

ROYAL AIR FORCES Association

The charity that supports the RAF family
EREWASH BRANCH 884 OF THE RAFA

The last active branch in Derbyshire

Registered Charity No 1076412

www.erewashrafa.co.uk

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<https://www.facebook.com/884welfare>

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2016

BRANCH OFFICIALS 2016 / 2017

President	M Clulow	Tel. 01332 872500
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Asst. Social Secretary	G Lamb (Mrs)	Tel. 0115 9326122
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Branch Webmaster	N Scotting	Tel. 0115 9469522
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BRANCH ACTIVITIES

Several members attended a party at the Drop in Centre to celebrate the Queens 90th birthday on 21st April, you can see photos of the event on the 884Welfare Facebook page and the branch website (links on the first page).

At the Breaston May Day Gala on the 2nd May several members braved the rain to man a stall advertising the branch.

The Welfare team organised a holiday to Torquay on the 24th April and you can read about it in more detail on page 3. Following the success of this another holiday has been arranged to the same hotel from 25th September to 1st October, the cost will be £330.00 and anyone who is interested should contact Marian as soon as possible, a £25 per person deposit will be required to secure a room.

The Long Eaton Rotary Club are holding an afternoon tea at Trent College on the 4th June to celebrate the Queens Official Birthday and branch members have been invited to fill 2 tables. If interested see Marian Robinson, the cost will be £10.

There will be a trip out on Wednesday 27th July for Lunch at Sudbury Prison (see Branch website for menu) followed by a visit to Byrkley Park Garden Centre. The cost will be £20 (by cheque payable to 884 RAFA holiday account) with lunch choice by 1st July to Marian or Steve.

On 20th August the Branch will hold a Fun Day at the Erewash Valley Model Railway site at Borrowash with unlimited train rides and cream tea , entry by ticket only £5. Youtube video of site

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nVC44CxW7fc> .

The Band Concert this year will be held on Friday the 2nd September at May Hall, Trent College featuring the Derby Concert Band. Tickets £10 from any committee member.

There will be a day trip to Whitby on Wednesday 14th September which will cost £15 coach fare. Contact Marian or Steve to book.

WELFARE DROP IN CENTRE

The centre is at 91 Grasmere Road, Long Eaton NG10 4DZ next door to Petersham Community Centre.

On Tuesday 17th May a group of 11 members who had passed their 80th birthday enjoyed a get together and soup and sandwich. There was a Coffee Morning on Friday 20th May and on 26th May a cruise on the River Trent with lunch served onboard.

On Wednesday 1st June there was another very successful Lancaster Day

(AKA beetle drive) followed by lunch of fish & chips.

There will be a Knit & Natter group starting for people with Rheumatism or arthritis in their hands to do arm knitting and finger knitting. Do not worry if you do not know how, all will be explained.

If you have further ideas how to use the centre please get in touch with **Marian 01332 677162** or **Steve 07531115915** and leave a message.

The Centre can be reached by Indigo Bus (**Briar Gate**) from The Green, Long Eaton. The bus stops outside.

WELFARE

Members please note that the Respite Homes are now called Wings Break Hotels. Book now for your summer break.

There is a need for members to visit other members in hospital and/or transport visitors to and from hospital. Do you feel able to assist with this?

There are spaces available at the exercise sessions held every Tuesday at the Rutland Sports Park, Ilkeston. This is an ideal way to keep fit and active for members of any age in a friendly atmosphere. A member of staff is on hand to help and advise. A ten week taster is now offered, free of charge.

The Welfare team would like to compile a record of members service number and dates of service to assist them in providing suitable support.

If you are interested in any of the above please contact Marian on 01332 677162 or Steve on 07531115915 and leave your number and they will call you back .

TORQUAY HOLIDAY 24th April 2016

The holiday was at the Howden Court Hotel which is run by the family who own it.

Our holiday started with a taxi ride to the Drop-In Centre in Long Eaton where the Howden Court coach was waiting for us. We left Long Eaton at 11am and stopped for lunch in Evesham. Following another stop at Taunton Services we arrived in Torquay at 4.30 pm.

On arrival at the hotel we were greeted by the family and given a welcome cup of tea or coffee whilst the luggage was being off loaded. After dinner in the evening, light entertainment was provided by the staff.

Monday was a “rest” day after the journey the day before! Some of our members decided to go on the boat to Brixham as the sea was quite calm. Others caught the bus to Paignton where they boarded the steam train for

Kingswear and then the ferry across to Dartmouth, whereupon one of our members met someone from her home village. It does not seem to matter where you go these days but you bump into someone you know- so be careful!! After an enjoyable day where everyone did what they wanted we settled down to another lovely meal and entertainment by the hotel staff again. Due to a seagull liking Irene's coat she kept winning at bingo, much to her embarrassment!

Tuesday was a full days outing. In the morning we travelled through the lovely Devonshire countryside to the Donkey Sanctuary which looks after 600 donkeys. Although they have to raise all the money to look after them they are hoping to have 1000 by the year 2020. At lunch time we left to go to the town of Sidmouth where some of us encamped in a hotel on the seafront while others went into the town and found the delicious “cake shops” . Although it was a cold day everyone enjoyed themselves.

Wednesday was a winters day. Rain, hail, snow, wind and a short glimpse of the sun. As someone said only in Great Britain could you have four seasons in one day!! However there was a half day trip arranged to the House of Marble which everyone found most fascinating, we also called in at a Mill where you could buy almost anything. In the evening we all went to the Babbacombe Theatre where the programme was a laugh from beginning to end. This was a late night for everyone as we did not come out of the theatre until 10.30 pm.

Thursday was a full day to Dartmoor and Tavistock. This was an optional tour, those members who went on it enjoyed the spring flowers which were blooming everywhere. They found the places they visited were all interesting, including the Pixies garden which, of course, was full of Pixies!!

Friday was another free day to do what we liked. Once again some went to Brixham whilst others spent the day in and around Torquay. Two of our members even went bowling! We had all been warned in advance that Friday night would be called a “Posh night” and everyone was expected to be dressed in their “Best Bib and Tucker”. We were celebrating 3 birthdays falling during the week, so a large chocolate cake with candles was produced during the evening. Irene being the only lady celebrating, the other two were gentlemen, was given the honour of blowing the candles out.

Saturday morning soon came round, and we said our farewells to the family and staff who had looked after us so well for the past week.

After stopping in Bristol Services for a leg stretch we eventually arrived , once again, in Evesham for our lunch break. As several members wished to have a better look round the town we stayed there for one and three quarters of

an hour. We arrived back in Long Eaton safe and sound at about 4 pm. We said our goodbyes and thanks for a safe journey home and for his careful driving over the past week to our driver, Kevin.

It would be very remiss if we did not say a big **thank you** to Marian, our Welfare Officer, who arranged a lovely holiday for us all. Her detailed planning is exceptional and was greatly appreciated by us all. As anyone who has had to arrange anything will know, these events do not just happen, they all have to be well thought out and arranged beforehand. So WELL DONE Marian.

Doreen Wood

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RAFA MEMBERSHIP ITEMS, GIFTS & MEMORABILIA

The Branch holds a limited stock of items i.e. ties, badges & blazer badges.
Contact Pat Scotting after a branch meeting or by telephone on **0115 9469522**.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

7 th July	Branch Meeting	Risley Park	7.30	
27 th July	Trip to Sudbury Prison and Byrkley Garden centre			£20
4 th August	Branch Meeting	Risley Park	7.30	
20 th August	Miniature Steam Train Day			£5
1 st September	Branch Meeting	Risley Park	7.30	
2 nd September	Band Concert at Trent College		7.30	£ 10
14 th September	Day Trip to Whitby by coach			£15
25 th September	Holiday to Torquay by coach		£25 deposit	£330
6 th October	Branch Meeting	Risley Park	7.30	

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, then it dawned on me!

Santa Claus has the right idea, only visit people once a year. Victor Borge

When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, IT WILL.

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