



# Royal Observer Corps Association

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

**SNIPPETS**

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19<sup>th</sup> November 2023

## News & Information for All Members

How sorry we were to hear of Ann Maasz's sudden death on 13 October. A shock to us all when the news came to us at the opening night of the Reunion. Ann will be greatly missed not only in 14 Group but by all who came to know her friendship and thoughtfulness. Our thoughts and condolences to Tony and family – Ann rest in peace.



**Annual Delegates Meeting** – Air Commodore Simon Harper OBE Director of Grants, Services and Programmes RAF Benevolent Fund gave an update on the ROC and RAF Benevolent Funds. A copy of his presentation will be attached to the ADM Minutes for distribution to all members.

- (i) The Resolution to raise capitation to £3 was approved voting: For = 24, Against = 1, Abstentions = 0
- (ii) Beret Policy National Parades all taking part to wear berets was approved voting:  
For = 19, Against = 5, Abstentions = 1.
- (ii) At local events Groups to have discretion as to wearing berets voting: For 13, Against 9, Abstentions = 3

The Secretary had chased the ROCA badges and was disappointed at the length of time the production has taken now expected in 4 to 5 weeks high possibility receipt will fall after Remembrance. The Chairman has confirmed in this event the ROC badge to be worn.

**Field of Remembrance Westminster Abbey** – Jacqui Giles represented us in front of the plot. Photos on the web site.

### **Officers appointed and Area Reps Election results.**

The Officers appointed by your Area Reps to serve for a further year are Chairman John Sharpe, Vice Chairman and Treasurer Dave Arnott, Secretary Jenny Morris.

Western Area Rep re-elected Dave Arnott and David Shaw. Scottish Area John Sharpe, Southern Area Jenny Morris. The Secretary confirmed the Area Reps to serve until ADM 2024 are as follows- Southern Area Jenny Morris, Alan Lawley, Scottish Area John Sharpe, Mary Bruce. Western Area Dave Arnott, Dave Shaw, Midland Area Tony Mills, Mike Quincey. The Area Reps for Met Area John Millidge, Wendy Harvey and Scottish Area Mary Bruce due to standdown in 2024.

### **Presentations:**

The President's Certificate of Commendation awards this year to Rosemary Ward 3 Group and Trish Shire 12 Group Secretary.

The recipient of the Jock Burnie Trophy is Alistair McCann of 31 Group. Alastair has restored three Underground Posts the Portadown Post in memory of his uncle who served in the ROC in World War 2. In addition, he has helped with the restoration of Dundee Operations Room, and an immense help with logistics to Heritage Team member Paddy Malone at the Ulster Museum.

The Mike Richards Memorial Trophy is awarded to David Hagan of No 15 Group, Lincoln David has a stand-alone ROC display which he takes to events to publicise our history to the public. Recently David has been successful in obtaining sponsorship for 120 broken window frames on the ground floor of the Squadron Headquarters at what was RAF West Raynham by inviting members to sponsor a panel in memory of an organisation or a family member. Funds raised go towards the renovation of the building which will become a Heritage Centre.

The John Simmonds Trophy awarded to Gary and June Crook Great Bedwyn Post. Gary and June organise displays at local events and this year held their 18<sup>th</sup> annual Great Bedwyn Post open day and BBQ. Their fund-raising efforts extend beyond the Post and Association to help the wider veteran community.

I was delighted to receive from the President the Joyce Shrubbs MBE Memorial Trophy for services to the Association.

### **Web Editor Martin Benson**

Members are encouraged to sign up for the update subscription to keep up to date on latest news and events. International membership opened to non- resident ex-serving members following due diligence to ensure authenticity thereby protecting the personal data on the site.

At the time of the reunion, there had been 87 website enquiries regarding membership, mostly from ex-serving members. There had been 5 occasions when individuals came back to me to say nobody had been in touch. This can be for various reasons - email Inbox full or message going into Junk folders. To help alleviate this, all future enquiries will be sent to the Membership Secretary and the Chairman of the Group to provide resilience.

Following a question from the floor, an attempt will be made to rescue the information contained within Roy McDowells site. This may be limited to data that can be restored from a website archive and may not include all sections.

### **The Reunion Weekend:**

The annual awards were made by our Guest speaker Air Commodore Simon Harper RAFBF. Photos of the Presentations are below others of the weekend will be on the website shortly.

**HM The Queen – Patronage** We continue to await the outcome of the Royal Household review of Patronages.

**The ROCA Cap Badge** – Now received to be worn on Parades by those who didn't serve in the ROC. Available from me cost £12 + p&p cheques payable to J Morris.

**Area Reps Committee Meeting** ~ the next scheduled issue of snippets will follow the Area Reps meeting to be held 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2024.



**R E M E M B E R!** [www.rafbf.org](http://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](http://www.rafbf.org/help) or contact RAF Benevolent Fund on 0800 169 2942

### 33<sup>rd</sup> National Reunion Presentations



Jenny Morris accepted the John Simmonds Memorial Trophy on behalf of Gary and June Crook of Great Bedwyn Post for all the amazing work they have done to bring our history to the public. (photo Dane Murdoch)



On behalf of Alistair McCann of 31 Group David Shaw accepted the Jock Burnie Trophy. he highest standard of any WW11 display not one to be missed. The Cold War rooms remains shut due to the severity of the destruction and flood damage to the room. (photo Dane Murdoch)



The Reverend David Simpson presented to Air Marshal Cliff Spink a framed copy of the ROCA Prayer he has composed. (photo Dane Murdoch)



Rosemary Ward receives the President's Certificate of Commendation



Air Commodore Simon Harper is presented with the ROC Plaque



The new ROCA Cap Badge for those who did not serve in the ROC.  
Badges can be purchased via Jenny Morris cost £12 + p&p.

### Parades Ceremonies Events 2024

Full up to the minute details available at [www.rocatwentytwelve.org](http://www.rocatwentytwelve.org), for specific heritage related items see [www.roc-heritage.co.uk](http://www.roc-heritage.co.uk)

May (date tba)2024

6<sup>th</sup> June 2024

4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024

ROCA Open Day National Arboretum D - Day Commemoration

Beacon Lighting

National Reunion Palace Hotel Buxton

Let me have 2024 dates for Local National events as they are announced.