



Royal Observer Corps Association

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

SNIPPETS

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28th February 2018

To: Group Secretaries
Newsletter Editors

Copy to: Area Reps
Web Editor

News & Information for your members

National Arboretum – Sunday 13th May 2018 ~ Note change of day & the date for this year's annual ROCA day at our National Grove. We will **mark the RAF Formation 100th anniversary** and all who served in the Corps throughout its 70 year history to 1995. To attend the special RAFA 100th Anniversary Service you are required to book your ticket at www.rafa.org.uk/nma to be seated by 10.30am. The National Standard and all Group Standards are invited to the RAFA Service, Bearers must apply for tickets. **Today there are very few remaining tickets therefore you need to apply immediately.** Our ROCA Grove Commemoration will gather in our Grove following the RAFA event. For those who do not wish to attend the RAFA service you do not require a ticket to join our ROCA gathering from **1300.** The **ROCA** short commemorative event will include the Parade of Standards, welcome by the Chairman who will plant a Remembrance Cross at the ROC Memorial. The National Standard will be present all Groups are invited to bring their Standards to parade in the Grove. If you wish to do so, please wear berets and medals.

The 29th National Reunion - 12th to 14th October 2018

The Reunion to be held at the Palace Hotel Buxton SK17 6AG, the Hotel part of the Britannia Group is ideally located in the centre of Buxton next to the train station close to the town shops.

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 2018.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN COACH EXCURSIONS DEADLINE FOR REPLY TO JOHN SHARPE July 1st 2018

In response to the majority view we are to return to Buxton for a third year. The local Town attractions have been well visited the National Committee offer's to organise two optional coach tours one to Chatsworth House and grounds and one to tour the Derbyshire Dales. Full details with an expression of interest reply form available from Group Secretaries and may be downloaded from the web site. To gauge interest and viability we need to know numbers interested. If interested in either or both options please return the questionnaire to John Sharpe by July 1st the decision to run the tours to be made at the Committee meeting on 7th July.

Annual Delegates Meeting 13th October 2018 ~ please let me have any Group Resolutions by 30th June. Resolutions will be circulated to all Groups following the 7th July National Committee meeting. **National Accounts ~** Thanks to Margaret Pickering for her audited inspection of the accounts to y/e 31st December 2017. Copies of the accounts Treasurer's and Chairman's report will be circulated to all Groups by end of April / May. The ADM 2017 minutes will be issued in due course.

Area Rep Election 2018 ~ All the Groups in the Metropolitan Area will be contacted, meanwhile please let your Committees have your nominations.

Data Protection New EU Regulation implementation 25th May 2018 ~ National Committee is urgently reviewing and researching what we are required to do to meet the revised Data Protection Act. National Guidelines will be sent to all Groups and put on the web site asap.

Arboretum Tree Markers Project ~ Jenny Major informed the ADM that she had written to the Arboretum Director to move this long standing project forward. Jenny tells me she has received a positive response and awaits further information on the Arboretum's Stonemason agreement to the suggestions on the best format and costings. We will continue pressure for a response and keep you informed on progress.

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 has changed the welcome home page would like your feedback on this and 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 are requested to regularly browse the web site for the latest news and information. Please continue to pass on all news and events to all members especially those without access to the internet.

Heritage ~ Edwina's latest report enclosed tells us of the continuous work of the team and the ever increasing interest and enquiries received via the web site together with accounts on how individual's with the help of the team ensure significant events are recognised with suitable memorials. 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.

ROCBF now merged with 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**



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

~ RAF 100th Formation Commemorations 2018 ~

To help co-ordinate requests for our National Standard to participate in local and national Parades please send all requests to Tim Kitching with details of the local parade/service, the VIP taking the salute and the member of the National Committee invited to attend. The current known events to mark this special anniversary listed below let Mick Marks and myself know of others to enable us to promote support and share with members.

**Parades Ceremonies Events known to date to Commemorate the
RAF 100th Anniversary Formation**
Dates for your 2018 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.rafa.org
and in RAFA Regional newsletters.

ROCA www.rocatwentytwelve.org will publish details as they become available.

23rd March Friday. Bentley Priory Museum 'Dowding: A Portrait of the Man'
Talk by Karen Day-Milne 11am to 12pm

30th March to 30th August. Bentley Priory Museum temporary exhibition, choral
concert & talks programme. Details www.bentleypriorymuseum

31st March Saturday Albert Hall Commemoration Concert - tickets Albert Hall or
rafa.org. Hosted by Dan Snow & Carol Vorderman

1st April Sunday. St Clement Danes Service to commemorate formation of the RAF -
Tickets - Southern Area. (All ROCA tickets allocated)

19th April Thursday. Celebrate 100 years of the RAF Union Jack Club Talk 1800 -
Details www.ujc.co.uk/events or from Jenny Morris

13th May Saturday. ROC Grove National Arboretum Alrewas meet from 1300 -
RAFA 100th Anniversary Service 10.30am tickets required

20th May Sunday. Leicester Cathedral service & parade - details 8 Grp Coventry

20th May Sunday. Worcester Cathedral service & parade - details 12 Grp Bristol

26th May Saturday. Boscombe Down Airborne Museum Old Sarum - Open day

8th July Sunday. Capel Le Ferne Service

10th July Tuesday. RAF Service Westminster Abbey RAF Parade The Mall & Fly Past
(All ROCA representative tickets allocated)

13th to 15th July Friday/ Saturday/ Sunday. Royal International Air Tattoo Fairford
RAF special Heritage Display Veterans Village

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

RAF Museum Hendon. New Gallery opens to commemorate 100 years see website

RAF Formation Service St Clement Danes 1st April ~ The National Standard Bearer Chris Shire supported by the local No 3 and 14 Group Standards. The Association will be represented by members from Southern Area and the National Chairman.

Armed Forces Weekend Windsor 30 June – 1 July ~ we are invited to take part in Windsor's annual AFD event. They have invited re-enactors to take part to keep alive the memory and spirit of the wartime generation through education, interaction and role play to commemorate 100th anniversary of the end of WW1 as well as recognising D-Day and VE-Day anniversaries. Let me know if any re-enactor member would like to take part.

Vernan Bunkers Open days 2018 ~ there will be two tours on each Open Day at 1100 to 1230hrs and 1330 to 1500hrs. Booking is essential contact Lawrence Holmes
Email or phone 01872 289234.

**Monday 28 May (BH), Sunday 24 June, Monday 23 July,
Monday 20 August, Sunday 16 September.**

ROC Posts / Buildings on National Trust Land ~ Vernan Bunkers are situated and administrated by the National Trust, further information on their web site. 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. Thank you.

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

ROCA National Events and Ceremonies

Dates for your 2018 diary further dates will be published as events are finalised.

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

1st April Sunday. St Clement Danes Service to commemorate formation of the RAF - Tickets - Southern Area. All tickets allocated

13th May Saturday. ROC Grove National Arboretum Alrewas meet from 1300 - RAFA 100th Anniversary Service 10.30am tickets required

16th June Saturday. Civil Defence Association Annual Service Parade NMA Alrewas

30th June Saturday Armed Forces National Parade Llandudno North Wales
+ ROCA Heritage Display to be confirmed

13th to 15th July Friday/ Saturday/ Sunday. Royal International Air Tattoo Fairford
ROCA Heritage Display Veterans Village

16th September Sunday. Battle of Britain Service Westminster Abbey - Midland Area

12th to 14th October ~ ROCA 29th National Annual Reunion & ADM ~ Palace Hotel Buxton

8th November Thursday. Field of Remembrance Westminster - Western Area

11th November Sunday. Remembrance Parade Cenotaph

Area Reps Committee Meeting ~ the next scheduled issue of snippets will follow the Area Reps meeting to be held 7th July 2018.