

August 2018

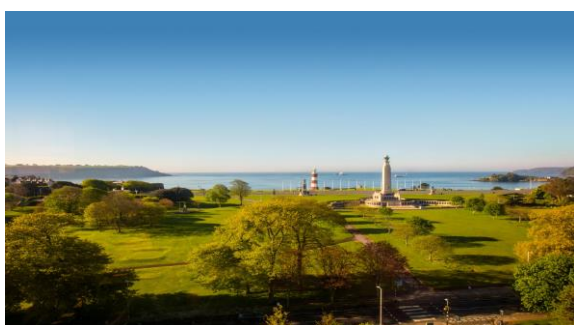
Wales, Midland and South Western Area Newsletter

The charity that supports the RAF family

The Royal Air Forces Association
Wales, Midland & South Western
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AREA CONFERENCE – IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR ALREADY!

Our next Area Conference will be held at the Plymouth Crowne Plaza on 22 - 24 March 2019. Further details follow soon. We hope you can make it!



The view from the Plymouth Crowne Plaza Hotel's restaurant.

THE BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL TATTOO – SATURDAY, 24 AND SUNDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2018

Standard bearers have already been invited to attend this year's Birmingham International Tattoo which will be held at the 'Arena Birmingham' (formerly Barclaycard Arena).

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.

Many standard bearers will remember the last time we gathered en masse 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!

If your branch standard bearer wishes to participate then please contact me, Debbie, in the Exeter office on tel: 01392-462088 or email: debbie.byam@rafa.org.uk

Branches will be paid for reasonable travel costs and accommodation for their standard bearers to



attend. Partners, wives and families will need to buy a ticket. Please see next paragraph and link, at a reduced price of £16 plus £1 booking fee.

TICKETS FOR THE BIRMINGHAM TATTOO

As a final opportunity to celebrate the centenary of the Royal Air Force we are delighted to announce that tickets are now available through the RAF Association for the Birmingham International Tattoo. A fabulous opportunity to enjoy this annual spectacle, including a parade of 100 RAF Association standards. By purchasing a ticket from us you will be making a significant contribution to the RAF Association Wings Appeal which enables us to support those in need. We've managed to negotiate reduced ticket prices at £16 per ticket which will include a £1 booking fee.

Secure your tickets here:

<https://rafa.ticketlight.co.uk/> for either Saturday 24 November or Sunday 25 November. Your transaction will provide an event e-ticket which must be exchanged for your seating tickets when you arrive at the Arena Birmingham Box Office (RAF Association Desk) - located immediately next to the Box Office on the Arena Floor level to the right of entrance E. This is accessible from both the north and south car parks.

If you are unable to purchase tickets online then please call Ian Campbell, Branch Support Officer, on 07584577064, who will provide assistance.

ASSOCIATION'S NEW CREST UNVEILED

12 JULY 2018

"Oohs" and warm applause from members greeted the unveiling of the Association's new crest at Conference this May.

Our new official symbol shows the eagle and globe, topped with the Queen's crown, and over the Latin motto: non nobis sed vobis (not for ourselves alone). Its design follows the style of the RAF's squadron crests.

Following its creation by the Royal College of Arms, the new crest was approved by Her Majesty The Queen, Patron of the Association, before being formally presented to the Association by the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Hillier on 1 April 2018.

First reactions from delegates were warm. Warrant Officer Steve Guppy, Service Community Support Officer at RAF Benson and Chair of the Oxford and District Branch said: "It's good to see. It's been a long time coming. In the centre is the heritage of the organisation, but this brings it now in line and formalises it as a recognised crest."

A staged roll out of the crest will now start, replacing the old eagle and globe on printed materials and merchandise as they run out. The electronic changeover has already started, for example on the Association website. Merchandise has already been ordered and items such as ties and lapel pins will start to be stocked from late summer onwards. Versions of the crest will be uploaded to rafa.org.uk/promotion to allow branches to download and use it.

The Royal College of Arms has been creating and keeping official registers of coats of arms since 1484, and advising central and local government, corporate bodies and private individuals on all aspects of heraldry, flags and national ceremonial issues.



FUNDRAISE FOR US

The RAF Association relies on the support and generosity of the public, our members and supporters in generating funds to help the RAF family when they are in need.

The support we provide relies heavily on the fantastic work carried out by our volunteers and there are many different ways you can get

involved. Have you thought about Brew for Few? Invite a few friends for tea and cake in the name of your favourite charity!



TAMWORTH BRANCH

A proud day for Tamworth branch when Standard Bearer Caitlyn Kett-Davies paraded the branch standard at Westminster Abbey for the RAF100 service.



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.

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 Branch Support Officer.

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 were emailed to Branch chairs in June. The process and application form are also available under Risk Documents on the Members' Portal.

MORE WAYS TO FUNDRAISE FROM YOUR SOFA

A new website created by Amazon helps you raise funds for the RAF Association every time you buy things from the online store. It is called Amazon Smile and the pointers below will tell you how to set it up and how to raise funds for the Association without leaving the house.

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the RAF Association every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.co.uk, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as amazon.co.uk, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the Association.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.co.uk from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.co.uk to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?

Millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations to charities by Amazon. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for smile.amazon.co.uk" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

Can I use my existing amazon.co.uk account on smile.amazon.co.uk?

Yes, you use the same account on amazon.co.uk and smile.amazon.co.uk. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

How do I select the RAF Association to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to smile.amazon.co.uk you need to select a charitable organisation to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.co.uk will result in a donation.

How much of my purchase does Amazon donate?

Amazon will donate 0.5 per cent of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping and handling, gift-wrapping fees, VAT, and service charges, and less any rebates, returns, and bad debt. From time to time, we may offer special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services or provide for additional donations to charitable organisations. Special terms and restrictions may apply. Please see the relevant promotion for complete details.

RAF ASSOCIATION CONCERT BAND EVENTS

Your Band continues to promote the RAF Association around the area and recently hosted 69 musicians from the University Wind Orchestra of Twente, Holland.

Engagements still to come:

Participation in a Songs of Praise, Victoria Methodist Church Weston-Super-Mare Sunday 5 August; Last Night of the Proms, St Mary's Field, Hutton 2nd September. RAFA Battle of Britain Concert Pavilions, Teignmouth 16 September; Malvern Festival of Military History, Hanley Castle Worcestershire, 6 October. Finally, don't forget the RAFA Concerts Band's 20th Anniversary Dinner in the Winter Gardens, Weston-Super-Mare on Saturday 20 October 2018. Tickets cost £24 and include a meet &

greet drink, three Course Meal with slide show & music.

If you are interested in coming along please contact the Musical Director on 01934 820205. We would love to see as many of you there to celebrate this milestone for the Band.



DATES FOR DIARY

- North Cornwall Branch Annual Battle of Britain Service being held on Sunday 9 September 2018 at Kilkhampton Parish Church 1100hrs. All branch members and standards are welcome to attend
- In Knighton – 4 August the branch held an events day including a walking treasure hunt, a display of old photographs, a valuation day for antiques and collectibles, bbq and karaoke and Mike Logue, BSO took the RAF Association trailer for the day
- In Weymouth at the Spyglass Inn (Harvester) on 11 August at 1500hrs in the garden, inside if raining, a fundraising stall for Wings Appeal. More events to follow.
- Yatesbury Church - Church service on 12 August with Yatesbury Association at 1030hrs.

PAINT THE TOWN RED, YELLOW, PINK, BLUE GREEN AND PURPLE FOR THE RAF ASSOCIATION!

The Royal Air Forces Association wants to keep everyone near RAF Cosford in the pink at RAF Association Colour Chaos on 26 August.

This fun family event, open to the general public, is being held within the grounds of RAF Cosford and will entail approximately 5km of colourful fun. You can run, jog, dance, walk,

whatever you feel like; the one certain thing is that you will get plastered in powder paint!

The course will pass points of interest around the airfield, so this is great opportunity to see 'behind the wire' at an active RAF station. The Association's team will be waiting to cheer you across the finish line and present you with an event medal. Money raised by the event will help fund the Association's Storybook Wings project.

Helen Tempest, event organiser, said: "We are all looking forward to RAFA Colour Chaos – it will be a great family day out, with the added bonus of raising funds for Storybook Wings. This allows serving personnel working away from home to record a bedtime story that their children can listen to while they're away. Music and sound effects are added by our volunteer editors, creating a wonderful keepsake for children missing Mummy or Daddy."

James, an RAF parent, said: "Prior to deploying to Kabul, I recorded The Gruffalo for my one-year-old daughter through the RAF Association Storybook Wings service. I felt so very reassured and warmed to know that she was able to hear my voice and enjoy our precious time together even in my absence. She thoroughly enjoyed the audio and book combination and I would thoroughly recommend others to use this fantastic service!"

If you can raise a minimum of £50 per person or £100 per family, then you will qualify for free event entry. Event details, including entry and fundraising options, can be found at www.rafa.org.uk/colourchaos

RAF100 WESTMINSTER

"Tuesday 10th July 2018 marked 100 days since the 100 year anniversary of the Royal Air Force.

"I was extremely fortunate to be selected as standard bearer for the Westminster service and later I went the Horse Guards Parade reception.

"Following a short but very friendly briefing at Westminster we marched to the Abbey where we formed to greet all attendees. We then had seats to enjoy a wonderful service. The hymns were expertly chosen and included, 'I vow to thee my country' and 'Guide me o' thou great redeemer'.

"Following the service we formed a guard of honour outside the Abbey where I was fortunate to be standing almost adjacent to where Her Majesty the Queen and other Royals passed.



"We then walked a short distance to Horse Guards. The reception was extremely well organised and all mingled and discussed the day. Two large screens had been erected to allow a clear view of the presentation of the new RAF Colour and the parade.

The reception continued with much excitement until we had an unbelievable view of the 100 aircraft 'fly past'. A sight that we shall probably never see again with aircraft from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, a 22 formation of Typhoons forming 100 and the Red Arrows ending the display in their spectacular style.

The whole afternoon proceeded with everyone enjoying the delicious food and occasional glass of wine; well one or two. Following the reception my wife and I walked into Trafalgar Square where we were constantly greeted by Royal Air Force servicemen.

What a day; one that no one there will ever forget".

By Chris Owens, North Cotswolds Branch



TIGER INN, BRIDPORT

The landlord, Graham Taylor proudly displays his RAF100 certificate presented by the local branch of the Royal Air Forces Association.



Graham kindly brewed two real ales, "Sopwith Camel" and "Bristol Scout" at his Stripey Cat brewery for a beer call at the Tiger Inn in celebration of the RAF100 Anniversary. He generously donated the proceeds to the RAF Association making total proceeds for the week's events a grand sum of £1,500.



First pint drawn by Bridport Mayor Councillor Anne Rickard and RAF Association, Chairman Alan Kidson.

ST DAVIDS AND SOLVA BRANCH

A proud moment for our St Davids and Solva branch as the RAF100 token was received and blessed.



Pictured L to R with the official banner and token at St Davids Cathedral's Pembrokeshire Second World War Memorial are:

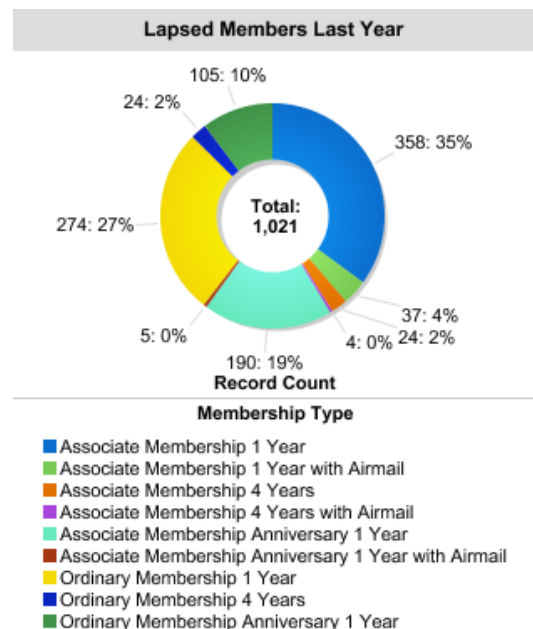
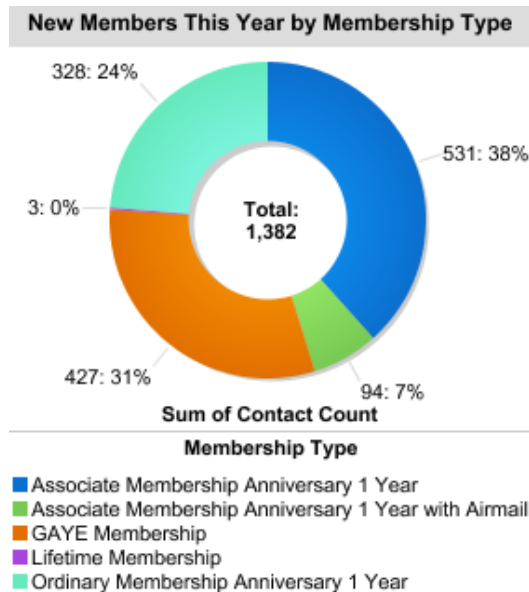
Chris John, Club Chairman; Revd Canon Leigh Richardson, Sub-Dean of St Davids Cathedral and former Padre to the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia); Malcolm Clift, Branch Chairman.

FABULOUS INCREASE IN ONLINE JOINERS - BUT THAT'S NOT THE WHOLE PICTURE!

It's very encouraging to see a positive 'spike' in those joining the Association online as new members with more than 400 doing so nationally just in the month of July. Balanced, of course, with the ever present challenge to reduce lapsing figures and especially those who are ordinary one year 'anniversary' lapsed. Please continue to do all you can to make contact with your branch lapsed members.

How is membership recruitment going at your branch? Have you had a positive impact as a result of the RAF Centenary or the Area Token passing through? This is our year to drive people into the Association and your branch.

Here's how the two most important donuts are looking right now from an Area perspective:



And finally:

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.

Debbie Byam

Area Administrator

Wales, Midland and South Western area.

Encs:

1. Barry Branch poster of events 2018
2. The Birmingham International Tattoo 2018 poster
3. RAF Association Concert Band Engagements list
4. RAF Yatesbury Association exhibition poster
5. RAF100 – Wales information