

Hi everyone

The March "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...

### **DATABASE ISSUES**

Thanks to those who responded with corrected email addresses for some of our users. There are, however, still a few bounced messages, so some will not be receiving the news from the airport who may still like to. (There is clearly an issue with some email addresses, particularly through btconnect.com, which allows the messages to reach the recipients but still sends back a message saying it has failed!)

As before, please check the names below where we believe messages are no longer getting through and, if you know an email address that works for that person, please let me know. Of course, if your own name appears on this list and you are obviously getting the messages from us, please email me back to reconfirm your address is still correct.

Bill Pickard  
Chris Fletcher  
Colin Reynolds  
Craig Sargeant  
Damian Cross  
David Cole  
Dianne Burton  
Gordon Winterbourne  
Jim Finlay  
Jim Maitland  
Joanna Brett  
John Chester  
Julie Kurtenbach (Wickenden)  
Kathy Nuttall  
Keith Warton  
Mick Dryden  
Steve Ellis

If anyone there has email addresses for any of these people, please just drop me an email with the correct address. Thanks.

### **WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**

No responses to last month's list of "Where are they now" names - Just a few more this month. If there is anyone from the old Biggin Hill days you want to make contact with, please let me know and I will include them in a future newsletter.

STEVE KEATING – worked for Centreline at Biggin, flew for Dan Air subsequently and then believed to be with British Airways.

JOHN ALLEN – Engineer who worked for various companies at Biggin Hill in the 60's and 70's and also had an aircraft engineering firm of his own at Luton. Although dealt with British registered aircraft, spent quite a lot of time on FAA engineering stuff.

### **RED ARROWS**

Apparently, due to cost cutting, the UK Government is considering axing the Red Arrows, in spite of the excellent PR value they seem to offer abroad, and their "relatively" low overall cost to the UK economy. Surely the prestige they bring to the UK must be worth the cost and the recruitment value for the RAF, and civilian aviation, must be enormous. (how many pilots do you know who were originally attracted to aviation after seeing the Red Arrows displays? Lots, I'm sure!)

If you want to object to this cost cutting exercise, please sign the online petition at:

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/SaveTheReds/>

Let's not let them get away with this.

### **A STORY FROM THE PAST**

This in from Peter Pain, who many will remember worked in the old ATC tower at Biggin Hill many years ago.....

"In the early seventies I worked in the old tower on the South East Apron, along with Robin Phillips and Bill Robinson [still a controller at Biggin and one of the Pilots Pals Club committee members! - Ed]. We attempted to keep some sort of separation among the students and PPL's.

One very Foggy morning, I opened up the tower and turned on the Radio and Teleprinters to warm up. I then went down to set up the signals square [remember those - Ed?] prior to opening up for the day. On my return to the Tower, I heard a radio call asking for the Biggin Hill actual. The aircraft calling gave no call sign, but I did recognise the voice. It came from a guy by the name of Glen Eatwell, who had taken off from an unnamed airfield and wanted to land at Biggin.

I, like any good controller, gave him the full run-down of the weather, which was less than 50 metres vis with sky obscured. He came back and stated that he wished to land and would call finals for 21 using a VOR let down!

With that, two very hard looking men entered the tower stating that they were Special Branch and they wished to speak with the pilot of the aircraft who was working the Biggin frequency. I informed Glen that he had two visitors who wished to speak to him on landing.

From that day, all those years ago, I have never seen or heard from Glen again! I received no further radio traffic from him on the day in question, and the two very frustrated police officers left, after inspecting the ATC Log! Do any of the older members of Biggin know what happened to Glen? Has anybody heard anything which could help clear up this mystery? Did he land elsewhere? Did he fly off abroad? The only other piece of information, that came in during the day in question, was that an unidentified aircraft took off from Headcorn at approx 0415 hrs that morning. If anyone can shed any light on this matter, I should be interested to know what became of him"

Emails to me please and I will pass them on....

### **CONTACT FROM A NAME FROM THE PAST**

Over the last year or so, I have been in contact with someone named Peter Hawkins. Peter is the Grandson of the late Ray Hawkins, who the older members will recall died in a plane crash in Greenland in 1967, a couple of years before Peter was born. He is seeking contact from anyone who remembers his Grandfather:-

"August 14th this year will mark the 40th anniversary of my grandfather's death and I wondered how many members of Biggin Hill Reunited would remember him today and how they would remember him?

My email address is [peterhawkins@greeneking.co.uk](mailto:peterhawkins@greeneking.co.uk) - I would love to hear from anyone who remembers my grandfather (as I never met him) and what their lasting memories of him are.

On a separate note, I understand that he simply loved to fly. I am now learning in a Tiger Moth at Cambridge and would love to set up a charitable trust in his name during the course of the next 12 months, in order to offer disadvantaged youngsters the opportunity to experience the thrill of flying for themselves. As a result I would also be interested in hearing from anyone who may be able to support me in this endeavour in anyway. Sadly, because my grandfather's body was never recovered, he never had a memorial or a memorial service – it would therefore mean the world to me to be able to keep his memory alive in this way."

Anyone with information that may help Peter should make contact directly with him on the email address supplied. I know that many of us do remember his Grandfather quite well, and the accident in which he was killed, and may be able to help him to understand his Grandfather's motivation and enable him to get to know his Grandfather the way many of us may have done back then.

### **THE PILOTS PALS CLUB**

The conversion to fully "Members Only" has now been successfully completed, with more than 350 members signed up and issued with Photo Membership cards to date. Future new members MUST have a positive

involvement with the airfield either now or in the past. Just being a friend of an existing member is NOT enough!  
(see <http://www.pilotspals.co.uk> for details)

New concessions announced today for card holding members:-

1) The "Montien" Thai Restaurants at locations in Westerham, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, and for those away from base – at Bridport in Dorset – has agreed that anyone presenting their photo membership with payment for their meals will receive a discount from their total bill as follows:-  
For meals consumed on the premises OR for Take-Away meals - 20% discount. There is no restriction regarding calendar days that this concession will apply. This has been agreed in writing with the owner of the Montien Group of Restaurants. (The owner strongly recommends booking to avoid disappointment during busy periods, but it is not necessary to mention the concession when booking - telephone numbers are 01959 565833 for Westerham, 01732 455600 for Sevenoaks, 01732 369721 for Tonbridge, and 01308 425570 for Bridport)- please bear in mind this has just been agreed (28th February) and staff may not yet have been informed - the person agreeing this is Mr Amnart Chonlathan - the owner of the restaurant group.

2) Members of Pilots Pals may wish to know that there is a warm welcome awaiting them, when they are en route to the North and Scotland at the 'Shoulder of Mutton' a 17th Century country Inn, and Restaurant, at Middleton Tyas, situated less than half a mile from Scotch Corner, in this attractive corner of England on the North Yorkshire and County Durham borders. Past and present Biggin Hillians will be welcomed by 'Mine Host', Liz Ramsey, many of whom will remember her from her younger days at Flairavia Flying Club, and later at Trans Europe Air Charter. Her parents, Betty and David Porter, who established Flairavia, and live close by, are frequent visitors, where they will often be found sampling the Inn's range of red and white wines, and dining in the Restaurant. They would also be delighted to see friends from their many years at Biggin, and revive old memories, over a glass of wine, or pint of Local brew.

Location; Middleton Tyas, is 5 Minutes from the Junction of the A1 with the A66, at Scotch Corner, 20 minutes from Durham Teesside Airport, or R.A.F. Leeming. (the latter, if they have good Air Force connections!)

Liz will be pleased to give Pilots Pals Members a 10% discount when dining, on production of a valid Membership Card, and can be contacted for bookings and details of Local accommodation, if required, on 01325 377271.

So - current concessions for card-holding members are:

Air Fair entry to this year's June show (2nd and 3rd)- plus ability to buy further tickets at special prices through the club.

Discounts at four Montien Thai Restaurants at various locations, the Bengal Butler Indian Restaurant and the Phoenix on the Hill Chinese Restaurant in Biggin Hill, and the Shoulder of Mutton Inn and Restaurant in the North of England (see full details of all offers on the concession page of the website)

More concessions expected over the next few weeks - please expect further announcements

## **GENERAL**

Thanks to all who have offered contributions this time, it certainly makes my life much easier. (Please keep them coming by email).

That's it for this newsletter

Regards  
John Willis  
Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

PS. For those really old Biggin Hill'ites - please put a note in your diary for the evening of Saturday 24th March 2007 - The original Experiment Flying Group's Rex Nicholls is 80! A party in the bar is being organised for him - - please do not mention it to Rex, who I am assured does not actually read these emails. More to follow shortly ..... (Please tell any friends who would know Rex from the old days, who is perhaps not on email...) Thanks