



THE ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION

Rutland Branch

*THE FLYING HORSESHOE*

Branch Newsletter

September 2009



5 AUGUST 2009 SPEAKER



Picture courtesy of Derek Bury

seemed destined to fly F16's until the government cancelled the program. Thirty pilots resigned from the RNZAF and went to either Australia or the United Kingdom who were actively looking for trained fast jet pilots at the time.

After much deliberation, Charlie decided on the RAF and went to the Tornado F3 Operational Conversion Unit (OCU). Following operational and instructional tours on the Tornado, he was selected for Typhoon training. He stated that the aircraft was 'easy to fly' but 'difficult to operate' and gave an interesting run down of the teams needed to support the aircraft and the work involved in putting a display together.

The Typhoon is an outstanding aircraft and the RAF Typhoon Force has achieved much in a very short time. For 2 years the Typhoon has provided Southern Quick Reaction Alert from RAF Coningsby - ready 24/7 to get airborne at moment's notice in defence of UK airspace. In 2008 the aircraft was declared operational as a Multi-Role weapons system, packing a weighty and exceptionally accurate punch in the Air-to-Surface role alongside its proven Air Defence capability.

The display team consists of a display pilot, the team manager and 7 dedicated engineers, but before they arrive on site they rely on the professionalism and expertise of staff in operations, administration and logistics, as well as specialists in aviation medicine, photography, media, transport, catering and much more.

**In 2009, after displaying the RAF's premier multi-role fighter, current display pilot Flt Lt Scott Loughran will cycle back to the fighter's base in order to raise money for the RAF Association, RAF Benevolent fund and the National Society for Phenylketonuria. 100% of the money raised goes to charity. To make a donation please visit [www.justgiving.com/TyphoonDisplayTeam](http://www.justgiving.com/TyphoonDisplayTeam)**



## WADDINGTON AIR DISPLAY 2009



Several branch members attended the Waddington Air Show, held on 4/5 July 2009. In the absence of a submitted report I have gleaned the following from the internet. The article and photographs are reproduced courtesy of Fast Air Photography featuring the latest military aviation photography from Gordon Jones. The RAF Waddington International Air Show is the official air show of the RAF. Whilst not as big as the Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) it has become a popular air show with a strong following. This peaked last year with the return to the sky of the Vulcan bringing out the public in record numbers.

This year has been a tough year for the air show. The budget tightening of air forces around the world has made it harder to get the foreign fast jet air displays and the RAF's own budget problems meant the Role Demo display wouldn't be performed anymore. A glimmer of hope in the form of the very popular Harrier display appeared. It was announced that 20(R) Squadron would provide a display in the form of a role demonstration.

A display was starting to be worked up by 20(R) before it was cancelled. It's

uncertain if this was due to budget cuts or because the Jump Force Harrier wasn't relieved of their front line role in Afghanistan when expected but it was another blow to the show. This meant the display list for 2009 had more civilian display teams and mostly military training aircraft displaying.

If all this wasn't bad enough the Vulcan was pulled from the display list at the last minute. The Permit to Fly, that it had achieved last season, had been issued with an understanding that when the non flying Vulcan owned by BAE systems (XM603) was scrapped a structural inspection would be performed. Vulcan XM603 is considered to be part of the Vulcan fleet and it is assumed it is in the same condition as XH558. By having the inspection performed on XM603VTST would not have to strip down XH558 for the inspection to be performed. All great in theory but the inspection (for reason unknown at the time of writing) was not done and, when the Permit to Fly expired, the CAA refused to issue a renewal.



## RAF COTTESMORE FAMILIES DAY



Several members of the branch attended the RAF Cottesmore Families Day held on 24 July 2009. And Peter Thomas also took a few 'domestic' photographs. He stated in his e-mail to me when sending them 'Some pics giving the atmosphere of the day. Well forgetting the 'tempesta tropicaly'! I took this to mean that the weather was not too good – typical English Summer.

## ANONYMOUS POEM

I recently received a poem from someone – I must admit that I have had a senior moment and cannot remember who sent it to me – Sorry!! The covering e-mail said 'if you are English, please pass it on. Being Welsh, I cannot endorse the sentiments but someone out there might appreciate it.

### *England my England*

*Goodbye to my England, So long my old friend, Your days are numbered, being brought to an end  
To be Scottish, Irish or Welsh that's fine. But don't say you're English, that's way out of line.*

*The French and the Germans may call themselves such. So may Norwegians, the Swedes and the Dutch  
You can say you are Russian or maybe a Dane. But don't say you're English ever again.*

*At Broadcasting House the word is taboo. In Brussels it's scrapped, in Parliament too.  
Even schools are affected. Staff do as they're told, They must not teach children about England of old.*

*Writers like Shakespeare, Milton and Shaw. The pupils don't learn about them anymore  
How about Agincourt, Hastings, Arnhem or Mons? When England lost hosts of her very brave sons.*

*We are not Europeans, how can we be? Europe is miles away, over the sea.  
We're the English from England, let's all be proud. Stand up and be counted - Shout it out loud!*

*Let's tell our Government and Brussels too. We're proud of our heritage and the Red, White and Blue.  
Fly the flag of Saint George or the Union Jack. Let the world know - WE WANT OUR ENGLAND  
BACK !!!!*

## LETTER TO THE LEICESTER MERCURY

I am absolutely appalled at the decision to cancel the annual Royal British Legion Parade at the DeMontfort Hall this year. I speak as a member of the RBL and also Standard Bearer for RAFA Rutland Branch. Where are your priorities committee? People who decide to go to London have done so for many years so this is not an issue. It therefore appears that the cancellation has been decided on the playing of a football match. Where is your pride in this country and the many who have fallen - and still do so until this very day? If it were not for the ultimate sacrifice they have paid, and are still paying, you would not be here to make such an appalling decision. Shame on you!

**Francis Humphreys**

### MOBILE PHONE CONTACT - ICE

Do you have a mobile? If you have an accident or collapse the medics, firemen etc are trained to look for **ICE** on mobile phones and can then immediately dial your nearest and dearest to advise them of your demise! Under Add new contacts type **ICE** as the contact and, when it asks for a number, type in your preferred contact eg spouse, partner or home landline number.

I know this works because I lost my mobile phone in Nottingham and the shopkeeper looked through my contacts and saw ICE. He knew what it meant, dialled the number and Francis took the call. I was still on my way home from Nottingham with my friend and was greeted with the information that my mobile had been found and this kind chap had acted very swiftly to let me know. Brilliant I thought, and it may be useful to other members to be aware of this scheme which was invented by a local medic I understand.

[Angie Humphreys](#)

### USED STAMPS COLLECTION

We have recently received a grateful acknowledgement from RAFA Stamp Appeal and they advise us that these stamps help raise valuable funds for the charity. They ask if we can continue sending them and would like to have foreign stamps separated from British stamps as they generate a greater amount of revenue.

To accommodate this request, could members please separate foreign and British stamps before handing them in to the Branch - just put them into 2 used envelopes and we can do the rest. Also please leave half a centimetre approx around the stamps when tearing or cutting from the envelope.

Thank you very much for all of your continued support. If any friends or family can also save, we feel this small gesture on all our parts is a simple way to support RAFA.

[Angie and Francis Humphreys](#)

### AREA NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

To avoid blockages within the RAFA e mail system, the policy now is to publish the E-version of the Area Newsletters on the RAFA website and individuals wishing to do so may download it straight from there. Go to [www.rafa.org.uk](http://www.rafa.org.uk) and follow the links. The June Newsletter is already on the website. An e mail will be sent to usual addresses each month advising that the Newsletter is on the website.

[Central Office](#)

### PRINTER CARTRIDGES

My printer 'blew up' this week and I have had to get a new one. This has left me with several new cartridges and I would like to pass them on in exchange for a donation to the wings appeal. Shall we say £5 each? I have 3 Black HP15 equivalent and 3 colour HP78 - equivalent. Give me ring and I will deliver them and collect the money. Remember to give your used ones to Peter Thomas.

[Phil Marston](#)

### DIARY DATES 2009

2 Sep 09	Wings Appeal Meeting & BBQ
18 Sep 09	Wings Appeal Collection Uppingham
19 Sep 09	Wings Appeal Collection Oakham
7 Oct 09	Social Evening -- Mr Richard Davis - Graf Zeppelin
4 Nov 09	Speaker - Group Captain M Heffron - Joint Services HQ - RAF Northwood
2 Dec 09	Greetham Valley Golf Club - Branch Christmas Dinner

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](#)