



Out of the Blue

RAFA Gloucester 75th Anniversary

On the 1st December 2014 members enjoyed a cheese and wine evening which included the presentation of the 75th Anniversary Year certificate and tassel to adorn our Branch Standard by Ray Scantlebury, RAFA Life Vice President.

Our thanks to members of 181 Sqn ATC for providing an escort to the standard.



Above
Our President, Eric Ede receiving the 75th anniversary certificate.



Left
Bob Hewing, our standard bearer receiving the 75th year anniversary tassel which will adorn our branch standard.



Gloucester's own WW1 Air Ace

2nd Lieutenant Thomas Sydney Sharpe was born about 1887 in Gloucester. He received his Royal Aero Club Aviator's Certificate in 1916. Sharpe joined the Gloucestershire Regiment, No 24 Sqn RFC and in 1918 he was appointed Flight Commander of No 73 Sqn. He is credited with 6 aerial victories. On the 27th March 1918 he was wounded and captured when his Sopwith Camel was shot down by Manfred von Richthofen. While in captivity he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, becoming one of the first British pilots to receive this medal. Although he reported he had been shot down by ground fire, Sharpe was the Red Baron's 71st victim.



Christmas cards
available from the
RAFA shop



Gloucestershire Airport Visit



On Saturday 1st November 14 members took part in a guided tour of Gloucestershire Airport, the ninth busiest airfield in the UK. The tour included a briefing on the arrivals and departure lounges, a look around an aircraft hangar, an informative visit to air traffic control and a look around the airfield fire station.

Wings Appeal 2014



Terri, Chris, Noel, Pam and Lorraine spent Saturday, 20 September in Gloucester City Centre collecting for Wings Appeal. The combined total collected throughout the year came to £257.39.





RAFA Gloucester Welfare

The second half of 2014 has proved to be equally busy as the first with 46 Welfare/tea and chat visits being carried out by Ray (HWO), Sally and Peter. Sally Dixon and Steve Waygood have now both completed the Welfare Officers training course which will ensure the branch is well placed to meet future welfare demands.

Welfare visits can be requests for help and advice, Wings Breaks, financial assistance, or tea and chat visits. In addition computer training helps members stay in contact with family and friends via the Internet.

The breakdown of visits is:

welfare visits: 16

Tea and Chat visits: 27

Financial assistance: 4 requests resulting in £3450.00 in support

Wings break requests: 4

Computer training and support: 8.

Contact is also made via telephone and email. There were 6 telephone contacts made with members.

There is an ever increasing need for "tea and chat" visits to be made to members as well as telephone and email contacts. If you would like to volunteer some of your time, be it just one or two hours a month please contact Ray on 01452 415064 or email rafagloucester@gmail.com.



181 (City of Gloucester) Air Training Squadron

Your branch has recently re-established contact with 181 (City of Gloucester) Air Training Squadron. The Squadron is one of the oldest squadrons in the corps having been incorporated in 1941; the Air Training Corps first year.

The squadron has cadet members from all over the city and have over 30 cadets on role. The cadets enjoy a wide range of activities including flying, gliding, shooting, Duke of Edinburgh's award and model making as well as the opportunity to progress through classification exams and develop leadership skills through cadet NCO ranks within the structure of a uniformed cadet force.



Christmas cards
available from the
RAFBF.



Your Committee

President: Eric Ede

Chairman: Ian Boyd

Treasurer: Chris Hill

Committee members:

Noel Phillips

Pam Blackhall

Ruth Aldridge

Honorary Welfare Officer (HWO):

Ray Bunnage

Ray can be contacted on 01452 415064

Mobile: 07717413813

Email: rafagloucester@gmail.com

Honorary Secretary: Lorraine Wilson

Lorraine can be contacted on 01452 306005

email:lorrainecole@blueyonder.co.uk

RAF Flowerdown

Ever wondered where Flowerdown House got its name? Did you know there was an RAF Flowerdown in Hampshire?

The Royal Flying Corps (RFC) Wireless School moved from Farnborough to Flowerdown, later RAF Flowerdown in 1919. The apprentice training school moved from Flowerdown to Cranwell in 1929 and the Royal Naval Air Service moved into Flowerdown which remained as a wireless station until 1956. It was never an airfield but it was bombed twice in one week. In 1956 the site was taken over by GCHQs Composite Signals Organisation as a large HF

station. It closed in the late 1970s.

During the Second World War Flowerdown was one of a number of listening stations around the country that fed information into Bletchley Park with staff working 12 hour shifts listening to Morse code which was then used by Colossus to decipher the German codes.

Flowerdown House



Would you like a Wings Break at the beautiful Flowerdown House in Weston-Super-Mare?

Need Financial help then contact your HWO.

Notice

Flowerdown has several rooms vacant in January and February 2015 and are offering a 20% discount on direct bookings. Di the new manager will ensure you are well fed, kept warm and have a great time.

Merry Christmas

Your branch President and committee wish all members a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.