



Royal Observer Corps Association

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

SNIPPETS

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3rd November 2022

News & Information for All Members

THE PRINCE OF WALES SOUTHPORT MERSEYSIDE

Annual Delegates Meeting – Wing Commander Neil Sturtridge from the RAF Benevolent Fund gave an update on the ROC and RAF Benevolent Funds. A copy of his presentation is with the Secretaries for distribution to all members. The result of the Resolution and of 14 Group's proposal votes cast by your Delegates were as follows:

1. Resolution: One Class of Membership –

Groups In favour = 19, Groups against = 4, Groups abstained = 2

The one class of membership is passed.

2. 14 Group's proposal that those members who haven't served in the ROC shall not be entitled to wear the ROC Beret Badge on official functions-

Groups in favour = 12, Groups against = 8, Groups abstained = 5

14 Group's proposal is passed.

The Chairman gave the following instruction: In view of the short time scale before the Remembrance Parades in November all Associates are to wear the ROC beret badge. Until such time that a new badge can be sourced, costed, and obtained for those few Associates who do march the ROC Badge is to be continued to be worn or if they served in any of the armed forces and they wish to do so their service badge.

The Secretary has received suggestions on design and ideas on ROCA badges. These will be discussed at the January National Committee meeting.

Cenotaph Parade – All tickets will be email to applicants at the beginning of November. Following last year's Parade some concerns were raised on the standard of dress and inexperience of those less familiar with the etiquette and procedures on Parade. Jenny suggested those who were not used to marching either placed themselves in the middle or back of the contingent were others around them would support and keep them in step. Martin Benson and Edwina Holden were drawing up some basic guidance that would be issued to all Group Secretaries to pass to their members taking part.

Field of Remembrance Westminster Abbey – Terry Giles will represent us in front of the plot. There are two tickets available for those wishing to stand behind the plot. Please contact me urgently if you would like to attend.

ADM Information to all members from the minutes with Secretaries for circulation to all members.

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.

Midland Area Rep this year Tim Kitching was due for re-election he has decided to stand down. Tony Mills tells me no nominations received to fill the vacancy. Please go back to you Groups to talk to potential candidates to encourage a volunteer to come forward. The Chairman gave a vote of thanks to Tim for his volunteer service over many years to the Area the National Committee and as Admin Officer.

The Secretary confirmed the Area Reps to serve until ADM 2023 are as follows- Southern Area Jenny Morris, Scottish Area John Sharpe. Western Area Dave Arnott, Dave Shaw, Midland Area Tony Mills. They are due for re-election in 2023.

The Area Reps for Met Area John Millidge, Wendy Harvey and Scottish Area Mary Bruce due to standdown in 2024.

100th Anniversary 2025 – Reminder this a celebratory year with local and National events to be planned. The Chairman reminds all this not an ending but celebratory occasion. With just over 2 years to go preplanning by National is well underway. St Clement Danes Church is booked for Saturday 25th October at 1400 service with the invite to all Group Standards to be on Parade. Followed by a gathering meet and greet with refreshments in the Gascoigne Room Union Jack Club. Just over 2 years to plan and action a year of celebration. As you are aware the success and publicity of this special milestone is all in the preplanning across the Association.

Web Editor Martin Benson

There will shortly be a new homepage with direct links to National & Local News, National Heritage, and Members Page. New items will be highlighted in a section called 'Latest Sitreps'. How to join will also be prominent on the home page as will how to access the RAFBF.

Members page will be behind password with links to everything a member should need.

On the members page, there will be the option to subscribe to an email regarding significant updates to the website. This will be for new articles, new newsletters that have been published and national notices. This will be a manual process, so you won't get an email when I make minor changes or corrections. Members can also unsubscribe at any time.

Admin Assistance – We are aware of the need to ensure deputies are in place to cover certain roles especially during holidays, illness, and busy periods. Tim Kitching stepped forward some time ago and was a great help to me. He has now stepped down and I am seeking someone willing to learn what is involved in maintaining the continuity of the Association and to help with organising and liaising with outside organisations. If anyone would like to learn more or in assisting any of the Portfolio holders, please make contact. Thank you.

The Reunion Weekend:

We were all very disappointed to hear that Cliff Spink had caught the Covid virus. His presence and humour greatly missed. John Sharpe read a message from Cliff expressing regret he was unable to be with us. I am pleased to report that Cliff has recovered. Overall, the majority feedback was a successful enjoyable weekend. The staff were helpful and friendly quickly addressing some individual issues. The majority in favour to return next year the weekend of 13th to 15th October 2023 booked to return to the Prince of Wales Hotel Southport for our 33rd Reunion. The annual awards were made by our Guest speaker Air Marshal Peter Ruddock. After the dinner Peter took the time to circulate the room to chat with individuals. Photos of the Presentation are below others of the weekend will be on the website shortly.

HM The Queen – Patronage We haven't been informed who our Patron will be. Discussed in Committee we agreed to continue to show The Queen as our Patron in headings. We await further instructions, guidance and procedures to appoint Patrons.

The Chairman had attended the laying in state entering St Giles Cathedral at 2250, a very moving occasion. On exiting he was interviewed by a Japanese film crew. I had been in London to attend the Battle of Britain service but found myself joining the many thousands of other Veterans and people in Green Park to view the masses of floral tributes and read some of the very moving messages. On the Monday I had the privilege of paying my respects as the Hurst made its way to Windsor.



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

32nd National Reunion Presentations



Edwina Holden accepted the John Simmonds Memorial Trophy on behalf of Chole Marley and the volunteer team at Bentley Priory for all the amazing work they have done to bring our history to the public.



On behalf of Paul Norris Paul Wakefield Keith Arnold Linda Burrows accepted the Jock Burnie Trophy. The ROC WW11 room and display had been ruined by floods at Newhaven Fort. The team had worked relentlessly to restore the exhibition to reopen to the public. The ROC Museum is well worth a visit restoration work continues and to date has achieved the 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.



In recognition of his 10 years work to design and maintain the website Michael Marks is awarded the Mike Richards Trophy



Rosemary Ward

Michelle Burrows received the Joyce Shrubbs Cup on behalf of Rosemary Ward. Rosemary awarded the Cup for her dedication as 3 Group Standard Bearer voluntarily attending National Local Parades and events over many years.



The Joyce Shrubbs Cup



Air Marshal Peter Ruddock is presented with the ROC Plaque

Parades Ceremonies Events 2022

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

10th November Thursday. Field of Remembrance Westminster Abbey

13th November Sunday. Cenotaph Parade London

Let me have 2023 dates for Local National events as they are announced

Area Reps Committee Meeting ~ the next scheduled issue of snippets will follow the Area Reps meeting to be held 28th January 2023.