

COMMITTEE 2016/2017

President.

Bob Perkins
(01582) 699976

Welfare Officer.

Joyce Smith
(Awaiting Training)

Standard Bearer.

Ernie Bounds
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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

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The Association Headquarters address is;

117 ½ Loughborough Road
LEICESTER, LE4 5ND

Per Ardua

Summer 2016

Dunstable Branch
(Incorporating Luton)

Branch Website: www.rafadunstable.co.uk



Annual Conference
Blackpool



13th - 15th May 2016



ROYAL AIR FORCES
Association
Friendship | Help | Support

Chairman's Report.

Just a quick report. Many thanks to all members for their best wishes on my recent sudden illness. I am now back onto the road to recovery but finding it hard to take it easy.

Our Wings Appeal for this year is going well, although it will be doubtful if we reach the totals that have become the norm over the past few years. As they say, every little helps.

The social events, now being held at the Royal British Legion Club are a friendly affair, with accent being on fun with a small quiz and possibly a silly game. Come along, it will be a lot better than Eastenders. Also the Quiz Night is beginning to gather a bit more support.

Until we meet up again, look after yourselves. God Bless.

John Gilmour



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.

Flight Lieutenant Edgar S. Humphreys

(Service No 44177) RAF



No 107 Squadron. Born in Exmouth England on the 5th December 1914. He became a POW (No: 406) on 20th December 1940 after being shot down in Blenheim IV, T1860. Recaptured near Sagan and murdered on 29th March 1944 by Gestapo Agent's Walter Lux and Wilhelm Scharpwinkel. Cremated at Liegnitz.

Flying Officer Gordon A. Kidder (Service No J10177) RAF

No 156 Squadron – Born in Ontario Canada on the 9th December 1914. He became a POW (No: 42822) on 13th October 1942 after being shot down in Wellington 111, BJ775. Recaptured at Hodonin in Southern Moravia and murdered on 29th March 1944 by Gestapo Agent's Enrich Zacharias, Adolf Knippelberg, Friedrich Kiowsky and Friedrich Schwartzter. Cremated at Mahrtsch Ostrau



Flight Lieutenant Reginald V. Kierath (Service No 402364) RAF

No 450 Squadron – Born in Narrowmine Australia on 20th February 1915. He became a POW (No 1268) on 23rd April 1943. Recaptured near Reichenburg and murdered on 29th March 1944 by unknown Gestapo agents. Cremated at Brux.



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

**Flight Lieutenant Albert H. Hake
(Service No 403281) RAF**



No 72 Squadron – Born Sydney Australia on 30th June 1916. He became a POW (No 6) on the 4th April 1942. Recaptured near Gorlitz and murdered on 31st March 1944 by Gestapo Agent's Walter Lux and Wilhelm Scharpwinkel. Cremated at Gorlitz.

**Flight Lieutenant Charles P. Hall
(Service No 50896) RAF**

No 1 PRU – Born Birmingham England on 25th July 1918. He became a POW (No: 1423) on 28th December 1941. Recaptured near Sagan and murdered on 30th March 1944 by Gestapo Agent's Walter Lux and Wilhelm Scharpwinkel. Cremated at Liegnitz.



**Flight Lieutenant Anthony R H
Hayter (Service No 42124) RAF**

No 148 Squadron. Born at Farnborough England on 20th May 1920. He became a POW (No: 199) on 24th April 1942. Recaptured near Mulhouse and murdered on 6th April 1944 by Gestapo Agent Alfred Schimmel. Cremated at Natzweiler.



**Annual Conference
Hilton Hotel, Blackpool**

13th - 15th May 2016

Marisa and I represented our branch at the Annual Conference at Blackpool. Arriving at around lunchtime we soon settled into our room at the Park House Hotel, just a few hundred yards from the conference venue (a bit of struggle for me to walk).

Late Friday afternoon we attended the European Area famous reception, entitled "Operation Dessert Thirst". A chance to meet up with our European friends, a drink and a bit of fundraising.

After dinner, Marisa and I went along to the social event at the Hilton Hotel where there was a further opportunity to meet up with old friends and staff members for a drink and a chat.

The Conference got underway on the Saturday morning with Sir Dusty Miller welcoming all the delegates and visitors. He then introduced the Mayor of Blackpool, Councillor Peter Callow. An ex Navy man (but we forgave him).

The next speaker was our Secretary General, Nick Bunting, who gave a presentation on his view of 2015 and the Future of the Association. This was followed by the presentation by the Chief of Air

Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Andrew Pulford KCB. CBE. ADC. RAF.

Sir Andrew was invited to present the Flying Scholarships to the Cadets after his presentation and Sir Dusty then presented the National Presidential Certificates.

With this all done it was now on to the the serious business of the Annual Reports and Central Council Election results. (You will be pleased to know that I was not lucky enough to be elected but I am the first reserve, if the results are not lost again!!)

After lunch it was down to the real business, the consideration of the Resolutions that were submitted, a grand total of 40 were submitted. This is always the time for heated debate by those in favour or against the relevant resolution.

As the afternoon progressed it was evident that all the resolutions would not be discussed during this session and would be continued on the Sunday morning.

The conference session closed at 17.30 and was promptly followed by the Standard Bearers Competition.

We returned to the Hilton Hotel after

dinner for the Gala Awards Evening. Branches winning trophies for the various categories were presented. A display by the RAF College Band and entertainment by Lizzy Rushby.

Sunday morning brought some good weather for the Parade and Service of Dedication at the War Memorial. A Flypast by a Spitfire of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight was the highlight of the Service.



After the Parade and Service it was back to the Hilton Hotel to complete the business of the weekend, with a number of resolutions to be discussed it was going to be busy.



To begin with Sir Dusty announced the winner of the Standard Bearers competition, Shawn Marston, who will now be the National Standard Bearer. Also other awards were made to Northern Area for the Best

Area Standard Bearer and to Wales, Midland and South West Area for the Best Flight on Parade.

Conference business was then continued. With a number of resolutions still to be discussed it was going to be a busy time. As the agenda progressed it became very obvious that not all resolutions would be discussed and it was mentioned by members present, and later, that it was felt that this was a deliberate ploy to prevent a couple of resolutions being discussed. A couple of resolutions were allowed to over run their allotted time for discussion and this angered a few members present. These resolutions will now be discussed at the next Central Council meeting.

The conference was closed at 13.00 with a feeling of resentment and disgust at the way it was organised on the final day.

Marisa and I left Blackpool for another year and was unsure if we would ever attend another Annual Conference, as I personally feel that this conference was not in the best interest of the members.



Into a Belfast pub comes Paddy Murphy, looking like he'd just been run over by a train.

His arm is in a sling, his nose is broken, his face is cut and bruised and he's walking with a limp "What happened to you?" asks Sean, the bartender.

" Jamie O'Conner and me had a fight," says Paddy.

"That little shit, O'Conner," says Sean, "he couldn't do that to you. He must have had something in his hand."

"That he did," says Paddy, "a shovel is what he had, and a terrible lickin' he gave me with it."

" Well," says Sean, "you should have defended yourself, didn't you have something in your hand?"

"That I did," said Paddy. "Mrs. O'Conner's breast, and a thing of beauty it was, but useless in a fight."

"A husband had just finished reading a new book entitled "You Can Be The Man in Your House".

He stormed out to his wife in the kitchen and announced, "From now on I'm running this show and my word will be law!"

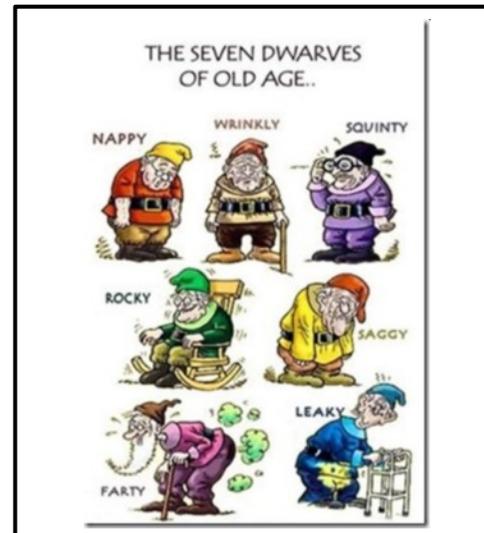
You'll prepare me a gourmet meal tonight and, when I'm done eating it, you'll serve me a scrumptious dessert.

After dinner you're going upstairs with me and we'll have any kind of sex that I choose!

Afterwards, you're going to run me a relaxing bath. You'll wash my back, towel me dry, and bring me my robe. Then, you'll massage my feet and hands.

Then tomorrow, guess who's going to dress me and comb my hair?"

The wife replied, "The Bloody undertaker would be my first guess!"



I was in a pet shop when I noticed a Muslim girl with the most amazingly coloured parrot perched on her shoulder.

"Where did you get that from?" I asked.

"Germany. There's bloody thousands of 'em!" said the parrot.

Royal Air Forces Association Members.

Pause for thought!

Are you an active member?
The kind that would be missed?
Or are you just contented
That your name is on the list

Do you attend the functions?
And mingle with the flock
Or do you just stay at home
And criticise and knock

Do you ever go and visit
A member who is sick
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the clique

Come to functions often
And help with hand on heart
Don't just be a member
Please take an active part

Think this over members
Do you know right from wrong?
Are you an active member?
OR DO YOU JUST BELONG?

Branch No. 1285
Rheindahlen

(Editor's Comment: Think carefully upon these words, without active members we will not have a Branch. Please support your Branch).

Out and About.

In recent months I have been on a bit of a gadabout.



In April I went up to the Tissington Hotel, Stafford for the annual WAAF/WRAF & RAF (W) AGM & reunion weekend. I can tell you a very good time was had by all. Many of the ladies are in their nineties but still know how to have a good time and tell great stories of their time in the mob. All look back on it with a great deal of affection and nostalgia despite some of the fairly primitive barrack arrangements they endure but of course this was a time of muck in and put up with.

The Friday was a drive in a downpour till I got there, where the sun came out. The committee were awaiting to greet us, booking in and catching up and a lovely evening meal followed by entertainment.

There was a lovely Gala Dinner in the evening on the Saturday after the AGM and a visit to RAF Cosford. Dancing and fun ensued. The next day we had a church service and

then a group photo taken. In the afternoon we had a very enjoyable and informative visit to the Black Country museum.

Monday morning there was a good breakfast, say our goodbyes and for me a good drive home.

Early May brought us out to the Houghton Regis May Day. Where although there was not a big turn out we were seen and made over £70 between the tombola and the bucket. It all helps WINGS.

Then we had 2 days collecting at Chaul End Tesco's where we raised a nearly £1300, so we are not doing too bad.



Six of us put in an appearance at RAF Hendon Veterans Day for a very good event. John, Brenda, Graham

and I even won on the raffle. It all finished with a Flypast by a Dakota.

To round off last night (Saturday 21 May) with our RNA cohorts we had a very hospitable evening at Gravesend RNA club. It was just a bit of a shame more members were unable to go on the coach.

Hope for more outings in the future. Sue

43 Fighter Sqn Centenary Celebrated In Stirling

The standard of 43 Fighter Squadron was laid up and the Squadron's links with Stirling were celebrated recently during centenary events in the city.

Number 43 Fighter Squadron (Fighting Cocks) was formed at Falleninch, below the walls of Stirling Castle, on 15th April 1916. Initially a unit of the Royal Flying Corps, for much of the Squadron's life it served at Leuchars and the strong links that were forged with both Scotland and Stirling in particular were recognised with the granting of the Freedom of Stirling in 2005. The Squadron was disbanded in 2009, however an active membership continues in the Squadron 43 Sqn Centenary Association and the centenary of the Squadron's formation was celebrated on 21/22 May 2016 with a weekend of events in Stirling.

The Saturday afternoon saw former Squadron members gathering at Falleninch Farm below Stirling Castle for the dedication of a memorial to 43 Squadron at the site of its foundation. The memorial was unveiled by Air Marshal Sir Baz North in the presence of Mike Robbins, the Provost of Stirling. That evening a formal dinner was held at the Castle preceded by a Beating of the Retreat by the Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment.

At the time of the Squadron's disbandment there had been uncertainty whether it might be re-equipped with the Typhoon. The Squadron Standard was therefore placed in the care of Royal Air Force College Cranwell pending a decision on its future. In the event it became clear that the Squadron would not be re-formed and the 43 Squadron Association undertook to ensure that the Standard was laid up finally in Stirling. The centenary celebrations presented the perfect opportunity for the Standard to be laid up and the ceremony took place during morning service on Sunday 22 May at The Church of the Holy Rude, adjacent to Stirling Castle, in the presence of the Lord Lieutenant of Stirling and Falkirk, Mrs Marjory MacLachlan.

Wing Commander Andy Moir, chairman of the 43 Fighter Squadron Association said,

"Former squadron members travelled from as far afield as the USA and Australia to attend this unique series of events. One of the enduring memories at the end of the weekend was the pleasure of seeing so many friendships rekindled – from the Hunter era, through that of the Phantom to the Tornado."

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Dates For Your Diary!!

Friday 15 July -
Social/Entertainment Evening.
Lounge Bar of the Royal British Legion. Marsh Road, Luton.
Sing-along, Fun and Games.

Sunday 17 July - North Weald Community Day and Airshow.

A minibus is being arranged at the moment it is almost full but we will have a reserve list should anyone cancel. Full details will be announced later as to costs, etc.

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).

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.

Operations Room.

- | | |
|--|--|
| Thursday 23 June - Branch Social | Thursday 27 October - Branch Social |
| Thursday 14 July - Branch Social | Thursday 10 November - Branch Social |
| Thursday 28 July - Branch Social | Thursday 24 November - Branch Social |
| Thursday 11 August - Branch Social | Thursday 8 December - Branch Social |
| Thursday 25 August - 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 8 September - Branch Social | |
| Thursday 22 September - Branch Social | |
| Thursday 13 October - Branch Social | |

Top RAF Regiment Recruit at RAF Lossiemouth.

A RAF Regiment 'Gunner' now based at RAF Lossiemouth was recently presented with his award as top recruit in his trade training course.

SAC James Lewis of 51 Squadron RAF Regiment based at RAF Lossiemouth was the recipient of the Top Recruit award on Trainee Gunner course 1-15. He was recognised because of his consistently high performance throughout the course.



His citation for the McFerran Prize read:

SAC Lewis is a diligent, hard working and unassuming gunner who understands the needs of his Chain of Command both in the field and out, receiving positive paperwork throughout the course for a variety of core skills assessments. His ability to act as senior man and 2IC on regular occasions are proof of his additional capacity and leadership potential, which will afford him excellent career opportunities in the future. In addition, his weapon skills are superb and he was relied upon heavily during the Trainee Gunner Live Field Firing package. Overall an excellent performance, Lewis has demonstrated the performance level required and surpassed this with enthusiasm

and professionalism. He is fully deserving of the McFerran Trophy and an excellent role model for current trainee Gunners to emulate.

The award for top recruit is receipt of the McFerran Prize and a trip in a Hawk at RAF Valley, Anglesey. The McFerran Prize is presented in the memory of SAC Peter McFerran of No 1 Squadron RAF Regiment who was killed whilst serving on operations in Iraq on 19 July 2007.

The prize is awarded to the best trainee Gunner of each training year. The shortlist of candidates is drawn from the pool of winners of the Frank Sylvester Trophy for Best All-Round Trainee of each Trainee Gunner Course.

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Dunstable Branch of the Royal Air Forces Association. Thursday 12 March 2015.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 20:00 hours and welcomed all members.

The Chairman read the official Dedication of the Royal Air Forces Association. A minutes silence was observed for members that had passed over the year - Derrick May, Jim Anklesaria, Fred Fleckney, A. Graddon, Peggy Richards, Bob Pratt, Sid Willis and Clifford Ogden

Minutes of the previous AGM were circulated in the Summer issue of Per Ardua. It was proposed by Graham Horton and seconded by Susan Stone that they be accepted. Carried.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Rick Brand, Sheila Brand, Phil Brockington, Anne Brockington, Alan Foreman, Barry Harvey, Barbara Brooks, Bryan Rawlinson, John Vickers, Pat Vickers, Ernie Bounds, Shirley Bounds, Ruth Seabrook and John Seabrook.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: The President, Bob Perkins, reported that the branch was in a good position both socially and financially. The functions were well attended, in the main, throughout the year although the numbers at the dances were beginning to fall. Unfortunately, John and Marisa had decided to cease organising the annual holiday, this was mainly due to health reasons and falling numbers. Bob thanked everyone for their support.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: John Gilmour thanked the President and thanked everyone for their hard work during the past year. The Chairman thanked all those who collected for 'Wings', and despite not having a Wings Appeal Office the Branch collected a substantial sum of money for the Wings Appeal, resulting in the fact that this was the fourth consecutive year of achieving over £10,000.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Barbara Brooks stood down during the year due to work pressures and John Gilmour assumed the role. The Branch was represented at all the Civic events of three local councils throughout the year, with our Chairman acting as Macebearer for

Dunstable Council. John, thanked the members for their continual support both at the social evenings and on the collection days during all weathers.

WINGS REPORT: John Gilmour reported that the Branch had another good year with collections topping £10,000. A special thank you to all that supported either by attending collecting periods or with Homeboxes.

WELFARE REPORT: Steve Conway stood down as Welfare Officer due to family and work pressures. All welfare cases were handled by Area Office.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Susan Stone reported to all present that we have had a good year and membership was stable, with several members paying by Direct Debit to Head Quarters. Due to the erratic data system at CHQ was difficult to obtain regular membership reports.

PUBLICITY REPORT: Ernie Bounds was unable to be present whilst recovering from a recent operation but until then he had regularly displayed the posters in the local libraries, community centres and other locations in the town. As the Branch Standard Bearer, the Standard had been paraded on the usual high number of occasions prior to hospital admission.

SOCIAL REPORT: Marisa Gilmour reported on a successful year, and that many functions were now joint with CESA due to falling numbers. With the closure of Kent's Club, an ideal location to hold our dances was still being sought. Marisa thanked all present for their continued support and stated that without members support the Branch would not be able to function.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Susan Stone reported that the Branch accounts, as at the 31st December 2015, were in a very healthy position and we have a very sound financial footing for the forthcoming year.

General Account: £25,307.89
Welfare Account: £ 4,263.03
Welfare Overflow Account: £ 4,350.02

A full statement is published on page 10.

The accounts were proposed by Glynn Winterbottom and seconded by Bob Perkins.

freezing cold at night. They were naive but learnt fast...

The Germans attacked so they retreated to Mersa-Matruh. Here Harry spent a week in the field hospital with dysentery. Harry said they could be in the middle of the desert and an Arab would appear out of nowhere offering to launder their clothes! They only had the shirt and shorts they were wearing- which they wore for months at a time- so were pretty 'ripe'. When they had rest leave they were issued clean clothes but they had to hand them back when they went back to their duties. They all had a change of clothes but these were in their

kitbags on a truck somewhere and they had not seen them for weeks on end. They had only a small cannister of water each which was their ration for the day for drinking and cooking. They had no water to spare to wash or shave. Toilet wise- a trench was dug and a board placed across with 3 holes cut in it. It was a sociable event! Usually they just had a wee in the sand. There was no hand washing- they rubbed them clean with sand.

General Auchinlech took command and they pushed back to Sollum airstrip, on to Dernia airstrip and then to Benghazi.

To be continued.

Spitfire Pilot

A World War 2 Spitfire pilot is speaking in a church and reminiscing about his wartime experiences.

"In 1942". he says, "the situation was really tough. The Germans had a very strong Air Force.

I remember", he continues, one day I was protecting the bombers when suddenly, out of the clouds, these fokkers appeared".

There are a few gasps from the parishioners and several of the children begin to giggle.

"I looked up and realised that two of the fokkers were directly above

me. I aimed at the first one and shot him down. By then, though, the other fokker was right on my tail."

At this point, several of the elderly ladies in the church were blushing with embarrassment, the girls were all giggling and the boys laughing loudly.

The pastor stands up and says, "I think I should point out that the Fokker was the name of a German-Dutch aircraft company, who made many of the planes used by the Germans during the war."

"Yes, that's true", says the old pilot, "but these fokkers were flying Messerschmitts."

posted to Great Yarmouth for square bashing and was billeted in the Flamborough Hotel on the sea front.

Posted to Portreath, Cornwall with Ernie and then on to Perranporth, Cornwall. Both of them wanted to be air-gunners, but they were told there were not enough planes and too many aircrew. They could re-muster when the situation changed. However while they were at Portreath, which was a bomber squadron they decided it was safer on the ground!

They were then posted on to Catterick, Yorks to 145 Squadron (Spitfires). At Catterick they were kitted out for battle dress (khaki) plus tropical kit (hot weather gear) and had to hand in their 'blues'.

Three days later they were sent to Clyde, Scotland where they boarded S.S. Ormond, a troop ship, and bedded down in the hold in hammocks. Sailed from the Clyde to join a convoy of ships. Sailed down the west side of Ireland and on down to the Bay of Biscay. Harry was sea sick for 2 weeks so slept on deck all that time. Two ships were sunk by German U-boats while going through the Bay. They went on down the West coast of Africa, calling in at Freetown and on to Cape Town where they were allowed off ship for a day. Then on to Durban where they disembarked and were sent to

a Transit camp at Clairwood Racecourse where they stayed for 2 months. Harry said the South Africans treated them royally.

They then boarded a troop ship the 'Nieuw Amsterdam', which was a converted luxury liner. Here they were 4 to a cabin. They were on the way from Durban to Singapore when news came that Singapore had fallen to the Japanese- so they were rerouted back to Egypt.

They travelled up the East Coast of Africa, through the Suez Canal to Port Tewfik where they disembarked and were sent to a Transit Camp at Heleopolis, near Cairo. They did not have any equipment so were kitted out with camping gear, tents, guns, lorries etc. ready for action. They only had 2 Spitfires as the others had been sunk in the Med- so had to wait for more to come from Freetown.

145 Squadron moved up to the desert to a landing strip at Sollum under General Wavell (8th Army, Desert Rats). Here 2 men were killed playing 'football' with an old tin that had been booby trapped. Harry caught some shrapnel in his knee which became infected and was in the field hospital. He acted as pall bearer at the funeral.

The Germans also left pens around that exploded when their tops were removed. The desert was boiling hot during the day and

ELECTION OF AUDITOR FOR 2015/2016: The accounts for this AGM were audited by Melissa Gilmour.

And it was proposed by Ken Clasper and seconded by Susan Stone to continue for the year 2016/2017.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT: All members present agreed that Bob Perkins should remain as President

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE: Bob Perkins announced that the Committee will remain, with minor changes.

Chairman – John Gilmour
Vice Chairman – Brian Rawlinson
Secretary – Susan Stone
Treasurer – Susan Stone
Membership – Marisa Gilmour
Publicity – Ernie Bounds
Social Secretary – Marisa Gilmour
Standard Bearer – Ernie Bounds

Committee Members: Ken Draper, Marie Scrivener, Joyce Smith and Graham Horton.

Proposed by Ken Clasper and seconded by Glynn Winterbottom that the Committee is elected 'en bloc'. The proposal was carried.

Wings Appeal Organiser and Welfare Officer are Committee appointments to be renewed at the next Committee meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: There were no items raised.

AREA COUNCIL: John Gilmour gave a short report on the working of Area Council.

There being no further business for the Annual General Meeting, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:27 hours..

Royal Air Force Association - Dunstable Branch General and Wings Appeal accounts for the year ended

31 December 2015

Income	Expenditure
Bank Balance b/fwd 01/01/2015 £5,808.40	Events 860.96
Events 372.00	Subscriptions 304.00
Subscriptions 797.50	Goods 25.75
Goods 50.00	Donations 205.00
Donations 87.48	Rent 600.00
Newsletter Contributions 98.00	Printing & Stationery 281.39
Raffles 1,020.10	Sundries 177.00
Sundries 30.00	Wings to HQ 10,523.45
Wings Appeal 6,835.71	Conference Expenses 845.39
Conference 208.70	
	Balance c/fwd 31/12/2015 11,484.95
Total 25,307.89	Total 25,307.89

Welfare account for the year ended 31 December 2015

Income	Expenditure
Lloyds Bank Balance b/fwd 4,263.03	Lloyds Bank Bal C/fwd 4,583.03
Santander Bank Balance b/fwd 4,350.02	Santander Bank Bsl C/fwd 4,369.72
Interest Received 19.70	
Grants Received 320.00	
Total 8,952.75	Total 8,952.75



Henry "Harry" Davis.

29th August 1922 - 4th May 2016

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

Henry David James Davis 'Harry' was born 29th August 1922 at 20, Meend Gardens Terrace, Cinderford, Glos. He started at St. Whites School, Cinderford aged 5. When he first started he played truant as he preferred to play over The Tump, a grassed hill. This came to an end when arrangements were made for the teacher to take him to school! Moved to The Furnaces, Cinderford aged 6. Moved back to 22, Meend Gardens Terrace aged 8. Harry's parents did not believe in smacking children.

Passed 11+ to East Dean Grammar School. Achieved 'Top Marks' (whole of Gloucestershire) and was offered a free place at Cirencester Grammar (boarding school). He was the third child of 4 (a 5th child Kenneth was born later) of a poorly paid miner, who could not afford the expense of uniforms, books, games kit etc. so they had to refuse.

Left school at 14 and started work down the Eastern United Pit. Spent 2 years driving pit ponies named Taffy, Tamer and Sankey. Taffy and Sankey were small ponies so work was in low ceilinged coal seams where it was not possible to walk upright. Tamer was a taller pony, so

work was in areas where it was possible to walk normally, which was much better. Harry's dad David Davis was killed in the same coal mine in 1949. He was working at the coalface and was killed when the roof of the mine fell.

Moved to London aged 16 and worked for 2 years at the Beaconsfield Hotel in Blythe Rd, West Kensington as a barman. His cousin Steven Baggs had already moved there and he got Harry the job. They lived at 74 Edith Rd West Kensington. Worked at J. Lyons + Co, Cadby Hall, West Kensington for a short while until volunteering for the RAF in April 1941. Previous to that he had wanted to sign on as a naval cadet, but his dad refused to sign the necessary papers.

Applied at Kensington Recruiting Centre and was ordered to muster at Kings Cross Station to travel to Cardington, Beds for attestation. This involved taking a written exam. First met Ernie Allen in a train compartment 24th May 1941. (Would spend the whole of the war with Ernie).

Reported back to Cardington 21st June 1941 and was kitted out and