

RAF ASSOCIATION

# ANNUAL REVIEW 2017

South East and Eastern Area



Delegates to the 2018 Area Conference should have a copy of this report with them during Conference business.



# South East and Eastern Area Council report to branches 2017

#### Area Council 2017

#### **Area President**

Air Marshal Sir R Austin KCB AFC FRAeS RAF

#### Life Vice Presidents

Air Commodore N T Carter OBE RAF (Spalding)
Air Commodore E Dawson CBE, RAF (Bedford)
Mr J W Lee MBE (St Neots)
Mr D Pugh MBE (St Neots)
Mr D Sprake BEM (St Albans)
Mr J R Stanton (Downham Market)

#### **Vice Presidents**

Air Vice Marshal P Liddell CB BSc CEng FIET FRAeS RAF (Huntingdon and District) Air Commodore A Vaughan OBE BA FIMgt RAF (South East and Eastern Area HQ) Wing Commander R W Shepherd RAF (Basingstoke)

#### Area Chairman

Mr J G T Gilmour (Dunstable)

#### Area teams

Area Director – A Gough Branch Support Officers/Station Officers –

G Burton

M Larkman

K O'Neill

A Pegler

S Webb

Area Administrators – C Narayan C Brooks-Price Volunteer Co-ordinator – S Squire

#### **Area Vice Chairman**

Mrs E Britton (Horsham and Storrington)

#### Members of Area Council from 18 March 2017

Mr S J Colbourne (Norwich) -Mr F C Barratt MBE (Lincoln) Mr R Broscomb (Dereham and Swaffham) Chf Tech D P Craven (Rutland) Mr B A Furness BEM (Fareham) Mr G Grice MILT (Aylesford and Malling) Mr C Hignett MBE (Addlestone/Chertsey) Mr J Hunter MBE BEM (Bognor Regis) Mr I L McEnnis (High Wycombe) Mr R Rudham (City of Leicester) Mr N C White (Aylesbury and Halton)

#### **Representative on Council**

Mr F C Barratt MBE Mr I L McEnnis

#### **Area RAF Association Liason Officers (RAFALOs)**

Flight Sergeant D Owen Squadron Leader A Morris MBE

#### Area welfare teams

Area Welfare Manager – S Smith (New Malden)
Deputy Area Welfare Manager – L O'Driscoll (New Malden)
Area Welfare Administrative Assistant – C Mills (New Malden)
Area Welfare Manager (interim) – D Jones (Leicester)
Deputy Area Welfare Manager – A Watts (Leicester)
Area Welfare Administrative Assistant – V Ford (Leicester)
Area Welfare Administrative Assistant – D Dowthwaite (Leicester)

Area HQ: Atlas House, 41 Wembley Road, Leicester LE3 1UT

# Words from the Area President

In the final year of the First World War, the British Army's Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) were brought together to form a new service and, on 1 April 1918, the Royal Air Force (RAF) was officially constituted.

There will be many events in 2018, some large and some smaller, which will mark the centenary of the service we love and I urge you all to join in whatever takes place in your locality. If nothing is planned, why not arrange a simple lunch or dinner on, or close to, 1 April at which you can raise a glass to the next 100 years.

**Air Marshal Sir Roger Austin KCB AFC FRAeS RAF**Area President



#### Words from the Area Chairman

The past year has seen a few changes within the area. Our chairman for many years, Barry Furness, decided to stand down but continue as an Area Council member. His leadership skills, diplomacy and dedication as chairman will be sorely missed. However, our hearty congratulations are extended to Barry on being awarded the British Empire Medal and a National Presidential Certificate for his services to the Association, which are both very well deserved.

At the same time, Ken Clarke retired as the area director. Ken has been a great help to the Area Council, giving guidance, advice and working with the Area Council members to the best advantage of the members of the South East and Eastern Area. We welcomed Ailsa Gough as the new area director.

Sadly we lost one of our area vice presidents, Grahame Jones, many may remember Grahame as a previous secretary general of the Association. He and his knowledge of the Association will be greatly missed.

The last year saw a review of area, branch and branch club rules and regulations, which have been simplified for most of us to understand and abide by. In modern times certain rules have to be adhered to for the Association to remain within legal boundaries set by government. A curse of the modern age.

Membership of the Association, as of December 2017, stood at 72,000 with our area accounting for 31,667. However 3,784 members have lapsed and more needs to be done to reduce this figure.

The Wings Appeal nationally stood at £1.27 million and the area's contribution to this total was £497,193. It is not easy to raise funds but the dedicated teams of collectors are there in all weathers and they deserve all the praise and thanks that we can offer for the tremendous efforts they all put in.

Our RAFALOs, along with the branch support officers and station officers, continue to be very supportive on our behalf at stations and branches throughout the area. We all benefit from their enthusiasm and working knowledge of the RAF of today. Special mention must be made to Squadron Leader Adrian Morris on being awarded an MBE in the Queen's birthday honours. Congratulations Adrian on an award well deserved.

The area welfare teams continue to work on our behalf with a workload that is steadily increasing. The honorary welfare officers (HWOs) are being well supported by the employees in giving support to all who are in need. There is a need for more HWOs, especially in areas where we are a bit thin on the ground. Training is always available if you believe you can help, just contact the area office.

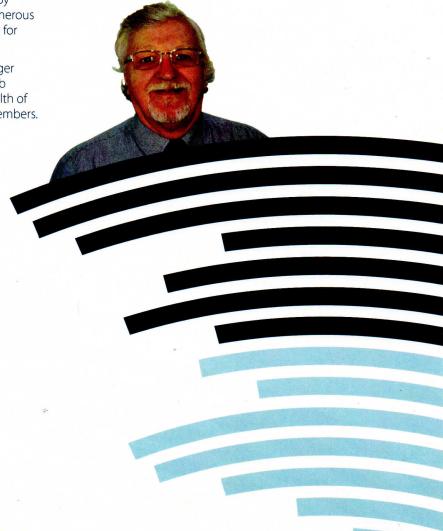
The support we get from the employees at area headquarters is of an excellent level, although it would be great to have our own separate headquarters. Our thanks to all the employees for their continued support.

It is not an easy task to manage a branch or area and we have some marvellous people who give their time and it is good to see a few being acknowledged for their contributions by the award of National and Area Presidential Certificates. There are many more that deserve the recognition but recommendations are not forthcoming from branches. If you have a member that has worked hard over the years for the branch, submit a report to show that we all appreciate the hard working unsung heroes.

My special thanks must go to my fellow Area Council members, who have been very supportive to me in my first year as Chairman. Area Council members are usually very active at branch level but also attend regional and branch meetings giving guidance and support, where needed. Our standard bearer, Roy Rudham, has been representing the area at numerous parades throughout the year. Our thanks to Roy for 'flying the flag' in his usual immaculate way.

Finally, a word of thanks to our President, Sir Roger Austin and the Vice Presidents (Peter Liddell, Bob Shepherd and Allan Vaughan) for their vast wealth of knowledge and support to the Area Council members. Above all, thanks to you the members for your continued support during the last year.

**John Gilmour** Area Chairman



#### Words from the **Secretary General**

Thank you for your ceaseless work through an exceptionally busy year. In 2017 we faced another increase in our welfare casework requests across the UK, more complex welfare requests, and also saw our membership grow from 65,500 to 72,000. Your membership, fundraising, and volunteering are the three strands that, together, help us respond when someone asks for our help or our companionship.

Employees at headquarters and in areas across the UK and the world have worked with Council, committees and members in a number of crucial areas. This year's new, streamlined governance handbook, advice on how to comply with new data protection laws (GDPR – General Data Protection Regulations), and branch and membership sustainability are just a few of the projects we have taken forward to help support branches and individual members.

The energy and dynamism of the Association means there is so much of which to be proud. I only have the space to highlight a few projects we have all worked on this year, so I will focus on three that are having a huge impact. I am extremely proud we have rolled out wi-fi to 16 RAF stations and scores of contact houses. This is making a real difference to the lives strength and has high level Air Force Board support

through Air Vice-Marshal Gary Waterfall. And finally, our newly opened Wings Centre in the centre of Preston is proving extremely popular. Its drop in and 'cuppa' approach gives easy access for members and supporters, and allows a novel delivery of camaraderie, information and welfare support. It's a model to consider.

2017 saw the presidency of the Association handed on from Air Marshal Sir Dusty Miller to Air Marshal Sir Baz North. I thank Sir Dusty for his ceaseless energy and contribution. We look forward to working with Sir Baz as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the RAF and take the Association onwards and upwards.

Our charity saw a 26 per cent increase in income in 2017. But continuous RAF operations and the changing nature of the RAF family are generating new and very different calls on our energy and resources. Irrespective of the size of the RAF family, and of when, where and how it operates, we are committed to supporting those who need us. Our unity and strength will be invaluable as we continue to bring comfort and succour to members of the RAF family who need us.



ANNUAL REVIEW 2017

#### Words from the Area Director

Since taking up my appointment as the area director for the South East and Eastern Area at the end of April 2017, I have been struck by the great commitment and enthusiasm of branch members and headquarters specialist staff to provide the best possible welfare support and advice to serving RAF personnel, veterans and their families. My main priority, during my first few months in post, was to get out and meet as many branch and club members and RAF station personnel as possible, listen to how we can work better together to raise the Association's profile in people's consciousness, improve support and encourage branches to engage more with their local community, RAF stations and air cadet squadrons. The success of the London collections on 7 September 2017 was a great team effort of serving RAF personnel and some branch members from the London area in dreadful weather and raised in excess of £17,000.

I had the privilege of being able to attend Flight Lieutenant Jack Lyon's (one of the last remaining survivors of Stalag Luft III) 100th birthday party in the Bexhill 1066 Branch Club on 2 September 2017 and on 20 October 2017 I met a number of RAF ex prisoners of war Association members at their annual dinner at RAF Henlow. The modesty and unassuming persona of these RAF heroes and commitment to the value added by the Association to so many people's lives is remarkable. I have also had the pleasure of meeting a number of air cadets in Hertfordshire and Nottinghamshire, in particular their enthusiasm and willingness to support the Wings Appeal collections is inspiring. The Windsock Club at the Harrow and District Branch has established a strong relationship with its local air cadet squadron, 1454 (Harrow) Squadron and more than 20 cadets supported the branch's summer garden party and Wings Appeal collection last year. This is a model I would like to see replicated by all of the branches in the South East and Eastern Area.

The branch support officers (BSO), station officers (SO) and I have worked hard since September 2017 to hasten and assist branches with their annual 1056 accounts and Charity Commission returns. While I appreciate that governance and compliance with the new governance handbook, Charity Commission

and Charity Law rules and procedures can seem daunting to a number of the branches in the South East and Eastern Area, I have been heartened by the willingness of many branch members to submit their annual returns in a timely and appropriate manner. Fortunately, almost 90 per cent of the branches have now submitted the annual returns for 2016, with the remainder working closely with their respective BSO or SO and Area Councillor to complete their returns. I am hoping that the annual return process will be easier for the 2017 returns and that they will be submitted by the deadline of the end of March 2018.

We will continue to face a number of challenges with Charity Commission registration and compliance going forward, however, rest assured, the team and I will be on hand to help you through the process.

RAF100 will provide us with many opportunities to raise the profile of the Association and publicise how we add value to the RAF family. We have much to look forward to by participating in national, regional and local events, fundraising opportunities and membership drives. The South East and Eastern Area team look forward to working with you all in 2018.



#### Words from the South East Station Officer

Describing a typical year of a BSO/SO can be a challenge because each branch has its own unique identity, character and aspirations for the future. However, 2017 started with the RAF station RAFALO teams reviewing their performance of 2016 and compiling a formal report for their respective station commanders and headquarters. It is genuinely inspiring to see the wide range of activities undertaken by often quite small teams of RAFALOs. They show innovation, commitment and drive and I am forever grateful for the support they give to the Association, to me, and particularly their neighbouring branches despite the obvious demands of their RAF duties. In some cases, they have been the vital spark that has kept an ailing branch from closure and they deserve our thanks for their magnificent commitment.

Branches reviewed their performance of the previous year as they set their annual general meeting (AGM) dates, compiled their reports to members and prepared their annual branch and welfare accounts for presentation and ratification by the members at those meetings. All branches are required to submit their ratified accounts to area headquarters together with the newly completed 1056/1056(a) immediately after that AGM, my colleagues and I spent many, many hours chasing down outstanding returns from branches.

However, as with most branch challenges, early intervention is the key here and my colleagues and I are available to support anyone that needs a helping hand. Although we cannot do your job for you, we can help you through the scary bit of not even knowing how to start and share best practice to make your job that little bit easier. In some cases, I have paired a new treasurer up with one with more experience from a nearby branch and they have been able to help each other through when issues arose. Headquarter employees are currently drawing up some helpful guides for treasurers and designing some short training modules and I advise everyone involved in the financial aspects of branch management or governance to take advantage of them when they become available.

An impending AGM date is often a prompt for branches to tell their BSO that they are struggling to find people to stand for their branch committee or in some cases that they plan to close their branch at that meeting which can sometimes be a real bolt from the blue. On several occasions, I was told categorically that 'no-one will stand for election' and yet when the wider branch membership was canvassed, willing candidates came forward. Similarly, the volunteering team at headquarters has found people to help fill branch committee vacancies; people who may or may

not have any previous connection with the RAF or the Association, but have useful skills and experience that they wish to use for the good of others. Volunteers were placed successfully to help manage a branch's finances, act as branch secretary or help with fundraising but the recruitment of suitable people can take a little time so leaving it to the very last minute is not ideal.

Once April arrived, we were well in to the planning of the summer events be that station families' days, village fetes and town shows or Armed Forces Days across our area. Unfortunately, I had to disappoint some branches last summer because they only gave two or three days' notice and I just was not able to accommodate them in the time available. We are always happy to support wherever we can, however, we get the best results when we work with branches as one team, particularly when we are looking to sign up new members.

Membership drives are conducted throughout the year in collaboration with the RAF station executives, the RAFALOs and branches. Planning ahead is very important here, to ensure that we maximize every event and opportunity to enhance the profile of and value added by the Association.

Looking back, 2017 was a year of significant change for us. We saw the arrival of our new Area Director and the recruitment of a new area BSO, Andy Pegler, who has taken over responsibility for the counties in the far south east. His arrival prompted a holistic review of how the branches are assigned to each BSO/SO given their geographical locations and, as a result, some branch allocations have changed. Where branches have been reassigned, we hope that the strong relationships formed with your previous team member will continue to grow with the new one.

In summary, if your branch needs help, please ask for it, that is why we are here. We, the SOs and BSOs may not have an instant cure for all ills at our fingertips, but by working together we have a much greater chance of success.

**Kevin O'Neill**Station Officer (South East)



#### Membership

The RAF Association started 2017 with a creditable membership of 65,500 and with a 10 per cent growth target for the year. Tremendously, this target to get to 72,000 by the end of 2017 was achieved and places the Association on track to grow our membership to 100,000 by 2020 – one of our strategic priorities. Membership of course is everybody's responsibility, and each of us whether members, volunteers or employees have a role to play. There can rarely have been a greater opportunity to highlight the benefit of membership to grow our Association than during our service's centenary year. We expect great interest in all that the Royal Air Force does during 2018 and, as part of that family, let's be really proud of who we are and what we do, and extol the benefit, value and comradery of being a member. Council's plan is to grow membership to 100,000 by 2020. But what an achievement it would be if we could be even closer to having 100,000 members as the RAF celebrates its 100th year!

#### New members in the South East and Eastern Area

2017 was another year of growth for the South East and Eastern Area, membership grew by 4,569 members across all membership categories.

#### **Overall numbers**

The table below highlights that ordinary membership increased significantly in 2017, underpinned by the increasing membership numbers from recruit training and initial officer training at RAF Halton and RAFC Cranwell respectively. The growth in membership can also be attributed to the membership drives delivered on RAF stations, defence units and some of the branches in the area. Associate members have again increased significantly this year with branch clubs converting members to associate members. This will continue to be a focus in 2018 and the BSOs/SOs stand ready to assist with implementing this requirement with branches during the year. As the director of membership and the Area Council have stated, membership is everybody's responsibility, so let us strive together to increase our numbers during 2018.

The membership target for the South East and Eastern Area in 2018 has been set at 5,000 as we aim for an Association membership of 100,000 by the end of 2020. When you are planning your membership drives and recruitment events, please contact one of the South East and Eastern Area BSOs/SOs who will gladly assist with the event. There can be no better time to champion the benefits of being a member of the Association than during the plethora of RAF100 events, shows and families days across the South East and Eastern Area.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Ordinary	12,797	12,930	11,845	11,690	12,543	15,062	16,819
Life	10,395	9,984	9,567	8,713	8,259	8,062	9,983
Sub total	23,225	22,402	21,439	20,429	20,824	23,347	26,802
Associates	2,029	1,999	2,018	2,188	2,667	3,761	4,875
Per cent increase/decrease	-4.8%	-3.4%	-3.9%	-3.6%	+3.9%	+15.4%	+16.9%
Total	25,254	24,401	23,457	22,617	23,491	27,108	31,677

Ian Hunter – Area Council member

#### Welfare report

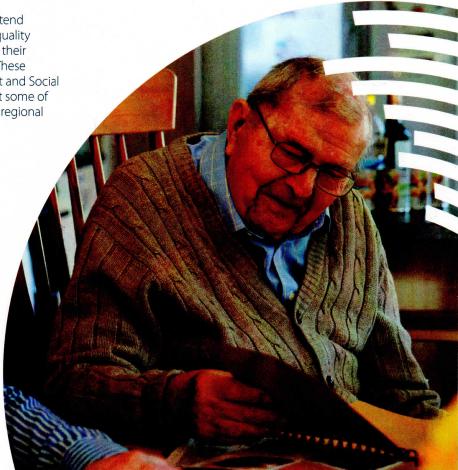
We do not know where 2017 has gone, but it has just flown by. However, we would like to start the welfare review with a big thank you to the area's devoted and dedicated welfare volunteers for their hard work and professionalism in support of the RAF family.

The year has been very busy and challenging one for the area, the vast majority of cases continue to be complex and in some instances have involved multiagency input. It is anticipated that with the decrease in support available from local authority funding, and Her Majesty's government encouraging people not to be too reliant on state benefits, the demand for support from the third sector will continue to increase. In order to be ready for this challenge, the welfare teams have been developing a new welfare support model to ensure that the quality of service, for which we are renowned, is ready to respond positively and proactively to demand. We will be taking a holistic approach to achieve our aims and, for the first time, we will be able to capture how our intervention has helped the RAF family. This will mean some changes in our delivery and welfare practices but more information will be available as the system progresses. Overall the national case referrals have increased by 46 per cent in the year.

The welfare volunteers are encouraged to attend a number of either nationally accredited or quality marked training courses in order to advance their knowledge and professional development. These include Mental Health First Aid, Bereavement and Social Care and Benefits Awareness, it is hoped that some of these training courses will be cascaded on a regional basis.

Over the year we have had to say goodbye to a number of welfare volunteers and our thanks goes to them and their families for their time and commitment to the RAF family. The area has been working with the headquarters volunteer team to find suitable replacements by running a number of targeted recruitment campaigns and, as a result, a number of new caseworkers and befrienders will be soon be joining the area.

The befriending scheme has continued to grow in the area with an increasing number of befriendees requiring the service and again the volunteering team is working with the welfare team to recruit more befrienders. In addition, the marketing and PR team are looking at a special campaign to attract those who are feeling isolated from their communities, who may welcome contact from a RAF Association befriender. The fact that the Association can arrange for someone to visit on a regular basis for a chat and a coffee is having a tremendous effect on our RAF family and judging by the feedback received, to date, families believe that service is excellent and a very valuable support to their loved ones.



Our war pensions and armed forces compensation scheme (AFCS) service continues to receive highly acclaimed praise, not only from the tribunal board but also within the RAF. In 2017 our War Pensions and AFCS manager has reported that he has attended 42 tribunals with a 68 per cent success rate, which is up seven per cent on the previous year. 180 cases were referred for consideration of which 80 have been resolved. The Association has managed to secure a total of £557,000 in grants which is the highest amount to date. The success and professionalism of the War Pensions and AFCS manager has increased the visibility and awareness of the AFCS among RAF personnel and he has been dealing with more serving and younger personnel cases. Many of these cases are also shared with our welfare teams for additional welfare support.

The area held two welfare seminars this year one in Peterborough and the other in Wokingham, the seminars were well attended and covered topics such as supported housing, Project Nova, the RAF Benevolent Fund and a continued professional development exercise.

As stated previously, the area has had a very busy year and to give you an idea of how much we have helped, there are some figures detailed below to give you a snapshot of our provision.

Cases referred to area - 753

Grants and loans from the RAF Benevolent Fund - £536,793.48

Grants and other charities - £21,970 604

Total number of other contacts - 47,334

The Hemsby chalets have had another very good season, out of 144 weeks available for occupancy, 125 bookings were received, which equates to an 87 per cent occupancy rate. Efforts are being made to encourage greater use of the chalets by serving personnel, at the end of the season. In addition, a maintenance programme will also be completed during 2018 to keep the chalets in good order.

The holiday home at Selsey continues to prove popular and had an occupancy rate of 71 per cent.

In summary, the increasing willingness to help others and the sense of comradeship has ensured that we have, as an area, provided the highest level of welfare provision possible. Without the dedication and commitment of our welfare volunteers, we would not be able to reach out to as many members of the RAF family as we have done. Therefore, our thanks go to you our welfare volunteers, wishing you every success for 2018.



#### Clubs report

South East and Eastern Area clubs provide a useful connection point and community hub across our area. However many are poorly supported and suffer from a lack of governance and management. Unfortunately, club committees are often the same individuals that form the branch committee so they are faced with self-regulation. Council and Area Council are concerned that the adherence to landlord responsibility and compliance with legislation is sadly lacking in many cases. I have in the past stressed the importance of branch committees taking control of their clubs and ensuring the rules are adhered to and financial control is exercised. For instance of the 30 clubs in the South East and Eastern Area, 33 per cent of our clubs have failed to submit accounts to their branch or to area headquarters in accordance with the governance handbook.

The Association has set aside time and resource to

assess where the challenges and issues are in our

I am aware that some have suffered flooding and other challenges, but, have through their own efforts recovered. The trend in some of our clubs, towards encouraging all their friends to become members of the Association, can only encourage those people to take a greater interest in their club, and strengthen the Association.

Those of you with clubs should look closely at how you are performing and, if in doubt, connect with the area officers and councillors before drastic action is taken. We are here to help wherever possible.

All is not doom and gloom, however, for clubs and

Let me close with the thanks to the Area Council and to all those who volunteer their time in managing this most important aspect of our Association's activities.

Clive (Chalky) White – Area Council Member



# Fundraising report

In 2017, the South East and Eastern Area raised £497,193 as part of the Wings Appeal fundraising effort, which is an increase of £28,457 and an outstanding effort from all the branches and registered member groups (RMGs) who took part. The breakdown by branch can be viewed below.

Name	Branch	Ordinary	Life	Assoc	Total	Wings mem	Gross Income excl G Draw and Events	Gross per cap	Grand Draw Income	Event Income	Total Income inc G Draw and Events
1066	0500	244	175	112	531	344	£4,569.17	£13.28	£0.00	£0.00	£4,569.17
Abbots/Kings Lang	1159	97	52	45	194	140	£6,732.94	£48.09	£0.00	£0.00	£6,732.94
Addlestone/Chertsey	1043	29	22	10	61	27	£5,212.64	£193.06	£0.00	£0.00	£5,212.64
Aldeburgh and District	1176	18	16	10	44	44	£1,468.89	£33.38	£0.00	£0.00	£1,468.89
Alresford and District	0847	51	18	13	82	62	£5,437.68	£87.70	£0.00	£0.00	£5,437.68
Alton	0612	70	48	6	124	101	£4,512.98	£44.68	£0.00	£0.00	£4,512.98
Andover	0305	52	25	1	78	63	£759.31	£12.05	£0.00	£0.00	£759.31
Armourers	1366	391	34	17	442	363	£530.00	£9.75	£0.00	£3,010.51	£3,540.51
Aylesbury and Halton	0239	886	136	61	1083	781	£8,336.15	£10.79	£0.00	£88.01	£8,424.16
Aylesford/Malling	1338	49	7	17	73	71	£3,300.00	£46.48	£0.00	£0.00	£3,300.00
Balderton	1361	28	1	6	35	32	£3,500.00	£109.38	£0.00	£0.00	£3,500.00
Banbury	0474	74	58	68	200	138	£3,459.75	£28.78	£0.00	£512.11	£3,971.86
Basildon	1107	131	55	17	203	128	£208.63	£1.63	£0.00	£0.00	£208.63
Basingstoke	0406	176	58	22	256	205	£6,857.59	£33.45	£0.00	£0.00	£6,857.59
Beccles and Southwold Area	1214	43	11	21	75	61	£2,855.22	£46.81	£0.00	£0.00	£2,855.22
Bedale and RAF Leeming	1381	81	5	4	90	0	£6,531.49	£0.00	£0.00	£1,118.23	£7,649.72
Bedford	0204	200	126	21	347	299	£1,470.91	£4.92	£0.00	£0.00	£1,470.91
Bexleyheath and District	0271	33	29	7	69	65	£1,701.08	£26.17	£0.00	£0.00	£1,701.08
Biggin Hill	1246	42	48	16	106	86	£2,634.55	£38.26	£0.00	£656.15	£3,290.70
Birstall (Leics)	1277	59	23	22	104	83	£3,927.94	£49.37	£0.00	£169.78	£4,097.72
Blackheath/Charlton RMG	RMG0236	4	1	0	5	4	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Bletchley (M K)	0551	78	85	81	244	193	£1,000.00	£5.18	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00
Bognor Regis	0381	175	121	579	875	489	£15,790.57	£34.01	£0.00	£840.10	£16,630.67
Boston	0287	95	73	10	178	161	£2,194.37	£13.63	£0.00	£0.00	£2,194.37
Bracknell	0864	27	30	6	63	55	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Braunstone	1350	38	6	12	56	51	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Brighton and Hove	0366	81	110	36	227	186	£2,600.00	£13.98	£0.00	£0.00	£2,600.00
Burnham (Bucks) RMG	RMG1158	12	6	4	22	25	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Bury St Edmunds	0276	173	86	10	269	196	£9,265.91	£47.28	£0.00	£0.00	£9,265.91
Caduceus	1373	112	11	3	126	73	£61.34	£0.84	£0.00	£0.00	£61.34
Camberley/District	0924	76	35	20	131	110	£865.50	£7.87	£0.00	£0.00	£865.50
Cambridge	0263	97	93	12	202	190	£2,871.92	£26.77	£0.00	£2,214.02	£5,085.94
Carterton and Brize	1220	437	84	3		376	£7,706.06	£20.56	£0.00	£24.99	£7,731.05
Chelmsford	0368	122	65	18	205	199	£4,428.70	£22.25	£0.00	£0.00	£4,428.70
Chesham and Amersham	0642	67	29	14	110	93	£3,477.42	£38.34	£0.00	£88.01	£3,565.43
Chingford	0762	24	19	20	63	56	£3,000.00	£54.02	£25.00	£0.00	£3,025.00
Chislehurst/Sidcup	0564	31	36	2	69	53	£801.69	£15.13	£0.00	£0.00	£801.69
City/Central London	0234	109	114	19	242	158	£2,664.15	£16.86	£0.00	£0.00	£2,664.15
Clacton-On-Sea	0330	40	54	11	105	97	£4,351.62	£44.86	£0.00	£0.00	£4,351.62
Colchester	0339	83	34	7	124	106	£2,454.72	£23.16	£0.00	£0.00	£2,454.72
Coningsby and District	1343	272	45	48	365	306	£2,673.48	£8.74	£0.00	£0.00	£2,673.48
Corby and District	1115	36	24	5	65	61	£4,434.93	£73.03	£19.62	£0.00	£4,454.55
Cranbrook and Hawk	0609	22	16	6	44	31	£685.12	£22.10	£0.00	£0.00	£685.12
Cranwell	1349	395	95	42	532	437	£8,063.04	£18.45	£0.00	£0.00	£8,063.04

Name	Branch	Ordinary	Life	Assoc	Total	Wings mem	Gross Income excl G Draw and Events	Gross per cap	Grand Draw Income	Event Income	Total Income inc G Draw and Events
Crawley RMG	RMG1012	36	22	1	59	60	£290.57	£4.84	£0.00	£0.00	£290.57
Dartford	0369	31	38	8	77	66	£500.00	£7.58	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00
Dereham and Swaffham	1132	75	65	10	150	134	£2,171.87	£16.21	£0.00	£0.00	£2,171.87
Diss	0999	62	28	5	95	91	£4,144.77	£45.55	£0.00	£0.00	£4,144.77
Dover and District	0523	38	25	5	68	62	£3,953.90	£63.77	£0.00	£0.00	£3,953.90
Downham Market	0620	86	37	16	139	140	£2,372.46	£16.95	£0.00	£0.00	£2,372.46
Dunstable	0747	87	45	31	163	146	£8,522.61	£58.98	£0.00	£88.01	£8,610.62
East Grinstead	0894	18	18	5	41	36	£1,340.51	£37.24	£0.00	£0.00	£1,340.51
Eastbourne	0285	117	176	42	335	347	£1,884.22	£10.31	£0.00	£1,694.83	£3,579.05
Ely	0264	61	26	13	100	89	£1,371.84	£15.41	£0.00	£0.00	£1,371.84
Enfield	0582	22	14	1	37	30	£1,860.00	£62.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,860.00
Fakenham	1120	23	12	1	36	33	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Fareham	1090	152	51	9	212	166	£2,265.56	£13.65	£0.00	£0.00	£2,265.56
Farnborough and Aldershot RMG	RMG0320	9	0	0	9	7	£1,731.46	£247.35	£0.00	£0.00	£1,731.46
Faversham	0542	36	20	6	62	51	£2,018.50	£39.58	£0.00	£0.00	£2,018.50
Fleet	0786	156	49	3	208	150	£2,575.18	£17.17	£0.00	£0.00	£2,575.18
Frinton and Walton	0318	10	28	1	39	36	£390.00	£10.83	£0.00	£0.00	£390.00
Global	1370	175	46	33	254	219	£5,000.00	£23.10	£0.00	£58.00	£5,058.00
Gosport	0221	129	29	223	381	256	£1,821.00	£7.11	£0.00	£0.00	£1,821.00
Grantham	0220	119	79	11	209	196	£867.67	£4.43	£0.00	£0.00	£867.67
Great Glen	1295	13	7	4	24	25	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Grimsby/Cleethorpes and District	0552	299	146	483	928	864	£5,483.33	£6.41	£0.00	£53.10	£5,536.43
Gt Yarmouth and District	0448	47	34	7	88	70	£103.51	£1.48	£0.00	£0.00	£103.51
Guildford	0222	58	55	3	116	115	£290.56	£2.53	£0.00	£0.00	£290.56
Hailsham	1082	44	12	4	60	53	£2,836.02	£53.51	£0.00	£0.00	£2,836.02
Harlow RMG	RMG1071	5	0	0	5	3	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Harrow District	0288	122	120	25	267	167	£6,118.66	£36.64	£0.00	£0.00	£6,118.66
Harwich/Dovercourt	0664	26	7	5	38	34	£1,800.00	£52.94	£0.00	£0.00	£1,800.00
Hayling Island	1037	46	27	9	82	71	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Haywards Heath	0524	64	29	47	140	135	£4,379.91	£32.44	£0.00	£0.00	£4,379.91
Headcorn	1259	16	9	15	40	38	£1,463.32	£38.51	£0.00	£0.00	£1,463.32
Hendon and District	0249	24	41	10	75	43	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Herne Bay	1006	27	11	0	38	36	£2,120.01	£58.89	£0.00	£0.00	£2,120.01
Hertford and District	0410	41	15	11	67	50	£4,216.66	£84.33	£0.00	£0.00	£4,216.66
High Wycombe	0299	201	141	82	424	327	£8,589.02	£26.27	£0.00	£0.00	£8,589.02
Hinckley and District	0685	66	44	11	121	113	£394.00	£3.49	£0.00	£0.00	£394.00
Horley	0483	23	8	3	34	25	£144.50	£5.78	£0.00	£0.00	£144.50
Horsham and Storrington	0665	124	97	14	235	215	£2,610.39	£12.14	£0.00	£0.00	£2,610.39
Huntingdon and District	0694	280	191	29	500	459	£3,362.78	£7.33	£0.00	£0.00	£3,362.78
Hythe/Romney Marsh	0425	61	36	30	127	104	£10,000.00	£96.15	£0.00	£0.00	£10,000.00
Ilford and Woodford	0340	30	88	16	134	98	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Irchester and District	1337	25	4	0	29	24	£529.53	£22.06	£0.00	£0.00	£529.53
Isle Of Wight	0417	71	59	8	138	119	£850.00	£7.14	£0.00	£0.00	£850.00
Itchen and Hamble	1091	42	19	34	95	89	£323.59	£3.64	£0.00	£0.00	£323.59
Kenley and Caterham	0661	106	51	221	378	324	£3,430.95	£10.59	£0.00	£0.00	£3,430.95
Kensington	0771	29	33	8	70	57	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Kettering	0508	74	18	10	102	91	£5,444.46	£60.04	£19.62	£0.00	£5,464.08
Keyworth	1325	83	25	17	125	80	£1,590.40	£19.88	£0.00	£0.00	£1,590.40
Kings Lynn and District	0411	103	77	11	191	165	£3,779.96	£23.00	£15.00	£0.00	£3,794.96
Leicester	0231	149	65	41	255	207	£4,106.03	£19.93	£19.63	£0.00	£4,125.66
Leighton Buzzard	0555	26	33	6	65	61	£336.15	£6.95	£0.00	£88.01	£424.16
Letchworth/Hitchin	0623	106	41	12	159	133	£3,202.69	£24.08	£0.00	£0.00	£3,202.69
Lewes	0509	40	24	7	71	72	£765.44	£10.63	£0.00	£0.00	£765.44
Lincoln	0272	627	228	23	878	679	£3,578.54	£5.73	£62.00	£246.75	£3,887.29

Name	Branch	Ordinary	/ Life	Assoc	Total	Wings mem	Gross Income excl G Draw and Events	Gross	Grand Draw Income	Event Income	Total Income inc G Draw and Events
Littlehampton	0624	36	33	2	71	63	£962.04	£15.27	£0.00	£0.00	£962.04
Lowestoft	0517	41	41	1	83	82	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
Mablethorpe/Sutton	0758	72	15	45	132	128	£7,066.61	£55.21	£0.00		£0.00
Maidstone	0468	47	26	6	79	68	£150.00	£2.21		£0.00	£7,066.61
Mansfield and District	0332	175	38	11	224				£0.00	£0.00	£150.00
Marham	1367	577	15	58	650	182	£4,577.06	£25.76	£62.00	£49.97	£4,689.03
Market Harborough	0372	36	17	8		537	£3,027.90	£5.64	£0.00	£0.00	£3,027.90
Medway Towns	0372				61	54	£1,637.48	£30.32	£0.00	£0.00	£1,637.48
Melton Mowbray		71	53	2	126	117	£860.23	£7.35	£0.00	£0.00	£860.23
Motorcycle	0774	125	66	109	300	273	£4,860.23	£17.80	£0.00	£0.00	£4,860.23
	1358	95	17	6	118	88	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Nazeing	0978	21	9	6	36	31	£1,739.60	£56.12	£0.00	£0.00	£1,739.60
New Milton and District Branch	0589	56	16	6	78	74	£290.90	£3.93	£0.00	£0.00	£290.90
Newark	0429	143	78	70	291	309	£3,584.61	£11.97	£115.00	£0.00	£3,699.61
Newbury and District RMG	RMG0421	32	23	1	56	59	£6,900.96	£116.97	£0.00	£0.00	£6,900.96
Newmarket RMG	RMG0241	23	18	10	51	54	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
North Walsham	0666	53	32	13	98	88	£2,668.55	£30.32	£0.00	£0.00	£2,668.55
North Weald/Ongar	1201	30	26	39	95	64	£9,501.24	£148.46	£0.00	£0.00	£9,501.24
Northampton and District	0242	144	163	14	321	299	£4,400.68	£14.72	£0.00	£0.00	£4,400.68
Norwich	0244	255	156	18	429	388	£10,000.00	£25.77	£0.00	£0.00	£10,000.00
Nottingham	0243	184	48	10	242	199	£1,091.46	£5.48	£0.00	£0.00	£1,091.46
Orpington	0546	52	30	10	92	84	£2,426.50	£28.89	£0.00	£0.00	£2,426.50
Oxford and District	0375	238	87	12	337	268	£5,049.29	£20.52	£0.00	£449.09	£5,498.38
Oxted and Limpsfield	0844	32	9	4	45	37	£5,456.00	£147.46	£0.00	£0.00	£5,456.00
Peterborough	0245	207	156	12	375	328	£8,252.97	£25.22	£19.63	£0.00	£8,272.60
Potter Heigham	1328	21	13	2	36	36	£2,051.00	£56.97	£0.00	£0.00	£2,051.00
RAF Education & Training Officers Branch	1378	15	1	0	16	0	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
RAF Personnel Officers Alumni	1369	74	10	2	86	85	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Ramsgate/Broadstairs	0840	55	67	45	167	118	£6,105.99	£51.75	£0.00	£0.00	£6,105.99
Reading	0308	107	93	5	205	158	£218.48	£1.38	£0.00	£0.00	£218.48
Reigate and District RMG	RMG0424	2	0	1	3	1	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Retford	0451	105	24	17	146	124	£6,967.76	£58.06	£0.00	£231.14	£7,198.90
Romford	0397	93	156	88	337	228	£100.00	£0.79	£0.00	£80.01	£180.01
Romsey	0252	34	7	9	50	46	£1,183.20	£25.72	£0.00	£0.00	£1,183.20
Royston	0301	23	11	4	38	34	£200.00	£5.88	£0.00	£0.00	£200.00
Rushden	0519	58	32	19	109	100	£3,721.09	£37.21	£0.00	£0.00	£3,721.09
Rutland	0923	126	56	23	205	187	£4,108.53	£22.08	£19.63	£0.00	£4,128.16
Sandwich and Deal	0798	34	28	3	65	57	£160.00	£2.81	£0.00	£0.00	£160.00
Scunthorpe	0618	137	25	8	170	163	£2,611.34	£16.35	£0.00	£53.10	£2,664.44
Seahaven	0876	17	10	6	33	39	£500.00	£12.82	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00
Sevenoaks RMG	RMG0328	1	0	0	1	0	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Sheringham and District	0968	55	30	32	117	109	£5,034.27	£46.19	£0.00	£0.00	£5,034.27
Shoreham-By-Sea	0761	91	39	22	152	152	£450.00	£2.96	£0.00	£0.00	£450.00
South East and Eastern Area HQ	0953	258	1833	16	2107	2567	£2,086.32	£0.81	£0.00	£0.00	£2,086.32
Southampton/East	0337	110	85	11	206	161	£3,305.34	£20.53	£0.00	£0.00	£3,305.34
Southgate/Wd Green	0398	18	40	2	60	49	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Spalding	0562	107	71	12	190	111	£479.50	£4.32	£0.00	£0.00	£479.50
St Albans	0402	48	39	4	91	81	£2,647.20	£32.68	£0.00	£0.00	
St Neots	0783	97	104	220	421	437	£1,973.21	£4.52	£0.00	£0.00	£2,647.20
Stamford RMG	RMG0309	92	66	2	160	176	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,973.21
Stevenage	1054	49	19	14	82	74	£2,089.65	£28.24	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Stowmarket	0601	67	37	8	112	97	£3,714.33	£38.50	£20.00	£0.00	£2,089.65
Sudbury	0764	40	16	7	63	51	£6,434.55		£0.00	£0.00	£3,734.33
TCW and 90SU	1362	246	24	2	272	251	£511.07	£2.04	£0.00	£0.00	£6,434.55 £511.07

Name	Branch	Ordinary	Life	Assoc	Total	Wings mem	Gross Income excl G Draw and Events	Gross per cap	Grand Draw Income	Event Income	Total Income inc G Draw and Events
Thetford	0996	306	46	25	377	286	£5,660.86	£19.79	£0.00	£0.00	£5,660.86
Thurrock	0558	55	40	67	162	144	£6,644.97	£46.15	£0.00	£0.00	£6,644.97
Tunbridge Wells	0548	52	48	14	114	91	£1,164.00	£12.79	£0.00	£0.00	£1,164.00
Uckfield and District RMG	RMG0559	2	0	1	3	3	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Uxbridge	0384	165	264	106	535	411	£278.15	£0.68	£0.00	£0.00	£278.15
Waddington	1351	299	43	24	366	306	£1,971.06	£7.40	£62.00	£232.69	£2,265.75
Walton/Weyb and District	0641	48	46	9	103	54	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Wantage and District	1185	73	34	15	122	108	£5,585.52	£74.43	£10.00	£2,442.73	£8,038.25
Watton RMG	RMG1218	28	14	2	44	46	£570.23	£12.40	£0.00	£0.00	£570.23
Whitehall	1368	16	1	2	19	17	£918.75	£54.04	£0.00	£0.00	£918.75
Whitstable/Tanker	0462	19	16	12	47	52	£1,895.66	£36.46	£0.00	£0.00	£1,895.66
Windsor and Eton	0447	49	67	8	124	107	£1,468.33	£13.72	£0.00	£0.00	£1,468.33
Wisbech	0378	93	51	73	217	201	£2,755.26	£13.71	£0.00	£0.00	£2,755.26
Witham and Rivenhall	0327	87	57	23	167	158	£8,150.00	£51.58	£0.00	£0.00	£8,150.00
Witney RMG	RMG0506	34	24	1	59	56	£50.00	£0.89	£0.00	£0.00	£50.00
Wittering and District	1376	257	22	33	312	166	£6,105.62	£37.02	£39.25	£0.00	£6,144.87
Woking	0454	29	39	14	82	67	£1,097.86	£16.39	£0.00	£0.00	£1,097.86
Wokingham/Woodley	0479	24	20	3	47	43	£801.75	£18.65	£0.00	£0.00	£801.75
Woodbridge	1322	105	70	9	184	131	£6,725.51	£51.34	£0.00	£0.00	£6,725.51
Worthing	0435	104	105	202	411	391	£3,500.00	£8.95	£0.00	£0.00	£3,500.00
Wye	1316	32	2	4	38	33	£2,087.49	£63.26	£0.00	£0.00	£2,087.49
Wymondham	1305	48	10	3	61	52	£1,012.39	£19.47	£0.00	£0.00	£1,012.39
Yaxley and District	1231	69	34	74	177	158	£2,264.27	£14.33	£0.00	£0.00	£2,264.27
Total		16819	9983	4875	31677	26907	£482,194.81	£18.48	£508.38	£14,489.34	£497,192.53

For the first time, we have also included the total raised by the air cadet squadrons in 2017, which amounts £22,609.76. Another great effort from the air cadets, many of whom work closely with a number of branches in our area. It is also worth noting that many air cadet squadrons are very keen to be adopted by their local branches, therefore, please maximise the opportunities of collaborating with these inspirational, young people.

ATC	Total income 2017	ATC	Total income 2017	ATC	Total income 2017
229 (Farnham) Sqn ATC	£1,050.51	2476 (Hutton) Sqn ATC	£446.40	1279 (Melton Mowbray) Sgn ATC	£202.40
308 (Colchester) Sqn ATC	£1,035.22	1188 (Coalville) Sqn ATC	£443.18	2412 (Alton) DF ATC	£195.85
795 (Harpenden) Sqn ATC	£894.59	1895 (Cromer) Sqn ATC	£442.38	606 (Beaconfeild) Sqn	£193.50
301 (Bury St Edmunds) Sqn ATC	£804.85	1163 (Colne Valley) Sqn ATC	£431.34	2428 (Hedge End) San ATC	£185.73
422 (Corby) Sqn ATC	£786.45	141 (Boston) Sqn ATC	£427.99	2495 (Hythe) San ATC	£183.55
1349 (Woking) Sqn ATC	£758.81	1109 (Thetford) Sqn ATC	£419.23	1039 (Gillingham) Sqn ATC	£180.16
2229 (Loughborough) Sqn ATC	£693.18	613 (Alton) Sqn ATC	£376.75	272 (Wisbech) Sqn ATC	£180.10
2470 (Sudbury) Sqn ATC	£656.56	2160 (Sleaford) Sqn ATC	£368.91	2430 (Holbeach) Sqn ATC	£179.50
155 (Maidenhead) Sqn ATC	£617.06	1403 (Retford) Sqn ATC	£359.87	303 (Worksop) Sqn ATC	£171.16
414 (Epping & North Weald) Sqn	£614.13	384 (Mansfield) Sqn ATC	£353.64	2317 (Harlow) Sqn ATC	£164.21
2500 (St Neots) Sqn ATC	£586.19	1927 (Petersfield) DF ATC	£340.81	45F (Worthing) Sqn ATC	£138.20
1254 (Godalming) Sqn ATC	£586.01	99 (Folkestone) Sqn ATC	£331.71	1018 (Downham Market) Sqn ATC	£134.94
1239 (Hoddesdon & Broxbourne)	£554.95	2464 (Storrington) Sqn ATC	£324.09	1063 (Herne Bay) Sqn ATC	£131.66
2407 (Fleet) Sqn ATC	£503.18	1300 (Sutton-in-Ashfield) Sqn	£282.90	1391 (Romsey) Sqn ATC	£126.54
1343 (East Grinstead) Sqn ATC	£501.34	2461 (Sawston) Sqn ATC	£264.00	1159 (Edmonton) Sqn ATC	£123.52
1015 (Horsham) Sqn ATC	£499.70	17 (Coningsby) ATC	£247.08	2267 (Brize Norton) Sqn ATC	£89.75
459 (Windsor) Sqn ATC	£491.07	1101 (Kettering) Sqn ATC	£237.82	309 (Sawbridgeworth) Sqn ATC	£88.90
2425 (Notts Airport) Sqn ATC	£485.82	1207 (Maldon) Sqn ATC	£222.36	1105 (Winchester) Sqn ATC	£84.29
1827 (Odiham) ATC	£462.18	158 (Braintree) Sqn ATC	£218.44	2292 (Market Rasen) Sqn ATC	£50.40
54 (Eastbourne) Sqn ATC	£447.30	1265 (Horncastle) Sqn ATC	£206.17	2235 (Deal) ATC Squadron	£17.00
				1260 (Newark & District) Sqn	£14.23
				Total	£22,609.76

#### Statement of financial activities (SOFA)

#### For the year ended 31 December 2017

The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA), provides a summary of income and expenditure, which focuses primarily on employee and operational costs. The table shows that employee and operational costs were reduced in 2017 due to the South East and Eastern Area welfare employees transferring under the line management of the head of welfare. In addition, improved and more efficient ways of working have also begun to have an impact.

The funding available for short breaks in the Association's hotels and at the Hemsby chalet remains buoyant and the welfare plan to make greater use of this restricted funding going forward.



#### **SOFA**

#### For the year ended 31 December 2017

			Actual	
		2017	2016	Variance
Description		£	£	£
INCOME				
Fundraising		68	15,416	(15,348)
TOTAL INCOME		68	15,416	(15,348)
EXPENDITURE				
Staffing Salaries		255.000		
Training		255,083	335,469	80,386
Total Staffing	-	255,083	15 <b>335,484</b>	80,401
		255,005	333,404	80,401
Building Rent		20.601	10.602	(1.010)
Maintenance		20,601 1,295	18,682 3,890	(1,919)
Cleaning		702	423	2,595 (94)
Utilities		1,796	1,702	(40)
Waste Disposal		572	153	(418)
Total Building		24,965	24,849	(116)
Operational				
Meetings		18,473	25,336	6,863
Welfare		3,399	1,150	(2,249)
Fundraising		757	9,970	9,213
Area AGM		6,955	12,425	5,470
Communications		256	2,147	1,891
Area Council		3,792	3,837	45
Printing & Stationery		1,462	4,019	2,558
Vehicles Miscellaneous		10,550	5,712	(4,838)
Total Operational		669	3,611	2,942
Financial		46,313	68,208	21,896
Legal & Professional		0	100	400
Total Financial	,	0	480 <b>480</b>	480
TOTAL EXPENDITURE				480
		326,361	429,021	102,660
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		(326,293)	(413,606)	87,313
South East Respite Care Fund				
Opening Balance		99,988	74,162	_
	Income	1,667	29,484	_
	Expenditure	1,418	3,659	_
Closing Balance	*	100,237	99,988	_
Eastern Respite Care Fund				
Opening Balance		EQ 371	62.002	
Opening balance	Income	58,371	. 63,893	-
	Expenditure	7,258 5,322	9,381 14,903	-
Closing Balance	Experiareare	60,307	<b>58,371</b>	
Chalet Fund			55,57	
Opening Balance		60.005		
Opening balance	Income	68,005	61,441	-
	Expenditure	16,176 1,563	6,564	-
Closing Balance	Experiulture	82,618	68,005	
		02,010	00,003	-

### Update from the RAFALOs

The area continues to be supported by two area RAFALOs, Squadron Leader Ady Morris, who works within Manning at HQ Air Command, and Flight Sergeant Dom Owen, based at RAF Wittering. We are blessed with some outstanding RAFALOs in the area and this was formally recognised when Sergeant Paula Murphy of RAF Scampton received the RAFALO of the Year Award at the 2017 Annual Conference, along with the announcement of Area Presidential Certificates for Sergeant Roy Jameson, RAF High Wycombe, and Corporall Vicky Smith, formerly of RAF Northolt. It is fair to say that we have seen quite a few RAFALOs move around, and outside of our area, however each has transferred their RAFALO role to their new establishments or have been willingly replaced. We certainly welcome back Wing Commander Caroline Viles, who recently took command of 32 (The Royal) Squadron, RAF Northolt.

At the heart of the RAFALO function is the link and support to local branches. An outstanding example of this is the committee at RAF Halton where all its associated branches (Amersham and Chesham, Banbury, Dunstable and Luton, Halton and Aylesbury and Leighton and Linslade) have been supported by dedicated RAFALOs. The station has also had another excellent year of recruitment where 1,318 new Association members were recruited at through a variety of activities. Newly graduated personnel receive a bespoke brief by Association Station Officer (South East), Kev O'Neill, often supported by Squadron Leader Dean 'Gibbo' Gibson, a trustee of the Association. They are informed of the core aims of the Association, how it actively supports serving personnel, veterans and their families on a daily basis and the opportunities available for them to become involved in the work of the Association throughout their careers. Similarly, Kev delivers a tailored brief to all students at Airman's Command School, again often supported by Gibbo,

where he focuses on where the Association can assist junior and senior non-commissioned officers who are dealing with emerging welfare issues among the personnel under their command. Station RAFALOs, in particular Corporal Lewis, have assisted with the administration of the BRTC briefs and have also worked with established station personnel to increase Association membership. The Association is now a supported recruit training squadron charity, alongside the RAF Benevolent Fund.

Visits still form an important link between the Association and serving RAF. At RAF Waddington, Sergeant Rod Hedingham organised a visit for over 70 members of Association branches across the region to visit the station. The visit included the Air Traffic Control Tower, Flight Planning Section, Safety Equipment Bay and an E3-D Sentry tour. Lunch was provided for free at the warrant officer and senior non-commissioned officers' mess, courtesy of the chairman of the mess committee. This was a highly successful visit requiring careful planning and significant support from across the station. The RAFALOs were supplemented by members of 54(R) Squadron to assist with hosting and providing refreshments for the visitors. Branches in attendance included: Lincoln; Waddington; Mansfield; Retford; Cranwell; Keyworth; Barnsley and Peterborough.

Similarly, the RAF Northolt committee hosted a station visit by the Pontardawe Branch in October, in order to promote the role of the committee and build links with Association branches outside of the immediate vicinity of RAF Northolt. Seven members of the Welsh branch had a tour of 32 Squadron, Queen's Colour Squadron and the station heritage centre as well has having lunch in the warrant officer and sergeants' mess. They left with a positive impression of both RAF Northolt and the work being carried out by the station Association committee.

From membership to fundraising, RAF Scampton, during September, had RAFALOs working with various branch members and raised £9,427.88 at the Scampton Airshow, £3,454.50 (tickets sales) and £331.30 (donations) at the Swing Wing Concert and through December various RAFALOs from RAF Scampton and RAF Waddington raised £5,070.44 at the Lincoln Christmas market. Much of the drive and direction at RAF Scampton coming from our well recognised Sergeant Paula Murphy.

RAF Brize Norton again organised the Lechlade Duck Race, which took place on Monday 1 May. A great deal of effort went into the day from both station personnel and local volunteer groups to ensure the event's success following the postponement of the 2016 race. Although the weather was a little unkind, the event did see over 2,500 people attend. As well as a race for the general public there was also a race for various corporate sponsors. With a wide variety of stalls and events the event raised over £4,000, which was split 60/30/10 between the Association, the Cotswold Water Park Trust and the Lechlade Memorial Hall Restoration Fund, seeing over £2,300 going to the Association. This is just one of an array of activities undertaken by the RAFALOs at RAF Brize Norton, with special mention to Chief Technician Dave Craven for another excellent year.

RAF Wittering was again at the forefront of Association activity and in 2017 they supported the Association's inaugural RAFA Colour Chaos. With over 250 participants, the event was an outstanding success, raising the profile of RAF Wittering and the Association while also raising money for Storybook Wings. Looking forward to next year's fundraising activity and RAF100, this will be the lead event for the team to support and we anticipate welcoming over 1,000 runners. A thank you as always to the RAFALO chairman, Warrant Officer Steve Heywood.

As in previous years, the Wings Appeal brings the two parts of the area together for the city of London collection, which was supported by over 60 RAFALOs. Of the £17,039.80 collected, over £15,500 was raised by the RAFALOs; over 90 per cent of the total. Thanks to the support of the area team at headquarters in Leicester, we continued with the simultaneous collections at several train stations in the capital. This gradual integration of railway collections has seen a steady increase in overall collections from £11,800, in 2015, on to £13,500 in 2016 and now past the £17,000 barrier. It is important to reflect that any RAFALO collection is attributed to their supported branch as a part of their own Wings Appeal collections.

A final note is a thank you to all those serving and civilian RAFALOs who continue to contribute to the wider RAF family – thank you all for your continued support to the Association and the area.

#### **Squadron Leader Ady Morris MBE**South East Area RAFALO and Trustee



#### **Area awards**

The details below provide you with a list of area award, trophy and state award winners in 2017.

Many congratulations to everyone.

#### Area certificate winners

Large branch with greatest per cent increase in Wings

Small branch with greatest per cent increase in Wings

Ely

Large branch with greatest increase in membership

Small branch with greatest increase in membership

Banbury

Large branch efficiency

Aylesbury and Halton

Small branch efficiency

Abbotts and Kings Langley and Wisbech

Branch newsletter competition winner

Letchworth, Hitchin and District

#### Area £10,000 + certificate winners for 2017

Bognor Regis	£15,790.57
Hythe and Romney Marsh	£10,000.00
Norwich	£10,000.00



#### **Honours** and awards

National trophy winners 2016 (in accordance with National Conference 2017)

**President's Cup** Grimsby and Cleethorpes Branch

The Branch Newsletter Trophy Leicester Branch

**Lord Tedder Trophy RAF** Wittering

**Sir Charles Wheeler Trophy RAF Scampton** 

**Sir Geoffrey Bromet Trophy RAF Benson** 

**The Airshow Plate RAF Scampton** 

**Wally Marrriott Trophy** Sergeant Paula Murphy RAF Scampton

**The Johnson Trophy** South East and Eastern Area

#### Queen's birthday honours list 2017

MBE

Squadron Leader Adrian Morris High Wycombe Branch

**BEM** 

**Barry Furness** Fareham Branch

**National Presidential Certificates** 

The Windsock Club Harrow and District Branch

**Barry Furness** Fareham Branch

Sudbury Branch

#### New Year honours list 2018

**BEM** 

Pip Iles Basingstoke Branch

**National Presidential Certificates** 

Derf Mockford Aylesbury and Halton Branch

**Area Presidential Certificates** 

**Edgar Ribbans** Bury St Edmunds Branch

Nigel Andrews Cambridge Branch

Corporal Anthony Burham-Bamford Carterton and Brize Norton Branch

Kenneth Draper **Dunstable Branch** 

Marisa Gilmour **Dunstable Branch** 

Robert Asher Harrow and District Branch

Gerald Collins Lincoln Branch

Glynis Miller Lincoln Branch

#### **Area Conference programme 2018**

This programme may be subject to change at any time, an updated programme will be sent out in due course.

Fourteenth South East and Eastern Area Conference 23 to 25 March 2018 At the Peterborough Marriott Hotel, Peterborough

#### Friday 23 March 2018

1000hrs Advanced party arrives and sets up the Area Conference

Delegates arrival and registration

1330hrs Meet and greet team at hotel reception 1400hrs

Accounts seminar for branch chairman/woman, treasurers and committee members – 1500hrs to 1700hrs

Phantom and Twenty Room – Andrew Wilkinson-Sharpe, Director of Finance.

All members welcome

1830hrs Dinner – Carvery in the Sir Henry Royce Suite

2000hrs Entertainment from the Swingtime Sweethearts – Sir Henry Royce Suite

#### Saturday 24 March 2018

0700hrs to 0830hrs Breakfast – in the Cast Iron Grill

0845hrs Delegates and guests to be seated in the conference room

0900hrs Ceremonial entry of the area standard

Official dedication – Chairman of the Area Council 0915hrs

0917hrs Welcome by Chairman of the Area Conference – Air Marshal Sir Roger Austin KCB AFC

0930hrs Consideration and adoption of the area report

1000hrs Address by Air Vice Marshal Gary Waterfall CBE RAF, Chief of Staff (Operations) Permanent

Joint Headquarters, Northwood

1030hrs Coffee and comfort break

**1045hrs to 1050hrs** Election of Vice Presidents and Area President

1050hrs Update on today's RAF Association – Air Vice Marshal John Cliffe, Chairman of Council

1120hrs Panel discussion – Chairman, Air Vice Marshal John Cliffe, Vice Chairman Bryan Pattinson

and Secretary General Nick Bunting

1130hrs Resolutions

1215hrs Lunch – Carvery, RAF Wyton Area Voluntary Band to play during lunch 1300hrs to 1400hrs Charity Commission presentation and discussion – Alison Hodson

**1400hrs to 1500hrs** GDPR and risk presentation – Vikki Hall

**1500hrs to 1515hrs** Coffee and comfort break

**1515hrs to 1545hrs** Presentation of trophies and awards

1545hrs Close of conference

1800hrs Sunset ceremony – RAF Wyton Area Voluntary Band 1830hrs Dinner – Three course meal in the Sir Henry Royce Suite 2000hrs Evening entertainment – RAF Wyton Area Voluntary Band

#### Sunday 25 March 2018

**0700hrs to 0800hrs** Breakfast – in the Cast Iron Grill

0815hrs Delegates to be seated in the conference room

0830hrs RAF100 update – Rachel Huxford, Director Fundraising, Marketing and Trading **0900hrs to 1000hrs** Update on the Air Cadets – Group Captain Nigel Gorman, Regional Commandant

1000hrs Comfort break

**1015hrs to 1115hrs** Welfare update – Sue Smith South East Area Welfare Manager

1115hrs Preparations for parade and service

1215hrs Parade and service – The Reverend (Sqn Ldr) Stewart J Shaw, RAF Wittering

1245hrs Departure and collection of pre-ordered packed lunches



## Service of dedication 25 March 2018

'Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.'

St John 15:13

#### INTRODUCTION

Bretheren, we are met here today to remember before God all those who gave their lives that we may live, and to re-dedicate ourselves to the service of God. We remember all those who have lived and died in God's service and in the service of others; those who have been caught up in so many conflicts down the ages and those who continue to serve today. We pray for all who suffer through war and are in need; we ask for God's help and blessing that we may do his will, in our service, our devotion and our dedication to all.

#### THE LESSON

Air Marshal Sir Roger Austin St Mark 10: 41-45

<sup>41</sup> When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. <sup>42</sup> Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>43</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for Many

#### **SERMON**

The Reverend (Sqn Ldr) Stewart J Shaw

#### **ACT OF REMEMBRANCE**

ALMIGHTY GOD, we remember in Thy presence all those who gave their lives that others might live, and in gratitude we render thanks to Thee for their great sacrifice, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen** 

Let us commend to God those for whom the end of the war was not the end of suffering.

Unto thy loving kindness O Lord, we commend all those who are stricken and suffering, the blind, the disabled, and the bereaved; all those whose faith has been shaken by what they have seen and suffered. Strengthen them with Thy Grace, giving them courage and hope; and help us to do our part in ministering to them for the sake of Him who bore for us the pain and desolation of the Cross, Thy Son our Savour Jesus Christ. **Amen** 

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, Who didst safely bring us through the manifold dangers of war, give us Thy help that even as in the days of peril we lived not for ourselves, so now may we be strengthened to serve Thee and our fellow men. Help us to live in integrity and godly love, that we may be worthy of those whose memory we honour; and grant us so to seek Thy Kingdom here on earth, that we may play our part in fulfilling that for which they died through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen** 

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come: thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

The Parade is brought to attention and the standards ordered to carry, then dip position

Let us remember before God those who made the great sacrifice.

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.

We will remember them.

#### LAST POST - SILENCE - REVEILLE

The standards are raised

#### THE BENEDICTION

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good, render to no man evil for evil; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all men; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the Blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and all whom you love, this day and for evermore.

#### THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

#### South East and Eastern Area Conference Report – 18 March 2017

Prior to the commencement of Conference the area standard was ceremoniously carried in by Mr R. Rudham

and

presented to the Chairman of the Area Conference.

#### IN THE CHAIR

Sir Roger Austin

President of the South East and Eastern Area Council

#### OFFICIAL DEDICATION

At the Chairman's invitation, Squadron Leader Adrian Morris read the official dedication



#### Welcome by Area President

Welcoming address of the president in his role of conference chairman.

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome:

The most pleasing news of 2016 for me is that membership in the area has increased for the second year in a row. Membership currently stands at 27,108 which is the level we enjoyed in 2010. This can only be the result of an awful lot of hard work by a large number of people and I thank everyone who had a hand in this excellent outcome. Please keep it up in 2017 so that we see an increase for a third year running.

The fundraisers also did well in the year, but there is an overall 20 per cent reduction in the total for the area compared with 2015, due partly to the lack of Shoreham Airshow in 2016. There will not be one in 2017 either and anything you can do to fill this gap in income will be most welcome.

I send thanks and congratulations to those who were awarded National and Area Presidential Awards during the year for their outstanding work, often over very many years. These people are the backbone of the Association. There must be others who merit similar recognition, so I ask the presidents and chairmen to give it some thought. If you have doubts or queries, by all means send a draft citation in confidence to the Area Director, who will be pleased to offer advice.

I must also acknowledge the tremendous work of the RAF Association Liaison Officers (RAFALOs), who are a very important link with the serving population, and that of the air cadets who assist us every year in many different ways.

Finally, I thank every single member of the Association in the area for your support and enthusiasm. You make an important contribution and, for that, I am most grateful. I wish you all continued success in 2017.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish you a successful Area Conference.

ADDRESS BY WING COMMANDER MATT CORNISH MA MBA BSC PGCE RAF, OFFICER COMMANDING BASE SUPPORT WING RAF HONINGTON

**CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF AREA REPORT** 

**ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENTS** 

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION TO AREA COUNCIL

# **Notes**

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