

Royal Air Forces Association, Gloucester Branch

Out of the Blue

RAFA Gloucester *in friendship*



The RAFA *in friendship* initiative was created from ideas and suggestions made at this years Annual General Meeting.

The initiative aims to re-establish social contact amongst our members and to increase the potential for identifying those members who will benefit from the various activities on offer.

These include:

Tea and chat visits made to members in their own homes, by volunteer members. You provide the tea and the volunteer provides the chat.

Telephone chat. A volunteer gives you a call to chat about this and that.

- Quarterly newsletter.
- Attendance at branch meetings.
- Computer training and support.
- Social events.
- Remember, the more you get involved the stronger our branch becomes.

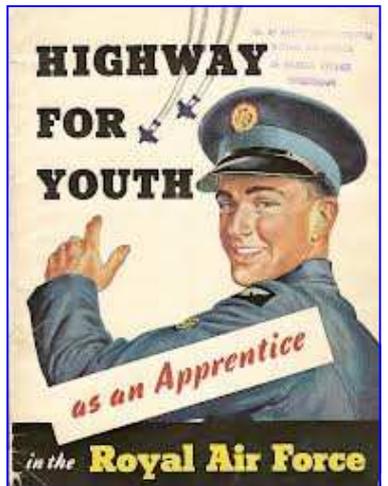


Members enjoying lunch at the Aviator Restaurant on Armed Forces Day.

Question
Can you name the RAF stations of Gloucestershire?

Unfortunately with the closure of RAF Innsworth we no longer have an active Royal Air Force station in the county.

See page 3 for a full list.



Armed Forces Day

On 28th June, 39 members attended the Jet Age Museum followed by lunch at the Aviator restaurant. The day provided an opportunity to tour the museum, meet up with old friends, make new ones and pay respect on this important day. The day included a parade of standards and act of homage. This was the first gathering of members for some time and proved to be a resounding success.



Parade of Standards, Armed Forces Day.

The Red Arrows 50th Birthday



"Diamond Nine" formation



The Red Arrows, officially known as the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, is the aerobatic display team of the Royal Air Force based at RAF Scampton. The team was formed in late 1964 as an all-RAF team, replacing a number of unofficial teams that had been sponsored by RAF commands.

The Red Arrows badge shows the aircraft in their trademark "Diamond Nine" formation, with the motto *Éclat*, a French word meaning "brilliance" or "excellence".

Initially they were equipped with seven Folland Gnat trainers inherited from the RAF Yellowjacks display team. This aircraft was chosen because it was less expensive to operate than front-line fighters. In their first season, they flew 65 shows across Europe. In

1966, the team was increased to nine members, enabling them to develop their "Diamond Nine" formation. In late 1979, they switched to the BAE Hawk trainer. The Red Arrows have performed over 4,500 displays worldwide in 52 countries.

Information taken from Wikipedia Editors note

In 1967 I was detached to RAF Kemble to provide medical cover for the Red Arrows. Although I did a number of interesting detachments this was by far the best.



Wings Appeal 2014



We are looking for volunteers to collect for this years "Wings Appeal" on Saturday 20th September between 9am and 4pm in Eastgate Shopping Mall and Gloucester city centre. If you



feel you could spare an hour or two to help please contact Lorraine on 01452 306005 or email: lorrainecole@blueyonder.co.uk.



RAFA Gloucester Welfare

For the first 6 months of this year your branch Honorary Welfare Officer (HWO) has carried out 38 welfare visits to members securing £3,000 in support.

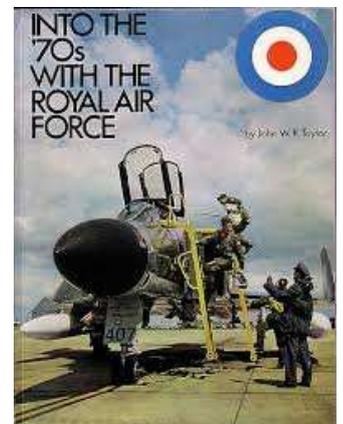
In addition, six members have been helped with

costs towards respite (Wings) breaks. This has involved travelling some 600 miles.

Some 80 contacts have been made either by telephone or email.

Four "tea and chat" visits have been made by

branch volunteers plus 2 telephone chats. And finally, 28 hours of computer support/training has been provided to seven members. Remember, the more you get involved the stronger our branch becomes.



RAF Stations of Gloucestershire

Aston Down. In use from the First World War until 1967.

Babdown Farm. Relief landing ground.

Bibury. Relief landing ground.

Boddington. First computerised communication centre in the 1950s.

Chedworth. Satellite station to RAF Aston Down.

Down Ampney. Part of a group of 3 airfields with RAF Broadwell and RAF Blakehill Farm dedicated to air transportation.

Fairford. Home of the Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT).

Filton. WW1, 33 Sqn flying BE2s, 66 Sqn flying Sopwith Pup, 62 Sqn flying the Bristol FE.2 fighter.

Innsworth. No 7 School of Technical Training who trained engine and airframe fitters and mechanics.

Kemble. Home of the Red Arrows 1966 to 1983.

Little Rissington. Central Flying School: 1946 to 1976.

Moreton-in-Marsh. Now home to the Fire Service College.

Northleach. No.3 Glider Training School.

Pucklechurch. Now Pucklechurch Remand Centre.

Quedgeley. No. 7 Maintenance Unit, RAF Quedgeley.

South Cerney. Now the Duke of Gloucester barracks.

Southrop. Relief Landing Ground.

Staverton. Hosted the first flight of the Gloster 1 jet aircraft.

Stoke Orchard. No. 10 Elementary Flying Training School.

Windrush. Relief Landing Ground.

If you served on any of these stations how about sharing your memories.



Future Social Events

The next social event is planned to be a visit to RAF Brize Norton this coming September.

Other suggestions include a guided visit to Gloucester Cathedral, a social evening with the Cheltenham branch, visit to the National Arboretum, a cheese and wine evening and a Christmas social.

If you have a suggestion please let Ray know.

Your Committee

President: Eric Ede

Chairman: Ian Boyd

Treasurer: Chris Hill

Committee members:

Noel Phillips

Pam Blackhall

Ruth Aldridge

Honorary Welfare Officer (HWO): Ray Bunnage

Ray can be contacted on 01452 415064

Email:

rafagloucester@gmail.com

Honorary Secretary: Lorraine Wilson

Lorraine can be contacted on 01452 306005

email:lorrainecole@blueyonder.co.uk



Hands up if you remember this watering hole somewhere in Gloucester.

Flowerdown House



Would you like a Wings Break at the beautiful Flowerdown House in Weston-Super-Mare?

Need Financial help then contact your HWO.

Looking Forward

The next edition of the Newsletter will be published in December 2014. Please let us know what you think of this edition, any stories you think will be of interest, military humour etc. Lets make it your newsletter.