



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



Branch Newsletter

September 2011

Who forgot the Pimm's?

“When the weather is fine you know it's the time for messing about on the river canal. If you take my adviceyou will contact the Baldwin Trust and enjoy a care free cruise aboard a narrow boat with your own crew aboard.

Well, no messing about here as 12 RAFA Members boarded the “Dandelion” at Pillings Lock Marina near Quorn on Thursday 1st September. It was from here that the branch members enjoyed a cruise from the quay side to Normanton on Soar. The boat one of the two owned by the Baldwin trust was crewed by its members and was ideal for an outing on a beautiful sunny day



After leaving the mooring we soon approach the outskirts of the town of Loughborough, an industrial town with engineering works and railway sidings which you can see from the river. Going on past Loughborough we came upon open countryside as we continue northwards on a meandering course on the river towards our destination.

The fine weather enabled the passengers to enjoy the outside experience and see some of the wildlife on the canal. At the appropriate time morning coffee was served, after which a phone call to a local hostelry was made and lunch was organised for those who desired it.

As we proceeded down the canal we passed many other craft. This led to friendly exchanges as other bargees responded to our good wishes. People living near the canal waved and greeted us as we effortlessly cruised by. Along the way some of our fearless passengers disembarked at the various locks to familiarise themselves with the procedure of the opening and closing of the gates.



As we came up to the waterside edge near our lunch time destination ‘The Plough Inn’ at Normanton on Soar we noticed the 12th century village church of St James. Its river frontage is well known in the area for both its setting and its history as a boatman’s Church. It was noted that one memorial stone with its inscription in the church yard faced the river. This I understand was at the request of the late Bill Davis Commodore of the Soar boating club 1976. A fitting tribute to a village

stalwart and a mariner.

After a little sustenance at 'The Plough' we were back on board for a leisurely trip back to the Marina. At a slow unhurried pace we headed back down the canal enjoying the sight of the Swans. Afternoon tea was served and enjoyed by all, but the beautiful relaxing sunny afternoon really called for a glass of **Pimm's**. Back at the marina we all wondered were the time had gone since our departure at 10am and return at 4.30 pm. **A lovely trip enjoyed by all.**



THE BALDWIN TRUST run pleasure cruises on Leicestershire waterways for the community and family groups. Details can be found on www.baldwintrust.org.uk or call on 0845 603 3695

Derek Bury

The Standard

In November serving and a few ex RAF personnel will don their uniforms and march in tribute to the fallen, on the many Remembrance Day parades taking place.

The word "uniform" is derived from the Latin words "unus," one, and "forma," form. It includes the different styles of dress adopted by the Military and Naval services to secure the distinction required. The western military profession has always been an honourable one; the uniform has been a badge of honour and a means of improving the morale and esprit de corps of its wearers. In addition to its original purpose it also allows the wearer to distinguish friend from foe.



Although in ancient history we occasionally read of uniformed soldiers, such as the white and crimson Spanish regiments of Hannibal, it was not until the establishment of large standing armies that uniforms as we know them were introduced. Before this, armed bodies were of two sorts, retainers and mercenaries, and while the former often wore their master's livery, the latter were dressed each according to his own taste or means. The absence of uniforms accounts very largely for the significance attached to the 'standards'. Centuries ago the standard alone formed the rallying point for the warrior and his comrades and thus the Standard acquired the sacred spirit which is still attributed to it today.

In ancient days the flag only was used as the 'Standard' and not just anyone were entrusted to safeguard it. The standard bearer during the crusades was the chief, the prince or the Commander himself. It was later that the duty was given to the Standard Bearer.

The one honoured to be the Standard Bearer was deemed to be a vigorous and brave young officer; who would willingly sacrifice his life to defend the Standard. The task was such that the

Standard Bearer was required never to surrender the Standard, thus if he, during a battle, could no longer safeguard it; then he should wrap his body into the 'flag' and await the final slash.

Many of us and hundreds of others attending Remembrance Day parades, will not be in uniform. We will rally to the 'Standard' but we have no intention of asking our Standard Bearer to make the ultimate sacrifice!

Kathryn Manderson



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CELEBRATES ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

The Committee of the Oakham branch of The Royal British Legion has made plans to celebrate this special Anniversary by organizing a concert by the Band of the Royal Air Force College on Thursday 20 October 2011 in the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Oakham School, at 1945.

Tickets for this concert are now available from **Music & More** shop Melton Road Oakham.
Cost: £12 each.

Derek Bury

Forth Coming Local Events

Last month Francis was on the Battle of Britain parade in Melton Mowbray with the branch standard. On Thursday October the 20th he will be at the above mentioned RAF College Band Concert and on Saturday November 12th at a '**Ring n Sing**' event in Oakham Parish Church. These two local events are in aid of The Royal British Legion and supported by musicians, soloists and school children coming together in Concert. Each event will feature a section of "Remembrance" in honour of all those we think of most at this time of year. Tickets will be available for the '**Ring n Sing**' event, details of which can be obtained by contacting me or the organiser Joyce Lucas.

Angie Humphreys

Wings Week 12th – 18th September 2011

Wings Week' is set aside each year to coincide with the anniversary of the Battle of Britain

As usual the people of Rutland gave their support for the RAF heroes past and present as 'Wings Week 2011' took off across our county.

Members collected: - £499 in Oakham; £232 in Uppingham and £159 in Uppingham at the Rotary's classic car day. House to House and home collection boxes also raised £405.61.

Members involved worked together and collectively raised a total of **£1,295.61**.

Well done to everyone who gave their time and made this years Wings Appeal successful

Jim Tibbott

New Member

Roy Cutler has returned to the fold. He was a member when living in Cottesmore but has now moved to Cambridgeshire. I'm sure all will join me as we welcome him back.

[Angie Humphreys](#)

DATES for Your DIARY

5th Oct 2011	Rutland Willows	The Bypass Spitfire – see below for details
2nd Nov 2011	Dan Stellmacher	Tornado Pilot
13 th November	Remembrance Sunday	
30th Nov 2011	Christmas Dinner	
4 th Jan 2012	T B A	Happy New Year
1st Feb 2012	Tony Halliwell	Principal Welbeck The Defence 6th Form College. Cadets to be invited

Meetings are 1st Wed every month Venue: Cottesmore Sports & Social Club – 7.00 for 7.30pm

Branch Contact Numbers

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Kathryn Manderson, Editor Flying Horseshoe, email: kathryn.manderson@hotmail.com

Peter Hart, Speaker coordinator, 01572 756750

Wings Appeal Organiser Jim Tibbott Deputy Organiser Dave Craven

"This month our October speaker John will focus on 'Rutland Willows'. He will demonstrate some of the 'magic' work he does. Also during the evening John will be giving us a particle display on how the wood is used. It should be very interesting."

[Peter Hart](#)