



Royal Observer Corps Association

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

SNIPPETS

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25th November 2019

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 Man member represented us at this year's Field of Remembrance Jacqui & Terry Giles in support

**Especially in our thoughts Obs Cdr Harry Teague MBE
Obs Lt Cdr Geoff Paine
&**

**Obs Lt Kenneth Evans severd 8 Group Stoke Golding Post & 9 & 12 Group Officer
Funeral - Hilary Daniel will conduct the service 6 December at 1300 Semmington Crematorium West Wilts**



Obs Cdr Harry Teague ~ I am told at his Funeral in total there were 26 ROCA members present with approx. 14 in the guard of honour that included Seaborne Don Marsh.
The following is part of Margaret Baynton's tribute to Harry:

'Harry joined the Royal Observer Corps in 1955 and first served in 8 Group Coventry where he attained the rank of Observer Officer.

He moved to Norfolk in 1967 and for a short time was Post Instructor on 22 Post Aylsham which I have only just found out - as I was also Post Instructor on Aylsham Post in 1987!

Soon afterwards Harry took on the role of Post Controller on Crew 3 at Group Control and in 1970 he was appointed Group Commandant, a role he held until his retirement in 1989. He was one of the longest serving Senior (sparetime) Officers and was highly respected by all his peers.

In 1987 Harry was awarded the MBE for services to the Royal Observer Corps of which he was justly proud. In 1986 the 6 Group Royal Observer Corps Association was formed and Harry became Chairman until he vacated that position and was elected President in 2013.'

Obs Lt Cdr Geoff Paine ~ Born 26 May 1925 sadly passed away 29 August 2019. Geoff was the 1st National Secretary of ROCA. His full Obituary by Lawrence Holmes is on the ROCA web site.

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30th National Reunion – Palace Hotel Buxton 2019 ~ Opening the event on the Friday evening **John Sharpe** thanked all for the donated raffle prizes and the generous support by all those present. **Cliff Spink** joined us on the Friday due to a clash of dates that prevented him attending the Saturday Gala Dinner. After presenting the annual trophies and his Certificates Cliff ensured he spoke to many of us. Saturday evening all members had time to chat to our Guest Neil Sturtridge RAFBF.



Cheryl Stewart receives the Jock Burnie Trophy



On behalf of Gavin Saxby Dundee Wendy & Boots accept the John Simmonds Memorial Heritage Trophy

ROC Shield Presented to our special Guest Neil Sturtridge Area Director RAFBF. He gave us an overview of his RAF career that he joined after ROC Standdown.

(See last page for photos of the Presidents Certificates awarded).



Diana Johnson receives the Geoffrey Potts Vulcan Trophy on behalf of 8 Group



Peter Blockley awarded the Mike Richards Memorial Cup





Vice President Joyce Shrubbs MBE

Lovely to see you Joyce

Joyce Shrubbs MBE made a very special effort to join us for the Saturday Gala Dinner

ADM ~ John Sharpe is delighted to confirm that **Cliff Spink** continues as our President. He remains very busy although decided to retire from flying he continues his role at Bentley Priory and involvement with many other organisations he always finds time to offer his wise council and support. Thank you Cliff from all the members.

Vice Presidents ~ Reappointed **Hilary Daniel, Terry Giles, Diana Mothersole, Joyce Shrubbs.**

National Committee Officers ~ Area Reps elected to hold the following appointments for the year to the ADM October 2020 are: **Chairman** John Sharpe, **Vice Chairman** Dave Arnott **Secretary** Jenny Morris **Treasurer** Dave Arnott **Keeper of the National Standard** Tim Kitching.

Special thanks given to **Mick Marks** for time and service on the Committee representing Midland Area during the past years .

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

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.

Sessions Cartoon 2019 Calendar ~ There are a few available at a special reduced price of £5.00 includes postage and packing cheques to 11 Melita Rd Bristol BS6 5AZ payable to J Morris donation will be passed on to the ROCM. 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 51 years ago in 1968 to commemorate his work the ROC Museum reproduced in a calendar a selection of his cartoons. An ideal Christmas present for someone with a sense of humour.

Seaborne ~ Do you know of or have Seaborne members?

We have been told of at least 4 surviving Seaborne. Don Marsh who stood in the Guard of Honour to Harry Teague wishes to make contact with any of his colleagues. If you can help put him touch please let me know.

Jenny Major is actively arranging for the special Seaborne Memorial to be placed in our Grove at Alrewas. It is hoped to have it in place for unveiling at next year's ROCA gathering on Saturday May 16th at 1200.

St Clement Danes Service Sunday 5th April 2020 ~ To commemorate the formation of the RAF the first National event in our calendar. It is **Midland** Area's turn to carry the National Standard and have first call on the 10 tickets. Midland Groups to recommend suitably experienced National Standard Bearer. All **Group Secretaries please let me have names and addresses by 12th January 2020 of all your members** who request tickets. There will be a reserve list. The service is followed by a special reception in the Royal Courts of Justice.

I would especially ask that all requests are channelled through Group Secretaries sent in one complete list and not sent to me by individuals.

At the ADM Neil Sturtridge was very well received. He had recently taken up his new position as Area Director with RAFBF having retired from the RAF the previous Monday. The research he had done was much appreciated to give us facts, figures and details on the grants and how the ROCBF is benefiting as part of the RAF Family. During the Saturday evening he spent time chatting and answered questions. All Groups ensure current ROCBFLO contact details notified to John Sharpe.

Important information for all Members and former ROC - Following the merger of the ROCBF within the Royal Air Forces Benevolent Fund did you know as part of the RAF Family former members of the ROC are now able to call on **ALL** the services of the RAF Benevolent Fund? In addition to **financial help** there are other areas of help & advice: **living indepently, property repairs, care home fees, benefits advice, welfare breaks.**

**For more information or need help contact RAFBF direct or through our website link
Call telephone Helpline 0800 169 2942 or apply on line www.rafbf.org/help**

Dates for your 2020 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.

**2020 we will Commemorate 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain &
75th Anniversary of VE & VJ Day**

9th May the 75th Anniversary Liberation of the Channel Islands

5th April Sunday. St Clement Danes Service to commemorate formation of the RAF -
Tickets - Midland Area.

16th May Saturday. ROC Grove National Arboretum Alrewas meet from 1200

27th June Saturday. Armed Forces National Parade Scarborough
+ ROCA Heritage Display

July Sunday. Capel Le Ferne Battle of Britain Parade

17th to 19th July Friday/ Saturday/ Sunday. Royal International Air Tattoo Fairford

September Commemorations 80th Anniversary Battle of Britain
Service Westminster Abbey - Scottish Are

9th to 11th October ~ ROCA 31st National Annual Reunion & ADM -
Adelphi Hotel Liverpool

5th November Thursday. Field of Remembrance Westminster - Metropolitan Area

8th November Sunday. Remembrance Parade Cenotaph

Veryan Bunkers Open days 2020 ~ there will be two 90 minute tours on each Open Day at 1100 to 1230hrs and 1330 to 1500hrs. Booking is essential contact Lawrence Holmes.

Email or phone 01872 278234.

**Monday 25 May (BH), Sunday 28 June, Monday 26 July,
Monday 17 August, Sunday 27 September.**

Area Reps Committee Meeting ~ the next issue of snippets will follow the Area Reps meeting to be held 15th February 2020.

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

Presidents Certificates of Commendation awarded to Brian Harries 14 Group, Keith Arnold 7 Group & assistant Web Editor, David Shaw (Boots)



Brian Harries receives Certificate



On behalf of the President Hilary Daniel made the presentation to Brian at the ADM



Keith Arnold



David Shaw