

Hi everyone

Welcome to the February 2012 Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter.

The February edition of the Biggin Hill Airport "BUGLE" by John Bryan is available online on the Social Club's website at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk> ...

As always, please keep those stories coming in for inclusion in future issues. (JB's direct email address is johnbryan13@sky.com, or you can send items directly to me to pass on).

IT SEEMS THAT SEVERAL PEOPLE HAVE COMMENTED THAT THEY CAN'T SEE THE "BUGLE". IT IS NOT ACTUALLY A PART OF THIS NEWSLETTER AND IT CAN BE FOUND ON THE INTERNET, NOT HERE.

For those who are not too familiar with how to get it, you need to do one of two things:

1) If your email reader allows it, you should double click on the following link:

<http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk>

This should open your normal web browser (like Internet Explorer) and take you directly to the Club's website

Or

2) Type exactly that link into your web browser and either hit the enter key, or click "go to" – this should take you directly to the Club's website as well

As an alternative – use Google or another search engine to search for "Biggin Hill Airport Social Club" – and click on one of those links to the Club's website.

In all cases – once you are on the Club's website homepage – right at the top, there is a "Stop Press" in bold type telling you the appropriate month's Bugle is online – Click on that link and when you get onto the Bugle page, select the Bugle issue you want to read – this will open a new browser window and open the selected Bugle edition for you to read, or print.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Please remember to let us know if you change your email address at any time – and if you know someone else who doesn't receive our regular newsletters and is, or has been involved on the airport, please pass me their name, email, and who or what they were or are associated with at Biggin. For current member names see www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk and go to the link to the database membership..

NICK DAVIDSON

It is with sadness I must tell you of the loss of another of our number in January. Nick Davidson, who was just 49 years old and a Captain for British Airways on the Airbus fleet, passed away on the 12th January after a relatively short but serious illness.

Nick was an instructor at Surrey and Kent in the late 80's / early 90's, where he taught such Biggin Hill'ites as Gary Merchant (himself now a Training Captain with Easyjet). He worked under CFI David Bushell who sadly passed away just last month.

After about four years instruction, he moved through the normal ranks followed by so many before him, flying night freight on Bandeirante's from Southen, then flying for Cityflyer on the ATR out of

Gatwick before joining BA in 1998 on the 757 fleet. He also flew the 747. He got his command three years ago and was looking forward to getting back to the 747 as a Captain when his illness was diagnosed. Nick leaves behind his fiancé, Alina.

RON TATE

I have just been informed of the sad loss of another old Biggin Hill'ite, Ron Tate. Ron, who was 83, passed away last Thursday (26th January). He was originally a Paratrooper in the Army and he became involved in flying in 1966. He learnt to fly with 600Sqd Flying Group at Biggin Hill with instructor John Miles, and also with Rex Nicholls. He is survived by his widow, Joan.

Ron's funeral will be held on Monday 13th February 2012 at 11:30am at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium, Benhall Mill Road, TN2 5JJ. Joan has said that she would welcome any airfield friends of Ron who wish to attend on the day. If anyone wishes to make a donation, the family request it be sent to The Hospice in the Weald and sent care of Sears Funeral Service, 22 Church Road, Paddock Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 6EZ

BOB BOLSTER

You will already have seen the reports mid-month of the tragic helicopter accident in which Bob Bolster, from EFG, lost his life. His funeral was held on 25th January and was well attended by is many friends and colleagues from the world of aviation. As Singh so aptly put it – “like so many Aviators before him he has taken flight on his final winged journey and we wish him clear skies”..

ERNEST GREEN

John Bryan tells me that another old Biggin Hill'ite, known only to the very oldest of us, Ernie Green, passed away back in August.

Ernie was quite an active Biggin Hill'ite back in the 60's and 70's, owning several quite exotic (in their day) aircraft, before moving to Guernsey. Aged 81 years, he died peacefully at home in St Martin's, Guernsey, with his family around him, after a long illness. Although his wife May died some time before, and he left his four children, Graham, Susan, Russell and Elliot. His funeral was held on the island on 8 September.

JANUARY AT BIGGIN HILL - FROM THE OFFICE OF JENNY MUNRO

New Year seems a long time ago now, but I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a healthy and successful 2012. Lang may yer lums reek, as they say in my homeland north of the border! Now, would Scottish independence mean the banning of Auld Lang Syne at all New Year celebrations south of Gretna Green? I won't tread on thin political ice – and simply wish you all the very best for this year.

And what a year 2012 look like being! The Olympics are bearing down on us and although the Government imposed slot co-ordination rules will give us good, advanced visibility of the entire operation (not something we usually enjoy), we are waiting with anticipation to see how much of the expected deluge of aircraft actually materialise. This sector of the industry is not known for its forward planning, and my challenge is to balance investment in a robust operation with the actual business on the day. I need to hone my gambling skills! The Olympics is a once-in-a-lifetime event for London and is something that we are fully supporting. Moving around London – whether it be by “train, plane or automobile” – is going to be difficult and is going to be part and parcel of the event. Please be assured that any temporary restrictions which have to be imposed are driven by safety considerations above all else, and I will be immensely grateful for everyone's understanding of that. Communication is key and we are working hard to ensure that our resident aircraft and

owners are protected and considered in the overall plans. The fact is that we aren't going to be able to mitigate the imposed restrictions (for instance, slot co-ordination) to a point where it is business as usual for our based aircraft – very little about London or its transport systems will be business as usual - but I hope that we will at least be able to keep you engaged and informed.

Thanks are due to everyone who has supported us so far with our LoCATE@BigginHill initiative. Under this umbrella, we expect the Apprentice scheme to start in May, and this is surely one of the most tangible measures of the contribution of this group of businesses to the community. I am sure that there will be plenty that we will learn from this first course, but it is definitely the right thing to do long term. We are also looking at the options for usage of vacant premises, and provision of a Social Centre remains high on the priority list. With regards to the Hotel, planning permission has been extended and we continue to actively seek a partner in these challenging economic times. These items and many others fall under the LoCATE banner and all support for it is appreciated.

Moving from business to personalities, I know that John and JB wrote a tribute to George Dobson and his respected and appreciated contribution to Biggin Hill over so many years. I didn't have the opportunity to know George very well, but I sense how he was part of the fabric of Biggin, and for that reason, I was glad that we could host his wake. It was great to see so many people paying their respects to him, and just as his family must have been very proud, so was I, that my team wanted to pay him this tribute and did such a good job. We miss seeing George in the terminal every day, but we remember him fondly.

Jenny Munro
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

AN AIRFIELD GATHERING

As mentioned back in November, the “newie’s” (as opposed to us “oldies”), are organising a get together that they are calling “An Airfield Gathering”.. (not the date is different to the one first advised..) From the organisers, Lisa Crew & Kate O’Shaughnessy (AKA – Little Kate), a few words.....

Quote.....

We thought it about time that some old faces got together, so “the youngsters from the bar” have decided to arrange an “airport gathering”.

For those of you who are on Facebook, you will already have the details, however for those who are not - this is an open invite to anyone who would like to catch up with some old friends and faces, whether it be from Pilots Pals Bar or just from the airfield.

So we have arranged an “Airport Gathering” at “The Crown” Leaves Green, Biggin Hill, on Saturday 11th February from 1500 onwards.

It would be wonderful to get some of the old faces back in touch with each other; to share stories and tales like the “*good olde evenings*” of Joes Bar/Pilots Pals ... and of course this should only ever be done over a pint or three ☺

So anyone who would like to come along is more than welcome and we look forward to a great catch up”.

.....Unquote

It really is a great idea – let’s give them the support if you’re in the area on the day..

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB

Thanks again to everyone who has sent in their club renewal fees for 2012. I must apologise for the delays, but you should all have received your new membership cards by now unless you have just sent the payment.

As a reminder, for existing members, no form is needed – just the renewal fee (£10 single, £15 a couple, or £20 for a family) by cheque payable to “Biggin Hill Airport Social Club Ltd” and sent to us at PO Box 33, Biggin Hill, Kent, TN16 3FS. (unless you want to change the photo on the card no new photo is needed - we will just use your existing photo). Please remember to include a stamp addressed envelope for the return of your card.

Applications for new memberships should follow the instructions on the Club website at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk, where the application form and full instructions can be found.

That's it for this month..

John Willis
Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally: First a link to a video of a fantastic bit of radio controlled model aircraft flying – even if you are not into model aircraft, you will be amazed at this...

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=tzowQtqOM_I

and secondly - thanks to Bob White for this one – I have seen it before, but it always amuses me. Life was different, but was it really that bad without the Health and Safety constraints forced on us nowadays....

QUOTE.....

WE WAS BRUNG UP PROPER !! CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL MY FRIENDS WHO WERE BORN IN THE 1940's, 50's, 60's and 70's.

First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank Sherry while they carried us and lived in houses made of asbestos...

They took aspirin, ate blue cheese, bread and dripping, raw egg products, loads of bacon and processed meat, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes or cervical cancer. Then after that trauma, our baby cots were covered with bright coloured lead-based paints.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets or shoes, not to mention, the risks we took hitchhiking.

As children, we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags.

We drank water from the garden hose and NOT from a bottle.

Take away food was limited to fish and chips, no pizza shops, McDonalds, KFC, Subway or Nandos.

Even though all the shops closed at 6.00pm and didn't open on a Sunday, somehow we didn't starve to death!

We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and NO ONE actually died from this.

We could collect old drink bottles and cash them in at the corner store and buy Toffees, Gobstoppers and Bubble Gum.

We ate cupcakes, white bread and real butter, milk from the cow, and drank soft drinks with sugar in it, but we weren't overweight because..... WE WERE ALWAYS OUTSIDE PLAYING!!

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on.

No one was able to reach us all day. And we were OK.

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of old prams and then ride down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. We built tree houses and dens and played in river beds with matchbox cars.

We did not have Playstations, Nintendo Wii , X-boxes, no video games at all, no 999 channels on SKY ,no video/dvd films, or colour TV no mobile phones, no personal computers, no Internet or Internet chat rooms.....WE HAD FRIENDS and we went outside and found them!

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no Lawsuits from these accidents.

Only girls had pierced ears!

We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever.

You could only buy Easter Eggs and Hot Cross Buns at Easter time....

We were given air guns and catapults for our 10th birthdays,

We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just yelled for them! Mum didn't have to go to work to help dad make ends meet because we didn't need to keep up with the Jones's!

Not everyone made the rugby/football/cricket/netball team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that!! Getting into the team was based on MERIT

Our teachers used to hit us with canes and gym shoes and throw the blackboard rubber at us if they thought we weren't concentrating .. We can string sentences together and spell and have proper conversations because of a good, solid three R's education.

Our parents would tell us to ask a stranger to help us cross the road. The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law!

Our parents didn't invent stupid names for their kids like 'Kiora' and 'Blade' and 'Ridge' and 'Vanilla'

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned HOW TO DEAL WITH IT ALL!

And YOU are one of them! CONGRATULATIONS!

You might want to share this with others who have had the luck to grow up as kids, before the lawyers and the government regulated our lives for our own good. And while you are at it, forward it to your kids so they will know how brave their parents were.

.....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 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"...))