



RAFA Global Branch 1370



NEWSLETTER

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Sir John Baker Trophy winners 2022



Registered Charity 1195405 (England & Wales)

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The Cover:

One from RAF Odiham AGM

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

Have YOU logged in yet?

We're here to help: 0800 018 2361

ROYAL AIR FORCES Association

Home Get support Give support Our impact Donate

We're the charity that supports the RAF community

Manage consent

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.

Your Chairmans Ramblings

PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

The password to access the members only pages of the Global Branch website at <https://rafa1370.org.uk/> is going to be changing in the very near future. You will be emailed with the new password!!!

I have always stated to SWMBO that I never ramble but since this page is devoted to my ramblings, maybe I do!!!!

Well, we are now 3 months into 2023 and this is proving to be a very interesting and challenging year so far. Without bring politics into the ramblings, the ongoing events around the world are going to make this year and maybe for a few years down the line a challenging period of time for not just the Global Branch in general but for RAFA and our membership.

One wonders where we, as a world, could be at the end of this decade. I honestly believe that the route the world could end up taking will make life so much more difficult for those of us, of a more mature disposition, will find that the preparations that we might have made for our years of retirement might not be enough.

Many of us look at the way our country and people are now moving and sometimes we do not recognise it as the same country that we were born, raised and served in.

However, despite all the things put up against, we always seem to get through. Be it financial or health items thrown up against us, somehow or other the majority of us find the Positive Mental Attitude to deal with it and progress into old age, or so they tell me.

What we must never forget is that there are some of our brother and sisters in arms who do not necessarily manage to survive without major struggles.

We, as members of RAFA, and indeed of the Global branch, must also be prepared and happy to help those who we trusted, back in the day, with our lives and if there is anyway that we can assist them in their time of need, we should be ready to step up to the mark.

This is what our Wings Appeal is for each year

This is where EVERYONE can help and assist with raising money.

What are YOU going to do to raise a few quid in 2023?

AGM 2023 @ RAF Odiham in Pictures



The Branch combined a visit to 27 Sqn at RAF Odiham with their AGM. Around 40 branch members, from all over the country, were joined by Area President Air Commodore Allan Vaughan at the previous nights meet & greet as well as the AGM. The two day visit to the area finished with a branch knockout 10 pin bowling tournament.

Planning now under way on AGM2024, hope to see you there!!!!



AGM 2023 @ RAF Odiham in Pictures



Members Ramblings, Notices & Requests

Yes folks, here is the first 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. This month, because I have received not one item you get 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!!!

UK Emergency Alerts

On 23/04/2023, there will be a national test of the UK Emergency Alerts service.

Emergency Alerts is a UK government service that will warn you if there's a danger to life nearby.

In an emergency, your mobile phone or tablet will receive an alert with advice about how to stay safe.

The government does not need to know your phone number or location to send you an alert.

Reasons you might get an alert

You may get alerts about:

- severe flooding
- Fires
- extreme weather

Emergency alerts will only be sent by:

The emergency services, government departments, agencies and public bodies that deal with emergencies

What happens when you get an emergency alert:

Your mobile phone or tablet may:

- make a loud siren-like sound, even if it's set on silent
- Vibrate
- read out the alert

The sound and vibration will last for about 10 seconds.

An alert will include a phone number or a link to the GOV.UK website for more information.

You'll get alerts based on your current location - not where you live or work. You do not need to turn on location services to receive alerts.

What you need to do

When you get an alert, stop what you're doing and follow the instructions in the alert.

Known Air Shows for 2023

ABINGDON AIR & COUNTRY SHOW

Sat 20th May 2023



Abingdon Airfield, Dalton Barracks, Oxfordshire
10AM—5.30PM

- Flying Displays and Static Aircraft Area - Arena Displays & Music
- Crafts, Trade stands & Exhibits - World War Two Re-enactors
- Classic & ex Military Vehicles - Red Arrows Flight simulator
- AND MUCH MORE TO OFFER

TICKETS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE ONLINE FROM OUR WEBSITE:

Adults (16+) £20 OAP (65+) £10 Children (5-15) £6
Children under 5 free. Free Car Parking.



www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk



Supporting the Thames Valley Air Ambulance Trust



www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk

The Global Branch Gazebo will be there!!!



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

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**

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

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

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 their main restaurant menu.

PLEASE CONFIRM ATTENDANCE ASAP with

Irene Elizabeth Thomson, our Social Events Coordinator on

social2.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com

South East and Eastern Area Conference 2023



The charity that supports the RAF family
rafa.org.uk | 0800 018 2361

Headquarters
The Royal Air Forces
Association
Atlas House, Wembley Road
Leicester LE3 1UT

13th March 2023

To: All branches (South East & Eastern Area)

SOUTH EAST & EASTERN AREA CONFERENCE 2023
Atlas House, 03 June 2023

I am writing to invite your branch to attend the South East and Eastern Area Conference on 03 June 2023. Area Conference is your opportunity to contribute to discussions on current initiatives and future plans for the Royal Air Forces Association alongside having a chance to renew and enjoy those ever so important relationships with friends and colleagues.

The business element of Area Conference will be conducted at the Association's Headquarters, Atlas House, Wembley Road, Leicester, LE3 1UT, which has excellent road and rail transport links as well as ample free car parking. Accommodation for the Saturday night has been provisionally reserved at the Leicester Marriot Hotel, Smith Way, Grove Park, Enderby, Leicester, LE19 1SW with an evening dinner at the Castle Hotel, Main Street, Kirby Muxloe, Leicester, LE9 2AP.

The Area Conference Agenda will be sent out to all attendees by 19 May 2023. In brief, the Area Conference will begin at 1000 on Saturday 03 June 2023 at Atlas House (delegates are requested to arrive no later than 0930). The evening dinner will commence at 1830 at the Castle Hotel, Kirby Muxloe, Leicester, LE9 2AP. Please note, there is also the option to attend the conference business virtually via Zoom, however, you must register in advance to receive the link.

Please read and follow points five and six of the pre-conference procedure. We very much look forward to meeting you at the 2023 South East & Eastern Area Conference, please remember you can invite any of your branch members to attend.

Yours sincerely,

John Gilmour

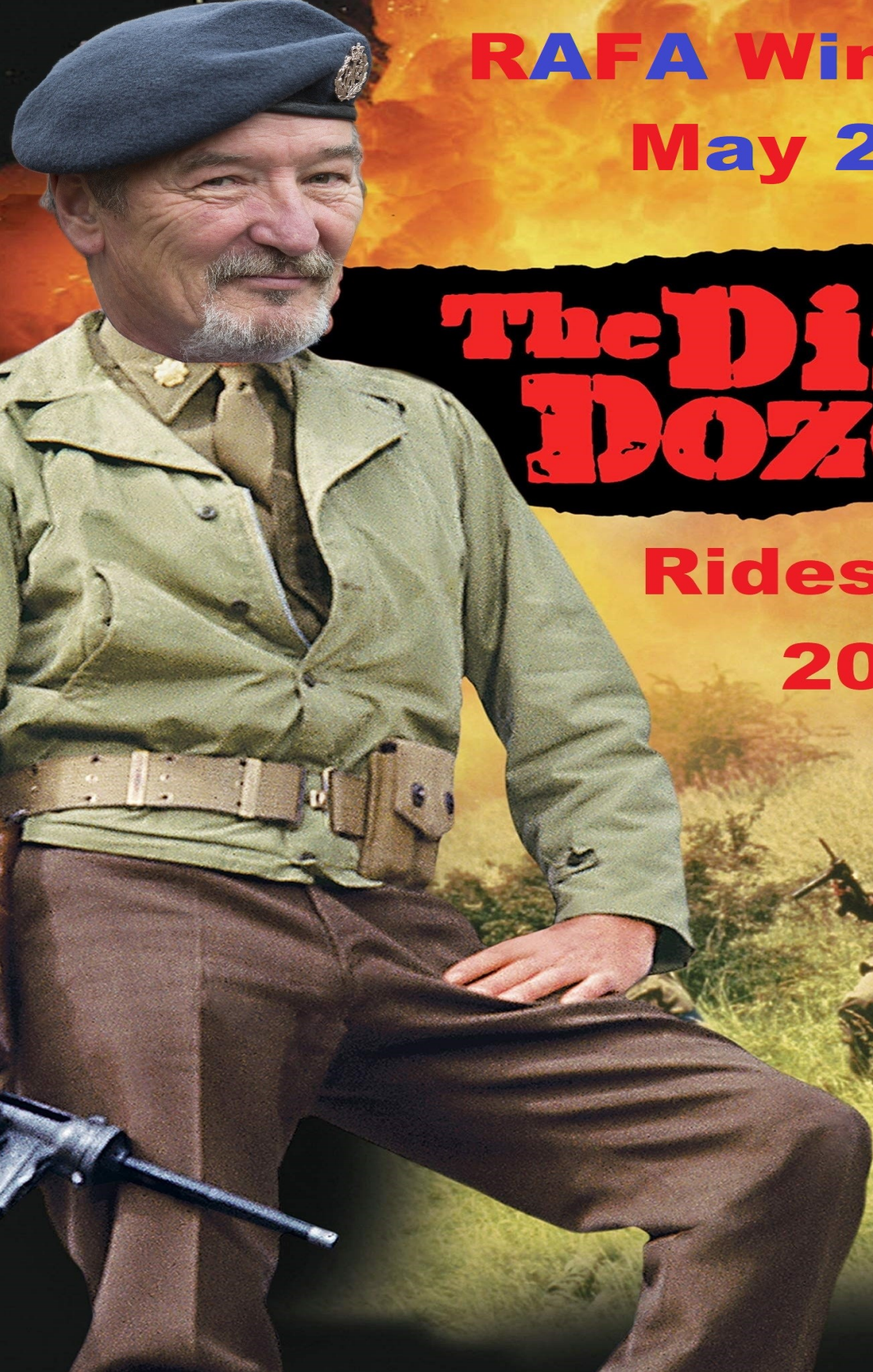
Area Chair (South East & Eastern Area)

If any member wishes to attend the Area Conference as a guest, please contact your Delegate, Steve Mullis, chair.tafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com for further details

PLEASE NOTE:

Saturday 22 April 2023 - Closing date for accommodation bookings at the Leicester, Marriott Hotel

Friday 19 May 2023 - Closing date for Conference Registration.



RAFA Wing Walk

May 2023

The Dirty Dozen^{1/2}

Rides Again

2023

5 members of the branch, Damian Harris, David Routledge, Craig McMurrough, Dave Kelley & Steve Mullis will be joined by 3 civilians, Jan Smith, Chezza Kerr, 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 £5,600!!! Please give them ALL the support you can.

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

#AGM2024

Location, Location, Location

One of the hardest decisions each year is to organize the location and agenda for the branch AGM weekend. AGM2024 has been no different. From the moment that AGM2023 concluded then thoughts turned forward 52 weeks.

Two locations, both in Lincolnshire were up for consideration, Cranwell and Coningsby. Many factors are looked at, location, price & suitability of accommodation reference accessible rooms etc, where we can visit on the base, suitable location to hold the actual AGM, to actually have a base that WANT us to visit them, the list sometimes feels endless. I have also added an extra item following this years successful Ten-Pin bowling competition & that something extra needed to sourced.

Both the bases being considered meant a reasonable distance to have to travel as there a no suitably prices hotels close by.

So!!!!!!!

#AGM2024 is going to be held at: RAF CONINGSBY on the dates of 29-02-24 to 03-03-24

The hotel is the Southview Park Hotel, Skegness, which is part of the Parkdean Holiday Resorts. (www.southviewparkhotel.co.uk)

They are able offer us a special price for early booking with prices from £130 - £250 for 2 nights based on 2 people including breakfast through to £195 - £375 for 3 nights based on 2 people including breakfast depending on the time of accommodation running from twin, double, king size, superior twin, superior double through to a suite.

There are also 3 disabled twin rooms available at £150 for 2 nights and £225 for 3 nights.

There is no discount for single bookings unfortunately but then again there isn't when one books at a Premier Inn.

Possibly the biggest problem is that the company and indeed the hotel do NOT offer a cancellation policy and that the cost of the stay must be paid at the time of booking.

MOST IMPORTANT. MOST IMPORTANT. MOST IMPORTANT

Please DO NOT attempt to try and book any accommodation via their website or vis booking.com as the dates we require are not currently on there.

IF you are planning on joining us at the #AGM2024 @ RAFA Coningsby, please email me on chair.rafaglobalbranch1370@gmail.com registering your interest. I will then come back to you direct with details on how to book as soon as I have the them from the hotel. PLEASE remember that the cost of the stay must be paid at the time of booking.

I will also be adding an event linked to our Facebook page, please use it!!!

I have added a provisional agenda on the next page!!!

AGM 2024 @RAF Coningsby
THURSDAY 29th February 2024 – SUNDAY 3rd March 2024

Proposed AGM Weekend Itinerary

1. THURSDAY 29th February 15.00hrs + Check into hotel
(Southview Park Hotel, Skegness, Lincolnshire, PE25 2LA)

2. THURSDAY 29th February 20.00hrs Meet & greet at Southview Park Hotel
A chance for branch members to meet RAFALO's etc from RAF Coningsby & from RAFA Coningsby and District, Mablethorpe/Sutton & Boston branches.

3. FRIDAY 1st March 07.00hrs - 08.45hrs Breakfast at hotel
Transfer from hotel to RAF Coningsby, Baxter Cl, Coningsby, Lincoln LN4 4TG. (25 miles, Transfer Time 40 mins approx.)

4. FRIDAY 1st March 2024

0930 – Arrive at the main gate, park cars in the main carpark.

10.00 – Tea and coffee in the BBMF tea bar or similar

10.30 – Group splits into 2

One group tour BBMF, the other visits the Typhoon Display Team and one Typhoon Squadron.

12.00 – 12.15 – Official Photo in front of the Typhoon or similar.

12.15 – Travel to Officers Mess for lunch.

12.30 -13.30 – Officers Mess lunch, to be paid individually at time of purchase.

13.30-15.00 – Groups switch over.

One group tour BBMF, the other visits the Typhoon Display Team and one Typhoon Squadron.

15.15 - 16.15 – AGM. (If AGM not being held on RAF Coningsby, then AGM in hotel @ 20.00hrs

16.30 – Depart to the hotel.

5. FRIDAY 1st March 20.00hrs Evening meal in hotel

If AGM not able to be held on RAF Coningsby, then AGM in Trafalgar Suite in hotel (No Charge)

6. SATURDAY 2nd March 08.00hrs – 10.00hrs Breakfast in hotel

7. SATURDAY 2nd March

POSSIBLE CHOICES

Go Karting Global Branch Championship

<https://kartworldextremeleisure.co.uk/>

Details to follow for anyone interested. OR


Visit to Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre @ East Kirby for Just Jane OR

Free Time OR

Depart hotel/venue for home.

8. SUNDAY 3rd 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

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

What EVERY member needs

CHALLENGE FOR 2023
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

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