

Hi everyone

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

Please keep sending him your stories of interest, and photos, etc., for inclusion in future issues. Quite how he manages to find things to write about every month, I'll never know! (his direct email address is johnbryan@jbplstd.demon.co.uk, or you can send items directly to me to pass on)

EMAIL ADDRESS UPDATES AND ADDITIONS

Several people have sent me amended email addresses - thanks. Welcome also to those that have recently added their names to the database.... For current member names see <http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk> and go to the link to the database membership..

BBMF UNDER THREAT?

It seems that some possible consideration may be being given to reducing MOD funding for the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight... See the following Daily Mail online article:-

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1243309/Defence-cuts-ground-Battle-Britain-flight.html>

A formal petition has been set up on the Number 10 Petitions website. If you haven't already heard of this petition, and wish to add your support to the campaign to continue to maintain the BBMF, then you can add your name to the petition by following this link....

<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/BBMFCuts/>

FUEL DUTY REDUCTION PETITION

Apparently when UK VAT was temporarily reduced to 15%, the Chancellor added 2% to fuel to offset the reduction in tax collected from motorists. Now that VAT has been increased to 17.5% again this hidden tax has not been removed (surprise surprise!) - hence recent rises in your fuel costs. Sign the petition at the link below to try to have this stealth tax removed!

<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/DutyReduction/>

At the time of writing, there had been 81,820 signatures. I feel certain that most people out there, if they knew about this, would feel this stealth tax should be removed now.. You might wish to pass this on to all your friends and contacts, as this affects all motorists and not just our relatively small aviation community. (Thank you Harvey for bringing this to our attention)

(I am not trying to take political sides here, as I just feel this is the typical underhand action that we are supposed to not notice, or just accept without comment. I personally take the view politicians are all the same, irrespective of the party they represent – there is something to be said for comedian Billy Connolly's statement that "the desire to be a politician ought to automatically bar that person from ever becoming one!")

JANUARY WAS A BAD MONTH FOR LOSSES OF OLD BIGGIN HILL'ITES

Thankfully, after a really bad January, I am pleased to say a quiet February in this respect.

However, as promised, this is just to give you all sufficient advanced notice of a special Memorial Day for the late Gordon Jones. It is to be held on Saturday 27th March from 2pm at the Old Jail pub in Jail Lane, Biggin Hill. The Jail have kindly agreed to set aside the back room especially for us all, so that we can meet to celebrate Gordon's wonderfully varied life of 76

years. It is intended that there will be slides and films that will show the various facets of his life, across the fields of Motor Racing, Aviation and Business. There will be nibbles available, and of course, being a pub, one hopes we can celebrate his life and passing in suitable Biggin Hill style...

In order to assist with catering and to assist the pub management, it would be useful to have an advanced idea of numbers planning to attend on the day. To this end, please email me if it is your intention to be there (john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk) and I will pass the numbers onto Graham Balls and Peter Greenyer, who are arranging the day for us all..

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB LTD

Thanks for the renewals received this month, now obviously slowing to a trickle.. As we said previously, the fees help to pay for both the production of the photo membership cards, and for the web space and bandwidth for both the club site and the reunion sites..

Anyone still wishing to renew, membership remains open for a couple of months, please send your renewal fee (£10 for single, £15 for a couple, and £20 for a family) payable to "Biggin Hill Airport Social Club Ltd" to the postal address on the website, please enclose a Stamped Addressed Envelope (SAE) for return of the card(s). If you have sent in your renewal, but have not received you card(s), please call me.

Any past or present Biggin Hill'ites wishing to join the club should complete the application form on the club site at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk and follow the instructions shown there..

I have had a few emails asking if a donation can be made to help show support, without physically joining the club itself. In that event, donations, which will be gratefully received, should be made payable to the "Biggin Hill Reunion Fund", and send them to me at PO Box 33, Biggin Hill, Kent, TN16 3FS.

For details of current concessions that remain available to members (Remember - if it is not on the webpage, then it is no longer available) please go to <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk> and follow the "concessions" link on the homepage, rather than phoning me to ask.) Please do use these concessions whenever possible – "use them or lose them" is the expression that springs to mind...

THE AIRPORT

Nothing really to report this month, except to mention the obvious fact that the weather so far this year has been generally atrocious, with very few of those glorious, cold but crystal clear, Winter's days so far to encourage us all airborne.

Maurice Greenaway, the Biggin Hill Airport Private Owners Secretary, has recently sent out a request to Private Aircraft Owners for genuine suggestions for ideas to improve the airport. Most of you, as aircraft owners, will have already received this directly from him. Please do take the time to respond to Maurice, by the requested date of 11th March, so he can present them at the next Users Meeting. He is working on your/our behalf, but if you don't bother to put your points and ideas to him, your voice won't be heard...

That's about it for this month...

John Willis
Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally:

On a slightly lighter note, the following was forwarded to me by a database member (Ralph, you really must have too much spare time on your hands!!). Not very politically correct I suppose but it did amuse me nevertheless....

QUOTE.....

The European Commission has just announced an agreement whereby English will be the official language of the European Union rather than German, which was the other possibility.

As part of the negotiations, the British Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted a five year phase-in plan that would become known as "Euro-English".

In the first year, "s" will replace the soft "c". Certainly, this will make the sivil servants jump with joy. The hard "c" will be dropped in favour of "k". This should klear up konfusion, and keyboards kan have one less letter.

There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year when the troublesome "ph" will be replaced with "f". This will make words like fotograf 20% shorter.

In the 3rd year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible.

Governments will enkourage the removal of double letters which have always ben a deterrent to akurate speling.

Also, al wil agre that the horibl mes of the silent "e" in the languag is disgrasful and it should go away.

By the 4th yer people wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" with "z" and "w" with "v".

During ze fifz yer, ze unesesary "o" kan be dropd from vords kontaining "ou" and after ziz fifz yer, ve vil hav a reil sensibl riten styl.

Zer vil be no mor trubl or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi tu understand ech oza. Ze drem of a united urop vil finali kum tru.

Und efter ze fifz yer, ve vil al be speking German like zey vunted in ze forst plas.

If zis mad you smil, pleas pas on to oza pepl.

.....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"...