



## Cadets take to the sky

A group of 11 outstanding RAF Air Cadets from around the UK will be taking to the skies this summer, after winning Flying Scholarships from the RAF Association.

Ten of the teenagers were awarded 12 hours of flying lessons, with the eleventh receiving 35 hours, for their commitment to the work of Royal Air Forces Association. They were each presented with their scholarships at the RAF Association's Annual Conference in Birmingham by the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Hillier.

Alex Braybrook, a Cadet Flight Sergeant with 115 (Peterborough) Squadron, received the 35 hours of lessons. He said:

**"I found out I'd received the scholarship on my 17<sup>th</sup> birthday, which I think is the best present I'll ever get! My friends at school think it's crazy that I could get my pilot licence before I get my driving licence."**

### National Presidential Certificate Winners

We offer our congratulations to the following members who have been awarded the Association's National Presidential Certificate in conjunction with the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2019, with special mention of Mr Mike Chappell from Brecon Branch who continues to serve the Association and the wider RAF community in Brecon with distinction.

**Leslie D Mathews  
Banbridge Branch**

**David T Wood  
Skipton Branch**

**Steve Hutchinson  
Wallasey Branch**

**Mike Chappell  
Brecon Branch**

**The Edambusters, c/o  
Amsterdam Branch**

AREA  
MEMBERSHIP  
18,332

BRANCHES  
80

RMGS  
10

CLUBS  
20

AREA LAPSED  
MEMBERS  
804

## Challenge yourself this year!

We have lots of exciting opportunities for you to something amazing for the RAF Association.

This year we have teamed up with RAFSPA (the RAF Sports Parachute Association) for a fully immersive, military style parachuting experience day.

Join RAF personnel for a full day of activity – from packing parachutes, hearing about life in the service, having breakfast and lunch with the team, to the jump itself. Be fully immersed as the next member of the RAFSPA.

For more information, or to register your interest – check out [rafa.org.uk/RAFSPA](http://rafa.org.uk/RAFSPA) We have dates throughout the year and would love for you to join us!



## Growing our membership for 2019/20

The events and activities season is now upon us

- How often do you contact your members? (ideally twice a year by post if your branch can afford it and monthly by email)
- Have you got a website/Facebook page where prospective new members can find you?
- When collecting for wings, do you ask about membership?
- Does your branch have a membership plan? If not, contact your BSO and discuss a plan for the year ahead
- Please make membership recruitment a key agenda item at your committee meetings with your Membership Secretary or Chairman taking a lead
- Please remember that not all of your members are on email, do not forget to call or write to them to check they are ok and to keep them updated on what is happening at their branch





## D-Day 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Once again, the area branches turned out for a poignant anniversary in our nations calendar, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Normandy landings (D-Day).

Below are pictures from Torquay, Cheltenham and Barry.



## 2020 Conferences

### 2020 Area Conference

An early note for your diary. Area Conference next year will return to the Cheltenham Chase Hotel over the weekend Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 April. Yes! We are moving to an April Area Conference so as to create more time for branches and members to consider potential resolutions and topics of the moment. More detailed information will follow in due course.

### 2020 Annual Conference

Furthermore, following a review on the impact and feasibility of staging Annual Conference at the same time as next year's Armed Forces Day (Saturday 27 June 2020), the Annual Conference Committee is pleased to confirm that Annual Conference will, indeed, take place at Blackpool over the weekend 26 to 28 June 2020, thereby providing the RAF Association with a superb opportunity to take part in the Blackpool AFD commemorations. More information will follow in due course.



## News from around the area

### Bodmin tribute at sea

On 22 September 2019 the annual tribute at sea will take place off the North Coast of Cornwall. This unique ceremony was taken on by the Bodmin Branch in the 1980's when the Marine section RAF was disbanded. It is believed to be the only one of its kind in the country and it is to commemorate all air personnel lost at sea with no known grave.

We extend a welcome to all Association members who happen to be in the area to attend. Contact details for this event are through Peter Marlow. Email - [whippet258@btinternet.com](mailto:whippet258@btinternet.com) or tel 01208 76373



### Calne launches welfare drop-in

June 2019 marks the first welfare drop-in service in Calne. The service has been set up by the local branch, and the welfare team are leading the way.

The initiative has been the ambition of the Calne and District Branch Welfare Officer, Geoff Bridgman.

The team will be at the hub on the first Monday of the month between 1000 and 1300.

### Tarrant Rushden commemoration

Wimborne Branch commemorated the part that RAF Tarrant Rushden played in the D-Day landings this month.

With support from the area trailer being manned by Jon, Lorna and Jonathan Tomlin, a highlight from the day was a memorable fly past by a Dakota.

The branch would like to thank those that attended.



### Box revels in the sun

The Corsham and Chippenham Branch were collecting for the Wings Appeal in the village of Box this summer.

The branch manned the area trailer and spoke to the community about the local branch and the work the Association does across the country as well as selling the new Association ducks.

Thankfully the rain held out and the BSO (Ian Campbell) got the trailer through some tight corners!

**Please send all branch news articles to Ian Campbell (BSO) [ian.campbell@rafa.org.uk](mailto:ian.campbell@rafa.org.uk)**

## News from around the area

### Barry celebrates with Bob

Bob Froude was aged just 20 in June 1944 when, as part of the RAF Regiment, he landed at Utah Beach in Normandy. This week, Bob, a holder of the Légion d'Honneur, was a surprised guest of honour at a lunch held jointly by the Royal British Legion and the RAF Association Barry and took centre stage at the D-Day 75 commemoration at the Cenotaph on Sunday 9 June.

With help from Caroline Morgan Phillips and Lance Clarke (Padre of the Normandy Veterans Association), Bob laid the NVA wreath at the Barry Cenotaph.



### Swindon out on the town

The Swindon Branch were out this week at the annual Old Town Festival raising money for the Wings Appeal.

This was the first outing with their brand new Association gazebo and flags which made a huge impact with passers-by.

The team raised over £400 to add to their growing total for this year!

### Weston celebrate 80 years

Weston-super-Mare Branch recently held a fabulous dinner at the Branch Club HQ in Eagle House, to celebrate their 80<sup>th</sup> year of formation. A superb team effort with branch members laying on a three-course dinner, table decorations, the obligatory raffle and a most wonderful cake which the Chairman, Charlie Hewson, took great delight in cutting.

Congratulations to the branch for many years of dedicated support to the RAF family in and around Weston-super-Mare.



### RAF Colerne remembered

On Saturday 1 June, standards and members from branches representing Corsham & Chippenham, City of Bristol, Melksham and Calne attended the unveiling and dedication of the new Memorial at the former RAF Colerne.

The Memorial Stone was unveiled by Lt Col Jeffery R RIGNALS, CO 21st Signal Regiment, with Mr Kenneth Bannerman, Director General, Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust (ABCT).

The Service of Dedication was conducted by The Reverend (Wg Cdr) Alastair Davis.

## Band update – June 2019

**RAFA CONCERT BAND** 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary D-Day Concert in the Redgrave Theatre Bristol last Sunday (2 Jun) recreated the ambience and spirit of the 1940's with the unforgettable sounds of Glenn Miller and Vera Lynn along with special guest appearances from some wonderful characters including Arthur Askey, Danny Kaye, Joyce Grenville and the unforgettable Frank Sinatra. Bristol's Deputy Mayor and BBC's Alan Moore along with the near capacity audience were treated to a great evening, with songs, flag waving, and a chance to pump your chest.

Richard Hope-Hawkins, Peter Skellon and the RAFA Concert Band and Daisy Alexandra put the concert together. Music included the longest day, Normandy veterans and a grand finale of a selection of Vera Lyn hits called keep smiling through. Gusto singing from the audience resulted in an encore of we'll meet again and land of hope and glory!

**Peter Skellon BEM HND**  
**Musical Director – RAF Association Concert Band**

### 2019 Engagements

1. 14 Jun RAF Association Service of Dedication- National Memorial Arboretum
2. *TBC Worle Street Fayre*
3. 1 Sep Proms Hutton
4. 7 Sep Battle of Britain Dinner, Swindon Branch
5. 14 Sep Barnstaple and North Devon Branch Concert
6. 8 Nov Lunchtime Concert Poppy Launch. The Galleries, Bristol

For all other dates, please visit [rafaconcertband.org.uk](http://rafaconcertband.org.uk) or call the Musical Director on 07939424041

### Come and join us!

We are looking for competent players, especially on trombone, euphonium, double or bass guitar & percussion. No subscriptions, we just require your talent as we have a diverse programme of engagements planned.

For further details about and how to join the band, please ring **07939 424041** or visit our website [rafaconcertband.org.uk](http://rafaconcertband.org.uk)

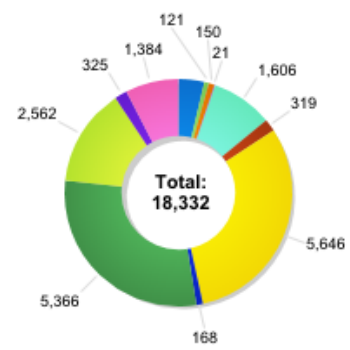
# Membership matters

Here's our latest membership status.

Let's keep growing the area - if each branch can increase its membership base by ten per cent, then we will be on target to achieve our aim.

*The more members you have the larger your rebate and the more support you can get for fundraising and events.*

Active Members by Type



Membership Type

- Associate Membership 1 Year
- Associate Membership 1 Year with Airmail
- Associate Membership 4 Years
- Associate Membership 4 Years with Airmail
- Associate Membership Anniversary 1 Year
- Associate Membership Anniversary 1 Year with Airmail
- GAYE Membership
- Honorary Lifetime Membership
- Lifetime Membership
- Ordinary Membership 1 Year
- Ordinary Membership 4 Years
- Ordinary Membership Anniversary 1 Year

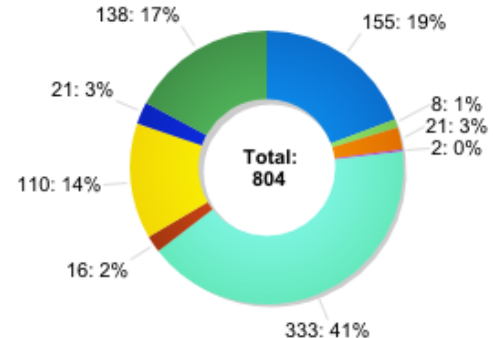
This 'doughnut' represents our biggest challenge – lapsed members.

If we can work to drive this number down together, then we will be doing exceptionally well.

**So how can we reduce this number?**

- Keep in regular contact with all of your members via letters, emails, social media and in person
- Request membership lists from Gary Larsen to make sure you regularly know what is happening with your members
- Keep meetings relaxed and enjoyable to harness your members' interest in the work of the branch and the wider Association

Lapsed Members Last Year



Record Count

Membership Type

- Associate Membership 1 Year
- Associate Membership 1 Year with Airmail
- Associate Membership 4 Years
- Associate Membership 4 Years with Airmail
- Associate Membership Anniversary 1 Year
- Associate Membership Anniversary 1 Year with Airmail
- Ordinary Membership 1 Year
- Ordinary Membership 4 Years
- Ordinary Membership Anniversary 1 Year

## Dates for your diary

### Area

- Plymouth Armed Forces Day with service at the RAF and Allied Air Forces monument - 29 June (0930hrs)
- Swindon Battle of Britain Ball (Marriott Hotel, Swindon) – 7 September (1900hrs) contact [rafaswindon@yahoo.com](mailto:rafaswindon@yahoo.com) for tickets
- RAF Cosford Battle of Britain parade and service - Sunday 8 September (book attendance through Mike Logue BSO)
- Tribute at Sea (Bodmin) – Sunday 22 September

### National

- RAF Association Service of Dedication (National Memorial Arboretum) – 14 June
- Weston Air Festival (Weston-Super-Mare) 22 to 23 June
- National Armed Forces Day (Salisbury) – 29 June
- Armed Forces Weekend (National Memorial Arboretum) – 29 to 30 June
- Wales Air Show (Swansea Bay) – 6 to 7 July
- Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) (RAF Fairford) – 19 to 21 July

## Annual Conference 2019

For those that were unable to attend this year's Annual Conference in Birmingham, you can watch the presentations and resolutions here [rafa.org.uk/annual-conference-2019](http://rafa.org.uk/annual-conference-2019) or download a copy from the members portal.

## Newsletter attachments

- Area team contact list
- Volunteer Coordinator update
- Falmouth Air Show
- Caernarfon event on Group Captain Lionel Rees



# The Area Team

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A quick reminder that you can call the team direct:

- **Paul Baker (Area Director)** – 01392 341392 or 07796887195. [Paul.baker@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Paul.baker@rafa.org.uk)
- **Gary Larsen (Area Administrator)** – 01392 462088. [Gary.larsen@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Gary.larsen@rafa.org.uk)
- **Lucie Paddison (Volunteer Coordinator)** 07775959376. [Lucie.paddison@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Lucie.paddison@rafa.org.uk)

## Branch Support Officers

- **Alan Goudge (BSO South West)** – 01392 341390 or 07827962766. [Alan.goudge@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Alan.goudge@rafa.org.uk)
- **Ian Campbell (BSO Central)** – 01793 967019 or 07584577064. [Ian.campbell@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Ian.campbell@rafa.org.uk)
- **Mike Logue (BSO Mids and Mid/North Wales)** – 01939 250351 Ext 7394 or 07776392899.  
[Mike.logue@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Mike.logue@rafa.org.uk)

## Wales Welfare Team

- **Barbara Howells (Area Welfare Manager Wales)** – 01495 368341. [Barbara.howells@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Barbara.howells@rafa.org.uk)
- **Andrew Carter (Deputy Area Welfare Manager Wales)** – 01495 368342. [Andrew.carter@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Andrew.carter@rafa.org.uk)
- **Stacey Edwards (Welfare Administrator Wales)** – 01495 368343. [Stacey.edwards@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Stacey.edwards@rafa.org.uk)

## Midlands Welfare Team

- **Tracey Khan (Area Welfare Manager Midlands)** – 0121 449 9356. [Tracey.khan@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Tracey.khan@rafa.org.uk)
- **Audrey Huggins (Welfare Administrator Midlands)** – 0121 449 9356. [Audrey.huggins@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Audrey.huggins@rafa.org.uk)

## South Western Welfare Team

- **Glenford Bishop (Area Welfare Manager South West)** – 01392 341395. [Glenford.bishop@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Glenford.bishop@rafa.org.uk)
- **Sally Hall (Deputy Area Welfare Manager South West)** – 01392 341393. [Sally.hall@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Sally.hall@rafa.org.uk)
- **Gary Larsen (Deputy Area Welfare Manager South West)** – 01392 341393. [Gary.larsen@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Gary.larsen@rafa.org.uk)





## Lucie Paddison, Area Volunteer Coordinator, Wales, Midland & South Western Area

June is an exciting time for the Volunteering Team as the start of the month marks Volunteers' Week. Running from 1 to 7 June, this annual campaign recognises the contribution volunteers make to our communities every day.

Volunteers' Week gives us the opportunity to recognise the time and energy our volunteers so willingly give in support of the Association, and to say a well-deserved "thank you". Volunteering for the Association means something different to everyone that helps us. We hope that whether you are volunteering in a fundraising, welfare, branch role, or in any other capacity, that you will feel proud to have helped have a positive impact on the lives of the RAF family. You can view our RAF Association "thank you" video via the following link:

<https://youtu.be/vd618522XC0>

Below is a list of all the current volunteering roles we are advertising and the up-to-date list can always be found at [rafa.org.uk/volunteer/search](http://rafa.org.uk/volunteer/search). If you would like to volunteer your time or find out more about any of our roles, please contact me on [volunteers@rafa.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@rafa.org.uk) or call 07775 959376.

RAFA Area	Role vacancy required	Location of role
Midlands	Caseworker	Bromsgrove
Midlands	Befriender	Leamington Spa
Midlands	Befriender	Market Drayton
Midlands	Befriender	Rubery, Birmingham
Midlands	Befriender	Stoke on Trent
Midlands	Befriender	Tamworth
Midlands	Befriender	Walsall
Midlands	Caseworker	Wolverhampton
Midlands	Befriender	Worcester
South West	Befriender	Bournemouth
South West	Caseworker	Bournemouth
South West	Befriender	Bristol
South West	Caseworker	Bristol & Bath
South West	Befriender	Falmouth
South West	Befriender	St Austell
South West	Befriender	Swindon
South West	Branch Volunteer	Swindon
South West	Caseworker	Swindon
South West	Branch Volunteer	Wimborne Branch
Wales	Befriender	Aberystwyth

Wales	Caseworker	Aberystwyth
Wales	Caseworker	Anglesey
Wales	Caseworker	Brecon
Wales	Befriender	Builth Wells
Wales	Befriender	Cardigan
Wales	Caseworker	Cardigan
Wales	Befriender	Carmarthen
Wales	Befriender	Gwent
Wales	Befriender	Newport
Wales	Caseworker	Pembrokeshire
Wales	Befriender	Rhondda Cynon Taf
Wales	Befriender	Rhyl
Wales	Caseworker	Rhyl

# FALMOUTH WEEK AIR SHOW

**FEATURING:  
THE BLADES,  
AEROSUPERBATICS  
WINGWALKERS  
AND THE  
STRIKEMASTER  
PAIR!**



**FREE!**

**WEDNESDAY  
14TH AUGUST  
FALMOUTH SEAFRONT  
5.45 PM - 6.45 PM**

[WWW.FALMOUTHWEEK.CO.UK](http://WWW.FALMOUTHWEEK.CO.UK)



IMAGES: [WWW.THEBLADES.COM](http://WWW.THEBLADES.COM) | [WWW.AEROSUPERBATICS.COM](http://WWW.AEROSUPERBATICS.COM) | [WWW.NWMAS.COM](http://WWW.NWMAS.COM)

DISPLAY IS SUBJECT TO WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CAA APPROVAL

Ymunwch efo'r RAF yng  
Nghaernarfon i goffáu gwasanaeth  
a dewrder hogyn o'r dre

Join the RAF in Caernarfon to  
commemorate the service  
and valour of Caernarfon boy

GRŴP CAPTEN/GROUP CAPTAIN

# LIONEL REES

VC OBE MC AFC RAF  
(1884-1955)

Mae y digwyddiad yn  
cynnwys:

Seremoni a hedfan trwodd gan  
yr RAF,  
ym Mhorth yr Aur, Caernarfon,  
yn dechrau am 2yp,  
Dydd Gwener 21 Mehefin

Arddangosfa hanesyddol gan yr  
RAF ar fywyd Grŵp Capten  
Rees yn Swyddfa Cyngor Tref  
Caernarfon, Adeilad yr Institwt,  
Allt Pafiliwn, Caernarfon



Events include:

An RAF flypast and  
ceremonial event  
Porth yr Aur, Caernarfon  
Friday 21 June,  
starting at 2 pm

An RAF Historical Exhibition on  
the life of Group Captain Rees  
VC at Caernarfon Town  
Council Offices, Institute  
Building, Pavilion Hill,  
Caernarfon

Amserodd agor yr Arddangosfa		Exhibition Opening Times	
Dydd Mawrth 18 Mehefin	10 yb i 4 yp	Tuesday 18 June	10 am to 4 pm
Dydd Mercher 19 Mehefin	1 yp i 4 yp	Wednesday 19 June	1 pm to 4 pm
Dydd Iau 20 Mehefin	10 yb i 4 yp	Thursday 20 June	10 am to 4 pm
Dydd Gwener 21 Mehefin	10 yb i 1 yp	Friday 21 June	10 am to 1 pm

 **ROYAL  
AIR FORCE**