

Wales, Midland & South Western Area

# Newsletter

**JULY 2014**

**THIS NEWSLETTER SHOULD BE DISPLAYED FOR THE USE OF ALL MEMBERS**

## 1. THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST 2014

You will be pleased to hear of the following Awards to coincide with the Birthday Honours List 2014:

### STATE AWARDS

BEM - Mrs Margaret Duff.  
BEM - Mr Derek Sweetenham.

### NATIONAL PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATES

Mr Alan Poole	Shrewsbury & District Branch.
Mr John Tisbury MBE	Shrewsbury & District Branch.
Mr Anthony Perryman	Huntingdon & District Branch.
Mr Gordon Townsend	Huntingdon & District Branch.
Mr Samuel Stringer	Eastbourne Branch.
Mrs Gail Evans	Current ACC Representative.
Mrs Lesley Harber	Shoreham-by-Sea Branch.
Mr Michael Dixon	Shoreham-by-Sea Branch.
Mr Douglas Collett	Poole Branch.
Mr Hugh Thompson	Swindon Branch.
Mr Robert Curson	Swindon Branch.
Ms Janet Payne	Lossiemouth Branch.
Mr and Mrs George and Geraldine Lamb	Erewash Branch.
Mrs Sheona Nicoll	Silloth Branch.
Mr Brian Grimshaw	Northern Area HQ.

Many congratulations to all but especially to those from our Area.

## 2. MEMBERSHIP

Whole Area Membership figures as at 26 June 2014 were as follows:

Annual	Life	Full Associate	Total	New Ann/Ass 14	Losses Ann/Life/Ass 14
6399	5465	2465	14329	547	1093

I am pleased to report that our Area membership numbers have increased by 189 over the last 4 weeks. This trend will see us over the line so please continue to engage with the public and your lapsed members at every opportunity.

- Area Membership as at 31 December 2013 – 15,168.

- Area Membership as at 26 June 2014 - 14,329.
- Minimum target by 31 December 2014 - 14,788.
- Still required to achieve minimum target - 459.

### **3. WALES, MIDLAND AND SOUTH WEST AREA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND REUNION - 2015**

Amazingly the time has come to start warming you to the idea of our 2015 Area Conference and Reunion which is to be held at the Derwent Hotel in Torquay over the weekend 20 to 22 March 2015. Attendance at our last several Conferences has been strong and I sincerely hope we can achieve similar results next year. Those of you who enjoy the weekend will know the Derwent Hotel extremely well. I have pleasure in advising the following prices:

- Twin/double room based on 2 sharing - £116.00 per person for 2 nights dinner, bed and breakfast, including Sunday lunch.
- Single rooms on a fill-up basis - £116.00 for 2 nights dinner, bed and breakfast, including Sunday lunch. Please note there is a £10 supplement for twins/doubles taken on single occupancy.
- Twin/double room based on 2 sharing for just the Saturday night including the formal Saturday evening Dinner, Sunday breakfast and lunch - £64.00 per person.
- Single rooms on a fill-up basis for just the Saturday night including the formal Saturday evening Dinner, Sunday breakfast and lunch - £64.00. Please note there is a £10 supplement for twins/doubles taken on single occupancy.
- You can now begin to make your accommodation bookings direct with the hotel by calling their Private Reservations Department on 01803-400-500 quoting the RAF Association Weekend. A 25% per person deposit will be requested which is non-refundable.

More information will come out in due course.

### **4. AREA PRIZE DRAW 2014**

A huge thank you to those who purchased tickets for this year's Area Prize Draw. We are pleased to announce the following winners:

- First - £1000 – Mrs Howe (Weymouth).
- Second - £250 – Mrs Toghill (Treorchy).
- Third - £100 – Miss Devine (Swindon).
- Fourth - £50 – Mr Wade (Ottery St Mary).
- Fifth - £50 – Ms McRae (Gloucester).
- Sixth - £20 – Mr Tucker (Halesowen).
- Seventh - £20 – Mr Arron (Swansea).
- Eighth - £20 – Mr Swaffer (Cirencester).
- Ninth - £20 – Mr Burn (Swindon).
- Tenth - £20 – Mr Thomas (Newport).

### **5. RAF ASSOCIATION CONCERT BAND NEWSLETTER**

Many of you will have seen our Concert Band out and about. Please find enclosed their latest Newsletter.

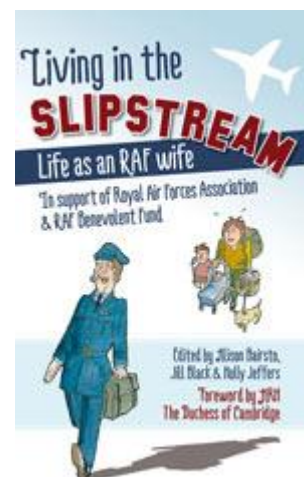
### **6. RETIRED SERVICE CARD APPLICATION FORMS**

Just a quick reminder that we are pleased to process applications for Retired Service Cards at a cost of just £20. Application forms can be downloaded from our website and sent to the Membership Department at Leicester along with an appropriate photograph ([www.rafa.org.uk](http://www.rafa.org.uk)). Please enter 'retired

service card' in the word search and this will take you to the downloadable form. If you are holding any application forms that advertise the card at £11 – please destroy!

## 7. LIVING IN THE SLIPSTREAM – LIFE AS AN RAF WIFE

You may be interested in purchasing this collection of tales from RAF Wives. Proceeds go to the RAF Association and RAF Benevolent Fund. Further details are enclosed with this Newsletter.



## 8. SPITFIRE EVENING – WEDNESDAY 9 JULY 2014

The image is a poster for 'Spitfire Evening'. The background is a light grey with a faint, large illustration of a Spitfire aircraft in flight. The text is centered and reads: 'Spitfire Evening' in large, bold, black letters. Below that, it says 'In support of the Seagry Spitfire Memorial Project'. The date and time are 'Wednesday 9 July 7:30pm'. The main text describes the event: 'The story behind the Seagry Spitfire Pilots and the accident of April 1941. Using official records, National Archives, Imperial War Museum, information from relatives and actual eyewitnesses interviews, it has been possible to uncover the fascinating backgrounds behind the two RAF pilots, John Brewster and Harold Williams, the events leading up to the crash and actually what happened on that fateful Sunday in April 1941. The presentation, which is open to everybody will use images, audio and film clips to provide a flavour of the struggle being waged by our RAF fighter pilots. The evening will hopefully be of interest to those keen to find out about the Seagry Spitfire incident and also those with a general interest in the Spitfire or history. There will be no charge for entry, however we will be providing a donation bucket should you wish to help with the memorial project.' The location is 'Goss Croft Goss Croft Hall, Startley Road, Upper Seagry, Chippenham, Wilts, SN15 5HD'. The contact information is 'Contact: Martin Painter [martin@mgpainter.co.uk](mailto:martin@mgpainter.co.uk) 07766336767'.

## 9. CENOTAPH CEREMONY – LONDON – 9 NOVEMBER 2014

The Royal British Legion, on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media & Sport, will be organizing the ex-Service contingents attending the Parade and Service at the Cenotaph, Whitehall, on Remembrance Day, Sunday 9 November 2014. Civilians are not permitted to parade in the Ex-Service columns.

A representative of the South East & Eastern Area will lay the Association's wreath; Stewards will also be positioned at the Cenotaph to lay wreaths on behalf of the detachments as they march past. Contingents will assemble and disperse at Horse Guards Parade. Due to the number of personnel on parade the overall length of the march past has increased and I would ask you to ensure that your members are aware of the physical demands of standing in Whitehall for at least 1 hour and then marching for a distance of 1.5 miles, possibly in inclement weather. We have been asked to remind all on parade to help to ensure that behaviour and dress standards match the dignity of the occasion. There have been a few rather regrettable lapses that have offended the majority of those marching and the general public. In view of the current security arrangements, only holders of admission tickets will be allowed to join the parade. All participants are liable to a security search on the day.

The South East Office will be administering the ticket allocation for the event this year. Naz Angha would therefore be grateful to receive applications for tickets at your earliest convenience. Contact details: Naz Angha, RAFA South East Office, 3-5 Old Bridge Street, Hampton Wick, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 4BU Tel: 020 8286 6667 E-mail: [naz.angha@rafa.org.uk](mailto:naz.angha@rafa.org.uk)

**The closing date for receipt of applications for tickets at the South East Office is Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August**

## 10. MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

The new membership subscriptions and branch rebates for 2015/16 based on the average RPI of 5.8% are highlighted below. This increase is in accordance with Resolution No 7/06 (this Resolution enshrined the mandate of Resolution 25/86 which required a review of subscriptions every second year).

Category	2013/2014 Membership Fee	2015/16 Membership Fee	2015/2016 Branch Rebate
Ordinary Member - 1 year	19.50	20.50	4.70
Ordinary Member - 4 year	73.50	78.00	
Associate Member - 1 year - Air Mail	13.50	14.50	
Associate Member - 1 year - No Air Mail	8.50	8.50	2.70
Associate Member - 4 year - Air Mail	52.50	55.50	
Associate Member - 4 year - No Air Mail	29.00	30.50	
Give As You Earn (GAYE) (gross payment before basic tax relief)	24.36	25.68	
RPI Dec 2011	239.4		
RPI Dec 2013	253.4		
Increase	14		
% Increase	5.80%		

## 11. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Devon Region Meeting at Exmouth RAFA Branch HQ (2.30pm) – 19 July 2014.  
Mid Wales Region Meeting at Cardigan (2pm) – 19 July 2014.  
Cornwall Region Meeting at the Kernow Club, Truro (2pm) – 19 July 2014.  
RNAS Culdrose Air Day – 31 July 2014. Falmouth - Lead Branch.  
North Wales Region Meeting at Wrexham Branch HQ (2pm) – 9 August 2014.  
East Glamorgan & Gwent Region Meeting at Llandaff & Ely Branch HQ (2pm) – 23 August 2014.  
RAF Cosford Battle of Britain Parade and Service (1130am) – 7 September 2014.  
MoD St Athan Battle of Britain Parade and Service – 7 September 2014.  
North Cornwall Branch - Battle of Britain Parade & Service, Kilkhampton Church (11am) - 7 September 2014.  
Falmouth Branch Battle of Britain Service, Falmouth Parish Church of King Charles The Martyr (1030am) - 7 September 2014.  
Bodmin Branch – Annual Wreath Laying Service at Sea, departing Padstow Harbour at 4pm – 21 September 2014.  
Mid Wales Region Meeting at Llanidloes (2pm) – 18 October 2014.  
Devon Region Meeting at Plymouth Branch HQ (2.30pm) – 25 October 2014.  
Cornwall Region Meeting at the Kernow Club, Truro (2pm) – 8 November 2014.  
North Wales Region Meeting at Llangollen Branch HQ (2pm) – 29 November 2014.  
Devon Region AGM at Dawlish RAFA Club (2.30pm) – 7 February 2015.

*Paul Baker - Area Director*

**When the power of love overcomes the power of peace, the world will know peace.**

Enclosure:

1. RAF Association Concert Band Newsletter.
2. Living in the Slipstream – Life as an RAF Wife.