

Finally, if your journey ends in Australia you will be greeted by custom officers first who will open the door partially; hand in a can of pesticide and asks you to spray the interior, slamming the door shut. You are overwhelmed by fumes from the spray.

Holding your breath until you turn blue, they will then open the door. Giddy mate! Welcome to Australia! *Struth! cough, splutter.*

BHSF (CABAIR CLOSURE)



Sadly another Flight Training establishment will fade from Biggin Hill Airport. Today's high operating costs are blamed for the demise of this establishment after some 20 years at this airfield.

Cabair are dropping PPL training and it would seem are keeping only the Commercial Pilot Training at Cranfield, Bournemouth and High Wycombe.

If clubs like this continue to fade we will end up with airliners being flown by computers. (completely).

The Bugle is taking bookings for cheap holiday flights right now: send us your money and when we have enough money our staff will scarp off on holiday travelling by sea and bus avoiding airway routes in case of computer malfunction.

By the same token we wish Cabair all the best for the future and hopefully they may recover from this current collapse of PPL training.

Just three flying clubs remain at Biggin Hill now. EFG, Surrey & Kent and Alouette.

It is hard to imagine that since Croydon Airport closed in 1959, some 18 Flying Clubs graced this airfield producing thousands of pilots during this period and equally a similar amount of flying people supporting the many bars on the airfield and some of the many local bars adjacent to the airfield.

Those days have long gone which is quite sad, because learning to fly in those halcyon days was an adventure close to heaven.

Navigation was close to the ground following a map, now it all comes from the heavens (GPS).

So perhaps an airliner flown by a computer, is probably not such a bad idea after all. Provided it makes a good landing.

How many of you have seen that classic (Youtube) video of a 747 making a severe crosswind landing at Hong Kong...!!

Just imagine, two or three first class passengers having a couple of premier seats right upfront where the pilots once sat. No instruments or other information, just a large window with a footrest for each of these seats for those passengers to brace themselves during the projected landing, as the aircraft breaks cloud around 20 feet. How exciting would that be!

THE VILLAGE OF TATSFIELD



Not far away from Biggin Hill is a quaint village which is entered via a road aptly named 'Approach Road' leading to the centre of the village with a triangular well kept green and beautifully designed flower bed. Plus others within this

delightful village tucked away in the very north east corner of Surrey, high up on the Downs, about 800 feet above sea level.

It is not a pretty village in the conventional sense but its 1,800 villagers and their 700 houses, the village green and pond, the extensive network of unmade roads and the lovely and ancient St Mary's Church – "the church on the hill" – together have a character of their own.



(The church is depicted here with one of the wonderfully designed flower beds at the end of Approach Road). (previous exhibit)

The village reaches 825 feet at its highest point – the second highest part of Surrey.

The village centre itself is between 700 and 800 ft high. This means that Tatsfield's plant life will be some way behind that of the surrounding area: we always see other displays of daffodils and spring blossom weeks before ours are out! Like the rest of the Downs, the village sits on chalk, with generous helpings of clay and flint in the soil.



'The Spirit of Summer' another wonderful display produced by the Horticultural Team within the village of Tatsfield. (above).

In the village centre are two shops, a pub (The Old Ship), a restaurant

and bar (The Bakery), a garage, The Village Hall, the Aileen McHugo Building (which incorporates Parish Council accommodation and rooms hired out commercially), the Tatsfield Village Club and W.I. Hall.

A narrow lane leads to St Mary's Church, which very usually is more than half a mile from the village centre.

The village school, Tatsfield Primary School, was located on the road to the church but moved to a new site in the village centre in April last year.



The current floral display on the green is made up of vegetables – how about that? Just goes to show the skills involved in the growth of the variety of vegetables to get it right! The 'Bugle' editor has no such skills.)

The Tatsfield Parish Council and Tatsfield Horticultural Society jointly decided to take part in 'South and South East in Bloom'. And have been competing in this event since 1996 as there were many areas that could be improved, and indeed bring some visual notoriety to the village without attempting to change the character of the village or to introduce cosmetic improvements out of keeping with its rural nature.

The village has been fortunate enough to win the Large Village category in 2000, 2002, 2003, 2005 and 2006, (in the last two years they achieved gold awards). In 2006 they won the RHS Biodiversity Award and a Waterwise Award.

In 2007 they competed in Champion of Champions and finished second behind Fareham, again with a gold award.

In 2008 and 2009 they achieved Silver Gilt Awards.

They were winners of the Large Village category in 2009, they also received the awards Community Involvement and Sustainable Communities, and in 2010 they received a Gold Award.



Another unique feature in the centre of the village is the 'willow people' seen here near 'the bakery'. This scene depicts people coming from a market - theme, complete with their shopping and family willow dog.

The wonderful effort put in by some 50 volunteer gardeners is a credit to this almost remote village.

The village also produces a Parish Magazine, (with the help of some 100 volunteers) it comprises of some 95 pages and full of very interesting articles and information. This is issued to house holders in Tatsfield for free. (75p for others)

THE BAKERY - TATSFIELD



A very popular, well established restaurant, in the centre of the village with good parking facilities, excellent menu created daily. The Bakery was built C1909, as a bakery, guest house, tea rooms, and since 1978, as a restaurant and now under the ownership of Andrew Bond for the past 13 years.

The interior is spacious and tastefully decorated with a continental theme.

The well stocked decorative bar has an excellent wine list supplementing a meal, making an ideal meeting point prior to an evening dinner or lunch.



*The opening times for lunch are:
Tuesday to Sunday 12:00-14:00.
The opening times for dinner are:
Tuesday to Saturday 18:30-21:30.*

Closed on Monday. Booking on line live is now available

< www.thebakeryrestaurant.com >



Andrew is also a pilot and flies out of Biggin Hill and welcomes all pilots to the Bakery, fast becoming a popular meeting place for 'airfield people'.