



## **Fred Prestwood**

It is with great regret that we heard of the death of Fred Prestwood, a Former Social Secretary of RAFA Rutland. Our thoughts are with his wife Greta (Pip to her friends) and the family for their loss. Fred had battled with terminal cancer for almost two years but passed away peacefully in the LOROS Hospice on Saturday 4th October 2014. He had told all who cared to listen that he did not expect to see Christmas 2013. But as we all know, Fred was a larger than life character and a fighter. His funeral will take place at 11.30 on Monday 20th October in Manton, (near Oakham) in the village church of St Mary.

Fred had served as an RAF Policeman from 1949 to 1959 and was proud of his "Snowdrop" past. He was a long-term member of the RAF Police Association. He had served as a Corporal at a number of RAF stations, RAF Pershore, RAF Wilmslow, RAF El Hamra (to name but a few, before completing his service at RAF Cottesmore in 1957-59. Fred wrote a book about his life, entitled "The Wandering Snowdrop", which refers to the white caps worn by RAF Policemen.

One of his postings was to have a great impact on the rest of his life. He jumped at the chance of a short-term posting to a desert island – Christmas Island, in the Pacific Ocean. He said: "I applied for this posting which was described as 'policing a desert island'. I had visions of palm trees and girls in grass skirts. I couldn't wait to get out there."

It was only on the way that he was surprised to learn he was going take part in the testing of nuclear bombs. He lived with the traumatic memories of those explosions for the rest of his life. Many colleagues had died from cancer and others had children with diseases and abnormalities, which they blamed on the fall-out from those bombs. Fred spent many years, with others, lobbying the Government for compensation for their ordeal. Along with more than 30 other veterans of the British Nuclear Test Veterans' Association, he continued the fight.

After leaving the Royal Air Force, Fred served as an Oakham fire-fighter for 16 years and ran his own business as a handyman. When he was younger Fred was a well-known Rutland cricketer and footballer.

RIP Fred Prestwood

Gordon Diffey  
Branch Treasurer



**Please Note the next meeting will be on the 12th November and NOT the 5th as Normal.**



**THE RUTLAND FLYING HORSESHOE**

**RAFA Rutland Christmas Dinner  
Greetham Valley Golf Club**

**Wednesday 3rd December – 7.30 for 8.00**

£22.00 per person (including gratuity).

**MENU**

- A) **Roasted parsnip and honey soup** accompanied by parmesan croutons
- B) **Homemade duck liver parfait** served with toasted brioche - an orange and cranberry chutney
- C) **Home cured salmon gravlax** encrusted with beetroot, herbs, served with honey mustard
- D) **Nest of honeydew melon** filled with refreshing homemade spiced orange sorbet and fruit salsa
- E) **Assiette of starters to include** Prawn and apple saladette Homemade duck pate with orange chutney Pear poached in mulled wine

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**From the Carvery**

- F) **Roast breast of turkey Horseshoe of honey and mustard baked ham Roast sirloin of beef**  
All served with roasted potatoes, a chipolata, Yorkshire pudding, seasonal vegetables and pan gravy
- G) **Homemade roasted nut and mushroom loaf** topped with a forestiere sauce

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- H) **Traditional Christmas pudding** served with lashings of homemade brandy sauce
- I) **White chocolate and honeycomb torte** served with a chocolate and orange sauce
- J) **Assiette of Desserts to include** Homemade Christmas spiced ice cream, Sweet mince tart, with brandy cream anglaise Chocolate and black cherry pot
- K) **Festive ice cream sundae**
- L) **A selection of English cheeses and biscuits** accompanied by grapes, celery and homemade spiced chutney

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**Coffee, tea and chocolate mints**

***RAFA Rutland Christmas Dinner Return Slip 2014***

| Name | Starter (A to E) | Main (F or G) | Dessert (H to L) |
|------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
|      |                  |               |                  |
|      |                  |               |                  |
|      |                  |               |                  |
|      |                  |               |                  |
|      |                  |               |                  |
|      |                  |               |                  |

Please complete the above with names of those attending (guests and friends welcome) together with the menu choice for each person. Send together with your cheque (payable to 'RAFA Rutland') as soon as possible, but **no later than 24 Nov** to: Roger Hyde, 25 The Pastures, Cottesmore, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 7DZ. Alternatively at the November Branch meeting. Enquires: Tel 01572 813547 or email: [g3zdw@btinternet.com](mailto:g3zdw@btinternet.com)

**Raffle prizes would be appreciated, the more the merrier.**

## THE RUTLAND FLYING HORSESHOE



### Welfare Waffle



### RAFA WINTER HOLIDAY BREAKS.

A 20% discount has been announced for all those liable for full fees (therefore a reduction from £400 to £320 per week per person) at

Flowerdown, Richard Peck and Rothbury Houses between 1 November this year and 31 March 2015.

*For further information*

*visit: [www.homesfromhome.org.uk](http://www.homesfromhome.org.uk) or email [enquiries@rafa.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@rafa.org.uk) or telephone 0116 268 8774.*

EVER WONDERED IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR RAFA/RAFBF/RBL SUPPORT?

If so, please contact Richard Foster or Kathryn Manderson to discover all the ins and outs."

Richard Foster,  
Tel 01780 411020 [lizrich5049@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lizrich5049@hotmail.co.uk)

Kathryn Manderson,  
Pickwell Grange, Whissendine, LE15 7ER, 01664 474274

### The Polish Community Remembers.

This is my latest parade with the Rutland Branch Standard. An annual event in my diary. It is attended by representatives of the Polish Community of Melton Mowbray and Newark. Several International Consulates are represented by their own personnel.

Other Air forces and Civic Worthies are also in attendance.

A Dakota overflew the ceremony 3 times.



### Francis Humphreys

(An extended article on this event will appear in next months Flying Horseshoe. Ed. )

### Christmas Dinner

If anyone has transport problems getting to and from GCGC for the Christmas Dinner please contact either Roger Hyde or myself.

Thanks.

Phil

### RAFA Secretary

### Briefing

### Remembrance Service

9th November 2014

On behalf of Air Vice Marshal N. J. Sudborough CB, OBE, JP, President of the Oakham Branch of the Royal British Legion, we have been invited to take part in the Oakham Parade and Church Service.

The Service will be at 2.30pm in All Saints Church, Oakham and the Parade will assemble at 1.45pm in the Market Street, Oakham.

The Lord Lieutenant, Dr L. Howard OBE JP will take the salute at the March-Past at the front of the Captain Noel Newton, High Street, Oakham, after the Service.

The Parade will end with a March-Past of the Standards, then being dismissed on the Westgate car park.

Light refreshments will be provided at the Captain Noel Newton afterwards, with grateful thanks to the manager and staff.

If you intend to lay a Poppy Wreath after the Service a donation of £25.00 to defray the cost of the wreath will be much appreciated and will go towards the Poppy Appeal Fund.

(Cheques payable to the Poppy Appeal). Wreaths may be ordered through the Branch Poppy Appeal Coordinator, Mrs G Andrews, Poppyfields 54 Harrier Close, Cottesmore, Rutland,

LE15 7BT. ([gwyn-andrews@btinternet.com](mailto:gwyn-andrews@btinternet.com))

Please reply by 1st November indicating the numbers of those wishing to attend in order to assist the Church wardens in making arrangements for seating within the Church.

**Please note also that the two minute silence will be observed on the 11th November at Crown, Walk the High Street, Oakham at 11.00am.**

### Print Cartridges

For some time the branch has been collecting print cartridges for return and refurbishment resulting in a small donation to charity. Over the years, the numbers have dwindled and more and more restrictions have been put on those cartridges that are acceptable. Therefore, a decision has been taken NOT to collect any more cartridges on a Branch basis leaving members to 'do their own thing'.

Phil



# The Gazette

## Dates For Your Diary



|               |                       |   |
|---------------|-----------------------|---|
| 12th November | RAF Wittering RAFALOs | History & Re Role 504 Squadron<br>RAF Wittering |
| 3rd December  | Christmas Dinner      | Greetham Valley Golf Club                       |
| 2nd January   | TBA                   |   |

### Personal Notices.

Fred Prestwood's funeral will take place on Monday 20th October at 11.30am in Manton. The RAFA standard will be displayed.

This month we welcome two new members:-

Mr Roger Sayer, 31 Grampian Way, Oakham LE15 6NX [mailbox@rogersayer.plus.com](mailto:mailbox@rogersayer.plus.com)

Air Commodore, Miles Williamson-Noble, Manor Farm, Pickworth, Stamford PE9 4DJ. [wn@btinternet.com](mailto:wn@btinternet.com) (transferred from another branch)

**Angie Humphreys**

### 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](mailto:peterivy42@btinternet.com)

**Speaker Coordinator:**

**Wings Appeal Organiser :**

**Honorary Welfare Officer:** Richard Foster, Tel 01780 411020 [lizrich5049@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lizrich5049@hotmail.co.uk)

**Membership Secretary:** Angie Humphreys, email [angelaandfrancis@talktalk.net](mailto:angelaandfrancis@talktalk.net)

**Meetings Coordinator:** Bob Tacey, Tel 01572 812455, email [taceybob@hotmail.com](mailto:taceybob@hotmail.com)

**Social Secretary:** Derek Bury, Tel 01572 755969, email [derek\\_bury@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:derek_bury@hotmail.co.uk)

**Standard Bearer:** Francis Humphreys,

**Christmas Dinner Organiser,** Roger Hyde, Tel 01572 813547 email [g3zdw@btinternet.com](mailto:g3zdw@btinternet.com)