



# Royal Observer Corps Association

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

**SNIPPETS**

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27<sup>th</sup> June 2023

## News & Information for All Members

It is with sadness that the death is announced of Air Commodore Jack Broughton OBE DL. ROC Commandant 1984 to 1986 he was a member of 21 Group ROCA. Elaine Norris will let you have the address to which condolences can be sent. Funeral arrangements will be announced when known. Earlier this year the death was announced of David Ross 25 Group Newsletter Editor. A great loss and those who looked forward to his newsletters always had a highly interesting read.

### **NATIONAL REUNION FRIDAY 13<sup>th</sup> TO SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

#### **THE PRINCE OF WALES SOUTHPORT MERSEYSIDE**

The closing date for bookings is 30<sup>th</sup> September don't delay get your booking forms with the non-refundable £30 per person deposit to John Sharpe (**payable to the ROCA**). There is dis-abled access and lifts to all floors. The hotel is near the rail station and there is parking at the hotel. High street local shops and a short walk the sea can sometimes been seen. For those who will join us for the first time the following is the weekend events with plenty of time after the formalities to meet up, relax and chat with ROC friends.

Friday- After booking in at the main reception please go to the ROCA reception table where Chairman John Sharpe will meet you and hand out the weekend programme. The hotel will provide complimentary tea and coffee. In the evening after dinner John Sharpe will welcome and open the weekend. **The raffle, donation of prizes from Group and individuals' hand to Gordon Johnson in reception on arrival.**

Saturday – Morning the Annual Delegates Meeting (ADM) that will finish by 1230. The evening Gala Dinner at which our President will once again entertain us with his tales and the opportunity to chat to Cliff when he circulates the tables during the evening.

**Friday and Saturday evenings** the Heritage team will be on hand to help with any heritage questions and show what they can do on your behalf. I will be selling ROCA Merchandise details of some items can be viewed on the website and pre-ordered. Jenny Major will sell her cards and Cheryl Stewart with her memorabilia in aid of Arbroath Post.

**Important Note on cancellations** - All cancellations must be notified to John Sharpe. Any cancellations made after 30<sup>th</sup> September the hotel will charge you for 1 night. If you cancel prior to 30<sup>th</sup> September, you will not be charged but forfeit your £30 non-refundable deposit.

If you have not cancelled but do not turn up on the 1<sup>st</sup> day you have booked, you will be charged 1 night.

**Booking forms available from Group Secretaries and on the ROCA web site.**

**All Group Standards with stands invited to be displayed during the ADM and at the Gala dinner.**

**Annual Delegates Meeting** – Saturday morning 14<sup>th</sup> October at 10am. A room available with the capacity to seat all of us who wish to attend. Either Air Commodore Simon Harper OBE MA Chartered FCIPD who is the new Director of Grants, Services & Programmes or Neil Sturtridge or a representative from the RAF Benevolent Fund will update us on the ROC and RAF Benevolent Funds.

The National Committee recommends the annual capitation paid by Groups for the running of the organisation is increased to £3. The annual fee pays for the website, PLI, postage, liaison, participation in national events, and most importantly our preservation and all the work of the National Heritage team.

The Resolution is with Group Secretaries and Area Reps to consult with all members for their decision on its acceptance. Group Delegates to be notified prior to the meeting on the Group's majority decision. To be accepted the resolution requires a 2/3rds majority in accordance with the Constitution.

In setting this small increase of £1 the National Committee is mindful that many Groups have not increased their subscription for some years and have declining membership. With annual increasing costs, Groups need to consider if it is now prudent to increase their subscriptions to prepare to meet future capitation increases to sustain a viable National organisation.

**ROCA Beret badge** – The decision made in January that non-serving members wore a beret without a badge gave rise to a diverse exchange of opinions and views. The National Committee at their meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> June took account of all the opinions and the majority view that a beret with no badge was inappropriate. It was decided that a beret size ROCA badge will be purchased and paid for from the national fund. It is hoped that a supply will be available for purchase by members at the Reunion.

There was discussion on the view expressed by a few that non-serving members could be given the option not to wear a beret. It was pointed out that some other contingents on Parade do allow bare heads. The Committee majority view was for Group events the Group committee could decide that non-serving members should they wish to be allowed not to wear a beret but on National Parades the dress code should be:

- (i) National Parades - All ex serving ROC to wear the beret and ROC badge, non-serving members to wear the beret with the ROCA badge.
- (ii) Local Parades - the Group to have discretion if members could march bare headed.

It was decided to ask the Groups to obtain their members views on acceptance of the above policy. Group secretaries please instruct Delegates to vote at the ADM to either accept or decline that on National Parades berets to be worn with the appropriate badge and that Groups to decide for their local events. This will be a straight majority decision.

**Battle of Britain Service Westminster Abbey 17<sup>th</sup> September – Please apply with your name and address by 8th July.** The National Standard will be Paraded. Apply to me if you are available to carry your Group Standard, no marching involved.

**Capel Le Ferne Memorial Service** – In July Terry and Jackie Giles will represent us at the service.

**RIAT July 2023** – If you are attending the show, visit the National Heritage display in the Village Green.

**Patron** – The latest news on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2023 from the Royal UK Website / The King is that the Royal Household is conducting a review of all the Royal Patronage. There is no further action that we can take at this time.

**Arboretum** - ROCA Open day in May was well attended have you checked out the photos on the homepage of the website and spot who was there? Make a note for next year to join us for the ROCA Open Day for the special Seaborne Memorial service in the Grove. If you travel a distance, make it a weekend visit, there is a local Premier Inn allowing you more time to see the many other Memorials.

**Heritage latest news** – Edwina, Paddy Malone and Cheryl Stewart reports attached.

**Armed Forces Covenant & NHS benefits to ex ROC** – There have been differing views nationally regarding our eligibility, or otherwise to be considered as members of the armed forces for the purpose of the Armed Forces Covenant. The National Committee has approached the Armed Forces Covenant team within the Ministry of Defence for final clarification. Attached is their reply that can also be viewed on the website.

**Cenotaph Parade ticket requests** – The date procedure and details required to apply for tickets with Group Secretaries. If you have not yet sent your details and request, please do so now. To meet TRBL application deadline I need the applications by 11<sup>th</sup> August.



**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

#### **Parades Ceremonies Events known to date**

**Dates for your 2023 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.rocatwentytwelve.org](http://www.rocatwentytwelve.org), for specific heritage related items see [www.roc-heritage.co.uk](http://www.roc-heritage.co.uk)

**1<sup>st</sup> July Saturday.** ROC Museum Open Day at BDAC Old Sarum - John Shere Presentation

**14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> July Friday to Sunday.** RIAT Fairford and the ROCA Heritage Display in the Village Green

**23<sup>rd</sup> July, 20<sup>th</sup> August, 16<sup>th</sup> September.** Vervan Post Open Days - contact Lawrence Holmes for details

**16<sup>th</sup> September Saturday.** Bentley Priory Battle of Britain Commemorative Day -  
National ROCA Heritage Display - contact Edwina for details

**17<sup>th</sup> September Sunday.** Battle of Britain Service Westminster Abbey - tickets available - Secretary

**13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> October Friday to Sunday.** National Reunion the Prince of Wales Southport Merseyside

**9<sup>th</sup> November Thursday.** Field of Remembrance Westminster Abbey

**12<sup>th</sup> November Sunday.** Cenotaph Parade London

**Area Reps Committee Meeting** ~ the next scheduled issue of snippets will follow the ADM and the Area Reps meeting to be held at the Reunion 15<sup>th</sup> October.

Air Commodore Jack Broughton OBE DL



ROCA Members and friends gathered at the Arboretum Memorial