

COMMITTEE 2013/2014

President.

Bob Perkins
(01582) 699976

Chairman.

John Gilmour
(01582) 560887

Vice Chairman

Barry Stone
(01582) 658976

Secretary.

John Gilmour
(01582) 560887

Treasurer.

Susan Stone
(01582) 658976

Welfare Officer.

Steve Conway
(01582) 429649

Wings Appeal

Organiser.
Contact Branch
Secretary

Membership

Secretary.
Barry Stone
(01582) 658976

Social Secretary.

Marisa Gilmour
(01582) 560887

Standard Bearer.

Ernie Bounds
(01582) 603966

Committee Members

Ken Draper
Derrick Levitt
Marie Scrivener
Barbara Brooks

Non Committee Posts.

Branch Chaplain:

Position Vacant

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

Spring 2014

Dunstable Branch

Branch Website: www.rafadunstable.co.uk



50 years of the Red Arrows

1964 - 2014

Be part of something special

ROYAL
AIR FORCES
Association
Friendship | Help | Support



Annual General Meeting 2014

The Annual General Meeting for 2014 will be held on Thursday 13 March at the Dunstable Conservative Club commencing at 20.00 hrs.

Nominations for committee posts or resolutions for discussion should be submitted, in writing, to the Secretary by no later than Thursday 6 March.

Nominations should be proposed, seconded and the nominated member should sign to agree that they accept the nomination.

Resolutions should be signed by the submitting member.



Be part of something special

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.

Equipment/Avionics: Standard communication and navigation equipment. The Mk.VIIc or Mk.IXc bombsight was also standard. After 1942 most surviving aircraft were fitted with glider towing equipment.

Two cannisters could be fitted under the wings for leaflet dropping raids. (GR.Mk VII) ASV Mk II Air-to-Surface Radar.

History: First flight (prototype) 17 March 1936; first delivery (Mk I) January 1937; first flight (Mk V) December 1938; first delivery (Mk V) August 1939; production terminated in June 1943; final operation-

al sortie 29 April 1942 against Ostend.

Operators: United Kingdom (RAF, BOAC).

Units: On 9 March 1937 the second production aircraft was delivered to RAF Dishford were it equipped No. 10 squadron, the first squadron to use the type. At its peak of use the Whitley equipped nine RAF Bomber Squadrons Nos. 7, 10, 51, 58, 77, 78, 97, 102, 166. The Whitley would also equip two RAF Coastal Command Squadrons Nos. 502 and 612.



The Quiz - The Answers



How did you all do, then. Well I hope.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Gallipoli. | 8. <i>Fires Burning</i> . |
| 2. Rupert Brooke. | 9. T. E. Lawrence. (Lawrence of Arabia). |
| 3. Units of local volunteers in Britain, recruited from the same town. | 10. The Ottoman Turkish empire. |
| 4. The passenger liner was torpedoed by a German submarine. | 11. It was British slang for the Belgian town of Ypres. |
| 5. Great Britain. | 12. The British Expeditionary force, sent to France in 1914. |
| 6. Russia. | |
| 7. Allenby. | More in the next issue of " <i>Per Ardua</i> ". |

Range: With a 3,000 lbs (1361 kg) bombload, range was 1650 miles (2655 km) on internal fuel (standard) of 837 Imperial Gallons (4405 litres). Range could be increased to 1908 miles (3072 km) with the addition of extra tanks carried in the bombay that raised the total fuel carried to 969 Imperial Gallons (5096 litres). With a full 7,000 lbs (3175 kg) loadout range dropped to about 470 miles (756 km).

Weight: Empty 19,350 lbs (8777 kg) with a nominal take-off weight of 28,200 lbs (12789 kg) maximum take-off weight of 33,500 lbs (15195 kg).

Dimensions: Span 84 ft 0 in (25.60 m); length 70 ft 6 in (21.49 m); height 15 ft 0 in (4.57 m); wing area 1,137 sq ft (105.63 sq m); wing aspect ratio 6.21; mean chord 14 ft 4 in (4.37 m).

Defensive Armament: A (Nash and Thompson) F.N.16 nose turret was equipped with a single Vickers 'K' machine-gun using the 97 round drum-type magazine and four 7.7 mm (0.303 in) Browning machine guns in a powered (Nash and Thompson) tail turret using ammunition belts which supplied 1,000 rounds per gun.

Disposable Ordnance: Up to 7,373 lbs (3344 kg) of bombs could be carried in the two fuse-

lage bays and 14 inner and outer wing bomb cells. Each fuselage bay was capable of carrying 2,000 lbs (907 kg) and each wing bomb cell could carry a single 250 lbs (113 kg) bomb. The two fuselage bays could be modified to carry a single 2,000 lbs (907 kg) armour-piercing bomb. Normal ordnance loadout however, was limited to the following:

- 2 x 500 lbs (227 kg) and 12 x 250 lbs (113 kg) bombs
- 16 x 250 lbs (113 kg) bombs
- 4 x 420 lbs (191 kg) depth charges (GR.Mk VII)
- 2 x 420 lbs (191 kg) depth charges and 4 x 250 lbs (113 kg) anti-shipping bombs (GR.Mk VII)

The normal bombload was 4,000 lbs (1814 kg) made up of 2 x 500 lbs (227 kg) and 12 x 250 lbs (113 kg) bombs carried in the fuselage with extra fuel in the bomb cells in the wings. One of the few instances where the Whitley carried its maximum bombload was the attacks against German invasion barges on the French coast.

Variants: A.W.38 Whitley, Whitley B.Mk I, Whitley B.Mk II, Whitley B.Mk III, Whitley B.Mk IV, Whitley B.Mk IVA, Whitley B.Mk V, Whitley C.Mk V (freighter), Whitley Mk VI (never built), Whitley GR.Mk VII (naval conversion), Whitley GR.Mk VII (ASW).

Message from the Chairman of Central Council.

Jane Easton, Secretary General, is to leave the RAF Association at the end of February 2014, to take up the post of Director General of the English-Speaking Union, an international educational charity based in London.

Since her appointment to the RAF Association in 2010, Jane has made a major contribution to a significant period of change for the Association. This has included a successful restructuring. The Association has also promoted further its welfare capabilities and developed membership to strengthen the charity for the future.

Chairman of the Trustees, AVM Nigel Bairsto, said "In thanking Jane for her work with the Association, I am delighted to say that the charity is now well-positioned to address the increasingly complex needs of our welfare beneficiaries, and to support our members and volunteers into the future."

President, Air Marshal Sir Dusty Miller, said "Jane Easton has made a real difference at the Association over the last 3½ years and leaves the charity strengthened to continue the important work in Friendship, Help and Support for the whole RAF family. We wish her well for her future and thank her for her time with us."

Northern Ireland Veterans' Association

The Northern Ireland Veterans' Association Service of Remembrance 2014 will be held at 11.30am on Saturday 20th September 2014 at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire. The service will commemorate and remember all those who lost their lives in service of the Crown as a result of the conflict in N. Ireland.

The service will be followed by a parade down to the Ulster Ash Grove for the laying of wreaths.

Following the laying of the wreaths, there will be a 15 minute pause before the parade forms up for the return march to the visitor centre during which the guest of honour will take the salute. The service is open to all and all Associations are welcome to parade their standards.

For further information please contact David Langston on 07980 343759 or alternatively please e-mail davidlangston594@sky.com

Annual Service St Clement Danes

Sunday 6th April 2014

The Annual Service to commemorate formation of the Royal Air Force will be held at St Clement Danes Church the Strand London on Sunday 6th April 2014.

Royal Air Forces Association Standard Bearers have been invited to attend the Service.

The format is the same as last year with Standard Bearers marching from Lincoln's Inn Field to St Clement Danes Church headed by the RAF Halton Pipe Band.

Any Standard Bearers wishing to attend should contact Naz Angha in the **South East Office**, Tel: 020

8286 6667 or by e-mail to naz.angha@rafa.org.uk no later than Friday 21st February 2014.

Ticket allocation for the Service as in previous years is on a first come first served basis but unfortunately, only invited guests will be allowed to attend the reception after the Service.

Any members wishing to obtain tickets for the Service should contact Naz no later than Friday 21st February 2014.

The Service will commence at 11.00 hrs.

Local Events

Friday 7 March - Musical Evening at St Vincent's Social Club, Hammersmith Gardens, Houghton Regis. The entertainment will take the form of Karaoke (where guests can take part or spectate) and a disco. Event is organised by the Mayor of Houghton Regis. Cost £10 per person.

Friday 14 March - Luton Rugby Club, Newlands Road, Luton, are holding a Race Night to raise funds for the Under 16 team tour in October.

Sunday 23 March - Civic service for Councillor Peter Williams, Mayor of Houghton Regis, at All Saints Parish Church, High street, Houghton Regis commencing at 3.00 p.m.

Branch members are cordially invited to attend. Members wishing to attend any or all of these events should contact John Gilmour as soon as possible

Armstrong Whitworth AW38 Whitley

Specifications (Armstrong Whitworth A.W.38 Whitley B.Mk V)

Type: Five Seat Long Range Night Bomber

Accommodation/Crew: A crew of five consisting of a Pilot, Navigator/Bomb-aimer, Radio/Wireless Operator and 2 gunners.

Design: Armstrong Whitworth Design Team

Manufacturer: Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft Limited based in Coventry. The company was formed in 1921. In 1935, the Hawker Siddeley Aircraft Company Limited was formed to amalgamate the interests of Hawker Aircraft Limited and the Armstrong Siddeley Development Company Limited which which the later company controlled Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft Limited, Armstrong Siddeley Motors Limited and the A. V. Roe & Company Limited. The company was a pioneer in the development of all-metal aircraft, and it is due to their initiative that the use of high-tensile steel became prominent.

Powerplant: (B.Mk V) Two Rolls Royce Merlin X 12-cylinder liquid-cooled engines each rated at 1,075 hp (802 kW) for take-off and 1,130 hp (843 kW) at 5,250 ft (1525 m) at

3,000 rpm. (B.Mk IV) Two Rolls Royce Merlin IV 12-cylinder liquid-cooled engines rated at 1,030 hp (768 kW) for take-off and 990 hp (739 kW) at 12,250 ft (3740 m) driving Rotol constant-speed propellers.

Performance: Maximum speed 230 mph (370 km/h) at 16,400 ft (5000 m); cruising speed 210 mph (338 km/h) at 15,000 ft (4572 m); service ceiling 26,000 ft (7925 m) with a normal operational ceiling of between 17,600 - 21,000 ft (5400 - 6400 m). Initial climb rate of 800 feet (244 m) per minute; climb to 12,000 ft (3660 m) in 21 minutes.

Fuel Capacity: 837 Imperial gallons (1,005 US gallons or 3804.5 litres), plus provision for up to 132 Imperial gallons (160 US gallons or 600 litres) in auxiliary weapon-bay fuel tanks.



A short story to enjoy**You Did Wh-a-a-a-t**

Jimbo Munce woke with a headache. Above him there was a puzzling view of limitless blue sky. Looking about he noticed he was wrapped in swaddling cloth and suspended in a sling much as a delivery stork might employ. Otherwise everything seemed fine – apart from the fact he was dangling by several feet from what he

now observed with keen interest to be his twelfth story apartment window.

Esmeralda, his wife, stared down. She appeared to be holding a large and sharp kitchen knife.

The implication was clear.

Esmeralda was upset.

True, James had nearly dropped the baby. Thank heavens for bean-bags!!!

“I’ll try and be a little more careful, sweetheart,” he called up

Author John Ward

And a poemNostalgia

The world is a bonny place
Aye weel it’s no so bad
But how it’s changed since the
auld days
When ahwisjist a lad.
When ahwisat the school ye ken
And tried tae read and write
The master used tae skelp ma
lugs
An’ wish me oot his sight.
We went twice tae Kirk on Sab-
bath day
With shinin’ weel scrubbed faces
Ah always had tae scluff alang
‘Cos ma brother stole ma laces.
Ah helped ma faither fur a while
Collectin’ rags an’ scrap
Ah had tae haud the horse’s heid

An’ give it the odd slap.
An’ then ah met a bonny lass
She gave me the ‘come hither’
Ah found oot when ah merrit her,.
Shewisa copy o’ her mither.
A battleaxe she surely was
Gone! was ma fair charmer
Her voice would droon the Hamp-
den roar
A cauld pie would be warmer.
She gave me Hell for many years
Till ah could take nae mair
Ah packed her bags an’ pit her on
A one way bus taeAyr.
Now ah’m nearly ninety two
Ah’m settled in ma ways
Ah’ll no change noo
Ah doot, ye ken
But man, they were the days.

Author Mary Davidson

John might be able to translate!!!

The Queen’s New Year Honours List 2014

The following have been awarded National Honours in the New Year’s Honours List 2013:

MBE

Mr James D Scott Edinburgh, Lothians & Borders Branch
Scotland & N Ireland

BEM

Mr Malcolm G Collie Lossiemouth Branch Scotland & N Ireland

National Presidential
Certificates

To coincide with the New Year Honours List, the following have been awarded National Presidential Certificates:

Mr John Gilmour	Dunstable Branch	SE&E
Mr Fred Legborne	Headcorn Branch	SE&E
Mr Lance J A Smale	Falmouth Branch	W,M,SW

South East & Eastern Area Presidential Certificates

In conjunction with the New Year’s Honours List, I am pleased to announce that these have been awarded to:

Mr Michael Armiger	Lincoln Branch Branch
Mr Ray Chopping	Aylesford & Malling Branch
Mr Jim Gooding	Thurrock Branch
Mrs Hilary Janes	Leicester Branch
Mr David McLaughlin	MBE High Wycombe Branch
Mr Ronald Sawyer	Tunbridge Wells Branch
Mr Leslie Terry	Brighton & Hove Branch

Wings Appeal 2014.

Last year was another successful year for the branch with the Wings Appeal. A grand total of £12045.61 was raised. Our thanks to the dedicated collectors that took the time to come out and collect.

Will 2014 give us the same level of achievement? That is up to you, the members. The coming year will see us having more opportunities to collect but unfortunately fewer collectors being available unless more volunteer.

With the branch being involved with the three local towns, Dunstable, Luton and Houghton Regis, our presence will be sought at the events being organised to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the onset of World War One. In addition to this is the 70th anniversary of D Day.

For the branch to be able to attend the events that are being organised, along with the usual collecting venues, we need a larger number of volunteers to be available. Without the volunteers, the Royal Air Forces Association (and to a certain extent, the Royal Air Force) will not be visible at many events.

We have never asked members to assist for more than two hours on any day, which we find is not too strenuous for many. A few of our

members have, in the past, managed to attend for anything up to 6/7 hours on consecutive days. However, they are now getting on in years and suffering a little from ill health so to spread the work load a few more volunteers would be much appreciated. So if you could spare an hour or two on collecting days just give John Gilmour a call. If transport is a problem, we can arrange this for you also. If collecting is not for you, how about offering to man the tombola and memorabilia that we sell. Again a couple of hours would be a great help.

For two years, now, we have past the £12,000 mark and we have the opportunity this year to increase this total but only if we have the manpower to help. Remember a percentage of the funds raised can be returned to the branch for local Welfare work, such as assisting with welfare breaks to Association homes or help with welfare equipment for members. All members are welcome to apply for welfare assistance but we need the funds to be able to help and you can help in a small way to raise the funds.

Finally, if you could donate any items for the tombola's again that would be greatly appreciated.

John Gilmour

1918 The "Beffa di Buccari": in MAS-96 warrior-poet Gabriele d'Annunzio raids Austrian anchorage in Buccari Bay.

1918 Australians capture Jericho from the Turks.

1918 Germany claims the Baltic States, Finland, & Ukraine from Russia.

1918 Col. Douglas MacArthur accompanies a French patrol on a trench raid near Luneville, for which he is eventually awarded the Croix de guerre and the Silver Star.

Eating In The UK In The Sixties.

Pasta had not been invented. Curry was a surname. A takeaway was a mathematical problem. A pizza was something to do with a leaning tower. Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas time.

All crisps were plain; the only choice we had was whether to put the salt on or not. A Chinese chipper was a foreign carpenter. Rice was a milk pudding, and never, ever part of our dinner.

A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining. Brown bread was something only poor people ate. Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking. Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green. Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.

Only Heinz made beans. Fish didn't have fingers in those days.

Eating raw fish was called poverty, not sushi. None of us had ever heard of yoghurt. Healthy food consisted of anything edible. People who didn't peel potatoes were regarded as lazy.

Indian restaurants were only found in India. Cooking outside was called camping. Seaweed was not a recognized food. "Kebab" was not even a word, never mind a food. Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days, and was regarded as being white gold. Prunes were medicinal.

Surprisingly muesli was readily available; it was called cattle feed. Pineapples came in chunks in a tin; we had only ever seen a picture of a real one. Water came out of the tap, if someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it, they would have become a laughing stock.

This Month During World War I.

As we commemorate events of World War One, over the next few years, I will list events that occurred during the months that our newsletter is published, beginning with February.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1915 Turks attack the Suez Canal from the Sinai (retire on the 3rd). | 1916 German U-Boat sinks the French liner 'Provence', 930 die. |
| 1915 Turkish attack on Suez Canal fails. | 1916 Russian troops occupy Kermanshah, Persia. |
| 1915 "Sepoy Mutiny" at Singapore: c. 800 Indian troops run amok until subdued by loyal troops and police. | 1917 German sub sinks US liner 'Housatonic', America severs relations. |
| 1915 Edward Stone, 1st US combatant to die in WW I, is mortally wounded. | 1917 Ammunition ship explosion at Archangelsk, c. 1,500 die. |
| 1915 Germany proclaims a blockade of England. | 1917 The British transport 'Mendi' sinks off Isle of Wight, 627 die. |
| 1915 Germany begins "restricted" submarine warfare. | 1917 Caporale Benito Mussolini, 11th Bersaglieri, seriously wounded in a mortar accident. |
| 1916 Britain adopts conscription for World War I. | 1917 Russian revolution breaks out (3/8 NS), installing a provisional republic . |
| 1916 Russians capture Erzurum, Armenia, from the Turks. | 1917 Britain gives the "Zimmermann Note" to the United States, revealing German efforts to get Mexico and Japan to go to war with the US. . |
| 1916 Battle of Verdun begins; will produce nearly a million casualties in 302 days. | 1918 Stephen W Thompson becomes the first US pilot to down an enemy airplane. |
| 1916 Verdun: The Germans capture Fort Douaumont. | |

Royal International Air Tattoo RAF Fairford 11th-13th July 2014

Next year is the 50th Anniversary of the Red Arrows and an additional day (Friday 11th July) the 'Reds' Pit Day' is being added to celebrate this. People planning to attend next summer's Royal International Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford, who purchase their tickets before 31st January 2014, will enjoy a saving of £10 on the price of admission.

Special Super Earlybird tickets are available until 31st January and are priced at £24 for a Friday ticket, £34 for a Saturday ticket and £34 for a Sunday ticket.

Between 1st February and 31st May, Earlybird tickets will be available priced at £29 for the Friday ticket, £39 for a Saturday ticket and £39 for the Sunday ticket.

After 3rd April, the standard advance ticket will go on sale, priced at £34 for the Friday ticket £44 for the Saturday ticket and £44 for Sunday ticket and will be subject to a £2.50 admin fee per order.

For full admission ticket details and to see the wide range of optional upgrades designed to enhance your enjoyment of the Royal International Air Tattoo 2014, visit www.airtattoo.com.



Operations Room.

2014

Thursday 13 February - **Branch Social**

Thursday 27 February- **Branch Social**

Thursday 13 March - **A.G.M. & Branch Social**

Thursday 27 March - **Branch Social**

Thursday 10 April - **Tri Service Quiz Night & Branch Social**

Thursday 24 April - **Branch Social**

Thursday 8 May - **Branch Social**

Dates For Your Diary!!

The following functions are not restricted to RAF Association members to attend, adult members, family and friends of the Cadet Forces are also very welcome. An evening out with friendly people may be just what you want after a busy week.

Just contact John Gilmour at 01582 560887 for more details or to register interest.

Friday 14 February - St. Valentines
Dance - Chris Columbus.

Friday 28 March - C.E.S.A.
Fundraising Fish and Chip Supper.
Entertainment by One and Only
Bert. £10 per ticket now available
from John Gilmour.

Friday 18 April - St Georges
Dance. Entertainment by Jim
Knight

These may be the last events
organised by C.E.S.A. to be held at
The Royal British Legion.
We will keep you informed of any
changes, as they say, "Watch this
space!!"



Beginners' Mensa



Something for seniors to do to keep those "aging" grey cells active. Just another quick quiz to keep you going.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Johnny 's mother had three children. The first child was named April. The second child was named May.
...What was the third child 's name? | leg.
...Why not? |
| 2. There is a clerk at the butcher shop, he is five feet ten inches tall and he wears size 13 sneakers
...What does he weigh? | 8. What was the President 's name
...in 1975? |
| 3. Before Mt. Everest was discovered,
...what was the highest mountain in the world? | 9. If you were running a race,
...and you passed the person in 2nd place, what place would you be in now? |
| 4. How much dirt is there in a hole
...that measures two feet by three feet by four feet? | 10. Which is correct to say,
... "The yolk of the egg are white" or "The yolk of the egg is white"? |
| 5. What word in the English language
...is always spelled incorrectly? | 11. If a farmer has 5 haystacks in one field and 4 haystacks in the other field,
....how many haystacks would he have if he combined them all in another field? |
| 6. Billy was born on December 28th, yet his birthday is always in the summer.
...How is this possible? | You can send your answers to John if you wish. The best or most comical answers could win a prize. |
| 7. In California, you cannot take a picture of a man with a wooden | |

John Gilmour

COMBINED EX SERVICES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DANCE



*Royal British Legion Club, Marsh Road
Friday 28 March 2014
20.00 - 23.00*

One & Only Bert



Fish and Chip Supper



Tickets only £10



Tickets available from John Gilmour

The Quiz.



As this the year we commemorate 100 years since the commencement of World War One, it was decided to make this the topic of our quiz. Good luck to you all.



1. Where was ANZAC Cove?
2. Which poet died of blood poisoning in Greece?
3. What were "Pals battalions"?
4. How did the "Lusitania" sink in May 1915?
5. In 1914, which nation had the largest navy?
6. And which country had the biggest army?
7. Which Allied general entered Jerusalem, December 1917?
8. Complete the song title: "Keep the Home"
9. Who led the Arab Revolt in 1916?
10. Against whom were the Arabs fighting?
11. Where was "Wipers"?
12. What was the BEF?

Just For A Laugh



Confessional Box

A guy goes into the confessional box after years being away from the church. He pulls aside the curtain, enters and sits himself down.

There's a fully equipped bar with crystal glasses, the best vestry wine, Guinness on tap, cigars and liqueur chocolates nearby, and on the wall a fine photographic display of buxom ladies who appear to

have mislaid their garments.

He hears a priest come in: "Father, forgive me for it's been a very long time since I've been to confession and I must admit that the confessional box is much more inviting than it used to be".

The priest replies, "Get out, you idiot. You're on my side".



YOUTH update

Happy New Year! The year has certainly started with a flurry of activity, with seven visits out (and more planned) to RAF Association Branches, Girls Venture Corps and ATC Squadrons. We've been whizzing around the country spreading the **rafa YOUTH** message.

Our first prize draw of 2014 was for two tandem skydives. The two **rafa YOUTH** members will be able to choose a centre close to them so that they and their families can enjoy a day out. We have two other draws currently open: Two slots of £150 for flying, that's any type of flying at a school local to the win-

ner. Our other draw is for one of 20 signed Tucano Display team prints! The **rafa YOUTH** facebook page has reached 3200 likes and membership is growing steadily.

If you would like us to visit your branch meetings, or if you are already involved with your local ATC, CCF(RAF), Girls Venture Corps, Air Scouts or Air Explorer Scouts and you think they would like a visit from us please contact: helen.gibson@rafa.org.uk Tel: 0116 268 8789. We can also help you with information about how your branch can support young people with gift/group membership!



Just For A Laugh - Again!!!

Two Blondes With Hammers...

Lynn and Judy were doing some carpenter work on a Habitat for Humanity House.

Lynn was nailing down house siding, would reach into her nail pouch, pull out a nail & either toss it over her shoulder or nail it in.

Judy, figuring this was worth looking into, asked, 'Why are you throwing those nails away?'

Lynn explained, 'When I pull a nail out of my pouch, about half of them have the head on the wrong end and I throw them away.'

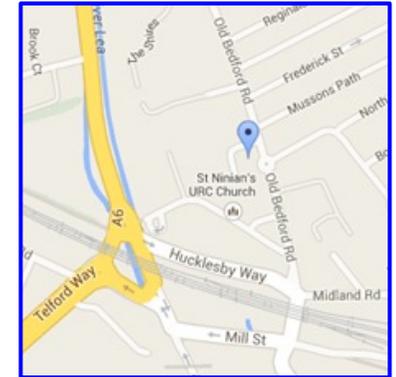
Judy got completely upset & yelled, 'You moron! Those nails aren't defective! They're for the other side of the house!'



Sick Parade



welcome any one that wants to go and visit him.



Unfortunately, a number of our folk are going through the "wars" at the moment.

We have Sheila Clasper and Molly Varani both struggle to get fit enough to join us.

We have Barry Stone needing medical attention to sort his breathing out.

Our Bill Brooks is now in 'Moorland Gardens Care Home'

Unfortunately Bill is not well enough to remain independent at home. We are sure that Bill would

Marie Adams is having problems with her leg.

Andy Smart and Cyril Pepper are also in the "wars".

We wish all these folks and any other members not mentioned better days ahead. Sincere best wishes from the Branch to you all

Marisa



Watch Battery Service.



John Gilmour is available to change your watch battery at Social Evenings at a small charge of £1.50 per battery. Lithium batteries for calculators, electronic dictionaries, etc are priced at £1.50.

This service will **not** be available on function evenings as John will be busy with other tasks.

Combined Operations



Should I give it a go and find out what it is like mixes with kindred folk ?

Answer:- YES - We would love to see you.



At least our Bushey and Harlow folk will have the shortest journey for a change, being the last pickups.

Family or friends welcome if you don't want to go it alone. Hope to see you there.

Marisa

Combined Operations



Unfortunately, we have been unable to book our usual first week in October and you will see from the booking form overleaf that we are going mid September instead. Hope this does not prevent our regulars from going.

If you are not able to get a deposit to me by 14th March, can you contact John or myself to say you are interested so that we can confirm the places required. Please use the form overleaf and return to:-

Marisa Gilmour
18 Montague Avenue
LUTON, LU4 9JG.

As some of you are aware, over the past twelve years we have arranged an annual holiday, inviting all services to join us.

The navy, in particular, have been very supportive, especially those from Harlow and Bushey.

We have always visited the south coast. However, this year, we are venturing northward and have arranged for our five day break to be in Hemsby in Norfolk. Here's hoping the weather will still be good to us.

Alternatively, I will have forms available for those that attend the Social Evenings.

We hope all our regulars will be able to join us again and for any of you that have never been, we would love you to come along and experience the friendship and comraderie that goes on.

Excursions will be included and hopefully entree fees too.

Looking forward to seeing you all again

Marisa Gilmour

Combined Operations 2014

Seacroft Holiday Village Hemsby

*Monday 22nd September to
Friday 26th September*

Entertainment (60's Theme).
Featured act "**The Fourmost**"
Two day excursions will be included

Cost: £175 per person (with Coach)
£150 per person (by Car)

Deposit: £30 per person **NON** refund-
able, payable by **14 March 2014**

*Insurance available @ £10.00 extra per head.
Please consider above if you have no insurance*

**Cheques payable to:- M. Gilmour -
Final Payment:- 31 July 2014**

PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

**Return to: Marisa Gilmour,
18 Montague Avenue, Luton, LU4 9JG**

Name

Tel: No:

Address:-

Mobile No:

E-mail

Transport requirements:- CoachYes / No
Car Yes / No

Names of persons in party, including above named
and bedroom preference:-

1 2

3..... 4

Room Types:- A) Single B) Twin C) Double
(Please circle your requirement)

*There will be a limited number of single accommodation. All rooms
will be allocated on the 'First Come - First served' basis.*

**Note: John is contactable on most days.
Tel: 01582 560887**