

Social Events 2016



Cosford Museum 12 October



Wings Appeal 2016



Wings Appeal collections for 2016 raised £1593.45, an increase of £146.33 on the 2015 collection.



Can we hit a two thousand pound target in 2017?

**With your help,
yes we can.**

A Wings collection will take place at Tesco, St Oswalds on Saturday, 21 January and Tesco, Brockworth on Saturday, 18 February 2017.

The RAFA Wings Appeal trailer has been booked for this years Pre War Prescott event at the Bugatti Owners Club on Saturday 22 July 2017.

For these collection days to be a success we need members to give their time, be it all day or just a couple of hours.

Please support Lorraine at the 2017 Wings Appeal collection events.

Lorraine can be contacted on: Telephone: 01452 306005

Email: lorrainecole@blueyonder.co.uk

Welfare

2016 has been a busy year both for your Branch Welfare Officers and the Tea and Chat team:

115 visits were made by your Branch Welfare Officers covering a distance of 869 miles.

83 visits were made by the Tea and Chat team covering a distance of 514 miles.

Our Tea and Chat volunteering started in 2014 and made four visits in the first six months. Over the past two years that number has increased considerably which is a credit to the branch. Relieving loneliness and social isolation amongst our older members has become a major feature of our welfare work but we know there are more members who would benefit from a regular visit. **To reach these members we need more Tea and Chat volunteers.** If you can spare a couple of hours a month and would like to join the team please contact your branch Welfare Officer, contact details on page 4.

Bob ready to pass on our Branch Standard



Following the retirement of Bob, our Branch Standard Bearer, we now have a vacancy for a new Standard Bearer.

My first time as Branch Standard Bearer was at the annual Remembrance Day Parade at the Gloucester Park Memorial, which I did for another 5 services.

During my time as bearer I did quite a few funerals for our ex members and friends, also occasional funerals for ex RAF servicemen and women.

You always feel an enormous amount of pride whenever you put on the standard bearer kit and go on parade whatever the occasion. The highlight of my time in the role was probably when I paraded the standard at the Jet age museum on the day the French Government presented the Légion d'honneur to branch member Don Say. A very special day for some very special gentlemen, every one of them fully deserving of the award and all so very humble. Another highlight would have to be the Birmingham International Tattoo in 2016. I was invited by the Area HQ as RAFA were the hosts for this year, and a big turn out of our standards was hoped for. Over the 2 days we managed to parade between 60 and 75 out of almost 200 standards on display and of course we were by far the smartest and most professional. I was also fortunate to represent the Branch at several Armed Forces Day events at the Jet Age Museum, which were usually quite a relaxed and less formal occasion.

Overall my time as Standard Bearer was extremely enjoyable, but unfortunately continuing and worsening Arthritis means I have decided it is the right time to pass on the role to someone fitter than I who will parade our Standard with pride.

I wish whoever takes on the role the very best of luck and if I can pass on any help it will be my pleasure.

If you would like to volunteer for this important role please contact Lorraine on 01452 306005 or email: lorraine@blueyonder.co.uk

Your Committee

President: Eric Ede

Chairman: Ian Beaton

Deputy Chairman: Noel Phillips

Treasurer: Chris Hill

Honorary Secretary:

Lorraine Wilson

Lorraine can be contacted on 01452 306005

email:lorrainecole@blueyonder.co.uk

Honorary Welfare Officer (HWO):

Ray Bunnage

Ray can be contacted on 01452 415064

Email: rafagloucester@gmail.com

Social Events sub committee:

Pam Blackhall

Ruth Aldridge

Contact Pam on 01242 862685, email: pambblackhall@gmail.com

Website/Social Media Manager:

Ray Bunnage

RAF 100 Tapestry

1 April 2018 will be the centenary year of the formation of the Royal Air Force.

Your branch has formed a sub committee to organise various events in Gloucester to commemorate this important anniversary. Details of these events will be included in the next newsletter but one aspect that is well underway is the production of a commemorative tapestry.

A Tapestry depicting the History of the Royal Air Force in Gloucestershire will become a permanent reminder of the Royal Air Force's 100 year anniversary and is likely to be the only tapestry of its kind in the country.

The tapestry will consist of 10, 1 metre square panels. The picture (bottom left) is an example of one of the panels.

All those taking part in the production of the tapestry are volunteers including the artist Chris Bazeley, Pat Coupe who was involved with the Great Tapestry of Scotland and will be leading a squadron of ladies who will be doing the stitching and Ray Bunnage who has overall management of the project.

This project is going to be expensive.

If you would like to donate to the project your support would be most welcome.

Please contact Ray:

Tel: 01452 415064

Email: rafagloucester@gmail.com

