

Hi everyone

Welcome to the March 2008 Database Newsletter.....

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

Please remember to send JB any stories of interest, and photos, for inclusion in future issues. It's your newsletter so please help JB to keep it coming.... (his direct email address is johnbryan@jbplstd.demon.co.uk, or you can send items directly to me to pass on)

Departed friends

This month I regret to inform you of more friends that have left us...

Brian Roberts

Brian Roberts (Jehova as he was known) apparently died in November. JB tells me that Brian learnt his trade (as an Airframe Fitter) in the RAF and was a very good tradesman. He rebuilt the hull of the Widgeon rescued from Bough Beech with JB's help. He blessed every rivet as we went along. One rivet, and he would try to convert JB, next rivet and so on. But nevertheless a good person at his profession. It is thought that he was about aged 62.

Ronald Arthur (Dickie) Dixon

Dickie, close friend of early Biggin Hill'ites "Spud" Murphy and Ray Massey, and former member of Experimental Flying Group, died aged 79 on 15th February. Dickie was a member of the ATC in the 40's, and did his National Service in the RAF, before learning to fly with Jean Bird at EFG at Redhill in the 50's. He apparently wrote a book entitled "Echo's in the Sky" - an anthology of aviation verse - that was published by Blandford Press in 1982.

His funeral is to be held on 4th March at 11:30 at St James' Church, Penhill, which is near Sidcup, Kent, and at a local Sidcup Cemetery, with a gathering of friends at the Sidcup United Services Club after the formal proceedings. (Thanks to Ray Massey for the information)

Bill Hodgson

Bill Hodgson, a very close friend of the late Bill Webb, died on 14th February. Bill last flew at Biggin as a Pilot in Command in June 2003 to celebrate his 80th birthday and 60 years since his first solo. During WWII he flew with the RAF and then transferred to the Fleet Air Arm to fly the Fairey Firefly. Later he flew Catalinas. Bill's civilian career was in the film and television industries. He retired as Managing Director of ITN.

There will be a service at 12noon on Monday, 3rd March at the Beckenham Crematorium, Elms End Road, Beckenham. Bill's son, Matthew, has invited any of Bill's flying friends to attend and join the family afterwards at a reception at the nearby Langley Park Sports and Social Club, Hawkesbrook Lane. (Thanks to Roger Dunn for the information)

That's it for this month

John Willis
Biggin Hill Airport Users Database