



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



Branch Newsletter

June 2012

**RAFA RUTLAND CELEBRATES
HER MAJESTY'S DIAMOND JUBILEE**



Music was a scheduled part of the RAFA Rutland Jubilee celebrations at the branch meeting on Wednesday 6th June. However, quite unexpected was the rendition of the Thunder and Lightning ("Polka") that proceeded us an hour before we lit the BBQ. Fortunately the heavy showers, thunder and lightning passed over by the time the evenings celebrations commenced.

The evening cuisine consisted of a fine platter of BBQ sausages, beef burgers and chicken breasts which was served up with all the accompaniment sauces. A buffet table of salads, sweets, crisps, and snack items was also provided by members.

Much flag waving and singing "Rule Britannia" was evident during the evening along with a fine choral rendition of "Jerusalem" by our lady members.

The group Jubilee quiz was part of the entertainment with "The Plantagenet's" being the overall winners. (Malcolm & Sonia Sutton, Jack & Corrine Wood). A "Courtier" named Gordon was the runner up. Suitable prizes were awarded.

As the adjudicators Kathryn and Val's decision was final, there was no recourse for a recount. Anyhow, there are no U-turns in this administration. Answers to all the questions are below:



Question paper 1 (HM Queen Elizabeth II Questions).

- 1b) 17 Bruton Street, Mayfair. 2 d) HRH Princess Elizabeth of York. 3 a) Alexandra Mary
4 b) Lilibet . 5 b) Marion Crawford . 6 a) Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth
7 c) Corgi. 8 a) The Auxiliary Territorial Service (A.T.S.). 9 c) VE Day. 10 c) H.M.S. Vanguard

Question paper 2 (Royal Family tree)

1. PRINCE ANDREW Duke of York. 2. DIANA Princess of Wales. 3. MARK PHILLIPS 4. LADY LOUISE
5. PRINCE WILLIAM. 6. PRINCESS EUGENIE. 7. MIKE TINDALL, 8 CATHERINE Duchess of Cambridge
9. PETER PHILLIPS 10. ISLA PHILLIPS

Question paper 3 (Diamond Jubilee Music)

1. Land of Hope and Glory. 2. Rule Britannia 3. Crown Imperial 4. Green Sleeves. 5. Nimrod
6. I Vow to thee my country .7. Colonel Bogey .8. Dam Busters March 9. Trumpet Voluntary .10. Jerusalem

What a way to celebrate her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. Congratulations to all involved.

Derek Bury

Queens Jubilee Picnic Burghley House Stamford 13th June 2012

About a month ago I had a letter from The Rutland Lieutenancy inviting my wife and I to “**HM THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE PICNIC AT BURGHLEY HOUSE, STAMFORD WEDNESDAY 13th JUNE 2012**”; Her Majesty the Queen will be attending.

Well how could I turn down such an invitation? It was free, all I had to do was send the Rutland County Council a cheque for £25 by Wednesday 23rd May to cover our car park and programme costs and we were on our way.

We arrived at Burghley nice and early and were directed to a car park miles from the event. Having staggered with our picnic, chairs, & umbrellas we arrived at the gate where we were given, the pre ordered Programme along with a bag of goodies from Northamptonshire County Council. We found a nice spot to spend our day, eat our food, and watch the Queen.



The car-parking organisation was perhaps not the best in the world and neither was the organisation of the Picnic site or the rest of the event. There were a number of marquees scattered around the area, but without any map to give details of what was what, and who could visit where, we were at a loss as to how to spend our day. In the printed programme there was a chapter, “Programme for the day”, this gave loose timing's of what was going to happen and when. Wait a minute there is no mention of the Queen, is she coming or not! There was a great deal of information on things of little importance for example two pages on the Red Arrows but none about Her Majesty.



Her Majesty duly arrived by air and landed by the house, apparently a little late. She then visited the house planted a tree and began to come up to the main site where we were all waiting in anticipation. Her Majesty was taken to the VIP area spent about an hour or so speaking to the great and the good from the four counties hosting the event. During this time we were being entertained by music from The Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment whilst seeing her on the big screen.

During our wait to see the Queen we were seated eating the picnic and speaking to the people around us. Just in front of us was an American who had served in the USAF and, I think stayed on. He now lives in Corby and is an all time royalist. His name was Sue. Yes the original boy named Sue!

I have never seen such excitement as Her Majesty's car came past us on her way out.



The afternoon entertainment looked good. The Red Arrows following their big build up did a quick fly pass with nine aircraft, the Battle of Britain again after another big build up did display with a Spitfire & Hurricane but no Lancaster. The stars of the afternoon were the RAFA Blades who did a full Aerobatic Display with the commentator giving a number of plugs for RAFA.

After a few spots of rain in the morning the day was very pleasant and we were glad we had made the effort to attend, but oh! the event organisation.

Peter Hart

June 2012

I would like to hear of your memories of RAF Cottesmore. See next months Horseshoe for the first 'memory' article from times at Cottesmore. Also I welcome any names or ideas you may have for future speakers

P Hart

Blackpool or Bust!

Hi all, I just thought that I would pen a few words to give you a report from the Conference from a RAFALO (or ex) perspective. My trip to sunny Blackpool (if only) began with my arrival at the RAFA booked 'Park House' hotel on the Thursday evening. After check in I got to my room, opened my door and was greeted with a sense of de ja vous, as I had stayed here two years previously and not one thing had changed same pink floral wallpaper and purple curtains! The first job was to open the window for some fresh air as it appeared that the hotel thermostat had be permanently set at very warm, phew!

Staying in the 'RAFA' hotel meant that those attending from CHQ were in attendance and it wasn't long before I heard the call of Ken Clarke so out of politeness I shared a pint of something cold and caught up with the gossip from Leicester (not to be repeated sadly!). Then it was off to sample the delights of the town and all it had to offer. However, being cold not a great deal was on offer, although this did not deter the never ending procession of scantily clad women on their 'Hen' weekend, closely followed by a line of 'Stags' with one mission in life which was to attempt to drink Blackpool dry to the delight of the countless bar owners doing their best to lure thirsty punters into their bar.

Whether it was old age finally taking its toll on me or just a desire for an early night I decided to head back to the hotel. After a leisurely lie in a walk on the seafront was called for before making my way to the Winter Gardens for a buffet lunch followed by the RAFALO seminar where I was surprised to see a much reduced attendance on previous years, due in part to both operational commitments and increased difficulty in getting funding authority from their Units to pay for travel and hotel accommodation etc. That said it was good to see familiar face and catch up with colleagues. It was also a good opportunity to gather together the raffle donations from the RAFALO's who had received my begging letter for prizes. It was hoped to hold a RAFALO raffle on both the Fri and Sat nights social events, but due to a short supply it was decided that one raffle would be held at the Sat evening event. The Secretary General thanked and welcomed all for coming followed by a breakdown into groups to discuss current issues and challenges facing the Association from the Serving perspective which was a helpful exercise and drew some valid points. Seminar over it was time to retire to the Savoy hotel where the European RAFALO's had taken over the downstairs area for their usual Fri/Sat wholesale disposal of the vast amount of 'duty free' alcoholic beverage brought over the channel! What was better was the fact that it was all free, that is as long as you had purchased a sufficient amount of their raffle tickets (there had to be a catch)! Oh well, in for a penny! After an hour or so of good old merriment it was time to return to the hotel in preparation for an evening in town before the serious business of Conference on the Saturday.

Conference business highlighted some interesting resolutions of which I am sure that Duncan has explained in his Conference report. Anyway, with the days business over I flew into raffle preparation mode in readiness for the evenings raffle, made possible by the support of fellow RAFALO's who did a sterling job selling the mass of raffle tickets and the more arduous task of then folding the stubs and placing in the tombola drum. Tickets were in great demand especially as we had gathered a wide and varied collection of prizes including alcohol and cuddly toys. Additionally, we had two fantastic framed prints donated for which we held a 'snap auction' where they went for £80 and £70 respectively, more had been hoped for but I dare say that given the current financial climate we did pretty well. In total the raffle and auction raised in excess of £900 which I am glad to say will be going toward our branches 'Wings Appeal'.

Thoroughly exhausted, it was back to the hotel to sleep in readiness for the morning's parade and service. This year was the first year attending Conference out of uniform since my departure from the RAF back in December? To say it felt strange would be a huge understatement, especially when marching down to the memorial. One thing sadly missing also was the usual flypast by the BBMF, likely due to their involvement in the Queens Jubilee celebrations at Windsor, it was missed. Sadly, this was not the only thing missed at this year's Conference; there was a distinct lack of presence by CHQ staff, no 'Grand Draw representation or Affinity partners! Apparently, this poor show was down to a cost cutting exercise which I have to say may have saved a small amount, but made for a lacklustre attendance which was highly visible, CHQ really missed a trick at

what is the highlight event in the Associations year. Hopefully, lesson will be learnt for Eastbourne (I don't hold my breath)!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to announce that I will be attempting to fill the very big shoes of Jim as I move to take over the role of 'Wings Appeal' organiser from this year. It is going to be a very hard act to follow after many years of dedicated and selfless work for Wings and indeed for the branch. My hat goes off to you Jim, and I hope with your guidance I will be able to continue where you have left off and I hope the £900 plus from Blackpool will help? Well, I think I've droned on long enough so I will close for now and look forward to a long and fulfilling association with the branch.

Dave Craven Wings Appeal Organiser

Wings Appeal Organiser

In September the RAF Association holds its national fund raising events to commemorate the Battle of Britain.

The widely held perception that we only help airmen and airwomen who fought in World War II is not true. Funds raised support those people who are serving, and have served, in more recent conflicts such as Korea, Borneo, the Falklands, the Gulf War, Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan. The demand on our resources continues to grow.

Hence the importance of the organisers role. I m sure we all want to thank Jim for all his hard work in the past and would like to wish Dave every success in his new role.



The Committee

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)*
3. **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

4 th July	John J Nowell BA FRGS LRPS Zodiac Publishing UK Ltd	The Air Ambulance
----------------------	--	-------------------

Meetings are 1st Wed every month

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

Branch Contact Numbers

Duncan Manderson, Chairman, Pickwell Grange, Whissendine, LE15 7ER, 01664 474274

Phil Marston, Branch Secretary, 12 Seaton Road, Uppingham, LE15 9QX, 01572 822731

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

Peter Hart, Speaker coordinator, Tel 01572756750 email: peterivy42@btinternet.com

Wings Appeal Organiser, Dave Craven. email : davecraven@hotmail.com

Christine Ward, Honorary Welfare Officer . email : christine.e.ward@hotmail.co.uk