

April 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

Thank you for joining us in Plymouth

Thank you so much to those who supported this year's Area Conference at Plymouth where as many as 53 branches and RMGs were represented.

We sincerely hope that you enjoyed yourselves. It was a very busy weekend which gave an opportunity to provide updates on RAF Association business as well as core governance and finance issues and, importantly, come together in the true spirit of our Association. Please look out for more development workshops over the next few months and make every effort to join in. It is important the RAF Association provides every opportunity for branch and branch club officers to develop their knowledge and skills.

**AREA
MEMBERSHIP**
18,210

BRANCHES
83

RMGs
10

CLUBS
22

**AREA LAPSED
MEMBERS**
845

Area Conference 2019

Area Councillor Election Results

Thank you to those branches which took part in the area council election process and to those members who stood for election but were not successful. We offer congratulations to the newly elected area council who will now stand for a period of 3 years - Howard Provis (*Barry*), Roy Lobley (*Swindon*), Lyn Addison (*Cosford*), JR Williams (*Tywyn & Aberdovey*), Jon Tomlin (*Bridport & Lyme Regis RMG*), Kevin Gould (*Porthcawl & Kenfig Hill*), Michael Revell (*Market Drayton*), Steve Colhoun (*Torquay*) and John Tisbury (*Shrewsbury & District*).

We also say goodbye to outgoing Councillors Titch Taylor, Denzil Haynes and Geoff Bridgman who have all given several years of service to our Area. Thank you.

Award Recipients

We also look to congratulate the following certificate and trophy winners.

National Presidents Certificate

Dave Stanbury (Plymouth)
John Taylor (Salisbury RMG)

Area Presidents Certificate

Judith Collett (Poole)
Alan Kidson (Bridport and Lyme Regis RMG)

Standard Bearers Competition

Shawn Marston (Shrewsbury and District) Winner
Paul Ellis (Calne & District) Runner-Up

Wings Appeal Trophies

Solihull £14,581.99
Darky Fell Sword (*highest Wings Appeal total*)
Dursley and South Gloucestershire (£80.70 per capita)
(*highest net collection per capita with an event*)
North Cotswold (£134.32)
(*highest net collection per capita without an event*)
MoD Corsham (£3168.36)
(*highest net collection per head of establishment*)
Air Cadets 415 (DF) Brecon - (£48.30 per capita)
(*highest Wings Appeal contribution*)

£10k Wings Appeal Certificates

Anglesey (£11,124.99)

Birmingham Moseley (£10,100.00)
Cheltenham (£10,000)
Plymouth (£10,000)
RAF St Mawgan (£14,159.48)
Solihull (£14,581.99)
Weston-super-Mare (£10,437.09)

Efficiency

Barry Branch (*branch efficiency*)
Weston-super-Mare (*branch club efficiency*)

Membership

Aberdare (*highest percent increase – large branch*)
Brecon (*highest percent increase – small branch*)

Branch Communication Trophy

Cosford and District

Area Presidents Trophy

Gloucester

Lightning Trophy (Welfare)

Martin Turner

Aries Shield (RAF Shawbury)

Flying Officer Luke Nowell

Ken Rees Shield (MoD St Athan)

SAC Lewis Speakman

RAFALO of the year

Cpl Charlie Breen (RAF St Mawgan)



Membership Matters

The following can help you engage with your membership and your local community.

Facebook/ Twitter

If you have a Facebook account for your branch, please make sure that you post relevant items regarding your branch and the Association. Post in the third party using 'we' and not 'I'. Do not talk about politics or anything controversial that could bring the charity into disrepute.

Always have more than one person holding passwords. For more information speak to Ian Campbell (BSO).

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?

Letters/ Emails/ Newsletters

Branch committees should start thinking about a communication plan for the branch. Please make this an item on your agendas and regularly update your plans.

Your BSOs can help you with ideas and drafts of good practice and help you develop your communication strategy.

Lapsed Members

Please make contact with your lapsed members to see why they have not renewed and to see if they are in need of any support.



Membership Challenge

2018 saw many branches take up the challenge of increasing their membership by 10%. We have the same challenge this year and we want all branches to get involved please.

Now that your AGMs are over it's time to think about getting into the community and speaking to potential members, please contact your BSO and start a membership plan for 2019/20.

Great news! The following branches met the challenge last year:

- **Aberdare – 89%**
- **Brecon – 43%**
- **Cosford – 33%**
- **Llandaff and Ely – 28%**
- **Bridport and Lyme Regis (RMG) – 21%**
- **Barry – 15%**
- **Dudley – 14%**
- **Falmouth – 13%**
- **Knighton and District – 10%**
- **Swansea – 10%**
- **Evesham – 10%**

How is your branch going to reach 10% this year?



Annual Conference 2019 Resolutions

For those branches sending a delegate to Conference, please read the Association's interim list of resolutions to allow sufficient time to consider all resolutions before Conference. It is imperative that resolutions are discussed at branch level and the delegate is instructed accordingly before listening to any further debate at Conference.

If you are intending to attend Annual Conference but have not yet registered your place or booked your accommodation, please register online using www.rafa.org.uk/annualconference and book your accommodation directly with the Hilton Birmingham Metropole by telephoning Izzie Moores on **0121 780 6282** and quoting reference number **FSRAF1**. Please note the bedrooms the Association has reserved will be released to the general public from 12 April and therefore we advise booking now to avoid disappointment.

To access the documents, please log-on to the Members Portal via www.rafa.org.uk and go to:

Documents



Association Governance



Conference



Conference 2019

RAF 100 Souvenir Print

To celebrate the hard work and efforts of our branches, we have designed a commemorative print that shows all of our branches, RMGs, units and affiliated organisations.

If you would like a copy of this print, please make contact with your BSO who can bring copies to your next meeting.

There is a limited quantity so please get in touch as soon as you can.

Later in the year we plan to design a photo almanac to celebrate what our Area did last year and to give each branch a copy of this.

Stay tuned for dates of when this will be released.



RAF Association Branch Deposit Accounts

The Association offers all branches the opportunity to deposit surplus capital into investment funds that will give a return on the investment.

All branches should have a reserves policy and all funds which are greater than is needed to run the business of the branch shall normally be invested into the Association's Branch Deposit Funds as set out below.

If your branch does not currently have a reserves policy, please contact us to discuss.

OPTION A – HQ Managed Fund

- Guaranteed 1% annual interest on investment, realised quarterly at 0.25% return on investment; interest will be calculated at 0.25% on the amount held in the deposit fund at the end of each quarter and applied to that deposit value for the next quarter
- No risk and a guaranteed return
- No minimum deposit required and no minimum length of time for deposit funds. However, it is advisable in order to gain the minimum benefits that a minimum initial deposit of £1500.00 be made and no withdrawals made for at least 12 months.
- Deposits and withdrawals are managed using the '**Branch deposit and withdrawal**' form and should be completed for each new request.

OPTION B – New Court Fund Managed by Rothschild

- Mixed Fund Deposit with an average annual return of 4% on investment; a diversified investment approach where funds will be invested in a range of asset classes and returns will be subject to movements in the market
- Low Risk where returns are subject to market growth
- No minimum deposit required and no minimum length of time for deposit funds however, it is advisable that a minimum initial deposit of £500.00 be made and no withdrawals made for at least 12 months
- Deposits and withdrawals are managed using the '**Branch deposit and withdrawal**' form and should be completed for each new request

If your branch is interested in investing into the above investment options please contact Fateha Mannan, Subsidiary and Branch Accountant by email **branchfinance@rafa.org.uk** or telephone **0116 268 8792**

News from around the Area

Brecon marks the end of RAF100

The Brecon Branch held the last RAF100 event in the UK, probably the world at the Castle Hotel, Brecon.

A packed ballroom with guests from the Air Cadets, Area Council. Area staff and neighbouring branches who joined the Brecon and their community to celebrate in style.

An RAF ensign which flew from the hotel was presented to the Mayor as a thank you from the branch.



Flowerdown House receives gift

Thanks to the kind donation of a local resident of Weston-super-Mare, Flowerdown House became the beneficiary of a unique print, signed by the artist Robert Taylor and 4 Victoria Cross Holders of Bomber Command. With the support of the Mid-Somerset Branch, the print was framed in oak and placed under UV protected glass to preserve the print for posterity. This wonderful picture now sits proudly in Flowerdown's TV lounge for their guests and visitors to enjoy.



Wimborne teams up with Beaucroft Foundation School

The Post-16 students at Beaucroft Foundation School have linked with the RAF Association to set up a training café in Wimborne. The students, who have learning disabilities, are learning skills for future employment, including hospitality and finance. The café which currently runs every Wednesday during term time from 10.30am until 1.30pm, sells a variety of homemade cakes, drinks and sandwiches.



Gloucester Branch Tapestry

The Gloucester Branch RAF 100 Commemorative Tapestry will be displayed in the Gloucester City Museum until 3 June 2019. Ray Bunnage will give talks to visiting groups at the request of the museum, and Wings Appeal collections will be made. The tapestry will move to the Jet Age Museum in June until the end of October after which it will return to the City Museum. Why not get a branch visit organised to see a piece of history?
Contact Ray - rafagloucester@gmail.com



Please send all branch news articles to Ian Campbell (BSO) 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.

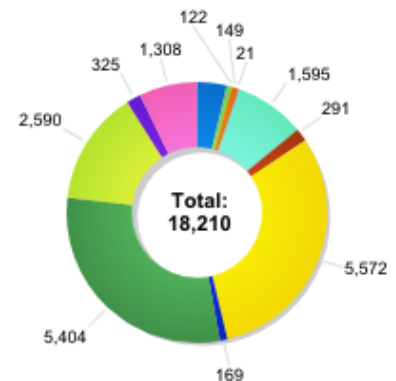
This 'doughnut' represents our biggest challenge – lapsed members.

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

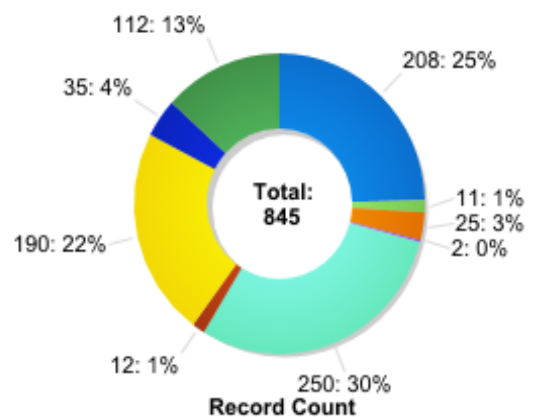
Active Members by Type



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

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

Area RAF Liaison Officer

FS Dean Atkinson

With an enormous sense of pride, I have the honour of introducing myself as the Senior Royal Air Forces Association Liaison Officer for Wales, Midland and South Western Area.

I am currently serving as a Survival Equipment Fitter (Rag packer in old money) and stationed at RAF Cosford analyzing the Survival Equipment basic trade training and the Trade Supervisor and Manager training requirements, and in addition those of our Navy counterparts. I have completed 31 years of active service to date serving at RAF Lyneham, RAF Gutersloh, RAF Brize Norton, RAF Coningsby, RAF Aldergrove and RAF Cosford. In addition, I have been deployed out to Iraq, Afghanistan and the Falkland Islands (MPA).



You will be familiar I am sure with the work of the Association, and I am delighted to have been chosen to represent the many Stations and Defence Establishments in this Area. The Association traces its roots back to the very early days of 1929 when a number of likeminded individuals came together for the first time at RAF Andover to form the basis of the organisation that we know and love today. Since then the Association has continued to grow year on year alongside the regular Service, and in 2018 were able to announce again a further significant increase in national membership. It is the RAF Association's aspiration to reach 100,000 members by 2030. Currently the Headquarters of the Association is located in Atlas House in Leicester and the services that are widely accessible to veteran and serving personnel are among the finest offered anywhere, befitting the very best traditions of both the RAF and the RAF Association.

In order for the RAFALO community to provide the support you all truly deserve I would like to take this opportunity to offer you my ear. It is vital to the Association and to me that engagement with local branches remains resolute. Therefore, I would be most grateful if you have the necessity for any assistance from the Service, either during Wings Appeal or just to chat with your members, then please do not hesitate to get in touch. If you have an active RAFALO already then fantastic, but if you don't, please contact me or your BSO in the first instance, so we can organise a visit.

I am enormously grateful for your time and consideration and I look forward to working more closely with your branch in this regard.

Dean

Military network: 95561 4958

Telephone: 01902 704958

Email: dean.atkinson275@mod.uk or dean.atkinson684@btinternet.com

Dates for your diary

Area

- Gloucester Tall Ships (Historic Docks, Gloucester) – 25 to 27 May
- 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 for tickets

National

- RAF Association Annual Conference (Birmingham) – 10 to 12 May
- Cosford Air Show (RAF Cosford) – 9 June
- RAF Association Service of Remembrance (National Memorial Arboretum) Supported by the RAF Association Concert Band – 14 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
- Rhyl Air show (Rhyl) – 24 to 25 August

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

Please visit the band at - www.rafaconcertband.org.uk

Newsletter Attachments

- RAF Association Concert Band Update
- Area Team Contact List
- Volunteer Coordinator update
- Welfare Review Update
- Branch Deposit Withdrawal Form

Band Update – April 2019

The band had an early start when they travelled to the Area Conference and reunion on 24 March held in The Crowne Plaza Hotel, Plymouth. A number of the musicians were suffering with cold and hayfever, however despite this setback the band played exceptionally well to the VIPs and guests in the audience.

The next 'sortie' for the band will be at the Helicopter Museum, Locking, near Weston-super-Mare on Saturday 6 April as part of the World War 2 event. Why not pop along and see us doing what we do best!

I look forward to seeing you somewhere soon.

Peter Skellon BEM HND
Musical Director – RAF Association Concert Band

2019 Engagements

- 6 Apr World War 2 Event, Helicopter Museum, Locking Near Weston-s-Mare
- May TBC GN Defence Academy
- 2 Jun D Day Concert, Redgrave Theatre, Bristol
- 14 Jun RAF Association Service of Dedication- National Memorial Arboretum
- TBC Worle Street Fayre
- 1 Sep Proms Hutton
- 7 Sep Battle of Britain Dinner, Swindon
- 14 Sep Barnstable Branch Concert
- TBC Battle of Britain Concert, Teignmouth
- TBC Battle of Britain GN Defence Academy
- TBC Quartet Guest Night, Bristol
- 8 Nov Lunchtime Concert Poppy Launch. The Galleries, Bristol
- TBC Concert, Westbury-on-Trym
- TBC Christmas Concert
- TBC Carol Service
- TBC Court de Wyke School
- TBC Bristol Airport

Come and join us!

We are looking for competent players, especially on trombone, euphonium, double or bass guitar & percussion. No subscriptions, we just require your talent as we have a diverse programme of engagements planned.

For further details about and how to join the band, please ring **07939 424041** or visit our website **www.rafaconcertband.org.uk**

The Area Team

A quick reminder that you can call the team direct:

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

Branch Support Officers

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

Wales Welfare Team

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

Midlands Welfare Team

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

South Western Welfare Team

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



Branch members play an important part in supporting volunteering for the RAF Association with many members volunteering their time as welfare and befriender volunteers. The Volunteering Team would like to express their continued thanks and appreciation to branches for this support.

Volunteers can also be a great asset to branches as they can provide support to the branch where it is most needed. The Volunteering Team has successfully recruited some key volunteers for branches in the past and I would be happy to assist with promoting any vacancies which you may have.

Once a branch has formally completed the notification process, I can promote identified branch volunteer opportunities on the RAF Association's volunteering website, in the monthly area newsletter, with local volunteer centres and on local community websites, which will hopefully mean that we are able to highlight any vacancies to a wider local audience.

Please do be aware that it can be more difficult for us to recruit individuals for branch roles (compared to our befriender and caseworker volunteer roles), as these roles do require the person to have an understanding of the RAF Association and to be significantly involved in branch activity. We are also unable to promote any Club vacancies.

Please do get in touch with me if you would like more information about how the Volunteering Team can help.

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. 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 or call 07775 959376.

Area	Role vacancy required	Location of role
Midlands	Befriender	Birmingham (Central)
Midlands	Caseworker	Birmingham (Dudley and West Brom)
Midlands	Befriender	Gloucester
Midlands	Caseworker	Kidderminster
Midlands	Befriender	Leamington Spa
Midlands	Befriender	Worcester
South West	Befriender	Bournemouth
South West	Branch Volunteer	Bristol
South West	Befriender	Bristol
South West	Caseworker	Exeter
South West	Befriender	Falmouth
South West	Branch Volunteer	Swindon
South West	Befriender	Swindon

South West	Befriender	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	Newport
Wales	Caseworker	Pembrokeshire
Wales	Befriender	Rhondda Cynon Taf
Wales	Caseworker	Swansea
Wales	Befriender	Wrexham
Wales	Caseworker	Wrexham

Volunteer Role	Vacancy Status - <u>Wales Area</u>	Vacancy Status - <u>Midland Area</u>	Vacancy Status - <u>South Western Area</u>
Befriender	11 current vacancies 4 filled in 2019	5 current vacancies 7 filled in 2019	5 current vacancies 5 filled in 2019
Caseworker	8 current vacancies 1 filled in 2019	2 current vacancies 3 filled in 2019	1 current vacancies 5 filled in 2019
Branch Volunteers	0 current vacancies	0 current vacancies	1 vacancy at City of Bristol Branch (since June 2018) 3 vacancies at Swindon Branch (since Oct 2018)
	0 placed 2019	0 placed 2019	1 volunteer interest with Swindon Branch (placed volunteer & branch in contact)

Summary of recent recruitment activities that the Volunteering Team has undertaken for all current vacancies	<p>Continuation of making contact 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> <p>Social media campaign undertaken including locations in all three areas.</p>
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Dear all,

I am writing to provide you with a further update on Council's proposals to make changes to our welfare delivery, following the Association's consultation with employees and the GMB Union that I informed you of in my previous correspondence and article in Air Mail.

When I last wrote, I spoke about the time and expertise that Council and members of Council committees, together with volunteers and employees, had invested in conducting a thorough review of our welfare delivery structure. I also explained that the review had included an examination of the effectiveness and regulatory compliance of our respite hotels.

These Council-led reviews are the result of our members asking for an ambitious organisational growth and development strategy that gives our Association a clear way forward to 2030 and beyond. In seeking to fulfil our vision and meet our objectives, we cannot stand still, but must constantly ensure we meet today's welfare needs in the best way possible, while preparing for the future. We have therefore considered where our strengths lie and where we have to make improvements across the entire Association.

We already know that demand for our welfare services continues to increase dramatically. We also recognise that the care needs of our ageing population have changed significantly in the past few years alone. At the same time, there have been numerous regulatory and legislative changes that we must comply with. The growth in statutory requirements has been challenging to keep up with, and we do not anticipate the rate of change slowing down. It is vital that we comply with these legal requirements, as any failure would be a huge risk to our reputation.

The proposals affecting the welfare delivery structure in England and Wales and the closure of Richard Peck House have been the subject of comprehensive consultations with employees and the GMB union. These consultations have now concluded and we are grateful for the feedback given, and for the high level of professionalism displayed by everyone involved.

The conclusion reached is that the reasoning and logic behind Council's proposals remain in the best interest of the Association as a whole. Nevertheless, we have listened carefully to our employees, and some of their suggestions will be implemented. Taking everything into account, the following decisions have now been made:

Welfare structure

The Association's seven area welfare offices in England and Wales will be replaced by three larger, regional hubs, each staffed by a team of five employees. The hubs will be based in Leicester (HQ), Preston (Area HQ) and Weston-super-Mare (Flowerdown House).

This change will come into effect on 6 September 2019, the date being agreed based on feedback received during the consultation. This will allow sufficient time to transfer seamlessly our services and safeguard the experience of our beneficiaries. A suggestion to appoint a temporary Regional

Welfare Cluster Officer has also been adopted, with their role being to set up and support the development of volunteer groups.

A separate review is planned for the Association's Scotland, Northern Ireland, European and Overseas areas, which are subject to different legislation and regulatory requirements. This will be complete by the end of 2019.

Respite breaks

You may recall from my last correspondence, that a review found that the fundamental building structure of Richard Peck House (one of the Association's three registered care hotels) was reaching the limit of its ability to remain compliant and meet beneficiary needs.

Following the employee consultation, we have made the decision to close Richard Peck House on 26 July 2019, with the final guests leaving on 23 July 2019.

Research is now underway to determine how our charity could best meet the future needs of beneficiaries seeking respite care breaks in the north-west of England.

I recognise that this process has been difficult for our area welfare and hotel employees affected by the outcomes of the reviews of our welfare structure and respite hotels. The reviews and decisions are in no way a reflection on them, something we have tried to reassure them about during our recent consultations. Indeed, I have been most grateful, and would like to thank them all publically for their continued dedication and commitment. Those facing redundancy as a result of the changes outlined above are being supported and will be given priority in applying for job vacancies within the Association.

I can also confirm that plans to bring branch welfare activity under the Association's welfare governance practices are continuing. As well as benefiting those we help, this will also provide more support to our welfare volunteers. A steering group is being formed to aid the process. The group will develop its implementation and ongoing branch discussion timeframes in due course.

While change can often necessitate making difficult decisions, Council strongly believes that the above changes are essential in ensuring the Association is fit for the future. We have a proud history of supporting the RAF family and want to continue to do this in the best and most effective way we can, for the benefit of those we help. As we seek to continuously improve, we will invest as necessary in our welfare services, with decisions being informed by evidence-based analysis of current and future needs.

I would like to thank you, on behalf of Council and the whole of the Association, for your understanding and support as we proceed.

Yours sincerely,



Air Vice-Marshal John Cliffe CB OBE
Chairman, Royal Air Forces Association



BRANCH DEPOSIT FUND FORM

Deposit by Branch

Branch Name	
Amount (minimum £1500)	
Select method: <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque (payable to The Royal Air Forces Association, post to HQ Finance Department, Atlas House, 41 Wembley Road, Leicester, LE3 1UT) <input type="checkbox"/> Bacs transfer (ref: branch name, Account 00016072, Sort Code 300004)	
Fund (tick one option)	<input type="checkbox"/> Option A- HQ Managed Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Option B- Rothschild Managed Fund
Signed by:	Branch Treasurer
Date	

Withdrawal by Branch

Branch Name		
Amount		
Explanation		
Payment via Bacs. Branch Details: Account number _____ Sort Code _____		
Signed by:	Branch Treasurer	Branch Chairman
Date		

Email: branchfinance@rafa.org.uk or post to HQ Finance Department, Atlas House, 41 Wembley Road, Leicester, LE3 1UT.



Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

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