

Branch Membership

182

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# ROYAL AIR FORCES **Association**

The charity that supports the RAF family

# RAFAGEN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LETCHWORTH, HITCHIN & DISTRICT BRANCH

**WINTER 2019**



**RAF 49 Sqd on Christmas Island**



**Patron: Her Majesty The Queen**

Registered Charity: 226686 (England & Wales) SC037673 (Scotland)

1071536 (Branch)

# RAFAGEN

*The official newsletter of the Letchworth & District  
Branch of the Royal Air Forces' Association*



## ROYAL AIR FORCES' ASSOCIATION LETCHWORTH , HITCHIN & DISTRICT

### BRANCH OFFICIALS FOR 2019

*Vice President:- Dennis Dawson*

*Chairman:- Lisa Berry*

*Vice Chairman:- Roy Newbury*

*Secretary:- Ken Needham*

*Treasurer:- Ken Needham*

*Wings Appeal Coordinator:- Roy Newbury*

*General Committee:*

*John Airey: Rev. Lindsay Dew: Marie Mahoney: Alan  
Millard: Mark Howell: Deen Meek*

*Branch R.A.F.A.L.O. Warrant Officer Shaun Griffin*

**RAFAGEN Edited by Ken Needham**

**Branch Welfare Officer: Mark Howell**

**Contact details :- Tel :-07874015229 email :- markhowell65@gmail.com**

All correspondences regarding the RAFAGEN to  
Ken Needham, 68 Broadwater Avenue, Letchworth Garden City,  
Hertfordshire, SG6 3HJ.

Telephone: 01462 671534      E-mail Secretary@rafa-Letchworth.org.uk

**Monthly Meetings are held at the Letchworth Rugby Club, Baldock Road, Letchworth Garden City Herts (Behind the Letchworth Leisure Centre) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 19.45 hrs. Licensed Bar Ample Parking**

**NAAFI BREAK is held at The Par 3 Golf Centre, Willian Way, Letchworth Garden City on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month 10.00 hrs 'til 12.00 hrs**



### *Ken's comments*

The branch had a very nice surprise at the end of October, we received a cheque for £150 as a share of the profits from the Letchworth Armed Forces Day in June. Many thanks to the organisers for their efforts in making it a great day. The profits from the day are shared between the three veterans association in the town and the cadets.

The Officers of the branch are pleased to welcome Mark Howell as our Branch Welfare Officer. He has just completed his training at Association Head Quarters in Leicester, and is now fully qualified to undertake his duties. Mark is already known to many members, as he is on the branch committee, and earlier this year took over as our Standard Bearer from Roy Newbury.

One of his first duties is to ensure that there are no members on their own on Christmas Day, so in conjunction with our Chairman, Lisa Berry they are arranging for no member to be on their own. If you are on your own over Christmas, why not call Mark on 07874015229 and have a chat with him. He may be a big lad, but he has a heart of gold.

Are you aware that we produce an 'E' version of RAFAGEN that is sent out to members via email? This version comes to you in full colour, and is usually published whilst the hard copy is at the printers so that members receiving the 'E' version get the news first. If you would like to receive the 'E' version please send a note to [secretary@rafa-letchworth.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rafa-letchworth.org.uk) and it will happen. It will mean that you will not receive a copy in the post, so you will helping the branch financially.



## Your letters, emails and notes on the back of fag packets

*An email received this quarter was from an ex Branch RAFALO, Susan Dempster. It was, amongst other things, with Susan's help that RAF 3 Sqd. attended the Willian Road memorial service in 2012. Was it really that*

*long ago?*

Thank you so much for keeping me on your mailing list, I look forward to receiving my RAFAGEN. The Branch is going from strength to strength and love the idea of the NAFFI BREAK. It really is good to catch up on what all has been going on and what the Branch is achieving. Unfortunately I never seem to get any further south than Lancaster these last couple of years but if I'm ever in the area during a meeting I will call in as it would be great to see you all.



Please give my regards to everyone at the next meeting, I do often think about you all,

## WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mr John Agnew of Biggleswade

Mr. Milan Stojasavljevic of Letchworth Garden City



rafa.org.uk | 0800 018 2361

Headquarters  
The Royal Air Forces Association  
Atlas House, Wembley Road  
Leicester LE3 1UT

Thursday 31 October 2019

Dear Ken,

We would like to extend our warmest thanks to everyone at the Letchworth Hitchin & District Branch for raising the fantastic amount of £1,644.63 which has been safely received and will be put towards the branch's Wings Appeal total for 2019.

The RAF Association relies on the generosity of people like you, your branch members and all those who support the branch with their time to help raise the £10 million we need each year to provide support to serving and former RAF personnel and their families. Whatever their need, they can rely on us every step of the way to give practical assistance, expert advice and emotional support.

Once again, thank you for your donation to the Wings Appeal. If you ever have any questions or would like further support in your branches fundraising, please do contact me by emailing [wings@rafa.org.uk](mailto:wings@rafa.org.uk) or calling 0116 268 8758.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Kelleher".

Andrew Kelleher  
Branch Fundraising Coordinator

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen  
Registered Charity 226686 (England & Wales) SC037673 (Scotland)



# **THE BAND OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE REGIMENT**

**BY KIND PERMISSION OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BOARD OF THE DEFENCE**



## **CHARITY CONCERT**

**IN AID OF THE R.A.F BENEVOLENT FUND**

**AT THE CHAPEL HAILEYBURY**

**BY KIND PERMISSION OF THE MASTER**

**WEDNESDAY 11TH MARCH 2020**

**18.00 HRS FOR 19.30 HRS**

**TICKETS ADULT £25 CONCESSIONS £19**

**INCLUDING A GLASS OF WINE OR SOFT DRINK**

**NO REFUNDS NO RESERVED SEATING**

**TICKET DETAILS FROM Alan Warman 72 Wheatsheaf Drive, Ware  
Hertfordshire SG12 0XS**

RAFAGEN is the official newsletter of the Letchworth Hitchin & District branch of The Royal Air Forces Association

## **Speedy Theo raises funds to thank RAF Association for Gruffalo recording**

Theo Lea-Hagerty ran the Kids' Kilometre in Bournemouth (part of the Bournemouth Marathon Festival) this autumn, raising more than £300 for the Royal Air Forces Association.

When Theo was just 10 weeks old his father, Steven, a Flight Lieutenant, was helped by the charity to make a CD recording of a bedtime story – The Gruffalo. Steven was about to be posted to Afghanistan and wanted his baby son to hear his voice while he was away.



As part of the Storybook Wings initiative, the RAF Association provided Steven with professional recording equipment, an editing service (which included inserting music and sound effects), and the production of a specially-packaged story CD for Theo. Five years later, Theo still has the CD, which he now plays to his baby sister.

Theo's mother, Megan Lea-Hagerty, said: "Theo became inspired to do the Kids' Kilometre when his Dad ran the Manchester Marathon for charity earlier this year. Theo told us he wanted to run in a competition himself, and ended up running the kilometre in six minutes and 13 seconds. We're so proud of him!"

Theo decided that he wanted the money he raised to go to the RAF Association so that more families like his could be helped.

Since the project began more than 10 years ago, Storybook Wings has recorded audiobooks for hundreds of children of RAF personnel serving away from home.

Flight Lieutenant Hagerty said: "I'm thrilled that Theo is following in my footsteps by getting into running and raising money for charity."

"The RAF Association was there for our family when Theo was first born, and we love the fact that we can now play the bedtime story CD to his baby sister, Cara."

R.A.F. Station  
Tangmere



Christmas  
1944

*The Commanding Officer & Officers  
wish you all A Happy Christmas*

**MENU**

Tomato Soup

Roast Stuffed Turkey  
Roast Pork      Sausages  
Apple Sauce

Roast Potatoes      Brussel Sprouts

Christmas Pudding  
Brandy Sauce

Mince Pies      Whipped Cream

Dessert Apples      Nuts & Raisins

Minerals      Ales      Cigarettes

Just look at what the airmen and women were eating on Christmas Day at R.A.F. Tangmere in 1944. When you compare with what the civilians would have sat down to on that day, with the rationing that was imposed upon them, the Royal Air Force cooks did us proud. I have a number of these Christmas menus from the wartime era, from

**WISHING ALL RAF VETERANS  
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**



**FROM ALL AT THE BRANCH NAFFI BREAK  
COFFEE MORNING**

During the year our meetings have been attended by :-

Mick Larkman, Eric Daglass, Lynda Needham, Marie Mahoney, Roy Newbury, Frank Turner, Pauline Collinson, John Airey, Lindsay Dew, Alan Millard, Ernie Brown, Carole Wilgoss, Maureen Millard, Kate Holmes, Steve Burrell, Derick Larkin, Margaret O'Brien, James Wilshire, Francis Wilshire, Vince Cristofoli, John Fairweather, Lisa Berry, Colvin Cooper, Michael Parrish, Michael Weeks, Richard Williams, Ron Forth, Peter Delary, Eric Fitton, Annie Andrews, David Switzer, Christine Murray, Trevor Tuddenham, Headly Parkins, Jennifer Parkins, Lesley Starr, Donna Cook, and the host Ken Needham

We also say "Thanks and Christmas Greetings." To the owners and staff of the Par 3 Golf Centre, for the use of their facilities.



*Get your diaries out, because our R.A.F.A.L.O. W/O Shaun Griffin has been busy ensuring that our Branch Social evenings are entertaining.*

*Please note that speakers may change at short notice due to circumstances, especially those speakers who are serving members of the Armed Forces.*

## 2020

20 Jan - Sgt Sarah Ward - Letchworth ATC Sqn update.

17 Feb - Jim Box - The Avro Shackleton.

16 Mar - **Branch AGM & social evening.**

20 Apr - Martin Johnson - Herts Wildlife

18 May - William Marsterson - Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust

## An Apology

Usually at this time of year I am able to produce photographs from the Remembrance Services from the parades at Hitchin, Letchworth and Baldock, but I am afraid that I can gather no pictures of the Letchworth event, albeit one of the best attended. The pictures I have are from Alan Millard (Hitchin) and the Baldock Royal British Legion (Baldock). This year it appears that the local newspaper had no photographer at the best attended Memorial Service in the area.

We did remember them in Letchworth Garden City although it appears there is no pictorial record.

## **WE DIDN'T FORGET**

Pictures of the memorial services on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2019 taken at the Baldock and Hitchin services.



# Letchworth Par 3 Family Golf Centre

THE HOME OF THE BRANCH NAAFI BREAK

- Enjoy a round of golf with family or friends
- Play the traditional French game of pétanque
- Cafe offering wide range of coffees, teas, cakes and hot / cold food
- Fully licensed bar with wide range of beers, ciders, spirits and soft drinks
- Ample parking and free wi-fi
- Everyone welcome

We support the R.A.F. Association and Wings Appeal

Cafe open from 8:30 am to 6:00 pm  
Late nights on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Letchworth Par 3 Family Golf Centre  
Willian Way, Letchworth SG6 2HJ  
01462 483863  
[www.letchworthfamilygolf.co.uk](http://www.letchworthfamilygolf.co.uk)



The charity that supports the RAF family

**LETCHWORTH, HITCHIN & DISTRICT  
BRANCH**

## **NAAFI BREAK**



**PAR 3 GOLF CENTRE  
WILLIAN WAY  
LETCHWORTH GARDEN  
CITY  
SG6 2HJ**

**FIRST TUESDAY OF  
EACH MONTH  
10.00 HRS  
TO  
12 NOON**

**ROYAL AIR FORCE  
VETERANS  
AND THEIR  
GUESTS  
ARE WELCOME TO JOIN  
US**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT KEN NEEDHAM ON  
01462 671534 OR BY E MAIL AT [secretary@rafa\\_letchworth.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rafa_letchworth.org.uk)**

# **KNOW YOUR UNION FLAG**

A YouGov poll showed less than half of the UK population knows the history or even how to correctly fly the Union Flag ... which may also be called the Union Jack.

Because the Union Flag is not symmetric, many people unknowingly hang it upside down - so here's a handy guide, read on.

## **Flying The Union Flag Upside Down**

It is often said that when the union flag is flown upside down, it is a form of distress signal – a coded signal and should only be used as such.

In the UK, flying the flag upside down can be considered an insult, even if it was an honest mistake.

When shown two images of the Union Flag – one being flown the upside down, and one the correct way - only 45% of people who were asked could identify which was being flown incorrectly.

## **Do You Know The correct Way Up?**

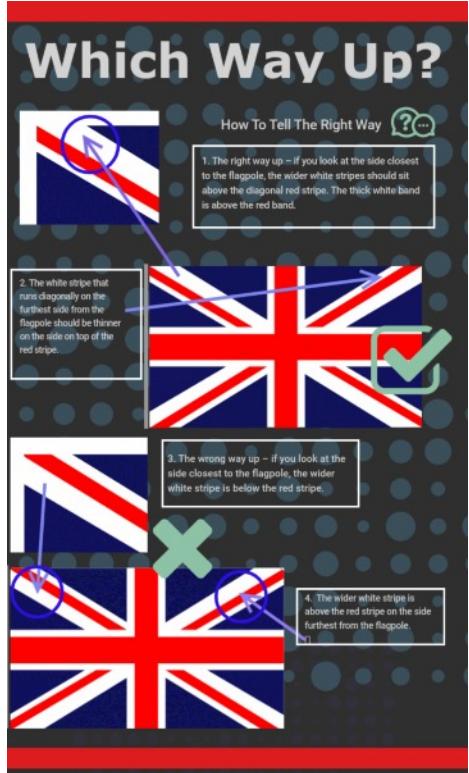
### **Why Is Wales Not Featured On The Union Flag?**

Wales is already represented by the Cross of St George - when the Union Flag was created, Wales had already been invaded and was part of the former Kingdom of England.

## **What Is The Difference Between The Union Jack And Union Flag?**

Some people believe it can only be called the Union Jack when it's sailed at sea, and when on land, it should be called the Union Flag.

Others argue that it should only be called the Union Jack when it is flown on a ship or vessel at sea, because a "jack" is a small flag that is hung over a mast on a boat.



## Why Is It Called The Union Jack?

So, the name is thought to be derived from the naval term 'jackstaff' - the small vertical spar (pole) on the bow of a ship, where the Union Jack is flown.

## When Can You Fly The Union Flag?

Flags should be flown every day of the year, from sunset, to sunrise.

If a flag is to be flown at night, it should be illuminated.

## Can You Fly The Union Flag In Your Garden?

You do not need to seek permission to fly the Union Flag, anyone can fly the flag and it is actively encouraged.

However, you may need to seek permission from your local council authority if you intend to plonk a huge flag pole in your front garden.

Due to high winds, flags may become torn or ripped. They should be replaced when this happens, as flying a soiled or damaged flag can be considered disrespectful.

## Laying The Union flag On A Coffin

The Union Flag is a form of respect - especially for those who have given their lives for their country. If you intend to lay the Union Flag upon a coffin, it should be placed so that the top left corner of the flag is over the deceased's left shoulder.

Article taken from :-

Forces Network <[forcesnews@bfbs.com](mailto:forcesnews@bfbs.com)>

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ALL  
MEMBERS OF THE LETCHWORTH,  
HITCHIN & DISTRICT BRANCH**



**AND A PROSPEROUS 2020**

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