

ANZAC Remembrance Ceremony

Three Branch members turned out on St. George's Day, 23rd April, to attend the annual ANZAC memorial ceremony at Chevington Cemetery in Northumberland. Pictured L - R, Maggie Lawlor, Paul Rodway and Joan Geeson made the trip from Hartlepool for the 2pm service. The event honours the airmen of Australia and New Zealand who were stationed here and gave their lives during World War II. This annual event is organised by Newcastle & Gateshead Branch and was attended by around 150 people. Music was provided by the Backworth Colliery Band.

The service was led by the padre from RAF Boulmer, with Mr. Sid Graham as master of ceremonies. Representatives from both countries were present and the National Anthems of Australia, New Zealand and Great Britain were played. The wreath for Hartlepool Branch was laid by Maggie Lawlor.

The lower photo shows (L-R) Sqn Ldr Sander, RAAF, Wing Commander Best, OC RAF Boulmer, Sqn Ldr Price, RNZAF, and Mr. Christopher James, RAFA Newcastle & Gateshead Branch.

The ceremony concluded with a march past of service personnel and veterans when the salute was taken by Air Commodore Richard Corney, President of Newcastle & Gateshead Branch, accompanied by the antipodean guests. Afterwards, all were invited to take refreshments at the Trap Inn.



CANADIAN MEMORIAL EVENT

The annual memorial for the Canadians who served at RAF Middleton St. George during WWII was held in the garden of remembrance at Teesside Airport on Saturday 10th June. The chairman of the Memorial Association, Geoff Hill, was master of ceremonies and the service was led by Rev. Sqn Ldr David Haslam from RAF Leeming.

The Branch was represented by vice chairman, Paul Rodway. Wreath laying was led by Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Ms Pam Royle. The event closed with a march-past by the Standards and cadets, and was followed by a social buffet lunch in the airport terminal building. As on many previous occasions, this was an event for meeting comrades and new, and swapping stories.

WANTED: NEW BRANCH WELFARE OFFICERS

The RAF Association was established to provide welfare support for the members of the "RAF Family" (Beneficiaries) who need and seek our support during times of difficulties. Hartlepool Branch welfare support is provided by our two experienced Branch Welfare Officers, Dave Stacey and Peter McGraghan. Both have been fulfilling their welfare duties for many years and will continue to do so for the immediate future. However, to maintain the Branch's welfare services it is essential we look to the future and have a clear plan of succession for our Branch Welfare Officers. The position is a voluntary unpaid position; however, expenses are paid for petrol and miscellaneous expenditure. Use of a car is desirable as some of the work involves travelling to beneficiaries' homes. Access and use of computers is also very desirable as the training and welfare applications are based on an online system. Any Branch member who can offer a few hours a week to help members of the Branch who seek our support please contact Dave Stacey, Branch Welfare Officer for an informal chat regarding the role. Mob 07907 874654. No special qualifications are necessary and all relevant training will be provided.

ROTHBURY HOUSE SHELTERED FLATS ACCOMMODATION

Rothbury House flats are slowly filling up but there are still several vacancies. In the meantime, three flats are being made available for short term use by members of the RAF family who would like to enjoy a short break or a longer stay to experience Rothbury House hospitality. These are being advertised as 'Taster Stays' for a few days at a time.



However, you must have independent mobility and not require personal care or assistance from staff as Rothbury House does not any longer provide these services. Unfortunately, no excursions or entertainment is provided as was the case when Rothbury House was a respite home.

Cost for a stay is likely to be full board £93.50p per person per day, or £125 per day for a couple sharing. Other rates such as B & B or half board are available on application. If anyone is interested, please contact Colin Lee, RAFA Rothbury House, Tel No 01669 227027 or 07557 643414 or email colin.lee@rafa.org.uk.

STANDARD BEARER COMMENDED

Our Branch Standard Bearer, Mr. Dene Gillespie, has attended many formal events since he took on the role and this has been recognised by The Association with the presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation.

The Standard Bearer is an important member of the Branch, as he represents all of the members at many formal events. Dene has attended many Armed Forces Days, Military Funerals, Memorials, and Celebrations, always as the most visible member of Hartlepool Branch. We send him our congratulations wish him continued success in the years to come.



FAREWELL FAT ALBERT

The Hercules, C130 is featured as our lead aircraft in this issue, to mark its departure from RAF Service. A final flight

across the UK was carried out on Wednesday 14th June visiting many pertinent sites. Many of us will have memories of working or travelling with "Herc Air".

CORONATION CAPERS

The Branch brought together as many members as possible on Saturday 6th May for the regular Breakfast Club, this time with a big difference. Everyone dressed up with bowlers and tiaras to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. Everyone enjoyed their choice of the Full English and took part in a Royal Quiz before settling in to watch the coronation on the large screen television.

Margaret Stacey won the quiz and received her prize, a commemorative tin of chocolates, bearing the King's picture, at the following Breakfast Club on 3 June.

The Breakfast Club is open to all Branch Members on the first Saturday of each month at the Brewers Fayre on Hartlepool Marina. Further details on page 4.



In Memoriam

The Branch marks with sadness the passing of these Members. We will remember them.

John Dickinson

Died 12 April 2023

RAF No. 4106017 Cpl Pay Accounts 1952 - 55

Ordinary Member for 53 years

Bert Stather

Died 28 November 2022

RAF No 4000759 Safety Surface Trade Served 1946 - 55

Life Member

Bernard Povey

Died 9 June 2023 Age 91yrs

RAF No 3513952 Cpl MT Fitter 1952 - 56

Ordinary Member for 15 years



LOOKING FORWARD

BRANCH AND PUBLIC EVENTS

Armed Forces Day - Saturday 24 June. As part of the commemoration, a Flag Raising Ceremony will be held at the Heugh Battery; meet at 10:15 for 11:00 am start.

Tall Ships Event - 6 to 9 July. The Branch will have a stall in the 'Armed Forces Village' area on each day of the event and we are looking for volunteers to help run the stall. Any members who are interested please contact Hazel. A duty shift will not be longer than 4 hours on any day.

Wings Appeal Collections - Please see the article below.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Breakfast Club: First Saturday of each month from 9:30am. Brewers Fayre, West Quay, Hartlepool. Pay on the day (£5.00 instead of £9.50) - all you can eat buffet breakfast.

Garden Party: Saturday 22 July at 2:00pm. 14 Oxford Street, Hartlepool. Theme 'The Italian Job'. Tickets £5, limited numbers.

For all social event bookings, please contact social secretary, Hazel Davis, on 01429 551193 / stepinout@live.co.uk



The Branch will continue with Wings Appeal fund raising and arrangements are in progress with local stores for collection days. This work cannot continue without people to help run the stalls and engage with the public. We have some collection dates (below) and will be looking for volunteers for a half day to help with the fund-raising. We may need to call on people at short

notice so please contact Hazel (details above) to discuss availability.

Wings Appeal 2023 started on 15 November 2022 and the first donation was received from John Dauncey, Coordinator of Hartlepool United FC Community Veterans HUB. The Veterans HUB is open to all Ex Service Veterans and is held each Monday 2pm at the Hartlepool FC Café, situated in the club's car park. Photo shows John presenting Branch Treasurer Dave Stacey with £20.



Wings Appeal Collections:

- Morrisons Hartlepool, 25 & 26 August.
- Middleton Grange Shopping Centre, 15 & 16 September. TBC
- Asda Portrack 29 & 30 September.
- Morrisons Hartlepool, 8 & 9 December.

Contact Details

Phone: 07907 874654
or web site
www.hartlepoolrafa.com

Branch Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 7pm. Committee meeting at 6:30pm

We meet at
Ye Olde Durham's Social Club
St Aidans Street
Hartlepool TS25 1SN

Free street parking at rear