



Royal Observer Corps Association

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

SNIPPETS

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26th October 2020

News & Information for your members

MESSAGE FROM JOHN SHARPE MBE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

It's now some seven months since we started to feel the first efforts to suppress this dreaded Global Covid-19 Pandemic and our lives and routines have been badly disrupted ever since. All of us have had to come to terms with so many new rules and advice and these are forever changing depending on the threat posed by Covid. New restrictions have curtailed many of the activities we use to enjoy whether going to support our favourite football teams or meeting up with our friends and families. It has unfortunately also resulted in some of our members falling prey to this insidious disease and their loss is greatly felt by all who knew them.

Our Association has also had to adapt to new ways of working as we are no longer permitted to attend meetings, visit events and of course, for the first time, we have very regrettably had to cancel our Annual Reunion in Liverpool. I am grateful to all the Groups who have kept in touch with their members by using Group Newsletters, phone calls etc. I know that these communications have helped reduce the feeling of loneliness and isolation which many of us have felt over these long months.

I hope that these restrictions to our way of life will slowly improve and eventually we will be able to return to a more normal existence where we can once more enjoy the camaraderie and fellowship of belonging to such a unique organisation as the ROC Association. I hope that you all keep safe and I wish you the very best for the future. Keep yourselves and your families safe and hopefully it won't be too long before we are able to meet up once again.

Best wishes to you all John Sharpe MBE

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CHRISTOPHER HOWARD

We especially remember Christopher Howard who passed peacefully on 13 Sep 20. You will remember Christopher from his role as the Chair of the Royal Observer Corps Benevolent Fund and his pivotal input into merging of our fund with the RAFBF. He was a wonderful man – generous, spirited, fun and incredibly loyal to his “beacon lighters”.

Our thoughts are also with the families whose loved ones are victims and to all those who are recovering from illnesses unrelated to the Corvid virus we are thinking of them.

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers Vice President Hilary Daniel who suffered a severe stroke on 16th October. Hilary makes slow progress responding to physio and treatment. Has movement now in left leg right side ok. He is able to talk and has good recall and memory.



R E M E M B E R! 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 or contact RAF Benevolent Fund on 0800 169 2942

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE WESTMINSTER ABBEY 5TH NOVEMBER

Message from the event organisers – No Veteran Representation

Not unexpected I received the sad decision that this year's ceremony will be a very small event indeed limited to those conducting the service, officials and the Royal Party.

Attendance by representatives of each plot is no longer possible. Our plot will as usual be laid out on our behalf by the organisers.

THE LONDON CENOTAPH PARADE OF REMEMBRANCE

SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2020 – No Veteran Representation

Message from The Royal British Legion

Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and in light of the risks posed, whilst the annual Service of Remembrance at The Cenotaph will still take place. Neither veteran participation through the March Past nor public spectators will be possible this year. We recognise this will be deeply disappointing for all who were due to take part and it is not a step that has been taken lightly. This decision has been taken by the Government based on expert advice to protect the health and well-being of those who would have been travelling to and participating in the event.

Despite the changes this year, we are encouraging people across the nations to ensure Remembrance Sunday is still marked appropriately by taking part in remote and socially distanced Remembrance activity, whether that be watching the small but significant service at The Cenotaph on BBC One, attending a local Remembrance event or pausing for the Two Minute Silence in their home or on their doorsteps.

Remembrance Sunday – Wreaths - The ROC Association wreath will be laid on our behalf.

Remembrance Sunday – Local Services

Following the most recent government announcements relating to community activities on Remembrance Sunday, the Royal British Legion's previously published position on local Remembrance activity remains the same. Local authorities across the whole of the United Kingdom remain responsible for setting the parameters of an appropriate ceremony marking Remembrance Sunday in accordance with the Covid restrictions relevant to that location.

THE ANNUAL DELEGATES MEETING 2020

The Annual meeting of delegates and members, you appreciate, was unable to be held this year. This meeting is an important opportunity for members to discuss and raise ROCA related issues directly with the National Committee and Portfolio holders. It is also when the official business of the Association is conducted with the announcement of the annually appointment of Officers and the Area Representatives elected to serve from the ADM for the following 3 year term. I confirm that all the current serving Officers and Portfolio holders are willing to continue for a further year. We are thankful and appreciate under these very challenging times their willingness to continue as your representatives especially the Portfolio holders who do such tremendous work behind the scenes.

The Boscombe Down Aircraft Collection Old Sarum - ROC Museum Winchester

permanent ROC display ~ As Chair of the Managing Trustees of the Winchester based ROC Museum (ROCM). I am delighted to report on the significant development of our permanent ROC exhibition in the main hanger. It is open to the public well worth a visit check their web site for opening times. If you are able visit the collection it now includes the new RFC Gallery, Spitfire to commemorate secret factory and the ROC display. Former ROC members are volunteer guides and usually there on Fridays. At a date to be advised in 2021 there will be a special ROCM/ROCA opening to which members will be invited and welcome. In the meanwhile to publicise the ROCM display Neville and I plan to meet the local press to issue a press release and distribute some leaflets.

RAFA AirMail October 2020 page 52 includes Paddy Malone's article "Lighting the way home" excellent promotion of our Heritage. Thanks Paddy.

NEXT SCHEDULED ISSUE OF SNIPPETS AND INTERIM UPDATES

Area Reps Committee Meeting ~ Those Area Reps and Vice Presidents who are able to attend we plan to hold a face to face National Committee meeting at the Union Jack Club in February 2021. The next scheduled issue of snippets will follow in February.

NOTE – as necessary interim snippets to keep you informed will be issued prior to the February schedule one.

Christmas New Year Newsletters will include further messages and information on the latest known guidelines that affect our ROC Association.

Keep a regular eye on our web sites for the up to date information.

2021 PARADES CEREMONIES EVENTS

SPECIAL ROC ANNIVERSARIES WE WILL COMMEMORATE IN 2021 NATIONALLY AND LOCALLY

Dates to be published as we all plan and Government Guidelines known for 2021
Full up to the minute details available at www.rocatwentytwelve.org, for specific
heritage related items see www.roc-heritage.co.uk

April - St Clement Danes Service

9th May - Guernsey Liberation Parade

May 15th - ROC GROVE - ROCA Parade & Seaborne Memorial Stone Unveiled

June - Newhaven Fort Museum ROCA Open Day

Weston Super Mare Air Festival & Parade

ROCA Display in the Veterans Village

July 4th - Capel Le Ferne Dover Service Battle of Britain National Parade

July - Friday/ Saturday/ Sunday - Royal International Air Tattoo Fairford

National ROCA Heritage Display Veterans Village

September - Bentley Priory Battle of Britain Commemorative Day

National ROCA Display

8th to 10th October - National Reunion & ADM the Adelphi Hotel Liverpool

**ROC SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES ALL START YOUR PLANS NOW ON HOW YOU WILL
COMMEMORATE THIS SPECIAL YEAR you will no doubt think of others not listed**

80 years George V1 grant of the title Royal 1941 - 2021

80 years Women joined the Corps 1941 - 2021

30 years since Stand down 1991 - 2021

35 years Formation of The ROCA 1986 - 2021

95 years Bentley Priory - OC HQ 1936 - 2021

**The National Committee currently planning on how we will celebrate 100 years since
the ROC formation in 1925 - thanks to those who have already sent us your ideas these
are under consideration.**