

Hi everyone

Welcome to the September 2011 Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter. The September 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>

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 to pass on).

EMAIL ADDRESS UPDATES AND ADDITIONS

Thanks to those who have sent amended email addresses, and suggested new members, and of course, 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..

JIM WHEELER

It is with sadness that I have to advise that Biggin Hill'ite Jim Wheeler, one of the founder and remaining members of the Papa Echo Group, passed away on Sunday 14th August.

Jim started flying with Air Touring in July 1968, when they were located in the old hexagonal wartime reserve control tower situated between 11/29 and the now Rizon hangar. He initially learnt and went solo on Austers until Air Touring imported the then new Rallye Clubs. Jim finished his PPL and continued to fly rallyes until 1974 when he and 11 others formed the Papa Echo group around the Monsun G-AYPE.

Always an enthusiastic flyer and an enthusiastic beer drinker, he was always to be seen in Joe's Bar on Saturday nights with the rest of the PE group. A perfect gentleman, never had a bad word to say about anyone. He will be greatly missed.

His funeral will be at Eltham Crematorium on 7th Sept at 13.00. If you are attending, can you let John High know on 020 7000 5012 or email johndhigh@hotmail.com.

John also tells me that the Papa Echo Group also hope to arrange a wake at some point, and it would be good if you can email John High if you would like to be informed where and when, should it be organised in the future.

FLT LT JON "EGGMAN" EGGING

I cannot possibly fail to mention here the terrible tragedy that occurred at Bournemouth Air Festival, when the RAF Red Arrows display team lost Red 4 following their run and break to land after their display along the seafront.

The Red Arrows have given so much pleasure to so many people over the years, and are true ambassadors for the UK. Many of the team have very close ties to Biggin Hill and to many of our database members.

Our thoughts and condolences go to Jon's wife and family, and his colleagues in the Reds, at this difficult time...

2011 CHARTWELL CONCERT – A MUSICAL SALUTE TO THE R.A.F.

On the 3rd & 4th September 2011 the tranquil gardens of National Trust Chartwell, home of Sir Winston Churchill, will again become a concert venue for The Musical Salute to the Royal Air Force, the opening event of the week long Westerham Festival.

This year's concert will see the Central Band of the Royal Air Force, playing a massively challenging and unique musical programme, The Spitfires Choir which is made up of sixteen personnel, no less than 50 Air Training Corps Cadets, the narration by the RAF's Presentation Team, an Opera Singer, Miss Fiona Howell and a contemporary singer in the shape of Stacey Solomon. Although predominantly a military musical extravaganza, the event will incorporate some flying display elements, which will include a Spitfire from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, the RAF's Chinook demonstration and The Blades Aerobatic Team (Sat only).

The event however goes beyond being just a military concert, visitors senses will be stimulated by not just the stunning sound of the artists on stage but through a unique collection of video material and aircraft in the skies showing the work of the RAF "Yesterday & Today", these include the likes of 'Defending Britain's Skies', 'Support Helicopters', 'Close Air Support' and 'Search and Rescue', among others.

Andy Pawsey, Creative Director and former RAF Sqn Ldr said "Our events will always seek to combine different presentation elements with the highest production values. We want to tell stories, to engage with the spectators, we want to make them laugh and make them cry and leave with a little more knowledge of the work of our brave service men & women"

To complete the main programme the ever popular patriotic prom finale will ensure the union jacks and RAF ensigns are waved. In support the RAF Top Cover Band will perform popular contemporary hits whilst those attending set up their picnics.

A Musical Salute to the Royal Air Force takes place at Chartwell on 3rd and 4th September. Tickets are available from <http://www.synergyeventsuk.com/> along with much more information on the event including the running order. The Salute is being staged in support of the Royal Air Force Association's Wings Appeal.

If last year's Chartwell Prom is anything to go by, this is an event not to be missed - I hope to see many of you there..

A FEW WORDS FROM BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT'S NEW M.D.

A huge personal thank you from me to everyone who wrote to Bromley Council in favour of our Olympics application. Of course I am disappointed that such a minimal but key change was turned down, but the silver lining is the renewed collective energy around making our Airport the best it can be. That's far more enduring than 5 additional hours for 7 weeks as far as I am concerned! I don't plan to make any further request to the Council with regard to the Olympics - this application was already stripped back to the minimum.

The important element of the outcome was the almost seven-fold increase in support, coupled with a 50% decrease in representations against the request. I will continue to work on ensuring that our relationship with the community is strengthened, so that the scare stories about our "plans" become less and less effective. It is such a shame to hold back the economic impact of

an asset such as this Airport, and I hope to reach a stage where councillors and politicians are (in the main) being influenced in favour of the Airport by their residents. This will only come about gradually and as residents and users balance the economic value to the area with a known, understood and carefully managed element of development. The members of Biggin Hill Reunited made a significant impact on our behalf, and I know through subsequent conversations, that the level of support raised quite a few eyebrows.

Biggin Hill Airport Family Open Day

The Airport has the Family Open Day on September 10th 2011, with the focus on the heritage aspects with re-enactment, music, dancing, displays, laser clay shooting, stunts, display dogs, Royal Artillery Motorcycle Display Team and some flying elements incl Tigers parachutist display team of Princess of Wales Royal Regiment. There will be two short flying displays of about 45 minutes each, so the event is deliberately quite low key compared with the previous Air Fairs etc..

You can find out all about the open day at: <http://www.bigginhillairport.com/annual-airshow>.

Discounted tickets are on sale at <http://www.seetickets.com> until 5th September. All proceeds will go to the RAF Benevolent Fund and Valence School in Westerham, so there is a clear potential benefit to the local community and it will be a good value, fun day out for all the family.

Regarding Biggin Hill Airport and the Air Fair/Air Shows I am sure that people will have seen the article in The Bromley Times or heard it mentioned at Residents Association meetings, referring to plans to look again at reintroducing the Air Fair. Obviously next year will be difficult as we'll have our hands full for the Olympics but I'd like to look at options for rebuilding an event from 2013 onwards. We'd be able to collectively design it from scratch and attempt to create something which recaptures that magic of Biggin, and at the same time endeavouring to keep the Airport open and accessible for all our regular users. I firmly believe that it would be possible, but clearly there are a few hurdles to get over on the way! No promises at this stage, obviously, but where there's a will, there's a way.

Still on the Air Show theme, our thoughts and deepest condolences are with the family and colleagues of Flt Lt Egging of the Red Arrows - one of the most renowned teams of any kind in the world, and good friends of Biggin Hill.

Another significant event in this busy September, is the Business Aircraft Europe show which will be held on the West side of the airport with our new hangar as the focal point for the static display and conference on 14th + 15th September. This is being organised by MIU Events and has moved here from Oxford, so it's another exciting development in keeping Biggin firmly on the map, when we consider that there will be exhibitors and visitors from far afield. I don't anticipate a significant level of disruption for the light aircraft community during either this event or the Family Open Day.

With kind regards and sincere thanks for your support,
Jenny Munro

Our grateful thanks to Jenny for the updates, and for keeping us all in the picture regarding plans and thoughts for Biggin Hill in the future. It is very refreshing to have such communication with the airport management, and it certainly seems we have entered a new era.

TWO REALLY GOOD AUDIO VISUAL FILES

I have been sent two really good files this month:

The first is a Powerpoint Presentation set to music, and gives some magnificent views of the earth from space... I found it quite emotional seeing those views.. You will need to have Microsoft's Powerpoint installed on your PC to view this, and you may find it works better if you save the file to your computer and run it from there..

<http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/ridethruspace.pps>

(Thanks to John Allen for this one.)

The second one is a fantastic video that shows a Lynx helicopter landing on a small pad on a navy ship that is moving violently through the sea – wow, these guys really earn their keep..

<http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/lynx.wmv>

(Thanks to Ray Thorpe from Canada for that one.)

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB

Thank you to all those who have recently joined our club – as we have said before, bearing in mind that we have no premises, it is good that people are still supporting us. Membership fees help to fund the costs of running the websites for both the BigginHillReunited and BigginHillClub sites, and to cover the costs of incidentals like the membership cards, etc. Membership runs from January to December.

Full details for new, and existing members, can be found on the club website at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk where you can find details of existing membership concessions available via your membership cards.

That's it again for this month...

John Willis - Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally: Back from holiday now having been ashamed by the riots shown on TV everywhere, and fed up with trying to counter all the comments from foreigners who couldn't believe what they were seeing – “that sort of thing doesn't happen in England!” – so this month – two jokes from members, one ironically topical, the first though, just plain funny... Thanks guys

QUOTE.....

CURTAIN RODS --- PRICELESS

On the first day after his divorce was finalized, a man sadly packed his belongings into boxes, crates and suitcases.

On the second day, he had the movers come and collect his things.

On the third day, he sat down for the last time at his soon to be old dining room table. He cooked himself a small going away feast and dined on a pound of shrimp, a jar of caviar and a

bottle of beer. When he'd finished, he went into each and every room and deposited a few half-eaten shrimps dipped in caviar into the hollow center of all the curtain rods. He then cleaned up the kitchen and left.

On the fourth day his now ex-wife took possession of the house and moved in with her new boyfriend. At first all was bliss.

Then, slowly, the house began to smell. They tried everything; cleaning, mopping, and airing-out the place. Vents were checked for dead rodents and carpets were steam cleaned. Air fresheners were hung everywhere. Exterminators were brought in to set off gas canisters, during which time the two had to move out for a few days. In the end they even paid to replace the expensive wool carpeting. Nothing worked!

People stopped coming over to visit.

Repairmen refused to work in the house.

The maid quit.

Finally, they couldn't take the stench any longer and decided they had to move. But a month later, even though they'd cut their price in half, they couldn't find a buyer for such a stinky house.

Word got out and eventually even the local realtors refused to return their calls. Finally, unable to wait any longer for a purchaser, they had to borrow a huge sum of money from the bank to purchase a new home.

Then the ex-husband called the woman and asked how things were going. She told him the saga of the rotting house.

He listened politely and told her that he sort of missed the old house and that if she would be willing to eliminate his alimony payments he would consider buying the house back from her.

Knowing he could have no idea how bad the smell really was, she agreed on a price that was only 1/10th of what the house had been worth...but only if he would sign the papers that very day.

He agreed and within two hours her lawyers had the completed paperwork.

A week later the woman and her boyfriend stood smiling as they watched the moving company pack everything to take to their new home. To spite her ex-husband, they took everything in the house...even the curtain rods!

AND ANOTHER ONE.....

STOP PRESS

ETHIOPIA. The African Union today adopted a unilateral resolution to deploy army troops and care packages to England as looting and violence spread from London to other major cities. Spokesperson Charity Khumalo said "We can no longer stand by while these savages tear themselves apart."

The AU, meeting today in an emergency session to discuss the ongoing rioting in the UK, has declared that they will do "everything in their power to help bring civilisation to England".

"It's just so sad, you know?" said Khumalo, speaking from the organisation's HQ in Addis Ababa. "Sitting here and watching them on TV while their society implodes. We cannot in good conscience remain idle and let it happen."

The AU has announced a range of initiatives that Africans can get involved with to help alleviate the misery of the English.

"For instance, we have launched an 'Adopt an English child' programme," Khumalo explained, showing journalists brochures featuring the faces of English kids. "If you donate a mere R50 a month, you can see to it that sweet little Johnny from Peckham receives a basic education, a pack of condoms and a pair of pimpin' Nikes."

Khumalo also said that the AU would be parachuting in dentists along with army troops as part of a 'Feel better about yourselves, Brits!' initiative.

"You can understand why they're turning on each other," the spokesperson told journalists. "You look in the mirror and you see teeth untouched by modern dentistry. It's heartbreaking enough to make anyone put a brick through a Starbucks."

The organisation also plans to air-drop care packages on major UK cities.

"Vegetables, mainly," Khumalo confirmed. "We're sending them vegetables and toothpaste."

The AU's flagship event, however, will be a star-studded rock concert to be held in Johannesburg, with all proceeds going towards the establishment of mobile libraries around the UK. Artists ranging from Mafikizolo to Steve Hofmeyr have pledged to perform at the show.

"As a humanitarian, it's the least I can do," Hofmeyr said yesterday. "I look at those photos of the adorable little beasts knifing each other in fights over looted X-Boxes and I want to hug them and give them a nice hot cup of Milo."

Meanwhile, the week's events has seen terrified South Africans in London and Manchester packing their bags for home.

.....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"...))