

March 2019

# Wales, Midland and South Western Area Newsletter



## Membership Matters

2019 has seen the first increase in membership subscription fees in four years and the following subscriptions took effect from 1 January 2019.

**Ordinary - £23**

**Associate - £16**

Please make sure that all your membership forms reflect the new pricing so as to ensure that new members do not submit applications at the old subscription rates.

If you need more forms please contact your Branch Support Officer or visit [www.rafatrad.co.uk](http://www.rafatrad.co.uk)

## Last call for Area Conference!

We look forward to seeing you all again at this year's Area Conference, which will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on the Plymouth Hoe over the weekend Friday 22 March to Sunday 24 March. A new venue in terms of our Conference – so let's experience it together! Please book your accommodation at your earliest opportunity.

Does the Exeter Office know who is representing your branch? Have you returned the branch delegate form? The programme for the weekend following is packed with opportunities to receive Association updates and discuss the way forward, as well as reunion and relaxation. There is a lot of RAF Association branded wine available at NAAFI prices (well – better than hotel prices!). See you there.



**AREA  
MEMBERSHIP**  
18,018

**BRANCHES**  
83

**RMGs**  
10

**CLUBS**  
22

**AREA LAPSED  
MEMBERS**  
876

# Area Conference 2019 (22 to 24 March)

## Friday 22

1600hrs	Meet and Greet - Tea and Biscuits in the foyer/bar area.
1800hrs	Two Course Hot Fork Buffet in the Mariner Ballroom.
1945hrs	Area Council 'Welcome' to include words of welcome from Plymouth Branch.
2000hrs	Standard Bearers' Competition in the Mariner Ballroom.
2100hrs	Light incidental music provided by Media Group.

## Saturday 23

0700hrs	Breakfast.
0900hrs	Presentation – update on the RAF Association to include Q&A. Rolling tea and coffee will be available at the rear of the conference room.
1045hrs	RAF Association Welfare Presentation to include Q&A.
1145hrs	Branch and Club Officer Development Workshop.
1230hrs	Lunch (two-course chef's lunch included in weekend package – <u>or</u> 'ladies' afternoon tea in the Marco Pierre White Restaurant).
1330hrs	Continue Branch and Club Officer Development Workshop.
1600hrs	Area Annual General Meeting, with Association Chairman as Guest of Honour.
1800hrs	Area President's Reception (honouring high achievers).
1830hrs	Dinner in the Mariner Ballroom (Black Tie or Lounge Suits, decorations/miniatures etc).
2000hrs	RAF Update from AM Julian Young, Chief of Materiel (Air).
2100hrs	Area Awards ceremony.
2200hrs	Light entertainment.

## Sunday 24

	Breakfast.
0900hrs	Short Wreath-laying Service at the RAF & Allied Air Forces Monument on the Hoe.
0930hrs	Church Service - Parade of Standards. Decorations/Medals may be worn.
1015hrs	Refreshments.
1115hrs	Performance by the RAF Association Concert Band. Farewell.
1230hrs	Lunch and Depart.

RAF Association Branch Support Officers (Alan, Ian and Mike) will be on hand throughout Conference to engage delegates and guests on core branch and club membership issues. A RAFATrad market stall will be located in the corridor immediately outside the Mariner Ballroom.

Friday and Saturday raffles will be a 'silent draw' and tickets can be purchased and prizes checked at the Area market stall – at your convenience.

RAF Association branded wine will be available on Friday and Saturday evening, to purchase on a cash only basis for 30 minutes before dinner. Proceeds will support the Wings Appeal.

Please speak with Ian Campbell (BSO) if you would like a copy of the RAF100 Area souvenir print.

## Taking to the sky for wings

Paramotor pilots, Giles Fowler and Paul Mockford will attempt to fly over 40 current and former RAF airfields over two days, a route of 263 miles, in aid of the Royal Air Forces Association. Assisted by Kate Pagett and Andy Greaves as ground support, this is a test of endurance and navigation. The flight is weather dependant and scheduled for April 2019.

Flying six legs over two days, the team will attempt to travel from the former Bomber Command airfield of RAF Goxhill, near Hull, south to RAF Halton, near Wendover, in Buckinghamshire.

Flt Lt Giles Fowler - Giles is a serving Officer in the RAF and a keen paramotorist. With 25 years flying experience, he's the highest flying paramotor pilot in the UK and holds the British record of 21, 746 ft. He also flew the longest non-stop flight in the UK of 300 miles from coast to coast.

Paul Mockford - Paul is a new pilot still in his first year as a paramotorist. After seeing a paramotor flight on YouTube he dived in head first and never looked back. Both Paul's parents are former RAF, his father runs the RAF Association Branch at RAF Halton.

Andy and Katie - Acting as ground-support, Andy and Katie will carry fuel, spares and supplies for the pilots. Andy is a keen paramotor pilot himself Katie is currently going through training.

The route will take the team from Goxhill near Hull, down through Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire. Day one is planned to finish at Sywell Aerodrome near Northampton. Day two will end at RAF Halton near Wendover.

Both pilots and ground-support crew will be trackable live on the Livetrack24 website. Details will be on the Facebook page.

[www.facebook.com/RAFA40paramotor](https://www.facebook.com/RAFA40paramotor)



## Annual Conference 2019 Update

Dear Branch Standard Bearers,

Thank you for your comments and concerns regarding this year's Annual Conference at the Birmingham Hilton Metropole, please accept my apologies that we haven't communicated well with you in this instance.

I can confirm that the Annual Conference Committee has decided not to host a parade at the 2019 Annual Conference due to some concerns over previous incidents with Standard Bearers being taken ill.

The Drum Head Service on Sunday will be held indoors within the Sovereign Suite from 0900hrs and you are very welcome to attend and display your Standards.

Yours sincerely,

**Taff Rees**  
**Chairman Annual Conference Committee**





## RAF Association Gifts

The Association has many items that are sold via our website or on stands at events and air shows throughout the year.

Visit [www.rafatrad.co.uk](http://www.rafatrad.co.uk) to see our full range of items.

From clothes to books, aircraft prints to mugs, badges to rubber ducks, they are all available to buy.



## Growing our membership for 2019/20

Once your AGM is concluded, it is time to focus on the year ahead. Please think about the following:

- Has the 1056/156A and accounts been sent to the BSO?
- Have you submitted your branch online annual online return to the charity commission?
- Have committee members read the Governance Handbook?
- Have they signed the declaration of good character forms?
- What are your plans to communicate with your members and how frequently? Newsletters/emails/Facebook etc
- How can new members find out about your branch?
- Have you got a diary of events planned? Committee meetings/branch meetings/socials etc

## Newsletters

Since the last Area newsletter, several branches have been in touch and are now drafting newsletters and emails to go to their membership. Great effort!

Why not send some copies to your local RAF Air cadet unit, town halls and other areas where people may pick up a copy?

## Rafa.org.uk/promotion

This website is the go-to site for promotional items for your branches and clubs - clothing, branch websites, letter templates, press releases etc.

Take a look and see how this site can help your branch this year and use the resources available.

[www.rafa.org.uk/promotion](http://www.rafa.org.uk/promotion)

# Take a break with the Association

## Hemsby Chalets

The RAF Association operate six holiday chalets on the Sea Dell Estates Site, Beach Road, Hemsby which can be rented by serving and former serving RAF personnel and their dependants.

The chalets are fully equipped for a maximum of 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 and the prices are very reasonable. There are many places of interest to visit in the locality including the Norfolk Broads with boating, river trips, fishing and wildlife. Other places of interest include Sandringham House, Wildlife Parks, and theme parks.

The 2019 chalet season commences on Monday 15th April and runs through until 21st October. Arrival/Departure day is Monday. The cost per chalet per week is £155 full rate £100 welfare rate.

For further details, brochure or an application form please phone: 0800 018 2361  
Email: [vicky.ford@rafa.org.uk](mailto:vicky.ford@rafa.org.uk)



## Selsey Holiday Home

The RAF Association Selsey 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.

The holiday home makes the perfect base, whether you want to explore the scenic Sussex countryside, take advantage of entertainment for all ages or simply relax. Selsey is within easy reach of Fishbourne Roman Palace, Goodwood, Petworth House, Tangmere Aviation Museum, and the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum.

There is a no-pets policy, however assistance dogs are allowed.

The season runs between the 5 April and the end of October. The cost varies throughout the season.

For further information please phone: 0800 018 2361 Email: [vicky.ford@rafa.org.uk](mailto:vicky.ford@rafa.org.uk)



## Dunbar Holiday Home

The Dunbar Holiday Home is on the Thurston Manor Holiday Park. 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 four people. It has two twin bedrooms, a bathroom with walk-in shower and spacious lounge/dining area with TV and DVD player.

With a great selection of on-park facilities – fly fishing lake, swimming pool, sauna, solarium, gym, shop, launderette, children's play park and much more – there is no need to leave the park during your stay. The recently refurbished restaurant and family room is the perfect place to make new friends in a relaxed environment, with games and entertainment also available.

There is a no-pets policy, however assistance dogs are allowed.

The season runs from February to January. Arrival/Departure day is Saturday. The cost per week is £350 full rate £300 welfare rate.

For further details, brochure or an application form please phone: 0800 018 2361  
Email: [vicky.ford@rafa.org.uk](mailto:vicky.ford@rafa.org.uk)





## News from around the Area

### Mid-Somerset Branch honours Paul

The Mid-Somerset Branch Chairman Paul Branson has been the driving force behind RAF Concerts for some 20 years, first at Strode Theatre, then at Wells Cathedral and, since 2007, at Millfield.

As he is standing down as Chairman, the opportunity was taken for AM Sir Dusty Miller to present a gift in recognition of 20 years outstanding support given to the Royal Air Forces Association and to the Royal Air Force Air Cadets.



### Bristol host Johnny Johnson

Last week Sqn Ldr George 'Johnny' Johnson was hosted at the City of Bristol Club by the Branch committee and the local Royal British Legion as well as invited guests such as Air Marshal Julian Young from MOD Abbeywood.

Pictured is Tony Peters (Chairman) and Flt Lt Steve Jones (RAFA Liaison Officer) with Johnny Johnson.

### Off to a flying start for wings in North Cotswold

Members of the North Cotswold Branch have already started to get out and start raising money for the Wings Appeal.

Here you can see them with the Mayor of Stratford upon-Avon at their local Tesco store.

New members are always given a friendly welcome. Contact [johnsermon183@gmail.com](mailto:johnsermon183@gmail.com)



### Sherborne Branch - Red Arrows

The Sherborne Branch would like to invite members along to an illustrated talk on the Red Arrows by Sir Christopher Coville.

A unique insight from a previous Commander-in-Chief of the RAF.

Saturday 30 March 2019 at 1915hrs. Digby Memorial Hall, Digby Road, Sherborne. Entrance is £10 which includes a welcome drink.

**Please send all branch news articles to Ian Campbell (BSO) [ian.campbell@rafa.org.uk](mailto:ian.campbell@rafa.org.uk)**

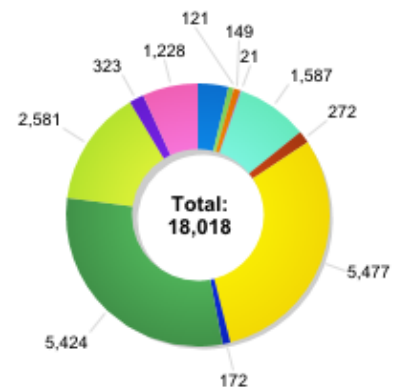
# Membership Matters

Here's our latest membership status.

Let's keep growing the area - if each branch can increase its membership base by 10 per cent, then we will be on target to achieve our aim.

*The more members you have the larger your rebate and the more support you can get for fundraising and events.*

Active Members by Type



Membership Type

- 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

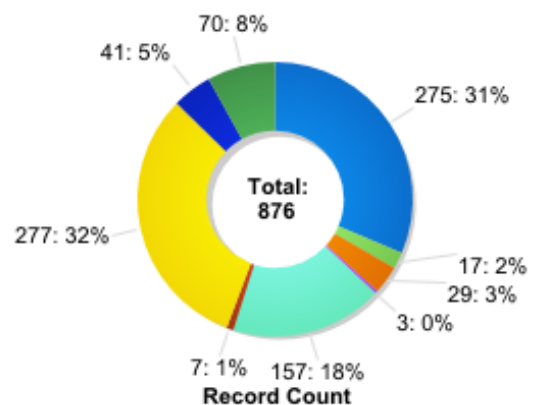
This 'doughnut' represents our biggest challenge – lapsed members.

If we can work to drive this number down together, then we will be doing exceptionally well.

## So how can we reduce this number?

- Keep in regular contact with all of your members via letters, emails, social media and in person
- Request membership lists from Gary Larsen to make sure you regularly know what is happening with your members
- Keep meetings relaxed and enjoyable to harness your members' interest in the work of the Branch and the wider Association

Lapsed Members Last Year



Record Count

Membership Type

- 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
- Ordinary Membership 1 Year
- Ordinary Membership 4 Years
- Ordinary Membership Anniversary 1 Year

## Your BSO team

### Mike Logue – North Midlands and North/Mid Wales

Mike retired as the SWO at RAF Shawbury in October 2010 and continued to work on the station with Cobham Aviation Services until 2017. In May 2017, he joined the RAF Association as the Midlands and North Wales Branch Support Officer (BSO). He is married to Susan and has two adult children and four grandchildren.

Mike said "I enjoy the role as a BSO for a number of reasons, firstly, meeting and working with like-minded people, being able to advise and help branches in promoting the RAF Association with its aims and simply meeting up with serving and former serving personnel."



### Ian Campbell – South Wales and Central

Based out of the Swindon Branch HQ, Ian covers the central section of the area. Ian was an RAF Reservist Supplier with 504 and 606 Squadron and left in 2018. Before joining the Area team, Ian worked in local and national government.

Ian said "The Association is a great charity that provides so much to those that have served or who are currently serving and their families. My role as a BSO means that I can work hands on with branches and develop plans for growing and engaging with members in new ways such as social media, websites and modern newsletters."



### Alan Goudge – South West

Alan retired as a Flight Sergeant supplier from the RAF after 38 years' service. Alan's career has seen him travel the world and gain a great knowledge of the Association, especially from his father who was Chairman of the Richmandshire Branch where Alan spent his younger years collecting for Wings.

Alan said "Working for the Association, is for me, a great opportunity to help branches remain open and work hard for the RAF family. Our membership is growing every year and my role is to try and get active members into your branches to help on committees, become welfare officers and to go out and raise money so we can continue to deliver first class welfare."



#### How can your BSOs support you?

##### They can:

- Help organise events and engage with potential new members using branded assets such as exhibition trailers and gazebos
- Give you tips on retaining members
- Assist with explaining the Governance and Finance Handbooks
- Give you templates for letters, newsletters, emails and posters

Your BSO team are your first point of contact. Please save their contact details and speak to them when you need assistance.



## Dates for your diary

### Area

- Remembrance service to commemorate the St Nazir raid (Prince of Wales Pier, Plymouth) – 11 March (1100hrs)
- RAF Association Area Conference (Plymouth) – 22 to 24 March
- RAF Salon Orchestra (Royal Cornwall Show) – 6 to 8 June
- Plymouth Armed Forces Day with service at the RAF and Allied Air Forces monument - 29 June (0930hrs)
- Swindon Battle of Britain Ball (Marriott Hotel, Swindon)– 7 September (1900hrs) contact [rafaswindon@yahoo.com](mailto:rafaswindon@yahoo.com) for tickets

### National

- RAF Association Annual Conference (Birmingham) – 10 to 12 May
- Cosford Air Show (RAF Cosford) – 9 June
- Weston Air Festival (Weston-Super-Mare) 22 to 23 June
- National Armed Forces Day (Salisbury) – 29 June
- Armed Forces Weekend (National Memorial Arboretum) – 29 to 30 June
- Wales Air Show (Swansea Bay) – 6 to 7 July
- Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) (RAF Fairford) – 19 to 21 July

## The RAF Association Concert Band

Every year the Concert Band is engaged throughout the area on various taskings for events, dinners, concerts and other performances. The band led by musical director Peter Skellon is always open to new bookings to help bring entertainment to an event. Why not get in touch and book them?

Contact the Musical Director: Peter Skellon - [peterskellon@btinternet.com](mailto:peterskellon@btinternet.com)

Please visit the band at - [www.rafaconcertband.org.uk](http://www.rafaconcertband.org.uk)

## Newsletter Attachments

- Area Team Contact List
- Volunteer Coordinator update
- Swindon Branch September Ball

# The Area Team

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A quick reminder that you can call the team direct:

- **Paul Baker (Area Director)** – 01392 341392 or 07796887195. [Paul.baker@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Paul.baker@rafa.org.uk)
- **Gary Larsen (Area Administrator)** – 01392 462088. [Gary.larsen@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Gary.larsen@rafa.org.uk)
- **Lucie Paddison (Volunteer Coordinator)** 07775959376. [Lucie.paddison@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Lucie.paddison@rafa.org.uk)

## Branch Support Officers

- **Alan Goudge (BSO South West)** – 01392 341390 or 07827962766. [Alan.goudge@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Alan.goudge@rafa.org.uk)
- **Ian Campbell (BSO Central)** – 01793 967019 or 07584577064. [Ian.campbell@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Ian.campbell@rafa.org.uk)
- **Mike Logue (BSO Mids and Mid/North Wales)** – 01902 297935 or 07776392899.  
[Mike.logue@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Mike.logue@rafa.org.uk)

## Wales Welfare Team

- **Barbara Howells (Area Welfare Manager Wales)** – 01495 368341. [Barbara.howells@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Barbara.howells@rafa.org.uk)
- **Andrew Carter (Deputy Area Welfare Manager Wales)** – 01495 368342. [Andrew.carter@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Andrew.carter@rafa.org.uk)
- **Stacey Edwards (Welfare Administrator Wales)** – 01495 368343. [Stacey.edwards@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Stacey.edwards@rafa.org.uk)

## Midlands Welfare Team

- **Tracey Khan (Area Welfare Manager Midlands)** – 0121 449 9356. [Tracey.khan@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Tracey.khan@rafa.org.uk)
- **Audrey Huggins (Welfare Administrator Midlands)** – 0121 449 9356. [Audrey.huggins@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Audrey.huggins@rafa.org.uk)

## South Western Welfare Team

- **Glenford Bishop (Area Welfare Manager South West)** – 01392 341395. [Glenford.bishop@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Glenford.bishop@rafa.org.uk)
- **Sally Hall (Deputy Area Welfare Manager South West)** – 01392 341393. [Sally.hall@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Sally.hall@rafa.org.uk)
- **Gary Larsen (Deputy Area Welfare Manager South West)** – 01392 341393. [Gary.larsen@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Gary.larsen@rafa.org.uk)



**Patron: Her Majesty The Queen**

Registered Charity 226686 (England & Wales). SC037673 (Scotland).

## Lucie Paddison

### Area Volunteer Coordinator Wales, Midland & South Western Area



It has been six months since I introduced myself to you via the Area newsletter and in that time, I've had the pleasure of speaking with many of you who have an interest in volunteering for the Association. People choose to volunteer for a variety of reasons. For some it offers the chance to "give something back" or make a difference to the people around them. For others it provides an opportunity to develop their own skills and experience. For many it is a combination of these factors and whatever the motivation may be, volunteering for the Association can be both challenging and rewarding. If you are interested in finding out more about volunteering with us, please do get in touch.

This month, the Volunteering Team is once again working with the Communications and Marketing Team on a social media campaign to raise awareness of our caseworker volunteering roles in those areas where we have most urgent needs. We are hopeful that we will receive lots of responses from potential volunteers that we can then guide through our application and training process to becoming volunteers. If you have any questions regarding this campaign, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Below is a list of all the current volunteering roles we are advertising and the up-to-date list can always be found at [www.rafa.org.uk/volunteer/search](http://www.rafa.org.uk/volunteer/search). If you would like to volunteer your time or find out more about any of our roles, please contact me on [volunteers@rafa.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@rafa.org.uk) or call 07775 959376.

Area	Role vacancy required	Location of role
Midlands	Befriender	Birmingham (Central)
Midlands	Caseworker	Birmingham (Dudley and West Bromwich)
Midlands	Befriender	Birmingham (Rubery)
Midlands	Caseworker	Bromsgrove
Midlands	Befriender	Cheltenham
Midlands	Befriender	Gloucester
Midlands	Caseworker	Kidderminster
Midlands	Befriender	Leamington Spa
Midlands	Befriender	Walsall
Midlands	Befriender	Worcester
South West	Caseworker	Barnstaple
South West	Branch Volunteer	Bristol
South West	Caseworker	Dorchester/Weymouth
South West	Caseworker	Exeter
South West	Befriender	Falmouth
South West	Branch Volunteer	Swindon
South West	Befriender	Torbay area
South West	Caseworker	Torbay area
Wales	Befriender	Aberystwyth



Wales	Caseworker	Aberystwyth
Wales	Caseworker	Anglesey
Wales	Caseworker	Brecon
Wales	Befriender	Builth Wells
Wales	Befriender	Cardiff
Wales	Befriender	Cardigan
Wales	Caseworker	Cardigan
Wales	Befriender	Carmarthen
Wales	Befriender	Gwent
Wales	Befriender	Llandudno
Wales	Caseworker	Llandudno
Wales	Befriender	Merthyr Tydfil
Wales	Befriender	Newport
Wales	Caseworker	Pembrokeshire
Wales	Befriender	Port Talbot/Bridgend
Wales	Befriender	Rhondda Cynon Taf
Wales	Caseworker	Swansea
Wales	Caseworker	Wrexham

Volunteer Role	Vacancy Status - <u>Wales Area</u>	Vacancy Status - <u>Midland Area</u>	Vacancy Status - <u>South Western Area</u>
<b>Befriender</b>	12 current vacancies 2 filled in 2019	6 current vacancies 6 filled in 2019	2 current vacancies 4 filled in 2019
<b>Caseworker</b>	8 current vacancies 1 filled in 2019	3 current vacancies 2 filled in 2019	4 current vacancies 2 filled in 2019 (1 previously "filled" vacancy reopened as volunteer delayed due to medical condition)
<b>Branch Volunteers</b>	0 current vacancies	0 current vacancies	1 vacancies at <b>City of Bristol</b> Branch (since June 2018) 3 vacancies at <b>Swindon</b> Branch (since Oct 2018)
	0 placed 2019	0 placed 2019	1 volunteer interest with <b>Swindon</b> Branch (placed volunteer & branch in contact)

Summary of recent recruitment activities that the Volunteering Team has undertaken for all current vacancies	<p>Contact made with several council Armed Forces Champions to discuss promotion of vacancies.</p> <p>Continuation of poster campaigns to local areas.</p> <p>Continuation of posting to local Volunteer Centres and Freegle sites for all new vacancies.</p> <p>Continuation of targeting of different local groups/organisations for longstanding welfare vacancies</p>
	<a href="#">To view gmap of all current WMSW Area vacancies, click here</a>

*Join us for our Annual*

# **BATTLE OF BRITAIN BALL**

**The Swindon Branch of the  
Royal Air Forces Association cordially invites  
you to join us in an evening of entertainment  
and celebration at**

**The Marriott Hotel, Swindon  
On the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 1900**

**Tickets £50  
Include**

**A three-course meal**

**A DJ**

**Music from the RAF  
Association Concert Band**

**All proceeds go towards  
The RAF Association Wings  
Appeal.**



**For tickets  
please email [rafaswindon@yahoo.com](mailto:rafaswindon@yahoo.com) or call 07921529599**

