



OBITUARY John Simmonds



John Simmonds – a long serving and stalwart member of the Association - passed away peacefully at home on Saturday the 8th of June 2013 aged 73, after a long fight against cancer.

John joined the Royal Observer Corps in October 1962 serving firstly on a Post in No. 5 Group Watford, then later transferred to the newly formed NRC at RAF Medmenham in Berkshire serving the Royal Navy. On the closure of Watford Group in 1968 John transferred to the Bedford Nuclear Reporting Cell at RAF Bentley Priory, where his loyalty and enthusiasm for his ROC duties

were second to none. His expertise in the role was recognised when he was promoted to Observer Officer in 1981 and he took up his appointment as the Bedford Group NRC Officer at the Bentley Priory Cell.

Further promotion to Observer Lieutenant came in 1986, and John took the Cell from strength to strength. He was awarded the ROC medal in 1974 and qualified for a clasp in 1986. His liaison with the Royal Air Force, during his 33 years' of loyal service cemented the special relationship that the ROC had with the RAF, at a crucial time in our history, as the Corps approached its final stand down in 1995.

John was an active member of Bedford Group ROC Association, and his willingness to get involved was an inspiration to his fellow members and colleagues on the Group committee, for many years. We all remember the annual Summer outings he organised, and the darts matches with Windsor RAFA - he was an active member there too! His unique blend of humour and enthusiasm, for everything he did, was infectious, and he was well liked by all his peers.

His volunteer spirit continued, after he retired from his work as an Engineering Inspector, when he took up delivering meals on wheels to the elderly in his area.

John was appointed Midland Area Representative on the ROCA National Committee in 2011 where he became involved in shaping the future of the Association. He was awarded the Presidents Certificate of Commendation in that same year. His positive approach and valued contribution at Group and National level will be greatly missed. We have all lost a true friend. Rest in Peace John.

Our sympathies go out to his wife Pauline, Brother Fred, Sister-in-law Michelle, and Foster sister Sharon, in their sad loss.

Funeral arrangements

John's funeral will take place on Monday the 24th of June at 11am at the Holy Trinity Church, Church Gate, Cookham, followed by cremation at 12 noon at Slough Crematorium, where all who wish to come, are welcome.

John's family invites everyone to join them at the RAFA club in William Street Windsor, who will be opening their doors at 12pm, for those who do not wish to go to the Crematorium.

The family, and those attending the Crematorium, will return to the RAFA club afterwards. A buffet will available, and we can all raise a glass in John's memory.

There will be family flowers only. Donations in his memory will be welcomed.

John has requested that donations to be divided with 25% going to the RAFA club and 75% to the Royal Observer Corps Benevolent Fund.

A box will be placed in view for those wishing to donate at the RAFA club or if you wish you can send donations to:-

*Mrs P Simmonds
C/O Mrs M.A Simmonds
54, Whyteladyes Lane,
Cookham
Berkshire. SL6 9LP.*

Post Codes for Sat Navs are: Holy Trinity Church: Church Gate Cookham. SL6 9SP
Crematorium Stoke Road Slough. SL2 5AX
RAFA Club William St. Windsor. SL4 1BB
Car Park for RAFA Club Victoria Street Windsor. SL4 1EG

Please note: There is no day time car parking available at the RAFA Club.