

April 2018

Wales, Midland and South Western Area newsletter

ANNUAL BRANCH/CLUB RETURNS - FORMS 1056 (BRANCH) AND 1056a (CLUBS) INCLUDES 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.

BRANCH AND CLUBS COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION – YOUR LATEST UPDATES

Enclosed with this newsletter are important updates for branches and clubs (dated February March and April 2018) in respect of the General Data Protection Regulation. Please ensure that responsible individuals at every branch take time to read these communications.

AREA TROPHY WINNERS IN 2017

Many congratulations to the following branches, clubs and individuals who were successful in achieving silverware for their fabulous efforts during 2017. We salute you all!

Membership:

Highest per cent increase (smaller branches) – Aberdare.

Highest per cent increase (larger branches) – Llangollen.

First to achieve 100% renewal – Worcester and District.

Efficiency:

Small Branch – Tywyn & Aberdovey.

Large Branch – Barry.

Small Club – Penzance.

Large Club – Neath.

Welfare:

Lightning Trophy – Mr David Stevens of Camborne, Redruth and Illogan.

Wings Appeal:



Highest gross per capita – North Cotswold

Highest gross collection – Torquay.

Highest per cent increase – West Bromwich.

We also congratulate the following branches for achieving £10,000 or more Wings Appeal collections:

Anglesey, Birmingham Moseley, Cheltenham, City of Bristol, Plymouth, Solihull, Teignmouth, Weston-super-Mare, WRAF, Wrekin Wellington, Torquay.

Other recipients include:

Chief Technician Kerrie Stevens, RAF Cosford, Area RAFALO of the year.

Flying Officer Scott Cater, Aries Shield Winner, RAF Shawbury.

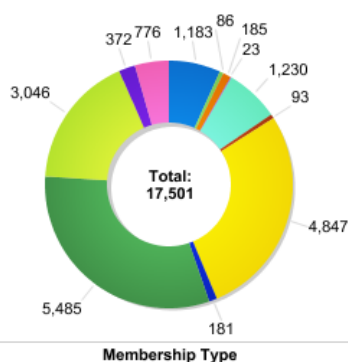
Senior Aircraftman Austin Temple, Ken Rees Shield Winner, MoD St Athan.

Area Standard Bearer Competition

AREA MEMBERSHIP – OUR YEAR TO RECRUIT!

A huge thank you to those branches who have already taken up the challenge of membership recruitment in 2018 – a unique opportunity to grow as we commemorate, celebrate and inspire others through RAF100.

Can your branch grow again by 12 percent? Can you use the area RAF100 token to galvanise support as it passes between branches? Good luck with your creative plans. This is how the area net membership totals are looking right now. Please do all you can to encourage lapsed members.



- 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

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

My name is Peter (Dusty) Miller and I am 81 years old. I am a former RAF Air Traffic Controller with 30 years' service, then five years with the Oman Air Force.

I am collecting for the 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 dependents 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

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

RAF FINNINGLEY VETERANS CYCLE RIDE 2018



In 2017 the team consisted of six riders and five support team, who all worked together as RAF drivers in the 1980's based at RAF Finningley [Doncaster and Sheffield Airport]. Each year we have a reunion in Doncaster, for the 2017 reunion we cycled from RAF Leeming to RAF Finningley 108 miles raising £2,078 in aid of the Wings Appeal.

In 2018, to commemorate the RAF centenary, at least nine riders will set off from RAF Cranwell at 0800hrs on the morning of Friday 18 May 2018. The group of ex RAF Finningley MT drivers and

three RAF Association members are setting out on a 100 mile cycle ride in aid of the RAF Association. The riders and their support team will call at six bomber command units; Conningsby; Fiskerton; Scampton; Helmswell; Bawtry; and Finningley, arriving at Doncaster late afternoon.

The Royal Air Forces Association Wings Appeal provides fantastic welfare support to veterans and current serving RAF personnel. Please help us to raise much needed funds for Wings Appeal. Full details can found on web the page at <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/mtveterans2018cyclride>

WRAF VIRTUAL BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As a virtual branch, the WRAF branch hold their AGM in various places, this year's AGM was held at the Union Jack Club, Waterloo. Our ladies really enjoyed being in London and different groups went to the museums, attended shows, went on the London Eye and strolled around taking in the sights.

The Union Jack Club looked after us very well. We wanted something special this year for the RAF100 and we felt the Gascoigne Suite in the Union Jack Club would provide that. We were honoured to be joined by Air Marshal Sir Dusty Miller KBE and Mrs Ailsa Gough who both spoke and really inspired our members. Everyone retained their post from last year's committee. We feel part of something special. After the meeting we engaged in a dining in night, everyone looked stunning and had a wonderful time. Our branch might be "virtual" but our members certainly enjoy each other's company whenever we get the opportunity!



OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- The Cornwall Region quiz night will be held at the Mount Charles Social Club, St

Austell at 1900hrs to start 1930hrs on Thursday 24 May 2018

- 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
- Devon Region AGM's will be held as follows; Torquay 21 April 2018. Exmouth 14 July 2018. Dawlish 20 October 2018 and Dawlish 9 February 2019

STATIC TOUR 2018

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 100th Anniversary of the RAF. More than 400 RAF personnel, including the Queen's Colour Squadron, MoD 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 Warrant Officer, Kelvin Oatridge for further details; email: 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 IN CONCERT AT BIRMINGHAM TOWN HALL

Please find enclosed/attached information on the forthcoming concert with the Central Band of the

RAF at Birmingham Town Hall on Sunday 17 June and poster.

Tickets are being offered to local RAF Association members at the discounted price of £10 (cover price from £20) when purchased directly through Peterborough Sings, Contact Claire Hailey on 01733 425194 or email claire.hailey@peterboroughsings.org.uk quoting offer code BTH10.

A NOTE FROM THE PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Dear branches

We're really looking forward to all of your activity around the Area's RAF100 Token tour and wanted to help you maximise your media opportunities. To help you, the PR and Communications team have put together a template press release. (See enclosure/attachment). All you need to do is fill in the highlighted sections with your branch information and activity, the rest is done for you and we would ask you leave it as it is to ensure a standardised message is being sent out around the Area's activity. If you require any further support please do contact the marketing team on marketingteam@rafa.org.uk

RAF100 APPEAL FUNDRAISING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: SUPPORT A CENTURY OF SERVICE

Please see attachment/enclosure for details.

CHAIR AUDIT COMMITTEE (VACANCY)

The RAF Association are currently recruiting for a Chair of the Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee's role is to help Council meet its responsibilities by providing independent oversight of the Association's systems of internal control, risk management and financial reporting, and through supervision of the quality, independence and effectiveness of both the internal and external auditors.

The Chair of Audit Committee is an independent appointment and will not be a member of Council/trustee of the Association. However, the Chair will attend Council meetings to advise the trustees on the work of the Audit Committee.

Please take a look at the enclosed recruitment pack if you have:

- Experience of chairing meetings in a non-executive capacity
- A strong risk management background
- Significant, recent and relevant financial experience
- Knowledge of charity finance
- Understanding of legal and financial guidelines set out in current legislation, including charity law

The recruitment pack will provide you with further information about the role and the process. If you have any questions, please contact Nick Bunting, Secretary General, via his email nick.bunting@rafa.org.uk or phone him on 07827 083536. He will answer your questions, or put you in touch with John Cliffe, Chair of Council, or another trustee as appropriate.

The closing date is 1700hrs on Monday 16 April 2018.

This information will also be advertised on our website and the member portal.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

The RAF Association uses what is known as a fulfilment house for the processing of membership cards following membership renewal. Over the past few weeks we have learned that some members may have received more than one membership card in error, and some with membership end dates two years ahead. We are discussing these issues with the fulfilment house and we can confirm that such errors on their part do not incur any additional cost to us. We would be grateful if any members who have received more than one card, or if the date is wrong, could let us know and we will investigate and resolve. Email: membership@rafa.org.uk or call 0800 018 2361. Thank you for your continued support.

THE DAM BUSTER WITH DAN SNOW SIMULCAST FROM THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL TO THE RITZ CINEMA, BURNHAM ON SEA ON 17 MAY 2018

Please attachment/enclosure for details.

And finally...

"It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation."

Debbie

Wales, Midland and South Western Area
Area Administrator

Encs:

Template of press release
RAF 100 Thanksgiving Service Poster
RAF in Concert Poster
RAF100 Appeal fundraising volunteers needed
Static Tour 2018 information
Branch and Clubs GDPR Communications (Feb 2018).
Branch and Clubs GDPR Communications (Mar 2018).
Branch and Clubs GDPR Communications (Apr 2018).
The Dam Buster Poster