

**Peaceful
Christmas
And
Happy New Year
To
All Our Readers**



The Rebirth of the Canberra PR9

The aviation company Midair have purchased a couple of the Royal Air Force PR9 discards. The first XH134 / G-OMHD was first flown in public at this years Royal International Air Tattoo in July. Midair Squadron owner Mike Davis said ,Prior to that morning it had been almost seven years since XH134 had flown for the last time, when she, along with XH131 and XH135, were delivered to Kemble (now the Cotswold Airport) following retirement after more than 45 years of Royal Air Force service. The return to the skies came after a 24-month restoration at the Cotswold Airport under the care of C2 Aviation, including the significant introduction of an electric starting system to replace the previous AVPIN-cartridge method. Many of us still get sore eyes at the very thought of the AVPIN vapour.

Mike Davis the owner of Midair retains custody of XH135 at Cotswold Airport, which has been used as a source of spare parts for '134, while XH131 has since returned home to Northern Ireland, where she was built by Short Brothers in 1959. As such, XH134 remains the world's only airworthy example of the Canberra PR9. Midair Squadron also owns Hawker Hunter T7s G-XMHD (perhaps best known as Kemble's 'Blue Diamonds' aircraft, XL577) and the recently acquired G-VETA.



When writing this article XH134 was due to display at the Duxford Autumn Air Display but would not be landing.

Life Member Les Green

Sadly we have been informed that life member Les Green (who left the branch before I joined) passed away on 20th October.

Phil Marston

THE RUTLAND FLYING HORSESHOE



Local RAF Band Concerts

On Thursday 17th October, in Nottingham, we attended the first of two local concerts by the Royal Air Force Music Services, the second to be held in Oakham on October 24th in aid of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

I along with other members attended the concert at the Royal Concert Hall Nottingham where we were treated to a selection of music from the vast repertoire that the Music Service has to offer. The Concert was sub headed "A Salute to the Dambusters Generation 2013" in addition to The Dambusters March we were treated to a cluster of varied music. On stage I calculated there were in the region of 60 skilled musicians taken from The Central Band, The Squadronaires, Swing Wing and The RAF Salon Orchestra. The whole event was compared by Alan Dedicoat who since 1987 has worked for the BBC where he reads the news, letters out for "Points of View", provides background commentary for "Strictly Come Dancing" and perhaps most famously the "Voice of the Balls" calling out the numbers twice a week for the National Lottery, but never mine.



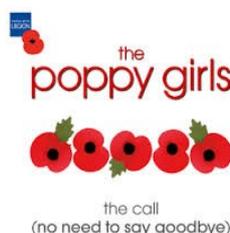
As I've said the music was varied with a number of marches along with pieces of film music including Magnificent Seven & Big Country intermingled with show tunes from the 40s. The Blue Danube waltz was played in the style of Andre Rieu who appeared with the help of Chief Technician Barry Stringer MBE adorning a long hair wig and a pair of tight trousers. As a firm fan of Andre Rieu's music there was something missing perhaps it was the evening dresses. Never the less this was a first class concert along with the traditional good old sing song at the end.

The concert was in aid of Royal Air Force Charitable Trust. The Trust is an important member of the RAF family of charities. The income generated primarily through the concert tour and the annual Royal International Air Tattoo, enables the Trust to fund projects and initiatives that promote the Royal Air Force, to support RAF personnel and encourage air mindedness and the aviation related education of young people.



One of the principal beneficiaries of the charity is the Air Cadet Organisation through the allocation of grants to fund adventurous and flying training, expeditions and a wide range of equipment to support their education, training and development.

The Trust was only formed in 2005 and it has given nearly £2m to good causes over the past 8 years.



As a Retired Poppy Appeal Community Fundraiser may I bring your attention to this new Single and CD by the Poppy Girls.

The voices of these Service Children are going to be very familiar to you over the next few months. When you read this they will have appeared on a number of television programs in addition to starring role in the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance.

P Hart

THE RUTLAND FLYING HORSESHOE

The Value of Old Stamps

If you already collect stamps for RAFA, thank you so much. If you are thinking about doing so, Christmas season is an ideal time to cut the stamps off the Cards envelopes. If you could cut a small margin of paper around of half a centimetre around the stamps would be helpful, as I receive quite a lot and this takes some time to do. RAFA do raise money from this exercise and particularly from the Foreign stamps, which are much more valuable to collectors they tell me.

Angie Humphreys

Waddington Air Show 2014

We have discovered the following that may be of interest to members. Tickets for this area are very scarce and need to be booked now. But it looks a good deal for the ex - serviceman.



LINCOLN ENCLOSURE

The Lincoln Enclosure comprises of a sectioned marquee and a private enclosure located immediately on the crowd line, designated exclusively for UK Forces' Veterans and their immediate families.

Clients of the Lincoln Enclosure enjoy: Access to a private crowd line marquee,

An outside enclosure with an excellent view of the flying display,

Private toilets

A licensed pay-bar and cafeteria offering a range of refreshments

Tables and chairs

Private car parking immediately next to the Enclosure (a special vehicle tag for this purpose will be sent out with admission tickets.)

Enclosure tag to enter and leave the Enclosure as you please

Priority reservation opportunity for the 2015 Air Show

Places in the enclosure are limited and must be reserved in advance.

No tickets will be available on the day. The Enclosure will be available on both days of the Air Show and a UK Forces Lapel Badge will have to be presented at reception on arrival, otherwise entry to the Enclosure will be refused and no refund given.

All catering and bar prices are guaranteed to be lower compared to general Air Show food and bar prices.

We advise our visitors that they cannot bring their own food or drinks into the Enclosure.

Prices are £30 per adult, £19 per child (5-15 yrs) and £6 (under 5's), including admission to the Air Show, to cover the cost of the facility.

LOROS
Hospice Care for Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland

Being there for you
and your family



November Speaker Adrian Walker

Our November Speaker was Adrian Walker who is a senior fundraiser with LOROS. His opening question was to ask if we knew what LOROS stood for. From the answers he received it was obvious that we didn't. It's Leicestershire & Rutland Organization for the Relief of Suffering.

Adrian went on to show us what the building had to offer with the help of 360 degree photography he also explained what services the hospice had to offer.

LOROS was an independent local charity providing palliative care and support to over 2,500 people each year within Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

They offer specialised care for those over 18 with complex problems who are suffering from a terminal illness when cure is no longer possible.

Short-stay inpatient care for symptom management and respite - with help, half of these patients go home.

Outreach support in the patient's home.

Offer Palliative day therapy.

Adrian went on to explain the referral process and the services available.

A few useful facts:- the Hospice has been in existence for 28 years, a great deal of the staffing is done by volunteers, there are 31 beds 19 of which are in single rooms.

Finally members were invited to visit LOROS by arrangement perhaps by contacting our Social Secretary.

Editor

More Sad News

Withdrawal of Hercules C130K Variant from Service.

The Hercules C130K was retired from service on 31 October 2013. The capabilities and roles provided by the C130K aircraft will be transferred to the C130J variant.



Remembrance Parade & Service

By the time you read this we shall have held the Remembrance Day parade and service and I thank all the helpers who so willingly set all up, make teas and most importantly wash up and return the hall and kitchen to its original state. Many, many, thanks on behalf of all the participants who love their tea and chat at the end of the day.

Angie Humphreys
RAFA Membership

RAFA Rutland Christmas Dinner

Greatham Valley Golf Club

Wednesday 4th

December - 7.30 for 8.00

£22.00 per person

(including gratuity).

Members are reminded that all Christmas Dinner Bookings must be with **Roger Hyde**, 25 The Pastures, Cottesmore, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 7DZ. Enquires: Tel 01572 813547

or

email: g3zdw@btinternet.com

No later than 22 Nov Please

Cheque made

(payable to 'RAFA Rutland')



The Gazette



Dates For Your Diary

8th January	TBA	
5th February	TBA	
5th March	TBA	
2nd April	Rob Abell	Will Planning Solutions to talk about lasting powers of attorney.

What's on Forthcoming Events

The 2248 (Rutland) Squadron Air Training Corps (ATC), Annual Awards Presentation Evening

Takes place in the Drill Hall Oakham on Thursday 19th December, 7.00-7.30PM.

All RAFA members are invited to attend.

RSVP:- Fg Off Stevens, 78 Valiant Way, Melton Mowbray, LE13 0GE. oc.2248@aircadets.org

Membership Secretary

Branch Meeting

Branch Meetings are First Wednesday every month
Venue: Cottesmore Sports & Social Club 7.00 for 7.30pm

Branch Committee Members

President: Air Marshal Sir John M D Sutton KCB (Retd)

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

Vice Chairman: Gordon Diffey. Tel 01572 722068

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

Treasurer: Gordon Diffey. Tel 01572 722068

Editor Flying Horseshoe: Peter Hart, , Tel 01572756750 peterivy42@btinternet.com

Speaker Coordinator:

Wings Appeal Organiser Dave Craven: Tel 01572759134, email davecraven@hotmail.com

Honorary Welfare Officer: Christine Ward, Tel 01572755856
email christine.e.ward@hotmail.co.uk

Membership Secretary: Angie Humphreys, email angelaandfrancis@talktalk.net

Meetings Coordinator: Bob Tacey, Tel 01572 812455, email taceybob@hotmail.com

Social Secretary: Derek Bury, Tel 01572 755969, email derek_bury@hotmail.co.uk

Standard Bearer: Francis Humphreys,

Christmas Dinner Organiser, Roger Hyde, Tel 01572 813547 email g3zdw@btinternet.com