

Wales, Midland & South Western Area

Newsletter

APRIL 2014

THIS NEWSLETTER SHOULD BE DISPLAYED FOR THE USE OF ALL MEMBERS

1. MEMBERSHIP

Whole Area Membership figures as at 31 March 2014 were as follows:

Annual	Life	Full Associate	Total	New Ann/Ass 14	Losses Ann/Life/Ass 14
5804	5093	2244	13141	314	1241

It is widely recognised by membership organisations that it is far easier to retain members than it is to recruit new members. Our Area has Branches and members that are hugely determined and enthusiastic and I would ask you all, once again, to carry this spirit to the challenge of engaging our lapsed members, just as many of you did last year. Lapsed letters are sent from Area HQ but there is nothing stronger than personal contact from the Branch. You may uncover a welfare need in so doing. Is it sufficient that Area HQ provides you with a lapsed list in the hope that each Branch can make contact with those listed? We value your feedback as we look for ways to increase membership. Don't forget, also, that your Branch will have the services of an Area Councillor. Thank you.

2. CLOSURE OF SOMERSET REGION

After many years of unwavering support to the Association, a decision was recently taken to formally close the Somerset Region. It is very important that we recognise the immense efforts of the retiring Committee and those who have gone before. Our profile in Somerset is changing and although it has proved difficult to maintain a Region, we still enjoy a strong profile at various Branches and Clubs. Our sincere thanks to all, but especially to Mr David Martin, retiring Chairman and Mr Ray Scantlebury, retiring President. The following is taken from the last Minutes:

- *At a Meeting of the Somerset Region on the 1 March 2014 the delegates and committee members discussing the agenda "Future of the Somerset Region". Members named apathy of Branches to support the Region. It was decided on a vote of all present unanimously that Somerset Region should cease to operate and disband." The Chairman then asked that in accordance with procedures of closing the Somerset Region that all monies held in the Region Account should be donated to the Area Welfare Account (£113.93).*

3. WALES, MIDLAND AND SOUTH WESTERN AREA – TENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – SATURDAY 8 MARCH 2014

Forty four Branches were officially represented at the 10th Annual General Meeting of our Area in Cardiff and helped to make the Conference and Reunion Weekend a success. Minutes of the AGM are enclosed with this Newsletter. Thank you all for your support as we look for new ideas to strengthen our Area Reunion. Also going out to Branches is a copy of the RAFA Today Presentation which was delivered at Conference.

Stop Press!!

Incorrect dates for next year's Area Conference and Reunion were announced at Cardiff. Next year's Reunion will take place at the Derwent Hotel in Torquay over the weekend Friday 20 March to Sunday 22 March 2015. Details will be published in due course.

3. AREA MARQUEES

If your Branch is planning to make use of the Area Marquees this Summer, then please give early consideration to making an appropriate booking with the staff. We have one newly branded marquee positioned in each of the Area offices so please ensure you make contact with the appropriate team:

- Wales Office – Barbara Howells or Andrew Carter – Tel No: 01495-249522.
- Midland Office – Tracey Khan or Jackie Broad – Tel No: 0121-4499356.
- South West Office – Debbie Byam – Tel No: 01392-462088 Line 4.

4. AIR SHOWS

Although not yet a definitive list, the following major events may be of interest as to where the Association is out and about this Summer:

01-May	Falcons Launch	Brize Norton Area
04-May	Abingdon Air & Country Fair	Abingdon
05-May	Brize Duck Race	Lechlade
16 - 18 May	Annual Conference	Blackpool
22 - 24 May	Devon County Show	Exeter
24-May	Llandudno Airshow	Llandudno
24 - 25 May	Duxford Airshow	Duxford
28 - 29 May	Staffordshire County Show	Stafford
08-Jun	Cosford Airshow	Cosford
08-Jun	Welshpool Airshow	Welshpool
7 - 8 Jun	Folkestone Airshow	Folkestone
13 - 15 Jun	Pageant of Power	Cheshire
21 - 22 Jun	Essex Military AFD	Billericay
21 - 22 Jun	Weston-Super-Mare	Weston-S-Mare
26 - 29 Jun	Goodwood Festival of Speed	Goodwood
28-Jun	Scarborough AFD	Scarborough
28-Jun	Sterling AFD	Sterling
5 - 6 Jul	Waddington Airshow	Waddington
05-Jul	Preston Military Show	Preston
11 - 13 Jul	RIAT	Gloucester
12 - 13 Jul	Duxford	Duxford
19 - 20 Jul	Farnborough Airshow	Farnborough
25 - 27 Jul	Sunderland Airshow	Seaburn
26 - 27 Jul	Festival of Flight	Cleethorpes
31-Jul	Culdrose Airday	Culdrose
1 - 3 Aug	Weymouth Beach Volleyball	Weymouth
7 - 10 Aug	Bristol Balloon Festival	Bristol
9 - 10 Aug	Whitby Regatta	Whitby
10 - 11 Aug	Blackpool Airshow	Blackpool
14 - 17 Aug	Eastbourne Airshow	Eastbourne
16- 17 Aug	Lytham 1940s Weekend	Lytham St. Annes
19 - 21 Aug	Weymouth Festival	Weymouth

23 - 24 Aug	Wings & Wheels	Dunsfold
23-Aug	Dawlish Airshow	Dawlish
28 Aug - 1 Sep	Airbourne	Bournemouth
29 - 31 Aug	Chatsworth Country Fair	Chatsworth
30 - 31 Aug	Rhyl Airshow	Rhyl
31 - 31 Aug	Shoreham Airshow	Shoreham
6 - 7 Sep	Southend Airshow	Southend
8 - 12 Sep	Jersey Airshow	St. Hellier
12 - 14 Sep	Goodwood Revival	Goodwood
13 - 14 Sep	Duxford Airshow	Duxford
20 - 21 Sep	Southport Airshow	Southport
27 - 28 Sep	Sywell Pistons & Props	Sywell
6 - 7 Dec	British Military Tournament	Earls Court

5. SHOREHAM RAF ASSOCIATION AIR SHOW – CELEBRATION OF 25 YEARS

Mr Robert Easterbrook, Standard Bearer, Shoreham-by-Sea Branch has the following message:

It is proposed to have a Parade of Standards at our 2014 Air Show to celebrate 25 successful years of fundraising for the Royal Air Forces Association. If it is agreed to have a Parade of Standards, would you be interested in taking part? If so could you please fill in your details on the enclosed form and return to me at the address provided. The Air Show is over two days, so please indicate which day or both that you would like to attend. Standard Bearers attending would have a free pass to the Air Show with a half-price ticket for wives/partners. Thank you.

6. HAVE YOU APPROACHED YOUR LOCAL WAITROSE FOR WINGS?

Mr Geoff Bridgman, your Area 'lead' for fundraising, is very keen to hear from those Branches that have successfully made contact with their local Waitrose Store in respect of fundraising for the Association with those little plastic green circular discs. Please let Geoff know by e-mail at geoffbridgman737@msn.com.

7. STURMINSTER NEWTON & GILLINGHAM BRANCH NEWSLETTER – A GREAT EXAMPLE!

If ever you are stuck for ideas on how to present your Branch Newsletter, its rhythm and content, then you would do a lot worse than take inspiration from the Sturminster Newton & Gillingham Branch who consistently publish a fabulous Newsletter – enclosed for your information!

8. RAF ASSOCIATION CONCERT BAND

Please find enclosed the latest RAF Association Concert Band Newsletter. A huge thank you to Peter, Pauline, her band of helpers and, of course, the musicians, for a super performance at Cardiff!

9. CAN YOU HELP?

Penarth Branch is hoping to put a display board together at the Penarth Festival in July to mark WW1. Tich Taylor is looking for any WW1 aircraft photographs and would be pleased to hear from interested members. Tich can be contacted at 01446-730894 or at linda.49taylor@tiscali.co.uk.

10. STORYBOOK WINGS NEWSLETTER

Please find enclosed the latest Newsletter regarding our hugely successful project Storybook Wings.

11. CENTRAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The ballot papers, instructions and pre-paid return envelopes to conduct the election of the 8 elected member vacancies to Central Council have been posted out to Branch Secretaries week commencing 31

March. Branches are requested to submit ballot papers in accordance with the rules and procedures (included in the mailing) to arrive at CHQ in Leicester by noon on 12 May. If any Branch does not receive their ballot paper by Friday 4 April, please contact Seb Hargreaves (Senior Support Manager & Conference Organiser) on 0116 268 8770 or email seb.hargreaves@rafa.org.uk. Please note this does not apply to Branches outside of the UK as provision has been made with Simon Martin (Overseas Area Director) for emailed ballots to be received from these Branches.

Branch returns for Annual Conference should be submitted by 11 April 2014 to Seb Hargreaves (Conference Organiser) either by email (seb.hargreaves@rafa.org.uk) or by post to CHQ. Please contact Seb if you need a copy of the Branch return proforma. An electronic copy of the updated Administrative Handbook (incorporating the Byelaw amendments from Conference 2013) will be available on the member's area of the Website for branches/members to download and print (if necessary) wef Monday 7 April. Copies of the Administrative handbook will only be available, on request.

12. WINGS APPEAL WORKSHOPS

Repeat Article. Two Wings Appeal Workshops will be held in the Area in April. These will allow Wings Appeal Organisers from different Branches to come together to share ideas, receive updates on the newest initiatives while feeding back and making suggestions on how the central team can improve the support you receive. The workshops will be taking place at the following locations. Full details have been sent to all Branch Wings Appeal Organisers but if you have any questions please contact Pete Brocklehurst in the Wings Appeal office on 0116 268 8757 or email wings@rafa.org.uk.

10 April – Weston-super-Mare Branch Club.

15 April – Wolverhampton Branch Club.

13. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

East Glamorgan & Gwent Regional Dance at Cwmbran RAFA Club - 11 April 2014.

Cornwall Region Meeting at the Kernow Club, Truro (2pm) – 12 April 2014.

North Wales Region Meeting at Anglesey Branch (2pm) – 12 April 2014.

Devon Region Meeting at Torquay RAFA Club – (2.30pm) – 26 April 2014.

Cornwall Region Annual Quiz Night at the Mount Charles Social Club, St Austell (1900hrs) – 15 May 2014.

East Glamorgan & Gwent Region Meeting at the Cwmbran RAFA Club - 24 May 14.

Royal Cornwall Parachute Association - 70th Anniversary of 'D' Day - A Tribute to the Normandy Veterans and the 29th US infantry Division at Trebah Garden, Mawgan Smith, Nr Falmouth – 31 May 2014.

Falmouth – Lead Branch.

Royal Cornwall Show, Wadebridge - 5, 6 and 7 June 2014. RAF St Mawgan - Lead Branch.

Cornwall AFD, Heartlands, Redruth (11am) – 21 June 2014. Camborne, Redruth & Illogan - Lead Branch.

Somerset Region Meeting at City of Bristol Branch Club (2pm) – 5 July 2014.

Devon Region Meeting at Exmouth RAFA Branch HQ (2.30pm) – 19 July 2014.

Cornwall Region Meeting at the Kernow Club, Truro (2pm) – 19 July 2014.

RNAS Culdrose Air Day – 31 July 2014. Falmouth - Lead Branch.

North Cornwall Branch - Battle of Britain Parade & Service, Kilhampton Church (11.00am) - 7 September 2014.

Falmouth Branch Battle of Britain Service, Falmouth Parish Church of King Charles The Martyr (1030am) - 7 September 2014.

Somerset Region Meeting at Weston-super-Mare Branch Club (2pm) – 4 October 2014.

Devon Region Meeting at Plymouth Branch HQ (2.30pm) – 25 October 2014.

Cornwall Region Meeting at the Kernow Club, Truro (2pm) – 8 November 2014.

Devon Region AGM at Dawlish RAFA Club (2.30pm) – 7 February 2015.

Paul Baker - Area Director

If the temperature is zero outside today and it's going to be twice as cold tomorrow, how cold will it be?

Enclosures:

1. Minutes of the 10th Area Annual General Meeting.
2. Parade of Standards – Shoreham Air Show – Return Proforma.
3. Sturminster Newton & Gillingham Branch Newsletter.
4. RAF Association Concert Band Newsletter.
5. Storybook Wings Newsletter.