



Royal Observer Corps Association

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

SNIPPETS

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25th February 2019

To: Group Secretaries
Newsletter Editors

Copy to: Area Reps
Web Editor

News & Information for your members

National Arboretum – Saturday 11th May 2019 ~ this year's annual ROCA day at our National Grove we will **mark the 75th anniversary of Seaborne**. The National Standard, all Group Standards and all members are invited to assemble in the ROC Grove at 1245 for the Parade of Standards and short service to start at 1300. The ROCA Commemoration will be conducted by our Honorary Chaplain Hilary Daniel Vice President with the Reverend David Simpson 20 Group. A wreath to be laid at the main ROC Memorial by Chairman John Sharpe and June Jay will lay a cross at the Seaborne Tree for all Seaborne Observers who volunteered and served on the frontline or on the Posts to fill the vacancies of those who were at sea. Berets and medals may be worn.

The 30th National Reunion -The Palace Hotel Buxton 4th to 5th October 2019
This has proved a popular venue for us. The hotel is one of a diminishing number around the country that can provide the facilities, number of rooms and free parking that we need with the additional benefit it is ideally located in the centre of Buxton next to the train station close to the town shops. Some of you may be disappointed that we are to return to the same venue for a fourth year however for many it is the comradeship, opportunity to renew friendships meet and reminisce with those who served that gives us the only reason we need to enjoy the weekend wherever we are.
The Chairman will be pleased to hear from anyone who can recommend other hotels that provide similar facilities for the price and he will follow up for next year.

Full details and a booking form available from your Group Secretary and may be downloaded from www.rocatwentytwelve.org

Deposit cheques payable to: **The ROC Association**, all booking forms & cheques to John Sharpe. The balance paid to the Hotel on arrival. **Free Parking at the hotel** the weekend programme will follow the July National Committee meeting.

Note booking deadline is the 31 August 2019.

A COACH EXCURSION INTO THE DERBYSHIRE DALES DETAILS AND BOOKING FORM TO FOLLOW

Following last year's very popular coach tour a different tour of the Dales is planned for the Saturday afternoon. Full details with a pre booking form will become available once details and itinerary confirmed.

Annual Delegates Meeting 5th October 2019 ~ please let me have any Group Resolutions by 30th June. Resolutions will be circulated to all Groups following the 6th July National Committee meeting. **National Accounts** ~ Thanks to Margaret Pickering for her audited inspection of the accounts to y/e 31st December 2018. Copies of the accounts Treasurer's and Chairman's report with the ADM 2018 minutes will be circulated to all Groups by end of April / May.

Area Rep Election 2019 ~ All Groups in the Midland Area will be contacted, Tim Kitching and Mick Marks are due to stand down. Meanwhile Midland Groups please canvass your members to encourage candidates to come forward.

Data Protection Policy ~ at the meeting on 16th February the National Committee agreed the National ROCA Data Protection Policy applicable to all Groups and members. The Policy will be available from Group Secretaries and sent to Editors to publish it will be available on our web site.

Heritage ~ Edwina's latest report enclosed. The news from Paddy Malone and Cheryl Stewart reminds us of the tremendous contributions by them and their teams to publicise our roles and history to keep it alive in their respective areas. Keep up to date with current events, get involved or pass on any snippets of heritage news contact team members or use the contact button via the heritage website: www.roc-heritage.co.uk. Well worth a visit is the new 22 Group history website: roca-22group-history.co.uk

D-Day 75th Commemorations ~ The Royal British Legion is working with partners including the Government, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the Normandy Memorial Trust and the Spirit of Normandy Trust to plan significant commemorations to mark D Day 75 both in France and the UK. The D-Day Story Portsmouth - the museum which has captured the human stories of those involved in that epic event opened last year is the only museum in the UK dedicated to the Allied Invasion in June 1944.

Portsmouth will be the focal point of the UK commemorations and will host the UK national event on 5 June. The council is also planning a series of events over 5 days the commemorative event will include a military parade along the seafront, performances by military bands, readings by VIP's and a flypast featuring period aircraft. Other features will include a Royal Collection Trust exhibition, screenings to show the Normandy Commemorations live and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. The first 'Portsmouth Revival festival' celebrating the food, music, dancing and vehicles of the time will also be held. Portsmouth's activity will culminate in a Sunset Concert for Heroes, acts include the Military Wives Choir and the D-Day Darlings.

RAF Formation Service St Clement Danes 7th April ~ The National Standard Bearer is Steve George (4 Group) supported by the local No 1 and 14 Group Standards. The Association will be represented by members from Metropolitan Area.



The President's Certificate of Commendation ~ awarded to two 10 Group members Chairman Lawrence Holmes presented the Certificates on behalf of AM Cliff Spink to Paul Hingston Group committee member, its ROCBFLO and Standard Bearer and to Barrie Coad Secretary Treasurer of the Truro Branch. For many years Barrie has contributed to the wellbeing of the Branch through his operational admin and benevolence work.

LlanROC 2019 ~ John Liversage 17 Group North Wales plan events for weekend 24th to 27th May stay at the Hand Hotel Llangollen. Events include: Friday a mobile monitoring exercise treasure hunt around the Town, Saturday choices of a 3 hour trip on the 'Thomas Telford' boat from Llangollen Wharf and over the spectacular Pontcysyllte Aqueduct. Hire of boat via the Chirk Aqueduct to the Poacher's Pocket pub for lunch. Saturday evening an informal dinner in the Bridge End Hotel. Sunday Llangollen Railway to Berwyn Station and a Horse-drawn Boat trip. For full up to date details and cost contact John Liversage email john.liversage@btinternet.com or phone 07476957576.

ROCBF within the family of the RAF Benevolent Fund ~ the leading RAF's welfare charity, provides financial, practical and emotional support is now available to former members of the ROC. If in need you may apply for help from disability, injury, financial hardship and youth support to living independently and providing dignity in retirement. For more information visit www.rafbf.org or contact RAF Benevolent Fund on 020 7307 3352 or 07825 172447.

Donations may continue to be made to the **ROCBF send direct to RAFBF not to Terry Giles**. No need to change legacies in Wills they can remain as bequeathed.

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**



REMEMBER! 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 or contact RAF Benevolent Fund on 020 7307 3352 or 07825 172447.

Arboretum Tree Markers Projects ~ Jenny Major continues to design and arrange for a special stone memorial to Seaborne once installed Jenny will follow up Stone Markers for all the Trees.

ROCA Web Site rocatwentytwelve.org ~ Mick asks for your photos, news and dates to promote your local events. Newsletters are available on the member's pages some fascinating and great articles and personal recollections of ROC times. Well worth a read. Mick welcomes your feedback on any aspect of the web pages with suggestions for changes that will encourage members to view as a living relevant reflection of your continuing vibrant Association.

All Group Secretaries, Editors and members do you want to contact a National or Group Committee member? Stop think - why not first check the member web site pages tab Organisation National for complete list of contacts much quicker than waiting for a reply from me. See the National and Heritage sites for the latest news and information and the official answers to queries. Please continue to pass on all news and events to all members especially those without access to the internet.

Veryan Bunkers Open days 2019 ~ there will be two 90 minute tours on each Open Day at 1100 to 1230hrs and 1330 to 1500hrs. Booking is essential contact Lawrence Holmes.
Entry £5 pay on day tour includes WW2 Decoy Command Bunker
Email or phone 01872 278234.

**Monday 27 May (BH), Sunday 23 June, Monday 28 July,
Monday 19 August, Sunday 22 September.**

ROC Posts / Buildings on National Trust Land ~ Veryan Bunkers are situated and administrated by the National Trust. Lawrence Holmes has agreed to find out for the National Trust Cornwall if any of you out there know of any other ROC bunkers and former ROC/UKWMO buildings that are sited on either NT land or owned by the National Trust anywhere in the UK. If you do please let Lawrence and myself know full details.

Parades Ceremonies Events known to date

Dates for your 2019 diary further dates will be published as you let us know what is happening locally or nationally.

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

7th April Sunday. St Clement Danes Service to commemorate formation of the RAF -
Tickets - **Metropolitan Area.** (All ROCA tickets allocated)

11th May Saturday. ROC Grove National Arboretum Alrewas meet 1245 -
Special 75th anniversary commemoration to Seaborne

25th 26th 27th May Saturday Sunday Monday. Dover Castle English Heritage Event
National ROCA Heritage Display all welcome

2nd June Sunday. Newhaven Fort Museum ROCA Open Day

5th June Tuesday. D-Day National Commemorations centred on Portsmouth

9th June Sunday. RAF Cosford Air Show National ROCA Heritage Display all welcome

22nd 23rd June Saturday / Sunday. Weston Super Mare Air Festival
ROCA Display in the Veterans Village all welcome.

27th June Saturday. Armed Forces Day Salisbury and Parade.
National ROCA Heritage Display in the Veterans Village all welcome.

7th July Sunday. Capel Le Ferne Service

19th to 21st July Friday/ Saturday/ Sunday. Royal International Air Tattoo Fairford
National ROCA Heritage Display Veterans Village all welcome

The Annual RAFA Concerts. Concerts around the Country
See RAFA web for dates & venues

14th September Saturday. Bentley Priory Battle of Britain Commemorative Day
National ROCA Display

15th September Sunday. Battle of Britain Westminster Abbey - Western Area

4th to 5th October. National Reunion The Palace Hotel Buxton

7th November Thursday. Field of Remembrance

10th November Sunday. Remembrance - Cenotaph Parade

WAAF, WRAF, RAF (W) Association ~ did you serve are you a member of their Association or want to know more visit their website www.waafassociation.org.uk

Area Reps Committee Meeting ~ the next scheduled issue of snippets will follow the Area Reps meeting to be held 6th July 2019.