

Hi everyone

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome to the first Monthly Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter of 2014....

JB's January 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 – this will open it in a new browser window so you can read it or print it.***

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 on john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk to pass on).

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Welcome to the new Database members who may be receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time. A full and current list of member names can be seen at www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk

If you ever change your email address, please remember to let me know (and also, please feel free to introduce new Biggin Hill'ites to the database).

BAD STORMS AND GALES AT BIGGIN

The latter part of December again saw some massive storms and exceptionally strong winds battering the airport. It seems, in many ways, that these conditions were actually far worse than those experienced and commented on a few weeks before. These adverse conditions seem likely to continue as I write this.

Whilst there was extensive damage to property in the South East of the UK, Biggin Hill Airport itself seemed to get off quite lightly, and I haven't heard of any aircraft there suffering damage. Unlike Shoreham, where the river alongside overflowed its banks and flooded much of the airport, and Redhill aerodrome, just down the road, which suffered from extensive flooding, with TV News showing pictures of a Cessna 172 upside down on the peri-track, and semi-submerged light aircraft.

It seems Biggin Hill's owners are very meticulous about tying their aircraft down securely, and hanging them whenever possible, and that obviously paid off..

Many people in the southern UK, and in particular parts of Kent, Surrey, and Sussex, were flooded badly and thousands were without power for many days. I hope none of our members suffered too badly and were at least able to enjoy their Christmas – a difficult time of year to be in that situation...

THE PASSING OF ANOTHER OLD FRIEND

Old Biggin Hill'ite, Derek Hardiman, sadly passed away on Saturday 21st December 2014. Derek, as many will remember, suffered a serious stroke some time ago, and had been being cared for in a home in recent months. Derek was an active member of several flying clubs, a regular visitor to the Pilots Pals Club Bar, and was involved with the voluntary organisation, Air Search, to which he willingly gave his time.

Derek spent the war as a train driver, a reserved occupation, and often recounted hair-raising stories of driving trains during the Blitz. He remained with British Rail until his retirement, following which he visited his step-daughter, Mandy, and her family in Australia. It was here that he had his first flight in a light aircraft.

On returning to the UK, Derek learnt to fly at Biggin Hill. Besides aviation, Derek was also the proud owner of Jaguar cars, driving either his Jaguar XK8 Sports or Jaguar XJ Saloon to Jaguar Enthusiasts' Club events.

Biggin Hill'ite Peter Adams from Air Search wrote: "Derek joined Air Search some 4 years ago and flew with us once or twice a week until earlier this year. He loved to wear his uniform and interact with the Emergency Services. Derek formed many friendships, and was one of the great characters of Air Search and aviation and we will miss him very much."

His funeral will be held at Beckenham Crematorium, in Kent (BR3 4TD) on Friday 10th January 2014 at 2:15pm. Any friends and colleagues who wish to attend will be very welcome.

OPPOSITION TO BIGGIN HILL SECURITY CHANGES

It has been disappointing to see a video that has been circulating that is somewhat critical of the newly notified security arrangements that clearly, for some reason, don't suit some airport users.

Whilst I do understand that some would prefer the airport went back to how it was in the 1960's and early 70's, ***this simply isn't going to happen***. (remember that Gatwick used to welcome us all in our light singles to come in for a cup of tea at virtually anytime day or night – and look at it now!) Times change!

Such criticism will actually achieve nothing at all, apart from possibly persuading the powers that be to not listen to the compromise ideas that were suggested to the management, and actually incorporated in the security plan in order to help minimise the effects of such changes on us all.

Before launching off into such childish acts, please just remember that it was the unfortunate actions of one single person at Biggin Hill Airport that subsequently resulted in virtually the whole airport tenancies having to pay massively increased business rates on their premises. What help was that?? Think carefully before you whinge and whine, it may not achieve what you hope for.

Holding a photo pass that allows you to open a security gate to get into the airport, and wearing a Hi Vis jacket when airside, really is not that onerous. Personally I feel that is a small price to pay for an airport that doesn't waterlog every time it rains, in the main remains open when there is snow fall, that offers full time customs and immigration, full runway lighting, and good airport hours, plus ILS etc..

If that is not what you want, please don't spoil things for those that are happy to have access to these facilities. There are, I'm sure, a number of smaller airports that would welcome your aircraft if you want to be able to operate with less restrictions, so you can always vote with your feet and move your aircraft elsewhere...

CRC CHECKS FOR THOSE WHO CHOOSE THAT ROUTE.

Following on from last month's item about obtaining a CRC check online, I would just like to mention that, after testing the system to see how difficult it was to get a check done, the actual certificate from Disclosure Scotland, following my application, arrived, as promised, well within 14 days. All in all, a very simple, and painless, process.

If you choose to take this route, rather than have the DMZ only pass, simply go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-record-checks-in-the-aviation-sector-regulated-by-dft>

(Make sure you have a passport or drivers licence, plus a current utility bill handy, and also have your National Insurance number and place of birth to hand).

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS

Will sends his apologies, but due to work pressures, he was unable to get his contribution to us in time for the earlier than normal publication time this month.

He asked me to extend his, and those of the Airport Management and Staff, very best wishes to you all for a Happy and Successful New Year.

JSW for & on behalf of Will Curtis
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB

A new year is now upon us and the club membership renewals become due from 1st January 2014 and I hope you will all continue to support us again – it is appreciated. Full details can be found at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk

Existing members just need to send a cheque payable to Biggin Hill Airport Social Club Ltd for the due fee as listed on the website, plus a self-addressed stamped envelope for the return of the new card. No new membership form is needed unless you have changed address, and no photos are needed unless you want us to use a new one.

But please remember, if you are a new member applying, we need a completed application form with your contact details, a head and shoulder photo for each person the application covers, a Stamped addressed envelope so we can send back your membership photo-card – and of course your cheque for the appropriate membership fee payable to Biggin Hill Airport Social Club Ltd (if you don't supply a photograph, we can't produce the card)...

All that remains for me to do is to wish everyone a very Happy and Prosperous New Year from John Bryan and I – and Happy Flying....!

John Willis
Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally: a few amusing ditties to start off 2014. (as always, no offence to anyone intended!). Thanks, as always, to everyone for sending their contributions....)

QUOTE.....

Here is a good example of a collection of notes left in milk bottles. Dear milkman...

I've just had a baby, please leave another one.

Please leave an extra pint of paralysed milk.

Cancel one pint after the day after today.

Please don't leave any more milk. All they do is drink it.

Milkman, please close the gate behind you because the birds keep pecking the tops off the milk.

Milkman, please could I have a loaf but not bread today.

Please cancel milk. I have nothing coming into the house but two sons on the dole.

Sorry not to have paid your bill before, but my wife had a baby and I've been carrying it around in my pocket for weeks.

Sorry about yesterday's note. I didn't mean one egg and a dozen pints, but the other way round.

When you leave my milk please knock on my bedroom window and wake me because I want you to give me a hand to turn the mattress.

Please knock. My TV's broken down and I missed last night's Coronation Street. If you saw it, will you tell me what happened over a cup of tea?

My daughter says she wants a milkshake. Do you do it before you deliver or do I have to shake the bottle?

Please send me a form for cheap milk, for I have a baby two months old and did not know about it until a neighbour told me.

Please send me details about cheap milk as I am stagnant.

Milk is needed for the baby. Father is unable to supply it.

From now on please leave two pints every other day and one pint on the days in between, except Wednesdays and Saturdays when I don't want any milk.

My back door is open. Please put milk in 'fridge, get money out of cup in drawer and leave change on kitchen table in pence, because we want to play bingo tonight.

Please leave no milk today. When I say today, I mean tomorrow, for I wrote this note yesterday.

Milkman please put the coal on the boiler, let dog out and put newspaper inside the screen door. P.S. Don't leave any milk.

No milk. Please do not leave milk at No. 14 either as he is dead until further notice.
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A young ventriloquist

A young ventriloquist is touring Sweden and one night he's doing a show in a small fishing town with his dummy on his knee, and he starts going through his usual dumb blonde jokes.

Suddenly, a blonde woman in the fourth row stands on her chair and starts shouting, "I've heard enough of your stupid blonde jokes. What makes you think you can stereotype Swedish blonde women that way? What does the colour of a woman's hair have to do with her worth as a human being? It's men like you who keep women like me from being respected at work and in the community, and from reaching our full potential as people. Its people like you that make others think that all Blondes are dumb! You and your kind continue to perpetuate discrimination against not only blondes, but women in general – and pathetically all in the name of humour!"

The embarrassed ventriloquist begins to apologize, and the blonde yells:

"You stay out of this! I'm talking to that little sh*t on your lap."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

The Beast of Bolsover strikes again!... (has to be one of the best quotes ever – supposedly said in the House of Commons some years ago by this controversial Labour MP)

Dennis Skinner: "Half the Tories opposite are crooks!"

The Speaker: "Please retract that..."

Dennis Skinner: "OK, Half the Tories opposite aren't crooks!"

.....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"...))