

The charity that supports the RAF family

The Royal Air Forces Association
Wales, Midland & South West
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February 2018

Wales, Midland and South West Area newsletter

Royal Air Forces Association RAF Centenary Service

National Memorial Arboretum

Staffordshire | Sunday 13 May 2018 | 1100hrs



We invite you to join us at a once in a lifetime centenary service to commemorate and celebrate 100 years of the RAF. This significant and large scale event will be held at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) in Alrewas, Staffordshire, on **Sunday 13 May 2018, at 1100hrs.**



The event will include our annual remembrance service. We are hoping to have many of the Association's standard bearers attending and as a poignant finale to this key event, an **RAF flypast** has been requested. Tea and cake will then be provided.

Tickets are available free of charge, but if your means allow, we would ask you to please consider making a donation to go towards the cost of running the event.

Join us and commemorate all those that have served, are serving and their families in this historic year - be part of your RAF centenary.

We hope to see you there.

Book your tickets

Find out more information about the event

For those who cannot click the above, please call 0800 018 2361 for tickets and information.

**AREA CONFERENCE AND REUNION 2018
AT THE CHELTENHAM CHASE HOTEL,
SHURDINGTON ROAD, BROCKWORTH,
GLOUCESTER GL3 4PB – FRIDAY 23
MARCH TO SUNDAY 25 MARCH 2018**

THANK YOU - to those branches who have now sent in their delegate forms to the Exeter office. Any other branches wishing to send delegates on behalf of their branches, there is still time, please send the forms direct to Debbie, Exeter office and don't forget to book your hotel room; details as follows:

Rooms are going fast so please call 0845 034 5777 and quote the date of your arrival followed by 'RAF Association preferential rate'. The following rates have been agreed:

- £130 per person for two night's dinner, bed and breakfast when sharing a double or twin room. Both evening meals will be a three course dinner
- A single supplement of £30 per room per night will apply.
- For those wishing to stay for just the Saturday night (24 March) – dinner, bed and breakfast rate sharing a double/twin room - £80 per person.

- For those planning to attend the Area Conference as non-residents and looking to have the Saturday evening dinner - £35 per person. Please call the hotel direct on 01452 519942 and ask for Hayley Cannock who will maintain a list of Saturday evening dinner requests.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE (NOT AREA) AND NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM SERVICE DETAILS – 11 to 13 MAY 2018

Please be aware to book as follows:

- Registration for Annual Conference is here: rafa.org.uk/annualconference
- **Accommodation bookings are being taken by phone through reception team - 0116 268 8750 and not online this year.**
- Guests/ delegates of Conference have a place reserved for the NMA service (as tickets are strictly limited), **but they do still need to register** their ticket and donation here: rafa.org.uk/nma/
- Guests/ delegates attending Conference will be expected to make their own way to the NMA Service on the Sunday (unless they are traveling by public transport then we will provide a coach).

FORMS 1056 (branch) and 1056a (clubs) and Data Protection Form

The New Year brings once more the need for your branch to complete the annual form 1056 (branch) and 1056a (clubs) and the data protection form. Once you receive the forms,

kindly complete and return to Debbie at the Exeter Office to comply with the GDPR. There may be a slight delay since the new format for 2018 hasn't been distributed yet. Should you have any queries regarding the forms please do not hesitate to contact Debbie direct on 01392 341391.

MOUNT SNOWDON CLIMB 20 MAY 2018 IN SUPPORT OF RAF 100 – CENTENARY YEAR FUNDRAISING

My name is Peter (Dusty) Miller and I am 81 years old. I am a former RAF Air Traffic Controller of 30 years service, then 5 yrs with the Oman Air Force.

I am collecting for the RAF Association in the centenary year of the RAF Association to raise money for those that they support. Please remember it is the whole RAF family that needs our support. This family includes all those who serve and have served, including their dependants when they are in need.

If you would be interested in joining me on my challenge and raising funds for the RAF Association you can contact me by emailing dusters105.miller@live.co.uk

Full details for the day including hints and tips on the climb itself can be found on Dusty's web page -- <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SnowdonCharityClimb> but in summary:

Date: Sunday 20 May
Meet time and location: 0700hrs at Pen y Pass
Weather briefing: 0715hrs

RAF100 CHARITY CONCERT – SWANSEA

Enclosed with this newsletter are details of a charity concert being held in Swansea on 20 April. There will also be a Marching Display through Swansea city centre with personnel from MOD St Athan the following day.

RAF100 – SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE & BATTLE OF BRITAIN RAF100 SERVICE – FALMOUTH

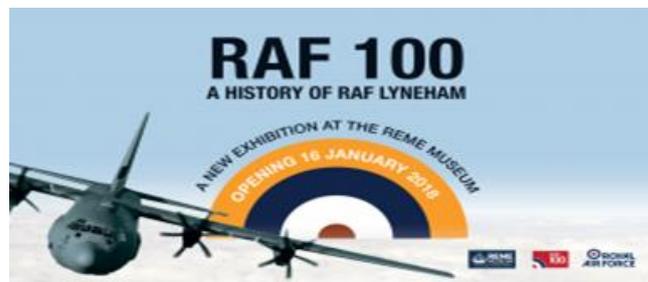
A service of remembrance to commemorate the 76th Anniversary of the St Nazaire Raid will be held in Falmouth on the Prince of Wales Pier at 1100 on Sunday the 18th of March 2018. All are very welcome and standards are invited to attend.

BODMIN, CORNWALL RAF100 BRANCH NEWS

On 8th April 2018, the Bodmin Branch will be holding a thanksgiving church service at St Petroc's Church, Bodmin. The church is the largest in Cornwall and can hold 500 in the congregation.

Later in the year, on 15 of September Bodmin Branch will be hosting a garden party in Priory Park, Bodmin where they will be offering entertainment, education, food and drink and lots of fun for people of all ages. The idea of the Garden Party is to celebrate, commemorate and inspire, which is the overall goal of RAF100 up and down the country. The Area RAF100 Token will be making its way from Plymouth during the week commemorating the Battle of Britain, which will feature re-enactors. All are welcome to attend.

NEW TEMPORARY EXHIBITION - RAF100: A History of RAF Lyneham. Open from 16th January



A new exhibition, 'RAF100: A History of RAF Lyneham' will open on January 16 at REME Museum. As part of RAF 100 the REME Museum will be hosting a temporary exhibition which looks at the history of the site when it was an air base.

Using historical images as well as interviews with serving and former RAF personnel and families who lived and worked on the base, the exhibition will provide visitors with an overview of the important work undertaken at RAF Lyneham.

As part of the exhibition there will be three evening talks, open to the public. Please note booking is required via the website: www.rememuseum.org.uk.

21st February: 100 Years of the RAF, Colin Cummings, RAF Historical Branch

18th April: Lyneham and Repatriations, Andrew Lloyd, Director of Army Museums Ogilby Trust

13th June: End of an Era, speaker to be confirmed

Tickets will cost £10 per person and will allow entry to the talk as well as access to the main museum after the talk has finished. Talks start at 1900hrs, doors will be open from 18.30hrs.

Visitors are encouraged to share their own memories of living and working at RAF Lyneham.

Visitors are invited to bring in photographs which they can have included on the exhibition walls allowing other visitors to see. There will also be the opportunity to write about their favourite memories.

For those who want to participate online, you can use hash tag #RAF100Lyneham for people to come together and share their memories and stories about RAF Lyneham and what this period of history has meant for them.

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- **MOD ST ATHAN – RAF 100**

East Glamorgan and Gwent Regional Parade at MOD St Athan will take place on the 9th September, starting at 1500hrs in the Multi Faith Centre. More information to follow. The next regional meeting is on Tuesday 20 Feb at 1000hrs. If you would like to take part please contact Tich Taylor by email: linda.49taylor@tiscali.co.uk

- A Battle of Britain and RAF 100 service will be held at 1030hrs on 7 October 2018 at the Falmouth parish church of King Charles The Martyr. The Falmouth Branch of the RAF Association cordially invite all to attend. As standards will be present official medals, decoration and chains of office may be worn

RAF100 – REQUEST TO RAF STATIONS – NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

In the run up to the RAF100 celebrations, the Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (ACAS) has asked that I write regarding the provision of passenger flights, fly pasts, other auction and raffle prizes. The RAF has a clear programme of activity and events to celebrate RAF100 that includes provision for the RAF Association, RAF Benevolent Fund, RAF Charitable Trust and the RAF Museum. The Association placed its request for support from the RAF in September of 2017 and we are part of a Joint Venture: the 'RAF 100 Appeal' with the above charities and the RAF.

Station Commanders and others absolutely cherish the local relationships with you but are being placed in a difficult position through repeated requests for support, which they have no hope of fulfilling. Therefore, may I ask that if there are exceptional and compelling requests for support, I will make representation to ACAS on your behalf.

Nick Bunting, Secretary General

COMMEMORATE, CELEBRATE, INSPIRE – RAF100

As part of the RAF100, four of the RAF associated charities will work together under the banner of the RAF100 Appeal; bringing together each charity's proud history of support, to fully realise the fundraising opportunities the centenary offers.

As valued members of the RAF family, you can play a part in making the centenary a special year. The [RAF100 website](#) has details of major events and how to get involved at a local, regional and national level. Help us to **commemorate** those that have gone before, **celebrate** the skills and talents of those currently in the service and **inspire** a future generation to help write the next chapter in our astonishing history.

RAF100 STATIC DISPLAY

It may interest you to know that the RAF100 Static Displays will be in Cardiff on 16 to 20 May and Birmingham on 25 to 27 August.

MILITARY VETERANS TO TAKE PART IN NEW STUDY EXPLORING HOW THEY MAKE THE TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN LIFE

Military veterans and their families can take part in a new University of Exeter study which will explore how they experienced leaving military life behind and transitioning back into civilian society. Former servicemen and women, and their families, are invited to tell their personal stories to researchers, who are investigating the challenges and opportunities which arise when exiting the armed forces.

Since the start of conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan it has become particularly important for policymakers to understand how servicemen and women make the transition to civilian life and what determines how successful that transition is. It is hoped the results of the research will help improve support available to veterans and enable a better understanding of transition. The project, Military Afterlives: Investigating veterans' experiences of transition, is run by Dr Sarah Bulmer, from the department of Politics at the University of Exeter and is funded by the Volkswagen Foundation. She has two veterans working in the research team, Dr David Jackson (former Royal Marine) and Dr Richard Davis (former Army Officer).

Dr Bulmer said: "Most research on transition has looked at how servicemen and women cope after leaving the military by analysing employment figures, reliance on state benefits and their health outcomes, such as rates of alcoholism, PTSD, and other impairments. Our research is different. "What we want to know is how they have experienced their transition to civilian life by listening to their stories, told in their own words. Our interviews will be conversational and will allow veterans and their family members to reflect on what has happened to them. We want to understand their individual views, without working from pre-set questions or looking only to investigate certain issues that are pre-determined."

The interviews will be conducted by a member of the research team. Those involved must be over 18. Researchers hope to speak to veterans now based in Devon and Cornwall with different levels of service, varying ages, those with different careers and with a range of reasons for leaving the Armed Forces. Researchers also hope to speak to their families and to under-represented groups, such as female veterans.

Researchers are particularly keen to increase the number of women veterans, under-40 veterans and veterans' family members participating in the study.

For further information and to register your interest in participating please go to <http://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/politics/research/projects/militaryafterlives/>

HOWDEN – GENERAL RAF ASSOCIATION INSURANCE

Please see enclosed Certificate of General RAF Association Insurance which includes, Wings Appeal and Public Liability. Please pass this document to your Branch Wings Appeal Organiser as it may be requested by businesses and organisations when securing collection locations for the Wings Appeal this year.

ONGOING FUNDRAISING

The 2018 Wings Appeal order form will be sent out to Wings Appeal Organisers in their February newsletter and will contain details of the new fundraising lines being introduced in 2018 to run alongside previous favourites. In the interim, branches can continue to order current fundraising materials for any event by visiting www.rafashop.com and logging into your account.

For assistance logging in and for ordering enquiries please call 0800 018 2361.

If you need further support with your fundraising please contact the Wings Appeal team by emailing wings@rafa.org.uk or call Ian Wright on 0116 268 8758.

WALES, MIDLAND AND SOUTH WEST AREA - BRANCH COVERAGE BY AREA COUNCILLORS (as at February 2018).

Enclosed with this newsletter is the latest Branch Coverage by Area Councillors for each branch.

And finally...

Sometimes when I have a mountain of paperwork, I dream of how many paper aeroplanes I can make.

Debbie Byam

Wales Midland and South West

Area Administrator

Encs:

1. Wales, Midland and South West Area Branch Coverage by Councillor.
2. Swansea RAF100 Centenary Charity Concert.
3. Weston-Super-Mare RAF100 Church Service
4. Weston-Super-Mare RAF100 Token Fair Poster
5. Wales, Midland and South West Area Conference and Reunion; photographs wanted.
6. Relevant Insurance documents.

