

DIARY DATES

2010

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| End Apr RAFA | Flowerbed on The Mound, Edinburgh, planted to support RAF and RAFA |
| May 21/23 | Annual National Conference, Blackpool |
| May 23 | Edinburgh Marathon, RAFA Fundraising Runners |
| May 29/30 | Rugby 7s |
| Jun 4-6 | Gardening Scotland, Battle of Britain theme by Edinburgh City Council |
| Jun 4-6 | Perth Airshow |
| Jun 26 | Armed Forces Day – Regional events |
| Jul 24 | East Fortune Airshow |
| Sep 7 | London City Salute – St Paul’s Cathedral, London |
| Sep 11 | Leuchars Airshow |
| Sep 12 | Dowding Memorial Service, Moffat |
| Sep 19 | Battle of Britain Church Services |
| Oct 3 | RAFA Annual Golf Competition, Perth |
| Oct 15 | Edinburgh Castle Black Tie Dinner |
| End Oct | RAFA BoB/Perth 800 th Anniversary Time Capsule |
| Nov 14 | Remembrance Sunday |
| Dec 16 | Perth Carol Concert, National Event |

MESSAGE FROM THE AREA DIRECTOR

1. It was announced on 6 April that Grahame Jones, Secretary General, would be leaving his post with immediate effect. Grahame has contributed much in efforts and enthusiasm and will be missed.
2. I have been in the Director’s seat for almost a year now and it has been an honour to meet so many members. During the last 12 months we have seen a significant increase of RAFALOs at Scottish RAF Stations and I am confident that those staff remaining at JHC Flying Station Aldergrove will maintain a high profile.
3. It has been a year of change with Paul Baker succeeding Mike Snell as Director for Wales, Midland & South Western Area; Darrell Slater-Smith succeeding Ken Holland as Northern Area Director and Sarah Laycock taking over from John Davies in Northern Ireland. Having been on the interview panel for all of these candidates, I can honestly say that we have some great new people in the Association and I look forward with keen anticipation to hearing the new ideas that they bring.

4. One of my key aims for the Area was to raise the profile of the Association and I think we are taking real steps toward this. We had a very successful event in the Scottish Parliament in February to kick start the 70th Anniversary year and we will be unveiling a flowerbed on The Mound in Edinburgh which will be planted as the RAF Roundel until the end of September 2010. The City of Edinburgh have been very supportive and, in addition to granting the flowerbed design for free (normally £15,000), they will also be using the Battle of Britain theme for their entry at Gardening Scotland in June 2010. For both of these events we will have displays detailing The RAF Association and our work supporting young and older veterans.

5. We have also managed to secure a Dakota from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight to perform a fly past over Edinburgh for Armed Forces Day (26 June 2010) to draw attention in this Anniversary year while RAF Kinloss supported RAFA at the 6 Nations England vs Scotland Rugby match with a Nimrod fly past.

6. In the last month we have had coverage in The Scotsman, The Herald and The Press and Journal, in addition to many regional newspapers. I hope that recruiting and fundraising will become easier as a result of our increasing profile.

7. Thanks to all that made the journey to Perth for Conference. At the Northern Ireland AGM 80 attended the day event while Perth had 105, including 12 RAFA Liaison Officers. A superb turn out for both occasions, for which I hope to write more fully next month.

SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND AREA CONFERENCE 20 MARCH 2010

8. A total of 24 Branches were represented at the Area Conference. A report of the proceedings will be issued in due course. The following were elected as representatives for the Area.

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|-----------------------------|---|
| PRESIDENT | TBC |
| AREA VICE PRESIDENTS | AVM D Whittaker CB MBE, AVM J Morris CBE BSc, Mr J McGowan MBE |
| AREA COUNCIL | Mr T Foster MBE - Armagh (Chair) Mrs H Robertson - Dunfermline (Vice-Chair) Mr R Chandler - Ayr & Prestwick Mr N Coulter - Lisburn Mr J Gannon - Largs Mr J Kirkpatrick MBE - Larne Mr J Maclean - Peterhead Mr J Skelton - Glasgow (Central Council Rep) Mr B Bertram - Edinburgh, Lothians & Borders FS K Griffiths - RAFALO |

SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND AREA PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATES

9. In recognition of long and meritorious service to their Branch and to the Association, the Area President is delighted to award his Certificate of Appreciation to the following:-

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mr D A Granger MBE | Ayr & Prestwick Branch |
| Miss E A Robinson | Bangor Branch |
| Cpl E R Smith | Carrickfergus Branch |
| Mr J D Scott | Edinburgh, Lothians & Borders Branch |
| Mr S Whear | Edinburgh, Lothians & Borders Branch |
| Mr R S Stewart | Fraserburgh Branch |
| Mr J J Nicolson | Shetland Branch |

Certificates were presented at Area Conference or as individually arranged. Well done to all recipients.

AREA WINGS APPEAL TROPHIES

10. Area Trophies were presented at Area Conference by AVM Morris and AVM Whittaker.

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Amy Ward Cup Runner Up | Highest Gross Collections | Carrickfergus Causeway Coast |
| J Maclean Trophy Runner Up | Highest Gross per Capita | Carrickfergus County Fermanagh |
| A Wooler Trophy | Highest % Increase Gross | Banbridge |
| FO W Ritchie Trophy | Highest Collection by ATC Sqn | 1089 Sqn Glasgow |

AREA BRANCH AND CLUB TROPHIES

| | | |
|---|-------------------|---|
| Jim Nicholl Cup Runner Up Branch | Membership Trophy | Edinburgh, Lothians & Borders Branch Dunfermline & District |
| Senior Efficiency Trophy | Over 100 Members | Edinburgh, Lothians & Borders Branch |
| James Ross Memorial Cup (Jnr Efficiency Trophy) Runner Up | Under 100 Members | Armagh Branch Peterhead Branch |
| Branch Club Efficiency Trophy | | Ayr & Prestwick Branch |

WINGS APPEAL TROPHIES

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Over £30,000: | Carrickfergus Branch |
| Over £15,000: | Causeway Coast Branch |

Over £10,000: Ballymena, Armagh and East Belfast Branches

**Well done to all Branches in the Area for their efforts during 2009.
THANK YOU FROM DAN & MARGARET NEEDHAM**

11. Retiring Area President Dan Needham, and Margaret, thank you all very much indeed for kind best wishes, and for the wonderful gifts presented on the occasion of Dan's final Area Conference as President. Margaret was delighted to receive the bouquet of tulips, stocks and freesias at home on Conference day, and they filled the house with their fragrance. The wine bottle coaster and golf memorabilia have pride of place in their dining room. The fine Malt will be raised, one careful dram at a time, to wish the Royal Air Forces Association Scotland and Northern Ireland Area very best wishes for the future. Thank You.

BRANCH & CLUB ACCOUNTS YEAR END 31 DECEMBER 2009

12. Branches are reminded that in accordance with Standard Branch Regulation 32, Accounts as at 31 December 2009 are required to be at Area Headquarters as soon as possible following the AGM and should have been received by 31 March 2010. Any Branches who have still to submit their accounts, please do so as a matter of urgency.

FORMS 1056 AND 1056A

13. Please ensure that completed Forms 1056 and 1056a are sent to Area Headquarters as soon as the Branch or Club AGM has been held.

THE CITY OF LONDON SALUTE – 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

14. The St Paul's Cathedral event being organised by the RAF Association is progressing very well. So far we have received over 600 applications from Members of the Association and can confirm that they have all been successful.

15. Please do not worry if you do not hear anything, tickets and further information will be supplied around the middle of July. If you would like to apply, please complete the application form on Page 7 of the January edition of Air Mail.

16. Obviously we would like as many Standard Bearers to attend as possible and priority will be given to your Branch Standard Bearer should they wish to apply. If you are a Standard Bearer and have not yet applied, and would like to do so, then please ring Lorna at Central HQ on 0116 2688754 to secure your place.

TELEVISION DOCUMENTARY

17. A request has come in from RDF Television. They are working on a documentary that is looking to help reunite people with friends and loved ones with whom they have lost touch. They are assembling a team of expert people finders from various areas such as genealogy and private investigation who they intend to film as they try and use their expertise to track down people that have gone missing.

18. They are currently searching for cases which they can feature on the programme, specifically missing service members, divisions, or group of friends. Overleaf is the actual advert for the television show.

Did you serve in the War?

Do you want to track down a missing service member, division, or group of friends but don't have the resources?

Perhaps you have a name but don't know where to turn?

Help is at hand in the form of "trackers" who will be filmed as part of a new BBC primetime television programme.

Our team, with expertise in genealogy and people finding, may be able to help you find your missing person or lost contact. If you need our help then please contact:

Please contact for more information: trackers@RDFTelevision.com

or Lucie Richards on 0207 013 4060

SCAM WARNING

19. It has come to light that a member of RAFA in the Wetherby area received a telephone call from a well spoken gentleman saying he was fundraising on behalf of the RAF Association and that we needed to raise £60 million to help towards running costs and welfare handouts. He asked the RAFA member to commit to a direct debit of £12.00 a month. Fortunately the RAFA member didn't commit to anything and asked for further details to be sent out, which at present hasn't been received. Attached with this Newsletter (Branch Secretaries receiving a hard copy only) is a leaflet called "Scambuster" which covers various scams and how to deal with them. For those with Internet access this leaflet can be viewed at <http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=7694&p=0>

VETERANS SCOTLAND WEBSITE

20. A new area entitled "StartHere" (which can be found in the News Update section) is available on the www.veteransscotland.co.uk website.

21. The StartHere information service is a self-help facility that links you to a wide range of services that can help when you have a problem.

22. It covers a broad range of issues - including health, caring, families, education, employment, benefits, wellbeing and welfare rights - giving a brief summary of the topic and signposting you to hundreds of national organisations, mostly providing FREE services.

23. To point you in the right direction, they provide a map of the UK divided into its four parts, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. National organisations serving each part can be reached by clicking on the map.

24. For information about local organisations, contact appropriate national organisations and ask for details of help available in your area. Your local council may also have information about local organisations that can help.

COASTAL & MARITIME AIR ASSOCIATION

25. A member of Angus Branch, Harry Davey, has been in touch to seek for the annual service of commemoration of the Coastal Command & Maritime Air Association held at their Memorial site at the Seabird Centre, North Berwick. It is a 20 minute service held at 1400 on the first Sunday in May, this year 02 May. They would be delighted if any RAFA members and their families were able to join them. Local

dignitaries, serving and retired CCMAA members attend and they are supported by local ATC cadets. Contact Harry on telephone no. 01382 774551 for further details.

RAFA AFFINITY PARTNER - CS HEALTHCARE

26. RAFA and CS Healthcare have joined forces to offer UK-based RAFA members low-cost comprehensive health insurance. More information is available on the enclosed poster which is only being sent to those Branch Secretaries who have a Club for them to display or at www.cshpartner.co.uk/rafa or by telephoning 0800 917 4325 (quoting promotional code: 222).

RAFA AFFINITY PARTNER FORESTERS FRIENDLY SOCIETY

27. RAFA and Foresters Friendly Society have joined forces to offer RAFA members access to the Foresters 50+ Life Insurance policy. As an added extra, when you arrange a policy, you will receive free £25 Marks & Spencer's Vouchers as well as free membership to Foresters Friendly Society and the associated benefits.

Invitation to RAFA Members

28. Brendan O'Callaghan, who runs the Foresters branches in the UK, is organising a Foresters event at Edinburgh Zoo on the 19th June to which all RAFA members are invited. RAFA members who attend will get a brief on Foresters which will highlight the fundraising activities, followed by a free buffet and free entry into the zoo afterwards.

29. Further information can be obtained by telephoning Foresters Friendly: 0500 50 80 50

Website: www.forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk/rafa.

30. Forester Friendly Society can provide any branch with leaflets for their members including adverts and editorials for newsletters. Contact John Eccles on 01484 860093/07799 887160 or Email: jeccles@forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk.

RAFA AFFINITY PARTNER THOMAS COOK HOLIDAYS

Are you planning a holiday? Thomas Cook Holidays have an offer on for RAFA members to book a Thomas Cook Villas With Style holiday for summer 2010 and receive a bonus discount of £50 in addition to normal Holiday Club discount. Further information can be found on the attached leaflet (Branch Secretaries receiving a hard copy of this newsletter only) or at www.thomascook-holidayclub.com (quoting TCMAR1).



N G BRISBANE MA RAF
Area Director

ANNEXES (BRANCH SECRETARIES ONLY):

SCAM Booklet
CS Healthcare Poster
Thomas Cook Holiday Club Offer