



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



Branch Newsletter

July 2012



July 2012 Meeting

Speaker Co-ordinators Notes

At our July meeting we welcomed John Nowell who told us something about the Derbyshire, Leicestershire & Rutland Air Ambulance. I first met John when at Voluntary Action Rutland (VAR) we presented him with a Cheque from monies raised by the volunteer Drivers.

John served for 19 years in the RAF and met his wife in Singapore where she introduced him to photography. He and his family spent 25 years in the Middle East on various flying assignments and published many books there before returning permanently to Oakham in 2005 when they published their first 'County' book, 'Now & Then – Rutland'. Subsequently, they have published 'County' books of all the counties surrounding Rutland. John was a helicopter pilot instructor in both service and civilian life is now a very keen supporter of the Air Ambulance Service, having been involved

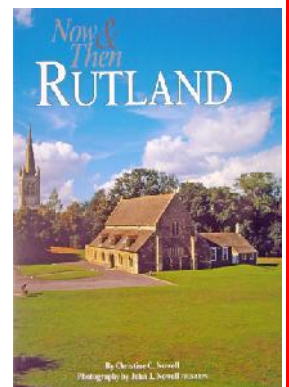
since 1987.

Speaking to John I discovered we had something else in common as we had both served on the good old Shack. He with 205 & 206 Squadrons and I served with 204 Squadron this perhaps leads on to other stories for another time.

John started by telling us that the whole operation and concept of the Air Ambulance was funded by charity giving, which is remarkable when you consider it takes circa £1,400 per operation and to fund one aircraft for a year a staggering £1.7million. With figures like this it ensures that money is not wasted. The aircraft used by the Derbyshire, Leicestershire, & Rutland service is a yellow Agusta 109 helicopter based at East Midlands Airport. The three counties only have one aircraft, so should it go unserviceable for any reason the national spare from Sywell Airfield in Northamptonshire would fly up replace it. As there are no engineers at East Midlands the replacement aircraft would bring an engineer to fix the unserviceable one.



The Agusta crew consists of a Pilot, one or two paramedics with or without a doctor. The charity employs the pilots and paramedics and the rest of the organisation are all volunteers. Their sales pitch is that they can be at the scene of an incident within 8 minutes of getting the call. Perhaps a little optimistic, but not by much, in an aircraft travelling at 3 miles a minute. The Agusta can carry two stretcher patients and operations on patients can be carried out in the air should this be required.



Unfortunately, currently this service is not available at night, as the CAA won't allow the helicopter to operate on temporary landing sites in the dark. This may change and bring them in line with

police helicopters when fitted with night vision equipment.

During the day an Air Ambulance helicopter on a mission takes priority over all other traffic, even Royal Flights. The whole of the United Kingdom is covered by the service and it operates 365 days a year. In 2010 in the East Midlands aircraft carried out 991 missions an average of 65 a month. No one is ever charged for the service, but in practice most patients and their families become supporters. If our aircraft is on a mission and another aircraft is required, as was the case on the last weekend in June in Oakham the nearest free one is scrambled which explained the red helicopter landing in the school grounds on Saturday afternoon.

No speaker for the next two months back again as normal in October.

Peter Hart

6th July 2012

Jon-Allan Butterworth



Former SAC, Jon-Allan Butterworth, lost his left arm in a rocket attack in Basra in 2007 while serving in the RAF. He spent a year in physical rehab before being introduced to cycling at a Paralympics GB talent day at Loughborough University. Unable to return to his job in the RAF, Jon decided to pursue a career in competitive cycling and stepped up his training to compete at elite international level.

Jon narrowly missed out on a gold medal at the 2010

Europa Cup and had to settle for silver.

In 2010 he then broke the world record for the Flying 200m while winning gold at the National Track Championships having set a new world record of 1.07.459 for the C5 category in the time trial. In 2011 Jon again won gold at the World Championships.

Currently Jon-Allan is ranked as one of the best para-cyclists in the world and is one of Team GB's top medal prospects for gold in London.

His goal is to win gold in the 2012 and we all will be cheering him on.



Kathryn Manderson taken from www 23.07.2012

NOTICE

Invitation to the RAFA Leicester and Leicestershire Branches Meeting

Air Chief Marshall Sir Clive Robert Loader KCB OBE ADC FRAeS RAF will be speaking at the Friday 24th August meeting at 12 noon.

Venue: The Old Horse Public House, 198 London Rd, Leicester. LE2 1ND (opp Victoria Park)

If you are interested in attending can you let Phil Marston, Branch Secretary know as soon as possible.

The Battle of Britain Spirit lives on

Subject: RAF Conversation overheard on the VHF Guard 121.5 MHz

Argentine Air Defence Site: 'Unknown aircraft you are in Argentine airspace. Identify yourself.'

Aircraft: 'This is a British aircraft. I am in Falkland's airspace.'

Argentine Air Defence Site: 'You are in Argentine airspace. If you do not depart our airspace we will launch interceptor aircraft!'

Aircraft: 'This is a Royal Air Force Tornado fighter. Send them up, I'll wait!'

Argentine Air Defence Site : (..... Total silence)

Don't you just love the RAF?

Roger Hyde

If you have any jokes or poems you wish to share then please send them to me or Derek - Not too rude though as ladies present!

Daftland

We live in a country called Daftland
The England we knew is no more
Where sensible people do ludicrous things
Or risk breaking some Daftland law.

In Daftland we've police dogs with muzzles
Less the villain has cause to complain
And to steal from a shop and say 'sorry'
Means your free with no stain to your name.

You had better leave lights on in buildings
When you lock up and go home at night
'cause the burglars might hurt themselves entering
And there's no way you'll be in the right.

When speaking be wary in Daftland
As some terms that you've used all your life
Now have connotations unintended
And you'll end up in all sorts of strife.

We elect politicians in Daftland
To give us the laws of the land
Yet eight laws in ten now come from abroad
The whole thing has got out of hand.

The borders are open in Daftland
And of migrants there's no keeping track
Just a few of the thousands illegally here
Will ever be caught and sent back.

The exception to this is the hero
Who fought for this land in the war
He's old and he's sick, he might cost us a bit
So he's not welcome here any more.

When the history is written of Daftland
Historians may just recall
That the craziest people in Daftland
Were the public who put up with it all.

'Found' by Phil Marston

Branch Notice board

- WHATS ON -

Forthcoming Events:

1. **September Thursday 6th** - Baldwin Trust - Canal Boat trip. Please note there will be an additional cost to cover transport.
2. 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)*

For further details on forth coming events Tel: 01572 755969 or email rafarutland923@yahoo.co.uk

Derek Bury

DATES for Your DIARY

1 st Aug & 5 th September	No Speaker	
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Branch Meetings are 1st Wed every month – Next Meeting August 1st

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

Branch Contact Numbers

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