

Hi everyone

Welcome to the September 2013 Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter....

JB's September edition of the Biggin Hill Airport "BUGLE" is now available online on the Social Club's website at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk> As always it is NOT included here - to view it, once in the Bugle section, via the link on the homepage, click on the appropriate month's 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, or you can send items directly to me on john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk to pass on).

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Welcome to the new members of the Database who are receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time. Current member names can be seen at www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk using the link to the database members list.

If you ever change your email address, please remember to let me know (and also, please feel free to introduce new Biggin Hill'ites to the database).

Can you help with updated email addresses for any of the following Biggin Hill'ites whose original emails are now bouncing back?

Annette Harris
Brian Swan
Clare Durrant
Derek Webster
Donald Wennink
Ernst Veld
Janet Baker
Jenny Casemore
John & Eileen Wincentzen
John Allen
Malcolm Doling
Mark Woodland
Martin Charman
Matt Kistler
Peter Gillett
Peter Otway
Simon Huxford
Tony D'Silva
Tracey Gage
William Cooper

ANOTHER BIGGIN HILL BUSINESS CLOSES

Sadly another Biggin Hill business has closed its doors as a result of these difficult financial times. Green Door Food (Executive Catering) Ltd bought the premises and equipment previously used by Cuisineair (previously Thinking Foods Ltd) when it went bankrupt, and traded as a supplier of executive aircraft catering to Biggin Hill's increasing business and corporate jet market.

Dave Newcomb, who ran Green Door, tells me that the closure was the result of the extremely competitive and limited market in that field, with too many caterers struggling to maintain required

volumes to maintain profitability. He also said that it became even more difficult with some operators simply stretching out payment terms to unrealistic and unmanageable periods. Dave had also hoped to diversify and expand into additional areas by opening a public café/restaurant in the old Cabair building, but these requests to discuss this were not favourably received by the airport.

Dave also stressed that there were no creditors, other than himself, and that all staff were also fully paid to the date of closure prior to being formally made redundant. So the business has closed down, not gone bankrupt as some have suggested.

It is a shame that Dave's efforts to maintain an executive aircraft catering business at Biggin Hill have not been successful, and we wish him, and all his former employees, well in the future.

OLD HAY – SUMMER PARTY WEEKEND

10th and 11th August saw the annual Summer Party weekend at Old Hay Airfield, near Paddock Wood in Kent. With fantastic summer weather, the event was well received by all who made it there. For full details, please see John Bryan's report in this month's "Bugle".

MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO "THE FEW"

17th August saw the unique musical and flying event at Biggin Hill Airport. Unfortunately, in spite of fantastic summer weather in the period leading up to the day, and again from the day after the event, it was marred completely by cold, windy, and wet weather. But it seems people were determined to both support the show and the memories it celebrated as close to 5,000 braved the conditions.

It is obviously so sad for all concerned with the fantastic effort that went into putting up such an event. Well done to the Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar, Biggin Hill Airport Ltd, and Synergy Events UK Ltd, and I'm sure we all hope they won't all be put off from restaging a similar event again for an appropriate historic event in the future

For full details, again please see John Bryan's report in this month's "Bugle".

INTERESTING ARTICLE REGARDING CONCERTS AT BIGGIN HILL

Following on from the above story about the Musical Tribute to the Few, I found this article the other day that may interest members. The article appeared on the website HispanicBusiness.com under the byline "YellowBrix" and was dated 29th August 2013..

Quote....

At turn of the century, Biggin Hill was a very hip music hub

It was a great privilege to be invited to the Musical Salute to the Few at Biggin Hill Airfield on August 17 and, on stage, give a brief synopsis on the history of this renowned fighter station.

The concert that followed was a stirring event. The actor Martin Shaw in his own inimitable way described how, in the blue skies of a late English summer, history's first great air battle was fought. Images of The Few on a giant screen accompanied the music.

Throughout I was repeatedly asked if this was the first occasion a concert of this importance had taken place at Biggin Hill Airfield.

The answer was "no". The makeshift theatre at the station was in regular use during the war with such famous guests as the Andrews Sisters, Vera Lynn and the RAF Gang Show.

Tony Hancock made his theatrical debut in a show at Biggin Hill and a galaxy of screen stars such as Noel Coward, Laurence Olivier, Vivien Leigh and Jack Warner were frequent visitors.

After the war there were regular "hangar dances" and it is not hard to imagine (almost hear) the music of Glen Miller, Irving Berlin, Myra Hess and Vera Lynn bouncing across the airfield on a winter's night, right up until the year the RAF left the site.

MANY years before the age of hangar dances and even wartime concerts, there appeared at Biggin Hill a talented opera singer called Madame Clara Novello Davies. She was the founder and conductor of the Royal Welsh Ladies Choir and had moved from Cardiff to Biggin Hill in order to establish an open-air singing colony.

She found that the altitude (600 feet above sea level), the peacefulness and the fresh air had "wonderful properties for improving voice production".

Her son, David Ivor Davies, accompanied his mother and the girls, and made a home for himself in a Romany caravan situated in the grounds of his mother's bungalow. While there in 1915, he composed a song that we all sing today - Keep The Home Fires Burning. He later changed his name to Ivor Novello and the song, as we know, brought him fame and fortune.

David, or Ivor, went on to work in collaboration with Jerome Kern and other well-known composers.

He wrote the music for Careless Rapture, King's Rhapsody, Glamorous Nights and We'll Gather Lilacs. He produced many musicals including The Dancing Years. By the time he died in March, 1951, aged just 58, he was considered Britain's greatest genius of the musical stage.

To my great surprise I received a letter this week from James Hay, a concert singer and actor, who will be taking a show about Ivor and the girls of the Biggin Hill singing colony on a short tour of England.

He is a devotee of his music and has been playing and singing it since childhood.

Mr Hay, who lives in south London, tells me that his grandmother was only 18 when she had lessons with Ivor's mother, Clara Novello Davies.

"Ivor was 16 at the time and accompanist for the choir that my grandmother joined later, just before her marriage," he wrote.

"Had she waited to marry, she would have gone with the ladies choir to Chicago.

"I was at the Ivor Novello prom last year and there is a new interest in his work for the theatre and music. The cast of my touring party consists of stars from Friday Night Is Music Night."

The show is called With A Song In My Heart. There will be a performance at the United Reform Church, Widmore Road, Bromley, on September 21 at 3pm, when Marilyn Hill-Smith will be singing songs by Ivor Novello.

There were more than 150 performers from the Central Band of the Royal Air Force at Biggin Hill on August 17 and it was billed as the first open-air concert at the famous airfield.

That may be true - but it is worth remembering that almost 100 years ago, and not far away, Madame Clara and the girls of the Royal Welsh Singing Colony were, as they describe in a leaflet, "putting the beaks of the Kentish nightingales sadly out of joint".
.....Unquote

Whilst many of us will obviously remember some of the wonderful Hangar Parties, I doubt many of us knew about some of the earlier events and celebrity involvement at our famous airfield

EMPIRE AIR DAY – RAF KENLEY

In case anyone has not already heard, the previously described Empire Air Day planned to be held at RAF Kenley on 7th and 8th September to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the 1938 Empire Air Day has been cancelled. Anyone already holding tickets will have been contacted directly and refunds arranged.

It seems there is likely to be a future date announced and it may be worth keeping an eye on their web site at <http://kenleyairshow.co.uk>

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF JENNY BAGSHAW (*née* MUNRO)

Operationally, August has been the traditionally quiet month for business aviation, tracking 2011 levels and clearly not the inflated 2012 levels due to the Olympics. With such great weather, light aviation is doing well, and we hope this weather will continue for some weeks still to come.

One significant event recently suffered at the hands of our Great British weather - that being the Musical Salute to The Few which took place on 17th August. I was really encouraged to see it as well attended as it was, in spite of heavy rain and what seemed more like winter temperatures! All credit to everyone involved in the organisation, as well as special thanks to my Security and Fire & Rescue teams, who pulled out all the stops to help things along and worked long, cold, extra hours with great spirit.

The plan is still on track for the handover of the Managing Director role from me to Will Curtis, ahead of my departure on 18th October.

Martin and I had a wonderful wedding day on 9th August, so I spent the first part of the month in a haze of last minute arrangements and celebrations with family! It turned out exactly as we had hoped, and we're looking forward to the next chapter in our "slightly early" retirement.

I wish you a good month, and will be back with more news in my final update at the end of September.

Jenny Bagshaw (*née* Munro)

MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB

Thanks again for all that have renewed again for 2013. Your support is much appreciated
Full details can be found at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk

That's it for this month

John Willis
Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally: a few amusing little ditties. Thanks, as always, to everyone for sending their contributions....)

QUOTE.....

Duz tha speak Yorkshire?

Police have just released details of a new drug craze that is being carried out in Yorkshire nightclubs. Apparently, Yorkshire club-goers have started injecting Ecstasy just above their front teeth.

Police say the dangerous practice is called: "e by gum"

A Yorkshire man takes his cat to the vet.

Yorkshireman: "Ayup, lad, I need to talk to thee about me cat."

Vet: "Is it a tom?"

Yorkshireman: "Nay, I've browt it wi me."

A Yorkshireman's dog dies and as it was a favourite pet he decides to have a gold statue made by a jeweller to remember the dog by.

Yorkshireman: "Can tha mek us a gold statue of yon dog?"

Jeweller: "Da ya want it 18 carat?"

Yorkshireman: "Naw, I want it chewin' a bone, yer daft bugger!"

The last is always the best

Bloke from Barnsley with piles asks chemist "Nah then lad, does tha sell arse cream?" Chemist replies, "Aye lad, Magnum or Cornetto?"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A London lawyer runs a stop sign and gets pulled over by a Glasgow copper.

He thinks that he is smarter than the cop because he is a lawyer from LONDON and is certain that he has a better education than any Jock cop. He decides to prove this to himself and have some fun at the Glasgow cops expense!!

Glasgow cop says, "Licence and registration, please."

London Lawyer says, "What for?"

Glasgow cop says, "Ye didnae come to a complete stop at the stop sign."

London Lawyer says, "I slowed down, and no one was coming."

Glasgow cop says, "Ye still didnae come to a complete stop. Licence and registration, please"

London Lawyer says, "What's the difference?"

Glasgow cop says, "The difference is, ye huv te come to complete stop, that's the law, Licence and registration, please!"

London Lawyer says, "If you can show me the legal difference between slow down and stop, I'll give you my licence and registration and you give me the ticket. If not, you let me go and don't give me the ticket."

Glasgow cop says, "Sounds fair. Exit your vehicle, sir."

The London Lawyer exits his vehicle.

The Glasgow cop takes out his baton and starts beating the living sh*t out of the lawyer and says, "Dae ye want me to stop, or just slow doon?"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A man was sitting reading his papers when his wife hit him round the head with a frying pan.

'What was that for?' the man asked.

The wife replied , 'That was for the piece of paper with the name Jenny on it that I found in your pants pocket.

The man then said 'When I was at the races last week, Jenny was the name of the horse I bet on.'

The wife apologized and went on with the housework.

Three days later the man is watching TV when his wife bashes him on the head with an even bigger frying pan, knocking him unconscious.

Upon re-gaining consciousness the man asked why she had hit him again.

Wife replied. 'Your horse phoned'

.....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 funny, unusual and interesting stories or anecdotes that you feel may interest or amuse our readers, please email them to me as a possible inclusion in a monthly "and Finally" ...)