

Hi everyone

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

Please keep those stories coming in for inclusion in future issues. Every month JB finds things to write, quite how, I don't know! (his direct email address is [johnbryan@jbplstdemon.co.uk](mailto:johnbryan@jbplstdemon.co.uk), or you can send items directly to me to pass on)

#### EMAIL ADDRESS UPDATES AND ADDITIONS

Thanks to those who have sent amended email addresses, and suggested new members, and of course, welcome also to those that have recently added their names to the database.... For current member names see <http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk> and go to the link to the database membership..

#### SINUL BRAMBHATT

Known to many of the old "Pilots Pals" club members, Sinul passed away in April. A friendly and always well dressed chappie, his picture and story can be seen in this month's Bugle..

#### TWO MAJOR LOCAL EVENTS

##### **BIGGIN HILL INTERNATIONAL AIR FAIR 2010 - 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

The theme for the 48<sup>th</sup> Biggin Hill International Air Fair will be one that has been marked throughout the history of public flying displays at Biggin Hill since the end of WWII, The Battle of Britain. 70 years on from what was to become the pivotal point of WWII, the show will look to recreate elements of that summer of 1940. 5 Spitfires and 5 Hurricanes along with a BF109 will take to the sky's as part of the main display of the day, which will be supported by large video screens, pyrotechnics and narration.

Now acknowledged as one of the largest shows in the UK, the RAF, Belgian Air Component, Royal New Zealand Air Force, Police Air Force, French Air Force and Czech Air Force are all supporting the show making 2010 a truly international year.

Tickets are on sale in advance for £18.00 for adults (£23.00 on the day) with children under 15 years entering free when accompanied.

For owners and tenants, including members of the Biggin Hill Reunited Database, there will once again be a marquee within the hospitality village (Sunday Only), tickets are priced at £38.00 +VAT and include – Entry in to the Air fair, Special Parking, an excellent Buffet Lunch, pay bar and a great view from the private garden – but as always, please do not delay, book early to secure one of the limited number of places available.

For general tickets call 01959 572277 or [www.bigginhillairfair.co.uk](http://www.bigginhillairfair.co.uk)

For owners and tenants hospitality tickets email [fran@airdisplaysint.co.uk](mailto:fran@airdisplaysint.co.uk).

*(In the absence of other facilities, many members took advantage last year of the facilities offered in the Grandstand area – at just £16 if pre-booked, this is exceptionally good value for money, particularly for those who already have air show entry, and can be recommended for those that do not seek the full hospitality facilities that includes a full lunch within the cost. Full details on the web site above – but, be warned, this sold out well before the show last year, so book early! – Ed)*

##### **CHARTWELL 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY BATTLE OF BRITAIN CONCERT - 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010**

There can be few places better suited to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Britain than National trust Chartwell, home of Sir Winston Churchill from 1924 until his death in 1965.

The concert in aid of RAFA and sponsored by Military History™ will tell the story of the battle and the first night of the Blitz through narration, special effects, archive video and music from the Central

band of the Royal Air Force. The story will also be taking place in the skies above Chartwell, with a Spitfire & hurricane from the BBMF and a Spitfire/BF109 tail chase.

Tickets are limited for this one night only event and are priced at £32.00 per person or, for that extra special experience, in the Terrace Hospitality suite situated on the private lawn overlooking the concert ground priced at £185.00 +VAT. Full details can be found at [www.synergyeventsuk.com](http://www.synergyeventsuk.com) or by calling 01959 572277.

## THE AIRPORT

Work appears to be starting on the main apron extension adjacent to the Main Tower area. With the number of large aircraft now regularly appearing, including the Boeing 727, the Airbus 320, and numerous Challengers, Falcons, and similar, this will clearly make available much needed additional ramp space.

Interflight now has a new parking area and entrance to its Hangar, Ramp and Offices. Situated on the North East side of the Runway 29 threshold, many infrequent visitors to Biggin Hill will almost certainly remember this as the location of the very successful 2003 "Bump Reunion"...

Rizon Jet's massive new hangar facility at Biggin Hill is nearing completion, and is apparently on target to open in July 2010. For the full story, go to:

[http://www.blueskyexecutiveaviation.co.uk/articles/EBACE2010\\_issues/rizon\\_jet\\_on\\_schedule\\_for\\_summer\\_opening\\_at\\_biggin\\_hill.htm](http://www.blueskyexecutiveaviation.co.uk/articles/EBACE2010_issues/rizon_jet_on_schedule_for_summer_opening_at_biggin_hill.htm)

## VOLCANIC ASH AIRSPACE CLOSURE

The recent "ash airspace closure" obviously affected Biggin Hill's levels of traffic, as flight in controlled airspace was not permitted at all – hence, apart from just a few business jets that managed to operate low level in VFR, virtually all commercial activity ceased. However, it did allow many General Aviation aircraft unprecedented access to otherwise unavailable airspace. There are numerous photo's on Facebook showing overflight of Gatwick in all sorts of aircraft that would normally have been unwelcome...

It did, as well, result in some amazingly quiet mornings and evenings, something that we clearly have not experienced for many, many, years. (In fact, the last time I can remember it so quiet first thing in the morning was on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2000, when many carriers stayed on the ground due to the anticipated chaos that was expected from the Y2K computer situation....)

## BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB LTD

Still the occasional application for new and renewals coming through... Thanks again for your support. If anyone has sent in their renewals or applications and not yet received their photo membership card, please give me a shout..

Anyone still wishing to renew, details can be found on the club site at [www.bigginhillclub.co.uk](http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk)

For details of current concessions that remain available to members (Remember - if it is not on the webpage, then it is no longer available!) please go to <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk> and follow the "concessions" link on the homepage.

## DONATIONS

I have been asked by a few people, who do not really seek Social Club membership, but would like to show financial support for the Biggin Hill Reunited database, whether they can make donations. Anyone wishing to do so, can always make a donation payable to "Biggin Hill Reunion Fund" and send them to me. Please don't read into this that there is another reunion imminent, it is simply the bank account that would be used in that event, and I would "never say never"....

That's about it for this month...

John Willis - Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally: Two this month (*couldn't decide which one to use! Ed*)

Bearing in mind the forthcoming elections here in the UK, the following (sent to me by a database member) really amused me. Hope it does you too....

QUOTE.....

While walking down the street one day a "Member of Parliament" is tragically hit by a truck and dies.

His soul arrives in heaven and is met by St. Peter at the entrance.

'Welcome to heaven,' says St. Peter.. 'Before you settle in, it seems there is a problem. We seldom see a high official around these parts, you see, so we're not sure what to do with you.'

'No problem, just let me in,' says the man.

'Well, I'd like to, but I have orders from higher up. What we'll do is have you spend one day in hell and one in heaven. Then you can choose where to spend eternity.'

'Really, I've made up my mind. I want to be in heaven,' says the MP.

'I'm sorry, but we have our rules.'

And with that, St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down, down, down to hell. The doors open and he finds himself in the middle of a green golf course. In the distance is a clubhouse and standing in front of it are all his friends and other politicians who had worked with him.

Everyone is very happy and in evening dress. They run to greet him, shake his hand, and reminisce about the good times they had while getting rich at the expense of the people.

They play a friendly game of golf and then dine on lobster, caviar and champagne.

Also present is the devil, who really is a very friendly & nice guy who has a good time dancing and telling jokes. They are having such a good time that before he realizes it, it is time to go.

Everyone gives him a hearty farewell and waves while the elevator rises....

The elevator goes up, up, up and the door reopens on heaven where St. Peter is waiting for him.

'Now it's time to visit heaven.'

So, 24 hours pass with the MP joining a group of contented souls moving from cloud to cloud, playing the harp and singing. They have a good time and, before he realizes it, the 24 hours have gone by and St. Peter returns.

'Well, then, you've spent a day in hell and another in heaven. Now choose your eternity.'

The MP reflects for a minute, then he answers: 'Well, I would never have said it before, I mean heaven has been delightful, but I think I would be better off in hell.'

So St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down, down, down to hell.

Now the doors of the elevator open and he's in the middle of a barren land covered with waste and garbage.

He sees all his friends, dressed in rags, picking up the trash and putting it in black bags as more trash falls from above.

The devil comes over to him and puts his arm around his shoulder. 'I don't understand,' stammers the MP. 'Yesterday I was here and there was a golf course and clubhouse, and we ate lobster and caviar, drank champagne, and danced and had a great time.. Now there's just a wasteland full of garbage and my friends look miserable.

What happened?'

The devil looks at him, smiles and says, 'Yesterday we were campaigning... ..

Today you voted.'

.....UNQUOTE

And this second one could save lots of money on trials and stuff, courtesy of a number of internet sites.....

QUOTE.....

Here's a solution to all the controversy over the use of full-body scanners at airports.

Have a special booth that you can step into that will not X-ray you, but will detonate any explosive device you may have on you.

It would be a win-win for everyone, and there would be none of this crap about racial profiling and this method would eliminate a long and expensive trial.

Justice would be quick and swift. Case closed!

This is so simple that it's brilliant. I can see it now: you're in the airport terminal and you hear a muffled explosion. Shortly thereafter an announcement comes over the PA system, "Attention standby passengers we now have a seat available on flight number..."

Works for me!

.....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 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"....)