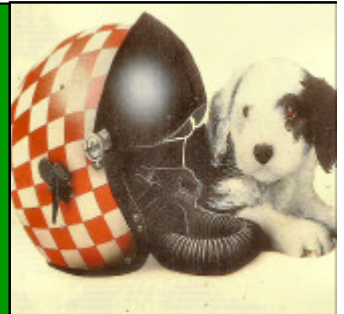




BIGGIN HILL BUGLE

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HOUDIGNOTA LIQUOR



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WOMEN IN BLACK SERIES



Sarah graces our front page for April 2007. Sorry, we don't seem to have her telephone number !!
IT'S APRIL FOOLS DAY

So what's the catch, none Those who arrived early today (*before 12 noon that is*) were treated to hot muffins dipped in honey and a free drink. It pays to be on time.
CREATURES OF HABIT

Have you noticed how people will leave for work in their cars at a precise time and get caught up in the same traffic jam everyday and moan all the way to work. Those who catch the same bus each day, It too is caught up in the same traffic. They get to the station and stand on the platform at the same spot hoping to get the same seat as yesterday. The train is packed, no seat available If they were to change their route or habit by leaving five minutes earlier their whole life will be easier...!

THE BUGLE APOLOGISES

For being a little behind with some news like these birthday celebrations, which actually happened toward the end of February, but we are a small printing company with a one finger typists and we must be on line by the first of each month. Therefore, we get a little ahead of ourselves from time to time. We are truly sorry for these two mug shots on the front page with the lovely Sarah OVERHEARD AT THE BAR!! Chatting to *'Pilot Chappie'* at the bar says he is on the Internet, but he doesn't receive the Bugle and cannot understand why!! Please try to understand, we only put it in a little box thingammy on the web and *you have to collect* it from an address on the Internet.

< www.pilotspals.co.uk > it is, as easy as that – oohhhh – mmmm !!
BIGGIN – HILL – BILLIES

Don't forget, these delightful *Country and Western* singers who appear live at the Pilots Pals Bar every *third Thursday* of the month with their *'Blue Grass'* evening a very good night out. – You can hear their music on their Website, just type in < www.rpbgas.co.uk



ANOTHER BIRTHDAY BOY

February 28th sees another birthday celebrity, who has reached the grand old age of 65 Tony Thompson looking stressed.



BIGGIN HILL VILLAGE

In the days of yore when Biggin Hill was a village, we had shops galore, there was Temple Stores, the Pantiles and many more, even Butchers shops for evermore.

A Blacksmiths Forge, and Ironmongers, several cafes, a choice of four, Sunningvale Avenue an unmade track, and Pole Steeple were the ways down to the valley below, especially for the very brave, in winter. Houses down there were very few. Peace and tranquility did prevail. Then the builders arrived with bricks and cement. They built hundreds of houses up the slopes and hidden tracks, and so disappeared the lovely green hills. Then they built a new steep hill, extra steep and all up hill, the name at the top reads Stock Hill.....

We even had a Co-op Shop, but alas, it has long since gone. The only establishments that have stood the test of time are the many pubs on the through route and the one in the valley. Wait, what's this we see, more builders moving in, JCB's and bricks galore what can they build with all these things – a great big mess. There emerges a new Superstore.

All your shopping in one place, it could be good, it could be bad. The little friendly stores vanished one by one, with just one Butcher left. Even the Green Grocer became a Flower Shop, and now they have started to build downhill, (*Pole Steeple*) what a mess, it's like a place from hell. The only pets the new occupants will be able to have, will be mountain goats for sure !!

AMID ALL THIS UPHEAVAL

An original picture of a '*Pilots Pal*' has been rescued from an old attic, forgotten in time.



DELIGHTFUL HOMESTEAD

Situated in Sunningvale Avenue, Biggin Hill, Kent. This country home slept up to ten adults on a shift basis. Soon to be supported by a proposed railway system from London, enabling people to come to these vast open spaces and fresh air. A railway station was proposed as far back as 1903 and would have been near the Fox and Hounds Pub. It's probably just as well the railway didn't come to Biggin Hill as it would have changed the whole culture of our society, totally.

WORLDS LONELIEST ISLAND

Following an in depth conversation whilst pouring a couple of cold Lagers down the old gullet, the *Pitcairn Islands* were mentioned. These islands were the result of the 'Mutiny on the Bounty' a ship which landed there on 15th January 1790 in the command of Fletcher Christian. Things were pretty good for a while until they fell out with each other over women, because there weren't enough to go around. A little bit like our bar, not enough young women for us oldies. Look it up on Google Earth at position 24 42' 11" 77S - 127 26' 20" 41W

Tritian da Cunha Island this place was discovered in 1506 by a Portuguese Navigator Tristão d'Acunhda. There are five islands in this group and they too lead a very hard life with the same shortage of suitable female partners. Go to Google Earth at the following point 37 18' 12" 07S – 12 40' 37" 27W

THE FIRST SOLO FLIGHT

Is always a surprise and extremely rewarding as this picture of Dominik Chmielewski reveals following his safe return to the airfield and the bar for a well deserved drink and of course to verify his membership to the Pilots Pals Bar, 2nd March 2007



This moment in your flying career that will happen just once. **MEMBERSHIP DETAILS**

As an established club on the airfield and following the initial registration of existing known members at the 1st of January 2007. We wish to advise that future membership is strictly by application and approval of the committee. We encourage people with a genuine interest in aviation.



Can anyone name the aircraft ?
OR NAME THIS CHURCH !



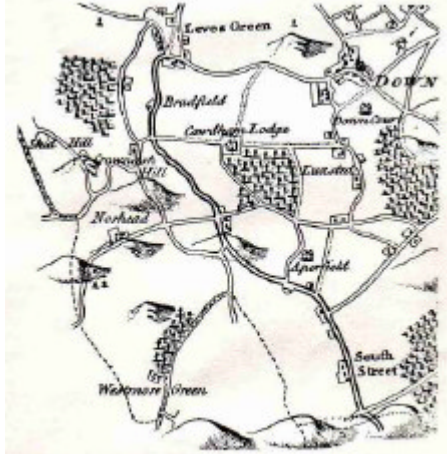
Which was built in 1903 for the princely sum of just £253

CONSIDER THE NUMBER 5

Whilst sipping your chosen brand of alcohol at the Pilots pals Bar. According to the latest estimates every fifth person in the world is Chinese. Now with our current club membership, we could end up with 70 Chinese members and a free Chinese take away every Friday night at the bar.....!!

WHERE IS THE AIRFIELD ?

This old map from 1800 is long before the airfield arrived, but can you spot where it would finally be?



The Biggin Hill area as it appeared about 1800. (From a map published in Hamond's *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent.*)

The area around Biggin Hill has taken on some dramatic changes in the last 40 years and so too has aviation with more business jets passing through the airport. STARK UPHILL CONTRAST

Following earlier reports of country dwellings at Biggin Hill the modern day dwellings are all uphill as the picture below depicts.



The hallowed ground is no longer the lonely country cottage on the previous page. These people had only one car between them and we have at least four cars per house in these modern times with nowhere to park, and our children are about to produce even more car owners with nowhere to park.

THE SHOULDER OF MUTTON

Situated near Scotch Corner from the junction of A1 – A66 at Middleton Tyas. Tel:01325 377271



This delightful 17th Century Inn and Restaurant is run by Liz (Porter) Ramsey formerly of Biggin Hill. Whilst a bit off the beaten track, Kevin Hitch our man *'with a van'* called in for an evening meal and his 10% discount on his way home from a delivery detail somewhere up north. He said it was well worth the visit and would certainly call in again. Whilst these concessions are a new venture for the Pilots Pals Members, please use them as often as possible so as to retain them for the future. Considerable effort has been put into this venture by John Willis who should be congratulated. IT'S A HARD LIFE SPOTTING Gil Ben-Ari who speaks seven languages and can spot aircraft from 197 countries collapsed from sheer exhaustion at the Pilots Bar with the sun shining through the window despite all his high tech listening devices and high powered rose tinted binoculars, notebook and digital biro pen – Z-Z-Z-Z-Z-z-z-z



OVERHEARD AT THE BAR

'Non flying chappie' chatting up new barmaid. Someone shouts across the bar *'he's married'* not by choice he retorts, amid a chorus of laughter from *'Pilot Chappies'* lining the bar with similar intent. All this mirth was suddenly overshadowed by a mouth organ rendition of *'Lilley Marleine'* played by Derek Clauson and his castanets for the benefit of some younger innocent members, who probably never even heard of Lilley Marleine, let alone, the artist who sang it during the days of World War II.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD

Whilst our membership drive has been very successful, please do not be offended if you are asked to produce your membership card. Not all our other members recognise you and if you haven't been in for a while our *'Our Grumpy Members'* will complain and may treat you as an outcast.

Genuine members – **please sign in your guests** each time you invite them to this, our exclusive bar. We are required by law to complete the guest book and keep it up to date – any local council officer can walk into the club at anytime and demand to see membership list and validity, and also the current state of the Guest Book **If you are not a current paid up member, you cannot expect to be signed in casually on the back of a genuine member. (and remember, Guests cannot buy drinks at the bar)**

The guest book is for your personal occasional guest. We have been getting considerable moans from people who have paid their dues and wish to play by the rules. Therefore, as of 27th March 2007 Membership of the Club is closed until 5th June 2007. This is because there are serious concerns over the current applications for Membership e.g. .to gain free Air Show access – New Rules are published in the club. Hopefully this will resolve recent complaints received from members.



THIS PAGE IS DEDICATED TO REX NICHOLLS - 'TOP OF THE TREE' INSTRUCTOR

REX NICHOLLS EFG CLUB



Rex Nicholls, who celebrated his 80th Birthday at the Pilots Pals on the 24th March. This was a pre-planned surprise party of which he was totally unaware, until he was ushered in the door. Rex came to Biggin Hill in September 1959 flying a Miles Magister from Croydon Airport, which was closed from this time on. Rex was one of your *'Top of the Tree'* Instructors and Examiner for 50 years amassing 16,000 hours. Rex also competed in the Kings Cup Air Race Team in 1966, flying Surrey and Kent Chipmunks. The race was won by his team mate John Miles of 600 Squadron Flying Club. Rex has many amusing stories about flying up his sleeve about the old days at Croydon, and of the early car races around Biggin Hill. This fantastic event was initiated by his lovely wife Janet as she was at

her wits end to arrange a suitable surprise. We at Pilots Pals had the answer and the facility to provide the venue. Older they were, (**the people that attended**) *but not one looked any older*, from when the editor last saw them. There were no less than 80 genuine friends, many pilots from the old days, to pay tribute to Rex's many years at Biggin Hill. Pictured above are some these people. It was a tumultuous event fraught with some devious deception by his wife Janet and the rest of his family, keeping the event in total secrecy. Rex was well respected as one of the best instructors around - *'Top of the Tree'* quality. Rex was more than surprised on his arrival at the club on Saturday afternoon. All he could see was the editor sitting on a stool at the bar – then everyone sang 'Happy Birthday'. It only dawned on him when he was greeted by his wife, just inside the door that



something strange had been going on around him for the past weeks, like his mail being opened and his clothes vanishing.

We at the Pilots pals would like to express our thanks to everyone for turning up on time. This was the crux of the event, just to see the expression on Rex's face as he entered the bar!



Christine (Hughes) Coombe shows Rex some photo's from the Kings Cup Air Race of 1966, and below – can you spot the likeness



Rex was finally treated to a flight in Edwin Brenninkmeyer's Cessna 210 the following day, making a fitting end to this report.