



# **NEWSLETTER**

Volume 6 Issue 3 Jul—Sept 2022

**Award Winning Newsletter**



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/643137552497216>

**Patron: Her Majesty The Queen**

**Registered Charity 1195405 (England & Wales)**

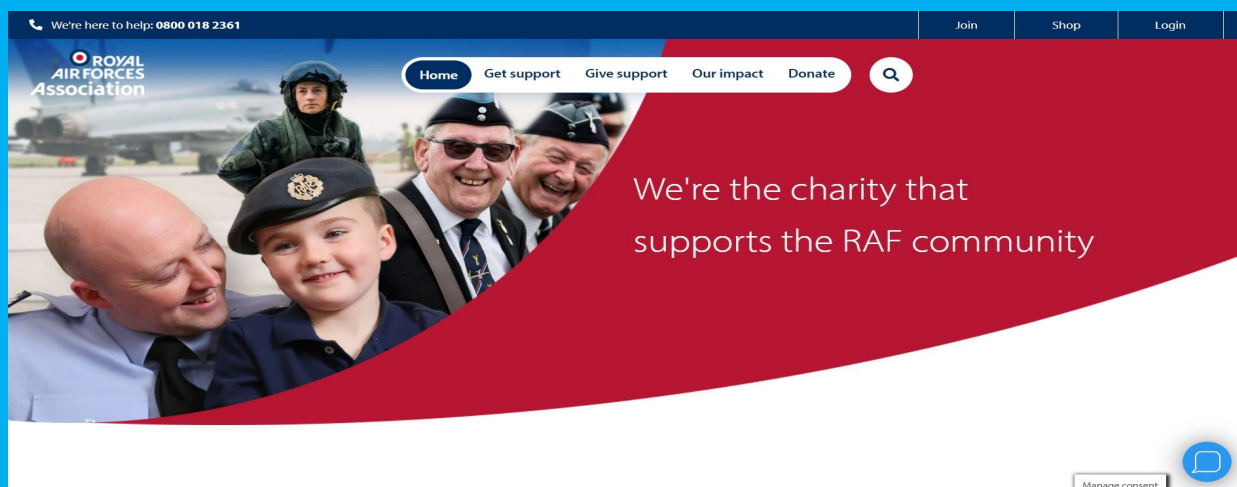


**Branch Committee E-Mail Addresses**Chairman – **Mr. Steve Mullis**[chair.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com](mailto:chair.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com)Vice Chairmen – **Mr. David Routledge**[vicechair.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com](mailto:vicechair.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com)Hon Secretary – **Mr. Andrew Thomson**[secretary.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com)Membership Secretary – **Mr. Gerwyn Thomas**[members.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com](mailto:members.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com)Hon Treasurer – **Mr. Richard Wiltshire**[treasurer2.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer2.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com)Welfare Officer – **Group Capt (Rtd) Mrs. Nick Loveday**[welfare.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com](mailto:welfare.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com)

Social Events Coordinator –

[social2.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com](mailto:social2.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com)Wings Appeal Organiser – **Mr. Graham Croft**[wings2.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com](mailto:wings2.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com)Conference Delegate – **Mr. Steve Mullis**[chair.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com](mailto:chair.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com)Branch Newsletter – **Mr. Steve Mullis**[newsletter.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com)Webmaster – **Mr. Chris Mercer**[rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com](mailto:rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com)***The Cover: Concorde by Rick Brewell***

<i>Page Information</i>	<i>Page</i>
<i>Contact Details plus</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>RAFA HQ Fundraising Update</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>The Dirty Half Dozen Rides Again</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Photographing Concorde</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Photographing Concorde</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Picture Quiz Answers</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Thatcham Family Fun Day 2022</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Abingdon Air Country Show</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>It Beggars Belief</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Branch AGM 2023</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>The South East and Eastern Area Award Winners 2021 for 2021</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>RAFA Wings Appeal Pins</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>AF &amp; V Breakfast Clubs BofB Service Westminster Abbey</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>What every member needs!!</i>	<i>15</i>

***<https://rafa.org.uk/>******Have YOU logged in yet?***

**Disclaimer - The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the RAFA Global Branch, the Newsletter Editor, Branch Committee or membership and therefore should not be construed as such.**



# RAFA HQ Fundraising Update

During 2022 we have four key activities that we would love you to get involved with

## Challenge Events

Our challenge events offer exciting fundraising adventures for everyone.

Global branch members have raised significant amounts for the Association while having the experience of a lifetime. What will your 2022 challenge be?

Your help in spreading the word to your friends and family will help us fill places and fundraise to support the RAF community.

Go to the [website](#) for details on all the events.



## RAFA Rides

Our flagship fundraiser, RAFA Rides is now established as a global event with cyclists from across the world participating in the virtual ride.

You can cycle out on your local roads, in the gym or at home on your static bike. Or, you can join us in Leicestershire on a 25, 50, 75 or 100 mile route. All cyclists receive a RAFA branded cycling jersey and finishers medal. Spread the word, gather some friends and register to support the RAF family.

Find out more and register on the [website](#)



## Community Fundraising

Global branch members have the opportunity to connect with your own community wherever you live. You can create fun events to promote fundraising in your area. Here are a few ideas:

**A Brew for the Few** event allows you to celebrate with cake.

**Get** involved with your local Armed Forces Day event in June and organise a collection during Wings Week in September.

**Organize** a street, supermarket or railway station collection. We can help with permits.

**From** sports to crafts, you can turn your hobby into a fundraiser.

**Will** your pub, café or local business take a collection tin?

**Online** fundraising, you can fundraise while you shop online with Easyfundraising or Amazon Smile, at no additional cost to yourself.



## Queen's Jubilee

We are asking our branches to come together to celebrate our Patron's Jubilee. Her Majesty The Queen has become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

The celebrations culminate in a four-day UK bank holiday from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June. Branches are encouraged to have a celebration on that weekend.

Marking the occasion can be something as modest as a coffee and cake morning, or as involved as a street party or dance.

All we ask is that you celebrate and fund-raise in the name of the

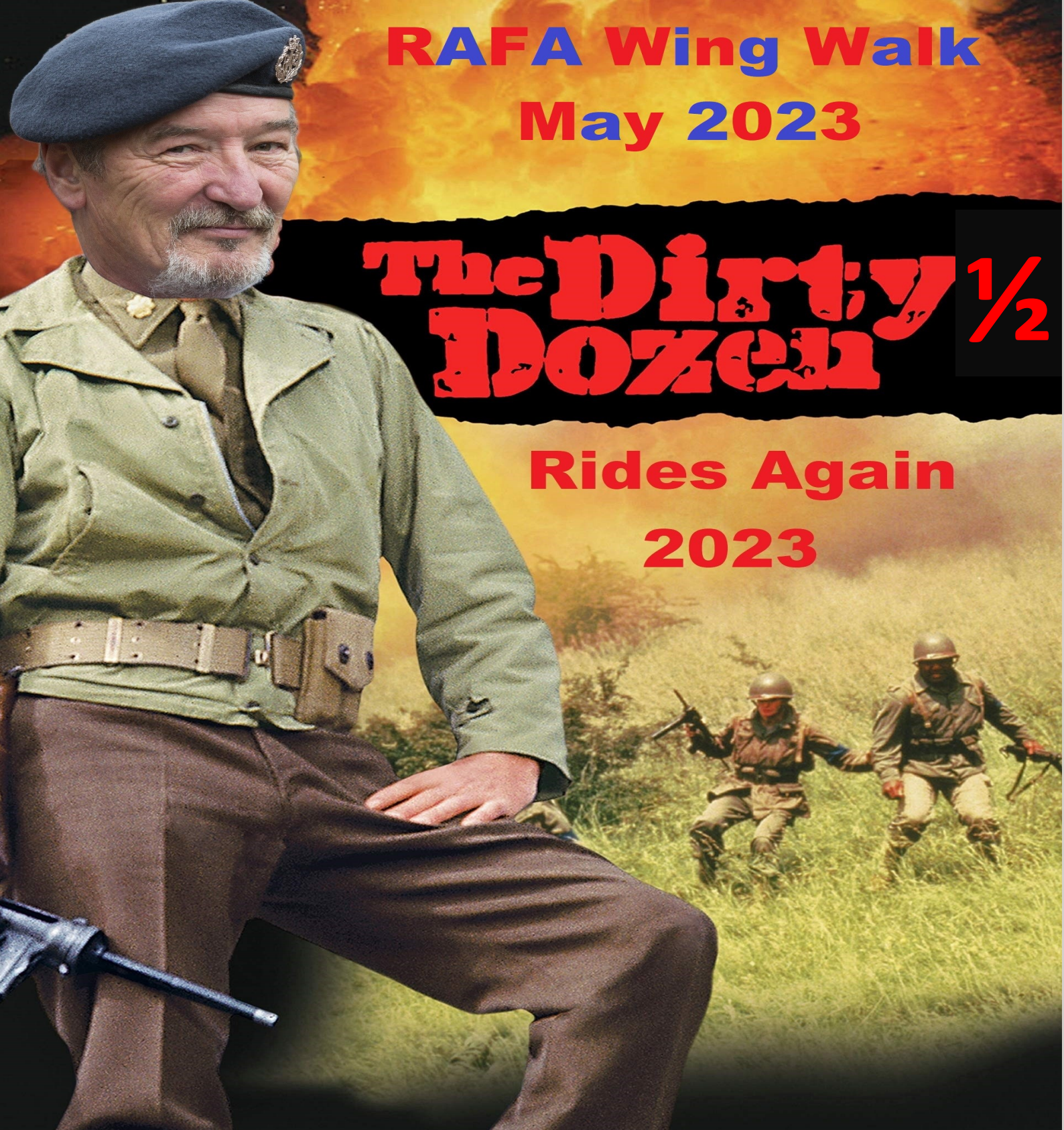
Association and our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen.



We are here to help support your fundraising with guidance and resources.

Email us at: [fundraising@rafa.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@rafa.org.uk)





**RAFA Wing Walk**  
**May 2023**

# **The Dirty Dozen<sup>1/2</sup>**

**Rides Again**  
**2023**

**5 members of the branch, Damian Harris, David Routledge, Craig McMurrough, Dave Kelley & Steve Mullis will hopefully be joined by 4 civilians, Jan Smith, Chezza Kerr, Conor Heffernan and Riquella Abbott in doing a Wing Walk on May 17th 2023 in aid of the Global Branch's Wings Appeal 2023. They will be raising a MINIMUM of £6,300!!! Please give them ALL the support you can.**

**<https://www.justgiving.com/team/DirtyHalfDozenPlus50Percent>**



# Commemorating the Battle of Britain

*Rick Brewell (Former RAF Warrant Officer Photographer)*

ON 13 JUNE 1990, a day of celebrations was held to honour the pilots of the Royal Air Force who had given their all to defend the country in the Battle of Britain, 50 years earlier. The events centred on two legendary aircraft – the Spitfire and Concorde. To capture this historic day, I, as the Royal Air Force Photographer for the Directorate of Public Relations, was given the daunting assignment of ensuring that the special occasion was documented on film.

## Speedbird salutes the Few

The celebrations began with a performance by the Band of the Royal Air Force at Heathrow, in front of the pre-positioned British Airways Concorde G-BOAA and Spitfire Mk IIa (P7350) of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. The band was to play a specially written orchestral piece of music composed by Peter Hope, entitled "Speedbird Salutes the Few", in honour of the RAF pilots who flew in the Battle of Britain – famously named by Winston Churchill as "The Few". The event took place in the British Airways maintenance area and was attended by about 40 people.

Following this performance there was to be a formation flight of the Concorde and Spitfire along the English south coast, using the White Cliffs of Dover as a backdrop. I was to photograph the flight from the air. To accomplish this task a Hawker Siddeley HS125 of 32 Sqn was afforded as a photographic platform. The HS125 is a kind of small executive passenger jet and less than ideal for taking photographs from. No pressure there, then!

Prior to the departure I managed to photograph the two pilots having a joke with each other. Spitfire pilot Squadron Leader Paul (The Major) Day, Commanding Officer of the



## Sharing a joke

Sqn Ldr Paul Day, Commanding Officer of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, jokes with British Airways Concorde Captain Jock Lowe before their spectacular formation flight. *Photo: Rick Brewell ABIPP*

Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, was saying to Concorde Captain Jock Lowe: "It's just a shame I have only brought with me the Mk IIa Spitfire ... if I had been flying one of our later versions I would have given you a run for your money."

## Technical challenges

Following the event at Heathrow, I headed to RAF Northolt (together with Rolls-Royce photographer Jack Titley) to board the HS125 camera-ship. The flight's duration was 45

minutes, 20 minutes of which were spent trying to achieve the optimum formation between Concorde and the Spitfire.

After take-off, positioning myself in one of the windows, I realised this was not going to be an easy task. First of all, there were two layers of glass plus a Perspex screen on the windows, which made it very awkward to photograph through. Unless the camera was pointing directly through the layers, the image immediately distorted and fell out

## Photography platform

ZE395 (HRH Queen Alexandra), the HS125 business jet operated by No. 32 Squadron of the Royal Air Force. *Photo: Milborne-One / Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA 3.0)*





of focus. Secondly the weather had deteriorated and had become dull and slightly misty with low cloud. However, these problems paled into insignificance after I found out in flight that I had no direct communications with any of the pilots, including the pilot of my camera-ship! No communication, that is to say, short of running back and forth to the cockpit to give instructions to manoeuvre our aircraft into the right position and distance from the two subject aircraft. Additionally, I needed to direct the Spitfire into the right position while forming

on the Concorde. Not an easy task in itself, given the great difference in performance – just trying to get these two aircraft in the same bit of sky at the same time would be hard enough, let alone to have them formate in a particular position.

We rendezvoused with the two legendary aircraft along the south

coast. Once we managed to get them both into the right position we were able to capture the shot we wanted, even though the Concorde's nose was high, due to it having to fly at such a slow speed, whereas the Spitfire was going as fast as the old airframe was authorised.



#### **Mission accomplished**

*Right:* Spitfire P7350 Mk IIa of the BBMF in formation with British Airways Concorde G-BOAA over the south coastal town of Deal in Kent.

*Below:* The iconic shot of Spitfire P7350 Mk IIa of the BBMF in formation with British Airways Concorde G-BOAA over the Dover Patrol Memorial St Margaret's Bay near Dover.

*Photos: Rick Brewell ABIPP*



**My thanks to my old chum Rick Brewell, former Royal Air Force Photographer for the Directorate of Public Relations, who recalled his assignment to photograph Concorde from the air, to commemorate the members of the armed forces whose courage and sacrifice played such a vital role in winning the Second World War. Some of Rick Brewell's photographs have become iconic elements of the Concorde story in their own right.**



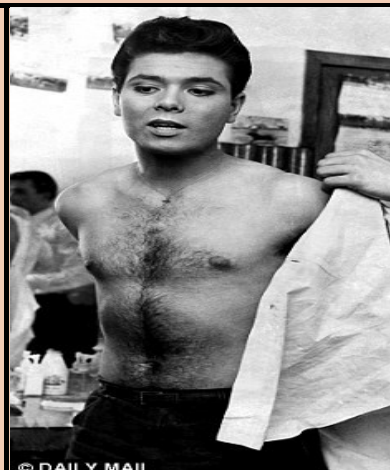
**Last Editions Quiz—Who did they grow up to be?**  
**Here are the answers.**  
**How well did you do? New quiz next edition.**



**Adolf Hitler**



**Bradley Walsh**



**Cliff Richard**



**David Bowie**



**David Cameron**



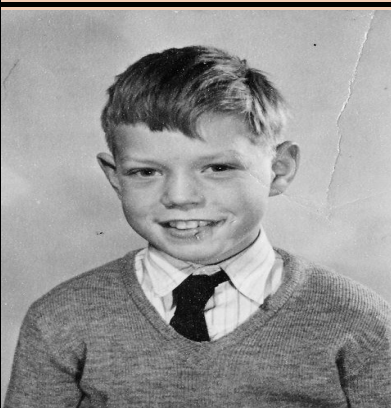
**Dolly Parton**



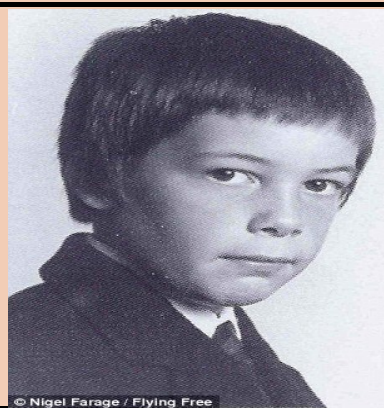
**Eldon John**



**John Wayne**



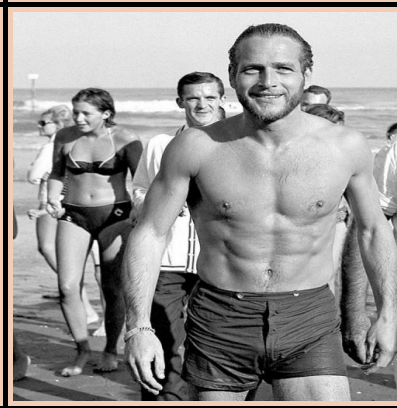
**Mick Jagger**



**Nigel Farage**



**Paul McCartney**



**Paul Newman**



**William Hartnell**



**Winston Church-**



## Thatcham Family Fun Day 2022

Sunday 26th June saw 8 branch members from all over the country descend on Thatcham, Berkshire for their annual Families Fun Day and boy did they do the branch proud. Not only did we take in over £450 but we won the Best Dressed Stall in Show Award!!! Well done & thanks to all who attended.



The willing team of helpers



Julie with our Special Guest



We are WINNERS!!!!



Tracey & "The Boss"







# ABINGDON AIR & COUNTRY SHOW 2022

**Sat 10th Sept**

- Flying Displays & Static Helicopters
- Ground attractions
- Free Car Parking
- Dogs on a lead are welcome



**ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM  
OUR OFFICIAL WEBSITE:**

Adults (16+) £20  
Seniors (65+) £10  
Children (5-15) £5  
Children under 5 free

[www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk](http://www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk)

**On the day:** Adult £24 Seniors £14 Child 5-15 £7,  
Under 5s free

**Car Parks:** are open from 7.30am  
**Showground:** opens at 10.00am  
**Showground closes:** 5.30pm onwards

**The RAFA Global Branch  
Gazebo will be there**



**LOCATION:** Abingdon Airfield / Dalton Barracks, Oxfordshire  
Off the A34 (Hinksey Hill interchange) Postcode: OX13 6BX - Honeybottom Lane



## **It Beggars Belief**

### **It Beggars Belief No 1**

We had to have the garage door repaired. The GARADOR repairman told us that one of our problems was that we did not have a 'large' enough motor on the opener.

I thought for a moment, and said that we had the largest one GARADOR made at that time, a 1/2 horsepower.

He shook his head and said, 'Lady, you need a 1/4 horsepower.'

I responded that 1/2 was larger than 1/4 and he said, 'NOOO, it's not. Four is larger than two.'

We haven't used Garador repair since.

### **It Beggars Belief No 2**

My daughter went to a local Kentucky Fried Chicken and ordered a Taco. She asked the person behind the counter for 'minimal lettuce.' He said he was sorry, but they only had Iceberg Lettuce.

### **It Beggars Belief No 3**

When my husband and I arrived at our local Ford dealer to pick up our car, we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the Service Department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the Driver's door. As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door-handle and discovered that it was unlocked.

'Hey,' I announced to the Fitter/Mechanic, 'it's open!'

His reply: 'I know. I already did that side.'

**STAY ALERT! They walk among us.**

**AND THEY BREED!!!**



# Branch AGM 2023

**RAF ODIHAM**



**02-03-23 to 04-03-23**

**PLEASE NOTE DIFFERENT DAYS THIS YEAR!!!!!!**

Accommodation base is the Premier Inn listed below. Other local options are available but the choice & the booking of any accommodation is down to you. Early booking is advised as prices will almost certainly rise. BUT please make sure anything you book has FREE CANCELLATION, just in case!!!

Please email [chair.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com](mailto:chair.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com) to confirm whether or not you will be attending the AGM plus whether flying solo or with guests.

Please also confirm that you have booked accommodation and it's location.

Premier Inn, Basingstoke Leisure Park, Worting Road, Basingstoke, RG22 6PG (Basingstoke West (Churchill Way) Website: <https://www.premierinn.com/>

Current Prices (29/06/2022) For 2 nights. Per Room:

£132 Advance. Pay now, fully refundable with free cancellation up to 28 days before arrival

£152 Flex. Pay now or on arrival, fully refundable with free cancellation up to 1pm on the day or arrival

THERE IS A SLIGHTLY CHEAPER ALTERNATIVE HOTEL LESS THAN 3 MILES AWAY. SLEEP THERE & JOIN US AT THE OTHER ONE FOR DRINKS ETC

Premier Inn, Victoria Street, Town Centre, Basingstoke, RG21 3BT

Current Prices (27/05/2022) For 2 nights. Per Room:

£102 Advance. Pay now, fully refundable with free cancellation up to 28 days before arrival

£126 Flex. Pay now or on arrival, fully refundable with free cancellation up to 1pm on the day or arrival

## Proposed AGM Weekend Itinerary

**THURSDAY 2nd March 15.00hrs + Check into hotel**

20.00hrs Meet & Greet at Premier Inn hotel, Basingstoke Leisure Park

A chance for branch members to meet RAFALO's etc from RAF Odiham & from local RAFA branches

**FRIDAY 3rd March 08.45hrs**

Transfer from hotel to RAF Odiham, Royal Air Force, Odiham, Hook, RG29 1QT.

USING OWN TRANSPORT (12 miles, Transfer Time 20 mins)

**FRIDAY 3rd March**

09.30hrs – 12.30hrs Tour of RAF Odiham Chinook Squadrons

Possible flight in Chinook. Hopefully just £5 – £10 a person with ALL money raised going the RAFA Wings Appeal

13.00hrs – 14.00hrs Non formal Lunch in Officers or Sgts Mess, Individuals to pay at time or via branch

15.00hrs Branch AGM to be held in either Officers or Sgts Mess, Including "Guest" presentation TBA

17.00hrs Latest Depart for Basingstoke Hotel

20.00hrs Evening meal at location to be organized in Basingstoke

**SATURDAY 4th March**

08.00hrs – 10.00hrs Breakfast at Hotel

10.00hrs – 12.00hrs POSSIBLE!!! Indoor Sky Diving @ <https://www.iflyworld.co.uk/>



***The South East and Eastern Area Award Winners 2021***

**Area President's Trophy:  
Armourers Branch**

**Branch Efficiency:  
Global Virtual Branch**

**Branch Newsletter/Media Profile:  
Global Virtual Branch**

**Membership:**

**In a very challenging year, the award for the highest number of new members recruited by a branch is awarded to 1066 (Bexhill-on-Sea)**

**Branch Fundraising:**

**The branches recognised below are those who, in a very challenging year, raised over £2,000 for the RAF Association.**

**Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard Branch - £8,477.88**

**1066 (Bexhill-on-Sea) Branch - £4,177.15**

**Huntingdon and District Branch - £3,044.21**

**St Neots Branch - £2,655.02**

**Global Branch - £2,330.31**

**Thurrock Branch - £2,197.56**

**Caduceus (Medical Services) Branch - £2,079.21**

**Diss Branch - £2,011.98**

**National Presidential Certificates:**

**Squadron Leader Dean Gibson (Harrow Branch)**

**Mrs Alison Gibson (Harrow Branch)**

**Pat and Trevor Hayes (Abbots and Kings Langley Branch)**

**Mr Ian McEnnis (High Wycombe Branch)**

**Area Presidential Certificates:**

**Miss Sue Walker (WRAF Branch)**

**Mrs Susan Stone (Dunstable Branch)**












**Mr Graham Horton (Dunstable Branch)**

**RAFALO of the Year:**

**Warrant Officer Jay Taylor**



**£1-50 each plus £1 for P&P UK Prices Maximum of 6 pins per posting**  
**Overseas prices on request Orders to [chair.rafaaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com](mailto:chair.rafaaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com)**

<b>VULCAN</b>	<b>HURRICANE</b>	<b>LANCASTER</b>	<b>SPITFIRE</b>
			
<b>RED ARROWS</b>	<b>WINGS</b>	<b>RAF 100</b>	<b>CAMEL</b>
			
<b>LIGHTNING 35B</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>E3D Sentry</b>	<b>CHINOOK</b>
			
<b>REGT BEAR</b>	<b>LIGHTNING</b>	<b>TYPHOON</b>	<b>PILOT BEAR</b>
			
<b>TORNADO</b>	<b>FALCONS</b>	<b>SEA KING</b>	<b>PHANTOM</b>
			





Now a regular place in the diary for many is a visit to their local Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club. Why not checkout your local one? For about £5 you get a substantial breakfast with unlimited tea/coffee. Venues vary on price & content. The link to find YOUR local club is [www.afvbc.net](http://www.afvbc.net)

### **Newbury Thatcham Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/412987076263828>

### **St Helens Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1175542099273689/?ref=share>

### **Wakefield Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/115048932216843/?ref=share>

### **Dewsbury Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/976048345748584/>



## **Battle of Britain Thanksgiving Service of Commemoration**

The Battle of Britain Thanksgiving Service will be held at 1100 in Westminster Abbey on Sunday 18 September 2022. The RAF Association has been asked by the Ceremonial Team, RAF Northolt to provide up to 25 standard bearers. We have also been advised that the allocation of tickets for the Service will likely return to the traditional, pre COVID-19 pandemic, level.

If you would like to attend the Battle of Britain Thanksgiving Service on 18 September, either as a standard bearer or as a member of the congregation, please e-mail [membership@rafa.org.uk](mailto:membership@rafa.org.uk) no later than Monday 18 July 2022.

Please also indicate whether you would like to attend on your own or be accompanied.

If you have any questions, please contact BMOM(S) by e-mailing her at [ailsa.gough@rafa.org.uk](mailto:ailsa.gough@rafa.org.uk).



# What EVERY member needs

## CHAIRMAN'S CHALLENGE FOR 2022 NOW IS THE TIME TO GET YOUR RAFA HOME COLLECTION BOX!!!!



It's so simple folks, just get one of these home collection boxes and just pop your odd change into it. Come Battle of Britain Week 2022, count it up and bank it for the Global Branch's Wing Appeal.

Remember it doesn't matter where you live in the world, money is money & it all adds up no matter what the currency!!!!

Contact the Chairman now to ask for one of the boxes and get collecting the easy way. Don't wait for it to come in post, have a look in your pocket today and see how much shrapnel you have in there now!!!

In 2020 & 2021 we raised over £1,000 despite all the problems we have had with Covid 19, so I am hoping that in 2022 we can improve on that with more people having boxes!!!

Reference renewals of your membership of RAFA. Many memberships will be coming up for renewal over the next month or so. Please take a few minutes to check out that YOUR details are correctly held with RAFA HQ so that hopefully you will receive your membership card etc when you renew. If you currently receive the Air Mail magazine then you can assume your address is correct.

You can easily check this out, and the date your renewal is due, by logging on the portal at <https://rafa.org.uk/> and then going to My Details & My Membership. If they are incorrect you can change them online.

If you are unable to log on due to not having a password. Use the Contact form at <https://rafa.org.uk/contact/> to request one.



Help raise FREE funds for RAFA Global Branch 1370 whenever you shop online!

We currently have just over 115 people raising over £1,500 since we started using it. Imagine how much we could raise if ALL our members were to join!!!

It doesn't cost you a penny more to use easyfundraising BUT it will raise money for the branch for FREE!!!

Use easyfundraising to shop with over 4,000 big name retailers including John Lewis, Very, Uswitch, GoCompare, Just Eat, Expedia, and ASOS – when you shop, you'll raise a free donation for RAFA Global Branch 1370 every time, it's that easy!

Please help support us:

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rafaglobalbranch1370/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_content=fb5](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rafaglobalbranch1370/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=fb5)

## Could YOU do a Wings Collection in YOUR town?



Have you ever thought about spending a few hours, come September, doing a collection in your town/village for the Wings Appeal. If you DON'T have a local RAFA branch in your vicinity then maybe you could help us raise a few more pounds towards this year's target.

If you think you can help please contact Graham Croft so that he can organize the paperwork & equipment for you. Just email him with your details on

[wings2.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com](mailto:wings2.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com)