

The charity that supports the RAF family

The Royal Air Forces Association  
Wales, Midland & South Western  
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May 2018

# Wales, Midland and South Western Area newsletter

## WE WILL REMEMBER

Sadly, Mrs Phyllis Jones the last founding member of the Towyn & Aberdoverly branch has passed away. Following service in the WRAF, Phyllis joined the branch at its formation in 1949. She proved to be a staunch and active member organising many social and fundraising events and held the position of branch secretary for many years, she will be missed greatly.

## ANNUAL BRANCH/CLUB RETURNS - FORMS 1056 (BRANCH) AND 1056a (CLUBS) INCLUDES DATA PROTECTION

We still have approximately half of our branches in Wales Midland and South West area who have not submitted their form 1056's and some branches haven't submitted their accounts for end of year 2017.

If you haven't submitted your form 1056 or accounts, please do so as a matter of urgency in order to comply with branch and club governance regulations, please return to Debbie at the Exeter office.

Please ensure the form 1056 is fully signed in the signature box against each committee

member and the secretary has signed at the end of the form 1056, since the individual signatures are related to the data protection understanding and the final secretary signatory at the end of the 1056 is to confirm committee members' accuracy of details.

Your assistance is much appreciated.

**THE RAF ASSOCIATION RAF CENTENARY SERVICE will be held at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) on Sunday 13 May 2018.**

The event is now full, but the NMA will be open as usual <http://www.thenma.org.uk/>

For security reasons, the service will take place within a cordoned-off area only accessible to guests in possession of a named ticket. Each person attending requires their own named ticket and these tickets will be sent out by RAF Association email this week. Tickets should be printed and brought along with one form of photographic ID (such as passport or driving licence). Should guests not possess appropriate photographic ID or have any other problems with their ticket, please call the RAF Association helpline on 0800 018 2361 before Thursday 10 May 2018.





Due to space constraints, only standard bearers will be on parade during the service.

### **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](mailto:dusters105.miller@live.co.uk)

Full details for the day including hints and tips on the climb itself can be 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 be found on web the page at <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/mtveterans2018cyclride>

### **PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE MID-SOMERSET BRANCH FLAG RAISING CEREMONY ON 1 APRIL 2018**





## 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](mailto:marketingteam@rafa.org.uk)

## 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](mailto:membership@rafa.org.uk) or call 0800 018 2361. Thank you for your continued support.

Please note if you haven't received your membership card please email: [membership@rafa.org.uk](mailto:membership@rafa.org.uk) or call 0800 018 2361. Thank you for your continued support.

## DATES FOR DIARY

- North Cornwall Branch Annual Battle of Britain Service being held on Sunday 9th September 2018 at Kilhampton Parish Church 11.00am. All Branch members and Standards are welcome to attend.
- Mid Wales regional meetings are as follows; Llanidloes at 1100hrs on the 18 August 2018, Brecon at 1400hrs on 6 June 2018 and Knighton at 1400hrs on 2 June 2019.

## CHARITY TANDEM PARACHUTE JUMP

2018 will see intrepid members of the RAF Association take part in a once in a lifetime



challenge of jumping out of a perfectly good aircraft! Becky Moore in the photograph will be one of these members. Daughter of Mick and Trish Flory from the Teignmouth branch.

Becky says:

I said never again after the moonwalk, but once again my mum has talked me into it!

I am going to jump out of an aeroplane! (probably pushed).

My mum, Trish & her husband, Mick (especially Mick), does a lot of work for the RAF Association & this will probably be the last year they do, as they are getting on a bit now (don't tell them that though!). To mark the end of a very long era & to help celebrate 100 years of the RAF, I am doing our bit to help raise awareness & much needed funds for the RAF Association.

Thank you.

xxx

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 and celebrate RAF100.

Full details can be found on the web page: <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/blm>

## AREA PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATES

Area Presidential Certificates were presented by Mrs Marilyn Addison, Area Councillor, to Mr Roy



French and Mr Peter Ballard. Mrs Margaret Ballard received Peter's on his behalf.



A proud moment



Marilyn and Margaret



Marilyn and Roy

If you have any events, photographs, stories you wish to see in the area newsletter, please contact me, Debbie email: [Debbie.byam@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Debbie.byam@rafa.org.uk).

### AREA STANDARD BEARERS COMPETITON

Area Council would like to thank all participating standard bearers for their immense efforts, both in the competition and church service at the recent annual conference. Well done to the winner of the competition, Shawn Marston from Shrewsbury branch and the runner up Paul Ellis from Calne & District branch.

Photograph, Shawn Marston



### RAF100 APPEAL FUNDRAISING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: SUPPORT A CENTURY OF SERVICE

Please see attached/enclosed poster. Your help would be very much appreciated. In addition, if you have facebook and/or Twitter please see a Facebook and Twitter call to action poster.

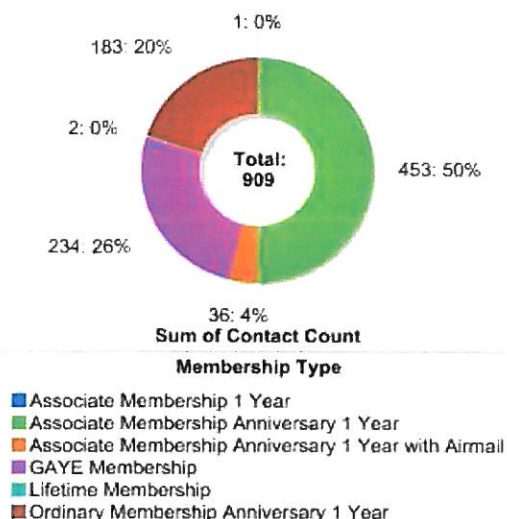
### AREA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

You'll see our Area has already recorded as many as 909 new members this year which is fabulous news; thank you to those who are keeping membership recruitment in the forefront of their activity. Our target this year is not insignificant and every branch and club will wish to use this unique RAF centenary year to drive-in new members and re-engage with lapsed.



If we can get that 909 figure up to and over 2,000 by the year-end, then our Area will have contributed greatly to the Association's membership growth strategy. More members will give us more connectivity, more eyes and ears, more support and more fun! Thanks.

**New Members This Year by Membership Type**



## CALLING ALL STANDARD BEARERS FOR THE BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL TATTOO!

You may have heard that plans are coming together for the Association to take its place at this year's Birmingham International Tattoo in November. Please see the attached/enclosed letter which is on its way to Branch Chairmen. We look forward to hearing from you.

## NEW AREA TROPHIES CRITERIA

This year's Area Annual General Meeting at the Cheltenham Chase Hotel in March endorsed Council's proposal to make some adjustments to the Area Trophies and respective criteria, to stay broadly in line with the national trophy review.

So keenly competed for each year – it may be helpful for you to know which trophies are up for grabs during 2018 and beyond.

Other Area-based trophies that do not directly affect Branches and Clubs will remain (such as the Lightning Trophy for welfare, Station and RAFALO achievement).

Good luck and go for it – if only for the chance to have that 'grip and grin' moment at Annual Conference!

Please see attached/enclosed letter for more information.

## CHARITY COMMISSION

I have attached a link below which may be of great interest to you as a charity trustee, a 'welcome pack' from the Charity Commission.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charity-trustee-welcome-pack/charity-trustee-welcome-pack>

## BRANCH PAPERWORK

May I take this opportunity to thank all of you for your hard work and appreciate the effort and time taken to submit your revised 2017/18 form 1056's, if you haven't sent your signed, completed 1056 to me, please let me know if you need any assistance. I will be happy to help. Due to the data protection clause therein it is essential I receive them before 20 May 2018.

Thank you.

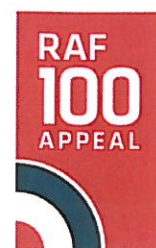
And finally:

*"Great works are performed not by strength but by perseverance".*

Debbie Byam  
Area Administrator.

Encs:

1. RAF100 Appeal fundraising volunteers needed.
2. Facebook and Twitter messages including photographs.
3. Letter to branch chairmen calling standard bearers.
4. New area trophies criteria



## RAF100 Appeal fundraising volunteers needed: Support a century of service



This year, the Royal Air Force is celebrating 100 years in the air and the RAF100 Appeal will be fundraising in 11 cities across the UK.

We are looking for you to grab a collection bucket, get your free t-shirt and join serving RAF personnel in the streets of a city near you.

Everyone who puts a donation in your bucket gets a free roundel pin, they're pretty special

We'd love you, our members, volunteers and supporters to be at the heart of the celebrations, helping us collect for the charities that care for the RAF family.

The fundraising role is a fantastic and exciting one, with volunteers being part of a team raising awareness of the work of the RAF.

RAF100 Appeal city collection locations near you.

City collection locations	Dates
Cardiff	Friday 18 May The National Aircraft Tour will be present
London	Tuesday 10 July The National Aircraft Tour will be present
Bristol	Friday 27 July
Birmingham	Saturday 25 August The National Aircraft Tour will be present

So make a day or a stay of it. Get a group of friends, colleagues or family together – the more the merrier.

Volunteers can sign up by visiting [rafa.org.uk/raf100volunteer](https://rafa.org.uk/raf100volunteer) and complete the registration form, including selecting the city location(s) and shift(s), you wish to support. Alternatively, call Jo Baker in the volunteering team on 0800 018 2361.

## Facebook and Twitter messages inc photos :

Facebook: [@RAFAssociation](#)

Twitter: [@RAFAssociation](#)

### Facebook

Be a part of history and join the #RAF100Appeal with [@RAFAssociation](#)

Volunteer to fundraise at a city collection and help us support the RAF family. [rafa.org.uk/raf100volunteer](https://www.rafa.org.uk/raf100volunteer)

Stand shoulder to shoulder with our RAF Heroes and celebrate 100 years in the air #RAF100

Volunteers can sign up by visiting [rafa.org.uk/raf100register](https://www.rafa.org.uk/raf100register)

Be at the heart of the RAF centenary celebrations in Cardiff city centre on Friday 18 May. We're collecting donations to support our RAF heroes. We need you to grab a bucket, receive a free t-shirt and join us. [raf100/raf100volunteer](#) #RAF100 #RAF100Appeal

Be at the heart of the RAF centenary celebrations in *INSURT CITY* city centre on *INSERT DAY DATE MONTH*. We're collecting donations to support our RAF heroes. We need you to grab a bucket, receive a free t-shirt and join us. [raf100/raf100volunteer](#) #RAF100 #RAF100Appeal

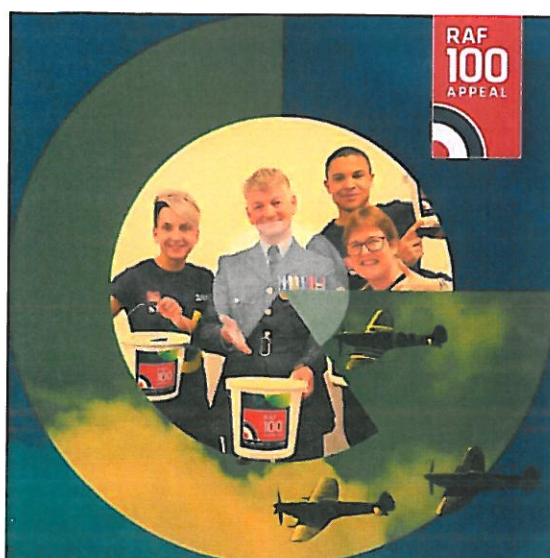
Stand shoulder to shoulder with our Royal Air Force heroes and celebrate 100 years in the air. Volunteers are needed for 11 city collection events. To find out more and to sign up, visit [rafa.org.uk/raf100/raf100volunteer/](https://www.rafa.org.uk/raf100/raf100volunteer/) #RAF100 #RAF100Appeal

### Twitter

Be a part of history and join the #RAF100 Appeal with the @RAFAssociation. Volunteer to fundraise at a city collection and help them support the RAF family: <https://www.rafa.org.uk/raf100/raf100volunteer/>

Stand shoulder to shoulder with our @RoyalAirForce heroes and celebrate 100 years in the air. Fundraising volunteers are needed for 11 city collection events. To find out more and to sign up, visit <https://www.rafa.org.uk/raf100/raf100volunteer/> #RAF100 #RAF100Appeal





CARDIFF	✦	Friday 18 May
NEWCASTLE	✦	Saturday 19 May
YORK	✦	Friday 8 June
READING	✦	Friday 15 June
LONDON	✦	Tuesday 10 July
BRISTOL	✦	Friday 27 July
PETERBOROUGH	✦	Friday 3 August
EDINBURGH	✦	Friday 17 August
BIRMINGHAM	✦	Saturday 25 August
GLASGOW	✦	Friday 31 August
MANCHESTER	✦	Friday 14 September



Monday 26 March 2018

Wales, Midland and South Western Area Office  
RAFA House, Chancel Lane  
Pinhoe, Exeter  
EX4 8JU

Branch Chairmen  
Royal Air Forces Association

Dear Branch Chairman,

**BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL TATTOO - RAF ASSOCIATION STANDARD BEARER DUTIES**  
**SATURDAY 24 NOVEMBER AND SUNDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2018**

I write on behalf of the Wales, Midland and South Western Area Council, to invite your Branch Standard Bearer to attend this year's Birmingham International Tattoo which will be held at the 'Arena Birmingham' (formerly Barclaycard Area) on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 November 2018.

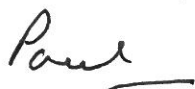
Many Standard Bearers will remember the last time we gathered on mass for the Tattoo in 2015, where we paraded as many as 59 standards. It looked amazing and most definitely coloured the Tattoo light blue! 2018 is our opportunity to do it all again and bring together as many as 100 Standards from across our Association as a final salute to this RAF Centenary year. Your Branch Standard Bearer will be in the spotlight and in front of a 10,000 strong paying audience!

As with most projects there are several logistical challenges to overcome, but all we seek at this stage is a commitment or expression of interest from your Standard Bearer to take part on both days (Saturday 24 November – evening show; Sunday 25 November – afternoon show). If they can only make one of the performances then we still want to hear from them. Clearly this will require one overnight stay and maybe two for those who are travelling some distance and whilst we cannot get involved in personal travel and accommodation arrangements, the Association is happy to offer a small financial contribution based on 70 per cent of pooled fare mileage. In addition, it would be great if your branch could provide assistance with accommodation costs and you may wish to consider this as you see fit.

Several branches in and around Birmingham take part in the Tattoo every year – but 2018 provides a fabulous opportunity to create something special and 'sign off' this unique year in style.

Clearly much more information to follow, but for now, please could you ask your Standard Bearer to make contact with Debbie Byam, Area Administrator, who will manage any interest. Debbie is at [debbie.byam@rafa.org.uk](mailto:debbie.byam@rafa.org.uk) or on 01392-341391. Thank you.

Yours faithfully



Paul Baker  
Area Director  
01392-341392  
[Paul.baker@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Paul.baker@rafa.org.uk)



## NEW AREA TROPHIES CRITERIA

Trophy	Criteria
Membership – highest percentage increase (small branches)	Branches should be given every encouragement to grow their membership base.
Membership – highest % increase (large branches)	Branches should be given every encouragement to grow their membership base.
Branch Efficiency	Combine 'large' and 'small' branch trophies to create just one branch efficiency trophy. There is no clear gain or advantage for small or large branches in respect of the measuring criteria - the same principles apply. Efficiency trophies have been withdrawn nationally but one trophy will be competed for keenly at Area on a level playing field.
Club Efficiency	Combine 'large' and 'small' club trophies to create just one club efficiency trophy. There is no clear gain or advantage for small or large club in respect of the measuring criteria - the same principles apply.
Area President's Cup	This is a new trophy. Winners will go forward to the national competition. Criteria will be a broad achievement across all pillars of activity – not just Wings or efficiency or membership growth – but the branch that may have been highly ranked across all areas but not necessarily first.
Branch Communications Trophy	This is a new trophy. Winners will go forward to compete for the national Sir John Baker trophy against the same criteria – awarded to the branch judged to have the best communication, verbal, paper, electronic in its many forms.
Wings Appeal – highest gross collection	No change to current criteria.
Wings Appeal – highest net collection per capita <u>with</u> an Air Show/large event	In line with the national Gwynne-Vaughan Trophy, there is a need for a more level playing field for those branches that do or do not have the benefit of credits through a large air show or event.
Wings Appeal – highest net collection per capita <u>without</u> an Air Show/large event	as above.