

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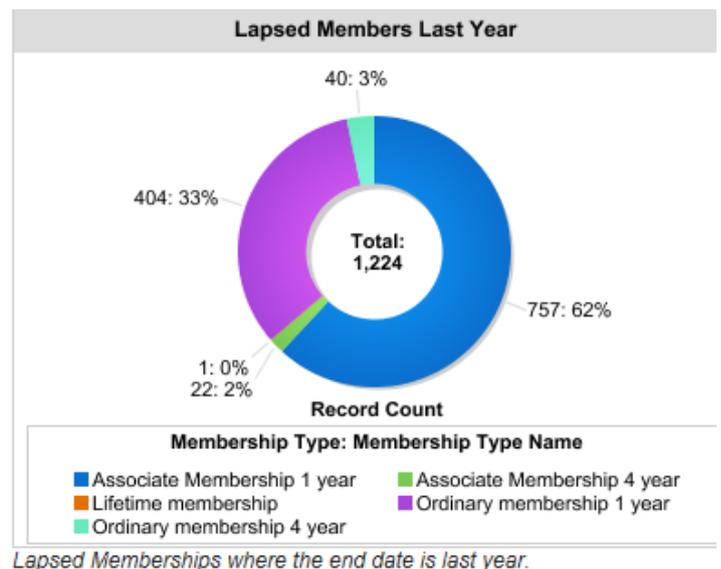
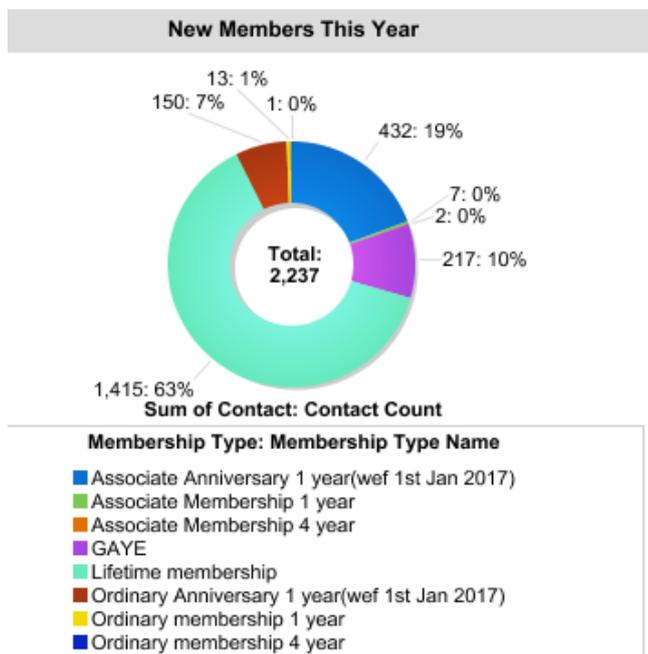
Wales, Midland & South Western Area

Newsletter

May 2017

AREA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Please keep up the great work at branch level to encourage all your members to renew and stay part of our Association. In terms of membership growth we are on track to achieve our aims in 2017 but really need your sustained help. If every branch could consider net growth of 12% then, as an Area, we shall be contributing positively to the Association's strategic plan. Here's how we are looking right now.



Membership Management

BRANCH AND CLUB AGMS – FORM 1056 BRANCH AND CLUB

Please don't forget we need your updated Branch & Club 1056's 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.



Branches are reminded in accordance with Branch Regulation (BR) 23, Annual General Meetings (AGM's) should take place between 1 January and 31 March 2017. It is really important that the 1056 branch and club forms are returned to the Area Office as soon as possible with correct details entered as requested.

A gentle nudge please to the following twenty three branches:

- Aberdare, Anglesey, Bargoed Blackwood, Brecon, Llangollen, Pontardawe & District, Porthcawl & Kenfig, St David's & Solva, Cannock Chase, Cheltenham, Evesham, Gloucester, Kidderminster, Market Drayton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stourbridge, Wrekin Wellington, Barnstaple & North Devon, Camborne, Redruth & Illogan, North Cornwall, Sherborne, Teignmouth.

PERSONAL DATA PRIVACY – BRANCHES AND CLUBS

Please note – Important Information: 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 who 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.

BRANCH AND CLUB ACCOUNTS

In accordance with Branch Regulation (BR) 32, Branch and Club Accounts as at 31 December 2016, including a report from the Auditor or Independent Examiner, are to be received at the Area HQ (Exeter Office) by 31 March 2017. If your accounts are not already submitted, please now ensure they are despatched without delay, to Area HQ (Exeter office). A gentle nudge please to the following seventeen branches:

- Brecon, Haverfordwest, Birmingham Sheldon, Cannock Chase, Cheltenham, Evesham, Gloucester, Kidderminster, Royal Leamington Spa & Warwick, Market Drayton, Rugby & District, Wrekin Wellington, Bodmin, Mid-Somerset, Sherborne, Truro, Wimborne.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Branches and members are reminded that membership renewals were due on 1 January 2017. With the new system in place, if any member has not yet renewed, their membership lapsed on 31 January 2017 and should be renewed as soon as possible. Membership renewal can be done via post, FAO: Memberships Dept., Royal Air Forces Association, Headquarters, Atlas House, 41 Wembley Road, Leicester LE3 1UT. By telephone on 0116-268 8789/0116 464 5026 or online via the Association's website – www.rafa.org.uk. If you have not already done so, why not arrange to renew your membership via Direct Debit.

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES, UP-DATES, CHANGES, BRANCH MEMBERSHIP LISTS

Please note that you may contact your Wales, Midland and South West Area Headquarters in Exeter for up-dated membership lists, lapsed membership lists, new memberships for your branch and to inform of any changes within the branch. Changes to email details, telephone numbers, addresses or other, can be amended and up-dated by Debbie, Exeter Office either call on 01392-462088 option 4 or email debbie.byam@rafa.org.uk.

AREA STANDARD BEARER COMPETITION 2017

This year's Area Conference and Reunion in Torquay was the scene of yet another fiercely competitive Standard Bearer competition. Under the instruction of WO (ATC) Jon Barnes and with Air Marshal Sir Dusty Miller and Air Commodore Andrew Neal judging every movement, Shawn Marston (Shrewsbury & District Branch) retained the much coveted Dave Porter Trophy, with Paul Ellis (Calne & District Branch) a very strong runner-up. Our congratulations and thanks go to all those who took part.

All our standard bearer's play a hugely important role in promoting the Association and wider RAF family; real dedication and professionalism, thank you.



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 consider please send an email to your local area welfare officer direct - South West – Dr Glenford Bishop, email: glenford.bishop@rafa.org.uk. Wales – Barbara Howells, email: barbara.howells@rafa.org.uk and Midland – Tracey Khan, email: tracey.khan@rafa.org.uk.

CHARITY WALK FOR PEACE

The Association has been chosen by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Elders Association as one of their beneficiaries for their Charity Walk for Peace in Newham, East London on 14 May 2017. Since its inception, the walk has raised over £3.5 million for good causes. This year, they aim to raise £750,000.

The Fundraising Events team have now launched this fabulous event to the public via the Association's website and so far we have an amazing response. We therefore invite you, your families and friends to take part too. Dogs on leads are also welcome. The Walk is in London on 14 May 2017.

Venue: 10.00am Dockside, Silverton, Newham E16 2QU.

Registration: 09.00am.

Length of route: 5 miles approx.

Refreshments are available en-route and a meal is provided free of charge at the finish for those wishing to partake. The Charity Walk for Peace is a fantastic opportunity for the Association. The more sponsored participants we have on the day, the larger the match-funded donation the Association will receive.

If you, or someone you know would like to take part, please visit <https://www.rafa.org.uk/get-involved/events/charity-walk-for-peace/> and sign up. You will then receive all the information to get you started with fundraising. Coaches are being organised from all over the country for a small charge (£5pp), really it's that cheap! If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Jules at jules@rafa.org.uk.

Westover Social Club, Fulbeck House, 3 Westover Rd, Scarborough, YO12 5AA

1. Tuesday 30 May - Headquarters RAF Association
Atlas House, Wembley Road, Leicester, LE3 1UT
2. Thursday 1 June - Horsham and Storrington Branch Club
The Needles Farm Buildings, Three Acres Blackbridge Lane, Horsham, RH12 1RS

THE RAF ASSOCIATION CONCERT BAND



Charity RAFA Concert on Saturday 20 May.

The venue is St Andrews Church, Banwell, near Weston-s-Mare BS23 1XU. Doors open at 1900hrs and the Concert starts at 1930hrs. Tickets £8 may be purchased on the night.

The Concert Band will also be supporting the RAF Association Annual Service of Dedication on Friday 16 June at the National Memorial Arboretum, Arlrewas.



ROYAL AIR FORCE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS – RAF100

On 1 April 2018 the RAF will mark the centenary of its formation as the world's first independent air force. This will be an important opportunity for those in the RAF and the RAF family to commemorate their past, celebrate their success and also inspire the public as to their contribution to the UK's national security and prosperity.

The RAF100 programme of events will start in October 2017 and end in September 2018 and a number of flagship events will take place across the UK between March and September 2018 including a service in Westminster Abbey and a parade along the Mall, followed by a Royal Salute and flypast.

The four main charities (RAF Association, RAF Benevolent Fund, RAF Charitable Trust Enterprise and RAF Museum) have taken the unprecedented step of creating a joint venture charitable company, the RAF100 Appeal Ltd., its purpose is to deliver a coherent and collaborative campaign raising both income and profile.

More information about RAF100 can be found here: www.raf.mod.uk/raf100. There is also an opportunity to put forward any ideas that will help commemorate the achievements of the RAF and all who served, celebrate the RAF of today, or inspire people in your local community and beyond: www.raf.mod.uk/raf100/your-ideas. Further updates will be given as more information becomes available.

THE ROSS-ON-WYE RBL 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALKLANDS

The Ross-On-Wye branch of the Royal British Legion are commemorating the 35th anniversary of the Falklands on Sunday, 4th June 2017. There are two ceremonies, the first one starts at 1030hrs at Tudorville Cemetery where Priv Timothy Jenkins, 3 Para is buried and the second is a Parade through the town to the Market Place at 14.30hrs. Refreshments will be served. RBL Standards (from Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire have been invited as well as RBL Association Standards being requested and members. There will be an Exhibition of The Falklands with local stories and a talk by the Chairman of SAMA82. We are sure there must be members of RAFA in the three counties who might like to attend, if so, please take your own Standard and join this remembrance and reunion. Timings vary a little – for more information please contact the RBL Secretary, Margaret on 01989 566301.

CONGRATULATIONS WIMBORNE BRANCH AND TO TOM KELLY!

Air Commodore Andrew Neal, Area President, was joined by other guests at a special luncheon, to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of our Wimborne Branch. A super occasion at which Mr Tom Kelly, Branch Secretary, received his Area Presidential Certificate. Well deserved Tom and many congratulations!



UPDATE FROM VOLUNTEERING

The Association is delighted to announce a joint pilot project taking place between Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland (RIBI) and the RAF Association. Rotary is also a membership organisation and shares similar values to the Association of service, fellowship, diversity, integrity and leadership. Rotarians in Great Britain and Ireland are part of a global network of 1.2 million neighbours, friends, leaders, and

problem-solvers who come together to make positive, lasting change in communities at home and abroad. We are therefore pleased to be working with such a like-minded organisation for the benefit of the RAF family.

Starting in April 2017, Rotary in and around north and west Wales, Merseyside, the Wirral and parts of Cheshire, Shropshire and Lancashire, will be actively supporting the Befriending Service. Involvement will include sharing information and helping to recruit Rotarians in the area to become Befrienders for the Association to help us to combat loneliness and isolation in these communities.

A number of Rotarians have already expressed an interest in volunteering as a Befriender and have completed application forms. At the time of printing this article, we expect many to have already been booked onto one of our Befriender training courses for new Befrienders. A large number of courses are already planned from May 2017 onwards, to accommodate local training requirements for all our new Befriender volunteers.

The Volunteering Team will keep branches updated on progress with the pilot through the Area Newsletters.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact us on volunteers@rafa.org.uk or on 0116 268 8750.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 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.
- Wales Region Meetings: Mid-Wales - 22 July at Brecon, 21 October at Knighton, date to be confirmed at Tywyn.
- North Wales Region Meetings - 12 August at RAF Valley, 25 November at Wrexham, 31 March, Llangollen.

Debbie Byam
Area Administrator

Enclosures:

The Season Begins....RAFA Concert Band.
Latest RAF Update.

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BSOs – Wales Midland & South West

Swindon based – Central

Ian Campbell, Branch Support Officer, Midlands and South Wales
07584577064/ ian.campbell@rafa.org.uk

Please note Ian's work base address has changed to The Swindon RAFA Club, 41-43 Belle Vue Road, Old Town, Swindon, SN1 3HN.

Wolverhampton based- Northern

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