



The City of LONDON
Says
THANK YOU



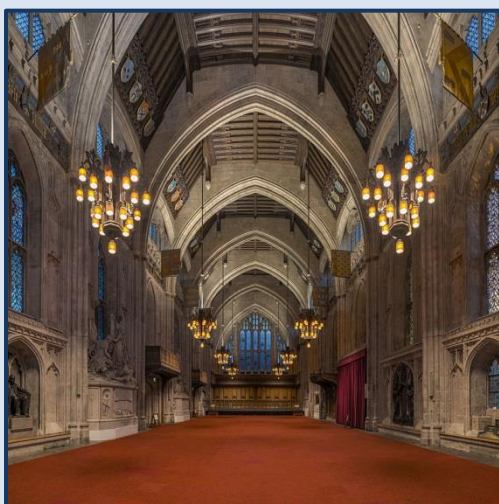
To commemorate the occasion of the **Centenary of the Royal Air Force**, The London City Council held a Reception at the London Guildhall on Thursday 19th April 2018. Almost all the attendees were serving officers and airmen, both men and women of all ranks, representing all branches of the service. Many of them proudly wearing their campaign medals and decorations earned in conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo and Bosnia. There were several veterans too from earlier wars including the Falklands.

The ROC Association was invited to have two representatives on the guest list and these were taken up by National Heritage Officer **Edwina Holden** and Website editor **Michael Marks** who both felt very privileged to be there in such splendid surroundings and such distinguished company.

The current **Lord Mayor, Mr. Charles Bowman**, addressed the assembled gathering and paid tribute to the historic gallantry and bravery of the RAF, in past conflicts, especially their heroic efforts in the successful defence of the capital during the Battle of Britain in World War 2. The city is eternally grateful for their continuing diligence and sacrifice.

The Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Hillier KCB CBE DFC MA RAF, thanked the Lord Mayor and his Council for their kind remarks and for their hospitality in the magnificent surroundings of the Guildhall.

During the informal walk about after the speeches, we chatted with a number of past and serving officers who instantly recognised the ROC and the service we gave in the defence of the UK for so many years. One lady exchanged contact details with Edwina with a view to setting up a special ROCA visit at the RAF Museum in Hendon.



Above: *The Magnificent Guildhall*



Right: *Edwina & Michael in the courtyard.*