



Royal Observer Corps Association

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen
SNIPPETS

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20th February 2024

News & Information for All Members

National Reunion Friday 4th to Sunday 6th October 2024 – Our 35th Reunion will be at The Palace Hotel Buxton SK17 6AG. It is 5 years since last at the Hotel it is ideally located in the centre of Buxton next to the train station and close to the town shops and cafes. In advance of the notice of full details and booking form the following details are confirmed:
Two-night package DBB: £145 per person for 2 nights in a double or twin (total **£290** for 2 people)

Two- night package single room £145 per person for 2 nights (total **£145** for 1 person)

Three nights package DBB (Thurs or Sunday) a total cost of **£195 per person double / twin**

Three nights Single room **£195.**

Note There is no single room supplement and there is free parking in the hotel car park – registration number must be entered on arrival.

The full details and booking form will shortly be with your Group Secretaries and available to print off the web site.

The Website ~ For those who have access have you checked out the official ROCA web site recently. News and information are regularly updated. On the members pages you can choose to subscribe to an update email that will let you know when new items entered. Martin Benson the Web Editor always welcomes feedback and seeks relevant information, events, and photos from Groups and individuals to share. The members link to the National and Group organisation gives you the latest contact detail for a committee member a quick source to find a contact. Please ensure all changes to committee members are notified to Martin and me.

St Clement Danes Service 14th April 2024 to commemorate the formation of the RAF ~

This year the National Standard Bearer is Rosemary Ward 3 Group. Vice President Terry Giles will be one of our two representatives.

National Arboretum Gathering ~ Saturday 18th May – This year will be a special service and gathering in the Grove. Assemble in the Grove at 1300 where the National and Group Standards will Parade followed by a short Remembrance service to commemorate the Seaborne Observers. A wreath will be laid, and Reverend David Simpson Honorary Chaplin will lead the service. Many of you arrive at the Arboretum during the morning. Those who wish to gather to meet and greet in the café or courtyard beside the Chapel from 11am for refreshments. Please will **all Groups Standards** be there by 1300 ready to march. If you do not have a Bearer, please bring a base to enable it to stand by the Memorial.

New Members ~ The website continues to receive regular enquiries to join the Association. 8 in January alone all had served. National Membership Secretary Norman Hart and web editor Martin Benson always acknowledge the applications and swiftly forward to the relevant group. They have both expressed disappointment that they do not receive acknowledgement nor feedback on the outcome of the applications. It is appreciated not all initial enquirers reply to the Group's membership contact. A very few go back to Martin and Norman to say they hadn't heard from the Group. To help smooth the process and ensure all new members are contacted and followed up the Area Reps will be copied into applications to help any Group follow up when necessary and ensure new members welcomed into the ROCA family.

Heritage Reports – Reports from Edwina, Paddy’s for 31 Group and Cheryl for Arbroath and Scotland ~ Copies of the February reports are enclosed. All available on the website and usually printed in your newsletters. Our grateful thanks to all these volunteers for their time and amazing work they do to promote and preserve our heritage. This year look out for their special displays and exhibitions to Seaborne.

Veryan Post Open days 2024 ~ The National Trust have now agreed the Veryan Bunkers Open Day Dates for 2024. These are:

Mon 27/5 (Bank Holiday), Sun 23/6, Sun 21/7, Sun 18/8, Sat 14/9 dates are on the web site.

ROC Display Boscombe Down Aircraft Collection Old Sarum (BDAC) the ROC Museum Display alongside the unique collection of Aircraft is open every day. Visit on a Friday and you may meet volunteers who are ex-ROC. Thanks to the generous donation of the Display A and triangulation table from the Newhaven Fort Cold War room these will shortly be on permanent display as part of the ROC Museum at BDAC.

The date for the 2024 ROC Open day is to be announced there will be special exhibitions and presentations to commemorate the Seaborn.

President Certificate of Commendation: A special presentation was made to National Membership Secretary Norman Hart who was surprised at a recent Branch meeting when Peter Jex called him forward to receive the award. Norman like so many volunteers work tirelessly behind the scenes – thank you Norman well deserved recognising the many years you have enabled new members to join us.



RAFBF – Your Group Benevolent Fund Liaison Officers (BFLO) receive regular updates and reports from our RAFBF liaison officer Terry Giles. The latest surprising news is that applications for assistance from former ROC personnel have fallen. If you know of anyone who could benefit from some of the wide-ranging grants and benefits now available through the RAFBF do not hesitate to point them to the contact shown below or let your BFLO know. There are a range of RAFBF booklets to explain their services available from your BFLO some Area Reps also hold them. A Guide to the RAFBF Services will be available to view on the website. Do you know who your Group BFLO is? Every Group should have one. It is difficult to find and reach out to non-ROCA members who served and may need help any contact you have for them please do what you can to let them know.

A plea from Terry Giles to BFLOs when you receive his regular updates (32 sent to date) please send an acknowledgment to Terry to confirm receipt, he hopes the information is subsequently shared with members.

Area Reps Committee Meeting ~ the next scheduled issue of snippets will follow Area Reps

meeting to be held 6th July 2024. Following the meeting a subcommittee of Reps will meet to plan the 100th Celebrations in 2025.



R E M E M B E R! www.rafbf.org

The **Royal Observer Corps Benevolent Fund** is still there for those that are in need.

It may not be you, but it could be someone that you know

Visit www.rafbf.org/help or contact RAF Benevolent Fund on 0800 169 2942

Parades Ceremonies Events known to date.

Dates for your 2024 diary further dates will be published as you let us know what is happening locally or nationally.

Full up to the minute details available at www.rocatwentytwelve.org, for specific heritage related items see www.roc-heritage.co.uk

14th April Sunday. St Clement Danes formation of the RAF Service

18th May Saturday. National Arboretum Gathering - Special Grove Service to Seaborne.

6th June Thursday. Beacon Lighting Around the Country

22nd to 23rd June Saturday. National Armed Forces - Heritage Team at Bognor Regis

19th to 21st July Friday to Sunday. RIAT Fairford and the ROCA Heritage Display

4th to 6th October. National Reunion the Palace Hotel Buxton