

	<p style="text-align: center;">THE ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION Rutland Branch <i>THE FLYING HORSESHOE</i> Branch Newsletter January 2009</p>	
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EDITORIAL

It is with great sadness that I have to report that the Branch Chairman, Rob Toy had a stroke on the night of 23 January 2009 and is in Peterborough Hospital. It is not possible at this stage to give a prognosis for the long term but I am sure that you will join me in wishing Rob, Diana and all the family our best wishes.

In the meantime, Duncan Manderson has assumed the reins and will keep us informed of developments. Rob actually chaired a committee meeting on 22 January 2009 where plans for the year were put in place. He also asked if a New Year message could be sent to all Branch Members. I have discussed the matter with Duncan and we felt that this message should be included.

Phil Marston

To all Members of RAFA (Rutland Branch)

By the time you read this, January 2009 will be well underway. Nevertheless, as we now look forward to another year both for RAFA and ourselves, I would like to wish you all every success and happiness. As I said in my Christmas Message, I am confident that with your continuing support, we will have another successful year.

Our meeting on 4th March will, as always, be the Annual General Meeting. We will be looking back over the happenings of 2008, including reports from post holding members of your committee, covering in particular, finances, fund raising and membership. This will be followed by the election of the committee for the next year. All Branch Members are eligible for election, so if you are interested please let Derek Bury or me know. I am not aware of any current members wishing to stand down. Fortunately, we are blessed with a good committee, the members of which are prepared to work for the good of RAFA. Being on the committee is not an onerous thing and in fact I like to make our meetings fun occasions as well as dealing with the necessary business.

I hope the AGM will be followed by the traditional buffet supper. Please come along and support your branch.

Best regards

Rob

FEBRUARY 2009 BRANCH MEETING

The Branch meeting on 4 February 2009 will be held in the Cottesmore Sports & Social Club and the Guest speaker will be Dan Hill on the subject of the Berlin Air Lift.

OBITUARY - DOROTHY ASHER

Although many of you will know already, it is with sadness that I must tell you that Dorothy passed away rather suddenly before Christmas. Dorothy, or Dot as all knew her, had not been well for some time with several periods in hospital. After the last time, it was thought she had turned the corner and was on her way to better health. Alas, it was not to be.

Dorothy and her husband Bill were made Honorary Members of the Branch as a thank you for their work in opening and running the upstairs bar in the British Legion for a long time, thereby making our social meetings so much better.

Our best wishes and condolences go to Bill and all of the family.

I represented the Branch at Dot's funeral

Rob Toy

The RAF Association (RAFA) Remembrance Garden

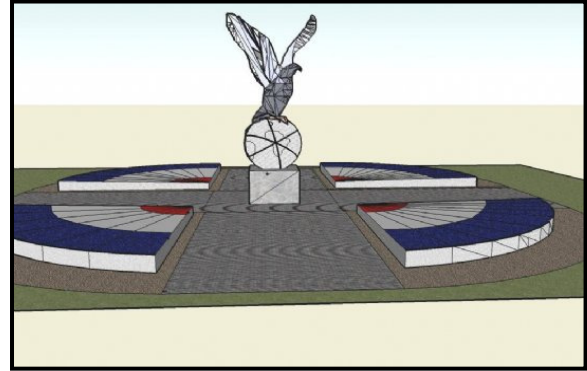
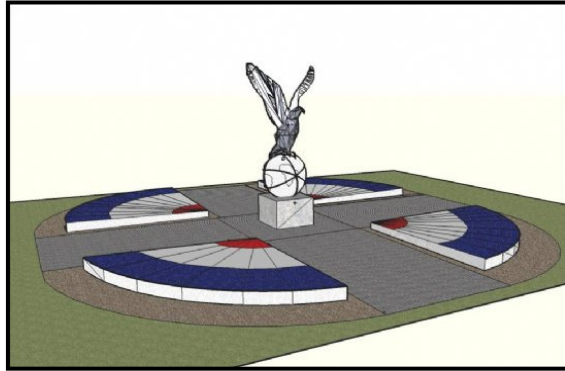
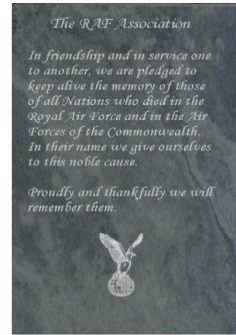
"Proudly and thankfully we will remember them"

An article in October 2007 Air Mail introduced the idea of *The RAF Association Remembrance Garden* and asking for feedback. Everyone unanimously gave their backing to the idea, but many felt that the wing shape did not reflect the Association. If you missed the October article, the idea behind the Garden is to create a Garden of Remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum which will enable the whole membership of RAFA, and anyone with an RAF connection, to celebrate the lives of its members and loved ones who have served in the Royal Air Force and have passed away.

Set in the Staffordshire countryside in Alrewas, near Tamworth, The National Memorial Arboretum has been created on a 150 acre site and is home to over 100 major memorials representing military and civilian organisations. The site is a living and lasting focus of remembrance for people, essentially for those who have lost their lives or suffered in the service of their country. The National Arboretum makes a good day out and we highly recommend a visit. There are loads of facilities including restaurant, gift shop and a chapel. The site is reasonably flat and has good wheelchair facilities.



The new design features a focal point of a magnificent RAFA Eagle made from stainless steel, atop a dark marble plinth. The Association dedication would appear on the plinth. Surrounding the Eagle will be the RAF roundel split into to quarters. The Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Glenn Torpy has personally given his blessing to the splitting of the roundel. RAFA have now been given the go ahead to start building the garden, work has already started on a number of the different elements. The launch date is not fixed yet but we are looking at some potential dates in September 09.



The Annual Service St Clement Danes – Sunday 29th March 2009

The Annual Service to commemorate the formation of the Royal Air Force will be held at St Clement Danes Church the Strand London on Sunday **29th March 2009**. The Service will commence at **1100 hrs**.

Royal Air Forces Association Standard Bearers have been invited to attend the Service. The format will be the same as last year with Standard Bearers marching from Lincoln's Inn Field to St Clement Danes Church headed by the RAF Halton Pipe Band. Any Standard Bearers who would like to attend and also any members wishing to obtain tickets for the Service should contact the South East Area Manager, Pete Stockdale, Tel: 020 8286 6667, **no later than Friday 6th March 2009**.

Ticket allocation for the Service as in previous years is on a first come first served basis but unfortunately, **only** invited guests will be allowed to attend the reception after the Service. Any members wishing to obtain tickets for the Service should contact the **South East Area Manager** no later than **Friday 6th March 2009**.

TOMBOLA PRIZES

The Branch is involved in many fund raising events and is always in need of Raffle Prizes. In addition, a raffle is held at every Branch Meeting. If you feel that you can donate a raffle prize please contact Jo Tibbott on 01572 724631.

RAF REGIMENT BAND CONCERT

The RAF Regiment Band is playing in Uppingham School Memorial Hall on Friday the 13th Feb at 7.30pm. Tickets are priced at £15.00 each and can be obtained from the Uppingham book shop.

WINGS APPEAL 2008

Jim Tibbott has received the following from RAFA Central Headquarters. We are writing to thank you and all members and supporters of the Rutland Branch RAFA for raising the sum of £3000 towards the 2008 Wings Appeal.

Overall the 2008 Wings Appeal raised close to £1.9 million which is a fantastic achievement in the current financial climate. It therefore remains our single largest method of raising welfare funds to provide care and support for the whole RAF Family, from the youngest recruit to the oldest veteran and their families. With the support of the Area Fundraisers and by introducing new initiatives and new area events we hope that together we will both stabilize and then grow our income for the future.

On behalf of everyone at The RAF Association, may I personally thank you once again for all your hard work.

RAFATRAD

'RAFATRAD' is the Publishing and Trading Company of the Royal Air Forces Association. The Branch representative is Sonia Sutton who can obtain items on behalf of members and can be contacted on 01572 813080

STAMP COLLECTING

Angie Humphreys is collecting used **British & Foreign postage stamps** all year round in aid of RAFA Wings Appeal, and would welcome members' support by bringing them along. They should be left with approx. one quarter of an inch of envelope left around the stamp. If not attending the meeting please hand to any committee or phone me on 01572 756120 and I will happily collect.

CARTRIDGE COLLECTION

The RAF Benevolent Fund can now convert your used inkjet printer cartridges into money which helps to fund our valuable welfare work. Recycling also helps to conserve our planet for the future. The Fund receives £1 for each inkjet printer cartridge we recycle! 'Empties' to **Peter Thomas** please - **No Epson or Laser cartridges thank you.**

BRANCH NOTES

The ***Flying Horseshoe*** is prepared by the end of each calendar month. Contributions can be sent to either:

Phil Marston at 12 Seaton Road, Uppingham, LE15 9QX (joyphilmarston@btinternet.com) or
Derek Bury at 39 Lonsdale Road, Oakham, LE15 6LP (rafarutland923@yahoo.co.uk).

It is your newsletter and needs your support.

All meetings will be in the **Cottesmore Village Hall Sports & Social Club** until further notice.