



Royal Observer Corps Association

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

SNIPPETS

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17th November 2017

To: Group Secretaries
Newsletter Editors

Copy to: Area Reps
Web Editor

News & Information for your members

The Royal Observer Corps Benevolent Fund hands over the reins to the RAF Benevolent Fund



Chairman of the RAF Benevolent Fund, Lawrie Haynes, with Chairman of the ROCBF Trustees, Christopher Howard

At the Reunion Delegates were the first to hear about the transition to the RAF Benevolent Fund. The announcement was followed by the Press Release issued on 1st November that explained:

“The RAF Benevolent Fund is delighted to announce the Royal Observer Corps Benevolent Fund has been taken under its wing and will be absorbed by the RAF’s leading welfare charity. The merging of the two charities builds on the close partnerships and excellent relationships developed over several years.”

The full press release is with Group Secretaries and Editors to be published. It may also be read now on the ROCA / ROCBF / RAFBF web sites.

There is a continuing need and even more important role for the **ROC Association appointed Benevolent Fund Liaison Officers**. John Sharpe will write to all Group ROCABFLOs to update them on the instructions to help former ROC and their close families and their ongoing role to keep in touch with local members who do not need financial assistance but to keep them in touch.

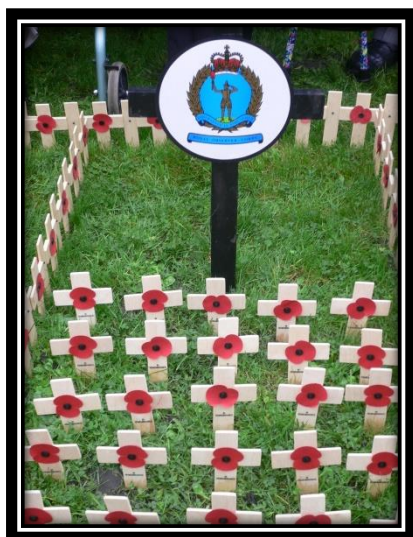
RAF Benevolent Fund: The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund is the RAF’s leading welfare charity, providing financial, practical and emotional support to serving and former members of the RAF, as well as their partners and dependants. We help members of the RAF family with everything from disability, injury, financial hardship and youth support to living independently and providing dignity in retirement. For more information visit: www.rafbf.org Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RAFBF>

For further information please contact either your Group ROCBFLO or:
Brooke Harrison-Davies, RAF Benevolent Fund on 020 7307 3351 or 07825 172447 or
brooke.harrison-davies@rafbf.org.uk

If you find you are in need of help your application will be speeded up if you are able to quote your **ROC service number**. Many of us have never forgotten it but many do not have it to hand. There’s a challenge to look this out **now and ensure your family also know it**.



~ Remembrance ~



We remember all ROC and ROCA friends no longer with us.

It was my great privilege to represent you at the Field of Remembrance Westminster Abbey Grounds on 9th November.



Photo taken by Jacqui Giles captured the moment Prince Harry spoke to me to thank us for our support. Terry Giles, Les and Sheila Mitchell joined Jacqui behind our plot.

In addition to the 25 Group Crosses there are now a growing number of individual crosses to remember members no longer with us. Crosses can be bought and laid through TRBL.

28th National Reunion – Palace Hotel Buxton 2017 ~ majority of the 135 members and guests who gathered said they thoroughly enjoyed the venue, one of the best Reunions they had experienced. Opening the event on the Friday evening **John Sharpe** thanked all for the donated raffle prizes and the generous support by all those present that raised £490. The amount helps with the costs of holding the Reunion and the annual donation to the ROCBF agreed at the ADM. After the Gala Dinner Saturday evening all members had time to chat with **Air Marshal Cliff Spink**. Those with access to the web site can view photographs of the weekend.

The new trophy the Geoffrey Pott Vulcan Trophy National Committee will award the Group who during the year or over a number of years to the year end 31 December prior to the Reunion had made a significant, special or outstanding contribution to the Association either Locally or Nationally. This year awarded to the Group who had the greatest increase in their membership



Jenny accepts the Geoffrey Pott Vulcan Trophy on behalf of 12 Group



Tony Massz receives the Trophy on behalf of
Neville Cullingford

The John Simmonds Memorial Heritage Trophy ~ the ROCA Heritage Trophy presented to Neville Cullingford for his extensive knowledge that he readily shares with heritage enquirers, researchers, throughout the year.

President Certificate of Commendation
Awarded to Kathryn Little & Mike Quincy



Paul Norris Paul Wakefield of Newhaven Fort
receive the Jock Burnie Memorial Trophy

The Jock Burnie Memorial Trophy ~ is awarded annually by the National Committee to recognise meritorious service to the Association. Awarded to Ian Burrows, Paul Norris Paul Wakefield for many years devoted to preserve and promote our Heritage at Newhaven Fort.



Vice Presidents ~ At the ADM John Sharpe confirmed the reappointment of Hilary Daniel Terry Giles and Joyce Shrubbs as our Vice Presidents for the forthcoming year.

National Committee Officers ~ Area Reps elected to hold the following appointments for the year to the ADM October 2018 are: **Chairman** John Sharpe, **Vice Chairman** Dave Arnott **Secretary** Jenny Morris **Treasurer** Dave Arnott **Keeper of the National Standard** Tim Kitching. To serve for the following 3 years **Dave Arnott and David Shaw** elected **Western Area Reps**, **John Sharpe and Jenny Morris** re-elected **Scottish and Southern Reps** respectively.

Thanks expressed to Pat Fisher who had stepped down as Western Area Rep. The Chairman also expressed our very grateful thanks to Joyce Shrubbs for her many years as National Standard Keeper. On behalf of all members appreciation and thanks to the volunteers Keith Arnold, Assistant Web Editor, Tim Kitching National Admin Assistant and Margaret Pickering Honorary Accounts Inspector for their valuable input to maintaining the smooth running of the Association. **The Portfolio Holders** continue to give their time on behalf of all members they are: – **Arboretum Liaison** Jenny Major, **National Heritage Officer** Edwina Holden, **Web Editor** Mick Marks, they are all supported by small groups of very hard working volunteers.

We have received a letter of grateful thanks for the donation of £500 presented to ROCBF at the ADM.

Heritage ~ Keep up to date with current events, get involved or just to pass on any snippets of heritage news contact team members or use the contact button via the heritage website:

www.roc-heritage.co.uk. The annual report to the ADM enclosed.

St Clement Danes Service Sunday April 1st 2018 ~ To commemorate the formation of the **RAF** the first National event is our annual participation in this Service. It is **Southern Area's** turn to carry the National Standard and have first call on the 10 tickets. Southern Groups to recommend suitably experienced National Standard Bearer. All groups to request tickets or to be placed on a reserve list *please let me have names and addresses as quickly as possible at the latest by 12th January 2018*. The service is followed by a special reception in the Royal Courts of Justice.

Dates for your 2018 diary further dates will be published as events are finalised.

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

1st April Sunday. St Clement Danes Service to commemorate formation of the RAF - Tickets - Southern Area.

12th May Saturday. ROC Grove National Arboretum Alrewas meet from 1200 - Date to be confirmed

30th June Saturday Armed Forces National Parade + ROCA Heritage Display - Llandudno North Wales

13th to 15th July Friday/ Saturday/ Sunday. Royal International Air Tattoo Fairford

16th September Sunday. Battle of Britain Service Westminster Abbey - Midland Area

12th to 14th October ~ ROCA 29th National Annual Reunion & ADM ~ Palace Hotel Buxton

8th November Thursday. Field of Remembrance Westminster - Western Area

11th November Sunday. Remembrance Parade Cenotaph

Area Reps Committee Meeting ~ the next issue of snippets will follow the Area Reps meeting to be held 3rd February 2018.

My best wishes to you and your families for Christmas and the New Year.