

Hi everyone

Welcome to the December Newsletter.

KEEPING UP TO DATE

I would like to the opportunity of this month's newsletter to try to bring all the information held fully up to date.

To that end, I have been updating the database and removing old email addresses that bounce back (which normally means the recipient has changed their email address, of course). If anyone can help with updated addresses for these people, so they can be returned to the database, please email me at john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk

Bob Lee
Carole & Del Whitehead
Charles Read
Chris Fletcher
Chris Little
Craig Sargeant
Damian Cross
Darren Tilley
Dave Flashman
David Cole
Don Daines
Francis Turner
Gareth Leese
Gary Butcher & Debbie
Gordon Winterbourne
Ian Cranfield
Jim Finlay
John Chester
Judy Senior
Julie Kurtenbach (Wickenden)
Kathy Nuttall
Keith Miles
Keith Mouque
Keith Warton
Martyn West
Mick Dryden
Peter Jackson
Peter Mahoney
Ron Phillips
Simon Howell
Siobhan Smith
Stephen McNulty
Steven Porteus
Sue Watts
Tim Martin
Will Curtis
William Milne

I have also updated the email list displayed on the Biggin Hill Reunited website (<http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk>) and removed all the incorrect entries. If anyone knows of others who should be included on the database, please email me their contact details as well. Similarly, the Role of Honour list has been brought right up to date - please check the lists and let me know if there are any names of departed Biggin Hill'ites that are missing from that list.

JOCK MAITLAND

I am sure that many of you will also be aware of the award of the MBE to Sqd Ldr J R (Jock) Maitland in this year's honours list. Jock, who also received the the Jeffrey Quill Medal in 2003 for "an outstanding contribution to the development of air-mindedness in Britain's youth", is a most worthy recipient of the MBE for organising the Air Fair and many other shows, which must have generated that initial spark of interest in aviation for many a small boy (or girl, of course) since the first show in 1963. Indeed, I know that many people on this database have admitted to me that it was the Air Fair that originally allowed them to get up front and close to a real aircraft, and caused their interest that eventually brought them into aviation and to Biggin Hill.

Congratulations Jock for a well deserved award.

NEWS REQUESTED & WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

One of the database members recently asked about Charles Daniels, one of Biggin Hill's oldies - does anyone here have any news of him or of his whereabouts. If they do, please email me and I will pass the information on.

THE NEW BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB LTD

It was very gratifying to receive such a show of support for retaining a social club into next year, in spite of the current lack of airport premises. Thanks to everyone for their kind words... As a result of the responses, JB and I have agreed we will start the new club, effective 1st January 2008. This club will effectively replace the old Pilots Pals Club from next year. (See the new club website at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk>)

Existing current Pilots Pals members who wish to take up membership of the new club, will not be required to complete an application form (unless their contact details have changed) as their original application will be used to activate their new membership upon receipt of their payment for next year's fee. Existing members should send the appropriate membership fee (£10 for single membership, £15 for a couple, or £20 for a family) payable to "Biggin Hill Airport Social Club Ltd" to the address below.

Biggin Hill Airport Social Club Ltd
PO Box 33
Biggin Hill
Kent
TN16 3FS

This year, because of airport constraints, there will be two separate categories of memberships:-

For anyone having a direct and provable involvement with Biggin Hill Airport, either past or present (airport based employment, flying club member, private owner, etc.) Full "AIRPORT" Membership will be available.

For other existing members not having a direct airport involvement, "ASSOCIATE" Membership will be available.

(The only difference will be for free Air Fair access, which will only be available to "Airport" Members - sorry)

When sending in your membership fees, please provide proof of your involvement with the airport if you are claiming "Airport" membership, unless you know that JB or I personally know that you are or were involved with the airport. Others should send a copy of their flying club membership card, a photocopy of a page of their logbook, or proof of ownership/employment at the airport. If in doubt, please phone us - details on the new club website at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk> (Most of you are probably known to us already, but we do have to make sure, so please don't be offended if we ask!) PLEASE INCLUDE A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR THE RETURN OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD, OTHERWISE THE CARD WILL BE HELD HERE FOR COLLECTION.

Once the fee is received, assuming the application is acceptable, we will issue a photo membership card (using the photo held - if you want to change this photo, please send one with your membership fee)

If you are seeking to join, but were not previously a member of the old club, please download a membership form from <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk> and complete that, sending it to us with a fee and head/shoulder photo for each person included on the form (This includes children where appropriate) - please remember to pencil the name on the reverse of each photo! If claiming "Airport" membership, please also enclose proof of airport involvement if you feel we may not already know of you ourselves. Thanks. (Please note, with the exception of non-airport people who have been Pilots Pals Club this last year, NO NEW MEMBERS WHO DO NOT HAVE AN AIRPORT ASSOCIATION WILL BE ACCEPTED!)

We look forward to receiving your membership fees in the next few weeks in time to issue your membership cards before the end of the year.

That is about it for the December Newsletter.

In case we do not get the opportunity to communicate again before the festive season, I would like the opportunity of wishing you all, and your families, a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Lets hope we may be able to get back on the airport by the time the next year is out!!

regards
John Willis
For the Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

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Biggin Hill Airport User Database
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