



Royal Observer Corps Association

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

SNIPPETS

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15th November 2018

To: Group Secretaries
Newsletter Editors

Copy to: Area Reps
Web Editor

News & Information for your members



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



We remember all ROC and ROCA friends no longer with us.

Martin Benson Isle of Mann member represented us at this year's Field of Remembrance



29th National Reunion – Palace Hotel Buxton 2018 ~ Opening the event on the Friday evening **John Sharpe** thanked all for the donated raffle prizes and the generous support by all those present that raised £583. The amount helps with the costs of holding the Reunion and the annual donation to the ROCBF agreed at the ADM. After the Gala Dinner Saturday evening all members had time to chat with **Air Marshals Cliff Spink and Julian Young**. Those with access to the web site can view photographs of the weekend.



Jim Millington Accepts on behalf of York Group the Geoffrey Potts Vulcan Trophy

The National Committee will award the Geoffrey Potts Vulcan Trophy to the Group who during the year or over a number of years to the year end 31 December prior to the Reunion had made a significant, special or outstanding contribution to the Association either Locally or Nationally. This year awarded to York Group.



The Jock Burnie Memorial Trophy
Awarded to the National Arboretum Team



Bob Campbell Receives the John Simmonds Memorial Heritage Trophy

ROC Shield Presented to our special Guest AM Julian Young. Commissioned into the RAF on 31 August 1980, Julian became Station Commander at RAF Cosford. In February 2015 appointed Director Helicopters at Defence Equipment & Support and Chief of Material- Air Defence Equipment and Support in April 2016. In simple terms he is the most senior engineer officer in the RAF and sits on the Air Force Board. He gave us an overview of the current roles of the RAF. With his wife Helen they became our good friends chatting to many of us during the evening.





The RAF100 Anniversary Cake



Cliff Spink Celebration Cake to mark 50 years since earning his RAF Wings

John Sharpe is delighted to confirm that **Cliff Spink** continues as our President. His very busy flying commitments, his role at Bentley Priory and many other duties he always finds time to offer his wise council and support. Thank you Cliff from all the members.

Vice Presidents ~ At the ADM John Sharpe confirmed the reappointment of **Hilary Daniel, Terry Giles** and **Joyce Shrubbs** as our Vice Presidents. He is delighted to announce the appointment of **Diana Mothersole** as a Vice President, a very welcome addition to these very special people who continue to offer their valued wealth of knowledge and experience for the benefit of all and to represent us at many special events throughout the UK.

National Committee Officers ~ Area Reps elected to hold the following appointments for the year to the ADM October 2019 are: **Chairman** John Sharpe, **Vice Chairman** Dave Arnott **Secretary** Jenny Morris **Treasurer** Dave Arnott **Keeper of the National Standard** Tim Kitching.

To serve for the following 3 years **Wendy Harvey, John Millidge** elected **Metropolitan Area Reps**.

The Portfolio Holders continue to give their time on behalf of all members they are: – **Arboretum Liaison** Jenny Major, **National Heritage Officer** Edwina Holden, **Web Editor** Mick Marks, they are all supported by small groups of very hard working volunteers.

We have received a letter of grateful thanks for the donation of £500 presented to ROCBF at the ADM.

Heritage ~ Keep up to date with current events, get involved or just to pass on any snippets of heritage news contact team members or use the contact button via the heritage website:

www.roc-heritage.co.uk. The annual report to the ADM enclosed.

Sessions Cartoon 2019 Calendar

Put a smile on someone's face for a whole year buy them a limited edition

Sessions Cartoon Calendar

Everyone who served in the ROC will remember the wit of Henry Sessions who vividly captured the triumphs and tragedies of life in the Corps. He died 50 years ago in 1968 and to commemorate his work the ROC Museum has reproduced in a calendar a selection of his cartoons.

They are available priced at **£8.99 each including postage and packing cheques payable to**

The ROC Museum

Orders to Tony Maasz 230 Twyford Road Eastleigh Hants SO50 4LF

An ideal Christmas present for someone with a sense of humour at the end of 2019 you can frame the best cartoon and hang it in the khazi!

Seaborne ~ Do you know of or have Seaborne members?

2019 we will commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the D Day Landings with very special emphasise on the unique role of Seaborne. Sadly in recent years many have died. As a matter of urgency I am gathering names and contacts of all surviving Seaborne. Can you help put me in touch?

At the ADM Lawrence Holmes proposed a special memorial to J Bancroft and W Salter. The National Committee has agreed to follow up the proposal in addition to ensure the Seaborne Tree is suitably marked. A short Remembrance and Commemorative Service will be held in the ROC Grove on our ROCA day in May.

Arboretum ROCA Gathering May 2019 ~ We are reviewing the option to change the Grove gathering from a Saturday to Sunday. This year to coincide with the RAF100 event we met on the Sunday for many who attended this proved a popular day. We appreciate the change would not suit all therefore we are seeking member's preferences for a Saturday or Sunday meet. Please tell your Area Reps of your member's majority choice before the next National Committee meeting 16th February 2019 at which a final decision will be made. Ensure all Group Standard Bearers are consulted as they are crucial participants.

St Clement Danes Service Sunday April 2019 ~ To commemorate the formation of the RAF the first National event is our annual participation in this Service. It is **Metropolitan** Area's turn to carry the National Standard and have first call on the 10 tickets. Metropolitan Groups to recommend suitably experienced National Standard Bearer. All groups to request tickets or to be placed on a reserve list ***please let me have names and addresses as quickly as possible at the latest by 12th January 2019.*** The service is followed by a special reception in the Royal Courts of Justice.

Lord Mayor's Show ~ Saturday 10th November did you spot the four intrepid members.

Roger Pile, Martin Benson, Tim Kitching, Rod Siebert.



Rod Siebert tells me: *Altogether a smart turnout of Observers, who marched 7 miles overall during the day with a short break at St Clement Danes Church for an R.A.F. Lunch, well it was more of an R.A.F. nibble, but it kept us all going. The pace of the march was quite rapid, as we were following the Band of the Royal Air Force College playing the most rousing of march music, however Observers both young and old kept up, egged on by the enthusiastic crowds lining the streets who cheered and clapped as we marched past.* -And Tim Kitching's recollections of the event: *Our invitation came from the RAF and the entry in this year's programme regarding their participation says 'This year, we also have 42 veterans parading to help celebrate the services' centenary.' Only the RAF had a veterans element and we marched as an 'add on' to the uniformed RAF contingent (to the rear of 600 (City of London) Sqn, Royal Auxiliary Air Force) rather than as a separate group. It was also a veterans' contingent formed of different associations, not just RAFA. For example, immediately in front of us were six RAF Marine Craft Association veterans and one of those behind was the President of the Fighter Controllers' Association. I made a point of talking to these in particular - one of the Marine Craft chaps was a former member of the ROC in 30 Group and wore the ROC medal, another proudly wore his father's ROC medal on his right chest and yet another knew Peter Jex from 15 Group well! It is worth noting that whilst the programme refers to 42 veterans, I counted only 22 and some of these did not take part in the return march.*

ROC Association appointed Benevolent Fund Liaison Officers. All Groups to ensure current ROCBFLO contact details notified to John Sharpe and on the ROCA web site.

RAF Benevolent Fund: The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund is the RAF's leading welfare charity, providing financial, practical and emotional support to serving and former members, as well as their partners and dependants. We help members of the RAF family with everything from disability, injury, financial hardship and youth support to living independently and providing dignity in retirement. For more information visit: www.rafbf.org Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/RAFBF> For further information please contact either your Group ROCBFLO or: Brooke Harrison-Davies, RAF Benevolent Fund on 020 7307 3351 or 07825 172447 or brooke.harrison-davies@rafbf.org.uk

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**.

Dates for your 2019 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.

TBA April Sunday. St Clement Danes Service to commemorate formation of the RAF - Tickets - Metropolitan Area.

TBA May Saturday or Sunday. ROC Grove National Arboretum Alrewas meet from 1200

29th June Saturday Armed Forces National Parade Salisbury + ROCA Heritage Display

7th July Sunday. Capel Le Ferne Battle of Britain Parade

19th to 21st July Friday/ Saturday/ Sunday. Royal International Air Tattoo Fairford

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

Dates TBA October ~ ROCA 30th National Annual Reunion & ADM - Venue TBA

7th November Thursday. Field of Remembrance Westminster - Scottish Area

10th November Sunday. Remembrance Parade Cenotaph

Area Reps Committee Meeting ~ the next issue of snippets will follow the Area Reps meeting to be held 16th February 2019.

My best wishes to you and your families for Christmas and the New Year.