded by the aircraft that defended Britain in 1940. Also included will be Spitfire & Hurricane displays, a Glenn Miller orchestra and veteran interviews.

For details & tickets see: [www.battleofbritain75.org/saturday/](http://www.battleofbritain75.org/saturday/)

### **NEWS FROM AROUND THE CLUBS & BUSINESSES**

If you would like me to include your business in the Newsletter, either on a regular basis, or just occasionally, please drop me an email with your contact details and I'll be in touch directly. (John Willis - [john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk))

### **FALCON FLIGHT ACADEMY (inc EFG) & FALCON FLIGHT SERVICES**

Greetings to one and all from Falcon!

Our Cirrus BBQ on July 4th was a huge success so thank you to each and every one that could make it! It was great to see so many familiar faces both old and new. Even better was the fact that Cirrus said this was without a doubt the best organised and attended event so thank you to one and all!

So it has been a tad windy this week but, when in limits, I took up the opportunity to get in some Cross-wind landings. When was the last time you sat with an instructor to let him tell you how good you are?! :)

The summer has been kind so far and students have been making steady progress.

G-BICG is in the middle of a respray so when she is back that will make four C152s ready for your use! In addition the Seneca is having an updated interior and to keep up with times imminently she'll be WAAS Approved for GPS Approaches!

Don't forget EFG and S&K are ready to take on all your training requirements and Falcon will do your servicing!

Till the next time - Fly safe, stay aware, be blessed

Anoop Singh Bamrah

### **MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS**

As many of you will be aware, Will Curtis has been in hospital this month for an operation and is still in recovery, although fortunately back at home. As a result, he has been forced to take things very easily and restrict any work he does to very short periods. He therefore sends his apologies to you all for not having anything to report for this month's Newsletter, but hopes to be able to catch up next month.

I am sure you will all wish to join me in wishing Will a speedy and full recovery and a return to normal operations as soon as possible. *Best Wishes (Ed..)*

### **BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB**

Full membership details can be found at [www.bigginhillclub.co.uk](http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk) When sending anything to us by post, please remember to use the new address on the site. Existing members renewing do not need a further form, so just send the appropriate fee. (if you need to replace the existing photo, please include a new head and shoulder shot with your name on the reverse – or you can email the photo to me). If you are a new member, please send both the fee, head and shoulder photo, and a completed application form.

*(In all cases, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope for the return of the membership card(s)).*

Thanks again for your support for the club and database so far this year – your financial support is very much appreciated and is used to fund the costs of servers for the BigginHillReunited and BigginHillClub websites.

### **EMAIL ADDRESSES**

A full and current list of member names can be seen at <http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk> Please remember to tell us if you change your email address. If you know others who are not members but are eligible to join (ie. if they currently fly from the airport, or work there, or ever have done so) please let me know or tell them about us – it is, of course, free.

That's it for this month.....

John Willis  
Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally: As usual, a few amusing stories that, according to the many comments I receive about this section, is very popular amongst the membership. (As always, no offence to anyone is intended!). Thanks to everyone for sending their contributions.... )

QUOTE.....

Grandfathers don't know everything!

Hunter was 4 years old and was staying with his grandfather for a few days. He'd been playing outside with the other kids, when he came into the house and asked, 'Grandpa, what's that called when two people sleep in the same bedroom and one is on top of the other?'

His Grandpa was a little taken aback, but he decided to tell him the truth.

'Well, Hunter, it's called sexual intercourse.'

'Oh,' Little Hunter said, 'OK,' and went back outside to play with the other kids.

A few minutes later he came back in and said angrily, 'Grandpa, it isn't called sexual intercourse. It's called Bunk Beds, and Jimmy's mom wants to talk to you.'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Some years ago, there was a Mensa convention in San Francisco.

Mensa, as you know, is a national organization for people who have an IQ of 140 or higher.

Several of the Mensa members went out for lunch at a local cafe. When they sat down, one of them discovered that their salt shaker contained pepper, and their pepper shaker was full of salt. How could they swap the contents of the two bottles without spilling any, and using only the implements at hand?

Clearly -- this was a job for Mensa minds.

The group debated the problem and presented ideas and finally, came up with a brilliant solution involving a napkin, a straw, and an empty saucer.

They called the waitress over, ready to dazzle her with their solution.

"Ma'am," they said, "we couldn't help but notice that the pepper shaker contains salt and the salt shaker....." But before they could finish ..... the waitress interrupted.

"Oh -- sorry about that."

She leaned over the table, unscrewed the caps of both bottles and switched them.

There was dead silence at the Mensa table.

Reminds me of the government, solutions would be so simple, but the brilliant minds have to make the situation difficult.....

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A man was working on his motorcycle on the patio, his wife nearby in the kitchen.

While racing the engine, the motorcycle accidentally slipped into gear. The man, still holding onto the handlebars, was dragged along as it burst through the glass patio doors.

His wife, hearing the crash, ran in the room to find her husband, cut and bleeding, the motorcycle and the shattered patio door. She called for an ambulance and, because the house sat on a fairly large hill, went down the several flights of stairs to meet the paramedics and escort them to her husband.

While the attendants were loading her husband, the wife managed to right the motorcycle and push it outside. She also quickly blotted up the spilled gasoline with some paper towels and tossed them into the toilet.

After being treated and released, the man returned home, looked at the shattered patio door and the damage done to his motorcycle. He went into the bathroom and consoled himself with a cigarette while attending to his business. About to stand, he flipped the butt between his legs.

The wife, who was in the kitchen, heard a loud explosion and her husband screaming. Finding him lying on the bathroom floor with his trousers blown away and burns on his buttocks, legs and groin, she once again phoned for an ambulance. The same paramedic crew was dispatched.

As the paramedics carried the man down the stairs to the ambulance they asked the wife how he had come to burn himself. She told them.

They started laughing so hard, one slipped, the stretcher dumping the husband out. He fell down the remaining stairs, breaking his arm.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Did I read that sign right?

In an office:

TOILET OUT OF ORDER..... PLEASE USE FLOOR BELOW

In a Laundromat:

AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINES:

PLEASE REMOVE ALL YOUR CLOTHES WHEN THE LIGHT GOES OUT

In a London department store:

BARGAIN BASEMENT UPSTAIRS

In an office:

WOULD THE PERSON WHO TOOK THE STEP LADDER YESTERDAY PLEASE BRING IT BACK OR FURTHER STEPS WILL BE TAKEN

In an office:

AFTER TEA BREAK STAFF SHOULD EMPTY THE TEAPOT AND STAND UPSIDE DOWN ON THE DRAINING BOARD

Outside a second-hand shop:

WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING - BICYCLES, WASHING MACHINES, ETC. WHY NOT BRING YOUR WIFE ALONG AND GET A WONDERFUL BARGAIN?

Notice in health food shop window:

CLOSED DUE TO ILLNESS

Spotted in a safari park:

ELEPHANTS PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR

Seen during a conference:

FOR ANYONE WHO HAS CHILDREN AND DOESN'T KNOW IT, THERE IS A DAY CARE ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR

Notice in a farmer's field:

THE FARMER ALLOWS WALKERS TO CROSS THE FIELD FOR FREE, BUT THE BULL CHARGES.

On a repair shop door:

WE CAN REPAIR ANYTHING. (PLEASE KNOCK HARD ON THE DOOR - THE BELL DOESN'T WORK)

.....UNQUOTE

(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 funny, unusual and interesting stories or anecdotes that you feel may interest or amuse our readers, please email them to me as a possible inclusion in a monthly "and Finally"...) )