



THE ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION

Rutland Branch

*THE FLYING HORSESHOE*

Branch Newsletter

March 2010

ROYAL  
AIR FORCES  
Association

## SPEAKER – FEBRUARY 2010 MEETING



As many of you will know the RAF came into existence on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1918 but for many years prior to that man had a fascination with flying. Indeed it was watching birds in flight that enabled us to conquer this magnificent act. It seemed fitting therefore that at the February meeting of Rutland RAFA we learnt the history of one of Britain's oldest flying soul mates – the Osprey.

Photo Tim Appleton – from Rutland Ospreys web page 02/10

Tim Mackrill, Project Officer at the Rutland Osprey Project, gave a very interesting presentation on the most famous and successful conservation programme to be accomplished in the UK. He is seen here on the right, picking the first raffle ticket of the evening, with the Branch Chairman. We learnt that prior to the 17th Century there were probably 1,000 pairs of Ospreys across Britain but loss of habitat, shooting and egg collecting caused the numbers to gradually decline. Extinction from our shores occurred with the last known Ospreys breeding in Gloucestershire in 1840 and in Argyll Scotland in 1916.



Then in 1954 a single pair bred at Loch Garten, Scotland. The event was kept a closely guarded secret and conservation in that area began. There are now approximately 130 pairs in Scotland and it was from these birds that the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust and Anglian Water began to re-introduce Ospreys to Central England. As Osprey eat only fish, and Anglian Water are continually stocking Rutland Water with trout, Rutland Water is an ideal habitat. As the Osprey is inherently lazy, they would rather take over already made nests rather than build a new one. In eloquent terms Tim explained how artificial nests plus platforms were erected at the nature reserve in order to entice Scottish Ospreys returning from migration to 'discard their kilts' and remain at Rutland.

Work is slow but the numbers are slowly improving and there are still pairs successfully breeding at Rutland Water. Details can be found on the Rutland Ospreys website at <http://www.ospreys.org.uk/>. Protection and conservation work however is still needed before these birds are deemed to be safely re-instated to our shores. We would all like to thank Tim for his interesting, informative and enjoyable talk.

**Kathryn Manderson**

## BATTLE OF BRITAIN 70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY – MAJOR EVENT

To commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Britain, the Association will be organising a major event on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2010. This will be the "City of London Salute" and will consist of a Service in St Paul's Cathedral, followed by a parade through the City of London and receptions in various City of London Livery Halls. Further details and an application form for tickets were published in the January edition of Air Mail. Branches are asked to make a note of this date and publicise this event to their members.

### RAFA Association Newsletter

With the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the B of B this autumn, we could ask members to have a think about how we, as a branch, might like to celebrate. It would be a shame to miss the opportunity and the associated publicity that the Branch would receive. Just a thought as we have had 70 years preparation time!

**Duncan Manderson – Chairman**

## RAF PRESENTATION TEAM

The RAF is holding several presentations about the Royal Air Force on the dates listed below and RAFA members, friends and relatives are welcome to attend. They also need your help to invite other members of the public, in particular local businessmen/women and other influential members of society, to the event.

DATE	LOCATION	VENUE
23 Feb 2010	Mansfield	Civic Centre
10 Mar 2010	Bracknell	Princes Park Stadium, Dartford
11 Mar 2010	Chichester	The Venue
23 Mar 2010	Bury St Edmunds	Athenaeum
<b>24 Mar 2010</b>	<b>Corby</b>	<b>TBC</b>
25 Mar 2010	Northampton	TBC
5 May 2010	Great Yarmouth	TBC
6 May 2010	Cambridge	TBC

The evenings will consist of:

7.00pm to 7.30pm Drinks & Canapé Reception

7.30pm to 8.00pm Presentation

8.00pm to 8.15pm Questions

8.15pm Discussion over Tea, Coffee & Biscuits

**RAFA Newsletter**

### VULCAN XH 558

Vulcan XH 558 is fifty years old this year. Visit the website [www.vulcantothesky.org](http://www.vulcantothesky.org)

to sign her birthday card and help to set a world record.

### 2010 RAF WADDINGTON AIR SHOW (3 & 4 JULY)



This year's RAF Waddington Air Show will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> July 2010 and will celebrate:

The 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first ever RAF Air Show.  
70 years since the Battle of Britain  
35 years of Airborne Early Warning Systems.

To commemorate these milestones in modern UK history, the Air Show will feature several flying and static displays including a war-time airfield attack demonstration. The flying display will last 7 hours, and is expected to feature aircraft from RAF Waddington as well as top national and international display teams and aircraft, some of which have never been to Waddington before.

Group travel organisers (10+ passengers) are offered priority routing for arrival and departure, free on-site parking on hardstanding and a sale or return ticket sale facility. Coach drivers are admitted free of charge. Group bookings will be allocated one free admission ticket for each 20 purchased.

**The Rutland Branch is organising a group visit and Fred Prestwood is taking bookings and names at the AGM.**

This year there will be an enclosure for UK Forces' Veterans. The LINCOLN enclosure will be situated on the crowd line and has a marquee with a seated area inside and outside. The enclosure has a capacity of 300 people per day and is open to any holder of the **UK Veterans Badge** and their immediate family. This enclosure replaces the previous veterans and squadron association enclosure. Places can be reserved for a fee of £5 per person by telephoning the booking line on 01522 726102 or completing a booking from obtainable from the branch.

**RAF Waddington Air Show Committee**

### SANTANDER TO RAISE CASH FOR LOCAL CHARITIES

RAFA branches should be aware that banking group Santander has launched a scheme to donate £250,000 to local charities across the country. The Spanish retail and commercial bank is asking its customers in the UK to vote for the local charities they think should receive funding to mark the rebranding of Abbey and Bradford & Bingley to Santander.

Each of the 1,000 branches will be allocated part of the Community Chest Fund and asked to nominate three local causes, which will be voted for by customers visiting branches of the bank between 11th January and 26<sup>th</sup> February. You may wish to publicise this to your members.

**RAFA Newsletter**

### PRINTER CARTRIDGES

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.**

### RAFA TRAD

At the AGM in March I will have the catalogue for Balmoral Knitwear on view as several members have expressed an interest in ordering a sweatshirt. They come in five different colours and cost £15 complete with the RAFA logo. The minimum order is 6 items. So everyone please look in your wardrobes and plan ahead for the better weather.

**Sonia Sutton** [RAFATRAD Shop](#).

### DIARY DATES

3 Mar 2010	AGM - Buffet
26-28 Mar 2010	Area Conference at the Wintergardens, Eastbourne
7 Apr 2010	To be determined
5 May 2010	AI Page – RAF Motor Sports Association
21-23 May 2010	Annual Conference at Blackpool
2 Jun 2010	Sqn Ldr Bev Cartwright – OC 3MCS, RAF Wittering
7 Jul 2010	TBN
4 Aug 2010	TBN
1 Sep 2010	Wings Appeal – Social Evening
6 Oct 2010	TBN
3 November 2010	Sarah Outen – Solo Across the Indian Ocean
1 Dec 2010	Christmas Dinner – Greetham Golf Club

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

Branch Contact Numbers

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**Derek Bury**