

Melton Mowbray Battle of Britain Parade

On Sunday 15th September Francis & Angie Humphreys, represented RAFA Rutland at the Melton Mowbray Battle of Britain parade. Our Standard was on parade with those of the Cadets, other RAFA Branch Standards, RAFA members & serving airmen. The parade was led by the Melton Mowbray Tally Ho band. Fortunately the promised rain held off until the parade was over, and the wreath laying ceremony and memorial service, held in the Egerton Lodge Memorial Gardens, had taken place.



Following the parade a reception was held in the Melton Mowbray RAFA headquarters where visitors were proudly shown their refurbished Cottesmore Lounge. Members have been busy decorating and refurbishing this members' room and also the outside of the building has been totally decorated. They would love to see Rutland members when visiting Melton Mowbray. The club is opposite Melton Theatre on Asfordby Road with a car park at the rear.



The Club is open every evening and at lunchtime on Saturdays and Sundays, (including Bank Holidays) where members and friends can enjoy a drink

and sit and chat as they relax in the comfortable rooms, or they can enjoy a game of pool, dominoes, darts, or cards.

Opening Times:-
Mon - Fri: 19:30 - 23:00
Saturday: 12:00 - 15:00 & 19:30 - 23:00
Sunday: 12:00 - 15:00 & 20:00 - 23:00

In this Cottesmore Lounge a whole wall has been dedicated to the Melton Spitfire, which was purchased by public fund raising initiated in 1940 by Asfordby Road Primary school, who began to collect aluminium pots and pans to raise money to help the war effort. A grand total of £5083.12s.10d was raised by Melton Mowbray & District and sent to Lord Beaverbrook, then Minister of Aircraft Production.



A new group has been formed called Melton Aviation Society who meet at Melton Mowbray RAFA club on 2nd Monday of the month at 20.00 hours. Prints of the Melton Mowbray & District Spitfire are available to purchase from the Society with limited (70) edition signed by the artist Brian Fare and Air Marshall Philip Sturley CBC, MBE, FRAeS. at £40 or standard edition prints ,again signed by the artist are £12.00.

If you are interested in joining this new society contact:-
 Toby Burton (roberts1279@googlemail.com) or Brian Fare (brian.fare@hotmail.com)
 Melton Aviation Society
 c/o Melton Mowbray RAFA Branch & Tornado club, 27 Asfordby Road, Melton Mowbray LE13 OHR.

Red Arrows pilot Sean Cunningham review: 'Separate faults led to death'



Two separate faults could have led to the death of a Red Arrows pilot who was ejected from his plane, a pre-inquest review in Lincoln has heard. Flt Lt Sean Cunningham's seat may have ejected due to a design fault with the firing handle, the hearing was told. His parachute would have saved his life but a second fault meant the main chute did not deploy, the review heard. The Hawk T1 was on the ground at RAF Scampton, Lincolnshire, when the Coventry pilot died in November 2011. Tom Kark QC, representing Flt Lt Cunningham's family, said they wanted to know what had been done to address the problem with the seat firing handle in the past. He said they wanted to know what had been done to prevent other pilots being put "in a similar dangerous position".

Ejection footage

The problem with the parachute related to the shackle linking the seat and the drogue parachute - which is smaller than the main parachute and is deployed first. The drogue parachute deployed but the main one did not. The pre-inquest hearing was held at Lincoln Cathedral Centre, where the full inquest will also be held. It will start on 9 January and is expected to take three weeks.



The RAF Association's Brew for the Few is a fundraising initiative where you can raise money by holding your very own tea party. Guests simply make a donation in return for a much-needed cup of tea or delicious slice of cake.



THE RUTLAND FLYING HORSESHOE

Request for Assistance

Jessica Gordon, a researcher on the ITV1 series 'Surprise, Surprise' is looking to organise and film a military reunion in their studio in London. This filming would be around a month before Remembrance Day, but shown on the day itself. They have an established working relationship with a professional tracker who helps to reunite adopted children, old friends and former workmates from all around the world. If anyone's interested in taking part or knows of any members who might be please contact Jessica on jessica.gordon@itv.com or call 02071574550.

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

Wednesday 4 December – 7.30 for 8.00

£22.00 per person (including gratuity).

MENU

A) Homemade celery and stilton soup with fresh garlic croutons

or

B) Assiette of starters to include Smoked salmon rosette, Sliced pork fillet with apricot sausage, Red onion and brie tart.

From the Carvery

C) 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

or

D) Filo parcel filled with feta cheese, wild mushrooms & leeks

served with a timbale of Couscous and a tomato & basil coulis

E) Traditional Christmas pudding served with lashings of homemade brandy sauce

or

F) Assiette of Desserts to include Chocolate truffle cheesecake, Traditional Christmas pudding with brandy sauce, Homemade yuletide ice cream.

Coffee, tea and chocolate mints

RAFA Rutland Christmas Dinner Return Slip 2013

Name	Starter (A or B)	Main (C or D)	Dessert (E or F)

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 22 Nov to: Roger Hyde, 25 The Pastures, Cottesmore, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 7DZ. Alternatively at the October or November Branch meetings. Enquires: Tel 01572 813547 or email: g3zdw@btinternet.com

Raffle prizes would be appreciated, the more the merrier.

THE RUTLAND FLYING HORSESHOE

264 "Madras Presidency" Squadron Royal Air Force.



We have all read or seen on TV about the Dornier 17 recovered from the Goodwin Sands and moved to Cosford. The aircraft was Dornier 17Z-2 Ser. No 1160 from 7 Staffel, III/KG based in Belgium. The wireless operator and the bombardier were killed when it ditched, the pilot and observer were rescued and became POWs in Canada. This aircraft was shot down by 264 Squadron on August 26th 1940, the aircraft a Boulton Paul Defiant and is believed to be L6857 flown by P/O Desmond Hughes with Sgt. Fred Gash air gunner, based at Hornchurch. 264 Squadron was formed on 27th September 1918 at Suda Bay in Crete with a Short 184 aircraft. Their main task was shipping and convoy patrols. They were disbanded on March 1st 1919. The Squadron was reformed on the 30th October 1939 at Sutton Bridge with Defiant 1 aircraft moving to Martlesham Heath in December 1939. The Squadron was one of the most moved squadrons in the RAF and after fifteen moves including those few days at Hornchurch, they received the Defiant II at West Malling in September 1941. Moving to Colerne in May 1942 when the Mosquito II was received. In August 1943 the Mosquito XIII was taken on charge. Another thirteen moves and the Squadron was disbanded at Twente in the Netherlands on 25th August 1945. Reformed at Church Fenton in November 1945 with Mosquito NF 30s, exchanging these for NF 36s in March of 1946. After another fourteen moves and the Squadron arrived at Linton-on-Ouse in August 1951. Meteor NF 11s were received in November 1951. The Squadron now seemed to have found a home at Linton. Meteor NF 14s arrived in October 1954. A move to Middleton St George came on February 27th 1957. On 26th September 1957 264 Squadron flew for the last time on a transit flight to

Leeming, they landed there as 33 Squadron. Reformed again in December 1958 with the Bloodhound I's at North Coates and finally disbanding on 30th November 1962. I joined 264 on May 9th 1955 at Linton-on-Ouse. On arrival I was sent to B Flight. After reading flight orders and being issued with a tool kit and overalls, I was told to stick with Cpl. Holmes. This I did like glue, and after a few days I began to find my way around the Meteor NF 14.



It was a busy time on the Squadron then, with detachments to Ahlhorn in Germany, Acklington for air firing and Waterbeach for battle flight (QRA). I made many friends on 264, some of them I am still in touch with today, including one chap in Australia. In late 1956 I left the squadron for RAF Weeton and a fitters course, returning to Linton in April 1957, 264 was now at Middleton. I was posted to RAF North Luffenham. In 1999 Channel 4 TV had a Service Pals page on the old teletext, where someone was looking for his old friend from 264 Squadron. This was read by an ex 264 airframe mechanic, who then placed an advert in the RAFA Air Mail, asking for anyone who had been on 264 Squadron to contact him. There was a fantastic response and in May 2000 264 Squadron Association was formed. We had our first reunion later that year in York, with a visit to Linton-on-Ouse. Since then a reunion has taken place almost every year. These have been held in different parts of the

country from York to the south coast. The Squadron has a web site www.264squadron.co.uk which contains a lot of information, history and photos both old and new. We are still getting new members, some who had been on the Squadron and others who have had close relations with the Squadron. Our latest member is the son of P/O (Air Vice- Marshal) Desmond Hughes, (Dornier 17).

Bob Tacey,
Treasurer,
264 Squadron Association.

Plane Finder



This app is called "Plane finder." There is a free version in addition to a paid edition costing less than £2. You will get a map of your location and all the aeroplanes flying live throughout the world. You will be able to carry out flight tracking in the airspace above Europe, USA, Australia and worldwide. It is also available as a mobile apps. Tap on the aircraft and you get the call-sign, height and bearing, you get airline and registration together with a picture of the aeroplane type. It's really great fun.

Francis Humphreys

 **RAF Swing Wing Band**
Thursday 24 Oct 13

Royal British Legion Poppy Concert
Queen Elizabeth Theatre,
Oakham School, Rutland

RAF Swing Wing perform the music immortalised by the great orchestras of Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman, Glen Miller, Count Basic and many more from a time when melody was King and music fans its adoring subjects.

Tickets:- £15 - From the Theatre or Music & More Oakham High Street





The Gazette



Dates For Your Diary

2nd October	.RAF High Wycombe, it's history as HQ Bomber Command,	Group Captain Mark D HEFFRON DACOS A1
6th November	Adrian Walker	LOROS
4th December	Christmas Dinner	Greetham Valley Golf Club

What's on Forthcoming Events

Membership Secretary

We welcome new member :-
Mr Daniel Hill 15 Cotley Crescent, Cottesmore

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: Contact Peter Hart: See above.

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