

1. DIARY DATES

2008

Oct 22	Scotland Northern Region Welfare Seminar, RNA Club, Lossiemouth
Oct 29	Scotland & Northern Ireland Area Council Meeting, Edinburgh
Nov 3	Edinburgh Garden of Remembrance Opening Ceremony, Princes Street
Nov 6	Field of Remembrance Ceremony, Westminster Abbey Gardens
Nov 9	Remembrance Day, Cenotaph Parade, London
Nov 12	Scottish Northern Region Meeting, RNA Lossiemouth
Dec 11	RAFA Carol Concert, Peterborough Cathedral

2009

Jan 30	Northern Ireland Region Meeting, Officers' Mess, RAF Aldergrove
Feb 18	Scotland Southern Region Meeting, Glasgow
Mar 7/8	Northern Ireland Region AGM & Re-union Weekend, Bangor
Mar 21/22	Scotland & Northern Ireland Area Conference, Perth

2. ANNUAL CONFERENCE - BOURNEMOUTH 15-17 May 2009

Branch Secretaries will have received a letter from the Secretary General giving details of election procedures for the 2009 Elections for Central Council and Annual Conference Committee. The letter invited Branch nominations for the elections which must be at CHQ by 7 November 2008.

3. WINGS

Now that Wings Appeal Week has come and gone, we thank all who have contributed with hard work and dedication to bring in the spoils. We are indebted to all concerned. I know that Branches will endeavour to have the Final Wings Returns at CHQ by the deadline of 28 November 2008. It should be noted that counterfoils for the 2008 Grand Prize Draw should be returned to:- FREEPOST NAT11940, RAF Association, 2008 Grand Prize Draw, Chippenham, SN14 6BR by **17th October 2008**.

4. LIFT-OFF-LOTTO

The Lift-Off Lotto is now underway. Members will have received information regarding the Lotto and initial figures for take up are encouraging. There is a guaranteed first prize of £1000 every week and the added bonus of a chance to win up to £10,000 if the second prize rolls over. The first Draw will take place on 31 October 2008. Full information is available on the Lotto website: www.lift-off-lotto.org.uk

5. FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY – 6 NOVEMBER 2008

The Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey Gardens, will be opened on Thursday 6th November 2008. Her Majesty the Queen arrives at 1045 hrs and all participants must be in place by 1000 hrs. Branches are again



encouraged to give the occasion the best possible support by ordering crosses to be planted by their representatives wherever possible. Staff from the South East Office will arrange for crosses to be planted on behalf of any Branch who is unable to attend. A Badge Cross will cost £7.90 and a Leaf Cross which is suitable for use by Branches, £4.80. **Orders together with the appropriate remittance should be sent to South East Office, 3-5 Old Bridge Street, Hampton Wick, Kingston-Upon-Thames, KT1 4BU no later than Friday 31 October 2008.**

6. **REMEMBRANCE DAY-CENOTAPH PARADE LONDON – SUNDAY 9 NOV 2008**

The SE RAFA Office will again be administering the ticket allocation for this event. The Royal British Legion, on behalf of the Home Office, will be organising the ex-Service contingents attending the Parade and Service at the Cenotaph, Whitehall, and this year the Association's Wreath will be laid by the President of the Wales, Midland and South Western Area. Stewards will be positioned at the Cenotaph to lay wreaths on behalf of the detachments as they March past. Contingents will assemble and disperse at Horse Guards Parade. Due to the number of personnel on parade the overall length of the march past has increased and we are asked to remind all on parade to help ensure that behaviour and dress standards match the dignity of the occasion. There have been a few rather regrettable lapses that have offended the majority of those marching and the general public.

In view of the current security arrangements, only holders of admission tickets will be allowed to join the parade, and all participants are liable to a security search on the day. Applications for tickets to SE Office, details at item 3, with a stamped addressed envelope please, by 10 October 2008.

7. **RAFA CAROL CONCERT – PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL- 11 DECEMBER 2008**

RAFA will stage its first ever Christmas Carol Concert in Peterborough Cathedral on Thursday 11 December 2008. The doors will open at 7pm and the Concert will begin at 7.30pm. The music will be provided by the Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment and there will be other special guests. Tickets will cost £10 each and will be available from the Peterborough Tourist Information Centre from 11 October. The price of the ticket will include a Souvenir Programme and refreshments. All funds raised will go to the RAF Association Wings Appeal.

8. **SEARCH FOR A BEAUFIGHTER NIGHT FIGHTER PILOT OR NAVIGATOR**

We have been asked for assistance in finding anyone who flew the Beaufighter night fighter as a pilot or navigator who is willing to be interviewed in a relaxed and stress free environment about their memories of the period, reminiscences and facts of what it was like to go into combat, how they coped and what they hoped for.

If you have any information or require further information please contact:

Greg Fisher on 01428 652 300

9. **LOCAL RADIO**

For those Branches in the North of Scotland there is a local radio station in which a member of RAFA Fraserburgh Branch plays a prominent part. He is willing to advise Branches and promote items on the radio. He also has access to other local radio stations throughout the highland region and may be able to help those in other locales. His contact details are: Mr Roland Chapman, Tel No 01346 514124 (Home) and 01346 512010 (Studio Kinnaird Radio Ltd). E-mail: roland-chapman@tiscali.co.uk. Local radio is an excellent medium for spreading the word. I urge Branches to give consideration to take up this offer of assistance.

10. **RAFA 2009 DIARY AND CHRISTMAS CARD ORDER FORMS**

Please find attached order form from RAFATRAD Ltd, for RAFA Christmas cards and 2009 diaries. You can order by phoning 01892-600191 for availability or filling in the form and sending it by post. RAFATRAD Ltd also has a web site: www.rafatrad.co.uk We have a limited supply of Christmas Cards available from Area Headquarters in Edinburgh, contact details as per Newsletter Header.

11. **SCOTLAND & NORTHERN IRELAND AREA 250 CLUB**

The winner for September is Mr P E G McKinstry, Dundee (Share No. 236)

David Hamer
Director—Scotland & Northern Ireland Area

Enc: Order Form