

## COMMITTEE 2016/2017

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### President.

**Bob Perkins**  
(01582) 699976

### Welfare Officer.

**Joyce Smith**  
(Awaiting Training)

### Standard Bearer.

**Ernie Bounds**  
(01582) 603966

### Chairman.

**John Gilmour**  
(01582) 560887

### Wings Appeal

Organiser.  
**Graham Horton**  
(01582) 616949

### Committee Members

**Ken Draper**  
**Marie Scrivener**

### Vice Chairman

**Bryan Rawlinson**

### Membership

### Non Committee

### Posts.

### Secretary.

**Susan Stone**  
(01582) 658976

### Secretary.

**Marisa Gilmour**  
(01582) 560887

### Branch Chaplain:

**Position Vacant**

### Treasurer.

**Susan Stone**  
(01582) 658976

### Social Secretary.

**Marisa Gilmour**  
(01582) 560887

*The Branch meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month (December excepted) at Dunstable Conservative Club, High Street North, Dunstable at 20.00. Further details are available from;*

John Gilmour - Chairman  
18 Montague Avenue, Luton, LU4 9JG

01582 560887  
rafadunstable1@btinternet.com

The Association Headquarters address is;

117 ½ Loughborough Road  
LEICESTER, LE4 5ND

# Per Ardua

Autumn 2016

Dunstable Branch  
(Incorporating Luton)

Branch Website: [www.rafadunstable.co.uk](http://www.rafadunstable.co.uk)

## Volunteers Wanted!!

### This is an urgent request for volunteers.

Do you sit around at home, getting in the family's way each day? Do you require an initiative to be a bit more active? Well the answer is simple.

We have members that due to illness find it difficult to get about and just simply need a visit from someone for a short walk or a chat once or twice a week. These visits will benefit both members, those that need a reason to go out and those that find really difficult and need a little help.

This is part of the object of the Association. I am sure that there are a few members that could spare an hour or two each week to help a fellow colleague.

To help a fellow member just contact a committee member and pass on your details. Our more elderly members are seeking your help. Please volunteer, it will cost you nothing.



Also volunteers are required to assist with the Dunstable Town Centre Wings Appeal collecting on Friday 16 September and Saturday 17 September. Our stand will be set up in the Quadrant so come along and help us to help you by raising funds for our Welfare work. A couple of hours on either or both of the days will be very much appreciated. Without these funds coming into our Welfare account we will not be able to help those that need our help, now or in the future.

**ROYAL AIR FORCES Association**  
Friendship | Help | Support

### Battle of Britain Church Service.

We will be holding a Battle of Britain Church Service on Sunday 18 September at the Priory Church in Dunstable at 15.30 hrs.

Invitations have been forwarded to local dignitaries and to date we have received some responses.

In attendance will be Air Commodore Peter Ayee (representing the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Cllr Peter Hollick, Mayor of Dunstable,

Cllr Chris Slough Mayor of Houghton Regis. An invitation has been forwarded to the Station Commander at RAF Henlow and we are awaiting a response from the new C.O. When he arrives in situ.

It is hoped a large number of members, and family members, will attend this Service as a mark of respect to our colleagues that took part in this significant Battle.



### The Official Dedication of the Royal Air Forces Association.

In friendship and in service one to another, we are pledged to keep alive the memory of those of all Nations who died in the Royal Air Force and in the Air Forces of the Commonwealth. In their name we give ourselves to this noble cause. Proudly and thankfully we will remember them.

### The Object Of The Royal Air Forces Association.

Is to promote, through the comradeship engendered by its members, the welfare by charitable means of all serving and former members of Her Majesty's Air Forces, their spouses and dependants together with widows and widowers and dependants of those who died whilst serving or subsequently.

### Field of Remembrance - Westminster Abbey Gardens - 3rd November 2016

We have once again been asked to participate in the above ceremony by the Royal British Legion (RBL). I therefore ask Branches to once more give this special occasion their best possible support by ordering crosses to be planted by their representatives wherever possible.

Entrance to the Field will involve passing through Police Security checks. Everyone must bring two forms of ID of which one must include a photograph (e.g. passport). Sight of these may be required by the police or security officers.

The South East & Eastern Area will be pleased to arrange for crosses to be planted on behalf of Branches not represented.

Please be advised that all crosses must be planted by 09.30hrs on the day. Gates will open at 0845 hrs and close at 10.00 hrs. All participants must be in position by 10.00hrs.

Staff from the South East and Eastern Area, will be in attendance along with the National Standard Bearer on the day.

**A Badge Cross will cost £10.30 and a Leaf Cross (suitable for use by Branches) will cost £6.28**

Orders, together with the appropriate remittance, should be sent to Cat Knott, RAFA South East & Eastern Area, 117 ½ Loughborough Road, Leicester, LE4 5ND Tel: 0116 268 8784 E-mail: [Catherine.knott@rafa.org.uk](mailto:Catherine.knott@rafa.org.uk)

no later than **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016.**

**Admission to the service will be for ticket holders only.**

Members requesting tickets to attend the service should apply in writing to the South East & Eastern Area Office no later than **29<sup>th</sup> August 2016.**

Bobby Charlton was asked how he thought the England team of '66 would have fared against Iceland.

"I think we'd have won 1-0" he replied.

"Only 1-0?" Said the reporter.

"Yes," said Bobby. "Most of us are in our 70's now!"

## Royal Air Force Centenary Celebrations – RAF100

On 1 April 2018 the RAF will mark the centenary of its formation as the world's first independent air force. This will be an important opportunity for those in the RAF and the RAF family to commemorate their past, celebrate their success and also inspire the public as to their contribution to the UK's national security and prosperity.

The RAF100 programme of events will start in October 2017 and end in September 2018 and a number of flagship events will take place across the UK between March and September 2018 including a service in Westminster Abbey and a parade along the Mall, followed by a Royal Salute and flypast.

The four main RAF charities (RAF Association, RAF Benevolent Fund, RAF Charitable Trust Enterprises

and RAF Museum) have taken the unprecedented step of creating a joint venture charitable company, the RAF100 Appeal Ltd. Its purpose is to deliver a coherent and collaborative campaign raising both income and profile.

More information about RAF100 can be found here: [www.raf.mod.uk/raf100](http://www.raf.mod.uk/raf100). There is also an opportunity to put forward any ideas that will help COMMEMORATE the achievements of the RAF and all who served, CELEBRATE the RAF of today, or INSPIRE people in your local community and beyond: [www.raf.mod.uk/raf100/your-ideas](http://www.raf.mod.uk/raf100/your-ideas)

Further updates will be given as more information becomes available.



### Think Before You Speak.



In a train from London to Manchester, an American was berating the Englishman sitting across from him in the compartment.

Look at me... I'm me! I have a little Italian in me, a bit of Greek blood, a little Irish and some Spanish blood. What do you say to that?"

"The trouble with you English is that you are too stuffy. You set yourselves apart too much. You think your stiff upper lip makes you above the rest of us.

The Englishman lowered his newspaper, looks over his glasses and replied,

"How very sporting of your mother!"



## Henry "Harry" Davis.

29<sup>th</sup> August 1922 - 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016

*My thanks to Harry's family members for permitting the publication of the following article.*

*Part Two of Three*

In 1942 when Harry was still in 145 Sqn a mock airstrip was created about 5 miles outside Gambut to con the Germans into thinking that a new squadron had moved up. A few Spitfires that were not serviceable were moved there and other planes were made out of wood and painted to look like the real thing. The idea was that when the fake airstrip was attacked word would be passed and planes scrambled to meet them in the air. The fake airstrip had to be defended as though it was the real thing. Harry was one of the men sent to guard it.

They had only Bren guns and Lewis guns at the time, which were useless against dive bombing Stukas so these raids were a bit harrowing for them. They were much happier when they got Hispanos- heavy anti aircraft guns. Harry was a gunner and had a Number 2 who looked after the ammunition.

Urgent orders came for them to get out quickly as Germans were surrounding them- they were told to ram any German vehicles they met! Halfaha 'Hell Fire' Pass was their

route out. The lorry Harry was travelling on had its brakes go and the lorry in front had to take their weight down the dangerous steep, winding pass. They retreated to El Alamein. That's when Field Marshall Montgomery took over command and travelled around to every squadron and army unit, in his trailer, to give the men 'pep talks'.

The RAF Regiment was formed and they were transferred to an independent flight. It was a big unit- there were 4 sections, each comprised 6 lorries with an 8 man crew. Three of the sections were as follows- 4 of the lorries were fitted with guns and 2 towed Bofors, anti aircraft guns suitable for quick firing. The 4th section carried supplies and towed water bowsers. Harry was a gunner- he operated a heavy, lorry mounted 20mm Hispano- the gun fitted in Spitfires. The officers and sergeants led the way in jeeps. The crews rotated so that everyone had a turn being at the front of the column and being at the rear with the supplies. Their job was to advance with the army, secure landing strips, clear booby traps, mines etc and fill bomb craters to allow planes to land.

Squadron Leader Pocock was their CO. Cpl Cropper was in charge of their flight. He got the day's orders from Pocock, who would wave his pistol around when he was making a point- Cropper used to say that one day he'd get his head blown off! Harry was stung by a scorpion. His mates thought he only had an hour to live but fortunately it was less dangerous - and although painful, treatment was an injection and an hour laying down!

Harry spent one week at a rest camp in Alexandria before the Battle of El Alamein. They all received 4 months back pay and Harry spent a lot of it on gifts for his family back home. The shopkeeper offered a postal service to send purchases to England. Nothing ever arrived... They advanced from airstrip to airstrip through North Africa- Egypt, Libya and on to Tunisia where they ended up at Hammamet. After taking Castel Benito they were merged with other flights to become 2932 Squadron. On the push through Libya they came to a farmhouse that had been left quickly. It turned out to have been the Italian HQ and they had left behind a large amount of supplies including crates of vino in the cellar. They filled a lorry that had been abandoned with crates of wine and shared it out when they camped up. There was still half a lorry left so they left it behind for 145 Spitfire Squadron which was coming behind. They were told that the Squadron was very grateful and every evening when they were drinking the

wine, an officer would toast the RAF Reg and say "May they find more!".

The Battle of Africa had been won but hundreds of all nationalities lay dead- their bodies were just run over by both sides during advances and retreats. On one occasion when advancing they came upon a German tank and they thought their end had come, however the tank had broken down and the guns would not rotate. The Germans had been stuck there for 2 days and were glad to be taken as prisoners. Harry spent his 21st birthday guarding Italian prisoners of war in the desert. He took part in the 'Victory Parade' in Tunis.

Trouble flared up at Aleppo in Syria on the Turkish- Syrian border. They were sent back to sort it out- 'Operation Turpitude'. The Turks and Syrians were arguing over possession of the airport. They had to travel back through Tunisia, Libya, Egypt and Syria. The problem was sorted out and the Turks went back over the border. They were then posted to Palestine near Tel Aviv. Jews were coming in by boats escaping from the Germans, causing friction between them and the Palestinians. They were to protect the RAF supply depots and try to keep the peace. But..... They were ordered back to Tunis so travelled back through Egypt, Libya, and Tunisia to Tunis Harbour. Sicily had been taken earlier in the war by the Germans and had now been invaded and recaptured by the 8th army, ready for

### Air Mail

What do you do with your copy of Air Mail once you have read it? Do you just throw it in the bin, or do you keep it for future reference?

If you dispose of your copy could you please let a committee member know, or contact John Gilmour who will collect it from you, as we would like to put a copy into the local libraries, etc. for others to read. Hopefully we may get a few new members.

Many thanks for your assistance.

### Move of CHQ and Area Headquarters

CHQ and Area Headquarters will move to their new building during the weekend of 20 -21 August. All staff will move into the new premises on Tuesday 23 August. Obviously there will be some disruption and members are requested to limit, where possible, any calls and e-mails to both CHQ and Area HQ over the period 17 to 24 August. The postal address of the new building is:

Royal Air Forces Association  
Headquarters,  
Atlas House  
41 Wembley Road  
Leicester  
LE3 1UT

All phone numbers and email addresses will remain the same.

### The City Of London Street Collection Friday 2 September 2016

Once again the Area is organising a collection in the City of London in aid of the "Wings Appeal". The collection this year will be on **Friday 2 September 2016** using the Guildhall as a base.

To assist this venture the Area can offer travel expenses and all equipment for your collecting needs. **Collecting may start from 6am until 1pm.** Should collectors wish to use their own collecting boxes please let us know in advance so we may allocate a box number.

All money collected by individuals will be credited to their own Branch.

Collectors should register with the Area Headquarters in advance by telephoning 0116 268 8780 or by e-mail to: [eastern@rafa.org.uk](mailto:eastern@rafa.org.uk)

This event would not be able to take place without the support of members, including serving members, and we are therefore seeking your help to once more make this collection as successful as in previous years.



## Grove Theatre Visits.



That'll Be The Day

Fri 11 November 7.30pm

After an incredible three decades of touring, the UK's no.1 Rock & Roll variety production That'll Be The Day returns with another brand new spectacular!

This year's show features a fresh new line-up of sensational classic gold hits, spanning the 50s through to the 70s & 80s, mixed as always, with even more hilarious comedy!

Complete with stunning costumes and incredible LIVE music performances, we guarantee you'll be on your feet and dancing in the aisles before the night is over.

Welcome to the golden age of popular music...revived

£25.50\*

To book for either or both of these shows, contact John Gilmour or Susan Stone



The Sensational 60's Experience

Saturday 12 November 7.30pm

The tour that never ends!

Returning by huge popular demand, for one night only. Seven legendary names take to the stage and deliver to you a night never to be forgotten. With the definite feel good factor this is must see 60's show for 2016.

Herman's Hermits, The Merseybeats, Chris Farlowe, The Swinging Blue Jeans, The Ivy League, New Amen Corner and Alan Mosca from Freddie and The Dreamers.

This exclusive line up from the 60's is crammed with nostalgia & hits such as, Hermans Hermits, I'm Into Something Good, No Milk Today. The Merseybeats, I Think Of You, Wishing and Hoping. Chris Farlowe, Out Of Time, Handbags and Gladrags. New Amen Corner, Bend Me Shape Me, If Paradise Is Half As Nice. The Swinging Blue Jeans, Hippy Hippy Shake, You're No Good. The Ivy League, Tossing And Turning, Funny How Love Can Be. Alan Mosca from Freddie and The Dreamers, You Were Made For Me.

Tickets £27\*/£25\*

the invasion of Italy. The army and the RAF Reg embarked on landing craft and landed at Taranto, Other units landed at Salerno ( a 2 pronged invasion). The army broke out of Taranto and the RAF Reg tookover Bari as RAF HQ. Here they joined 1321 wing. The Germans bombed the docks and an ammunition boat blew up. Harry was hit by a burning oil drum, which burnt a large hole in his coat, and a window landed on his head. He spent 2 days in a field hospital with head wounds.

They were sent to the island of Vis off the Yugoslavian coast and spent some time with the Partisans in the mountains guarding a landing strip. 2932 and 2825 Sqdns underwent commando training and took part in raids on other islands and mainland Yugoslavia. The training on Vis was about landing from boats, setting up defensive positions for rearguard covering and evacuation after the raid. Raiding with the commandos and partisans for the squadron was quite something. The partisans were very 'gung ho'and unpredictable- but it was never dull! They were always singing and making a lot of noise and waving their torches around when they were on operations- it was a constant worry that they would attract the attention of the Germans. At the airstrip where they were based the American air force had a contingency on the other side of the strip and the partisans were in the compound next to the RAF. They

did not fraternise with each other but their job when they went on sorties was to give the partisans cover. The partisans were both men and women- they all lived together and were treated as equals. On the base they used to 'run riot' in their own compound and lit lamps instead of maintaining a blackout.

The RAF thought they were quite mad at times! On one occasion the Germans carried out a raid on the airstrip before mealtime. The RAF cook was stirring up a large pot of stew close to the perimeter between them and the partisans- when there was a blast. A mate of Harry was near and saw what happened. He said that the blast caught one of the partisans and blew off part of his shoulder which flew with other debris across the compound- some of it going in the pot. The cook righted himself and kept on stirring- he said it was only meat!! Harry and his mates went hungry that night but the stew was dished up to the others.

They returned to Bari, Italy and pushed on to Foggia. While there Harry visited his sister Gladys' first husband who was in a field hospital having been injured at Monte Casino. They advanced to Naples airport and were sent to Sorrento for 2 weeks rest camp. Harry and Ernie Allen ended up in the detention centre for the 2 weeks. Ernie who liked a drink- often to excess- got drunk and gave alcohol to a young girl to give to her mother.

With Ernie the worse for wear and the language problem, they were charged with supplying a minor with alcohol. They were held in a compound in tents. During the day the men had to move about 10 ton of sand from one side of the compound to the other and the next day they moved it back again. At night they had to undress in the tents, then 1 of them had to take all

the clothes to the guard house- where he had to strip and return to the tents naked. In the morning the process was reversed. Harry also lost his 2 good conduct stripes. They were out in time for the push through Italy to Ravenna and Trieste. When Italy capitulated they were sent over the border into Austria to Klagenfurt, on to Judenburg, then Graz.

*To be continued*



### Irish Compassion

The Irish are a wonderful bunch of people, always willing to help in a pinch.....

this has happened but we have 103 passengers on board and, unfortunately, we received only 40 dinner meals. I truly apologise for this mistake and inconvenience.

Shortly after take-off on an outbound evening Air Lingus flight from Dublin to Boston, the lead flight attendant nervously made the following painful announcement in her lovely Irish brogue:

When the muttering of the passengers had died down, she continued, "Anyone who is kind enough to give up their meal so that someone else can eat, will receive free, unlimited drinks for the duration of our 5 hour flight."

Ladies and gentlemen, I'm so very sorry, but it appears that there has been a terrible mix-up by our catering service. I don't know how

Her next announcement came about 2 hours later: "If anyone is hungry, we still have 40 dinners available".

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### Golf Balls

A man entered the bus with both of his front pockets full of golf balls and sat down next to a beautiful blonde. The puzzled blonde kept looking at him and his bulging pockets.

Nevertheless, the blonde continued to look at him for a very long time, deeply thinking about what he had said.

After several minutes, not being able to contain her curiosity any longer she asked, "Does it hurt as much as tennis elbow?"



Finally, after many such glances from her, he said, "its golf balls."

## Dates For Your Diary!!

**Friday 12 August - Race Night.**  
A joint fundraising venture with the RNA being held at the RBL Club, Marsh Road, Admission Free. Bangers and Mash Supper £3 (booked and paid for one week in advance).

**Saturday 15 October -** Proposed visit to Witham and Rivenhall RAFA Club. The entertainment for the evening will be Dave Paisley.

Full details of coach cost and departure location and time will be announced at a later date.

Plans are being made to hold an evening meal in the near future. Details are not known at present, information will be notified at Branch meetings once they have been finalised.

To book a seat on the coach contact John Gilmour.

## Operations Room.

Thursday 11 August - **Branch Social**

Thursday 10 November - **Branch Social**

Thursday 25 August - **Branch Social**

Thursday 24 November - **Branch Social**

Thursday 8 September - **Branch Social**

Thursday 8 December - **Branch Social**

Thursday 22 September - **Branch Social**

It is in your best interest to attend Branch meetings, when possible, to hear about future plans between newsletter issues. Items of interest to all members are always being arranged, so keep in touch with your committee or attend meetings.

Thursday 13 October - **Branch Social**

Thursday 27 October - **Branch Social**

participants. Basic personal information will need to be provided when applying for tickets for each applicant. This consists of:

Title/Rank  
First Name (This must be the name on photo ID)  
Last Name  
Date of Birth  
Place of Birth  
First Line of Address  
Town  
Postcode  
Service Number (where applicable)

In view of the current security arrangements, only holders of admission tickets will be allowed to join the parade. **A ticket allocated to an individual is not**

**transferable.** All participants are liable to a security search on the day.

The South East & Eastern Area Headquarters will be administering the ticket allocation for the event this year. We would therefore be grateful to receive applications for tickets, **together with the required information above**, at your earliest convenience. Contact details: RAFA South East & Eastern Area, 117½ Loughborough Road Leicester, LE4 5ND or E-mail: [eastern@rafa.org.uk](mailto:eastern@rafa.org.uk)

**The closing date for receipt of applications for tickets is Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August**



### **Memphis Belles At the Grove Theatre Wed 7 December 12.30pm**

Sing along to those old time classics with the beautiful voices of all ladies group, Memphis Belles. Join us for an afternoon of toe tapping classic tunes from the 40's and 50's in our upper foyer, accompanied by a delicious afternoon afternoon tea.

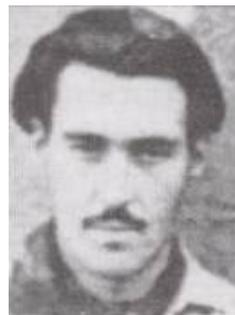
Afternoon tea is included within the cost of this ticket price.

If you have any food allergies or intolerance, please contact Tom Davies by emailing [Grove.Admin@1Life.co.uk](mailto:Grove.Admin@1Life.co.uk) or call 01582 884 190.

£14.50\*

To book - contact John Gilmour or Susan Stone.

### **Remembering The 50 Officers Murdered By The Gestapo, Following "The Great Escape".**



#### **Squadron Leader Thomas G. Kirby-Green (Service No 39103) RAF**

No 40 Squadron – Born in Nyasaland South Africa on 28<sup>th</sup> February 1918. Became a POW (No 652) on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1941 when he was shot down in Wellington IC, Z8862 BL:B. Recaptured at Hodonin in Southern Moravia and murdered on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1944 by Gestapo Agent's Erich Zacharias, Adolf Knippelberg, Friedrich Kiowsky and Friedrich Schwartzter. Cremated at Mahrish Ostrau.



#### **Flying Officer A. Włodzimierz Kolanowski (Service No P0243) RAF**

No 301 Squadron – Born in Poland on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1913. He became a POW (No 678) on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1941 after being shot down in Wellington IV, Z1277 GR:Z. Recaptured near Sagan and murdered on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1944 by Gestapo Agent's Walter Lux and Wilhelm Scharpwinkel. Cremated at Liegnitz.



#### **Flying Officer Stanislaw Z. Krol (Service No P0243) RAF**

No 74 Squadron – Born in Krakau Poland on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1916. He became a POW (No: 1392) in 1942 after being shot down in Spitfire Vb, W3263. Recaptured at Oels and murdered on or about 12<sup>th</sup> April 1944, probably by Gestapo Agent Walter Lux. Cremated at Be-slau.

**Flight Lieutenant Patrick W. Langford**

**(Service No J1631) RAF**

No 16 OTU – Born in Edmonton Canada on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 1919. He became a POW (No 710) on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1942 after being shot down in Wellington IC,R1450. Recaptured near Gornitz and murdered on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1944 by Gestapo Agent's Walter Lux and Wilhelm Scharpwinkel. Cremated at Lienitz.



**Flight Lieutenant Thomas B. Leigh**

**(Service No 46462) RAF**

No 76 Squadron – Born in Sydney Australia on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1919. He became a POW (No: 63) on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1941 after being shot down in Halifax I, L9516. Recaptured in Sagan area and murdered on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1944 by Gestapo Agent's Walter Lux and Wilhelm Scharpwinkel. Cremated at Gornitz.



**Flight Lieutenant James L. R. "Cookie" Long**

**( Service No 89375) RAF**

No 9 Squadron – Born at Bournemouth England on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1915. He became a POW (No 522) on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1941 after being shot down in Wellington IA,R1335 WS:K. Recaptured near Sagan and murdered on or about 12<sup>th</sup> April 1944 by Gestapo Agent Walter Lux. Cremated at Breslau



**Cenotaph Ceremony - London - 13 November 2016**

The Royal British Legion, on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media & Sport, will be organising the ex-service contingents attending the Parade and Service at the Cenotaph, Whitehall on Remembrance Day, 13 November 2016.

The MOD, Cobseo and RBL have agreed priorities for the allocation of tickets, these priorities are:

1. Veterans with campaign medals.
2. Civilians deployed on operations.
3. Veterans with no campaign medals.
4. Bereaved spouses/civil partners (not children).
5. Veteran association representatives if not represented above.
6. Representatives of the military charities.

This year a representative of the **Northern Area** will lay the Association's wreath; Stewards will also be positioned at the Cenotaph to lay wreaths on behalf of the detachments as they march past.

Contingents will assemble and disperse at Horse Guards Parade

Due to the number of personnel on parade the overall length of the march past has increased. I would ask you to ensure that your

members are aware of the physical demands of standing in Whitehall for at least one hour and marching for a distance of 1.5 miles, possibly in inclement weather.

We have been asked to remind all on parade to help to ensure that behaviour and dress standards match the dignity of the occasion. There have been a few rather regrettable lapses that have offended the majority of those marching and the general public.

Carers who accompany disabled veterans but who are themselves not qualified to march, will remain on Horse Guards Parade and will be hosted by the Legion for the duration of the ceremony. A small number of wheelchairs will be available on request for the use of veterans who might struggle to maintain the pace of the march past. This resource is finite and will be allocated according to demand on the day.

Due to heightened security measures **all those with allocated tickets will need to carry a form of photo ID on the day together with a document showing proof of address** for access to Horse Guards Parade via the manned police entry points. The Metropolitan Police will need to conduct individual security checks on all



*HRH inspecting the Graduating Officers.*

The Parade concluded with a Typhoon fly-past from 29 Squadron at RAF Coningsby. Following on from the parade His Royal Highness met the graduating officers and their guest over lunch in the historic surroundings of College Hall Officers Mess.

Commandant of the Royal Air Force College, Air Commodore Chris Luck, summed up the day by saying: "We are honoured to have His Royal Highness, The Earl of Wessex as our Sovereign's Parade Reviewing Officer. This day is all the more special as we receive our new Queen's Colours for the College and the Central Flying School. This is a unique occasion of which all participants can be justifiably proud."

In keeping with tradition, His Royal Highness, The Earl of Wessex, was then invited to plant a Lime tree beside the Queen's Walk in a ceremony attended by Service personnel and their families. A posy of flowers was presented to The Earl of Wessex by Harriet Luck, daughter of the Commandant.



Tree Planting Ceremony.

Editor: Sqn Ldr Karen Dixon

Photographs: Loz Platfoot

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It is being considered to set-up two Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Clubs, one in Luton and one in Dunstable. These will be open on a Saturday or Sunday.

The Breakfast Clubs are groups of Veterans and serving members of all arms of Her Majesties Armed Forces, who, in short, look out for each other. Self-reliance, wasn't it always our way?

There are no official national rules or subscriptions; individual Breakfast Clubs make their own decisions. We meet every weekend, Saturday or Sunday mornings, eat breakfast together, indulge in some good old military banter, some irreverent talk and some black humour.

It is much like the best bits of your time when you were serving. For many of us, this also leads us to meeting socially at other times, with wives and partners, at Regimental Dinners (with our respective associations), for nights out, barbecues, parties and family occasions etc. and we network among the variety of trades the veterans all now work in.

It really works because we all have a similar outlook on life; similar

sense of humour and in many respects the social life many of the veterans of the breakfast clubs now enjoy are similar to the days when we served. We have representatives from Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines... so if you want to come along, join in the banter, as long as you have a uniform service history, or association with such, and can cope with the sense of humour, just turn up on a Saturday or Sunday morning, at one of the breakfast clubs, and you will be made welcome.

There are no rules as such but there are warnings that need to be understood.

**WARNINGS:**

1. While serving in the Armed Forces, although allowed personal political views, we were not allowed to express them; it also applies here; your politics/religion are your own business.
2. Non-members/former members of any armed forces or uniformed services, or association with such, should be clear & honest about this when applying to join the group. Those impersonating veterans ("Walts"), be warned; if suspicious, we will not rest until

confirmed, & you **WILL** be exposed, 'outed', blocked & excluded, as this is NOT tolerated by any veteran!

3. Non-veterans are sometimes accepted with the agreement of veterans/serving members, & are welcome to make suggestions, but their status will remain that of a 'guest' when it comes to 'policy' of the group. The group is exclusively for veterans & serving personnel of Her Majesty's Armed Forces & her allies; civilians/non-veterans will not be consulted or influence decisions effecting the group. Anyone unhappy with this status may leave.

4. No financial gain is sought by any member, nor will the seeking of such be tolerated for themselves, or any organisation, no matter how 'deserving', without agreement of the group as a whole.

5. **BE WARNED**; the nature of military service involves 'black humour' resulting in posts which are not 'politically correct'. If you are offended, there are two options open to you:- Don't read it, or leave.

6. That said, if you find anything overtly offensive, or seriously prejudicial i.e. in your opinion not

fitting the spirit of 'black humour', &/or, for example, bullying or demeaning to yourself or another member, should be brought to the attention of an admin. If you are unsatisfied with their response, there are other admins you can speak to.

7. We will not tolerate the prejudicial treatment of different categories of people on the grounds of race, age, sex, physical or mental illness/disability: bullying or harassment will not be tolerated, & anyone bullying or harassing others may be deleted, blocked & excluded.

These are the simple Warnings which are reasonably straight forward.

Any member wishing that this should eventually happen should contact John Gilmour so as arrangements can be made with a suitable location. If we get suitable numbers to hold these, not only from RAFA members but also other Veterans we will proceed with the planning.

This will be advertised in the local press and other points in due course for other Veterans to join.



### Scorpion In Your Tent

A man was conducting an All Service member briefing one day, and he posed the question: "What would you do if you found a scorpion in your tent?"

A Sailor said, "I'd step on it."

A Soldier said, "I'd hit it with my boot."

A Marine said, "I'd catch it, break the stinger off, and eat it."

An Airman said, "I'd call room service and find out why there's a tent in my room."



## Sovereign's Review and Colour Presentations at the RAF College Cranwell

His Royal Highness, The Earl of Wessex KG GCVO ADC was the reviewing Officer on the occasion of the Sovereign's Review of Royal Air Force Cranwell at the Graduation of officers of Initial Officer Training Course No 44, Specialist Entrant and Re-Entrant Course No 37, and No 57 Reserve Officer Initial Training Course on Thursday 28 July 2016.

of the graduating officers and other parade participants will remember this day for a long time to come".



*Sword of Honour Winner.*



*Officers on Parade.*

Before the review, delighted families, friends and guests were treated to a spectacular fly-past by a Typhoon from No. 12 Squadron at Royal Air Force Marham.

Chief of Defence Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach who attended the Parade said: "I am delighted to return to my college today for this unique occasion. It is always a great honour to have a new Sovereign's Colour presented but to have two presented together is a very special event. I am sure that all

After reviewing the graduating officers on parade His Royal Highness presented new Sovereign's Colours to the Royal Air Force College and to the Central Flying School. Commandant of the Central Flying School, Group Captain Fin Monahan said: "The Central Flying School is today honoured to receive a new Queen's Colour during such a splendid ceremony. This is a great recognition of the importance of the work which we undertake in training aircrew from all three of the United Kingdom's Armed Services and we are most grateful to His Royal Highness the Earl of Wessex for presenting the Colour on such an auspicious occasion".