

Hi everyone - news from Biggin Hill and notes for your diary

7th August 2004

Joe Merchant is celebrating 50 years at Biggin Hill Airfield this year - for the odd one of you who may not remember Joe (I'm sure there can't be many in that situation!), Joe was attached to 615 Squadron R.Au.A.F. at Biggin Hill in early August 1954, as an ATC cadet based in Woolwich. He continued in civil flying, getting his PPL at Surrey & Kent FC in 1963, and flew also with 600Sqd Flying Group. In more recent years, Joe has been heavily involved in the airfield social scene, running various club bars, and now the only airfield bar at the Pilots Pals Club, where all past and present users are always welcome.

Joe is holding a party on 7th August (which I will personally unfortunately miss due to family holidays) at the bar on the airfield - the day will effectively be split into two parts, to which all are welcome - the first (for those who like to meet friends and chat, starts at 15:00 till around 17:00, and will be a general get together with a fish platter for attendees - that will be followed by a spit roast from 19:00. From 20:00 for those who like to be entertained, there will be a band until late.

As the bar is reasonably small, and it is not always possible in this country to guarantee good weather, even in the height of Summer, it would be really appreciated if you could email Joe direct at [joe1koonowla@aol.com](mailto:joe1koonowla@aol.com) to let him know if you will be able to make it on the day (also whether you will be coming to the earlier session, the evening session, or both parts).

4th September 2004

There will be the second of this year's mini flying displays, with Barbecue, and a band for the evening at the bar - flying programme to be confirmed later once I am back from holiday. The flying is expected to start at any time to suit ATC from 18:00 and the music will commence at 20:00 til late.

18th and 19th September 2004

A further reminder for those of you that may not have heard about the Air Fair this year. Moved this year from its normal June date, the Air Fair will be on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th September. Promising to have some interesting display items, all users will, of course, be very welcome to based themselves at the Pilots Pals bar during the show (if you have no current club to visit). The Friday and Saturday evenings are always excellent, if crowded, and give many of us a chance to see those who are only able to make it every year or so - so there should be plenty of old faces to reminisce with.

That is about it for now. I will keep you informed of any other news and events once I get back in Mid-August

regards

John Willis

Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

PS. If any of you have any stories that you feel could interest other old and new Biggin Hill'ites - or wish to make your airfield friends aware of any social gatherings that they may wish to attend - please email me at [john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk) and if it seems appropriate, I will try to put them in the newsletters. I think it is a good thing to keep you

informed about things that might interest you, but it would help to have some input from others - it seems sometimes I and Joe are the only one interested in keeping the social spirit alive at the airport. So come on guys, please give me a hand.....