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Wales, Midland & South Western Area

**MAY 2016**

# Newsletter

*Look out for the Association's Keeping in Touch Campaign this month!*

## 1. BI-MONTHLY AREA NEWSLETTERS

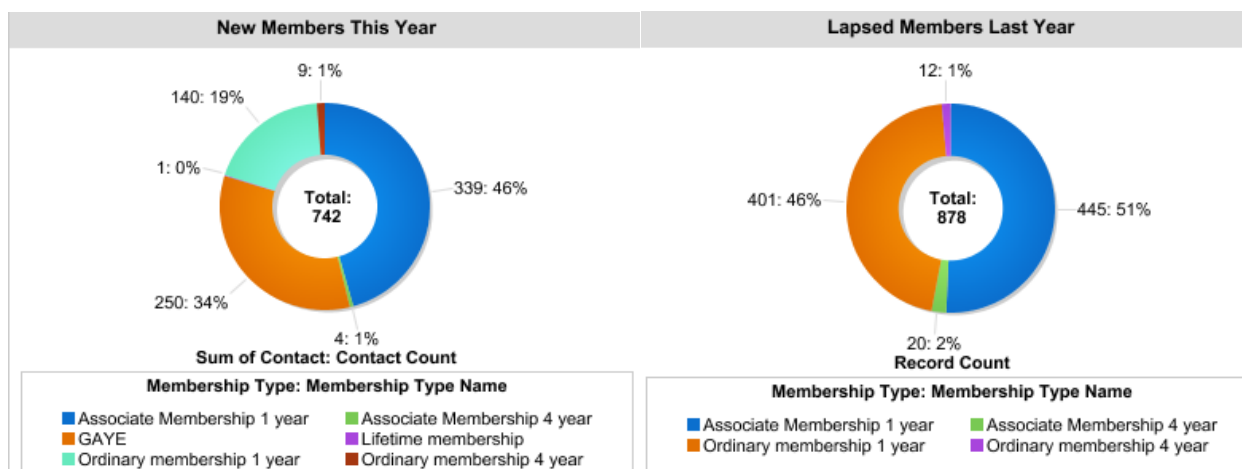
How do you feel about this Area Newsletter being produced on a bi-monthly basis in an effort to keep the content flowing and provide more articles of interest? Clearly, from time to time, there will be snippets of information that are time critical and we shall continue to update you as and when. However, we'd be grateful to learn the impact on your Branch activity or general readership if we move to bi-monthly editions. Maybe you could let Debbie or Paul know at Exeter – thanks!

## 2. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

In respect of Area membership the good news just keeps coming. In fact you've managed to nearly double the amount of new joiners compared with this time last year – now we just need to stay in touch and find things for them to do!

Thanks also to those Branches who have returned their signed Data Protection Agreement forms which enables us to move information appropriately. We still have 15 Branches out there 'unsigned' so please double-check that you are not one of them.

It's just a play on numbers of course, but very soon the total new joiners (742) will exceed the total lapsed (878) – thank you for your hard work.



### 3. VOLUNTEERING UPDATE

Some words from the Volunteering Team:

Since the start of the year, the Association has registered over 250 potential new volunteers and we are working to progress their applications. Once recruited we refer them onto any training to enable them to join the team quickly to support Branches, the Area Welfare Teams and the Fundraising Team. We are delighted to welcome so many new people with RAF backgrounds and links themselves, as over 61% of those coming forward have served or are serving. Some of you will be coming into contact with them over the next few months so please do make them feel welcome.

Over 40 volunteering vacancies have been identified by Branches and we are working with these Branches to help them recruit volunteers for the roles required. Volunteers that come forward are put in touch with the Branch to induct and make them welcome. Please let us know if your Branch requires any support in recruiting volunteers.

Next month, we are going to be recognising all the volunteers that we know of, from the 1056s and the audit, to mark Volunteers' Week in June. Central Council have approved our plans and we will be writing to all known volunteers directly to thank them for their time that they donate to help the RAF family.

If you have not yet been asked to fill out a volunteer audit form from your Branch Chair or you have not submitted up-to-date 1056 forms where relevant, please do so as quickly as possible, as we will be using these forms for the mailing and we do not wish to leave anyone out. If you would like to request a form or contact the team, please do so on [volunteers@rafa.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@rafa.org.uk) or call 0116 266 5224.



### 4. FORCES CHARITY SIGNPOSTING EVENT – CALNE – WED 8 JUNE

If you are anywhere near Calne in Wiltshire on Wed 8 June then you may wish to support this Forces Charity Signposting Event – details are enclosed with this Newsletter.

### 5. ROTHBURY HOUSE – TEA ON THE TERRACE!

You may have read in the latest Air Mail (page 25) that Rothbury House is hosting a Tea on the Terrace with the Rothbury Pipe Band on 25 May. STOP PRESS – it should have read Sunday 29 May. A long way to go from Wales, Midland and the South West for a cuppa – but Rothbury House really is worth the effort!

### 6. WINGS APPEAL WORKSHOPS

A couple of Wings Appeal workshops will be held throughout the Area in July and delivered by the fundraising team at Leicester. These sessions will cover a variety of topics and give the Wings Appeal Organisers from different branches the chance to come together to share ideas, receive updates on new 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:

- Weds 13 July – Wolverhampton Branch Club.
- Thurs 14 July – City of Bristol Branch Club.

The days will run from 10.00am until 2.30pm with refreshments being provided during the day. Previous events have proved a great success at putting Wings Organisers from surrounding branches in touch. The session will also reaffirm what you and your branch do and how to approach fundraising in the best possible way to make your campaigns even more successful.

If you'd like to be involved then please get confirmation of attendance in by Wednesday 6 July to ensure the day is set up correctly to cater for all needs. Full details will be sent to Branch Wings Appeal Organisers but if you have any questions or would like to confirm attendance please email [wings@rafa.org.uk](mailto:wings@rafa.org.uk) or call Molly Henson in the Wings Appeal office on 0116 268 8797. Thanks.

## **7. CELEBRATE HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY WITH A BREW FOR THE FEW**

If your Branch is wondering how to mark Her Majesty The Queen's 90th birthday, this summer you may like to consider celebrating by arranging a 'Brew for the Few' tea party. Guests simply make a donation in return for a much-needed cup of tea or delicious slice of cake whilst recognising this milestone in our Monarch's distinguished life.

Why not hold a celebration at your Branch meeting place, at work or ask your local mayor to hold one in their chambers? Perhaps you or others within your Branch have links to local sports clubs, colleges or businesses where an event could be held. Brew for the Few parties can be large or small, with them all helping to raise funds and awareness for the Wings Appeal. This year offers a great way to celebrate Her Majesty's birthday.

A 'Brew for the Few' pack detailing how to organise your event and containing posters, invitations and hints and tips can be downloaded from [www.rafa.org.uk/brew](http://www.rafa.org.uk/brew). Alternatively, a hard copy pack is available to be ordered through RAFATRAD. Your Branch Wings Appeal Organiser will have been sent details in their April Wings Appeal newsletter. If you have any questions please contact Ian Wright in the Wings Appeal office by emailing [wings@rafa.org.uk](mailto:wings@rafa.org.uk) or calling 0116 268 8758.



## **8. RAF ASSOCIATION CONCERT BAND ENGAGEMENTS FOR 2016**

Catch the latest news from our Concert Band – enclosed with this Newsletter.

## **9. ROYAL AIR FORCE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS – RAF100**

On 1 April 2018 the RAF will mark the centenary of its formation as the world's first independent air force. This will be an important opportunity for those in the RAF and the RAF family to commemorate their past, celebrate their success and also inspire the public as to their contribution to the UK's national security and prosperity.

The RAF100 programme of events will start in October 2017 and end in September 2018 and a number of flagship events will take place across the UK between March and September 2018 including a service in Westminster Abbey and a parade along the Mall, followed by a Royal Salute and flypast.

The four main RAF charities (RAF Association, RAF Benevolent Fund, RAF Charitable Trust Enterprises and RAF Museum) have taken the unprecedented step of creating a joint venture charitable company, the

RAF100 Appeal Ltd. Its purpose is to deliver a coherent and collaborative campaign realising both income and profile.

More information about RAF100 can be found here: <http://www.raf.mod.uk/raf100/>. There is also an opportunity to put forward any ideas that will help COMMEMORATE the achievements of the RAF and all who served, CELEBRATE the RAF of today, or INSPIRE people in your local community and beyond: <http://www.raf.mod.uk/raf100/your-ideas/>.

Further updates will be given as more information becomes available.

## **10. PATRON'S LUNCH – SUNDAY 12 JUNE**

This year sees the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Her Majesty the Queen and this will be marked by a weekend of celebrations held in London. The Royal Air Forces Association is one of the 600 charities and organisations that enjoy the Queen's patronage and will be involved with the Patron's Lunch on Sunday 12 June.

For those that would like to soak up the atmosphere in London there will be two live sites showing the festivities on big screens at James' Park and Green Park on Sunday 12 June, allowing members of the public to be part of the celebrations free of charge. Please be advised that this will be on a first come, first served basis as access to the parks will be monitored and if they reach full capacity, then gates will be closed.

Further information will be available on the Patron's Lunch website nearer the time: <http://www.thepatronslunch.com/how-to-get-involved>

## **11. ROYAL AIR FORCE PHYSICAL EDUCATION MEMORIAL**

The following information may be of interest, although, of course, the Association cannot directly support the cost of producing memorials from its charitable funds.

As you will be aware the Royal Air Force will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018, but what you may not be aware of is that the RAF School of PT will also be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday that same day. As the second oldest school, after the Central Flying School, the S of PT has a long and proud tradition. To mark this momentous occasion the PTI Association is taking the lead to install a memorial in the National Arboretum to match those already there commemorating both the Army and Navy PEd Branches.

At its recent reunion the PTI Association agreed to commission a sculptor to produce an emblem that represents the S of PT and its specialisations. It was decided on the Roebuck standing on a granite plinth with the specialisations engraved around it. This idea was well received by the management of the National Arboretum as it fits in with their plans for the surrounding areas. A fund to raise the 20,000K required for the project has been set up with the PTI Association placing 1,000K into it and a further 2,000K being pledged to date by its membership. As a Branch we are therefore looking to raise the remaining funds through any means possible within the obvious time restraints.

An account has been set up with Barclays bank to allow people to deposit monies directly into it. All donations will be acknowledged (if the donor wishes) on a plaque next to the wooden Roebuck currently in the School of PT Museum, we cannot do this at the Arboretum. Should you wish to make a donation could you please use the details below stating your name if you would like an acknowledgement at the School of PT. I cannot emphasise enough that this Memorial is to commemorate Physical Education in the RAF and not just PTI's. Thank you.

The account details are - sort code: 20-85-46 – Account: 83084574.

Further information can be obtained from one of the following:

David Percy	- Treasurer PTI Association - 01952 462633 or 07962076088.
Darrald Jones	- Project Coordinator – 01952 527346.
Warrant Officer Clark Cogill	- Chairman PTI Association - 01902 704674.
Flight Sergeant Kev Norris	- Vice Chairman – 01902 377331.



## 12. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (where you may well see an Association Exhibition trailer or marquee!)

- Devon County Show – 19 to 21 May 2016.
- Cornwall Region Annual Quiz Night – Mount Charles Social Club, St Austell - 7pm - 26 May 2016.
- The Trebah Military Day will be held on Sunday the 5 June 2016 at Trebah Gardens Nr Mawnan Smith, gates open at 10.00 am.
- Royal Cornwall Show – 9 to 11 June 2016.
- Torbay Airshow on Paignton Green – 11 June 2016.
- Throckmorton Airshow – 11 June 2016.
- Weston Air Festival (Weston-super-Mare) – 18 and 19 June 2016.
- Bob Jones Memorial Airshow Welshpool – 19 June 2016.
- RAF & Allied Air Forces Monument Service will be held on Plymouth Hoe on Saturday 25 June 2016 at 9.30am.
- Wiltshire Armed Forces Day & Veteran's Weekend – 25 and 26 June 2016.
- RNAS Yeovilton Air Day – 2 July 2016.
- Wales International Airshow Swansea – 2 and 3 July 2016.
- Bristol Harbour Festival – 16 and 17 July.
- Calne Motorbike Show – 23 July 2016.
- RNAS Culdrose Air Day 28 July 2016.
- Leek Show – 30 July 2016.
- Red Arrows display - Falmouth Wednesday 10 August 2016 at 6 30pm.
- Weymouth Carnival – 16 and 17 August 2016.
- Bournemouth Airshow – 18 to 21 August 2016.
- Mid-Somerset Sow – 21 August 2016.
- The Falmouth Branch Battle of Britain Service will be held at the Falmouth Parish Church of King Charles The Martyr on Sunday 4 September 2016 at 10.30am.
- Wreath Laying Service at Sea on Sunday 11 September (date change from 25 Sep) sailing from Padstow Harbour at 11.30am (organised through our Bodmin Branch – this is a unique Service. Real flowers please as part of any wreath).
- RAF Cosford Battle of Britain Parade and Service – Sunday 11 September 2016 (Area Office will be providing details shortly).

What have we missed?

***Paul Baker – Area Director***

***Life is short – smile while you still have teeth...***

Enclosures:

1. Forces Charity Signposting Event – Calne.
2. RAF Association Concert Band Newsletter.