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# Wales, Midland & South Western Area Newsletter

**April 2017**

**Don't forget to return your Revised 2017 Branch & Club F1056**

## **WITH GREAT SADNESS – We Will Remember**

It is with sadness that we report the passing of John E Bates, Vice President of Leek Branch who died Thursday 2 March 2017 at Royal Stoke University Hospital. A past Deputy Lieutenant of Staffordshire and OC Staffordshire Wing ATC and latterly as a Branch Wings Appeal Officer and Cadet Liaison Officer. Our thoughts are with John's family at this time.

## **BRANCH CLOSURE**

After long and distinguished service we report the closure of our Chepstow & District Branch, effective from 1 April 2017, which will now revert to Registered Members' Group status. We extend our sincere thanks to the retiring Branch Committee for conducting their closure with professionalism and dignity. Of course, the hope is that we can breathe new life into Chepstow in the coming years and 'stand up' a Branch once again.

## **AREA REUNION AND AGM**

Area Council thank all those members who attend the Area Reunion and AGM at the Derwent Hotel Torquay over the weekend 17 – 19 March. With Delegates from nearly 60% of our Branches and 2 of our Registered Member Groups, it was our best attended Reunion for some time. There were some excellent and most enjoyable presentations from, among others the RAF Presentation Team, and we had a very successful (and short) AGM. The mass of Standard Bearers attending was truly impressive and added impact to the ceremonial events. However the best thing about the weekend was the reunion aspect, the laughter and the fun. The Friday and Saturday evening entertainments were outstanding, as evidenced by the fact that people were still on the dance floor after midnight and the bar was always crowded. Given the feedback received Council are delighted that those that attended had a great time; however just over 40% of our Branches missed the opportunity for some of their members to have a great weekend with fellow members from across our large Area; perhaps next year we could get even more branches in attendance at the Cheltenham Chase Hotel on the weekend of 23-25 March 2018. Remember if it's the cost aspect that is preventing your Branch sending a delegate there could be financial assistance from Area so please speak to Paul or your BSO. Your Area Council hope to see all of our Branches represented in 2018; especially as that year will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the RAF. Best wishes to all.

John Tisbury  
Area Chairman



Patron: Her Majesty The Queen  
Registered Charity 226686 (England & Wales). SC037673 (Scotland).

## BRANCH AND CLUB AGMS – FORM 1056/A

Please don't forget we need your 'Revised' Branch F1056/Club F1056A as soon as possible following your respective AGMs, copies of which have been sent out to all Branch Secretaries. It's vital we are holding the correct information on who is doing what including those filling extended Branch and Club roles.

## PERSONAL DATA PRIVACY – BRANCHES AND CLUBS

The Association has a legal obligation to protect personal data in conformance with UK data protection legislation (currently the Data Protection Act (DPA) 1998). The Association's Personal Data Privacy Policy, together with the associated Standard Operating Procedures, describe the measures necessary for the Association and its members to comply with the DPA. At Branch level this means that any personal data held about Branch members must only be used for legitimate Association purposes and that all personal data must be kept under strict control and not inadvertently shared or made available for unauthorised use.

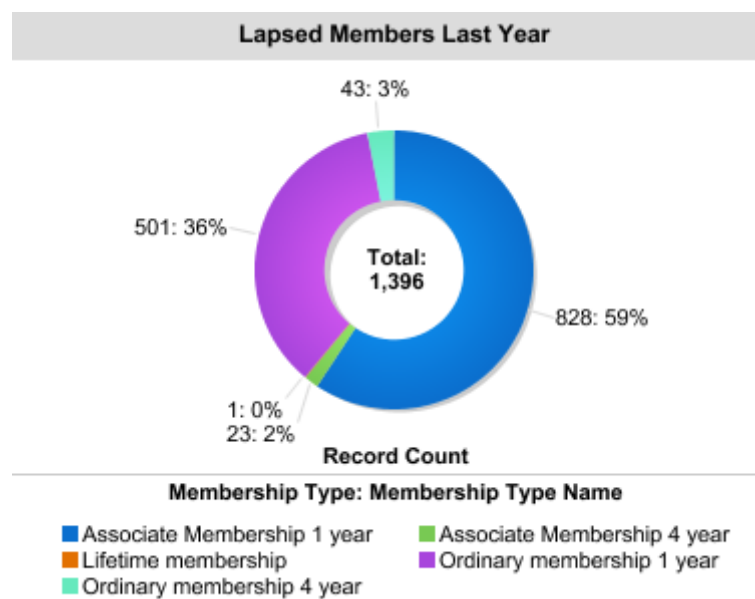
The Association is only able to share personal data with Branch officials who have agreed to use such data in compliance with the Policy and have signed the annual Certificate of Compliance for the protection of personal data. Some of our branches and clubs have not yet returned the signed certificate regarding compliance with the Data Protection Act, which was sent out earlier this year. Until these certificates are returned, we are not able to provide those branches or clubs with membership lists. We would request those Branches that have not yet returned their certificate to do so as soon as possible. If required, further copies of the certificate can be found on the Members Log-In Section of the RAF Association website or from the Area Headquarters by e-mail request to [debbie.byam@rafa.org.uk](mailto:debbie.byam@rafa.org.uk).

## BEFRIENDING IN YOUR LOCAL AREA

Branch Members who enjoy visiting others who might wish to become a befriender would be most welcome. If you wish to be considered, please send an email to your local area welfare officer direct - South West – Dr Glenford Bishop, email: [glenford.bishop@rafa.org.uk](mailto:glenford.bishop@rafa.org.uk). Wales – Barbara Howells, email: [barbara.howells@rafa.org.uk](mailto:barbara.howells@rafa.org.uk) and Midland – Tracey Khan, email: [tracey.khan@rafa.org.uk](mailto:tracey.khan@rafa.org.uk).

## BRANCH LAPSED MEMBERS

A list of those members that have lapsed is on its way to Branch Membership Secretaries. Please take a moment to consider how you might wish to engage with these members, to check on their welfare and encourage them to renew. You'll see from this chart we have some way to go in order to get everyone back on board.



## GLOUCESTER BRANCH NEWS

Our Gloucester Branch is producing a tapestry that represents the RFC and RAF Stations of Gloucestershire as part of their RAF 100 Project. The tapestry will consist of 10, 1 metre square panels and some 60+ embroiderers from around Gloucestershire are working to ensure it is ready for display, initially at the Area Conference in 2018 before going on tour around Gloucestershire to raise money for Wings Appeal. It is planned for the tapestry to adorn the new education centre of the Jet Age Museum when the building is completed. Although both Gloucester and Cheltenham branches and members of the Gloucester branch have generously supported the project additional funding is needed. If you would like to contribute please contact Ray Bunnage at [rafagloucester@gmail.com](mailto:rafagloucester@gmail.com).

## AREA PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATES

In recognition of their meritorious service to the Association, the Area President has been pleased to award his Certificate to the following in 2017:

- Mr Bob Rayment – Wrekin Wellington Branch.
- Mr Paul Ellis – Calne & District Branch.
- Stafford Branch Committee.
- Mr John Sheldon – West Bromwich Branch.
- Mr Tom Kelly – Wimborne Branch.

## AREA MEMBERSHIP TROPHIES

Many congratulations to the following branches for their membership achievements in 2016:

- Pontardawe & District Branch – highest percentage increase (small branch).
- Cosford & District Branch – highest percentage increase (large branch).
- Neath Branch – first to renew all members.

## AREA WINGS APPEAL TROPHIES

- North Cotswold Branch – highest gross per capita.
- Torquay Branch – highest gross collection.
- WRAF Branch – highest percentage increase.



Many congratulations also to the following branches which were presented with Wings Appeal collection certificates of £10k and above:

- Anglesey, Birmingham Moseley, Cannock Chase, Cheltenham, City of Bristol, Plymouth, Solihull, Weston-super-Mare, Torquay.

## BRANCH AND CLUB EFFICIENCY TROPHIES

Well done to the following branches and clubs who were honoured with efficiency trophies:

- Barry Branch – branch efficiency (large).
- Mid-Somerset Branch – branch efficiency (small).
- Porthcawl & Kenfig Branch – club efficiency (large).
- Knighton & District – club efficiency (small).

## AREA WELFARE – LIGHTNING TROPHY

A mainstay of our annual cycle of awards is the Lightning Trophy, presented to the individual or organisation who has made an outstanding contribution to welfare in the Area over the past 12 months. Congratulations go to Mrs Moyne Blake, HWO at our Cheltenham Branch. Moyne is a most deserving winner.

## RAFALO OF THE YEAR

Huge congratulations to Fiona McGregor of MoD Abbeywood – this year's 'star' RAF Association Liaison Officer in the Area.



On the national scene.....it's great to be able to report that MoD Stafford has won the Marquis of Amodio Trophy awarded to the Station recruiting the highest number of new members relative to the number of personnel employed on the Station, and also that Porthcawl & Kenfig has been recognised as the best club and will collect the Dickie Collins Trophy at Annual Conference in May. Well done both!

## ...AND EVEN THE 'SPOOKY' AT OUR 'SUCCESSFUL' AGM



In the early 1950s, Mike Davis and Doug Collett, both now of Poole Branch RAFA, served at RAF Ahlhorn in North Germany. Mike Davis served on **256 Squadron** and Doug Collett on **96 Squadron**, so they did not know one another at that time.

In 2006 Doug Collett joined Poole (680) Branch RAFA, where Mike Davis was (and still is) Chairman, and they soon discovered their shared history.

This year, both Mike and Doug attended the 2017 Wales, Midlands and South Western Area Conference in Torquay. Both bought raffle tickets on both the Friday and Saturday evenings. On Friday evening Mike managed to procure a raffle ticket

with the number **256**, his old Squadron number at RAF Ahlhorn, and to his delight ticket number **256** won him a bottle of Bacardi.

On the Saturday evening, Doug managed to procure a raffle ticket with the number **96**, his old Squadron number at RAF Ahlhorn, and, believe it or not, ticket number **96** won him a bottle of Bacardi also!!

(Photo shows Mike and Doug with their respective prizes with ticket numbers still attached)

## **MID-SOMERSET - ANNUAL BRANCH LUNCHEON**

Showing the Mid-Somerset branch in fine form having their annual branch lunch.



## **WINGS APPEAL WORKSHOPS**

To further support branches with their tremendous fundraising efforts, we are continuing our series of Wings Appeal workshops across the country. If you did not attend one of the events in 2016, then we would like to invite you or a representative from your branch to come and join the discussion, share ideas and help inspire other organisers. Pete Brocklehurst, Community Fundraising Manager, along with members of the Wings Appeal team, will facilitate the discussions and update you on current fundraising initiatives. We fully appreciate that fundraising has become increasingly difficult, therefore these workshops are vital to give Wings Appeal Organisers from different branches the chance to come together to share ideas and receive updates on the newest initiatives while feeding back and making suggestions on how the central team can improve the support you receive.

The following topics will be discussed at the workshop:

- Ways of fundraising
- How to recruit more fundraisers
- Resources available to Wings Appeal Organisers
- Maximising publicity for your fundraising
- Wings Appeal financial processes
- Open forum

The days will run from 10.00hrs until 14.30hrs. Refreshments will be provided during the day, with a welcoming cup of tea or coffee and a buffet lunch.

The aim of the workshops are for you to share your ideas with other fundraisers and for you to leave with new ones. Last year's workshops proved a great success with those attending saying they found the sessions enjoyable and informative. The session will also reaffirm what you and your branch already do and how to approach fundraising in the best possible way to make your campaigns even more successful.

Workshops will be taking place on the following dates and locations:

1. Saturday 8 April - Scotland and Northern Ireland Area Conference
2. Tuesday 25 April - RAF St Mawgan, Newquay, Cornwall, TR8 4HP
3. Wednesday 26 April - Llandaff and Ely Branch Club  
Riverside Terrace, Ely, Cardiff, CF5 5AS
4. Tuesday 2 May - RAF Honington  
RAF Honington, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP31 1EE

5. Tuesday 23 May - Huyton with Roby and Liverpool Branch Club  
6 Ellison Grove, Huyton, Liverpool, L36 9GA
6. Wednesday 24 May - Scarborough Branch Club  
Westover Social Club, Fulbeck House, 3 Westover Rd, Scarborough, YO12 5AA
7. Tuesday 30 May - Headquarters RAF Association  
Atlas House, Wembley Road, Leicester, LE3 1UT
8. Thursday 1 June - Horsham and Storrington Branch Club  
The Needles Farm Buildings, Three Acres Blackbridge Lane, Horsham, RH12 1RS

We will need to know the numbers attending each event to ensure that we have capacity and that the day is set up correctly to cater for all needs. Please email [wings@rafa.org.uk](mailto:wings@rafa.org.uk) by **Tuesday 18 April** to confirm your attendance and provide the following details:

- Your branch name
- The names of those who will be attending
- Which workshop you would like to attend
- Any special dietary requirements
- Any special requirements i.e. wheelchair access
- The make, model, registration and colour of the vehicle you will be coming in (for RAF St Mawgan and RAF Honington workshops only)

In return we will send you a confirmation email with further details for the days themselves. Alternatively, you can call Ian Wright in the Wings Appeal team on 0116 268 8758 and confirm your attendance as above or return the enclosed form to the Wings Office and we will send you further details for the day itself.

If you have not received further information about your chosen workshop by **Thursday 20 April** please contact the Wings Appeal team to ensure we have received your confirmation of attendance. The Wings Appeal team look forward to meeting you at one of the workshops for a rewarding and enjoyable day.

## **WINGS APPEAL COLLECTIONS AT SAINSBURY'S**

Repeat Article. Any Wings Appeal collections at Sainsbury's should not take place if the Store insisted on counting the collection and taking a percentage for their own charitable purpose – unless the latter was agreed with the branch prior to the collection and the split of donations (including exact percentage) was made clear to the public during the collection.

## **RAF ASSOCIATION PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE 2017**

Enclosed is this year's insurance for your records when making arrangements for Wings Appeal 2017. Any queries or further assistance with regard to insurance please call Exeter Office – 01392-462088 option 4 and speak with Debbie.

## **OUR NEW BRANCH SUPPORT OFFICER IS ON HIS WAY!**

We are pleased to announce the arrival of Mr Mike Logue, our 3<sup>rd</sup> Branch Support Officer, in early May. Mike will pick up the area covering much of the Midlands and Mid/North Wales and we shall rebadge this as BSO (North). Ian Campbell will pick up the central belt stretching from St David's & Solva in the far West through to Swindon in the East (rebadged BSO Central). Alan Goudge will remain as BSO (South) but will pass responsibility for branches in South Wales to Ian. As clear as mud! Don't hesitate to get in touch with the team.

## THE RAF ASSOCIATION CONCERT BAND



This photograph is of our RAF Association Concert Band at the Area Conference and Reunion in Torquay.

Are you free to attend a St George's Day Concert on Saturday 22 April. The venue is Victoria Methodist Church, Station Road, Weston-super-Mare (BS23 1XU) and doors open at 7pm – concert starts at 7.30pm. Tickets costing £8 may be purchased on the night.

Here's another opportunity on Saturday 20 May. The venue is St Andrews Church, Banwell, near Weston-super-Mare. Doors open at 7pm and the Concert starts at 7.30pm. Tickets costing £8 may be purchased on the night.

And finally....for now.....our Concert Band will be supporting the Association's Annual Service of Dedication on Friday 16 June at the National Memorial Arboretum, Arlrewas, Staffs.

## PUBLIC UNVEILING AND DEDICATION OF A MEMORIAL TO THE CREW OF LIBERATOR FK242

There will be a public unveiling and dedication of a memorial to the crew of Liberator FK242 that crashed by Plaster Down, Dartmoor on 30 October 1942. The service will be at 11.00 on Saturday 8 April 2017 with wreath laying by Wing Commander Derek Straw RAF and Wing Commander Lisa D'Olivera RNZAF. RAF Association Members are cordially invited to attend. For more information please contact Rob Jones at [robjones42@btinternet.com](mailto:robjones42@btinternet.com).

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Northern Counties (Wales) Region – Llangollen Branch Club - Saturday, 8 April 2017.
- Devon Region Meeting at the Torquay Club – Saturday 22 April at 2.30pm.
- Wings Workshop - Tues 25 April at 10.00hrs until 14.30hrs - RAF St Mawgan.
- Wings Workshop - Weds 26 April at 10.00hrs until 14.30hrs - Llandaff and Ely Branch Club.
- East Glamorgan & Gwent Region are holding their Spring Dance at Cwmbran RAFA Club (Greenhill Road, Forgehammer, Cwmbran, NP44 3DQ) on Friday 28 April 2017 starting at 1930 hrs. All are welcome. Branch Secretary, Sue Lloyd, is the organiser on 07825 214583, to advise on choice of meal during the evening.
- Trebah Military Day - Trebah Gardens, Mawnan Smith, Saturday 27 May, gates open at 10.00hrs.
- East Glamorgan & Gwent Regional meeting in Aberdare RAFA Club (Bethel Street, Aberdare, postcode: CF44 7EP) on Saturday 3 June 2017, starting at 1400 hrs.
- Royal Cornwall Show, Wadebridge, Thursday 8, Friday 9 & Saturday 10 June.
- RAF & Allied Air Forces Monument Service, Plymouth Hoe Saturday 24 June.
- Devon Region Meeting at the Exmouth Club – Saturday 15 July at 2.30pm.
- Red Arrows Display, Falmouth, Wednesday 9 August.
- Bodmin Branch will set sail for the annual Wreath Laying at Sea from Padstow Harbour – 2.30pm on Sunday 17 September.
- The Falmouth Branch of the RAF Association will be holding a Service of Thanksgiving & Commemoration of the 77th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain at the Falmouth Parish Church of King Charles the Martyr at 1030am on Sunday the 8th of October 2017 - All are welcome to attend.
- Devon Region Meeting at the Plymouth Club – Saturday 21 October at 2.30pm.

**Debbie Byam – Area Administrator**

***Be the Change you want to see in the World.***

Enclosure: RAFA Insurance - Public Liability Insurance 2017.