

Hi everyone

Welcome to the May 2012 Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter.

The May edition of the Biggin Hill Airport "BUGLE" by John Bryan is also available online on the Social Club's website at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk> ... It is not included here - to view the Bugle you need to go to the club website and click on the link on the homepage – when you get to the Bugle section, you need to then click on the May 2012 edition 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](mailto:johnbryan13@sky.com), or you can send items directly to me to pass on).

## **EMAIL ADDRESSES**

Welcome to the new members of the Database who should be receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time.. For current member names see [www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk](http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk) and go to the link to the database membership..

Please let us know if you change your email address at any time – and if you know anyone else who has been involved on the airport, please pass me their details so they can be added to the database.

## **FRED BENNETT**

It is immense sadness that I announce the passing of yet another "Airfield Personality", Fred Bennett. Fred died on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2012, at the age of 93.

Fred was one of the original founders of Air Touring, along with the late Bob Cleary and George Gilbert, before subsequently being joined by builder John Keasley, and the late Richard Vipond, who was part of the funding behind the premises as we know them today, and Fred's passing really marks the end of another era at Biggin. JB has included a report on Fred's life within this month's Bugle, so I shall leave that to him.

We have been informed that Fred's funeral will be at 2pm Friday, 4th May 2012 at Randalls Park Crematorium, Randalls Road, Leatherhead, KT22 0AG

The family would welcome any of Fred's past Biggin Hill friends and contacts who wish to attend, but would appreciate (so they have an idea of numbers) if you intend to be there could you email:

[fgb\\_estate@hushmail.com](mailto:fgb_estate@hushmail.com)

## **DAVID HALEY**

It is also with sadness that I report the death of David Haley on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2012. David, and his wife, Candy, were very active members of Sportair Flying Club back in the 70's at Biggin Hill. David had been unwell for some time, and his loss is felt by all who knew him back in those good old days. His funeral was on 20<sup>th</sup> April in Ockham, Surrey.

## **JOCK MAITLAND**

Around 300 people gathered at RAF St George's Chapel on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2012, to show their respects to the man who fought against all odds in those early days to keep Biggin Hill Airport open for us all. The moving service was followed by a reception at the old Air

Touring Hangar where guests were treated to a magnificent Spitfire display – full report in this month's Bugle.

Thanks to all who helped to make this event so successful – especially Edwin Brenninkmeyer for the use of the hangar, and Peter Monk for allowing the Spitfire to display, (and of course Dan Griffiths for such a beautiful display in such marginal and unpredictable weather conditions), and Shipping & Airlines for allowing one of Jock's favourite aircraft to form part of the ground display in the hangar. Thanks also to Colin Hitchins for his help with all the arrangements..

### **NEW FUEL – UL91**

UL91, the new unleaded fuel for aviation, is gaining momentum. It is believed that some 20 UK airfields are offering this fuel, which is typically some 20p cheaper per litre than 100LL. The fuel, which originated in Sweden, was initially designed for use with Rotax engines, but with the recent approval by Lycoming for a major number of their GA engines, the use of this fuel is set to grow rapidly. (Biggin Hill management, please note!)

For full information on engines now approved by Lycoming see the following Service Instruction No. 1070R:

[http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/lycoming\\_si1070r.pdf](http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/lycoming_si1070r.pdf)

It is clear from this that a number of popular aircraft types, such as the PA28, can now use this fuel as long as they are using oil with the additive, which most already are. It is presumably only a matter of time before Continental follow suit. Good news on the cost front for a change!

### **FRENCH CUSTOMS CHANGES**

**DO NOT GET CAUGHT OUT** - AOPA has confirmed that the French government is withdrawing Customs facilities, including the ability to pre-notify, from dozens of smaller airfields. This will obviously have a major impact on GA flights from the UK as Britain has not signed up to the Schengen Agreement allowing free travel across European borders.

A list of airfields from which Customs has been withdrawn has been confirmed by Emmanuel Davidson of AOPA France. They are Meaux-Esbly, Pontoise, Toussus Le Noble, Valenciennes-Denain, Nancy-Essen, Pontarlier, Reims-Champagne, Saint-Yan, Vesoul-Frotey, Courcheval, Megeve, Roanne-Renaion, Valence-Chabeuil, Gap-Tallard, Albi-le-Sequestre, Cahors-Lalbenque, Castres-Mazamet, Bourges, Dieppe-St-Aubin, Granville, Morlaix-Ploujean and Quimper-Plughaffen.

Customs will NOT be available even on 24 hours notice.

Furthermore, even more airfields have been earmarked to have Customs facilities removed by summer 2012; these include Amiens-Glisy, Abbeville, Calais, Montbeliard-Courcelles, Besancon-La-Veze, Colmar-Houssen, Nevers-Fourchambault, Epinal-Mirecourt, Auxerre-Branches, Vichy-Charmeil, Annemasse, Le Castellet, Agen-La Garenne, Lannion, Laval-Entrammes, Rouen-Vallee de Seine, Orleans-St Denis de Hotel.

Since this was announced, there has been much activity behind the scenes, particularly as the loss of Customs at Toussus Le Noble AND Pontoise effectively means that there is no GA customs airport for Paris. Apparently Toussus have told one of our database members

that they hope to get this decision reversed, but only time will tell. Check before attempting a flight there..

### **NEW 2012 CONCERT FROM SYNERGY EVENTS**

Loseley Park near Guildford will play host to the Royal Air Force for a Jubilee concert and flying display on June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2012 - a unique opportunity to spend an evening with the RAF as they salute Her Majesty the Queen in her Diamond Jubilee year.

Taking centre stage during the concert are The Military Wives, who have enjoyed phenomenal success with their Christmas No.1 song, 'Wherever You Are'. Joining them, will be local military wives groups, inspired by their efforts.

One of the country's top military bands, The Central Band of the Royal Air Force, will play a selection of music choreographed to images, video and aircraft reflecting the RAF's Royal connections over the past 60 years. Giant screens will display the action on stage and in the air for all to see.

The concert will look back to those dark days of the Battle of Britain when a lone Spitfire pilot rammed a German bomber approaching Buckingham Palace, in which the Royal Family stayed, potentially saving the life of the young Princess Elizabeth, through to the work undertaken by Prince William today with the RAF Search and Rescue teams. The event will end with an uplifting patriotic finale.

For full details - see [www.queensjubileeconcert.com](http://www.queensjubileeconcert.com)

### **ALBERT HUNT**

As reported in last month's Newsletter, Albert's funeral took place at Medway Crematorium on 5<sup>th</sup> April. It was well attended by family and friends, and Biggin Hill was represented by myself and Rex and Janet Nicholls. The family has asked me to pass their thanks to the mystery pilot that paid his respects in the most fitting way possible, i.e. the fly-past the Crematorium – as son Nevil said, "I absolutely know that dad would have appreciated that. In dad's younger years, it is exactly what he and Gordon Jones (and probably others too!) would have done if they lost one of their own".

### **APRIL AT BIGGIN HILL - FROM THE OFFICE OF JENNY MUNRO**

I am glad to be writing this whilst looking out over a busy, sunny airfield. After the recent inclement weather, I hope that spring has sprung and some good flying conditions will follow – I might even progress my plan to take flying lessons and experience Biggin Hill from another perspective altogether. That wouldn't do any harm, I hear you say!

I know that Jock Maitland's Memorial Service will be covered in more detail elsewhere in this edition, but I wanted to say how humbled I was to see so many people at the Chapel, on whom he had clearly made a significant impression throughout his private life and career. I thought the recollections of key points in his life were the perfect balance of poignant and entertaining; and as a fellow Scot, his reliance on Scotland the Brave at what seemed to be some fairly hair-raising moments struck a chord of amusement with me – maybe that will come in useful during those flying lessons!

Overall, April has been another busy month. Apart from the day-to-day running of the Airport, April included our quarterly Airport Consultative Committee; continued work under the LoCATE@BigginHill banner to refine our submission for London Borough of Bromley's

Core Strategy; ongoing involvement in the Strategy for UK Aviation including a seminar with Theresa Villiers MP, Minister of State for Transport; and more community engagements. I was pleased to have the opportunity to visit the Tatsfield Parish Council AGM (along with one of our Air Traffic Controllers) to make a presentation and answer many questions about the Airport. I also thoroughly enjoyed an evening with one of my team and 2427 Biggin Hill Squadron Air Cadets. With the Airport being their near neighbour and namesake, I am excited by the opportunities to support their interest in aviation and work more closely together in the future.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the newsletter, and if there is any specific area you would like me to cover in a future edition, please don't hesitate to let the Editor know.

Jenny Munro  
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

### **BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB**

Thanks again to everyone who has sent in their club renewal fees for 2012. Renewal by previous members is simply done by sending the appropriate payment with a self addressed stamped envelope for the return of the card – please remember this last bit!

Applications for new memberships should follow the instructions on the Club website at [www.bigginhillclub.co.uk](http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk) , where the application form and full instructions can be found.

Thank you all for your continued support – the fees do help to pay for the server space for the Bugle and this Newsletter and incidental expenses, so it is appreciated..

That's it for this month..  
John Willis  
Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally: This month, firstly two amusing little stories to lighten the tone.. and then for those that want to be depressed – a more serious bit.. All contributions, as always, from database members..

QUOTE.....

A drunk man who smelled like beer sat down on a subway next to a priest. The man's tie was stained, his face was plastered with red lipstick, and a half-empty bottle of gin was sticking out of his torn coat pocket. He opened his newspaper and began reading.

After a few minutes the man turned to the priest and asked, "Say Father, what causes arthritis?"

The priest replies, "My Son, it's caused by loose living, being with cheap, wicked women, too much alcohol, contempt for your fellow man, sleeping around with prostitutes and lack of a bath."

The drunk muttered in response, "Well, I'll be damned, " Then returned to his paper.

The priest, thinking about what he had said, nudged the man and apologised. "I'm very sorry. I didn't mean to come on so strong. How long have you had arthritis?"

The drunk answered, "I don't have it, Father. I was just reading here that the Pope does."

MORAL: Make sure you understand the question before offering the answer.

And the second.....

A bloke goes to the local council to apply for a job in the office. The interviewer asks him, "Are you allergic to anything?"

He replies, "Yes, caffeine."

"Have you ever worked for the public service before?"

"Yes, I was in the army." he says, "I was in Iraq for two tours."

The interviewer says, "That will give you 5 extra points towards employment."

Then he asks, "Are you disabled in any way?"

The guy says, "Yes. A mine exploded near me when I was there and I lost both of my testicles".

The interviewer grimaces and then says, "O.K. You've got enough points for me to take you on right away. Our normal hours are from 8.00am to 4.00pm... ...but you can start tomorrow at 10.00am - and carry on starting at 10.00am every day."

The bloke is puzzled and asks, "If the work hours are from 8.00am to 4.00pm, why don't you want me here until 10.00am? I'm not looking for any special treatment y'know"

"What you have to understand is that this is a council job," the interviewer says, "For the first two hours, we just stand around drinking coffee and scratching our bollocks. There's no point in you coming in for that."

.....UNQUOTE

And now the serious bit – don't read this if you want to remain happy – Controversial - No wonder the Country is going broke!

QUOTE.....

The truth about polygamy: A special investigation into how Muslim men are exploiting the benefits system in the UK. The original article by Sue Reid in September 2011 can be seen on the MailOnline website at:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2041244/Polygamy-Investigation-Muslim-men-exploit-UK-benefits-system.html>

Ghulam is a taxi driver who lives in Blackburn, a once-booming textile town in Lancashire. He has a terrace house near his local mosque (one of 53 in the area), a silver Nissan car and a very complex private life. For, he has so many children that he struggles to remember their names, and five wives from various countries, including Yemen, Egypt, Turkey and his own birthplace, Pakistan. Ghulam's latest bride is a shy 20-year-old called Hafeza. He brought her to Britain from Morocco, soon after his 45th birthday earlier this year. They married in an Islamic wedding ceremony called 'the Nikah' in her village in Morocco, with Hafeza's pleased parents among the guests.

Two experienced Lancashire social workers say that in their estimation there are 20,000 bigamous or polygamous unions in the UK

Thirty miles across the Pennines in Yorkshire, pizza delivery driver Wasim, 27, has an equally complicated domestic life. He lives in a part of Dewsbury called Savile Town, a network of 11 terrace streets dominated by one of the biggest mosques in Europe, where most residents are Asian with origins in Pakistan or India. Wasim has three wives, the first of whom lives with him, and their three teenage sons. His other two wives have separate houses in Savile Town, one down the road and another round the corner. He visits each two nights a week. The women have had several of Wasim's children and he hopes the youngest bride (aged 19) will soon present him with another baby.

I learned of Ghulam and Wasim this week while investigating a subject that is taboo in politically correct Britain. It is the huge rise of bigamy (having two wives) and polygamy (more than two) in our Muslim communities.

The issue was recently bravely highlighted by Baroness Flather, a crossbench life peer who was herself born in Lahore, now part of Pakistan.

She warned the Lords (and also wrote an article for the Mail on the subject) about how our shambolic benefits system is being exploited by men hailing from Pakistan and other Muslim nations who indulge in multiple marriages — with taxpayers forced to foot the bill.

As Baroness Flather explained: 'The wives are regarded by the welfare system as single mothers, and are therefore entitled to a full range of lone parent payments. As a result, several "families" fathered by the same man can all claim benefits, as they are provided for by the welfare state, which treats them as if they were not related.'

The issue was recently bravely highlighted by Baroness Flather

Lady Flather also lamented the reluctance of politicians to address the issue: 'It is certainly difficult to discuss this phenomenon of serial marriage and exploitation of the benefits system, with few people in Britain seeming to want to confront the disturbing truth.'

Two years ago, another peer, Baroness Warsi, born in Dewsbury to Pakistani parents, and now a Coalition Cabinet Minister, also voiced her concerns. She said cultural sensitivity was stopping politicians addressing the problem.

Yet this week I found those — from within the heart of the Asian communities — who were prepared to speak out.

Although the Government says there are only 1,000 such bigamous or polygamous unions in the UK, two experienced Lancashire social workers — one of Indian-English heritage and the other with Pakistani origins — told me that, although it's difficult to be precise, in their estimation the figure is closer to 20,000.

The social workers said the multiple marriages are encouraged by a welfare system which allows a second, third or fourth wife to be treated as a single mother who gets a house and an array of other state payments for herself and her children.

Controversially, it means that a man can take a new spouse (from anywhere in the world), sire any number of children with her, and yet have no responsibility for this family's upkeep

or care. To avoid breaking Britain's matrimony laws, the men marry their extra 'wives' in an Islamic Nikah ceremony, either in their own homes or a mosques.

These marriages are not recognised officially, so they do not appear in government statistics or have any status under the law. They also do not count when assessing welfare payments. Another technique is for a couple to marry legally under British law but then divorce, leaving them then to have a Nikah ceremony and continue living together. The woman will then be entitled to welfare payments as a single mother and the man can then bring another woman from abroad and legally marry her in Britain.

Men also cheat the system by bringing brides from abroad as nannies for their children, or as caretakers for a sick relative. The bride gets a year's visitors' visa, disappears into a tight-knit local community, and is entitled to receive welfare hand-outs.

While it has long been a cliché for men to complain that their wives and children take up most of their income, the reality for polygamous husbands is that the more babies he sires, the more money pours in for him and his wives.

As Tariq Ali, the 45-year-old co-founder of Project BME (Black Minority Ethnic), a charity based in Darwen, Lancashire, admits: 'There are thousands of bigamous and polygamous marriages in the UK's Pakistani community — the same community into which I was born. Every single man of my age who I bump into seems to have a third, fourth or fifth wife. The issue is going unreported but in the Asian communities this is becoming a way of life. I think the number of polygamous relationships must be 20,000. The men find second wives in the UK as well as any Muslim country abroad. The new favourite places to find women are Turkey and Morocco, because the men can drive there by car to meet them and bring them back.'

His colleague, Zed Ali, the manager of Project BME, added: 'These arrangements satisfy a man's sexual desires when he is trapped in an unhappy or sexless arranged marriage with a first wife and their families don't countenance a divorce. The first wives often accept the situation as a compromise. There is a limitless number of girls living in Muslim countries wanting to come to the UK for what they, and their parents, think is a better life even as a second, third or fourth wife. What's more, they are virgins — which the men like. But it means British laws are being abused, and something should be done by the Government. A first step would be the registration of Nikah weddings in this country at least. This would prevent many bigamous marriages.'

Baroness Warsi said cultural sensitivity was stopping politicians addressing the problem.

Officially, bigamy and polygamy are punishable by up to seven years in prison. It was declared illegal in England and Wales in 1604, when the Parliament of James I took action to restrain 'evil persons' marrying more than one wife — on penalty of death.

But officialdom now turns a blind eye because of cultural sensitivities.

A 2007 Government report estimated there were 1,000 bigamous or polygamous marriages in England and Wales.

It claimed that men living in a harem arrangement, with their wives under the same roof, were each claiming state handouts of £10,000 a year for the spouses through income support, housing and child benefits.

But the report ignored the thousands of men squeezing more money from the state by having a string of wives living in separate homes, all claiming benefits intended for single mothers and their children. Those women are eligible for full housing benefit — reaching £106,000 a year in some parts of London — and child benefit paid at £1,000 a year for a first child, and nearly £700 for each subsequent one. Little wonder there has been an increase of foreign brides.

Lady Flather believes this free-for-all should be reduced — by giving full benefits to a woman's first two children, three-quarters for the third and half for the fourth child. Then there should be no more benefits for any extra children.

It was also wrong, she said, that families were moving to ever larger taxpayer-funded homes, simply by expanding the number of children they have. Yet tackling this phenomenon will be difficult.

I was told this week that even the mosques' preachers — the imams themselves — have second or third wives, some chosen from among their own worshippers.

One female health visitor in Lancashire, whose parents were born in Pakistan and came here in 1971, explained: 'My sister has been asked by her own imam in Manchester to marry him as his second wife. She is 38 and went to school here. She played netball, socialised normally, and had British friends. But her marriage to a British Asian broke down when she became very fundamentalist about religion and wanted to wear a burka. Then she turned to the mosque for advice. The imam, who recently arrived from Africa, suggested a bigamous marriage to him would be the solution. My family are horrified, but plenty of imams in the UK have more than one wife.'

A little later in the day, I was introduced to Javeria, a 26-year-old British-born Muslim who is the second wife of a 29-year-old man in Rochdale, Lancashire. He was also born in Britain and has a first wife, with whom he had an arranged marriage organised by his parents when he was 21. The forced union was an unhappy one, and they had no children. Javeria originally met her husband at an Islamic community gathering.

'I was under pressure from my mother to get married,' she says. 'Most girls in my community are wives by 22, even here in the UK. I was prepared to compromise because I liked him. I knew from the start there would always be his first wife and he would not divorce her.'

Javeria and her new husband had a small Nikah ceremony at her parents' house conducted by the local imam. Now she lives in a block of flats with her two children, aged five and three, and works in a bank as a cashier. Her husband, meanwhile, lives half a mile away with his first wife and their three children in a semi-detached house with a garden. He visits Javeria three nights a week.

'His first wife knows about me and is pleased because the arrangement gives her freedom from him and it also gives me freedom to pursue my career. He is devoted to his children. But he does not have to pay for my family.'

She adds: 'I get tax credits because I am on low pay and have young children. I also get housing benefit, because the council says I need three bedrooms for myself and the kids. The child benefits for our son and daughter are paid into my account.'

But, of course, not all multiple marriages work this well.

Each year, London solicitor Anne-Marie Hutchinson, of family law firm Dawson Cornwell, advises around 20 Muslim women who have married in a Nikah ceremony — many of them second or third wives now facing marital breakdown.

‘These women are left unprotected,’ she explains. ‘They cannot claim matrimonial rights. They get no maintenance payments or share in their husband’s pension contributions. They are not wives in the eyes of the British legal system.’

No one knows that better than one Bangladeshi-born mother of three children who works in a care home in Slough, Berkshire. Orpita contacted me through her lawyer when she heard I was writing about multiple marriages in the Muslim community. She was deserted by her husband of 20 years when he went on holiday to Bangladesh and returned to say he was about to marry a girl of 19, called Saba, in a Nikah ceremony, and wanted to bring her to Britain as his second wife.

Despite the pleas of Orpita and her children, one a teenage boy who — in fury at the betrayal — hit his father in the face, the husband told the British immigration authorities that Saba was from his home village and was to be a nanny for his children. They needed, he lied to them, a caring person who understood his family’s cultural heritage. The officials believed him and, after the Nikah in Bangladesh, Orpita’s husband set up home with his second wife two years ago in Maida Vale, North London. They now have a one-year-old baby.

‘I am only just recovering from the shock,’ says Orpita. ‘We are not divorced, because I will not allow it. When he walked out, he said the state could look after me and that was how it worked in Britain. All over the place, in London’s East End, in Yorkshire towns, down the road, across the street, I see Muslim men taking second or third wives. I cannot count the number of times I have been approached to be a second wife myself by Bangladeshi men who know I am now on my own. This bigamy and polygamy is destroying families. Children grow up angry and bewildered. Many rarely see their own fathers because they have so many wives to visit.’

Then, she tucks a scarf around her head and adds, sadly: ‘It is a tragedy for everyone in this country, whether they are Muslim or not. And it is the crazy welfare system that encourages it all to happen.’

Some names in this article have apparently been changed.

.....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"...)