



**THE ROYAL AIR FORCES
ASSOCIATION**
Rutland Branch
THE FLYING HORSESHOE



Branch Newsletter

May 2012

Our May Meeting



The speaker at our May 2012 meeting was Richard Adams who told us something about Rutland. Richard had arrived in the county in 1973 when he was appointed Chief Planning Officer for Rutland County Council. Since then he has had a number of roles both in the statutory and the voluntary sectors. Currently among others he is Ride and Stride Organiser with the Rutland Historic Churches Preservation Trust a cause he believes passionately about.

Richard and I first met when I was invited to edit the Rutland News an idea the Oakham Town Partnership had a long with RCC and Voluntary Action Rutland to provide the Rutland population what services were on offer in the county and where they could be found. Unfortunately the budget was so small that although the idea was good there was no funding and it died in about 18 months. Maybe you saw one. I digress.

Richard had agreed to show us areas of the we know very little about. The first picture Rutland showing how main roads divided sections North, South, East and West displayed here. Rutland was the smallest about 18 miles North to South and also 18 with a population of circa 35K people. was quite amazing that for such a small to be two of everything, for example two Uppingham, two large patches of water reservoirs and two military bases Luffenham is just a small example. He went of interest in each of the four sectors, before another one of his passions, along with many of us aviation, we were treated to a number of photographs he had taken from the air from a Hot Air Balloon and a powered aircraft. One of his first tasks, on his arrival in Rutland, was advising on the creation of Rutland Water and in fact we have a member who also worked on the project, Ken Rowlings. The photographs brought back many happy memories for him.



county that perhaps was a map of the county, into four Rutland as county in England miles East to West Richard said that it place there seemed towns Oakham & Rutland & Eyebrook Cottesmore & North on to highlight items coming back to

Richard completed this part of the evening with photographs of birds on Rutland Water including the osprey and introduced us to the live osprey website where you can see how things are going. Its worth a look, go to <http://www.ospreys.org.uk> and see for your self. Again apologies for those of you without computers.

The final part of the evening was a quick glimpse of the Suttleworth Collection at Old Warden supported by the music Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines. Take it from me they look great in HD. Don't miss out, go and see Richards's full range of photograph collections at www.youtube.com/user/adampics.



(Photographs displayed by curiosity of Richard Adams.)

Next month there is no speaker as it's our Royal Jubilee celebrations but I thought that it might be nice to try and collect member's memories of RAF Cottesmore. Perhaps we can put them in the Horseshoe and then see how it goes to what we do with them then. If you feel like sending them in please do and we will try and edit them for you.

Peter Hart May 2012

National Conference – Blackpool Weekend of 18th -20th May

When the national conference was last held in Blackpool, 2 years ago, it was the hottest weekend of the year and their football team had just been promoted to the premier league. It was somewhat different this year – it was cold although not very wet – and their football team, no longer in the premier league, lost at Wembley. I am delighted to say, however, that there was no link with the general malaise in Blackpool to the very positive and upbeat conference. Although it seemed that numbers were slightly down on previous years, those who were there were offered a full programme of debate, seminars and the all important social networking that is at the core of the RAFA. Kathryn and I met a 91 year old Ulsterman who had fought in Burma alongside Kathryn's father and who hasn't missed a conference since 1972. He and his 19 other members from Belfast had been travelling since 4 in the morning to reach the conference in time. Dedication or what!!? It was nice to see, at the other end of the spectrum, a good number of young people there as well.

There were not many resolutions to discuss, but there were 2 that will be of most interest to most of us : It was agreed that a new level of membership will be introduced to allow air cadets aged between 13 and 17 to gain experience of the larger RAF family at an early part of their service development. The details are yet to be sorted out. The other very important decision that was made was to reject the proposal that Life Members should be asked to donate additional money into the organisation. It was overwhelmingly recognised that Life Members had come to the rescue of the Association when it was short of funds and that it was an insult to then ask for yet more money afterwards.

As part of the Association's ongoing development, an establishment review (although the actual words were not used!) is under way at the HQ in Leicester in an attempt to cut costs and ensure that money is spent wisely and cost effectively. No decisions have yet been made.

It was the first conference for our new National President AM Sir Dusty Miller who very quickly put his own stamp on the proceedings with a combination of professionalism and humour. Some of his jokes were so bad that I have decided to keep them for use at the Christmas dinner!! Early booking is essential to avoid disappointment.

Duncan Manderson

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

DIAMOND JUBILEE MONDAY 4TH JUNE 2012



STREET PARTY IN THE CAR PARK!!!
FROM 1.00 til 4.30 pm BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC
ACTIVITES INCLUDE GARDEN GAMES, RAFFLE,
PARTY POPPERS, HATS PROVIDED
THEN FROM 8.00pm TIL LATE
EVENING B.B.Q. APPROX. £5 PER HEAD
TORNADO BRASS PLAYING BACK GROUND MUSIC



Royal Air Forces Association
Melton Mowbray Branch
24, Asfordby Road
Melton Mowbray
Leics. LE13 0BQ

THE MELTON BRANCH INVITE 6 - 8 MEMBERS OF YOUR BRANCH TO HELP US
CELEBRATE THE QUEENS DIAMOND JUBILEE, Time / Date 4th June at 4.30p.m

PLEASE LET ME KNOW A.S.A.P. IF YOU WILL BE ATTENDING VIA EMAIL OR PHONE,
AND WHICH FUNCTION, AFTERNOON OR EVENING, ALSO IF YOU COME TO THE
STREET PARTY YOU NEED TO BRING SOME SANDWICHES!!

KINDEST REGARDS

BRENDA COX Tel 01664 481594 Fax: 0116 266 5012
Email: brenda.cox87@gmail.com or enquiries@rafa.org.uk

More Jubilee Celebrations

There will be a ceremony on Monday 25th June at 10.00 outside Oakham Library and all standards
have been invited.

[Angie and Francis](#)

Branch Notice board – **WHATS ON:**



Wednesday June 6th – RAFA Monthly meeting.

Celebrate the Queens Jubilee with a BBQ, Quiz and a Social Evening. : £3.00 PER HEAD

Be patriotic - Wear something red white and or blue

Forthcoming Events:

2. **June 8th** at 11 am - RAF Wittering Families Day

3. **September Thursday 6th** - Baldwin Trust - **Canal Boat trip**. Please note there will be an additional cost to cover transport.

4. **Friday 12th October** – A Diamond Jubilee Celebration Concert Oakham – Band of the Parachute Regiment and the Minden Band of the Queens Division .Venue THE OAKHAM SCHOOL CHAPEL . **TICKETS (£15) Music and More, Oakham High Street, (01572 756578), Uppingham Sports and Books (01572 822211) and Uppingham School Theatre Box Office (01572 820820) .From 1 September 2012, also from Oakham School Box Office, (01572 758820)**

5. **Sunday 25th November (Afternoon Matinee)** Birmingham International Tattoo. **Still places available** .Please note there will be an additional cost to cover transport.

For further details Tel: 01572 755969 or email rafarutland923@yahoo.co.uk

Derek Bury

DATES for Your DIARY

6 th June	Jubilee Evening + BBQ	Details will be given at the May meeting
July	TBC	

Meetings are 1st Wed every month

Venue: Cottesmore Sports & Social Club – 7.00 for 7.30pm

Branch Contact Numbers

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