

The charity that supports the RAF family

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March 2018

# Wales, Midland and South Western Area newsletter

**AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR PETER SQUIRE  
GCB, DFC, AFC, DLE FRAeS ( 7 October 1945  
to February 2018)**



We were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Sir Peter Squire at the age of 72. He was a lifetime member of the RAF Association Torquay Branch and a well-liked and respected member of the armed forces. Sir Peter joined the RAF in 1963, training as a pilot after his initial officer training. He served in the Falkland's war, flying on operational missions and earning the DFC for his great courage. On his return to the UK his career took him to a number of stations and he rose

quickly through the ranks, being appointed Chief of the Air Staff in 2001.

Sir Peter retired from the air force in 2006. He leaves behind his wife Carolyn and their three sons.

## **ANNUAL BRANCH/CLUB RETURNS - FORMS 1056 (BRANCH) AND 1056a (CLUBS) INCLUDING DATA PROTECTION**

**Branch Secretaries have now been sent the annual form 1056 (branch) and 1056a (clubs) which includes Data Protection.** After your Branch AGM kindly complete, sign and return to Debbie at the Exeter office so up-dates can be applied and to ensure that your branch is compliant with the General Data Protection Regulations. Should you have any queries regarding the forms please do not hesitate to contact Debbie direct on 01392 341391. If you have not received your copy/copies please contact Debbie.

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

My name is Peter (Dusty) Miller and I am 81years old. I am a former RAF Air Traffic Controller of



30years service, then 5yrs with the Oman Air Force.

I am collecting for the centenary year of 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](mailto:dusters105.miller@live.co.uk)

Full details for the day including hints and tips on the climb itself can 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

### **CALLING ALL WW2 VETERANS**

The Royal British Legion/remembrance travel wants to take all surviving veterans of the Second World War on a free Remembrance tour to where they served during their time in the Armed Forces.

Tours will take place throughout 2018 and will give WW2 veterans the chance to meet up with fellow veterans and pay their respects at battlefield sites, cemeteries and memorials. The Treasury is enabling these free tours to be funded by Libor fines, and will enable the veterans to return with a family member and carer.

**No database exists of WW2 veterans who are still alive today, so the Legion is asking the public to help us make sure every surviving veteran can take part. If you're a grandchild, neighbour or carer and know someone who fought in WW2, please tell them about this opportunity and encourage them to sign up!**

For more information, please visit the Legion's website using the following link: <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/community/news/remembrance/help-us-find-ww2-veterans-for-free-remembrance-tours/>

### **CHALLENGE EVENTS 2018**

Please see enclosure/attachment for details.

### **RAF100 CHARITY CONCERT – SWANSEA**

Enclosed/attached 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 on 21 April.

### **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 1100hrs on Sunday 18 of March 2018. All are very welcome and standards are invited to attend.

### **CHELTENHAM BRANCH CENTENARY EXHIBITION**

In April, the Cheltenham Branch will host an Exhibition at the Staverton Jet Age Museum to commemorate the formation of the Royal Air Force in 1918, together with the contemporary creation of the aircraft industry in Cheltenham. The Exhibition forms part of the Cheltenham Borough's "*Cheltenham Remembers World War 1*" programme.

The Exhibition will include a ¾ scale SE5a model WW1 fighter; a replica airfield workshop; an operational airfield tableau; log books, diaries and photos of RAF men at Rendcomb and of Flight Cadets and WRAF in Cheltenham; aircraft guns and other memorabilia; illustrations and accounts of the Gloucester Aircraft Company factory, especially the employment of women; and a display from GCHQ including previously top secret cryptographic and other items, marking its long association with the RAF.

The Exhibition will be opened by the Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire Dame Janet Trotter OBE DBE CVO on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 1030 am and open to the General public at 11am, and thereafter for Easter weekend and three subsequent weekends until Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April from 10am until 4pm. Local schools have been invited on week days for a special programme which will include an exercise depicting RAF operations in France, practising basic aircraft repairs and competing in an aircraft recognition test.

The Exhibition has been generously supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Cheltenham Borough

Council, local Charities and Businesses. All RAF Association members, their families and friends are most welcome to attend, and there is no charge for admission.

I hope to see many of you there.  
Sir Dusty Miller

### **ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE AND FESTIVAL - SATURDAY 9 JUNE 2018 at BARRY ISLAND**

The Vale of Glamorgan Council are planning an Armed Forces Day event in support of and to say thank you to the past, present and future members of the Armed Forces and their Families, on Barry Island, on Saturday 9 June 2018. This will be a free entry event, all are welcome.

The event will take place in and around the whole beach front area of Barry Island and will include a parade, drum head service, arena displays as well as various stands, musical entertainment, food stalls and bar area.

The day will begin with the Parade forming up by 1045hrs stepping off at 1100hrs, followed by a Drum Head Service, with the day ending at 1800hrs.

A full and detailed programme will be published in due course.

Should you require any further information please contact either:

Mark Petherick  
Tel: 01446 709853 Mobile: 07970 433994  
Dave Morris  
Tel: 01446 774520 Mobile: 08715 171022

Email [mpetherick@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:mpetherick@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)  
Email [davecptmorris@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:davecptmorris@tiscali.co.uk)

Please see enclosure/attached form to complete if you would like to participate.

### **BODMIN, CORNWALL RAF100 BRANCH NEWS**

On 8 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. 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.

### **OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

- 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
- Sherborne Branch RAF Association's Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday, 22 March 2000hrs at the Slessor Club, Long Street, Sherborne, Dorset
- The Cornwall Region Quiz Night will be held at the Mount Charles Social Club, St Austell at 1900hrs to start 1930hrs on Thursday 24th of May 2018
- The Royal Air Force will celebrate its centenary year on 1 April 2018 with a service of thanksgiving presented at St Petroc's church, Bodmin. The service will commence at 1000hrs on 8 April 2018

### **HEREFORDSHIRE AERO CLUB – AIRFIELD TOURS AND HIGH TEAS**

On 31 March 2018 from midday Herefordshire Aero Club will be celebrating 100 years of the RAF and Shobdon's part in that history. For further details please see enclosure/attachment.

### **RAFA EASTERN CHALET PROJECT – HEMSBY**

Please see x 3 enclosures/attachments if you would like a break in Great Yarmouth.

### **TALYLLYN RAILWAY LOCOMOTIVE NO.6 DOUGLAS [AIR SERVICE CONSTRUCTION CORPS NO.1]**

Please see enclosure/attachment for more information.

### **A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF 100 YEARS OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE**

Proudly presented by the RAF Association – Cosford and District. Please see enclosure/attachment for details.

## **SOUTH WALES RAF100**

The RAF100 Events Team in Wales is seeking to invite both past and present Royal Air Force personnel that have either represented Wales at sport or have been awarded a distinguished Service medal, for example, **MSM** to the **Royal Air Force Centenary Service at St Mary's Church in St Mary's Square Swansea on Saturday 21 April 18**. Following the church service there will be the biggest military parade "in living history" to be staged in Swansea to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Royal Air Force. More than 400 RAF personnel, including the Queen's Colour Squadron, RAF St Athan and more than 200 Air Cadets will march through the City of Swansea streets after receiving a Civic Honour on Saturday 21 April. It promises to be the largest event of its kind in Wales and ahead of the parade there will be a **Royal Air Force Centenary Service at St Mary's Church in St Mary's Square Swansea**.

Please contact WO Kelvin Oatridge for further details; email: [kelvin.oatridge585@mod.uk](mailto:kelvin.oatridge585@mod.uk)

Please note this is a South Wales event. There will be a similar event in Bangor, North Wales in September, details of which will follow.

## **RAF ASSOCIATION PORTHCAWL AND KENFIG HILL BRANCH**

On the Tuesday 16 January 2018 the branch held a presentation evening at 2117 Kenfig Hill Royal Air Force Air Cadet Squadron. The Branch thanked the squadron for its strong support over the years and presented a certificate together with a donation to the squadron, Flt Sgt R Peckham (RAFAC), for their assistance with the wings 2017 appeal.



The highest collector, Cadet Morgan Griffiths, was also presented with a certificate for 2 x 15 min go-

karting sessions to the new 'Team Sports' professionally designed, state-of-the-art track with swooping bends, hairpin turns and white-knuckle straights at their multi-level track in Cardiff.

The evening was rounded off with a brief presentation on the aims of the Wings appeal, the RAF Association and RAF Association Youth. Finally a quiz based on the RAF Association and the RAF Association Cadets was enjoyed by all.

On the 17 February 2018 Pencoed RAF Air Cadets held a presentation evening during which the Porthcawl and Kenfig Branch of the RAF Association presented certificates and vouchers for karting sessions donated by Team Sport Karting Centre, Cardiff to Cadet Roberts and Cadet Sgt McKean for being the highest collectors for the 2017 wings appeal.

The Porthcawl and Kenfig RAF Association Branch also made a donation to the squadron and presented the Ken Maund cup to the local squadron that collects the highest amount overall.

*And finally...*

*"It's hard to beat a person who never gives up."*

***Debbie Byam***

*Wales Midland and South West  
Area Administrator*

Encs:

Forms 1056 and 1056a includes GDPR Challenge Events 2018 Herefordshire Aero Club Musical Celebration of 100 years of RAF RAF Association Eastern Chalet Project Hemsby, Norfolk and application form RAF100 Thanksgiving Service, Bodmin

