

## Northern Area

# Newsletter

February 2015

### AREA NOTICES

#### NORTHERN AREA MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AS AT 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2015

	1 JAN 2014	1 FEB 2015	Difference
Annual Members	5,263	5,288	+25
Life Members	3,207	3,189	-18
Honorary Life Members	21	21	21
Current Total	8,491	8,498	+7
Associate Members	1,290	1,298	+8
Grand Total	9,781	9,796	+15

**AREA PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATES** – It is with great pleasure we announce that the following Area Presidential certificates have been awarded. Many congratulations to the recipients:-

Mr David Stacey  
Mr Marc Kay, MBE BEM  
Flt Sgt Victoria Moore  
Jamie Blagg Memorial Team  
Alan Dickins  
Alan Roberts  
John Grainger  
Eric Roberts  
Phil Southern

Hartlepool Branch  
Charities Officer, Gtr Mcr (ATC) Wing  
Middlesbrough  
Huyton with Roby & Liverpool Branch  
Birkenhead Branch  
Skipton Branch  
Darlington Branch  
Huyton with Roby & Liverpool Branch

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS** – Retaining our members is vitally important if we are to continue the work that we do. Lapsed members should be encouraged at every opportunity to renew their membership. This can be achieved in a number of ways with Branch Secretaries urged to contact those members who have sadly let their membership lapse, this is not only to regain those members but also to ensure that there is not an underlying Welfare reason for their non-renewal of membership.

If you require a list of your current lapsed members, please contact the Area Office on 01772 426930 or alternatively please e-mail [northern@rafa.org.uk](mailto:northern@rafa.org.uk)

**DIRECT DEBIT THE EASIER WAY TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP** – All Branch Membership Secretaries are urged to encourage new and existing members to renew their Membership by Direct Debit, this not only means that Secretaries are relieved of having to collect monies but also ensures members need not worry about their membership lapsing.

### **ANNUAL NORTHERN AREA CONFERENCE & REUNION, 2015**



A note for all members attending the Northern Area Conference Friday 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at the Hilton Blackpool Hotel, administration packs will be coming out to all delegates early February.

All allocated rooms for the Northern Area Conference have now been released for general sale, if you still haven't booked a room and are experiencing difficulty with this please contact Area on 01772 426930 or alternatively please e-mail [northern@rafa.org.uk](mailto:northern@rafa.org.uk)



**BRANCH EVENTS & INFORMATION QUESTIONNAIRE** – Please find attached to this Newsletter a Branch questionnaire from the BSO, Pete Hudson. We are asking Branches to complete and return this questionnaire in order that we can gauge how to assist the Northern Area Branches to maximise every opportunity to recruit new members and also raise extra funds for Wings Appeal.

**RAF ASSOCIATION BRANCH EFFICIENCY COMPETITION** – Please find attached to this Newsletter an entry form for the RAF Association Branch Efficiency Competition. Due to this being announced later than normal winners will be announced at the Northern Area Conference.

## UPDATE FROM THE LEICESTER OFFICE ON VOLUNTEERING

I'd like to introduce myself, I'm Katharine Montgomery, the Volunteer Manager for the RAF Association. I'm based at the Leicester office and can be contacted on [volunteers@rafa.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@rafa.org.uk) or on 0116 268 8794.



We have been working with Area Councils and Central Council (which has endorsed the project), on setting up a National Volunteering Programme, to complement the fantastic volunteering work happening in many parts of the country.

The longer-term plan is to help Branches with finding new volunteers, where they are needed. The current focus, however, is on helping to fill the gaps where we don't have volunteers working with clients in conjunction with the Area Welfare Officers. We would also like to recruit extra fundraisers in the areas they are required.

Recruitment and selection of new welfare volunteers, as part of this programme, will be carried out in partnership with the Area Welfare Officers in each region. We are working on a pilot scheme in the south east to ensure everything runs smoothly. We are looking to recruit a group of five or six volunteers.

This is not about replacing the work of the Branches, as a great deal of excellent welfare and fundraising is carried out by Branches. This is initially about introducing new volunteers to the Association who will take on welfare cases where we don't currently have sufficient numbers of volunteers to support the members of the RAF family that need our help.

We're really looking forward to working with you and rolling out a National Volunteering Programme. We're excited about Conference and the opportunity to share with you our progress and plans for the programme to complement your work. We will also keep you updated via Air Mail and through these newsletters. If you would like to share your views, we'd be really keen to hear from you through our survey on volunteering: <http://www.rafa.org.uk/vol-survey>.

Thank you for all the amazing work you do for the RAF Association and I look forward to working with you all over the coming years.

**RAF PRESENTATION TEAM VISIT** – The RAF Presentation Team will be visiting the Park Inn Hotel, York on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March. There are seats for 150 and all guests are asked to assemble at the venue for 1000 with a briefing taking place between 1030 and 1130.

Should you wish to attend please note that there will be a small charge of £2.00 per head to cover the cost of the room hire.

**RAF ASSOCIATION 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN CONCERTS** – There are to be two individual concerts to be held to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Britain at Durham Cathedral on 5<sup>th</sup> June, and at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

Times and more details will follow shortly.

## **NORTHERN AREA LADIES TANDEM CYCLING TOUR, 7<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015**



Following the success of the 2014 tandem parachute jump that raised almost £1500 for the Royal Air Forces Association, Kirsten & Sam have agreed to carry on the tandem theme and cycle the length and breadth of the Northern Area visiting all the 6 main RAF Bases on a tandem bicycle!!!!

The tour will start at RAF Spadeadam on going to RAF Boulmer then on to RAF Fylingdales, RAF Leeming, RAF Linton-on-Ouse and finishing at RAF Woodvale almost 400 miles in 6 days!!

This is an extreme challenge for us but one that will be totally worth it to raise funds for the Royal Air Forces Association.

If you would like to sponsor us please use the following links:-

[www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/NALTT2015](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/NALTT2015)

Text NLTT75 with the amount you would like to donate to 70070

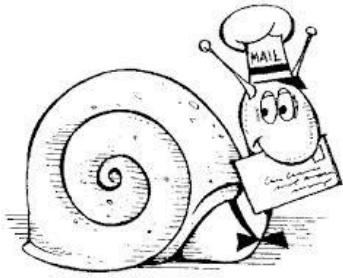
### **DATES FOR THE DIARY 2015**

12 <sup>th</sup> March	RAF Presentation Team Event, Park Inn Hotel, York
13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> March	Northern Area Conference & Reunion, Hilton Hotel, Blackpool
2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Morecambe Carnival, Morecambe
23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Llandudno Air Show, Llandudno
5 <sup>th</sup> June	RAFA 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Battle of Britain Concert , Durham Cathedral
19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> June	Whitehaven Air Show, Whitehaven, Cumbria
27 <sup>th</sup> June	National Armed Forces Day
6 <sup>th</sup> July	Tynwald Show, Isle of Man
25 <sup>th</sup> July	Sunderland Air Show, Sunderland
9 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> August	Blackpool Air Show, Blackpool
14 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup> August	Whitby Regatta, Whitby
15 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> August	Lytham 1940s Weekend, Lytham
27 <sup>th</sup> August	Families Day, RAF Boulmer
7 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> September	Northern Area Ladies Tandem Cycling Tour
19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Southport Air Show
26 <sup>th</sup> September	RAFA 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Battle of Britain Concert, Liverpool Anglican Cathedral

Attachments:-

- i. Branch Events & Information Questionnaire
- ii. Branch Efficiency Competition Entry Form
- iii. RAFALO Update January 2015

To contact us, please use one of the following methods:



By Letter:  
The Royal Air Forces Association  
Northern Area Headquarters and Leyland Office  
Sterling Court, Offices 1-4  
Leyland Business Park, Leyland, PR25 3GR

Tel: 01772 426930  
Email: [northern@rafa.org.uk](mailto:northern@rafa.org.uk)

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