

June 2018

Wales, Midland and South Western Area

Newsletter

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

We still have some of our branches in Wales Midland and South Western area who have not submitted their 1056 forms 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 branch 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.

GDPR 5 BRANCH/CLUBS COMMUNICATIONS

Please see attached/enclosed newsletter no.5 for GDPR updates.

ABRIDGED REPORT (II) OF THE 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Please see attachment/enclosure.

The charity that supports the RAF family

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

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

A reminder to those in our branches who process membership renewal and initial application subscriptions. If you are submitting Forms 4 and 5 please ensure the accompanying payment is a Branch General Account cheque and not a personal cheque. Please make contact with the Area Office if you require clarification. Thank you.

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.

Please note if you haven't received your membership card please email: membership@rafa.org.uk or call 0800 018 2361.

Thank you for your continued support.



Flowerdown House 'Wings Breaks' **Hotel**



Lunch Club

Flowerdown House has established a lunch club for serving and ex-RAF personnel and their partners, living in our local community.



This will run every Monday at 1300hrs, when we'll be serving a light and tasty three course meal and coffee for just £5 per head.

Come along and enjoy the company of our guests and experience the warmth of Flowerdown's hospitality.

Please phone 01934 621664 to make a booking.

NATIONAL PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATE

A highly dedicated member of the Sturminster Newton and Gillingham Branch of the Royal Air Forces Association has been awarded a National Presidential Certificate for her outstanding

voluntary work in support of the RAF Association. In formal recognition of Sue Stroud's outstanding commitment, sustained drive and outstanding achievements towards fund-raising for RAFA, over a period approaching 40 years, she has been recognised for RAFA's highest award. The National Presidential Certificate was presented to Sue over lunch at The Royal Chase Hotel, Shaftesbury by the Area President, Air Vice-Marshall Martin Clark (pictured).



RAFA TOKEN AND COMMEMORATIVE WALK- CORSHAM AND CHIPPENHAM BRANCH

On 5 May, as part of the Corsham & Chippenham RAF Association's Commemorative Walk, cadets and staff of 992 Squadron (Malmesbury), 1304 Squadron (Chippenham) and 1304 Detached Flight (Rudloe) plus members of RAF Association and friends walked from Corsham to Calne via Chippenham to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Royal Air Force.

Councillor Ruth Hopkinson started off the 'Walk'. The walkers crossed Corsham Park into Chippenham before parading in front of the Town Hall to be met by Mayor Councillor, Mary Norton and MP for Chippenham, Michelle Donelan. After refreshments, the walkers commenced their journey to Calne via Cycle Route 403.

At Calne, the walkers paraded in front of the Mayor Councillor, Tony Trotman and the Deputy Mayor Councillor, Glynis Anstil accompanied by members of RAF Association and the RAF.

In conclusion, Arthur Antill, Chairman of Corsham & Chippenham Branch handed over the RAF Association's Token to Air Commodore Brian Poulton and Alan Stackman for Calne & District

branch's custodianship for the next phase of the journey.

The transfer by foot of the RAF100 Token between Corsham and Calne united the various parts of our local 'RAF Family' to join together to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Royal Air Force.

During the Token's time at Corsham and Chippenham's Branch, the token has been on display with the RAF100 Baton at MOD Corsham prior to the RAF Baton Relay Team departing for Kemble Airfield and a presentation about the RAF Association was given to our three adopted RAF Air Cadet units. Plus, we have collected over £500 towards the Wings Appeal. - A 10th of the cost of building a Spitfire at 1940 rates.

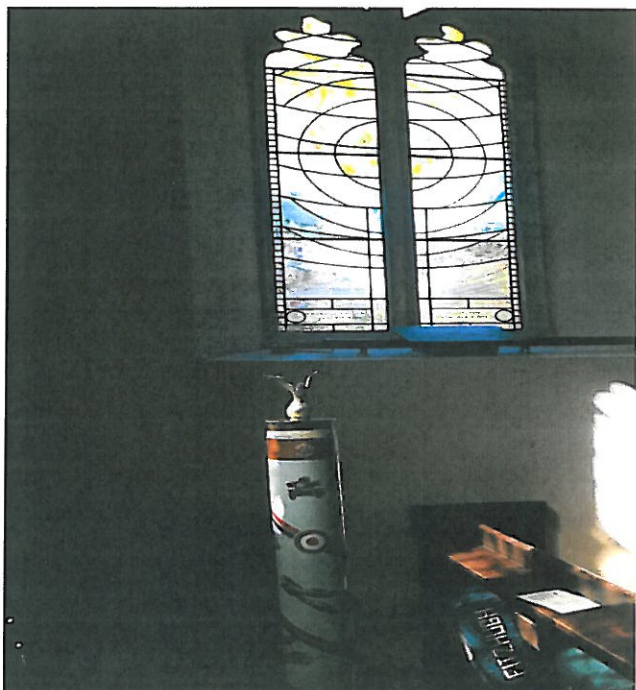
Many thanks to all walkers and supporters for making this a memorable event.

CORNWALL ARMED FORCES DAY - Saturday 30 June 2018

See attachment/enclosure for more details.

DEDICATION OF WAAF WINDOW AT ST GILES CHURCH, STANTON, ST QUINTIN ON 6 MAY 2018

A dedication was made for a window for the WAAFs who worked and lived in Stanton Court during wartime where they were billeted, seen here below with the RAF100 Token.



Dorothy Brown was one of these ladies and travelled from afar, all the way from Canada.



Left to right in the picture are Fiona Basket's daughter, Dorothy Brown's daughter with Ena Day, Fiona Baskett and Dorothy Brown.

Six standard bearers attended; Calne, Corsham/Chippenham, Swindon, Torquay along with 1304 Chippenham sq. Air Cadets and Calne RBL.

Coverage of the dedication was provided by BBC Points West, BBC Wiltshire Gazette and The Herald with interviews for all attending, including Ena Day.

After the service which was led by Margery Morgan and assisted by Padre Christopher, tea and cakes were served in the school room. A very enjoyable day.

RAF100 CENTENARY CONCERT – 100 YEARS OF BRITISH MUSIC

See attachment/enclosure for further details.

RAF100 GLOUCESTER CITY CENTRE – 8 July 2018

Please see attachment/enclosure for further details.

BARGOED BLACKWOOD BRANCH CELEBRATION OF 100 YEARS – AT HEOLDDU COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

Please see attachment/enclosure for further details.

RAF ASSOCIATION HOLIDAY HOMES AND SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION UP-TO- DATE INFORMATION

Association Holiday Home, Selsey

The self-catering holiday home can be found at the Green Lawns Bunn Leisure Holiday Park in Selsey, near Chichester on the West Sussex coast. The home provides a fantastic-value break and is available to all serving and former-serving RAF personnel and their dependants.

The fully wheelchair accessible holiday home accommodates up to six people. It has two bedrooms, a double and a twin, and a stowaway bed in the lounge area. The bathroom contains a walk-in shower with fold-down seat and supports, the kitchen is well equipped and the spacious lounge/dining area offers a colour TV and DVD player. There is a no-pets policy, however assistance dogs are allowed.

Bookings are available between end of March and October.

For further information please contact Vicky Ford, Tel: 0116 268 8788 Email: vicky.ford@rafa.org.uk

RAF Association Chalet Project, Hemsby

The RAF Association operate six holiday chalets on the Sea Dell Estates Site, Beach Road, Hemsby which can be rented by serving and ex-serving RAF personnel and their dependants. The chalets are fully equipped for four people; each comprises a lounge/dining area with kitchenette and two bedrooms. All chalets have a bathroom with electric shower. A cot and highchair are available on request. All amenities are close by, including shops, market, restaurants and cafes.

The 2018 chalet season commenced on Monday 7th May and runs through until mid-October. Arrival/Departure day is Monday. The cost per chalet per week is £145 full rate £100 welfare rate. **There are still vacancies mid-June to Mid-July if anyone in your Branch is interested in going.**

For further information or to book. Please contact Vicky Ford on Tel: 0116 268 8788 Email: vicky.ford@rafa.org.uk

Vacant Sheltered Accommodation

The RAF Association has a range of one bedroom rented sheltered housing locations around the country for former RAF personnel or their widow/widowers aged 60 plus that need a little support but are still able to live independently. Each RAF Association rented housing location is supported by an experienced scheme manager.

Accommodation vacancies at:-

- Wexford House, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire. Live in scheme manager who provides three meals a day. Rent is approximately £903 per month and includes all bills and meals
- Dowding House, Moffat in Scotland, one minute walk to the town centre. Rent is approximately £510 per month
- Lord Tedder Court in Northumberland. Residents can use all the facilities of Rothbury House. Rent is approximately £400 per month and includes heating and hot water
- Storrington in West Sussex. One bedroom self-contained flats 15 miles away from Brighton, communal lounge and laundry. Rent is approximately £450 per month

Our sheltered housing is linked to a 24-hour emergency call system and is monitored 24 hours a day by friendly, well trained staff, ensuring help is always on hand should you need it.

For further information please complete the simple expression of interest form attached and return to James Kew-Moss, Welfare Department, RAFA Headquarters, Atlas House, 41 Wembley Road, Leicester, LE3 1UT.

BRANCH PROPERTY ISSUES

Branches with property should by now have received the fire risk assessments and building surveys; these have been sent out to the branch chairs by email. If you haven't received the reports for your branch please contact James Early on Estates@rafa.org.uk. Once the fire risk assessments and building surveys have been

received they should be the subject of discussion by branch committees. Notably, the fire risk assessments are accompanied by action plans detailing the work required and these should be completed and returned to HQ within 30 days of receipt. Even where work cannot be completed within this period, the action plan should identify what actions the branch and club has taken and are planning. Council have asked for regular updates on branches' responses to fire risk assessments in particular and Area staff will therefore be following up with Branches on an individual basis.

A number of common themes emerged from the fire risk assessments, including poor record keeping and lack of training. To support Branches (and clubs) an Association Fire Safety Log Book has been developed. These provide both guidance on fire safety, and provide forms on which checks and tests should be recorded. The Fire Safety Log Books will be mailed to Branch Chairs in mid-June. Please ensure the Log Book is shared with all of those who have any responsibility for fire safety at the property. If you haven't received your Fire Safety Log Book by the end of June please contact your BSO.

A fire safety workshop took place at Annual Conference, and a copy of the presentation is available on the Members' Portal, under Documents / Association Governance / Risk Documents. Those branch officials who were unable to attend the workshop will find the presentation of use in their role and as a Branch and club training resource.

Finally, Branches will be pleased to note that a new Property Grant application process has been developed. Details will be emailed to Branch chairs in June. The process and application form are also available under Risk Documents on the Members' Portal.

WRAF BRANCH AT THE TOWER OF LONDON HOSTED BY THE YEOMAN WARDER

On 28th April, Members of the WRAF Branch and the WAAF Association were honoured to be hosted at the Tower of London by Yeoman Warder, Spike Abbott, to witness the Ceremony of the Keys.

This ceremony happens every night for the last 700 years and in all these years has remained unchanged. After closing the grounds to the general public, Spike gave us a wonderful tour of

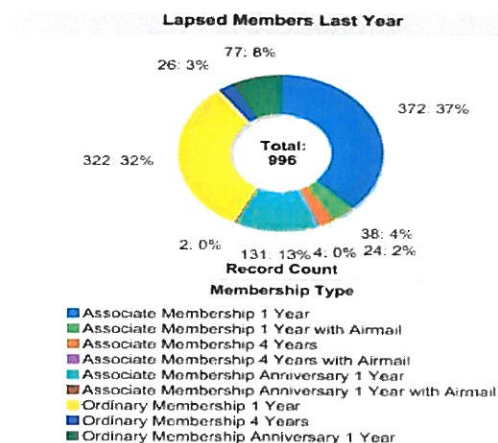
the grounds, it was lovely and quiet, it really brought alive the history of the tower and a few of its unfortunate residents, some of whom are buried in the chapel.

Afterwards we were invited to "The Keys", the Yeoman Warder's Bar, for drinks and a raffle (seen here in the photograph). Sir Dusty and Lady Miller and all the ladies who attended, agreed, what a wonderful experience the evening had been.



AREA MEMBERSHIP – LAPSED FIGURES

These figures may be of interest as we look to grow the Association in 2018. Lapsed members will have received communication inviting them to renew, but it may be helpful to make personal contact – if you can - with those who appear on your branch lapsed list, obtainable from myself, Debbie Byam at the Exeter Office (01392-462088 or at debbie.byam@rafa.org.uk). The 'sum of contact count' is the actual lapsed figure at your branch. You never know, you may uncover a real need that otherwise may not have been alerted to your branch.



Lapsed Members Last Year

Home Branch	Sum of Contact Count
Swindon	67
Taunton Deane	61
Weymouth/Portland	52
St Davids and Solva	51
Porthcawl and Kenfig	49
Cheltenham	45
City of Bristol	38
WRAF	32
Weston-Super-Mare	28
Neath	27
Penzance	26
Dawlish	23
Tamworth	23
Sherborne	19
Wolverhampton/Dist	19
Melksham	18
Wales, Midland and SW Area HQ	18
Anglesey	16
Llandaff and Ely	16
Birmingham/Sheldon	15
Torquay	15
Shrewsbury	14
RAF St Mawgan	13
Birmingham Moseley	11
Plymouth	11
Poole	11
Solihull	11
Barry	10
Coventry	10
Exmouth	10
Gloucester	10
Leamington/Warwick	10
Salisbury	8
Stafford	8
Wimborne	8
Wrexham	8
Llangollen	7
Mid-Somerset	7
Aberdare	6
Bargoed/Blackwood	6
Cosford and District	6

Teignmouth	6
Brecon	5
Calne and District	5
Cwmbran	5
Frome	5
Leek	5
Llanelli	5
Wrekin/Wellington	5
Barnstaple/N Devon	4
Cannock Chase	4
Evesham	4
Falmouth	4
Kidderminster	4
Newcastle U Lyme	4
Shaftesbury	4
Stone and District	4
Trowbridge and West Wiltshire	4
Chepstow and Dist RMG	3
Corsham/Chippenham	3
Dursley and S Gloucs	3
Haverfordwest	3
Market Drayton	3
North Cotswolds	3
Penarth	3
Pontardawe and Dist	3
RAF Reserves Virtual Branch	3
South West Area HQ	3
St Austell	3
Treorchy	3
West Bromwich	3
Yeovil and District	3
Bromsgrove/Redditch	2
Camborne Redruth and Illogan	2
Christchurch	2
Dudley	2
Dunkeswell/Honiton RMG	2
Ellesmere	2
North Cornwall	2
RAFA Concert Band RMG	2
Rugby and District	2
Stourbridge Branch	2
Swansea	2

Truro	2
Tywyn and Aberdovey	2
Worcester and District	2
Bodmin	1
Knighton and Dist	1
Midland Area HQ	1
RAF Association Sailing Branch	1
Sturminster/Gill	1
Warminster RMG	1
Total	996

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL PARADE AND SERVICE

More than 50 standards and banners were proudly paraded recently through the streets of Worcester and into the Cathedral as guests joined RAF Association branches and members, together with fabulous support from the West Mercian Wing of the RAF Air Cadets, for a service to commemorate the Centenary of the Royal Air Force.



Air Marshal Julian Young was joined by the Deputy Mayor and Vice-Lieutenant on the Dais as the Parade passed by. Huge thanks go to the Station Commander at RAF Cosford for providing a serving RAF marching contingent and to our very own standard bearers who did a splendid job.



DATES FOR DIARY

- North Cornwall Branch Annual Battle of Britain Service being held on Sunday 9 September 2018 at Kilkhampston Parish Church 1100hrs. All Branch members and Standards are welcome to attend
- Mid Wales regional meetings are as follows; Llanidloes at 1100hrs on the 18 July 2018, Brecon at 1400hrs on 6 June 2018 and Knighton at 1400hrs on 2 June 2019
- In Knighton – 4 August the branch will hold an events day including a walking treasure hunt, a display of old photographs, a valuation day for antiques and collectibles, bbq, karaoke and Mike Logue, BSO will be bringing the RAF Association trailer for the day

VOLUNTEERING UPDATE

June is an exciting time for the volunteering team as the start of the month marks Volunteers' Week. Running from 1 to 7 June 2018, this annual campaign recognises the contribution volunteers make to our communities every day. During Volunteers' Week charities across the UK will be holding events to celebrate the power volunteering has bringing communities together. The RAF Association will be celebrating with a series of volunteer spotlight videos being shown across our website and social media to highlight just some of the roles that our volunteers undertake in support of the RAF family.

Volunteers' Week also gives us the opportunity to recognise the time and energy our volunteers so willingly give in support of the Association, and to say a well-deserved "thank you". Volunteering for the Association means something different to everyone that helps us. This year Volunteers' Week is about volunteering for all; celebrating the huge range of people who give so much of their time in so many ways. We hope that whether you are volunteering in a fundraising, welfare, branch role, or in any other capacity, that you will feel proud to have helped have a positive impact on the lives of the RAF family.



Could you spare some time to help? To those of you who are interested, or know of someone who may be interested in a volunteering role, please visit our website at rafa.org.uk/volunteer where you can see further information on all our volunteer roles and how to get involved.

All our current volunteering opportunities can be found at rafa.org.uk/volunteer/search

Alternatively, the volunteering team can be contacted directly on 0116 464 5054 or via email using volunteers@rafa.org.uk

And last but not least:

**NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM,
ALREWAS – SUNDAY 13 MAY 2018**

The RAF family sacrifice a normal lifestyle so that the people of our country can feel secure and safe at home. 2,500 members came together to give thanks for this and looked ahead to the Association's continuing support of the RAF over the next 100 years. For this special year, it is important for us to come together and commemorate those that have served, those that are serving and their loved ones.



We will remember!

*Debbie Byam
Area Administrator*

Encs:

RAF100 Centenary Concert
Cornwall Armed Forces Day
RAF100 Gloucester Cathedral
Gloucester RAF100 timetable of events
RAF100 Bargoed and Blackwood
RAF Association's abridged report of Annual Conference 2018
Branch and clubs communication – GDPR Reg 5