



### *Christmas Greetings*



Some people spend most of the year looking after their own little world (as British Gas would almost say) and so Christmas must seem a bit strange as, suddenly, they have to be nice to others and pretend to care about others' needs. Many others, and of course I am delighted to include the RAFA family amongst them, consider the Christmas spirit as being an extension of the day to day attitude that our members and supporters live their lives by – looking after each other and ensuring that, as individuals and as a team, those in need are catered for.

One of the not-so-helpful traits of ex-RAF personnel is, of course, that we tend to be very proud and not to seek help from others until it is very late in the day. With that in mind, it is incumbent on us all to be aware of the hidden signs that someone could do with a little bit of help or support and

so, as temperatures continue to drop and the hours of darkness increase, please be particularly aware of our 'family' members' situations to ensure that nobody 'slips through the net'.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a successful and satisfying 2016.

**Duncan Manderson  
Chairman**

**Happy New Year  
for 2016  
To all our Members**



## Dates For your Diary

| <u>Date</u>      | <u>Event</u>                      | <u>Location</u>      | <u>Information</u> |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 22nd Dec<br>2015 | Air Cadet Presentation<br>Evening | Oakham<br>Drill Hall |                    |

### Meridianstamps

We would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the R.A.F.A to wish you a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year** and to thank you for your support in sending your used postage stamps to us in the past. We would be very grateful if you could continue to send in stamps from Christmas cards etc on a regular basis.

**Do you realise that more stamps will be used over the Christmas period than the rest of the year.**

If you can, please save them up and give them to: Angie Humphreys at a Monthly Meeting or send them to:-

R.A.F.A Stamps  
P.O. Box 6198  
Leighton Buzzard  
Beds  
LU7 9XT  
UK.

Please note that all correspondence (membership renewal, monetary donations etc) should be sent to our headquarters.

For economical reasons we cannot reply to all donations of stamps but please continue to send them on a regular basis.

Please cut/ tare the stamps from the envelope leaving approximately 1/2 cm of paper around the stamp.

Foreign stamps can be sent separately and marked clearly on the front of the package 'Foreign Stamps Only' as these generate a greater amount of revenue.

Thank you for your continued support.

Regards

Mr O. Rudd

### Welfare Waffle

#### Our Less Active Members

If you wouldn't mind visiting members who may be a little less able and who would like to chat about yours and their RAF days. With winter coming on, perhaps it would be timely to check on their preparation for snow clearance, pipe lagging, heating etc. Please don't forget there is a great deal of help out there. Some people may need special help that the Rutland Foodbank and any others of our support agencies can offer.

Perhaps you could drop me an email.

Many thanks,

**Richard HWO**



Many thanks to all of your contributions. Perhaps we can print your story next month.

# THE RUTLAND FLYING HORSESHOE



## Training begins for newest Red Arrows pilots



### Autumn 2015

Two new Red Arrows pilots have begun their first training flights with the display team.

Flight Lieutenants Matt Masters and Si Taylor are the latest recruits to the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team. They are now embarking on six months of intensive training and practice sorties in preparation for the 2016 display season. The pilots are joining the team after impressing during a tough selection process that involved flight tests, interviews and other exercises.

The Red Arrows are ambassadors for the United Kingdom and showcase the excellence of the Royal Air Force – performing to millions of people at home and overseas each year.

Flt Lt Masters, who joined the Royal Air Force in 1998, said becoming a Red Arrows pilot was a long-held ambition. The 39-year-old said: “It has been a childhood dream that I have wanted to become a reality. The Red Arrows’ legacy of precision flying and striving for excellence, combined with the overall popularity amongst the British public, were all key factors in inspiring me to join the team.

“I will be extremely proud to be part of a team that can, and has, influenced so many people around the world.” Flt Lt Masters was brought up in Southampton and was awarded an RAF Sixth Form and Flying Scholarship at King Edward VI School.

He obtained his private pilot’s licence before his driving licence and went on to gain a Master of Engineering degree at the University of Bristol.

During his Royal Air Force career, Flt Lt Masters–has flown the Hawk T1 while based at RAF Leeming. Flt Lt Masters, who will fly in the Red 2 position in 2016, said: “Flying in the Red Arrows will be very different to my previous operational flying. While it will still be challenging and very rewarding, there is nothing better than ‘raw’ flying especially in formation with eight other aircraft.

*The 2016 Red Arrows team will comprise the following pilots:*

### **Officer Commanding, Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team:**

Wing Commander Martin Higgins

### **Red 1 and Team Leader:**

Squadron Leader David Montenegro

**Red 2:** Flight Lieutenant Matt Masters

**Red 3:** Flight Lieutenant Si Taylor

**Red 4:** Flight Lieutenant Mike Bowden

**Red 5:** Flight Lieutenant Emmet Cox

### **Red 6 and Synchro Leader:**

Flight Lieutenant Steve Morris

### **Red 7 and Synchro 2:**

Flight Lieutenant Tom Bould

**Red 8:** Flight Lieutenant Stew Campbell

### **Red 9 and Executive Officer:**

Flight Lieutenant Joe Hourston

### **Red 10 and Supervisor:**

Squadron Leader Mike Ling





## THE RUTLAND FLYING HORSESHOE

# Remembrance parade 2015



Pictures from the  
Rutland Times

## Membership Subscriptions 2015/2016

The following membership subscriptions were agreed by the Central Council and are published for your information. The increases are aligned to the RPI average of 5.8% for the two years from December 2011 to December 2013, in compliance with Resolution 7 of 2006.

### **Category                      2015/16 Membership Fee**

#### **Ordinary Member**

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| 1 Year   | £20.50 |
| 4 Year   | £78.00 |
| Give as you earn (GAYE)<br>(Gross payment before basic tax relief) | £25.68 |

#### **Associate Member**

|                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 Year with Air Mail    | £14.50 |
| 1 Year without Air Mail | £8.50  |
| 4 Year with Air Mail    | £55.50 |
| 4 Year without Air Mail | £30.50 |

#### **Rebates**

An annual payment at the start of the year of £4.70 for each Ordinary Member on the strength of the Branch at 31st December of the preceding year.

An annual payment at the start of the year of £2.70 for each Full Associate Member on the strength of the Branch at 31st December of the preceding year.

The minimum rebate will be £120.

## Battle of Britain 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Wings Badge

Throughout 2015, the RAF Association has been commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Britain through a variety of events and initiatives. One addition to the Wings



Appeal this year was the Battle of Britain 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary Wings badge which has been well received by Branches and indeed the general public who have been most generous in their donations for the badge. The Wings team have a residual supply of these badges and wish to offer the final ones to any Branches who have any further fundraising events this year. If your branch would like some of these then your Wings Appeal Organiser can order them through the usual channel of RAFATRAD either online at [www.rafashop.com](http://www.rafashop.com) or call on 01892 600191. The badges come in packs of either 20 or 100.





# The Gazette

## Dates For Your Diary



|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 6th January<br>2016  | Inst of Advanced Motoring                      |
| 3rd February<br>2016 | Steve Heywood<br>(Senior RAFALO at Wittering ) |
| 2nd March<br>2016    | AGM  |

### Personal Notices.

#### **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 thecedars@Sky.com

**Speaker Coordinator:**

**Wings Appeal Organiser :** RAFALO Wittering

**Honorary Welfare Officer:** Richard Foster, Tel 01780 411020 lizrich5049@hotmail.co.uk

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

**Meetings Coordinator:** Derek Bury, Tel 01572 755969, email derval.bury@yahoo.co.uk

**Social Secretary:** Derek Bury, Tel 01572 755969, email derval.bury@yahoo.co.uk

**Standard Bearer:** Francis Humphreys,

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