

The Royal Air Forces Association
Wales, Midland & South West
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Wales, Midland & South Western Area

SEPTEMBER 2016

Newsletter

***A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OUR BRANCHES WHO HAVE NOW RETURNED THEIR SIGNED
DATA PROTECTION FORMS***

1. IN MEMORY OF DAVID LEE, PRESIDENT OF OUR EVESHAM BRANCH

We take a moment to remember the life of Mr David Lee, President of Evesham Branch who passed away earlier this year. David's dedication to Wings Appeal was outstanding, playing a key role in raising funds consistently every year. Our thoughts go to his family and friends at this time.

2. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

August has been a noticeably slower month with the smallest number of new members so far this year, however it would still be one of the best months of last year! Also noticeable is the increase in online joiners. Thank you for your hard work and dedication but now is the time to really turn up the heat. We are approaching 1% of growth and have already overtaken the 2015 end of year membership total – great stuff – keep going please!

Our branches hold the key to unlocking large-scale recruitment. Between us, we know most of the 700,000 RAF veterans that are not yet members – dig out your Christmas card lists, address books, email, Forces Reunited, LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat contacts and JUST ASK your friends and relatives to join the Association! Thank you.

3. AREA WELFARE SEMINARS – AN UPDATE

Have you had time to consider one of the upcoming Area Seminars? Check with your Branch Secretary to see if your name is on the list. It might be that we can fix on-base accommodation at RAF St Mawgan the night before – if it helps – giving you a chance to meet others, reminisce, make your own bed and wander down the corridor to the 'team' ablutions! The team are finalising the programme for each seminar and will get something out to attendees in early October. Any queries – please don't hesitate to make contact with the team at Exeter.

- Tue 18 October 2016 – RAF St Mawgan, Newquay, TR8 4HP.
- Wed 26 October 2016 - Defence Medical Services, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, WS14 9PY.



4. NEW OFFICE FOR LEICESTER, CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS

You may be aware that we have recently moved to a new Headquarters building in Leicester. The move was prompted by our dilapidated existing office at Loughborough Road requiring remedial maintenance at a cost far exceeding the valuation of the building. The new office is modern and open plan, and provides the additional facilities needed to deliver Council's ambitious growth plans. We have also been able to collocate the SE&E team within the wider HQ team, providing benefits to both teams. The purchase, refurbishment and move were all achieved on time and within the £2.2m budget set by Council and the new facilities will also help us to minimise operating costs going forwards. The address is Royal Air Forces Association, Headquarters, Atlas House, 41 Wembley Road, Leicester, LE3 1UT.

5. TODAY'S ATC SQUADRONS AND THE ASSOCIATION WORKING TOGETHER

2196 (Trowbridge) Squadron presented with the Royal Air Forces Association Adoption Certificate.

Trowbridge Branch of The Royal Air Forces Association became Trowbridge & West Wiltshire Branch earlier this year and consequently have had produced a framed adoption certificate to reflect the change of Branch title. Adoption certificates are given to those ATC squadrons that work in partnership with RAFA Branches providing mutual support and assistance when needed.

The presentation took place at the HQ of 2196 Sqn on the evening of 3 August. The Certificate of Adoption was presented by Air Vice-Marshal Martin Clark CB RAF who is the President of the Trowbridge & West Wiltshire Branch of the Royal Air Forces Association. The recipient was the Officer Commanding of 2196 Squadron Flight Lieutenant Ben Evans RAF VR(T).

Cadets and Branch members were present to witness the event along with parents of the cadets and Civilian Committee members. Following the presentation RAFA Branch Members were invited to observe some aspects of the cadet training programme. 2196 Sqn meet on Wednesday and Friday evenings, the Trowbridge & West Wiltshire Branch of RAFA meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Lovemead House, Roundstone Street. New members are always welcome to join these organisations.



6. FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE – WESTMINSTER ABBEY GARDENS – 3 NOVEMBER 2016

Repeat Article

We have once again been asked to participate in the above ceremony by the Royal British Legion (RBL) and Branches are asked to give this special occasion their best possible support by ordering crosses to be planted by their representatives wherever possible.

Entrance to the Field will involve passing through Police Security checks. Everyone must bring two forms of ID of which one must include a photograph (e.g. passport). Sight of these may be required by the police or security officers. The South East & Eastern Area will be pleased to arrange for crosses to be planted on

behalf of Branches not represented. Please be advised that all crosses must be planted by 09.30hrs on the day. Gates will open at 0845 hrs and close at 10.00 hrs. All participants must be in position by 10.00hrs. Staff from the South East and Eastern Area will be in attendance along with the National Standard Bearer on the day. A Badge Cross will cost £10.30 and a Leaf Cross (suitable for use by Branches) will cost £6.28

Orders, together with the appropriate remittance, should be sent to Cat Knott, RAFA South East & Eastern Area, Atlas House, 41 Wembley Road, Leicester LE3 1UT Tel: 0116 268 8784 E-mail: Catherine.knott@rafa.org.uk no later than **Monday 26th September 2016**.

7. VOLUNTEERING NEWS

The Volunteering Team is delighted that it is continuing to receive requests for support to recruit volunteers for Wings Appeal Collections. Please welcome any volunteers we find for you and use the opportunity to sell the many benefits of your Branch to them. We hope many will join our Branches as well as support our fundraising activities, and you will play a big part in their decision.



In addition to supporting Wings collections in Branches, the team has inducted our new Fundraising Team Leaders in Blackburn and Burnley, Hemel Hempstead, Inverness and Motherwell, with training being provided by the Fundraising Team. The training will ensure they are fully informed of all the details and legalities required to set up and undertake a collection. In addition, they have been provided with helpful hints and best practice, some of which was given by our Branches. Thank you for sharing your knowledge and ideas with our newest supporters. The Area Volunteer Coordinators continue to provide local support to Branches where they can. Your local Area Coordinator can be reached by emailing volunteers@rafa.org.uk.

While every effort is made to support a Branch's volunteer request, we hope Branches take advantage of the Print on Demand service offered by our Marketing Team through Helen Pack on helen.pack@rafa.org.uk. You can use the service to customise materials such as posters, with details of your local volunteer vacancies, print them out and put them up in local shops and

community hubs. More details on this can be found at <https://www.rafa.org.uk/promotion/order-personalised-materials/>.

8. AREA CONFERENCE AND REUNION – MARCH 2017

You'll see this article appearing more than once!! Some of you have been very quick off the mark and already booked your accommodation at the Derwent Hotel in Torquay for our Area Conference and Reunion which will take place over the weekend 17 to 19 March 2017. For those among us who need a gentle reminder, here's some detail to help you decide:

- Two nights accommodation (Friday and Saturday), dinner, bed and breakfast and Sunday lunch - £122 per person.
- An option to stay Sunday night is available at an additional £35 per person, dinner, bed and breakfast.
- There are a few single rooms available, when they've gone a £10 per night supplement will apply.
- **Please make your booking direct with TLH Leisure Group on 01803-400500 for the 'RAF Association Weekend'. They will request a 25% deposit.**

We'll get more information to you during the autumn.

9. HELPING HAND & BRANCH MATCH APPLICATION FORMS – Q and A's

The Helping Hand and Grant Match process is really making a difference to many of our branches with their recruiting, fundraising and social initiatives. Enclosed with this Newsletter is a set of a Q&As to help you get ahead. Your first point of contact is your Branch Support Officer (either Alan or Ian!).

10. BATTLE OF BRITAIN WINGS APPEAL CONCERT - TEIGNMOUTH

Don't forget – if you have time - to support the Teignmouth Branch Wings Appeal by booking tickets for this Concert. In partnership with our Teignmouth Branch, the Association Concert Band will be performing at the newly refurbished Pavilions Theatre in Teignmouth on Sunday 18 September at 3pm, in order to commemorate the Battle of Britain and help raise much needed funds for Wings Appeal. Please take a moment to check out the Pavilions website where you can order tickets – www.pavilionsteignmouth.org.uk or on 01626-249049. Tickets are only £10.00.

11. WREKIN CANOE PADDLE

For the second year running Bob Rayment, Chairman of the Wrekin Wellington Branch has helped raised over £400 for the Wings Appeal by canoeing down the River Severn from Ironbridge to Hampton Loade. This year he sadly could not be joined by his wife, Sallyann, but Darrold Jones stepped into the paddle! They've all pledged to hit the water again next year!

Well done to both of you and to those at the Wrekin and Wellington branch who came out and supported them on the day.



12. AIR CADET TORCH RELAY ARRIVES IN DORSET

Following a request from Area HQ to support this Torch Relay when it reached the relevant borders, RAFA members of Christchurch, Poole, Wimborne and the Sturminster Newton & Gillingham Branches gathered on August 23rd. in brilliant sunshine at the Bournemouth Aviation Museum. With Standards flying and surrounded by happy, supremely smart Cadets from two of the Dorset Wing ATC Squadrons, they joined in the welcome and applauded the arrival into the county of the Air Cadet Torch on its journey from John O'Groats to Lands End to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Corps foundation. The Torch travelled by many various means, arriving here in vintage style from the Beaulieu Motor Museum in Hampshire and, after other appearances in the locality, departed to Wiltshire by air to Boscombe Down.



13. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – We Welcome All

- Truro Day (with involvement from the Association's Cornwall Region – Truro Branch has the lead) – 11am – Sun 11 September 2016.
- RAF Cosford Battle of Britain Parade and Service - Sun 11 September 2016.
- MoD St Athan Battle of Britain Parade and Service – Sun 11 September 2016.
- Wreath Laying Service at Sea on Sunday 11 September (date change from 25 Sep) sailing from Padstow Harbour at 11.30am (organised through our Bodmin Branch – this is a unique Service. Real flowers please as part of any wreath).
- RAF Cosford Battle of Britain Parade and Service – Sunday 11 September 2016 (Area Office will be providing details shortly).
- To commemorate the 76th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain and those who served and died operating from RAF Portreath during WWII, a church service and wreath laying ceremony is to be held at Illogan Parish Church, Illogan, Redruth on Wednesday 14th September 2016 commencing at 1400hrs.
- Evesham's Battle of Britain's service is to be held at Waterside Cemetery on 15th September at 11am. Local schools have been invited to place crosses on the graves at the time of wreath laying.
- Wolverhampton & District Branch Battle of Britain Parade and Service – Sun 18 September 2016.
- Newcastle-under-Lyme Branch will be holding its annual Battle of Britain Parade on Sunday the 18th September commencing with a parade through the town towards the Anglican church where there will be a service attended by the Deputy Lieutenant of Staffordshire and the Mayor of Newcastle-under-Lyme and moving to the cenotaph for a short act of remembrance and dedication, followed by dismissal of the parade and welcome refreshments.
- The North Cornwall Branch Battle of Britain Service – Sun 18 September 2016 at the Kilkhampton Parish Church at 11.00am.
- RAF Association Concert Band Performance at the Pavilions Theatre, Teignmouth – 3pm on Sun 18 September 2016.
- Plymouth Branch Annual Battle of Britain Parade and Service at the Minster Church St Andrews (special opportunity to also celebrate ATC 75th Anniversary) – 1100am on Sun 18 September 2016.
- The next Regional meeting, of East Glamorgan & Gwent, will be held at Penarth RAFA Club on Saturday 19 November 2016 starting at 1400 hrs.
- Northern Counties (Wales) Region - next meetings have been agreed, to be held on Saturday, 19th November 2016 at Wrexham branch and Saturday, 8th April 2017 at Llangollen branch.

Paul Baker – Area Director

A best friend is like a four leaf clover, hard to find, lucky to have

1. Helping Hand and Grant Match Scheme – Q&A.