

Wales, Midland & South Western Area

Newsletter

MAY 2015

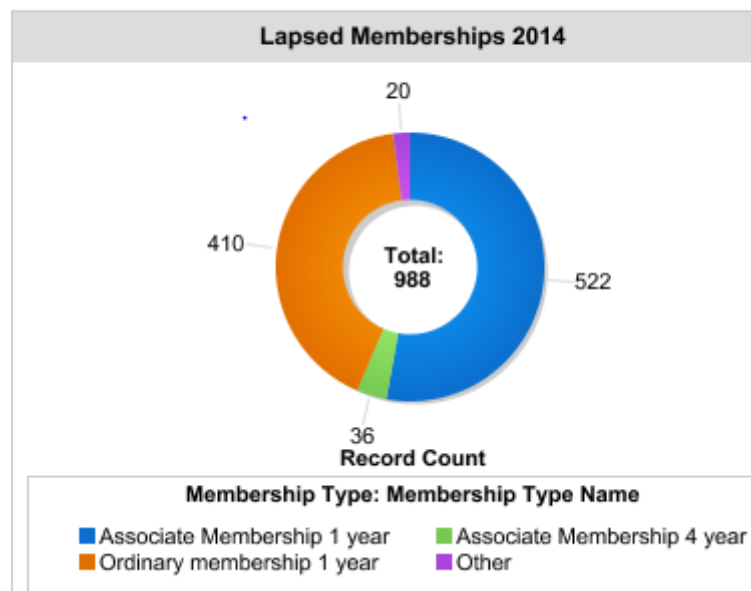
THIS NEWSLETTER SHOULD BE DISPLAYED FOR THE USE OF ALL MEMBERS

DON'T FORGET – LIFE MEMBERSHIP IS EXACTLY THAT – FOR LIFE!

1. AREA MEMBERSHIP

We are really concentrating our efforts on those individuals who have lapsed their membership and would encourage you to continue your efforts to welcome members back to the fold. It might be that in contacting these people you discover a welfare need, in which case your Branch will be best placed to provide help. Here's how the Area looks in respect of lapsing members as at 30 April:

Wales, Midlands & SW Lapsed Membership 2014



2. WITH GREAT SADNESS

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Mr Doug Williams, a founder member of the Cannock Chase Branch and former Regional President as well as Life Vice-President. Doug spent seven decades fundraising for Wings Appeal – a great friend and servant of our Area. Our sincere condolences are extended to Doug's family and friends.

3. CONGRATULATIONS TO MR JOHN DEANE BEM – DUDLEY BRANCH

Many congratulations to our very own Mr John Deane of Dudley Branch who was presented with his British Empire Medal by the Lord Lieutenant, Paul Sabapathy, on 19 March, for services to the Community in Dudley. John has played a key role over many years in galvanising support for the RAF Association, for Wings Appeal, local ATC Sqns, as well as being the driving force behind the fundraising and commissioning of the Dudley Cenotaph.



4. VOLUNTEERING UPDATE

Katharine Montgomery, Volunteering Manager, has provided the following update:

The volunteering programme is progressing well and we are excited to have our first new volunteers through, ready for training, as part of the South East Pilot. Sue Smith, Area Welfare Officer for the South East, has been selecting and interviewing our new volunteers, ready for the next training course in June. We are looking forward to welcoming them and inducting them into the Association. Work continues to be done on planning to make it easy for volunteers to register and be trained. For example, we are looking at what training our new fundraisers will need, in order to learn more about what it means to be an RAF Association volunteer and to help them do the best job for us that they can. We are therefore looking at making the training as easy as possible and will be basing it on some online learning we have seen being used successfully in other charities, such as the 'Dementia Friends' online training the Alzheimer's Society has produced. We are also ensuring that volunteers can access information and training for welfare work and fundraising, as quickly and easily as possible.



In the next two weeks we will be sending out information, to all Branches, to let them know about how the volunteer programme can help and support them if they need and want it, including a Q&A about volunteering, a menu of suggested ways they might like to recognise their volunteers also information about how Branches can tell us if they have Branch official vacancies. Keep an eye out for this at your next Branch meeting.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact Katharine Montgomery on volunteers@rafa.org.uk or on 0116 268 8794. We'll update you again next month if we don't see you before at Conference.

5. AREA 'MINI' MET OUT AND ABOUT

Here's our Area trailer or 'mini MET out on its first engagement for 2015, supporting the Bike 4 Life charity at RAF Cosford. BSO's Alan Goudge and Ian Campbell engaged with 1000s of bikers and also managed to tie up with the 'virtual' Motorcycle Branch. Look out for the trailer – coming to an event near you!



6. RAF ASSOCIATION HEMSBY CHALETS

The Association is taking bookings for the Hemsby Chalets and still have a few weeks that are available in May. Accordingly, listed below are the last few dates that we have remaining:-

4 – 11 May 2015
11 – 18 May 2015
18 – 25 May 2015

Situated near Great Yarmouth on the East Coast these chalets offer a variety of accommodation for families and couples as self-contained units. If you or any of your Branch Committee, Members or Associates would like to take up one of these dates please let us know as soon as possible. The chalets offer excellent value for money and are in a fantastic location and it is such a shame for them to be empty. Please call the South East & Eastern Office on 0116 268 8784 or Vicky Ford at vicky.ford@rafa.org.uk.

7. DURSLEY & SOUTH GLOUCESTER BRANCH – CHARITY GOLF DAY – 30 SEPTEMBER

Courtesy of the Cotswold Edge Golf Club, our Branch at Dursley & South Gloucester is staging its annual Golf Day in support of their Wings Appeal. Please do consider a team from your Branch. Details are enclosed with this Newsletter.

8. RAF ASSOCIATION CONCERT BAND

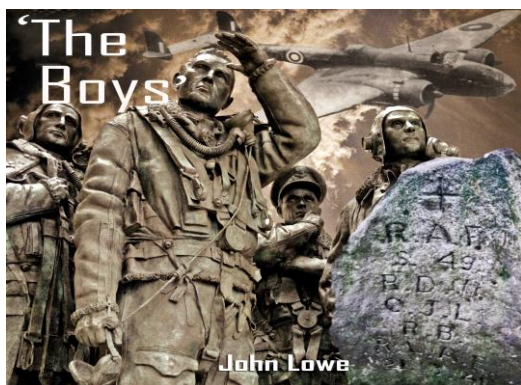
Here's a quick look at upcoming engagements for our Association Concert Band.

Date	Engagement Details
Sat 6 Jun	In support of the Royal British Legion Poppy Picnic – Grove Park Bandstand, Weston-super-Mare (1330hrs to 1530hrs)
Fri 19 Jun	RAF Association Annual Service of Dedication at the National Memorial Arboretum
Sun 5 Jul	Bandstand Concert – Grove Park, Weston-super-Mare (1430hrs to 1630hrs)
Sun 12 Jul	90 th Birthday music support at Dursley Glos
Tue 14 Jul	RAF Association Reception at the Pierhead Building in Cardiff to commemorate the 75 th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain
Sat 1 Aug	Bandstand performance – Grove Park, Weston-super-Mare
Fri 21 Aug	Concert performance at Wells Cathedral accompanied by the Cheddar Male Choir
Sat 3 Oct	Concert performance ‘Oscars Night’ – Blakehay Theatre, Weston-super-Mare
Fri 23 Oct	Performance on board the “ <i>Matthew</i> ” Ship, in Bristol Harbour in support of the Poppy Appeal
Sun 1 Nov	Bristol Festival of Remembrance, Colston Hall
Sat 28 and Sun 29 Nov	Performance at the National Indoor Arena in support of the Birmingham Military Tattoo

9. INSURANCE FOR STANDARDS

In order to provide a consistent service to all those who are responsible for the safe-keeping, transit and parade of Standards, whether they be Branch, Region or Area, we now have in place a central insurance policy which covers theft and damage. The costs for this cover have been met from central funds. Branches that already have this cover in place locally are encouraged to review their policy and look to reduce costs. Please ensure Standard Bearers are made aware of this cover. If you wish to see or hold a copy of the Insurance policy please make contact with Debbie Byam or Paul Baker at the Exeter Office. One important point. This cover can only apply when a Standard is either in the care of the Bearer (or authorised officer), or locked in a vehicle out of sight when away from their normal location.

10. THE BOYS



An hour before midnight on Friday, 21st March, 1941, a returning Royal Air Force Bomber crashes onto Dartmoor.

And so begins the fascinating and often emotional story of ‘*The Boys*’. This fully illustrated presentation captures the mood of 1941 and relates the story that lies behind the stark granite memorial that now honours the final resting place of the Royal Air Force Hampden aircraft that crashed there.

John Lowe gives a vivid and moving presentation and is happy to do so at your Branch. Please make contact with John if you wish to pursue this as an additional speaker on your Branch roster of talks.

John Lowe, 01395 278279 or 07967887368, john@jflowe.co.uk, www.hameldownboys.com

11. ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION BRANCH OFFICERS GUIDANCE NOTES SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS

Following some feedback from members we have revised the Adult Safeguarding Policy and Vulnerable Adult Aide Memoire. We have also made a significant change to the distribution practice and policy storage. The Aide Memoire is designed to be used and accessible to members and Branches. I would therefore ask that the enclosed is distributed accordingly. The Aide Memoire will be supported by an Adult Safeguarding Policy and guidance notes and these documents will be available in the members portal within the welfare folder.

12. INDEPENDENT MEDAL REVIEW

Following the Sir John Holmes Independent Medal Review, HM Govt has announced the following changes to a number of campaign medal awards and criteria:

Berlin Airlift: The General Service Medal 1918-62 with clasp 'Berlin Airlift' will be awarded for at least one day's service to all aircrew, RAF and civilians who took part in the Berlin Airlift operation from 25 Jun 48 to 6 Oct 49 inclusive. Applications for the new clasp will be assessed from 1 Mar 15 onwards.

Cyprus 1955-59: Those who participated in the suppression of acts of terrorism in Cyprus between 1 Apr 55 and 18 Apr 59 will qualify for the General Service Medal 1918-62 with clasp 'CYPRUS' if they served for 90 days or more. The qualifying period has been reduced from 120 days, bringing it into line with the qualifying period for service during the Kenya anti-terrorism campaign.

Cyprus 1963-64: Those servicemen who served in Cyprus during the period 21 Dec 63 to 26 Mar 64 will be awarded the General Service Medal (1962) with clasp 'Cyprus 1963-64'. Applications for the new clasp will be assessed from 1 Mar 15 onwards. The first of the awards will be dispatched towards the end of that month (however these timings remain under review).

South Atlantic: The South Atlantic Medal: The medal with distinguishing rosette was awarded for one days' service in the Falkland Islands or their dependencies or in the South Atlantic, south of 35° south and north of 60° south, or for one operational sortie south of Ascension Island, between 2 Apr and 14 Jun 82. The qualifying period for the award of the South Atlantic Medal without the Rosette will be extended from 12 Jul to 21 Oct 82, when the airfield at Mount Pleasant became operational. *[Regtl Sec Note: There is clearly an error here, since Mount Pleasant Airfield wasn't built until 1986. An update will no doubt be issued in due course. However, applications should still be made as appropriate].*

Applications are being accepted and will be assessed and dealt with in a strict date-order of receipt. Further details may be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sir-john-homes-independent-medal-review-2014-update> and the Application Form is at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-medal-or-veterans-badge/apply-for-a-medal> .

13. CHARITY FUNDRAISING CONCERT – 25 MAY 2015

The RAF Association, Royal British Legion and St Columb Major Church are delighted to present a concert by The Waterloo Band and Bugles of the Rifles on 25 May 2015 starting at 7.00pm.

The Bands and Bugles of the Rifles uphold traditions dating back as far as the Napoleonic Wars where, instead of using the cumbersome drum, the earliest riflemen used bugles to communicate orders on the battlefield. One of the major bands from the British Army, the Waterloo Rifles have entertained audiences all over Europe and are renowned for their wide range of musical styles and talent. More Information is enclosed with this Newsletter.

14. PHOTOGRAPHER ATTENDING ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR PORTRAIT PROJECT

Photographer Stephen Porteous will be attending Annual Conference this year as part of his Military Veterans Portrait Project. He is going to be travelling around the country photographing veterans of all ages from all three Services. The portraits will be informal, the main point of interest is the subject themselves so dress is totally down to the individual (medals, blazers, berets etc). Each subject will receive an electronic

copy of their portrait, for those without access to a computer Stephen is trying to arrange a sponsor who will print the image free of charge. The images will only be used for this project, no financial gain will be made from the images and they will never be passed onto any third party other than the RAF Association. The images may be displayed at public exhibitions and for this reason each subject will be asked to sign a release form permitting this.

Stephen said: "My time in the Forces made me who I am today," explains Stephen Porteous. "As veterans, we do not ask for thanks and we don't expect gratitude. As members of the public, this doesn't mean we can't show our respect. This project is a fantastic way of giving something back, and I am thrilled and excited to be involved."

Stephen will be attending Conference on the Saturday and anyone wanting to take part can just go and see him on his 'stall'. Our photographer Kam will also be attending to take Conference pictures as usual. If you have any questions about this you can call Emma Reed, Association Media and PR Manager on 0116 268 8760.

15. WING COMMANDER BRENDAN FINUCANE

Did you know Wing Commander Brendan Finucane DSO, DFC and 2 Bars? Were you or someone you know based at Montrose, Kirton-in-Lindsey, Hornchurch, Tangmere or Kenley and knew of him? Do you have any memories, stories, photos or memorabilia that may assist an amateur researcher with an exciting project? If so, and if you would like to be involved, please contact John Donovan, 6 Priors Croft, Walthamstow, London E17 5NJ T: 07707 233 046 or at theworldofjd@msn.com.



16. WELL DONE TO TAUNTON DEANE BRANCH

Many congratulations to the Half Marathon team from Taunton Deane Branch who took part in this annual event around the streets and villages of Taunton in April, raising more than £1000 for Wings Appeal. Here is the team pictured with the Branch Chairman Alan Moore. The oldest and ugliest runner being the Area Director....



17. E-MAIL ADDRESSES.....



Repeat article.....Do we have your e-mail address? If you are not sure and you are happy to allow us to update your membership record then please get in touch. Electronic communications are so much more efficient and enable us to drive down our postage costs. Debbie Byam in the Exeter Office will be pleased to take your details (Debbie.byam@rafa.org.uk - 01392-462088 option 4).

18. BRANCH AND BRANCH CLUB ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2014

It might be that Postman Pat is to blame, however, as of 30 April, Branch and Branch Club Annual Accounts for 2014 have not yet been received at the Exeter Office from the following – as required in accordance with Chapter 5.12. Please expedite as soon as you can – many thanks:

Barnstaple & N.Devon Branch	Camborne, Redruth & Illogan Branch	Haverfordwest Branch	Sherborne Branch and Club
Barry Branch	Chepstow & District Branch	Royal Leamington Spa & Warwick Branch	St David's & Solva Branch and Club
Bodmin Branch	Corsham & Chippenham Branch	Market Drayton Branch	Stafford Branch
Brecon Branch and Club	Dudley Branch	Mid Somerset Branch	Stone & District Branch
Burnham-on-Sea Branch	Evesham Branch	North Cornwall Branch	Stourbridge
Torquay Branch and Club	Yeovil Branch		

19. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Cornwall County Armed Forces Day Thanckes Park (The Lawn) Torpoint – 20 June 2015.

Northern (Midland) Region Meetings at the County Council Club Eastgate Street, Stafford (1215pm) – 29 April, 27 May, 24 June, 29 July, 30 September, 28 October, 25 November.

Devon Region Meeting at Torquay Branch HQ (2pm) – 2 May 2015.

East Glamorgan & Gwent Region Meeting at the Aberdare RAFA Club - 6 June 2015 (2pm).

Mid Wales Region Meetings at Cardigan on 8 July, Brecon on 24 October, Tywyn on 26 March 2016 all starting at 2pm.

RAF Association Concert Band performing at Wells Cathedral (7.30pm) – 21 August 2015.

Ellesmere Branch Garden Party and BBQ in aid of Wings Appeal at Nesscliffe Three Pidgeons Hotel/Pub – (1.30pm to 6pm) 12 September.

Please contact the Exeter Office if there are significant events/dates you would like promulgated that maybe of interest to the wider membership. Many thanks.

It's not too late to sign your Branch up for Annual Conference in Eastbourne! Give Kelly Brotherhood a call on 0116-268-8770.

Paul Baker – Area Director

The Convent Laundry van driver calls at the Monastery - - "Have you any dirty habits?"

Enclosures:

1. Dursley & South Gloucester Annual Charity Golf Day.
2. RAF Association Branch Officers Guidance Notes – Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults.
3. Charity Fundraising Concert – 25 May 2015.