



# NEWSLETTER

Vol 7 Issue 1 Jan — Mar 2023



Sir John Baker Trophy winners 2022



Registered Charity 1195405 (England & Wales)

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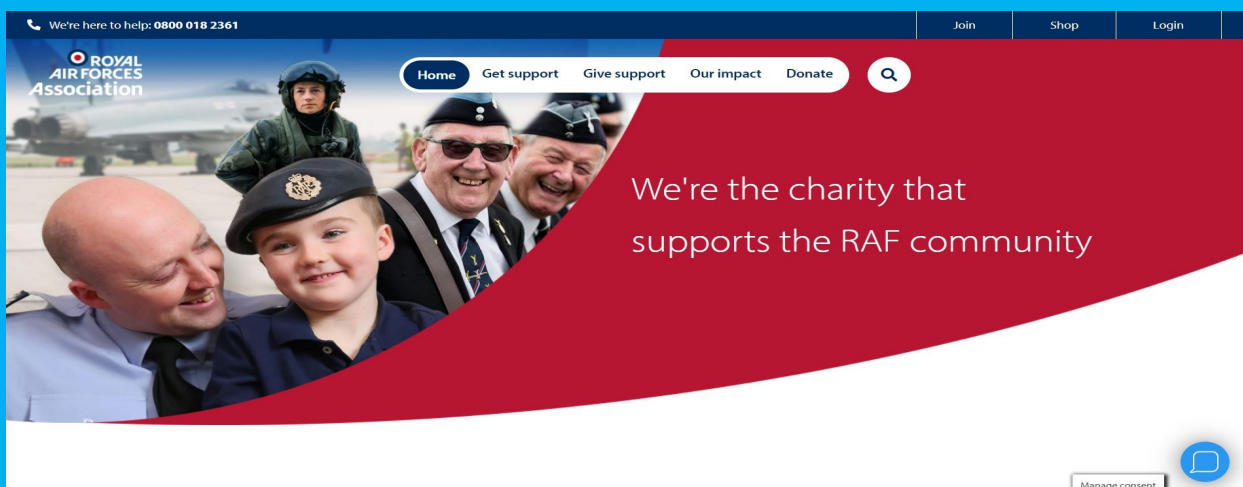
**The Cover: JATE RAF Abingdon 1975**

**Photo by Steve Mullis**

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***<https://rafa.org.uk/>***

***Have YOU logged in yet?***



**Disclaimer - The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the RAFA Global Branch, the Newsletter Editor, Branch Committee or membership and therefore should not be construed as such.**

## So where are our members based?

30 Different countries at this moment in time.

Please don't ask for details of other people living in your country or area as we cannot give that info out.

Data Protection rules!!!

However, if YOU put a post up on the Facebook page asking for people in YOUR are to contact YOU direct, then that is easiest way for closer contact.

We might be Global but we are still ALL RAF Family

<b>Australia</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>N Ireland</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Belize</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>New Zealand</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Botswana</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Phillipines</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Poland</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Canada</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Portugal</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Rwanda</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Eire 3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>Scotland</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Finland</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>South Africa</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>France</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Spain</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Germany</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Thailand</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Holland</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Italy</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>UAE</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Kenya</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>USA</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Malta</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Wales</b>	<b>22</b>

# **Your Chairmans Ramblings**

**Well, first of all I want to wish you all a very Happy New Year, no matter where you currently reside .**

**I think that 2023 could prove to be a very important year, worldwide, with all the political dramas being played out. This will impact all of our lives both here in the UK both financially, & with many, on their mental wellbeing. It comes down to each of us to try to reach out to our fellow brother and sisters in arms that hand of friendship. It is much better to offer that hand in advance rather than wait until someone is that desperate that they need our help. WE, as individuals and as a branch, are here to help & assist.**

**Many thanks to all the members who replied to the online branch survey we carried out at the end of 2022. Over the next few weeks I will attempt to get to respond to the majority of requests and observations made. Obviously not all of the requests can always be answered in a positive vein but I will at least try to give reasons why not etc.**

**I also intend to be holding monthly Zoom meetings to give everyone the chance to both meet up virtually plus the opportunity to keep up to date with all that is going on within the branch and RAFA in general.**

**If you want things to change within the Association this is YOUR opportunity to possibly influence those changes. It is no good complaining on the sidelines and then not joining in these discussions which will give you the chance to put your points across. I cannot promise that we can change everything, in fact I can promise we won't be able to BUT if we don't know of your concerns & grievances we won't have any chance of addressing them, so please keep your eyes peeled for details of the first meeting sometime in Jan 2023.**

**The start of March 2023 sees the branch holding its AGM at RAF Odiham. With an increase in members wanting to attend this looks like it will again be a weekend to remember. There is still time to get yourself booked into the hotel etc for the weekend. See pages 10 & 11 of this newsletter for further details.**

**We are also looking to organising a couple of branch visits this year at different locations around the country, so keep an eye on the branch Facebook page for details of these.**

**New year ramblings done & dusted!!!!**

## Members Ramblings, Notices & Requests

Yes folks, in each edition from now on there will be a page dedicated to YOUR stories, memories, antidotes indeed whatever you want to have put in YOUR newsletter. BUT this obviously relies on YOU sending ME what you would like included.

If I receiving nothing then there will be a BLANK PAGE.

Members have requested more local information on other branches etc well it is down to you to send this in.

Remember it is YOUR newsletter, I only put it together & without YOUR input you only get what I consider to be important!!!



Remembrance Day 2022 at the Cenotaph in London saw an increased in branch members marching under the Global Branch banner.

If you want to be part of the 2023 parade I suggest you email Steve Mullis NOW on [chair.rafa.globalbranch1370@gmail.com](mailto:chair.rafa.globalbranch1370@gmail.com) to get you name on the list.

You MUST be ex forces or a carer for someone who is attending the parade. You must also march with the Global Branch

# #10KMEVERDAYIN2023



## #10kmeverydayin2023

Still open for more sponsorship. Start 2023 with a good feeling !!!

I start my challenge on New Year's Day. In heavy training now. Up to 3 Brandy & cokes daily!!!!

First 4 days of my #10kmeverydayin2023 will be over a slightly different route to the majority.

Yes. I know it means starting off the hard way in sunny Benidorm but someone has to do it.

Just remember: YOU PAY NOTHING UNTIL 1st JAN 2024.

I JUST NEED YOUR PLEDGED AMOUNT

Currently just over £1,000 pledged

ALL money raised goes to RAFA Global Branch Wings Appeal Challenging the RAF Association Global Branch Chairman Chairman's Challenge 2023

Target is obviously £3,650. Current total pledged is £1,039-00p

I DON'T WANT ANY MONEY UP FRONT, I ONLY WANT YOUR PROMISE TO PAY UP COME THE 1st Jan 2024!!!

I have set myself a challenge like no other I have attempted before.

I am going to be doing a virtual walk to Kiev from Newbury via Dover, Paris, Brussels, Munich, Berlin, to Kiev.

I plan to do 10kms a day EVERY day next year totalling 3,650kms I have set up a 10km route around Newbury that I will walk every day, or possibly at different locations, if we are away somewhere. This will be checkable on Strava ([www.strava.com](http://www.strava.com)) If I cannot do any day, I will do double the DAY BEFORE my non active day.

Obviously I am doing this to raise money for RAFA & I am therefore looking for people to sponsor me in multiples of 1p a Km. Total for 1p sponsorship will be £36.50

I DON'T WANT ANY MONEY UP FRONT, I ONLY WANT YOUR PROMISE TO PAY UP COME THE 1st Dec 2024!!!

If you want to sponsor me please indicate the amount per Km in an email me on

[chair.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com](mailto:chair.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com) and start saving you 10p's a day from Jan 1st 2023

Remember, it's a case of Non Nobis Sed Vobis

Target is obviously £3,650. Currently pledged is £1,039-00p

# Known Air Shows for 2023



**ABINGDON  
AIR &  
COUNTRY  
SHOW  
2023**  
**Sat 20th Sept**



- Flying Displays & Static Helicopters
- Ground attractions
- Free Car Parking
- Dogs on a lead are welcome

**ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM OUR OFFICIAL WEBSITE:**

- Adults (16+) £20
- Seniors (65+) £10
- Children (5-15) £
- Children under 5 free

[www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk](http://www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk)

**On the day:** Adult £24 Seniors £14 Child 5-15 £7, Under 5s free

Car Parks: are open from 7.30am  
Showground: opens at 10.00am  
Showground closes: 5.30pm onwards



**LOCATION:** Abingdon Airfield / Dalton Barracks, Oxfordshire  
Off the A34 (Hinksey Hill interchange) Postcode: OX13 6BX - Honeybottom Lane

[www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk](http://www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk)

**The Global Branch Gazebo will be there!!!**



[www.cosfordairshow.co.uk](http://www.cosfordairshow.co.uk)

**The Global Branch Gazebo will NOT be there!!!**



**Now a regular place in the diary for many is a visit to their local Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club. Why not checkout your local one? For about £6 you get a substantial breakfast with unlimited tea/coffee. Venues vary on price & content. The link to find YOUR local club is [www.afvbc.net](http://www.afvbc.net)**

**Newbury Thatcham Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/412987076263828>

**St Helens Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1175542099273689/?ref=share>

**Wakefield Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/115048932216843/?ref=share>

**Dewsbury Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/976048345748584/>

**Thursday 25 May 2023**



## **We are going to the Yorkshire Air Museum @ RAF Elvington WW2 aerodrome**

Entry into the Air Museum, for the majority of our members will be FREE!!!

Check out entry prices, directions and much, much more at

[www.yorkshireairmuseum.org](http://www.yorkshireairmuseum.org)

We are going to be staying at the Premier Inn, York North West hotel the night of the 25th. Current prices for booking NOW (29/12/22) are:

Standard £54 Pay now, non refundable

Advance £73 refundable free cancellation up to 28 days before

Flex £91 fully refundable and free cancellation up to 1pm on the day

Breakfast extra at £9.50 per head

Book via [www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/england/north-yorkshire/york/york-north-west.html?cid=GLBC\\_YORMIL](http://www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/england/north-yorkshire/york/york-north-west.html?cid=GLBC_YORMIL)

We are booked in to be eating in the Beefeater restaurant next door. You can get 25% off your food bill with a Defence Discount card.

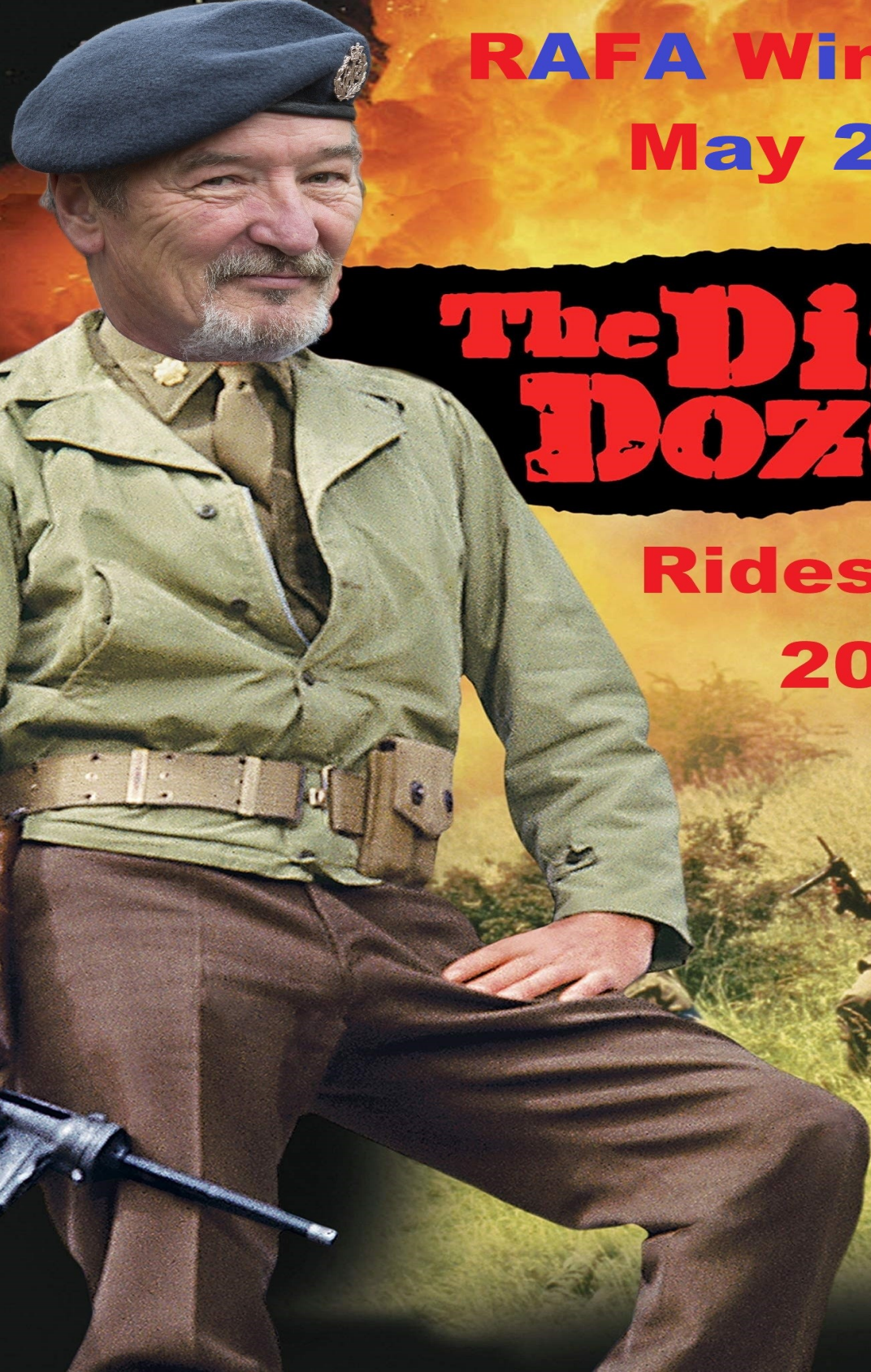
Please note the discount applies to the food bill and requires a purchase of two main meals from our main restaurant menu.

**PLEASE CONFIRM ATTENDANCE ASAP with**

**Irene Elizabeth Thomson, our Social Events Coordinator on**

[social2.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com](mailto:social2.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com)





**RAFA Wing Walk**

**May 2023**

# **The Dirty Dozen<sup>1/2</sup>**

**Rides Again**

**2023**

**5 members of the branch, Damian Harris, David Routledge, Craig McMurrough, Dave Kelley & Steve Mullis will hopefully be joined by 4 civilians, Jan Smith, Chezza Kerr, Conor Heffernan and Riquella Abbott in doing a Wing Walk on May 17th 2023 in aid of the Global Branch's Wings Appeal 2023. They will be raising a MINIMUM of £6,300!!! Please give them ALL the support you can.**

**<https://www.justgiving.com/team/DirtyHalfDozenPlus50Percent>**

# #AGM2023 @ RAF Odiham

**RAF ODIHAM**



**02-03-23 to 04-03-23**

**PLEASE NOTE DIFFERENT DAYS THIS YEAR!!!!!!**

Accommodation base is the Premier Inn listed below. Other local options are available but the choice & the booking of any accommodation is down to you. Early booking is advised as prices will almost certainly rise. BUT please make sure anything you book has FREE CANCELLATION, just in case!!!

Please email [chair.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com](mailto:chair.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com) to confirm whether or not you will be attending the AGM plus whether flying solo or with guests. Please also confirm that you have booked accommodation and it's location.

Premier Inn, Basingstoke Leisure Park, Worting Road, Basingstoke, RG22 6PG (Basingstoke West (Churchill Way) Website: <https://www.premierinn.com/>

Current Prices (27/12/2022) For 2 nights. Per Room:

£136 Advance. Pay now, fully refundable with free cancellation up to 28 days before arrival

£150 Flex. Pay now or on arrival, fully refundable with free cancellation up to 1pm on the day or arrival

**THERE IS A SLIGHTLY CHEAPER ALTERNATIVE HOTEL LESS THAN 3 MILES AWAY. SLEEP THERE & JOIN US AT THE OTHER ONE FOR DRINKS ETC**

Premier Inn, Victoria Street, Town Centre, Basingstoke, RG21 3BT

Current Prices (27/12/2022) For 2 nights. Per Room:

£118 Advance. Pay now, fully refundable with free cancellation up to 28 days before arrival

£141 Flex. Pay now or on arrival, fully refundable with free cancellation up to 1pm on the day or arrival

## Proposed AGM Weekend Itinerary

### 1. Proposed AGM Weekend Itinerary

**THURSDAY 2nd March 15.00hrs + Check into hotel, either Premier Inn, Basingstoke Leisure Park, Worting Road, Basingstoke, RG22 6PG (Basingstoke West (Churchill Way) or Premier Inn, Victoria Street, Town Centre, Basingstoke, RG21 3BT**

### 2. THURSDAY 2nd March 20.00hrs

**Meet & Greet at Spruce Goose Beefeater Grill next door to hotel.**

**If you are staying at the hotel then the Premier Inn Meal Deal is the best option at £25 per person per day BUT if you are not going to be having breakfast then the 25% discount on food with a Defence Discount Card works out better. You will need a code from the Defence Card App.**

**A chance for branch members to meet RAFALO's etc from RAF Odiham & from RAFA Basingstoke branch. We will also be joined by Air Commodore Allan Vaughan OBE BA, RAF (Ret'd), President, South East and Eastern Area, Royal Air Forces Association**

### 3. FRIDAY 3rd March 07.00hrs - 08.45hrs

**Breakfast at Spruce Goose Beefeater Grill next door to hotel**

**Transfer from hotel to RAF Odiham, Royal Air Force, Odiham, Hook, RG29 1QT.  
(12 miles, Transfer Time 20 mins)**

### 4. FRIDAY 3rd March 09.30h Coffee & intro in 27 Squadron's Crew room, upstairs

**Tour of RAF Odiham Chinook Squadron and survival equipment**

**Tour inside Chinook, photo opportunity & group photo**

**Charity Event TBA**

**£5 a person with ALL money raised going the RAFA Wings Appeal**

**Money split between Global Branch & RAF Odiham Wings Appeals**

### 5. FRIDAY 3rd March 12.30hrs – 14.00hrs

**Non formal Lunch in Officers Mess Individuals to pay at time**

### 6. FRIDAY 3rd March 14.15hrs

**Branch AGM to be held in SHFHQ Main Briefing Room**

**Including presentation by 2022 Chinook Display Captain**

### 7. FRIDAY 3rd March

**17.00hrs Latest Depart for Basingstoke Hotel**

### 8. FRIDAY 3rd March 20.00hrs

**Evening meal Spruce Goose Beefeater Grill next door to hotel**

### 9. SATURDAY 4th March

**08.00hrs – 10.00hrs**

**Breakfast at Spruce Goose Beefeater Grill next door to hotel**



### 10. SATURDAY 4th March

**10.00hrs – 12.00hrs POSSIBLE!!! Indoor Sky Diving @ <https://www.iflyworld.co.uk/>**

### 11. SATURDAY 4th March 12.00hrs

**Depart hotel/venue for home**

£1-50 each plus £1 for P&P UK Prices Maximum of 6 pins per posting  
 Overseas prices on request Orders to [chair.raflaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com](mailto:chair.raflaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com)

<b>VULCAN</b>	<b>HURRICANE</b>	<b>LANCASTER</b>	<b>SPITFIRE</b>
			
<b>RED ARROWS</b>	<b>WINGS</b>	<b>RAF 100</b>	<b>CAMEL</b>
			
<b>LIGHTNING 35B</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>E3D Sentry</b>	<b>CHINOOK</b>
			
<b>REGT BEAR</b>	<b>LIGHTNING</b>	<b>TYPHOON</b>	<b>PILOT BEAR</b>
			
<b>TORNADO</b>	<b>FALCONS</b>	<b>SEA KING</b>	<b>PHANTOM</b>
			 <p>PHANTOM BADGE Suggested donation £1.50</p> 

**I have run out of items for this months newsletter, so I am sorry  
but you will have to suffer this photograph!!!  
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!!!!**



# What EVERY member needs

## CHAIRMAN'S CHALLENGE FOR 2022 NOW IS THE TIME TO GET YOUR RAFA HOME COLLECTION BOX!!!!



Its so simple folks, just get one of these home collection boxes and just pop your odd change into it. Come Battle of Britain Week 2023, count it up and bank it for the Global Branch's Wing Appeal.

Remember it doesn't matter where you live in the world, money is money & it all adds up no matter what the currency!!!!

Contact the Chairman now to ask for one of the boxes and get collecting the easy way. Don't wait for it to come in post, have a look in your pocket today and see how much shrapnel you have in there now!!!

In 2020 & 2021 we raised over £1,000 despite all the problems we have had with Covid 19, so I am hoping that in 2023 we can improve on that with more people having boxes!!!

Reference renewals of your membership of RAFA. Many memberships will be coming up for renewal over the next month or so. Please take a few minutes to check out that YOUR details are correctly held with RAFA HQ so that hopefully you will receive your membership card etc when you renew. If you currently receive the Air Mail magazine then you can assume your address is correct.

You can easily check this out, and the date your renewal is due, by logging on the portal at <https://rafa.org.uk/> and then going to My Details & My Membership. If they are incorrect you can change them online.

If you are unable to log on due to not having a password. Use the Contact form at <https://rafa.org.uk/contact/> to request one.



Help raise FREE funds for RAFA Global Branch 1370 whenever you shop online!

We currently have just over 115 people raising over £1,500 since we started using it. Imagine how much we could raise if ALL our members were to join!!!

It doesn't cost you a penny more to use easyfundraising BUT it will raise money for the branch for FREE!!!

Use easyfundraising to shop with over 4,000 big name retailers including John Lewis, Very, Uswitch, GoCompare, Just Eat, Expedia, and ASOS – when you shop, you'll raise a free donation for RAFA Global Branch 1370 every time, it's that easy!

Please help support us:

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rafaglobalbranch1370/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_content=fb5](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rafaglobalbranch1370/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=fb5)

## Could YOU do a Wings Collection in YOUR town?



Have you ever thought about spending a few hours, come September, doing a collection in your town/village for the Wings Appeal. If you DON'T have a local RAFA branch in your vicinity then maybe you could help us raise a few more pounds towards this year's target.

If you think you can help please contact Graham Croft so that he can organize the paperwork & equipment for you. Just email him with your details on

[wings2.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com](mailto:wings2.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com)