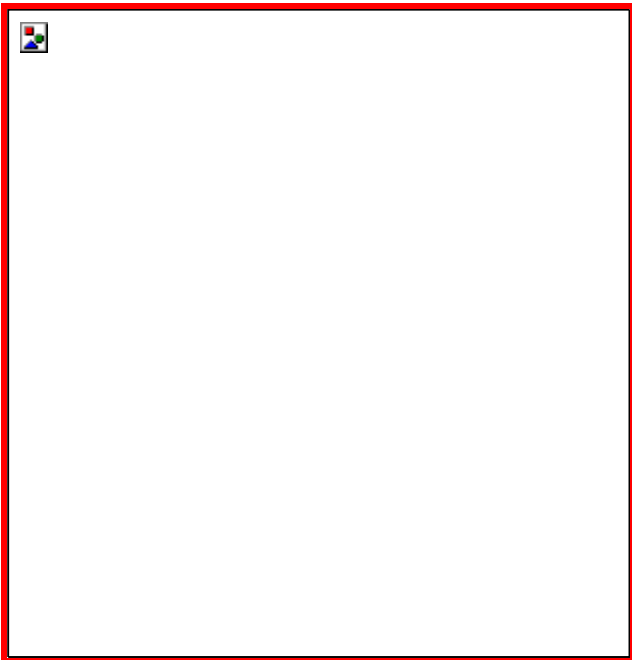


	<p>THE ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION</p> <p>Rutland Branch</p> <p><i>THE FLYING HORSESHOE</i></p> <p>No 120 Branch Newsletter May 2008</p>	
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RAFA CONFERENCE 2008 - BLACKPOOL

Francis, our Branch Standard Bearer, and his wife, Angie, our Delegate, were very proud to represent Rutland at the 65th Annual Conference in Blackpool from 16th – 18th May 2008. The Conference weekend was a very well organised and enjoyable weekend and to be recommended to any member who wishes to discover more about the Royal Air Forces Association. The weekend consisted of a Rendezvous Evening on Friday in the Spanish Suite of the Winter Gardens, with background music provided by an ensemble of the Band of the Royal Air Force College and the atmosphere was very lively as old pals met up again and new friendships were created over the inevitable pint or two.

On Saturday delegates for the Conference were transported by Blackpool buses from their hotels to the Winter Gardens in readiness for the Conference at 10.00am. Air Marshal Philip Sturley, our President, escorted on to the stage, the Worshipful the Mayor of Blackpool, Councillor Mary Smith, the Chief of the Air Staff Sir Glenn Torpy, Air Member for Personnel, Air Marshal Stephen Dalton, The Controller of the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, Air Marshal Sir Robert Wright and the Archdeacon for the Royal Air Force, The Venerable Group Captain Ray Pentland. Under-Secretary of State for Defence & Minister for Veterans, Derek Twigg MP, joined a little later as he had a previous appointment.



The Mayor of Blackpool gave a very warm welcome to all in this her first week in office and stated that the people of Blackpool were very proud to host this conference again and announced that National Veterans Day 2008 is to be held in Blackpool on 28th June. In his Presidential Address Air Marshall Sturley conveyed messages of greetings from Queen Elizabeth, Prince Phillip and Prince Charles and reminded delegates that the aim of the conference was for all to be revitalised and re-invigorated for the next year. He presented awards to serving members and cadets including our National Standard Bearer for 21 years, Band Master of RAFA Concert Band, Peter Skellern, the President's Cup to Solihull Branch for outstanding Achievement, and 5 cadets who had been awarded flying scholarships.

The Branch web site is at www.rafarutland.org.uk

Reports were presented by Chairman of Central Council, Honorary Treasurer, and a presentation by the Controller of RAF Benevolent Fund followed by Announcement of Election results. Fuller details will be advised to members in the usual way. After a lunch break the Resolutions for Annual Conference (15 in total) were presented and debated in the usual manner. The very first resolution* caused the tellers to be called because of the very close vote, and was counted twice, before delegates card numbers, (relating to the total of their branch votes) were totalled and eventually the resolution was turned down.

****This Conference resolves that newly elected members on Central Councils serve a minimum of 3 years before the need to seek re-election and that the governing documents are amended accordingly.***

The resolutions which continued throughout the afternoon, were varied and the speakers for and against had certainly researched to produce comprehensive and interesting presentations to delegates before the voting proceeded.

Saturday evening was an opportunity for everyone to relax and enjoy a Civic evening with dancing in the Empress Ballroom, Winter Gardens with the Dance Orchestra of the Band of the Royal Air Force College, plus table top marching display which delighted everyone.

On Sunday morning we awoke to blue skies and sunshine which was ideal for the Parade and Service of Dedication at the War Memorial, close to the famous Blackpool Tower. Almost 80 standards, led by the band and supported by members marching, were paraded along the North Shore to the War Memorial and as the service proceeded a flypast of the Battle of Britain aircraft completed the picture.

The weekend conference in our opinion did achieve the Presidents wish in re-vitalising and re-invigorating everyone's feelings about our Association and we hope all returned home safely from Blackpool to continue their vital roles in support of the Royal Air Force Association.

Thank you for the opportunity of representing Rutland Branch.

Francis & Angie Humphreys

RAFA MEETING – COTTESMORE SOCIAL CLUB - 7th MAY 2008

Rob Toy welcomed everyone to our temporary meeting place, which has been chosen whilst Royal British Legion Club is being refurbished. Future meetings will be at this Cottesmore venue until the Royal British Legion work is completed.

Our speaker was Dawn McCafferty, Chairman RAF Families Federation. Val Kelly, our Welfare Officer, had booked her a year ago even before the RAF Families Federation had been formed, and it was certainly a good decision, because Dawn's enthusiasm and comprehensive delivery about this new section of RAFA was well received by everyone. She described the Federation as the Trojan Horse of the Association,, which aims to support RAFA's aim of becoming more relevant to the serving RAF as well as families.

Dawn retired in 2007 as a Group Captain and was appointed as consultant to prepare a bid by RAFA to run a new Families Federation to replace the former Airwaves. She was asked to prepare a contract in 28 days for consideration by the RAFA. Once this was accepted and funding by the Royal Air Force of £1.2million over 5 years, was agreed to, she was asked to apply for the job of heading the team of 4 to run the new Federation. Dawn was successful and moved to her office in RAF Wittering in July



Meet the Team

The RAF Families Federation was set up in November 2007 with a team of 5. A 6th member joined the team on the 1st April 2008.

The team, from left to right:

Chris Taylor - Deputy Chairman/Office Manager

Colin Jones - Liaison Team Member

Julie Goodson - Admin Co-ordinator

Ann Dewar - Publicity Manager

Jenny Ward (in the car) - Issues Manager/Liaison Team Leader

Dawn McCafferty - (in the driving seat) Chairman

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2007. A new magazine called "Envoy" was launched and a website created, then the team of 4 were appointed. In November the database was opened for people to make contact with their concerns on issues such as housing, schools, dentists etc., 120 actual issues have already gone into the database and a report is prepared every month. In April 2008 50% of enquiries during that month had come from serving uniformed people, proving that the message is getting through to both families and uniform members.

Further contact is being made by the diverse and balanced team of 5 who plan to visit all RAF units to spread the word, and this has already begun with initial aims being directed at Station Commanders, Executives, Support Staff, and RAFALOs. Families will be kept informed of Federation activities via a dedicated website and the quarterly Families Federation magazine, Envoy. www.raf-families-federation.org.uk
Telephone **01780 781650**.

Dawn has direct access on behalf of the Federation to Ministers and recently was invited to the House of Commons Defence Committee responsible for recruiting and retention, where questions were asked for approximately one hour and much information produced for the Ministers.

Dawn completed her presentation and answered several questions from members before being thanked warmly by Rob Toy who encouraged her to consider transferring her membership to our Rutland Branch, where she would always be sure of a welcome at future meetings.

A very enjoyable meeting raised £45.00 on the raffle.

FORTHCOMING VISITS

The social secretary is considering the following visits throughout the year. Please contact **Fred Prestwood** if you are interested

- The Wing water treatment centre
- The Animal Veterinary centre at Melton Mowbray
- The National Memorial Arboretum Alrewas Staffordshire
- Corby recycling centre.

The following shows some information on just one of these visits. Fred would welcome any other suggestion that Branch Members might have for further visits.



National Memorial Arboretum, Coxall Road, Alrewas, nr. Lichfield, Staffordshire, DE137AR
Tel: 01283 792333
Website www.thenma.org.uk

Located in the heart of the country, the National Memorial Arboretum comprises 150 acres of trees and memorials devoted to the concept of Remembrance. Set within the National Forest of Staffordshire, near Lichfield, it was established in 1997, on former gravel and sand pits gifted from Lafarge Aggregates. It already contains 130 memorials of national significance.

The Arboretum is the home of the new Armed Forces Memorial which was opened in October 2007. It is a striking and emotive memorial and is quickly assuming national significance. It gives recognition and thanks for those who have died whilst on duty or as a result of terrorist action since

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the Second World War and acknowledges the enduring sacrifice of those who mourn their loss.

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Some Ideas for Supporting the Association

ONLINE DONATION WITH CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD. Making a donation on-line is the most efficient way to support the Association as it saves time and money.

BY PHONE. If you would like to make a donation by phone please call FREEPHONE 0800 0182 361

BY POST. If you wish to donate by post please send your donation to: **Fundraising Department, The RAF Association (RAFA), 117½ Loughborough Road, Leicester, LE4 5ND**

If you are paying Income Tax at the standard rate, Gift Aid your donation and the government will give the RAF Association an extra 28p for every pound you donate, at no extra cost to you!

LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL. Legacies form a vital part of our fundraising task. Leaving a gift in your will is a wonderful opportunity to make a difference to the lives of people who have served in the RAF and their dependants. To this end we have published a simple, easy to read 'Guide to Making a Will'. To obtain a copy telephone **0116 268 8756** or [e-mail the association](mailto:rafa@rafa.org.uk)

A GIFT INSTEAD OF FUNERAL FLOWERS. Many people ask for donations to be made to a nominated charity, these donations help the RAF Association and local Branches to continue to support those who need it most.

CORPORATE DONATIONS. The Association welcomes corporate donations or corporate sponsorship in activities such as the London Marathon, the Great North Run and the Great South Run and other events. To discuss corporate donations please contact The Fundraising Department on 0116 268 8756 or [e-mail the association](mailto:rafa@rafa.org.uk)

ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION

Rutland Branch

COMMITTEE 2008

<u>President:</u>	Group Captain K.B. McCann RAF	Station commander RAF Cottesmore
<u>Chairman:</u>	Rob Toy	01572 812355
<u>Vice-Chairman:</u>	Duncan Manderson	01664 474274
<u>Secretary:</u>	Derek Bury	01572 755969
<u>Treasurer & PRO:</u>	Gordon Diffey	01572 737854
<u>Membership Secretary:</u>	Angie Humphreys	01572 756120
<u>Honorary Welfare Officer:</u>	Val Kelly	01572 813454
<u>Assistant Welfare Officer:</u>	Alf Dewis	01572 723161
<u>Wings Appeal Organiser:</u>	Jim Tibbott	01572 724631
<u>Standard Bearer:</u>	Francis Humphreys	01572 756120
<u>Social Secretary:</u>	Fred Prestwood	01572 737443
<u>Meetings Coordinator:</u>	Malcolm Sutton	01572 813080
<u>Newsletter Editor:</u>	Phil Marston	01572 822731
<u>Other Committee Members:</u>	Diana Toy	01572 812355
	Jo Tibbott	01572 724631
	Val Bury	01572 755969
	Kathryn Manderson	01664 474274

BRANCH NOTES

The ***Flying Horseshoe*** is prepared by the end of each calendar month for onward transmission to Francis Humphreys. Contributions can be sent to either Derek Bury at 39 Lonsdale Road, Oakham, LE15 6LP (rafarutland923@yahoo.co.uk) or direct to me, Phil Marston at 12 Seaton Road, Uppingham, LE15 9QX (joyphilmarston@btinternet.com). It is your newsletter and needs your support. If there is anything you like or dislike (colour/font etc) please let me know. **Please note that there will be no Flying Horseshoe prepared at the end of June 2008 (distribution early July) due to the Editor and Branch Secretary both being on Holiday.**

THE SPEAKER for 2 July 2008 will be Chris Fear, Area Welfare Officer

Diary Date - Sunday 3 Aug 2008 - Uppingham Show Jo Tibbott is looking for raffle prizes for this event