



**The D-Day Anniversary
Air Show Duxford**

Several of our members attended the D-Day Anniversary Air Show at Duxford on Sunday 25th May. Following a washout on the first day of the event the Sunday was first class although a little chilly when the sun went in.



Our photograph taken by Steve Turville shows the crew of the Catalina prior to a flight, or not.

As the title indicates the show was arranged to pay tribute to those of the Allied forces that took part in the D-Day Landings .



Our photograph taken by Steve Turville shows a B of B Spitfire and Typhoon both from RAF Coningsby with D-Day marking

One highlight of the afternoon was a display by

Many thanks to all our contributors for some good stories and observations. Perhaps we can print your story next month.

the French Aerobatic Team Patrouille de France with their Alpha Jets.



Our photograph taken by Steve Turville French Aerobatic Team Patrouille de France

Perhaps not the Red Arrows but never the less their 25 minute display kept all at the edge of their seats.



One of a number of DC3s on show. This one from the B of B Memorial Flight

Thanks to Derek for organising the event: it's a shame more members were unable to enjoy it.

Peter

Apologies to all for any confusion,
**RAF Wittering Families Day -
 Saturday 26th July 2014**
 RAF Wittering Families day .
 Is on Saturday 26th July.
 not on Friday as stated in previous
 Correspondence.
**My Email address is:-
derval.bury@yahoo.co.uk
 Please destroy any others
 you may have for me.**
 Regards **Derek**



THE RUTLAND FLYING HORSESHOE

Honorary Welfare Officer



Wg Cdr (Retd) Richard Foster a former colleague of mine from the Royal British Legion has agreed to become our Honorary Welfare Officer with Kathryn Manderson as his deputy. Richard and I worked together for Leicestershire & Rutland, he initially as Field Officer and then County Manager and me as The Community Fund Raiser. He spent most of his service career flying Helicopters, in fact he told me his first posting involved flying the Whirlwind, and doesn't that take you back. Unbeknown to me for some time, Richard had been a flight commander in Northern Ireland and had been responsible for air security during a family funeral we suffered, I'm sure neither he nor I would want to repeat. But never the less it's a small world.

He served 35 years in the Royal Air Force and is a life member of RAFA, initially in the Luxemburg Branch, although he didn't attend very often! His first interest in the RBL was when, as a small boy, he heard stories, on his Granddad's knee, of hardship and devastation that servicemen returning from the first and second world wars had endured. It had been explained to him how desperate their need was and how Earl Haig, along with others, had tried to improve their lot. One way of helping was to arrange for veterans to be able to obtain a suit enabling them to present themselves in an acceptable manner when attending an employment interview. That of course was 90 years ago and the Legion had been helping the service community ever since.

Throughout his service career interest in the Royal British Legion was always there, if perhaps on the backburner. When serving as the Air Attaché in Prague the work of the Legion came to the fore again for Richard. During the Second World War many people from Czechoslovakia had served with the allies, creating their own fighter squadrons; 68, 310, 311, 312 & 313 Sqns, many giving their lives for the freedom we enjoy. When returning home they were met by the new communist regime who for reasons known only to themselves sentenced the returning service personnel to hard labour and in the worst cases death for their involvement with the allies during the war. This of course meant hardship for the families but through the Embassy diplomatic sources the Luxemburg RAFA Branch were able to get help to these people. Richard gave an example, at a recent presentation, of one lady who had lost her brother during the war and was desperate to visit his grave. Unfortunately, although she had tried to find the location and the funding to visit it, she died not able to achieve it. However eventually the Legion heard of the plight of this family and contacted The War Graves Commission found the grave and RBL supplied the means for the family to visit it. This was achieved without any fuss.

Richard was able to show that on his patch here in the midlands £1m has been spent in support of the service and ex service community since October 2010. This money had been spent on things such as washing machines, fridges, helping redundant service personnel to adjust to civilian life. Richard explained that he spent much of his time visiting prisons where ex service personal were coming to the end of their sentence and needed help to readjust to society. Again the Legion is able to help. He said that the RBL did not work in isolation but with other service charities including RAFA and in Leicester the RBL HQ was shared by SSAFA.

The power of the Legion has been shown by its influence on the government with the Military Covenant. They also provide short and long-term care for ex-Service people and their dependants in seven care homes around the country.

Now retired from the Legion, Richard hopes to continue his voluntary work with both RAFA and RBL, seeing them as fully complementary in their care for the armed forces family.

Peter

THE RUTLAND FLYING HORSESHOE



Dr Sandy Saunders a Second World War glider pilot and a member of The Guinea Pig Club was the speaker at our June meeting. I quote from Sandy's

talk, "At 22, I was out on an RAF training flight in my Tiger Moth when I found myself in a tricky landing situation. There were cross winds and I'd had three attempts at putting the plane down when it stalled. I had 40% burns to my face, legs and hands. The navigator was killed - I've always found that hard to live with. I was taken to the Queen Elizabeth hospital in Birmingham where I had eight or nine operations. Then I went back on duty and was second in command of a prisoner of war camp near Derby. It was the medical officer there who told me about Sir Archie McIndoe. I was having problems closing my eyes, as the skin grafts that were my eyelids had shrunk, so I phoned East Grinstead and Archie agreed to take me in. While I was there, he replaced my eyelids, did a nose graft and made various other adjustments to my face. My experience at East Grinstead inspired me to go into medicine - it was my way of repaying my debt to Archie and his team. While I was in the convalescence home between operations, I would catch frogs and dissect them. I'd also watch Archie performing operations - he was very supportive and encouraging when I decided to retrain as a GP. I think when you've had a near death experience it gives you inspiration to make the most of life and be more understanding of other people's problems."

Our grateful thanks for a very interesting presentation.

Peter

An invitation to attend a Quiz night at RAFA Peterborough

An invitation to attend a Quiz night at RAFA Peterborough Branch at The Lancaster Club Yaxley has been extended to RAFA Rutland Branch Members. The quiz will be held on 10th July at 19.30 hrs and food will be provided. (no charge). There is a bar on the premises.

if you wish to attend and join the RAFA Rutland Quiz Team/s please contact me on my email address or 01572755969 before the next branch meeting on Wednesday 2nd July .

Derek

Annual Conference 2014

This year's Annual Conference was held in Blackpool which is designated as the 'northern' location, although the members of the Scottish branches still class it as a 'southern' one! Next year it will be held at Eastbourne which all agree is the true 'southern' conference. Dave Craven, my wife Kathryn and I represented our Branch.

I was surprised to learn that only a third of our rapidly diminishing number of branches was represented, but those of us who were there made the most of the opportunity to put the RAFA world to rights and to catch up with friends and ex colleagues.

The business part of the conference was very efficiently let by the National President AM Sir Dusty Miller, now in his third year as president. The debates were fairly straightforward and although not all the resolutions were passed, all were voted in or out by a significant majority. No counting of votes, which made for a very relaxed time.

The thrust of the conference was welfare and we were privileged to have a presentation from an RAF Regiment Cpl and his wife who, due to him being blown up by an IED in Afghanistan, explained how the RAFA assisted him and his wife with the aftermath. It brought it home to us all the value of the friendship and support that epitomises the RAFA.

Each year the RAFA awards flying scholarships to Air Cadets who have demonstrated outstanding qualities within their own ATCs. It is always a delight to see the (very) young men, there were no female winners this year, being presented with their awards. One can see the future of the RAF will be in very good hands if there winners pursue a career within it.

All in all it was a very enjoyable conference and although numbers were down on previous years it was a worthwhile meeting of minds for, hopefully, the continuing development of the RAFA.

Duncan Manderson



The Gazette

Dates For Your Diary



2nd July	Gordon Diffey- History and functions of the RAF Regiment	Buffet evening bring a plate of food.
6th August	Derek Bury	Quiz Night
3rd September	Jackie Towl	RAF Widows' Association

From the Membership Secretary.

I have received an update to our membership from HQ as follows,

Welcome :-

Amy Butler new member joined 1.5.2014. Edith Weston, Oakham, Rutland

Iris Hindmarch member transferred from another Branch, Oakham, Rutland

Sorry to see you go:-

Mr Daniel Hill transferred to another Branch June 2014

Mr Colin Mackellar No record

Flt Lt Nelson No record

Angie

Branch Meeting

Branch Meetings are First Wednesday every month Venue:

Cottesmore Sports & Social Club 7.00 for 7.30pm

Branch Committee Members

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 :

Honorary Welfare Officer: Richard Foster, Tel 01780 411020 lizrich5049@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