

The Royal Air Forces Association
Wales, Midland & South West
Area Headquarters & South Western Office
RAFA House, Chancel Lane
Pinhoe, Exeter, EX4 8JU
Tel: 01392 462 088
Email: southwestern@rafa.org.uk
www.rafa.org.uk

Wales, Midland & South Western Area

Newsletter

July 2017

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST 2017

It's a great pleasure to announce the following National Presidential Certificate recipients, awarded in conjunction with HM The Queen's Birthday Honours List 2017. Congratulations to all.

- Mrs Linda Taylor – Penarth Branch.
- Mr & Mrs Terry and Margaret McKeown – Barry Branch.
- Mr Paul Sharp – Shrewsbury & District Branch.
- Mr Phil Thurston – Kidderminster Branch.
- Llandaff & Ely Branch Committee.

During a recent visit to South Wales, Air Marshal Sir Baz North took the opportunity in his new role as President, to meet Association members at branches in Llandaff & Ely and Porthcawl & Kenfig. Branch representatives from across the two regions of East Glamorgan & Gwent and West Glamorgan spent time with Sir Baz who was accompanied on his visit by AVM John Cliffe, Chairman of Council and Nick Bunting, Secretary General. The visit also provided a perfect platform to surprise some National Presidential Certificate recipients with a presentation.



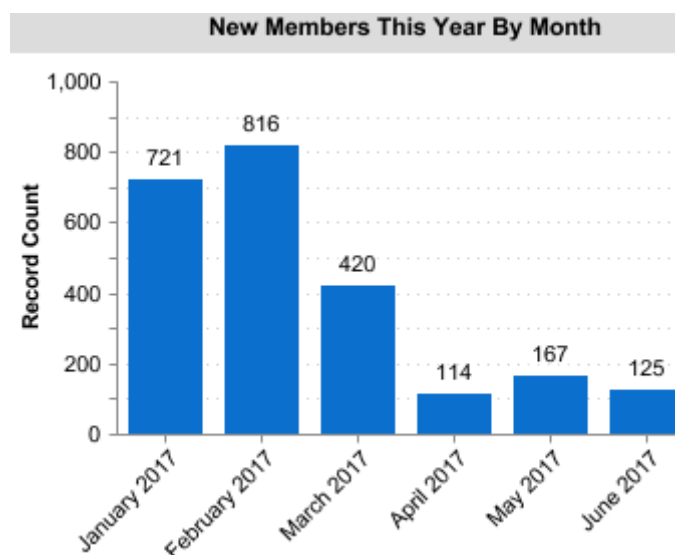
AREA STANDARD ON PARADE AT THE PLYMOUTH ARMED FORCES DAY

With Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Hillier, Chief of the Air Staff, as Guest of Honour, the Area Standard was paraded recently at the RAF and Allied Air Forces Monument Service which started proceedings at the Plymouth Armed Forces Day on the Hoe. Our sincere thanks to all Association Standard Bearers and the Parade Marshal, WO (ATC) Jon Barnes for their professionalism dedication.



AREA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

June was a tricky month in terms of membership recruitment, but let's stay positive and take every opportunity to welcome more people to our Association.



THANK YOU TO RAF COSFORD AND OUR BIRMINGHAM MOSELEY BRANCH

The new Station Commander at RAF Cosford, Gp Capt Tone Baker, together with the Station Warrant Officer, Mick Stokes, joined forces with members of the Birmingham Moseley Branch and Area Staff for a very successful Armed Forces Day in the City of Birmingham. Funds raised, new members recruited, camaraderie engendered - thank you!



LAST CALL FOR HONOURS & AWARDS SUBMISSIONS

The next meeting of the RAF Association Honours & Awards Committee will be deliberating in early August so you have until 16 July to get any submissions/narratives into the Area Director. Please don't hesitate to call Paul at Exeter if there is someone in your branch that you wish to be considered.

BRANCH SUPPORT OFFICERS

We are very fortunate in our Area to have the services of three full time Branch Support Officers which has necessitated a change of geographical responsibility for each. One of the keys to branch sustainability is the relationship between our BSOs and their branches so please continue to keep in touch and get the support you need:



Alan Goudge is the point of contact for our branches and RMGs at Barnstaple & North Devon, Bodmin, Burnham-on-Sea, Camborne Redruth & Illogan, Christchurch, Dawlish, Exmouth, Falmouth, Frome, Melksham, Mid Somerset, North Cornwall, Penzance, Plymouth, Poole, RAF St Mawgan, Sailing Branch, Salisbury, Shaftesbury, Sherborne, St Austell, Sturminster Newton & Gillingham, Taunton Deane, Teignmouth, Torquay, Trowbridge & West Wilts, Truro, Weston-super-Mare, Weymouth & Portland, Wimborne, Yeovil & District, Bridport & Lyme Regis, Dunkeswell (AC) & Honiton, Ilminster & Chard, Concert Band, Warminster. Alan is at alan.goudge@rafa.org.uk – 07827962766.



Ian Campbell is the point of contact for our branches and RMGs at Aberdare, Bargoed, Blackwood, Barry, Brecon, Calne & District, Cardigan, Cheltenham, Chepstow & District, City of Bristol, Corsham Chippenham, Cwmbran, Dursley & South Gloucs, Evesham, Gloucester, Haverfordwest, Llandaff & Ely, Llanelli, Neath, North Cotswold, Penarth, Pontardawe & District, Porthcawl & Kenfig, RAF Reserves Virtual Branch, Royal Leamington Spa & Warwick, St David's & Solva, Swansea, Swindon, Treorchy, Worcester & District, WRAF Virtual Branch. Ian is at ian.campbell@rafa.org.uk – 07584577064.



Mike Logue is the point of contact for our branches at Anglesey, Birmingham Moseley, Birmingham Sheldon, Bromsgrove & Redditch, Cannock Chase, Cosford & District, Coventry, Dudley, Ellesmere, Kidderminster, Knighton & District, Leek, Llangollen, Llanidloes, Market Drayton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Rugby & District, Shrewsbury & District, Solihull, Stafford, Stone & District, Stourbridge, Tamworth, Towyn & Aberdovey, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton & District, Wrekin Wellington, Wrexham. Mike is at mike.logue@rafa.org.uk – 07776392899.

ARMED FORCES DAY – WEYMOUTH

Great to see Kate Wood from the WRAF Branch out and about on parade at the Weymouth Armed Forces Day, accompanied by her veteran friends from the Breakfast Club. Also pictured is Hayley Southgate and friends who, with their local Wiltshire ladies, ran a stall in Lacock. The Tombola and 'Doris Hugs' (the large pooch) raised £151.63 for WRAF Branch funds. Thanks to Corsham & Chippenham Branch for their offer to help.



OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NEW WELFARE AND CLASSROOM FACILITIES AT THE ROBSON RESILIENCE CENTRE CRICKHOWELL

On 8 June Air Marshal Sir Baz North, President of the RAF Association, together with the Associations Chairman of Council, Air Vice-Marshal John Cliffe, visited the Robson Resilience Centre (RRC) Crickhowell to view the facilities and officially open the Robson Room.

The Robson Room, named after Air-Vice Marshal Adam Henry Robson, is part of an on-going programme to enhance the welfare and classroom facilities offered to everyone that visits the RRC Crickhowell. Cpl Mike Nicholson, one of the Centres Force Development Instructors (FDIs) was given the task to revitalise the old paragliding workshop and to get wifi into the area. Obtaining support and funding from the RAF Charities Trust and the Nuffield Trust, he and the Centre Manager, Mr Jim Thomson, have transformed the room into an outstanding facility. As the room will rely heavily on wifi, in both classroom and recreational use, it was fitting that the President of the RAF Association, who are funding the project to install wifi to the Centre, officially opened the Robson Room.

The OC RRC Crickhowell, Sqn Ldr John Dunn, explained that “the opening of the Robson Room was the first phase of a major drive to improve the welfare facilities at the Centre. With limited space, funds and resources we need to be able to use every space as best as we can, this means that classrooms and outdoor areas need to be multi-purpose. The Robson Room clearly fulfils his criteria, in addition to being 2 classrooms ‘The Sugar Loaf’ and ‘Pen y Fan’ used as a reviewing and planning area during the day, it has now been transformed into an outstanding facility in which recruits, cadets, students, staff and visitors to the Centre can relax and enjoy themselves in the evenings. Without financial support from organisations such as the RAF Association, we would not have been able to such a versatile facility such as the Robson Room”.



CONCERT BAND RMG OUT AND ABOUT!

Our hugely supportive Concert Band (don't forget they are also an RMG!) will be hosting a 'Brew for the Few' event on Saturday 8 July at the Victoria Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, Weston-Super-Mare BS23 1XU. Donated cakes will be available to buy along with tea and coffee along with various stalls informing and promoting the Band and the Association. Visits by invited guests and a small ensemble will be playing intermittently between 1100 and 1300hrs. Entry is free - doors open at 1030hrs and the event will finish at 1330hrs.

Other Concert Band performances for your diary:

- Sunday 6 August 2017 - Bandstand Keynsham Memorial Park, Bath Hill, Keynsham starting at 1430hrs until 1600hrs.
- Sunday 17 September 2017 - Battle of Britain, Wings Appeal Concert at the Pavilions Teignmouth, Den Crescent, Teignmouth TQ14 8BG, starting at 1500hrs until 1730hrs. Box office - 01626 249049. Tickets £10 and Concessions £8.50.

Please support our Concert Band.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Devon Region Meeting at the Exmouth Club – Saturday 15 July at 2.30pm.
- Plymouth Barbican, Boat Trip – Sunday, 23 July 2017, midday until 3pm, boarding at the Barbican Landing Stage, Plymouth, refreshments available.
- Red Arrows Display, Falmouth, Wednesday 9 August.
- RAF Harrowbeer 1940's weekend – 12th & 13th August. Volunteers welcome, contact Plymouth branch.
- Bodmin Branch will set sail for the annual Wreath Laying at Sea from Padstow Harbour – 2.30pm on Sunday 17 September.
- Battle of Britain Wreath Laying Ceremony on Sunday, 17 September 2017– Teignmouth Promenade at 1100hrs, Armed Force Bike Riders. Afterwards at 1500hrs Wings Appeal Concert at Pavilions Theatre, Teignmouth.
- 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.
- Trowbridge Armed Forces Weekend, 24 and 25 June - RAFA will be in attendance along with various branches of the ATC, all would be welcome.
- North Cornwall Branch - Battle of Britain Service at Kilkhampton Parish Church at 11.00am on Sunday 10th September 2017. All Branches are welcome to attend with their Standards.
- Battle of Britain Service Parade, Minster Church of St Andrews, Royal Parade at 11.15am on Sunday, 17 September 2017 supported by Air Cadets.
- Plymouth Rafa Members Christmas Lunch at 12.30pm on 16th December at Raffles Club, Ermington Terrace, Mutley, Plymouth.

Debbie Byam
Area Administrator

Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.

Enclosures:

RAFALO Update.
Volunteers Week 2017 Summary.