



**THE ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION**

**Rutland Branch**

***THE FLYING HORSESHOE***

**Branch Newsletter**

**November 2009**



**NEW BRANCH PRESIDENT**

The new Harrier Force Commander at RAF Cottesmore, Group Captain Gary Waterfall, has been invited by our Chairman to be the new branch president. He enthusiastically accepted the appointment and, although his diary is very full, he hopes that he and his wife Yvonne will be able to attend many of our meetings and functions.

We are fortunate in having such good links with RAF Cottesmore both through the CO and our tireless RAFLOs. Long may it continue.

**Duncan Manderson**

**RAFA MEMORIAL – NATIONAL ARBORETUM**



A number of Branch members attended the dedication of the new RAFA memorial at the National Arboretum, Alrewas, held on 28 September 2009. Following the dedication service, a wreath was laid by HRH, The Princess Royal after which she spent a considerable time talking to the assembled Standard Bearers and Specially invited guests. Later the branch members laid a wreath in memory of, and as a tribute to all past members of, the Royal Air Forces Association Rutland branch. There are many more photographs available on the website and available if required by members.

**Phil Marston**

**7 OCTOBER 2009 – SPEAKER**



During the 1920s and 1930s the Zeppelin phenomenon held out the promise of fast and very comfortable travel around the world by air, although like Concorde, it could only ever have been viable for a relatively small number of people. Richard Davies recounted his personal journey from Patagonia to Germany in 1937, the year in which the Hindenburg disaster occurred, which event ended the use of all such airships for passenger transport. He explained the various problems not least of which was the amount of drinking water required. The airship carried only 20 passengers in 10 x 2 berth cabins. It required 40 crew to operate over the 10,000 km (approx 6214 miles) it was required to fly non-stop. At 70 mph this would

take some 89 hours, nearly 4 days!!!!

Richard's family travelled on the Zeppelin in 1937 to attend then coronation of King George V1 and are possibly the last remaining passengers to have travelled on the air ship as he was only 3 years old at the time.

The **Zeppelin** was a type of rigid airship pioneered by the German, Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin in the early 20th century. It was based on designs he had outlined in 1874 and detailed in 1893. His plans were reviewed by committee in 1894 and patented in the United States on March 14, 1899. Given the outstanding success of the Zeppelin design, the term *Zeppelin* in casual use came to refer to all rigid airships.

Zeppelins were operated by the Deutsche Luftschiffahrts-AG (DELAG the first commercial airline) and they offered scheduled flights before World War I. After the outbreak of the war, the German military made extensive use of Zeppelins as bombers and scouts. The World War I defeat of Germany in 1918 temporarily halted the airship business. However, under the guidance of Hugo Eckener, the successor of the deceased count, civilian Zeppelins became popular in the 1920s. Their heyday was during the 1930s when the airships LZ 127 *Graf Zeppelin* and LZ 129 *Hindenburg* operated regular transatlantic flights from Germany to North America and Brazil. The Art Deco Spire of the Empire State Building was originally designed to serve as a dirigible terminal for docking Zeppelins and other airships. The Hindenburg disaster in 1937, along with political and economic issues, hastened the demise of the Zeppelin.

**Phil Marston**

## **RAFA RUTLAND CHRISTMAS DINNER**

We are holding our Annual Christmas Dinner at Greetham Valley Golf Club on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 7.30 for 8.00pm. All members and guests are invited. The cost will be £21 per person.

### **Chunky Vegetable Soup**

served with crispy croutons

### **Smoked Salmon Roulade**

served with a prawn compote



### **From the Carvery**

Roast Breast of Turkey

Roast Horseshoe of Honey & Mustard Ham

Roast Sirloin of Beef

served with a chipolata wrapped in bacon, traditional seasoning, Yorkshire pudding & gravy

### **Mediterranean Vegetable Wellington**

served with a whole grain mustard dressing



### **Traditional Christmas Pudding**

with a brandy sauce

### **Individual Chocolate and Orange Tart**

served with crème fraîche



### **Coffee, Tea & Mints**

The Christmas Dinner Booking Form will be either posted or sent by email. Anyone not receiving a Booking Form should contact me on 01572 813547.

**Roger Hyde**

**RAF CRANWELL CHRISTMAS CONCERTS  
WHITTLE HALL – CRANWELL**

The branch are considering organising trips to the following concerts – for details contact the Branch Secretary on 01572 755969.

**The Band of the Royal Air Force College**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2009

**The Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2009

**Royal Air Force ‘Shades of Blue’**

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Tickets cost £6 each and all concerts commence at 7.30pm

**Derek Bury**

**NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome the following new members to the branch:

Mr G E Binney from Stretton  
Mr R Kirkpatrick MBE and Mrs D Kirkpatrick from Ashwell.  
Miss E E Wilkinson from Edith Weston  
Mr C Mackellar from North Luffenham

We have also had a deceased member - Mr Bryan Boundy of Morcott died in June 2009. Members are reminded to pass on any details of changes of circumstances i.e. new postal/email address to the Branch Secretary or Membership secretary as soon as they are known.

**Angie Humphreys**

**CAPTION COMPETITION**



Peter Thomas has sent this photograph to the Editor.

Can you think of an appropriate caption?

Send your thoughts to the Editor and the winner will be announced at the Christmas Dinner 2009.

Phil Marston  
12 Seaton Road  
Uppingham  
Rutland  
LE15 9QX

**C-NILE VIRUS**

**There is a new virus going around called the C-NILE. The symptoms are:-**

Causes you to send the same e-mail twice (or even more)

Causes you to send a blank e-mail

Causes you to send it to the wrong person  
 Causes you to send it back to the person who sent it to you  
 Causes you to forget to attach the attachment  
 Causes you to send before you have finished  
 Causes you to hit delete instead of send  
 Cause you to hit send when you should have deleted.

**If you have any or all of these symptoms you are infected**

**Francis (Standard Bearer)**

### DIARY DATES 2009

4 Nov 09	Speaker - Group Captain M Heffron - Joint Services HQ - RAF Northwood plus social evening with invited branches
8 Nov 09	Annual Remembrance Day Parade – Oakham – March off from the market square at 2 pm followed by church service and then march back to the council car park.
2 Dec 09	Greetham Valley Golf Club - Branch Christmas Dinner
26–28 Mar 2010	Annual Conference at Eastbourne

Meetings are normally held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month in the Cottesmore Sports & Social Club – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

**Derek Bury**

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS (2009)

President	Gp Capt Gary Waterfall	
Chairman	Duncan Manderson	01664 474274
Vice-Chairman	Gordon Diffey	01572 722068
Secretary	Derek Bury	01572 755969
Treasurer	Gordon Diffey	01572 722068
Welfare Officer	Val Kelly	01572 813454
Assistant Welfare Officer	Post Vacant	
Wings Appeal Organiser	Jim Tibbott	01572 724631
Membership Secretary	Angie Humphreys	01572 756120
Public Relations	Post Vacant	
Standard Bearer	Francis Humphreys	01572 756120
Senior RAFLO	Dave Craven	01572 811022
Editor Flying Horseshoe Newsletter	Phil Marston	01572 822731
Meetings Co-ordinator	Malcolm Sutton	
Social Secretary	Fred Prestwood	
Associate Members	Diana Toy Jo Tibbott Val Bury Sonia Sutton Kathryn Manderson	