



This was the leader of a document prepared by the Association, for Conference. It sets out what the formation of the RAF means for the Association, the way we conduct ourselves, and the responsibilities that we carry. I thought that it was worth repeating as my leader for the September Flying Horseshoe.

The Way Forward

As our nation begins its 100th commemoration of the First World War we remember that in the final year of that war the Royal Air Force was formed. The Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service amalgamated on 1st April 1918. In 1929 the “Comrades” of the RAF” was formed in the Mess at RAF Andover. In 1933, the then Air Ministry officially recognised the “Comrades” and Lord Trenchard accepted the Presidency. In 1936 King George VI gave his patronage. In 1941 the men’s and woman’s Comrades Associations joined together to form the Royal Air Force Association. In 1943, the aims and objectives of the Association were extended to those we know today. These events and the centenary of the RAF are the most significant in the history of the Association. In preparation the Association is devoting a large proportion of time, resources and energy towards the current and future beneficiaries of the Association than ever before. This will support the ambitions of the Association and its members.

Our task is to ensure that the centenary of the RAF is not just a single moment in time, a never to be repeated high water mark. Instead, the centenary can be the catalyst to deliver a strong and more resilient RAF Association, more relevant and providing the charitable aims to a wider membership.

Secretary General Nick Bunting.

The leaflet is available from the Royal Air Force Association; I also have a copy if you would like a read.

Peter

The answer to the Picture Question from last month was **RAF GAN**. Which I believe is now the gateway to your Maldives holiday.



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



THE RUTLAND FLYING HORSESHOE

A Gathering of Lancasters – Flying Tigers Newsletter No.367 (15/08/14)



Although there have been a number of significant anniversaries this year, the 2014 UK Air show season will probably be remembered by most enthusiasts for one thing – the Gathering of Lancaster's. After almost a year of meticulous planning, the **Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum's Avro Lancaster Mk.X (FM213)** arrived at RAF Coningsby on Friday 8th August, following an epic three day trans-Atlantic flight from its home base at Hamilton Airport, in Canada. It was hoped that VeRA's arrival would coincide with a

massed formation of BBMF aircraft and the Red Arrows, but the weather was so terrible in the UK on Friday, that all this was cancelled at the last minute, as thousands waited in the rain for the arrival of this illustrious visitor. To rapturous applause, VeRA appeared out of the Lincolnshire gloom and landed safely at Coningsby, to begin one of the most eagerly anticipated Warbird tours that Europe has ever hosted and one which will probably never be repeated again.

The much anticipated flight with our own BBMF Lancaster (PA474) has been postponed on a number of occasions, due to a continuation of the poor weather around Coningsby, but I am pleased to say that the *'Eagle has landed'* and both Lancaster's flew in formation several times on Wednesday and by the time you read this Newsletter, they should have performed their first display routine at Eastbourne Air show. I am pleased to say that I was lucky enough to be present at RAF Coningsby when two Lancaster's flew in close formation for the first time in 50 years and I have to say that it was a sight that will live long in my memory. I also have to commend both crews as the conditions were not ideal by any means, as a strong wind was blowing all day and three flights were made to try and perfect the display routine. The BBMF Lancaster was the lead machine, with the Canadian crew having to fight the strong winds, being buffeted by the slipstream of the lead Lancaster and trying to stay in formation at the same time, during a series of sweeping turns and display flypasts. I also have to commend them for just how close the aircraft were – I felt sure they would be flown quite far apart, but I am pleased to say that this was not the case, as these highly capable airmen flew these *old ladies* in an exhilarating, yet completely safe routine, which really did make the hairs on the back of your neck stand up. In my opinion, there is no doubting that this is the highlight of the 2014 Air show season and a spectacle that everyone should try to witness – real history in the making stuff!



The picture at the head of this article features the THIRD running Lancaster in the UK at the moment, the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Mk.VII *'Just Jane'* at East Kirby. Pictured at their recent Air show with all four engines playing the *Merlin symphony*, it is hoped that this machine will also return to the sky in the not too distant future and we might have two flying Lancaster's permanently based in the UK, although something tells me that this monumental task may be some way off yet. She will, however, be involved in two very special Lancaster events on the 2nd and 7th of September this year, as both the Canadian and BBMF Lancaster's will over-fly her, whilst she powers her engines on a taxi run. The delicious prospect of THREE LANCASTERS in the same place, with twelve Merlin engines all roaring simultaneously is something not to be missed, but these ticket only events have already sold out and most of us will have to wait for the footage to hit the internet and just imagine how special an event this will be. The only thing that I will say is that you really must try to catch the Canadian Lancaster during her visit, as this is something very significant in aviation terms and we are only likely to get one opportunity in our lifetimes.

Thanks to Flying Tigers for this article.

THE RUTLAND FLYING HORSESHOE



Poppy Day Remembrance Concert on 18th October 2014

UPPINGHAM: Memorial Hall, Uppingham School – Saturday 18th October, 2014, 7.30pm

The Oakham Branch of the **Royal British Legion** invites you to a special concert given by the Central Band of the Royal Air Force to commemorate the start of WW1.

Proceeds are in aid of the 2014 Poppy Appeal and the Royal Air Force Music Charitable Trust. The Poppy Band Concert is on 18 Oct with the Central Band of the RAF (we believe a first for Rutland!) and tickets are already available through www.wegotickets.com/uppinghammusic.

Hard Copy tickets will be available later through **Music and More in Oakham** and **Uppingham Sports and Book Shop in Uppingham**.

This Concert will undoubtedly be a very special occasion, not least to commemorate the Start of WW1 and to support the Poppy Appeal, but also to welcome the Central Band of the Royal Air Force to Rutland – a first!

We are also delighted that one of the very talented violinists from Uppingham School will be joining the Band to play music from Schindler's List.

We do hope that RAFA members will continue to support what has become an annual event in Rutland.

We should also be delighted if members were able to circulate these details to their friends and family who might be interested in attending what promises to be a memorable evening.

Chinook Mk 6.

The first of the new Mk 6 Chinooks, with improved handling qualities and stability, has been handed over on time to the RAF. This is the first of 14 new Chinooks with a new Digital Automatic Flight Control System; all 14 will be operational by early 2017. S of S has also announced a new £115m agreement with Boeing to maintain the engines of the RAF's 60 Chinook fleet.



RAFA Secretary Briefing

Dates for the diary

	21 Sep 14	Freedom parade 504 Sqn Royal Aux Air Force
Sat	18 Oct 14	Poppy Concert RBL – Oakham School
Sun	9 Nov 14	Remembrance Sunday
Tue	11 Nov 14	Oakham Commemoration Armistice Day

Teigh Thankful Village

Thankful Villages (also known as **Blessed Villages**) are settlements in both England and Wales from which all their then members of the armed forces survived World War I. The term **Thankful Village** was popularised by the writer Arthur Mee in the 1930s. In *Enchanted Land* (1936), the introductory



volume to *The King's England* series of guides, he wrote that a Thankful Village was one which had lost no men in the Great War because all those who left to serve came home again. His initial list identified 32 villages. Teigh in Rutland is one of those 51 Thankful villages. Throughout the UK. In 2013 two keen motor bike riders pledged to visit them all, and raise money for the Royal British Legion charity. We attended a welcome gathering and service at Teigh church for this event, and the RAFA Rutland Standard was invited back again this year, together with the Royal British Legion standard to a ceremony for the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate this occasion.

A villager named Tidd was one of these men and his son, plus other relatives had been invited to unveil the slate plaque, which had been presented by the bikers the previous year.

Refreshments were provided by the villagers and entertainment was provided by the Rutland Morris Side

**Francis Humphreys
Standard Bearer.**



The Gazette

Dates For Your Diary



3rd September	Jackie Towl	RAF Widows' Association
1st October	TBA	
5th November	RAF Wittering RAFALOs	History & Re Role 504 Squadron RAF Wittering

From the Membership Secretary.

We welcome new member Mr David Kent who joined us on 21st July. David has had an email welcoming him and an invitation to come along to a Branch Meeting one month to say hello.

Angie

Branch Meeting

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

Branch Committee Members

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