

Hi everyone

The December "Bugle" from JB is now available on the web site at <http://www.pilotspals.co.uk>

Just click on the Newsletter link on the home page as normal...

As this is the Christmas Season, the December Bugle is slightly smaller than usual, but JB is putting together a "Christmas Special" that will be released on or about the 20th December (with the first issue next year coming out slightly later than usual - at the end of the first week in January - to allow us all to get over the effects of the Christmas over-indulgencies...)

CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year's Christmas party at the airport bar will be on Friday 22nd December from around 7pm - all welcome, of course.

THE BAR – NEW MEMBERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

On the subject of the Bar, there have been all sorts of rumours spreading about the bar closing etc., during the course of this last year. The Bar's future has indeed been in question due to changes at the airport and other issues, however these problems have been largely overcome and Joe is pushing forward with plans to relocate into new premises when the airport finally makes the planned South Camp development a reality (probably not until the latter part of 2007 at the earliest, we believe). However, having said that, some changes must occur to satisfy the requirements of the airport, new licencing laws, and to secure the bar financially into this change of scene..

From the First of January 2007, the club will become a totally "Members Only" club.

Members will be asked to pay a small annual membership fee to assist the club in moving forward. As you will see from the attached, the annual fee will be £10 for an individual membership, £15 for a couple, or £20 for a family (consisting two adults and any dependent children). There will be special arrangements for "Corporate Membership" whereby Biggin Hill organisations, such as The Airport Authority, Maintenance Organisations, and Clubs, etc., may join for a single fee, and subsequently all staff (not their members!) of that organisation will be entitled to free individual membership, subject of course to their applying and being accepted.

Clearly, the annual membership fee has been kept low to encourage existing users to join, but it is stressed that bar users will, after 31st December, have to either be a full member, or be signed in on each individual occasion by a full

member, who will accept responsibility for that guests behaviour and pay the £1 guest fee for each visit. For those of you who live some considerable distance from Biggin Hill, and who therefore only visit the club occasionally, we hope you will feel inclined to support the club financially by joining, but if not, then arrangements will be made for that occasional visit for you to be accepted as a guest of one of the membership committee.

Members will be issued with a Photo Membership card, valid for the full year, upon acceptance - you are therefore asked to enclose a passport sized head and shoulder photo for each applicant with your completed membership application (a copy of which is attached to this email) - please write first and last names lightly on the reverse of each photo in case it becomes detached from your form. Cheques for the annual fee should accompany the form, and should be made payable to "Pilots Pals".

I hope that you will understand the need for this course of action, and will continue to support the bar so that we may all have a social meeting point at the ever-expanding airport well into the future.

HEALTH SCREENING FOR US "OLDIES"

As I am personally well into the high-risk age group for things like the "big C", when I renewed my recent flying medical, I asked about screening for early detection of cancers. Apparently, one particular cancer – of the bowel – is very survivable long term if caught early. There is a test available which is considered a good indicator of whether more stringent checks should be carried out, but it is not normally available on the NHS.

As a result of discussions, Dr Mike Glanfield did some research and has obtained a batch of the test kits (together with the equipment required for him to check the returned tests for results), which he is happy to supply at cost if anyone is interested.

Having lost a family member to this condition, I am personally going to carry out the screening every year, and it occurred to me that some of you who are in the over 50 age group, may also feel it worthwhile for themselves. The test kits are £25 each for three tests that need to be carried out over a period of a few days, then returned to the Doctor – if a number of us want them, then this cost will probably drop.

If you would like to discuss these kits, please give me a call on 01959 571533 (or Skype me on "johnswillis") and I will explain it and send you more details.

That's it for this newsletter – remember, next Bugle will be on around 20th December

Regards
John Willis
Biggin Hill Airport Users Database