

# RAF 100



**RAFA Gloucester will be commemorating 100 years of the Royal Air Force in 2018. Full details on page 2.**



## Wings Appeal 2017

In 2017 your branch Wings collection total was £2,110.00, an increase of £500 on the previous year. Once again Lorraine, our branch Wings Organiser has done a splendid job. I suggested to Lorraine that next year we should aim to double this amount. See below for RAF 100 activities that will help to make sure this is possible.

## Wings Appeal 2018

The first Wings Collection for 2018 will be at Tesco, St Oswalds Road on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of January. If you can spare an hour or two please contact Lorraine, contact details on page 4.



The two A3 posters above have been produced to promote the RAF centenary and hopefully encourage some generous donations.

### **RAF 100 activities that will raise money for our Wings Appeal include:**

A sponsored walk by Clive Farr

Portivo Lounge's charity event in support of RAFA Gloucester

Tapestry tour around Gloucestershire

Wings trailer in Kings Walk on 8 July

RFC/RAF station "data sheet" trail around Gloucester City Centre

RAFA Wings trailer at Pre War Prescott

## **RAF 100 in Gloucester**

Working with Gloucester City Council your branch is organising a number of activities to commemorate the centenary of the Royal Air Force. The 1 April 2018 is Easter week so our main events will take place over the weekend 7 and 8 July, exactly 100 years and 100 days after 1 April 1918. The following is a guide to what is planned but may be subject to change:

15 April. Clive Farr, one of our branch members will be doing a sponsored walk from Gloucester to Cheltenham and back in aid of our Wings Appeal. Sponsorship forms will be sent out in March. Your support will be appreciated.

7/8 July. An RFC/RAF "data sheet" trail around Gloucester City Centre which includes details of all of the RFC/RAF stations of Gloucestershire.

7/8 July. The RAFA Gloucestershire RAF 100 Tapestry will be displayed in Gloucester Cathedral.

8 July. A WW11 RAF Emergency Operations room will be located in the Wheatstone Hall, Gloucester City Museum along with the Brass Band of the Gloucestershire Constabulary.

8 July. A Royal Flying Corps memorabilia display located in an empty shop in the City centre.

8 July. Battle of Britain Memorial Flight fly past.

8 July. A RAF veterans parade including members of 501 Sqn, the ATC and of course us veterans representing the current, the future and the past. It is hoped that veterans will attend from all four RAFA branches of Gloucestershire. All RAF veterans will be invited to attend regardless of membership of RAFA. The parade will start at Eastgate Street at 11.30 am and march to Gloucester Cathedral for short service of remembrance.

8 July. The RAFA Concert band will be located in the grounds of Gloucester Cathedral.

The RAFA Wings trailer, ATC Glider Flight Simulator, 501 Sqn recruitment stand, RAF recruitment trailer, NAAFI van selling tea and cakes, a half sized Spitfire and the Military Wives Choir Innsworth will be located in Kings Square.

Allan Myatt the Gloucester City Town Crier will be in attendance and will keep everyone up to date with events and activities.



## Social Events 2017 Pictures



Birds of Prey Centre, Aug 2017



Croome Court, Sept 2017



Christmas lunch at the Longford





## The RAFA Gloucestershire RAF 100 Commemorative Tapestry

Work started on the tapestry in 2016 when the planning team comprising Pat, who had worked on previous tapestries, Chris the artist and myself first met to discuss the way forward. I presented a design concept and details of the stations to be included. Chris and I worked closely on the designs which went to the printers early in 2017. Although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy the tapestry is not intended to be a historical record and a certain amount of artistic interpretation should be taken into account.

The display is made from wood and fabric supported on a metal undercarriage replicating the materials used in early aircraft production.



Some 50 ladies from across Gloucestershire have worked tirelessly to turn the above images into a wonderful piece of embroidered art.

The tapestry will be formally unveiled at the RAFA Area Conference on 25 March 2018. The first public viewing will be at St Johns Church, Churchdown on 1 April 2018. The tapestry will then go on tour around Gloucestershire to raise money for our Wings Appeal.

A booklet has been produced providing the names of those who supported the project both financially and in kind, the names of the embroiderers and a pocket history of each panel.

## Welfare

In 2017 your branch welfare officers and "tea and chat" team members carried out 147 visits to members of the RAF community of Gloucestershire travelling a distance of 927 miles. 236 contacts were made by either telephone and/or email.

If you know of a RAF veteran who would enjoy a visit or just a chat over the phone then please contact your branch Welfare Officer.

## Air Training Corps

In 2017 your branch ATC Liaison Officer joined the civilian committee of 2342 (Innsworth) Squadron to further our links with the local Air Training Squadrons.

On the 11th October 2017 Ray attended an award to the Sqn from the Honourable Company of Gloucestershire presented by Air Marshal Sir Dusty Miller, an annual award scheme to promote and encourage work in the community by the local cadet forces.



## Your Committee

President: Eric Ede

Chairman: Ian Beaton

Deputy Chairman: Noel Phillips

Honorary Treasurer: Chris Hill

Social Events Coordinators:

Pam Blackhall, Ruth Aldridge

Honorary Welfare Officer, Website/Social  
Media Manager, ATC Liaison, RAF 100  
Project Manager.

Ray Bunnage. Ray can be contacted on  
01452 415064. email:  
rafagloucester@gmail.com

Honorary Secretary, Wings Appeal  
Organiser.

Lorraine Wilson. Lorraine can be contacted  
on 01452 306005.  
email:lorraine@blueyonder.co.uk

## Tapestry Display Locations

The RAFA Gloucestershire RAF 100 Commemorative Tapestry will be displayed at the following locations during 2018 to raise money for our Wings Appeal. A commemorative booklet about the tapestry will be available to acquire by donation:

25 March – Area Conference at the Chase Hotel.

1 April – St Johns Church, Churchdown.

7/8 April – RAFA North Cotswolds Branch RAF 100 commemoration in Stow on the Wold.

12 May – RAFA National Conference, Staffordshire.

23 June – Armed force Day at the Jet Age Museum.

7/8 July – Gloucester Cathedral.

21 July – Pre War Prescott

Sept/Oct – RAF Defford Museum, Croome Court. The tapestry will form a backdrop to a restored Gloster Meteor.

Other locations to be arranged include Cheltenham, Dursley, ATC Squadrons and Gloucester schools.

If you would like to see the tapestry displayed in your location please let me know.

## Flowerdown House



Would you like a Wings Break at  
Flowerdown House in  
Weston-Super-Mare?  
Need Financial help then contact your  
HWO.