Melton pays its respects to the fallen on Remembrance Sunday November 13th

Members of the Branch took part in the Annual Remembrance Day Parade.

Personnel from the Defence Animal Centre, HMS Quorn, Scouts, Cubs, Guides, 1279 Air Training Corps and Army Cadet Force together with other Veterans also took part in the ceremony, accompanied by standard bearers and members of the Melton branch of the Royal British Legion. The parade then made its way to the Memorial Gardens, on Wilton Road, where wreaths were laid.
Members attend The Hamilton ATC Dining In Night

President of the RAFA Melton Mowbray Branch Hadge Jarvis presenting the Best Flight Trophy (the trophy was made several years ago by Bob Cox).
CLUB SECRETARY'S REVIEW.

Bad start to the year stalwart member Bob Cox passed away but good in another as many members came to support the family and the bar! but then we had a brilliant pantomime written by our very active member Susie with the Riff Raff Players, a successful open day with the general public attending, the ATC were a huge help on that day, another downer our President Keith Glover passed away but again members came out to support the family and club, on the up from now on, we have had Sunday lunch, a bistro night, fish and chip treasure hunt, a murder mystery, ukulele band, Melton Now and Then and the Oktoberfest plus birthday and anniversary parties for members and their families, so all in all a good active year but we could do much more.

Headquarters have set all branches/clubs a challenge to increase membership by 10% that means 26 new members is our target, as you can see we have had some really good events but we need to improve, more members coming forward to help organise said events would be really great, in turn that would encourage members to bring their families and friends and potentially more new members.

The bar has a really good selection of beers, spirits and wine (hic) well looked after by Terry, we also have a good range of hot drinks including latte, cappuccino, hot chocolate and of course tea.

[Of course the car park offers a chance to park right at the back door at no extra charge not like the Legion or the “Connie” club for example where’s their parking facilities! We are very lucky to have this space, its actually brings an income to the branch by renting out the spaces at a very good rate during the working week to local businesses along Asfordby road who would be paying out a fortune each week if they had to park in Wilton road car park.]

The Charles Towell room is beginning to look very smart, there is new lighting having got rid of the fluorescent tubes and there will be LED strip lighting around the ceiling creating a much softer ambiance, new tables are being purchased and the new curtains are in place.

It will look really modern when complete more reason than ever to use it to its full potential.

The club is looking good right now with Christmas decorations in place, more parties planned with the children of the club, Draw night, Tornado Players performing and New Years’ Eve Party, So why not make the club your choice over the Christmas season.

For the fourth year we have a tree in St Mary’s Church Christmas Tree Spectacular promoting the Branch and Club, let’s hope you managed to see it.

I hope to see as many of you that can get to the club over the coming Christmas season and look forward to the New Year when the Riff Raff Players will again be performing in panto.

Hope to see you there.

Cheers

Brenda
An evening of musical entertainment by local band Melstrum including a supper was enjoyed by all who attended.
Christmas Tree Festival
St. Mary’s Church.

Another fantastic tree created by Angie to represent Melton RAFA Branch at this spectacular annual event.
From The Chair

Well Christmas is nearly on us and another year is nearly over so its a time to remember and reflect back on the past year and at the same time look forward to the New Year.

As our thoughts turn to this festive time, we wish to thank all of you for supporting our Branch-Club over the past year bit by attending formal events, functions, celebrations, quiz’s or by being in one of the “sport” teams playing darts, crib or dominoes.

Another thank you goes to all who have been or are still on the committee and to those of you who have organised various events to help raise our profile in the community as well as much needed funds.

A special thank you goes to the team working extremely hard to refurbish and redecorate the Charles Towell room and of course we musn’t forget our barstaff and our cleaner, all your contributions are appreciated.

Lastly we would like to ask you to remember in your thoughts those members, especially those who are no longer with us, especially Bob Cox and Keith Glover and to all those who gave willingly in time and effort for the Branch-Club.

Merry Christmas

From Paul & Brenda
2016 Branch-Club Reflections

Branch

An interesting year so far for the branch as we had a battle on our hands in the run up to the Battle of Britain parade which was rescued at the eleventh hour with the help of the C.O. of 1279 ATC Sqn to ensure it that it took place. We will work hard to ensure that this situation does not happen again.

We also have had a Branch Match Grant to help us with the ongoing refurbishment and redecoration of the Charles Towell room, the majority of the work being done by our own members.

The Branch has been well represented both locally and nationally at the various events it has had invites to.

Thanks to all who have been involved in any of the Branch activities.

Club

This has been a challenging year for the club, we have had plenty of functions and events going on (See Brenda’s more detailed review) and as usual this time of year see’s quite a few more, but numbers using it on a regular basis has dropped, in fact those who use it on a Sunday night would love you to drop in so they have some more people to chat to!!

If last year we were a plane flying on 4 engines, then this year although we are still flying on 4, every now and again we get fuel starvation and with the cost of fuel still steadily rising, it becomes a big challenge for us all. As members you can help by telling us what functions, events etc., you would like the club to do, even better help to put an event on or hold a celebration party etc. in the refurbished Charles Towell room next year.
Ongoing Charles Towell Refurbishment & decoration in progress as at 25th November, notice new window sills and how the change of colour is lightening the room.

No doubt this coming year we will have further challenges on all fronts, but I’m sure we will be able to meet them all head on, be it legislation, rising costs, plague, pestilence or Brexit.

So in the words of Baldrick “We have a cunning plan” or Cpl Jones “They don’t like it up ‘em” let’s go forward to next year and make it a good one for our club.

**Newsletter**

If you have an email address please let us know it so you can receive the Newsletter by this method please as it reduces our costs

**Membership**

A reminder about membership below, please don’t forget it you haven’t paid by 31 January you will be considered a lapsed member and you will not be able to use the club. Please note these changes have been made by RAFA HQ at Leicester
It’s that time of year where members will need to renew your membership for 2017.

Prices for memberships have not changed for 2017, please see below:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Membership Type</th>
<th>Branch Fee</th>
<th>Club Fee</th>
<th>Total Fee to Be Paid</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Ordinary (full) Member</td>
<td>£20.50</td>
<td>£0.00</td>
<td>£20.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Associate Member (No Airmail)</td>
<td>£8.50</td>
<td>£6.00</td>
<td>£14.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Associate Member with (Airmail)</td>
<td>£14.50</td>
<td>£6.00</td>
<td>£20.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you pay by Direct Debit, please be aware that you will still be required to pay the £6 club membership if you are an Associate member (Options 2 and 3).

Memberships can be paid at the bar, directly to the Membership Secretary, or any other Committee Member.

Please make sure you get a receipt for any monies paid.

If you have any questions or concerns over your membership payments, please do not hesitate to contact your Membership Secretary, Jo Durrance on either mobile 07841 389030 or email jodurrance@hotmail.com
Forth Coming Events

DECEMBER

10th Kids Christmas Party

11th OAPs Christmas Lunch

18th Christmas Draw

21st Tornado Brass - Get into the Christmas spirit by joining Tornado Brass for an evening of festive music and carols.

See notice board for further details and to add names to lists

Keep up to date with what’s happening at the Melton Mowbray Branch & Tornado Club.

In addition to this newsletter, you can also keep up to date with what’s happening by following us on our social media sites:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/RafaMelton
Twitter: @RAFAMelton
Website: www.rafa.org.uk/melton-mowbray

So there’s no excuse to say you don’t know what’s happening!

If you have anything to share with us, please share on our social media sites or get in touch via our new email address: meltonmowbrayrafa@gmail.com
Just a reminder that this year’s Christmas Draw is on Sunday 18\textsuperscript{th} December at 20.00 (8.00pm to those of you who get confused).

There will be a guest beer on and a short quiz, please support this event especially by not only attending but buying the squares (25p each) to win prizes. The more you spend the better range of prizes, so please don’t let us down and fill the squares on the boards in both bars.

If you’re feeling generous and wish to donate a prize to the draw we’d be extremely grateful.
2016 Christmas Draw
Prizes So far

Calendar & Key Ring
Star Baker Apron
1000 piece Jigsaw in a tin
Tin of Luxury Milk Chocolates
Bosch Hairdryer
Cadbury Heroes
Chocolate's & Starmix
Biscuit Selection.
Christmas Food hamper

Donations of prizes are also very welcome

Prize will be announced at the Beginning of December!!
A Message from The President.

Dear All,

It is now 9 months since I became Branch President, an eventful few months attending various functions and events, however that is not what I want to talk about, I wish to say a few thank yous.

First to Brenda, I could say my mentor and advisor, a great help with the protocol side. Next a big thank you to our Committee, they do a good job, a difficult task with many struggles well carried out. A special team are Susie and her “gang” who with a huge entertainment schedule and added to their great efforts in the decorating of the “back room”, thanks folks.

Lastly a big thank-you to all our members, without you there would be no Branch or Club.

It remains for me to say Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone – and keep up the good work.

Hadge
Mince Pie Poker Tournament 4\textsuperscript{th} December

The winner of the Mince Pie Poker Tournament was Laura Heggs seen here receiving her trophy from runner up Susie Harrison.
A Final word from the Branch Secretary - Brian

Following on from the previous updates provided by the Branch President and Branch Club Vice Chair & Chairman, I would also like to extend my thanks for all the help and support our Branch Members, Volunteers and Committee Members have provided throughout 2016 and to wish all our members a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Special thanks this year go to Amanda for producing the monthly newsletter, John for acting as our Welfare Officer and Phil as our Standard Bearer. Naturally, we can’t forget all our other branch committee members, volunteers and fundraisers as much of our work couldn’t be done without them.

Our branch is the linch pin in everything we do in supporting the RAF Family and can I just remind everyone that the Melton Mowbray Branch can exist without the Club, but the Club can’t exist without the Branch. We are special in that we are the only RAFA Branch in Leicestershire to have our own Club so let’s keep it that way.

John and myself have travelled to every corner of the Melton Borough (and further at times) in providing welfare support to those members of the RAF Family who need our help. To provide this support, the Association relies on income raised during its Wings Appeal campaign.

Wings Appeal, although, primarily focused around Battle of Britain week in September, goes on all year round and I ask if you are able to support us during 2017 in any way you can, then please do. Our bunch of Wings Collectors is slowly getting smaller and smaller due to ill health etc, so please if you can spare a few hours next year to help us collect, then please let myself or Brenda know. Don’t forget that you can also take away collecting tins and boxes for you to put in your place of work or at home to collect your loose change.

A lot of our members don’t frequent the club that often due to personal, work, family or health reasons but that doesn’t mean they should be forgotten. Please do keep in touch with any members of the RAF family who reside in Melton or its surrounding villages and remind them that we are here for them should they need our help. We are the Charity that Supports the RAF Family.

Lastly, as we look back over the past 12 months, I ask of you to remember in your thoughts those members of the RAF Family and Melton Branch who are no longer with us and sadly passed away during 2016:

Eric Booth, Ted Burton, Bob Cox, Iris France, Keith Glover, Albert Keeling, Mrs E P Miles, Cecil Portess, Jim Quayle and Dorothea Wilkes.

We Will Remember Them.