

**IT IS WITH THE DEEPEST REGRET THAT WE HAVE TO
ANNOUNCE THE DEATH OF OUR VICE CHAIRMAN**

ALAN MILLARD



ALAN MILLARD 1944 - 2020

ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION
LETCHWORTH, HITCHIN & DISTRICT BRANCH
CONDOLENCES RECEIVED BY THE BRANCH

So very sorry. My condolences to his family.- **Lesley Starr**

R.I.P Alan - **Lisa Whitaker**

Condolences to all the family R.I.P - **Dean Meek**

So sorry to hear. A true gentleman. RIP Allan you will be missed. -
Letchworth branch RBL

Very sad news, he certainly will be missed. Condolences to his family and all at the branch. **Mick Larkman - Branch Support Officer**

Alan will be missed by all at the Letchworth, Hitching & District branch of RAFA, we have lost a true friend. My condolences to his family. - **Ken Needham**

Condolences from **Glenn Oxford Stowmarket Branch**

Please pass on our condolences from the Squadron. - **Emma Botden-Smith 1066 Hitchin ATC.**

Please give my condolences toMaureen. Its an awful time to have a funeral I hope all goes well for her. - **Paulene Collinson**

Many prayers and condolences to Maureen. - **Rev. Lindsay Dew**

We Have known each other for many years and both our families lived in Jackmans Place. Both him and my father were chairman of the local authorities. Please pass out condolences to Maureen and family - **Ewen & Paulene Kennedy**

I knew Alan from the time that I was on the Council and later when he was on the Cooperative Party members Crete. - **Headley Parkins**

Alan was born in 1944 in Letchworth, later moving to Walsworth, Hitchin.

I first came across Alan whilst I was a member of St Paul's Amateur Dramatic Society. Alan would come along to our shows or rehearsals and take photos for the Letchworth Pictorial.

Alan joined the local newspaper in 1968, which was later taken over by "The Comet" and retired 40 years later. He did however, continue photographing local events after his retirement.

He gained a BA., through the Open Universally

In 2006 he became interested in the local politics, and was elected to the North Herts District Council for Hitchin Walsworth Ward in 2007. During his time as a councillor he held the office of Chairman of the Council, known as Mayor in some councils) a position of which he was very proud.

He had many interests in North Herts, one of which was R.A.F.A. He was a member of the Royal Observer Corps, a position that made him eligible to serve as a member of the Association.

At this year's Annual General Meeting he was elected to the position of Vice Chairman, a post he was looking forward to. Due to Covid-19 measures and the consequent lack of branch committee meetings he was never able to fulfil this position.

His wife, Maureen, is also a member of the branch as an associate member.

His funeral, which is being held under the Covid-19 regulations will be attended by our Standard Bearer, Mark Howell.

It is the wish of Maureen, and the family that after the regulation on gatherings is lifted, it is intended to hold a memorial service for Alan at St Faith's church, Hitchin, in view of the many who wish to show their respect to a highly thought of community member.

Alan you will be sadly missed by all of your friends at R.A.F.A.

We will advise you of the Memorial Service date as soon as it is known.

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

**ROYAL
AIR FORCES
Association**

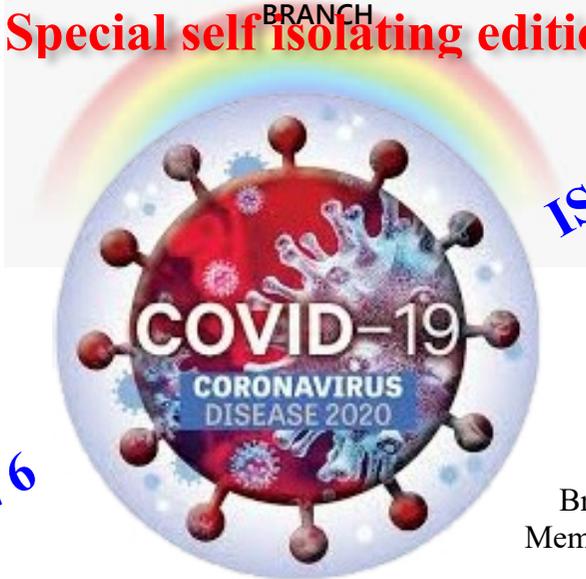
**SPECIAL
ELECTRONIC
EDITION**

The charity that supports the RAF family

RAFAGEN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LETCHWORTH, HITCHIN & DISTRICT

BRANCH
Special self isolating edition



ISSUE 6

ISSUE 6

Branch
Membership

186



Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

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

RAFAGEN

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



ROYAL AIR FORCES' ASSOCIATION LETCWORTH , HITCHIN & DISTRICT

BRANCH OFFICIALS FOR 2020

Vice President:- Dennis Dawson

Chairman:- W.O. Shaun Griffin

Vice Chairman:-

Secretary:- Ken Needham

Assistant Secretary:- Marie Mahoney

Treasurer:- Ken Needham

Wings Appeal Officer:- Roy Newbury

Branch Welfare Officer: Mark Howell

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

Membership Secretary:- Headley Parkins

Branch Padre:- Rev. Canon Lindsay Dew

Contact details :- Tel :- 01462742165

email :- lindsay.dew@btinternet.com

General Committee:

Dean Meek ; Donna Cook ; John Airey ;

Lesley Starr ;

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

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

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



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

Whenever members send me stories, I like to pop in a few photographs to add to the interest. Last issue I wrote about an experience that took place in Hitchin with a D.I., from Square Bashing days.

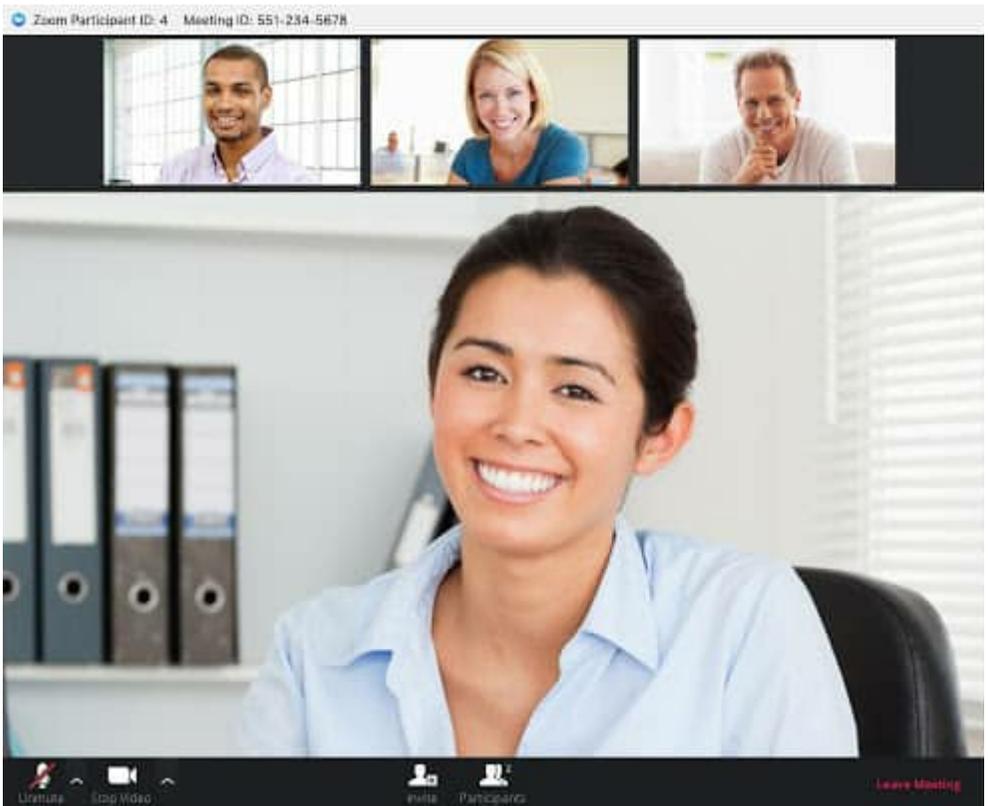
I thought a picture was needed, so I searched the www for a photo relating to R.A.F. West Kirby, the station where I was trained on how to bash the square. I found one and duly included it in the last issue. It wasn't until after publication that I took a closer look at the chosen photo, and to my amazement I was one of the airmen grouped around one of the two forms of heating in the billet. I do not remember the picture being taken, but then again it was 66 years ago. I dread to think how many more there are floating around in the www.



A test for a virtual NAAFI BREAK has been set up and should that test be successful we will go live and have regular meetings via our computers, until such times that we can get back to the Par 3 Golf Centre.

The programme we have chosen is ZOOM. My son and I have had a few sessions to iron out any problems. (In actual fact it was to ensure that, I as host, knew what buttons to press). It all seems simple. To join the group

all you will need is the session number, the password and the time. Because we are using the “free” service we only get 40 minutes air time, although on occasions my son and I have gone over. Once the test is over, and we have no problems, and I can’t see any at the moment, I will inform as many members as possible of the timing. All I ask is that you inform me that you are interested, I then send you an official invitation. All you then have to do is, at the required time, click on a button on the invitation, enter the details you have been given, and I should see you on my computer and hopefully you see me, ready for a chat. You don’t have to have an invitation, only the session number and the password. I’m looking forward to meeting you again.



This is how the screens should look. Only the girl is better looking than me.

2020

PATHFINDER

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14 - 20 June 2020

**HELP RAISE MONEY FOR RAFA BY RUNNING OR
WALKING 46 MILES IN 7 DAYS**

<https://www.justgiving.com/team/Lockdown-Pathfinder>

If you would like to take part, please contact Cpl
Jayne Green or Cpl Victoria Young

Lockdown Pathfinder
2020's JustGiving
Page



There are many of us RAFALOs and RAF personnel (and civilians) from across the world that are raising money for RAFA by taking part in the Lockdown Pathfinder 2020 project, as the actual Pathfinder Walk was cancelled this year.

The poster on the previous page gives details of how people can donate via Just Giving. They can donate generally or to an actual individual taking part, of which I am one of them and I would love to see more donations against my name!!!

Best wishes, stay safe!

FS Jay Taylor |

FS TDF RAF Honington | Bury St Edmunds | Suffolk | IP31 1EE | Skype and Email: Jay.Taylor164@mod.gov.uk

Best of luck on your walk, Jay. - Editor





Project HELPLINE

Having no one to talk to can be incredibly isolating, particularly if you're used to sharing your home and time with others. We know that shielding and self-isolation due to COVID-19 is causing many people among our RAF community to feel very lonely. Something as simple as a friendly chat can make all the difference.

We are determined to ensure that no single member of our community is alone and struggling through these difficult times.

We are providing a freephone friendship line for anyone in our RAF community to call if you are feeling isolated, in need of more specific support, or simply want to chat with someone who understands.

We can also arrange for a dedicated friend from our amazing army of volunteers to make regular telephone contact.

If you need someone to talk to, please call 0800 018 2361 or email opconnect@rafa.org.uk.

To volunteer your services to our friendship helpline or to become a telephone befriender, please email opconnect@rafa.org.uk.

We are here and will continue to be here for anyone that needs us. We are united, standing shoulder to shoulder with our RAF community in these times of crisis.



The Branch have a number of books which they would like to offer to members at a set price, a donation or free of charge.

Each publication of RAFAGEN we will offer a few books. If you are interested please contact Ken Needham



Item 1. A complete set (18 volumes) of the part works **AIRPLANE**. A must read for all aircraft enthusiasts.

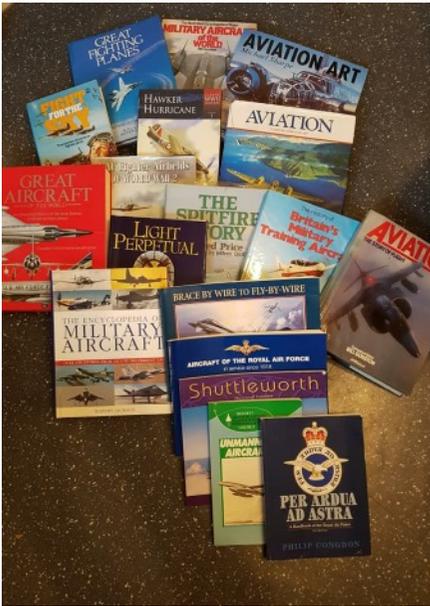
Crammed full of pictures, technical data and history of most if not all aircraft. - **Offers**

More books will be posted in the next issue. If you are interested in any books please contact Ken Needham.

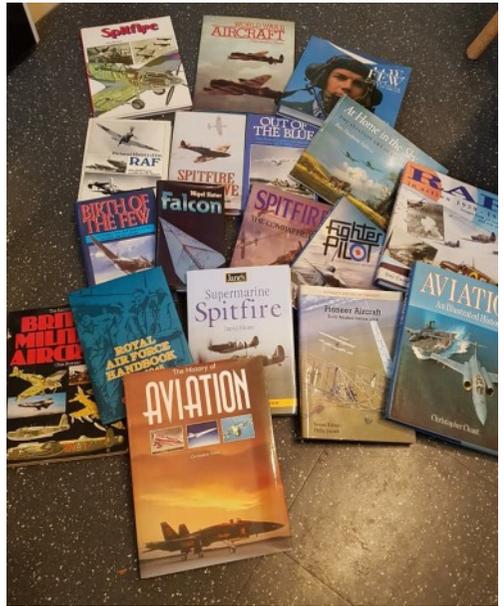
More on the next page



Item 2 **The Falklands War** is another part works this time all in one volume. It gives a blow by blow account of one of the most gripping stories of recent years. - **Offers**



Lot 1



Lot 2

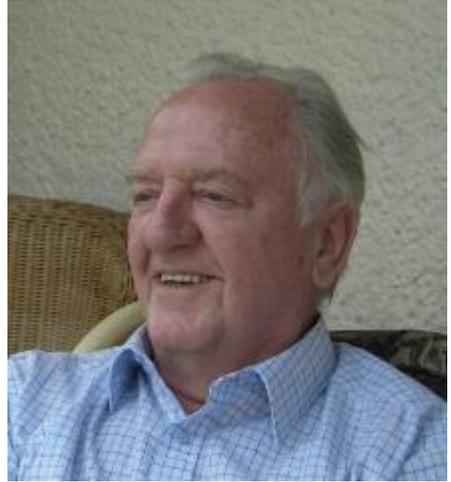
These books are part of a donated personal collection, they are in great condition, collection only from Letchworth. .

Lot 1 - fabulous aviation book sale - proceeds of the sale will to go Letchworth Hitchin & Dist Royal Air Forces' Association charity welfare fund. Price for this lot of 17 aviation hard backs and 1 soft magazine is £30 ovno.

Lot 2 - fabulous aviation book sale - proceeds of the sale will to go Letchworth Hitchin & Dist Royal Air Forces' Association charity welfare fund. Price for this lot of 13 aviation hard backs and 5 soft magazines is £30 ovno.

Interested parties, please contact Ken Needham

Congratulations to two birthday boys



ERIC FITTON ENJOYS HIS 98th BIRTHDAY

WHILST

DERECK LARKIN ENJOYS HIS 92nd BIRTHDAY



AND A BIRTHDAY GIRL



REQUIRE THE SERVICES OF OUR NEW WELFARE OFFICER?

Here are the contact details of the branch Welfare Officer :-

Mark Howell

Tel :-07874015229

email :- markhowell65@gmail.com

If you need to contact Mark urgently and he is not available, contact the branch secretary, Ken Needham



LETCWORTH COVID-19 VOLUNTEERS

A group of volunteers from the Letchworth, Hitchin & District branch of R.A.F.A.

An intercepted note from our Chairman to the volunteers who are looking after the 70's within the branch. I think they deserve it.

Hey shout out - Branch Volunteers, you're doing an amazing job. I know it's time consuming and for those who balance life/work, a big sincere thank you.

As previously stated beers on me at the end of this madness

TELEPHONE NUMBERS YOU NEED TO KNOW - JUST IN CASE

LOCALLY

MARK HOWELL WELFARE OFFICER

0787 401 5229

E MAIL [*markhowell65@gmail.com*](mailto:markhowell65@gmail.com)

REV. CANON LINDSAY DEW - BRANCH PADRE

0754 587 8082

E MAIL [*lindsay.dew@btinternet.com*](mailto:lindsay.dew@btinternet.com)

KEN NEEDHAM - ACTING BRANCH COORDINATOR

01462 671 534

EMAIL [*secretary@rafa-leitchworth.org.uk*](mailto:secretary@rafa-leitchworth.org.uk)

NATIONALLY

R.A.F.A. HEAD QUARTERS -

0800 018 2361

Or

0116 266 5224.

Going through some old copies of RAFAGEN, I came across this item.

Arthur Peters, who was known to lots of members, as he was a very active member in earlier years. What many of you may not know is that he was a very good poet. So much so that his daughter had a number put into print. The other week, via his daughter, a copy of the book of Arthur's poems arrived on my desk, for onward shipment to our President, Gordon Collinson, who had been a friend of Arthur's for many years. Before the book's onward journey, I asked if I could take copies for inclusion in the newsletter, and so this is one of them which was under the title "AIR FORCE 1941" and relates to his time at R.A.F. Bibury. I don't know if the incident to which he refers in this poem actually happened, but if it did the 'boys' at Bibury certainly seemed to enjoy themselves.

LEISURE HOURS (BIBURY)

The free refreshments weren't all that hot
And the hired band were a pretty poor lot
So we weren't really sorry, when quite by chance
A catastrophe broke up their Saturday dance
And it wasn't the pity it might have been
That chaos ensued in the church canteen.

For how could we know that the vicar's daughter's
Father permitted her nothing but water
Or how on one smuggled-in gin with her tea
She would want to impersonate Gypsy Rose Lee
And when for a start, she stepped out of her gown
We were caught with our metaphysics down.

An ominous silence hung over the hut
The curate appeared to be doing his nut
And his eyes, p'raps I'm wrong, seemed to slide out of line
But the vicar was dialling 999.
So we left in a hurry, the lady too,
For want of anything better to do.

A half-tiled room in the yard of the 'Fleece'
Offered sanctuary from the city police

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For some or be drunk was the rule of the day
And fists against truncheons was never our way

When the rumpus died down it was getting quite late
So we leaned her half-dressed on the vicarage gate.

Retribution was swift in the dining hall porch
While discussing the previous night's debauch
We were leapt upon, manacled, flung into the clink,
For the vicar had raised a most terrible stink
And had offered us free his professional time
At a messy internment in unslaked lime
We escaped with an hour in the Officer's mess
In exchange for her measurements, name and address



Royal Air Force Bibury may no longer be there, but the “Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust” have erected this plinth at what would have been the main gate of the camp.