



# Royal Observer Corps Association

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

**SNIPPETS**

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24<sup>th</sup> February 2017

To: Group Secretaries  
Newsletter Editors

Copy to: Area Reps  
Web Editor

## News & Information for your members

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### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

**JOHN SHARPE MBE**

**John has been awarded the MBE in the  
2017 New Year's Honours List.**

The listing in the Daily Telegraph reads:-

***"John Sharpe National Chair, Royal  
Observer Corps Association. For  
voluntary service to the Children's  
Hearings System in Scotland and the  
Royal Observer Corps."***

### VERY IMPORTANT CONSULTATION REQUEST TO ALL GROUPS AND MEMBERS – WE NEED YOUR VIEWS -

**All Group Committees** are asked to arrange consultation and obtain the views of their members on **the current National dress code** to allow Associates to wear the ROC beret badge when on **Local and National** Parades. Groups are asked to report back, through Area Reps, their member's majority view to enable them to feedback to the July National Committee meeting. It is important that all views are considered whether in favour of or against the policy please tell your Group Committees or write to your editors to publish your personal opinions. ***'Editors if you do publish any individual views please make it clear they are not necessarily the views of the Group even if you as the editor agree the personal views expressed.'***

Some of you will be aware or have heard about last year's Facebook entries that questioned the National policy to allow Associate members to wear the ROC beret and badge on Parades when they wish to represent former ROC friends and family and those no longer able to march who served. The long term National dress policy, published at regular intervals in snippets and is on the web site, is driven from the concept to enable a large, smart contingent to represent former ROC colleagues unable to take part and to keep the role of the ROC in the public eye.

The wearing of the badge and conformity of turnout helps to maintain our rightful place in the military columns of Parades.

At **the ADM 2016** the comments gave rise to a passionate debate with diverse views on the national policy. The Forum discussion heard several members from both sides of the argument expressing views and suggestions for the way forward. The ideas included to design a ROCA badge suitable for Associates to wear on the beret. The policy was also questioned and proposed that it required wider consultation and discussion of all members not limited to the minority who exchange views on social media.

The Chairman summarised the consensus and agreed the way forward:

\* To ask all Groups to consult all the grass root members to obtain the Group's overall view on the current National policy to allow Associates to continue to wear the ROC beret badge.

**\* Following the consultation of all their members if the Group member's majority view is that the policy should change and if so minded the Group(s) to submit a Resolution by 30 June 2017 for discussion and voting upon at the ADM 2017.**

\* The National Committee will consider a design for a ROCA beret badge for Associates

The Chairman closed the ADM debate by stating that if the policy is changed at the 2017 ADM then all former ROC members and Associates would be required to wear the new ROCA beret badge on all Local and National Parades to maintain uniformity as a combined and smart contingent.

**To note - all Groups and members** who represent the ROCA in all Local and National Parades prior to the ADM 2017 are covered by the **current** National dress code. Following the ADM October 2017 the outcome of the decision and any changes will be published.

**National Arboretum – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2017** ~ we will mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the re- establishment of the ROC in 1947 and all who served in the Corps throughout its 70 year history to 1995. The annual informal ROCA day at our National Grove members meet from around midday. **At 1300** gather in the Grove where a short commemorative event will take place. The Chairman 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. The ROCA Chaplain Hilary Daniel will conduct a brief commemoration of reflection and Remembrance. You are invited, should you wish to do so, to wear berets and medals.

#### **The 28<sup>th</sup> National Reunion - 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

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](http://www.rocatwentytwelve.org)**

#### **The Cost – the same as last year -**

##### **The weekend package:**

The **2 night package** DBB £140 per person for 2 nights in a double or twin (total £280 for 2 people) £160 per person for 2 nights in single occupancy (total £160 for 1 person)

The **three nights package** DBB (Thurs or Sunday) will be for a total cost of £190 per person double/twin (total £380 for 2 people), £205 for single. The hotel has 187 en-suite rooms with no restriction on the number of single rooms.

Please send your bookings with £30 deposit to Group Secretaries or direct to John Sharpe.

Deposit cheques payable to:

##### **The ROC Association.**

The balance paid to the Hotel on arrival.

##### **Free Parking at the hotel**

##### **Weekend Programme**

Details on the weekend programme will follow the July National Committee meeting. On Friday a room will be available for our use to meet, chat.

It is planned to provide a meeting room for those who prefer to stay in the hotel Saturday afternoon to meet, greet and recall ROC times. **Note booking closing date 31 August 2017.**

**National Accounts** ~ Thanks to Margaret Pickering for her audited inspection of the accounts to y/e 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016. Copies of the accounts and Treasurer's, Chairman's report will be circulated to all Groups in due course. The ADM 2016 minutes are with your Group Secretaries.

**Area Rep Elections 2017** ~ Scottish Area Rep John Sharpe MBE, Southern Area Rep yours truly and Western Reps Dave Arnott and Pat Fisher complete 3 years at the ADM. The National Secretary, in accordance with the Constitution, will conduct the Western Area election. Tim Kitching, Assistant Admin Officer, will conduct the Southern and Mary Bruce the Scottish election. All the Groups in these Areas will be contacted, meanwhile please let your Committees have your nominations.

**RAF Formation Service St Clement Danes 2<sup>nd</sup> April** ~ The National Standard Bearer Oxford member Rosemary Ward supported by the local No 3 and 4 Group Standards. The Association will be represented by members from Western Area.

**Heritage** ~ 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](http://www.roc-heritage.co.uk). The National Heritage Team facilitates the storage transportation and content of your National Display on behalf of us all. Their voluntary time to co-ordinate and put together a display suitable to meet National event organiser's requirements will again enable me to organise on your behalf our participation in a number of National events this year.

**Dates for your 2017 diary further dates will be publish as events are finalised.**  
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).

**9<sup>th</sup> May Tuesday.** Guernsey Liberation Commemorations - All welcome

**13<sup>th</sup> May Saturday.** ROC Grove National Arboretum Alrewas meet from 1200

~ Commemorating 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1947 re-call & all who served until 1995 ~

**4<sup>th</sup> June Sunday - Newhaven Fort ROCA Open Day** contact Paul Norris for details

**17<sup>th</sup> June Saturday - Civil Defence Association Service/Parade - National Arboretum**

**17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> June Saturday/Sunday. Weston Super Mare Air Days ROCA Heritage Display**

All welcome details Jenny Morris

**24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June Saturday/Sunday Armed Forces National Day & Parade Liverpool**

- all welcome + ROCA Heritage Display - details Edwina Holden

**24<sup>th</sup> June Saturday.** Plymouth Armed Forces Day on the Hoe - details Shirley Abel

**9<sup>th</sup> July Sunday.** The Battle of Britain Parade Capel Le Ferne

**14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> July Friday/ Saturday/ Sunday.** Royal International Air Tattoo Fairford

**17<sup>th</sup> September Sunday** Battle of Britain Service Westminster Abbey

**6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October.** ROCA 28<sup>th</sup> National Annual Reunion - Palace Hotel Buxton

**7<sup>th</sup> October Saturday.** Annual Delegates Meeting - Palace Hotel Buxton

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

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

**Veryan Bunkers Open days 2017** ~ 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 29 May, Sunday 25 June, Monday 24 July,  
Monday 14 August, Sunday 10 September.**

**Lawrence Holmes MBE National Trust Award ~ Congratulations - well deserved.**

Lawrence Holmes's many years of voluntary work, in the upkeep of the restored Veryan ROC Post, has been recognised with an award from Cornwall National Trust. The ceremony was held in November 2016 and the award was presented by the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall Colonel Edward Bolitho OBE who is the Joint President of 10 Group ROCA. His family own Madron ROC Post near Penzance

**ROC Posts / Buildings on National Trust Land** ~ Veryan 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.

**ROCBF** ~ One way the Trustees are reaching out to those in need is through their Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/RoyalObserverCorpsBenevolentFund](http://www.facebook.com/RoyalObserverCorpsBenevolentFund).



**R E M E M B E R!** [www.rocbf.org.uk](http://www.rocbf.org.uk)

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

**Area Reps Committee Meeting** ~ the next scheduled issue of snippets will follow the Area Reps meeting to be held 8<sup>th</sup> July 2017. Regular updates prior to that meeting will be sent to Groups and published on the web site.

**All Group Secretaries, Editors and members** are requested to regularly browse the ROCA web site for the latest news and information. Please pass on all news and events to all members especially those without access to the internet.