



Royal Observer Corps Association

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

SNIPPETS

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25th February 2021

To: Group Secretaries
Newsletter Editors

Copy to: Area Reps
Web Editor

News & Information for your members

It is very important that all are aware in these very challenging and sometimes for many members and ex ROC colleagues very isolated and lonely times. There is not only financial help but welfare and other support both practical emotional available to us all as part of the RAF BF Family. This is a special edition focused on the contact details and wider help provided by the RAFBF to remind us all of these benefits and how to find them



REMEMBER!

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

www.rafbf.org

**VISIT www.rafbf.org/help OR CONTACT RAF BENEVOLENT FUND
ON 0300 102 1919**

8am to 10pm - SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

In the 17 November 2017 Snippets front page news for all members reported on the Official and the press release of the Royal Observer Corps Benevolent Fund to the hand over of the reins to the RAF Benevolent Fund. The Official hand-over ceremony held at Bentley Priory. The announcement prior to launch was also made to all Delegates at the ROCA National Reunion ADM in October 2017. There is a link on the ROCA web site and the above banner to provide full contact details appears in every edition of the majority of Group newsletters. It therefore amazes me that I continue to receive emails and questions at a number of Group meetings AGMs that I attend that members do not know how to make enquiries nor contact with the RAFBF and are unaware of the hand over.

The RAF Benevolent Fund is the RAF's leading welfare charity providing financial practical and emotional support to serving and former members of the RAF, as well as their partners and dependants. They help members of the RAF family with everything from disability, injury, financial hardship and youth support to living independently and to provide dignity in retirement.

The press released published at the time of launch announced that the ROCBF will be absorbed in to the administrative care of the RAF's leading welfare charity. The merging of the two charities builds on the close relationship and excellent partnerships developed over several years. The full press release was sent to Group Secretaries and Editors. It was available on the ROCA/ROCBF/RAFBF web sites.

All Groups are required to have an appointed ROCABFLO. Their role shifted from one of handling applications to welfare and publishing the wider benefits now available. As a separate attachment I will send the changed role instructions issued at the time.

On latest RAF web site please note latest change of phone contact (I can find) to the RAFBF with open times show in the above Banner.

Group ROCABFLOs- All members or former ROC non Association members from whom you have received an enquiry but you do not know the answer Terry Giles has recently taken over the role from John Sharpe as a single point of contact between ROCA and RAFBF. Terry has contacted all Groups to confirm their ROCABFLO to enable Michael Marks to update contacts listed behind the web members password. Terry has received replies from a number of Groups will all Groups who are yet to reply to Terry please contact him as a matter of urgency. Terry will also keep us informed of the latest RAFBF contact phone number.

ROCA National Reunion 8th to 10th October 2021 Adelphi Hotel Liverpool

To enable a decision that it is viable for those who wish to attend the booking form will be issued to all Groups and Editors to request deposit payment of £30 payable to ROCA Fund that will be held in our ROCA National Funds and not passed to the hotel. This will be fully refunded if we do not reach a viable number of 40 to 50 members and may include family / friends. For those who wish to decide nearer the dates or change their minds will be fully refunded. Please note the reduced numbers will mean there will be no Gala Dinner but an opportunity for those who wish to meet and chat with our ROCA friends.

GDPR ROCA /ROCM Winchester- both organisations policy is available on their respective web sites. Contrary to any recent concerns heard from either social media sites or elsewhere neither organisation has breached their respective policy.

National Secretary - An invitation for expressions of interest for the role of my National Secretary Admin Assistant. Ideal candidate a semi - retirement or retired member who has the proactive time to learn more of the National Secretary's role and to provide me with support to meet the ever growing participation in National events.

100th Anniversary Celebrations 2025 – National Committee are planning how we will mark this special anniversary. Please let your Area Reps or me have any ideas how you and your members would like us to celebrate.

Parades Ceremonies Events known to date
Dates for your 2021 diary further dates will be published as you let us know what is happening locally or nationally.

ALL ARE SUBJECT TO LATEST GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES
'TBC' = HIGHLY LIKELY TO BE CANCELLED OR RESTRICTED

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

April Sunday. St Clement Danes Service to commemorate formation of the RAF -
Tickets - **TBC OR RESTRICTED ATTENDEES -TBA**

May Saturday. ROC Grove National Arboretum Alrewas meet 1245 - **TBC**

2nd June Sunday. Newhaven Fort Museum ROCA Open Day - **TBC**

26th 27th June Saturday / Sunday. Weston Super Mare Air Festival
ROCA Display in the Veterans Village all welcome.

July Sunday. Capel Le Ferne Service - **Limited to wreath layers & restricted attendees**

16th to 18th July Friday/ Saturday/ Sunday. Royal International Air Tattoo Fairford
CANCELLED

September 2021. Bentley Priory Battle of Britain Commemorative Day
National ROCA Display

September Sunday. Battle of Britain Westminster Abbey -

8th to 10th October. National Reunion - The Adelphi Hotel Liverpool

11th November Thursday. Field of Remembrance

14th November Sunday. Remembrance - Cenotaph Parade

Veryan Bunkers Open days 2021 ~ Full dates and details TBA by Lawrence Holmes:

Area Reps Committee Meeting ~ the next scheduled issue of snippets will follow the Area Reps meeting due to be held July 2021 but intervening zoom meetings are planned.