



Royal Observer Corps Association

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

SNIPPETS

1986 - 2017

SNIPPETS

FROM THE NATIONAL SECRETARY: Jenny Morris

www.roc-heritage.co.uk

26TH July 2017

www.rocatwentytwelve.org

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- ~70th Anniversary Reformation Royal Observer Corps 1947 ~
 - ~ RAF Fighter Command founded 1936 at Bentley Priory became the home for the ROC HQ ~ Open Day September 16th 2017 ~



Well worth a visit Bentley Priory now the Battle of Britain Trust Museum where the contribution of the ROC prominently commemorated. ROCA volunteers help with the ongoing development of the ROC exhibits and on open days.

More information www.bentleypriorymuseum.org.uk

Battle of Britain Commemorative Day, Saturday 16th September

I have received the message below from Heritage Officer Edwina Holden about the Battle of Britain Open Day on Saturday, 16th September. We will have our usual wartime display either on the Terrace or the Balcony, depending on the weather. Please note that ***it is necessary for visitors to purchase tickets before the day***, it is possible to order the tickets over the telephone if you wish (020 8950 5526), or send a cheque to: Bentley Priory Museum, Mansion House Drive, Stanmore, HA7 3FB, see admin charge below. The need to purchase tickets is to keep within the restriction on numbers permitted by the contract appertaining to open days. If booking tickets please mention ROCA.

The Museum open from 10am to 5pm as normal but with various special displays and activities running throughout the day. Admission will be by pre-booked tickets only. Tickets on sale now, ticket prices for the Commemorative Day are as follows: Adults: £5 Concessions & Military: £4, 12-16 year olds: £3 Children under 12: Free.

There is a £1.50 admin fee to have the tickets posted out (that is £1.50 per order, not per ticket!)

The ROCA Dress code for Parades ~ The reports received from a number of Groups following the request to consult widely and fully with their members indicate the consultations were held by a very significant number of Groups. The issue was given the widest possible publicity to all the members to discuss and inform the National Committee on what they the ordinary members want the policy to be. The February Snippets asked any Group that wished to submit a resolution to change the current policy to send to me by 30th June 2017 for a vote to be taken at the ADM. No such resolution was received by the deadline announced in the February snippets.

The current National dress code policy for all Parades for all Groups therefore continues. To enable us to take part in the appropriate veteran military columns as opposed to civilian ranks it is the Association's policy that all who join in the ROCA contingent to march must wear the ROC Beret and ROC beret badge. This gives Associate members a special concession to wear the beret & badge to enable them to support and represent former serving ROC members unable to march and to ensure the ROCA contingent is well turned out and represented. For men blazer & dark trousers or dark suit, with ROC or ROCA or appropriate tie, Associate Member ROCA or other appropriate tie (not ROC tie), ladies blazer or jacket & dark skirt/trousers or dark suit.

The National Committee thank all who took part in the discussions and made their individual and the Group majority view known. The Committee recognise there continues to be a few individuals and Groups who hold very heartfelt views that do not agree with the policy.

Parades & National display ~ Very grateful thanks to all volunteers across the Country whose hard work at all displays, museums and Parades ensure the ROC and ROCBF publicised on our behalf. Gordon Johnson, 8 Group, carried the National Standard at the National Armed Forces Day Parade Liverpool. The crowds lining the seafront gave us all great support.

Tim Kitching, 20 Group, Paraded the National Standard at the Battle of Britain Memorial Chapel Le Ferne. The wreath laid by Vice President Terry Giles.

Battle of Britain Services 17th September ~ York Minster ~ Tim Kitching will carry the National Standard at the Service and in the City of York Parade that follows the service.

National Heritage Displays ~ We had a very successful display at the Armed Forces Day at Liverpool on 24th June with many visitors, we were on the Pier Head but managed to hang on to the marquee in the wind! Page 4 is a photograph of John Shere talking to a visitor with 'Fred' our Seaborne chap enjoying his latest outing. The Heritage team's display drew interest from a number of former ROC and the public.

Similarly our Display at RIAT Fairford we had many diverse people and ages. The small team of volunteers that manned the display from 07.30am until closure 1930 over the 3 days had a very busy time with the backdrop of a thrilling flying display that included the return of the Lancaster to the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. Reports and photos of all the National events will be on the web site.

Broadway Tower Open day ~ Saturday August 5th the Museum and ROC 10 Post will be open to the general public with a special theme organised by the museum entitled 'Observer Day'. Look forward to joining members at the event₂

NATIONAL REUNION 6th TO 8th OCTOBER 2017

The 28th Reunion at The Palace Hotel, Buxton SK17 6AG situated close to the rail station. Full details, booking forms and directions are with your Group Secretaries and available at www.rocatwentytwelve.org

More than 100 members already booked, to those of you who have yet to do so do not delay do it now. Help us to have another successful weekend, there's still time book by 31st August last minute late bookings will be accepted.

~ Do not delay do it Now ~

GROUP STANDARDS ARE INVITED TO BE DISPLAYED DURING THE SATURDAY MORNING MEETING & AT THE GALA DINNER. PLEASE BRING A SUITABLE WEIGHTED STAND.

Annual Delegates Meeting on Saturday morning 7th October If you are unable to attend speak to your Group Committee/ Area Reps on any aspect of ROC Association business you wish to be discussed at the ADM.

New Members - enquiries ~ At the AFD Liverpool and RIAT and other displays around the country former ROC or their families went away clutching membership application leaflets. Many had not heard of the Association but had every intention to join. Please follow up the enquiries to make them welcome. Many callers did not serve but had relatives who did they are keen to join as Associates and learn more about the Corps or pass on stories, memorabilia. ***Please feedback to Norman Hart, National Membership Secretary, results of all membership referrals sent to you.*** The feedback enables us to monitor the success of the web site facility and if it needs improvement.

ROCA Ben Fund Liaison Officers ~ ROCABFLO remain a vital and necessary role especially relevant for local members who may not require financial help but to arrange for someone to keep in touch where poor health or illness is known. John Sharpe is a point of contact to assist all ROCABFLO and those Groups who currently are unable to fill the position.

www.facebook.com/RoyalObserverCorpsBenevolentFund.

RAF 100th Anniversary Project ~ The RAF Museum is launching RAF Stories - an online digital project. It aims to share accounts of the Royal Air Force and those of their partners who worked closely with them. To recognise the ROC roles within the project the ROC Association is seeking volunteers willing to record their recollections. All types of people from former ROC members, their family and friends. Basically the RAF, either by video or audio, records the person talking about their memories, helped along with some questions developed around the topic they wish to discuss. Recordings can be anything from 10 mins to over an hour thus no pressure. The main subjects are interesting stories, experiences and anecdotes which reflect human experience in connection with the ROC rather than facts and figures.

If you want to know more or willing to volunteer please contact Tim Kitching assistant admin officer either by phone or email.

Dates for your 2017 diary

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

5th August Saturday. Broadway Tower Open Day ROC Post & Museum 11am to 1700

14th August Monday. Vervan Post Open Day booking essential on 01872 - 278234

3rd September Sunday. RAF Elvington Museum 32nd Allied Air Forces Memorial Day

10th September Sunday Vervan Post Open Day booking essential

17th September Sunday York Minster Battle of Britain Service & Parade

17th September Sunday Battle of Britain Service Westminster Abbey

6th to 8th October. 28th National Annual Reunion Palace Hotel Buxton

7th October Saturday. Annual Delegates Meeting Hotel

9th November Thursday. Field of Remembrance St Margaret's Westminster

12th November Sunday. Remembrance Parade London Cenotaph

Area Reps Committee Meeting & Next Snippets ~ the next snippets will follow the Area Reps meeting held at the Reunion.



REMEMBER! www.rocbf.org.uk

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

John Shere talks to visitor with Seaborne Fred AFD Liverpool *photo Jenny Morris*



RIAT - BBMF Lancaster 3 Spitfires & Hurricane Flypast *Photo David Peace 8 Group*

