

Hi everyone

Welcome to the First Newsletter of 2009 Database Newsletter..... Happy New Year!

The January edition of the Biggin Hill Airport "BUGLE" by John Bryan is available for viewing/downloading on the Social Club's website at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk>

Please remember to send JB any stories of interest, and photos, for inclusion in future issues. It's your newsletter so please help JB to keep it coming...
(his direct email address is johnbryan@jbplstd.demon.co.uk, or you can send items directly to me to pass on)

EMAIL ADDRESS UPDATES AND ADDITIONS

Please keep those email address updates and suggested new database members details coming. Thanks to the people that have updated me during December, and those who have passed on our details for new members to add themselves to this database, following my comments in the December Newsletter. Still lots more to update, so please don't rely on others - if you have an address for someone on the list, please let me know. It is far better to have loads of people giving the same details than have out of date addresses for people!

IMPORTANT INFO FOR PEOPLE TRAVELLING TO THE USA AFTER 12th JANUARY 2009

After that date, all visitors travelling under the Visa Waiver Program (which is most of us on casual visits to the USA for business or pleasure) will need to complete an online application for an ESTA (Online System for Travel Authorisation) NOT LESS THAN 72 HOURS PRIOR TO TRAVEL. The US Embassy website warns that: " anyone who has not received travel authorization via ESTA prior to travel may be denied boarding, experience delayed processing or be denied admission at a U.S. port of entry"

Full details at: http://www.usembassy.org.uk/cons_new/visa/niv/esta.html

You have been warned!!!!

HELP PLEASE TO FIND AN OLD BIGGIN HILL'ITE

I recently had an email from someone in Australia who is seeking a friend who she has lost contact with. He used to fly at Biggin Hill and Deanland, and lived in West Burwash, and may have owned a couple of aircraft too. His name is Roy Watling-Greenwood - a name I believe I remember from the old days as just Roy Greenwood, but unfortunately do not know of his whereabouts. The person seeking him (who emigrated some years back from this area), last saw him when he visited her in Australia with his partner (Sybil) - she was in contact until a few years ago, and believes he lost his flying medical five years ago. There has been no response to letters and she believes he may have moved after splitting up with his partner. He would be into his 80's now.

If anyone has any information that may help her to re-establish contact with Roy, (or at least find out whether he is still with us!), please email or call me - details at the end of this email....

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB LTD

Last year's memberships have now expired and the yellow cards are no longer accepted at the restaurants and other services for discounts. Thanks very much to those members who have already sent in their renewal fees, the cards are being prepared and have already been dispatched or will be shortly.

Membership renewals may be obtained by simply sending a Stamped Addressed envelope and a cheque for the appropriate membership fee (payable to Biggin Hill Airport Social Club Ltd) to the Club at PO Box 33, Biggin Hill, Kent, TN16 3FS. New membership cards will be sent by return, using the

previously supplied photograph(s) - if you want a new photo, please supply with the renewal application fee.

New member applications can be accepted from any past or present airport workers or users - for full details, including a downloadable application form and the rates of membership, can be found on the club website at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk> (Please remember to supply head/shoulder photo for each person, including children, for use on the photo membership cards) - Any queries, please phone me on 01959 571533

Card holding club members are able to obtain a number of valuable concessions at local restaurants, and other services - full details are on the site (address above) - not least of which is the ability to have free access to the 2009 Air Fair in June! At just £10 for a single person, £15 for a couple, or £20 for a family, membership offers excellent value, even without the club having premises.....

STOP PRESS - NEW CLUB CONCESSION

Adams Aviation, which incorporates The Flying Shop, is based at Biggin Hill, and is one of the world's largest suppliers of aircraft and pilot equipment and supplies. They have agreed that, at the point of paying their bill, any Biggin Hill Airport Social Club member showing their photo membership card will receive a generous discount on their purchase.

Because of the large range of goods, it is difficult to give an "across the board" discount but it is anticipated that the discount will vary between 2% and 10% depending on the particular product being purchased, but the maximum available discount will always be given. (to find out the discount available in advance of a purchase, please call Ben Langston on 01959 579800). Website <http://www.flyingshop.com>

This facility has been agreed at board level, and we are very grateful for their generosity. We hope that this concession will ensure that we, as members of the club, will benefit greatly, and ensure that Adams Aviation becomes the automatic choice for all our aviation related purchases from pens, maps, and books, through lubricants, to GPS, Mode S Transponders, and PLB/ELT's....

DETAILS NOW AVAILABLE OF THE EFG FLYING SCHOOL CONCESSIONS

Announced in the Christmas Newsletter, I am now able to confirm that the following discounts will apply to card holding club members when showing their card at the time of paying their bills....

A discount of 15% from their membership fee (monthly or annually) PLUS a discount of 10% from the cost of their "weekday" private aircraft hire costs. Designed especially to make it cheaper for members to be able to do the required hours to enable their licences to remain current every two years, but available for any purpose, of course. EFG currently offer a fleet of Cessna 152 and Piper PA28 Warrior aircraft, but new things are on the way (Twins??), so watch this space..

THE AIRPORT.....

Nothing really to mention about the airfield this month - everything is currently settling down after the Christmas and New Year period.

NEED TO HAVE A LOCATOR TRANSMITTER ON BOARD

Reminder to those who fly to Le Touquet and other French Airports (or even transit French Airspace) - within a matter of days it will be a French requirement for all aeroplanes and helicopters to be equipped with at least one ELT of any type, or failing that, carry one PLB WITH built-in GNSS receiver. The ELT/PLB must transmit on 406Mhz. See:

http://www.sia.aviation-civile.gouv.fr/dossier/aicfrancea/AIC_A_2008_10_EN.pdf

Club members please note that - as a result of the introduction of the Adams Aviation concession (see above), they can obtain an excellent 10% confirmed discount on the following PLB's - McMurdo Fast Find Max, the McMurdo Fast Find Max G, or the Kannad XS-3 PLB

That's about it for this month...

John Willis
Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally: Something different this month - it amused me!.....
Jeremy Clarkson's views for 2009 - reprinted from thesun.co.uk - 3rd January 2009

QUOTE.....

This year, 1,500 people a day will lose their jobs and many will be forced to eat their own arms and legs to stay alive. Others will realise that their house is worth less than a bucket of coal and therefore set fire to it just to keep warm.

However, the fact is that millions will not lose their jobs. And for them, 2009 could well be the best year in the whole of human history.

Partly, this is because you will still have money in your pocket and that money is going to go a damn sight further than it did last year. You'll be able to buy a house for what a car used to cost and a car for the 2008 price of an apple.

What's more, shopkeepers will be so desperate for your business they will offer you a night with their prettiest checkout girl if you even look like you might buy a Kit Kat.

Mostly, though, 2009 will be a great year because, as the recession bites ever bigger chunks out of the economy, banks fold and town centres fill with dead dogs, we'll all stop worrying about things that really don't matter.

When the country was rich, the people in power had nothing much to do except feel guilty about all the money that was pouring in. So, to make themselves feel better, they invented a problem with the climate and said no new roads could be built in case a family of snails got squashed.

They spent months - years even - worrying about foxes, genetically modified food and how farmers might be persuaded to grow more wild flowers.

They were so rich and so bored, they even decided to garnish the nation with a million billion windmills which they knew to be utterly useless.

And get this. They even insisted that vehicles being used by the troops in Afghanistan meet all the latest European emission regulations. Can you believe that? They didn't care about the bullets and shells coming out of the front of these vehicles. Only about the gas coming out of the back.

Then they put a bus lane on the M4. And we let them get away with it because we were way too busy imagining that Paris Hilton was in some way important and whether Alexandra Burke was more talented than that gormless bunch of idiots called JLS. We actually cared about what Jude Law was doing in his free time.

And we spent hours putting our potato peelings in one bin and our brown bottles in another.

We'd all gone stark-staring mad.

We sat around nibbling on our South African, nuclear-free peace crisps, worrying about whether our vegetables were organic and whether our training shoes had been made by ten-year-olds.

It was a load of frivolous nonsense and now it's all going to stop because it's hard to worry about whether Paul Weller's new girlfriend is wearing knickers and whether they'd been made in a Thai

sweatshop when your unemployed next-door neighbour is smashing his way through your sitting-room window to steal your last tin of beans.

Similarly, when three million people are out of work, paying off £200,000 mortgages on houses that are worth 35p and eating their goldfish because things are so tight, no politician is going to stand up and say, "What about the polar bears?"

Not if he wants to sit down with his face still in one piece.

Furthermore, I can't see Jamie Oliver getting very far if he turns up in Rotherham this year and urges people not to eat their dogs because labrador makes you fat. I suspect they'd simply eat him instead.

During times of proper trouble, people concentrate on what matters in life.

During the Second World War, for instance, no one was chaining themselves to the fence at Biggin Hill demanding an end to night flights.

During the Cuban Missile Crisis, no one cared whether a footballer had had a bit of a scrap down at the boozier.

And in the Eighties, when the miners were waging pitched battles with the police, no one in South Yorkshire was saying: "Hold on, lads. Careful you don't tread on these cowslips".

This is why I have such high hopes for 2009.

Because instead of making everyone wear high-visibility jackets and forcing us to go on six-week courses before being allowed to climb a ladder, Brown and Darling will be working non-stop seven days a week to prevent the country from disappearing under a mountain of dead dogs and a million burned-down houses.

Someone could nail a non-organic dead fox to the door of Number 10 and neither of them would notice.

You and I, meanwhile, will stop trying to help the polar bear and maybe do more to help our neighbours and friends instead.

I've already decided that, if things get tough, I'm going to try and do my bit for the nation.

This means I shall eat Piers Morgan.

.....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 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" ...)