

The Royal Air Forces Association
Wales, Midland & South West
Area Headquarters & South Western Office
RAFA House, Chancel Lane
Pinhoe, Exeter, EX4 8JU
Tel: 01392 462 088
Email: southwestern@rafa.org.uk
www.rafa.org.uk

Wales, Midland & South Western Area

NOVEMBER 2016

Newsletter

Don't forget to book early for the Area Conference and Reunion in March!

WE WILL REMEMBER

Air Vice-Marshal David Whittaker CB MBE RAF (Ret'd)

The RAF Association is sad to report the death of Air Vice-Marshal David Whittaker.

AVM Whittaker joined the Royal Air Force as a National Serviceman in 1951 and trained as a pilot. On completion of training he spent the next ten years flying Day Fighter and Fighter/Ground Attack aircraft on squadrons in both the UK and Germany. After service with Headquarters 38 Group he spent two and a half years on the staff of Headquarters 24 Brigade in East Africa and Aden.

After commanding the Metropolitan Communications Squadron and completing the Royal Air Force Staff Course, he served as the Assistant Air Adviser to the British High Commissioner in New Delhi. A graduate of the RAF College of Air Warfare, his staff appointments included serving as the RAF Directing Staff Member at the Royal Naval Staff College, as a member of the personnel briefing staff of the Chief of Defence Staff and as Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff (Operations and Plans) at Headquarters Allied Forces Central Europe.

AVM Whittaker completed the 1980 Course at the Royal College of Defence Studies followed by two years as Senior RAF Officer Northern Ireland and Commanding Officer RAF Aldergrove. From Northern Ireland he went to Ottawa for three years as Air and Defence Adviser to the British High Commissioner and Head of the British Defence Liaison Staff in Canada. AVM Whittaker was awarded the MBE in 1966 and CB in 1988. His final appointment before retiring in April 1989 was Air Officer Administration and Air Officer Commanding Directly Administered Units at RAF Support Command.

Since retirement AVM Whittaker has devoted much of his time to RAF charities. He became a Life Member of the Larne Branch of the Royal Air Forces Association in January 1983 and has been Branch President from April 1983 to date. He was elected to Council in 1990, has been a member of the Executive Committee from 1992 to date and served as Vice-Chairman from 1993 to 1997. In addition, he served on the Appeals Sub-Committee from 1992 to 1993, the Welfare Advisory Committee from 1993 to 1995 and has been Chairman of the Membership Advisory Committee from 1997 to date. He served as Vice-Chairman of Council from 1999 to 2001 and was elected Chairman of Council in October 2001. He was elected a Vice President of the Association in 2000. AVM Whittaker was President of the Northern Ireland Area from 1987 until 2005, before becoming President of the Scotland and Northern Ireland Area. Apart from his duties with the Association, AVM Whittaker is the Honorary County Representative for Yorkshire for the RAF Benevolent Fund. Our thoughts are with AVM Whittaker's family and friends.



ELECTIONS TO AREA COUNCIL 2017-2019

Resolution No.3 at Annual Conference 2010 resolved that the tenure of office for Officers, Vice-Presidents and Elected Members of Area Councils be increased from one to two years, commencing with the 2011 elections. Nominations are now sought for election to Area Council in 2017 to serve until 2019.

Nomination forms have already gone out to Branch Secretaries under cover of an Area Director letter dated 18 October 2016. Anyone wishing to serve as an Area Councillor will need to be nominated by their Branch. Branches may nominate up to two members to serve on Area Council. If you are interested in taking an active role on Area Council then please contact your Branch Secretary and return a nomination to the Exeter Office by no later than 16 December 2016, or give the Exeter Office a call to discuss.

Those nominated for election to the Council will need to produce a short CV of no more than 200 words which can be distributed to Branches as part of the ballot process.

RAF ASSOCIATION CONCERT BAND IS ON THE MOVE!

As a result of major structural changes to the Blakehay Theatre, we are pleased to announce that our Concert Band is moving to new permanent rehearsal and performance space in Weston-super-Mare, at the Victoria Methodist Church and Church Hall on Station Road, BS23 1XU. This is an exciting move for the Band and we hope you can muster a coach load from your Branch to support their first Concert at this new location, a Christmas Carol Concert together with the Singing Santas, on Sunday 11 December 2016 commencing at 3pm. Tickets can be purchased on the door at £10 each.



No 2196 (TROWBRIDGE) SQUADRON ATC PRESENTED WITH THE ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION ADOPTION CERTIFICATE

Trowbridge Branch of The Royal Air Forces Association became Trowbridge & West Wiltshire Branch earlier this year and consequently have had produced a framed adoption certificate to reflect the change of Branch title. Adoption certificates are given to those ATC squadrons that work in partnership with RAFA Branches providing mutual support and assistance when needed.



The presentation took place at the HQ of No 2196 located off Frome Rd and accessed via Clarendon School in the evening of the 3rd of August. The Certificate of Adoption was presented by Air Vice-Marshal Martin Clark CB RAF who is the President of the Trowbridge & West Wiltshire Branch and received by the Officer Commanding No 2196 Squadron Flight Lieutenant Ben Evans RAF VR(T).

Cadets and Branch members were present to witness the event along with parents of the cadets and Civilian Committee members. Following the presentation RAFA Branch Members were invited to observe some aspects of

the cadet training programme. 2196 Sqn meet on Wednesday and Friday evenings, the Trowbridge & West Wiltshire Branch of RAFA meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Lovemead House, Roundstone Street. New members are always welcome to join these organisations.

CONGRATULATIONS 'TICH' TAYLOR ON RECEIVING THE COMMANDANT GENERAL'S COMMENDATION

Sincere congratulations go to Tich Taylor, Chairman, Penarth Branch. His Commendation reads:

For his continuous and outstanding support to the Herefordshire Branch of the Royal Air Force Regiment Association and to the Association of Royal Air Force Regiment Warrant Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers. Signed by R F Clifford Air Cdre, Commandant General - Royal Air Force Regiment 2 September 2016.



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Membership Subscriptions 2017/2018 (Prices held from 2015/2016)

Category	2017/2018 Membership Fee
Ordinary Member – 1 Year	£20.50
Ordinary Member – 4 Year	£78.00 (Existing 4 Year members only)
Associate Member – 1 Year – Air Mail	£14.50
Associate Member – 1 Year – No Air Mail	£8.50
Associate Member – 4 Year -- Air Mail	£55.50 (Existing 4 Year members only)
Associate Member – 4 Year – No Air Mail	£30.50 (Existing 4 Year members only)
Give As You Earn (GAYE) Serving RAF (Gross payment before basic tax relief)	£25.68
(Net payment after basic tax relief)	£20.52

Following the decisions of Annual Conference 2016, from 1 January 2017 a number of changes will occur to the membership criteria. These are subject to the Privy Council's final approval, which we expect to receive before the end of the year. However, we need to plan for these changes and remind all members and branch Chairmen of these amendments.

Cessation of Membership

The grace period for the lapsing of a membership has changed from 90 days to 30 days. See Byelaw 7 – Membership – Subscriptions.

Membership will cease if a renewal subscription is not paid within 30 days of the end of the membership period. For all members to date, the end of the 30 day period is 30 January 2017. If a member renews after that time, their membership will run to the end of the 2017 calendar year, even if they renew in December 2017. If a member does not renew until 2018, they will transfer from calendar membership to anniversary membership (see below). They will retain their original membership number.

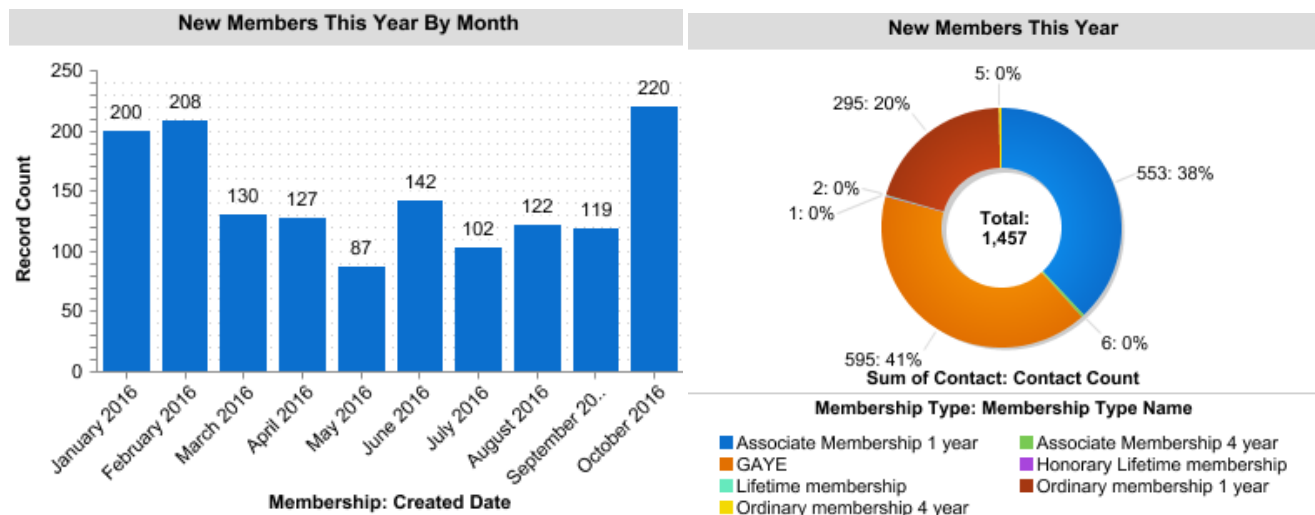
Anniversary Memberships

Anniversary Memberships will apply to all new members who join the Association from 1 January 2017. For example, if a member joins the RAF Association on 31 August 17, their membership will be valid until 30 August 18.

Multiple Branches

A member may now be a member of as many branches, including branch committees, as they wish. Members have to nominate one primary (or home) branch. The nominated branch will receive the membership rebate. The member will only pay one membership subscription, irrespective of their membership of other branches. Members will only receive a membership card for their primary branch.

Members of a primary branch may sit on the committees of other branches. This will be reflected on the F1056s, which all branches are required to submit annually to the Association's Headquarters. The Association's membership database will record a member's primary branch only.



Check these numbers out – October has been our best recruiting month with 220 new joiners, giving us a running total of 1,457 new members in our Area this year. Thank you for your support. Our biggest growth area has been with the serving RAF and we now have more than half of the entire trained strength on board. The next task, of course, is to welcome them all and keep them enthused!

UPDATE ON VOLUNTEERING

The Volunteering Team have welcomed a further 95 volunteers to the Association in September and October alone. The recruitment of volunteers is managed by your local Area Volunteer Coordinators, whom many of you have been in touch with in recent months. Graeme Russell's details are listed below. Many of our volunteers will be supporting the work of our Branches, either directly through roles on committees or with support of Wings Appeal collections. Some of our welfare volunteers joining us this year are linking up with Branches, either as Assistant Honorary Welfare Officers or as Befrienders. We are grateful to you all for your warm welcome of all those joining the Association.

Many of our new welfare volunteers have attended the welfare seminars in October and the Area Welfare Teams have provided updates on the Befriending Service, our volunteer recruitment efforts, how the service will fit with our existing welfare offer and how everyone can support this new initiative.

We ask new volunteers if they are interested in receiving further details of membership. Of the volunteers joining us this year 112 people have asked for information on membership, having expressed an interest in becoming a member. We have passed their details to the Membership Team who have given them all the benefits of joining the Association, as well as the benefits of becoming part of their local Branch.

Please do continue to communicate with us, we enjoy speaking to you all about your Branch volunteering needs and to hear about any activities you have been undertaking.

Wales, Midland and South Western Area - Graeme Russell

Tel: 01495 249522 | 07775 959376

Email: graeme.russell@rafa.org.uk

RAF ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SERVICE OF DEDICATION – JUNE 2016 – GREAT IMAGES

It took a while but these images were worth waiting for! The RAF Association conducted its Annual Service of Dedication at the National Memorial Arboretum in June. A super event, extremely well attended, with great support from RAF Cosford and TSW Stafford and, of course, our fabulous Standard Bearers. With musical support as ever from the RAF Association Concert Band, please take a moment to view some stunning images at the link –

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/rafwingsappeal/albums/72157674107692522>

AREA CONFERENCE AND REUNION – MARCH 2017

Repeat Article. The Area will come together once more at the Derwent Hotel in Torquay for its Thirteenth Annual General Meeting, to be held on Saturday 18 March 2017 as part of the Annual Conference and Reunion. This year saw 44 Branches represented and we'd dearly love to beat that mark in 2017! These gatherings provide different opportunities for us all, to enjoy reunion, to have a good social, to update each other on progress across the Association, to reinforce the fabulous work of our branches and volunteers, to recognise our high achievers and, this time round, to consider nominations for Elected Members of Area Council.

Here's a re-run of the accommodation booking detail for the Derwent Hotel in Torquay over the weekend 17 to 19 March 2017:

- Two night's accommodation (Friday and Saturday), dinner, bed and breakfast and Sunday lunch - £122 per person.
- An option to stay Sunday night is available at an additional £35 per person, dinner, bed and breakfast.
- There are a few single rooms available, when they've gone a £10 per night supplement will apply.
- **Please make your booking direct with TLH Leisure Group on 01803-400500 for the 'RAF Association Weekend'. They will request a 25% deposit.**

Please join us – we hope to make it a very worthwhile weekend.

RAF IN CONCERT TOUR—2016

Tickets are now on sale for this autumn's Royal Air Force in Concert Tour. Enjoy an uplifting evening of musical entertainment showcasing the Best of British Entertainment, performed by the RAF's finest musicians with vocalists Squadron Leader Matthew Little and West End performer Sarah Francis.

The programme of music includes *Dambusters March*, *Chariots of Fire*, *Devil's Gallop*, *Bring Me Sunshine*, *633 Squadron*, *Impossible Dream*, *O Fortuna*, *Crown Imperial* and the *RAF March Past*.

The 15 venue tour will visit: October 21, Royal Hall, **Harrogate**; Oct 23: The Sage, **Gateshead**; Oct 26: The Anvil **Basingstoke**; Oct 27: Colston Hall, **Bristol**; Oct 30: Wycombe Swan, **High Wycombe**; Nov 1: Cadogan Hall, **London**; Nov 6: Marlowe Theatre, **Canterbury**; Nov 18, Bridgewater Hall, **Manchester**; Nov 19: Royal Centre, **Nottingham**; Nov 20: Symphony Hall, **Birmingham**; Nov 30: Congress Theatre, **Eastbourne**; Dec 1: Cliffs Pavilion, **Southend**; Dec 3: **Ipswich** Regent; Dec 4: Theatre Royal, **Norwich**; Dec 11: Lighthouse, **Poole**.

For ticketing details and further information, visit www.rafinconcert.com.

Don't forget, you can also book (or even join) our very own RAF Association Concert Band. Find out more at www.rafaconcertband.org.uk.

RETURNING BRANCH APPEAL MONIES

Repeat Article. We would like to say a huge thank you for the tremendous amount of fundraising which has been undertaken around the country this year. We appreciate the time and effort it takes to arrange a collection, find volunteers to staff it and of course thank everyone afterwards. It is only through the considerable efforts of people like your branch committee, branch members, families and friends that we are able to continue to collect the significant amounts for the Wings Appeal each year.

Please have your branch's final Wings monies returned to the Wings Appeal team at Headquarters by **Friday 11 November 2016**. This will enable them to process all 2016 income and close your branch's Wings account for the year in preparation for producing the branch's annual Wings statement. Any monies raised specifically from street collections should be submitted 14 days after the date the collection took place, in order for the Wings Appeal team to make the relevant returns to your local council.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE POLISH SQUADRON 307 RAF

307 Squadron Project invites you to Exeter for a special exhibition to remember the Polish 307 Squadron RAF that defended the South West of England during the Second World War. At 10am on Tuesday 15 November the Lord Mayor of Exeter will raise the Polish flag over the Guildhall to remember 307 Squadron who played a pivotal role in defending the city during the Blitz of 1942.



Please contact Alan Goudge, BSO, at the Exeter Office, if you'd like to attend. Here's a link to the Polish Air Force Memorial website - <http://www.polishairforcememorialcommittee.org/page2>

HELP US TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOU

By far, the quickest and easiest way for us to get in contact with our members is by email. Postage is money that we can spend on providing welfare support to members of the RAF Family. Please update us with your current email address by sending a quick note to Debbie.

LATEST RAFALO UPDATE

Enclosed with this Newsletter is the latest RAFALO update from Squadron Leader Ady Morris, on the big picture within today's Royal Air Force.

MARKETING RESOURCES

A number of resources have been created to assist branches with their marketing requirements. Full details can be found at www.rafa.org.uk/promotion but briefly these include:

PRINT ON DEMAND

We have created a number of editable templates for posters, business cards, banners and postcards. You can edit your chosen template and have it printed by our printers (branches can download items to print themselves if they wish).

WINGS APPEAL ITEMS

There is a link to the RAFATRAD site where you can order collection tins, pin badges, leaflets and other fundraising materials.

CLOTHING

Branches can use the new service to order and pay for polo shirts, fleeces, tablecloths and shirts. Staff clothing requests (excluding hotel uniforms) will follow the procedure outlined in the attached email.

SIGNAGE

Sometimes you need to order professional signs. Let us know what you need and we can work with our national signage supplier.

FREE BRANCH WEBSITES

We can now create a branch website for free. Sixty-four branches have signed up to have websites already, so this is proving a popular service.

LOGOS AND BRANDING

All of the logos, our identity handbook and the latest text we use to describe the Association are here for you to download.

PR TOOLKIT

The toolkit contains tips on taking good photographs, how to approach your local media and some template press releases for you to tailor. We also have a press cuttings service, so we will be able to share the media coverage you generate. More details will follow on this soon.

SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDE

This guide gives you the basics on setting up Facebook and Twitter accounts for a branch.

AREA STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

Area HQ, Exeter Office

Paul Baker, Area Director
01392-462088 opt 5 / paul.baker@rafa.org.uk

Alan Goudge, Branch Support Officer, South Wales and South West
01392-462088 opt 3 / alan.goudge@rafa.org.uk

Debbie Byam. Area Administrator
01392-462088 opt 4 / debbie.byam@rafa.org.uk

Dr Glenford Bishop, Area Welfare Officer
01392-462088 opt 1 / glenford.bishop@rafa.org.uk

Sally Hall, Assistant Area Welfare Officer
01392-462088 opt 2 / sally.hall@rafa.org.uk

Wales Office

Barbara Howells, Area Welfare Officer
01495-249522/ barbara.howells@rafa.org.uk

Andrew Carter, Assistant Area Welfare Officer
01495-249522/ andrew.carter@rafa.org.uk

Graeme Russell, Area Volunteer Coordinator
0121-449 9356/ graeme.russell@rafa.org.uk

Midland Office

Tracey Khan, Area Welfare Officer
0121-449 9356/ tracey.khan@rafa.org.uk

Jan Elders, Assistant Area Welfare Officer
0121-449 9356/ janet.elders@rafa.org.uk

Ian Campbell, Branch Support Officer, North and Mid Wales and Midlands
0121-449 9356/ ian.campbell@rafa.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 307 Sqn Polish Air Force Memorial – Exeter Guildhall – 10am on Tue 15 November 2016.
- Northern Counties (Wales) Region – Llangollen Branch Club - Saturday, 19 November and Saturday, 8 April 2017.
- Brew for A Few plus Christmas Stalls at St Paul's Church Hall, Abbots Bury Road, Weymouth (10am-12 midday) Saturday 12 November 2016.
- East Glamorgan & Gwent Regional Meeting - Penarth Branch – (2pm) Saturday 19 November.
- Area Council Meeting - Knighton & District Branch HQ – (10.45am) Saturday 26 November 2016.
- Area Council Meeting - Atlas House, Headquarters – (10.45am) Saturday 11 February 2017.
- Charity Concert in support of Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund at The Hall For Cornwall, Truro on Saturday, 25 February 2017 at 7.30pm – tickets from £11.00 – you may buy tickets on tel no. 01872 262466.
- Area Conference and Reunion, Derwent Hotel, Torquay – 17 to 19 March 2017.

Paul Baker – Area Director

Laughter is the shortest distance between two people...

Enclosure: Latest RAFALO Update on today's RAF.