May 2014
The Last Five Years - 30 years on!

Hambledon Village in flood - see page 10
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who’s who in the
RAF Police Association - 2014

Hon. President
Air Cdre Andrew Jonathan Hall MBE
MA RAF

Hon. Vice President
Gp Capt Kevin Roy Bailey
BA(Hons) RAF PM(RAF)/Cdr RAFF

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Neil Rusling E Mail: neil@neilrusling.com
David Wardell E Mail: membershipsec@rafpa.com
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Group Captain Kevin Bailey joined the Royal Air Force (RAF) in 1984 and after initial police training, was posted to RAF Marham on nuclear security and general police duties. Further service followed with 5 years working on general police, counter-intelligence and counter-terrorism duties at RAF Wildenrath, Germany. Selected for a commission in 1991, he was appointed the Station Security Officer at RAF Sealand. In 1994, he assumed the appointment of Officer Commanding Counter-Intelligence Flight with RAF Provost and Security Services (Southern Region) conducting counter-espionage and counter-terrorism duties in London and the southeast of England. Whilst in this appointment he was deployed on counter-intelligence duties in Bosnia with the Allied Counter-Intelligence Unit.

In 1996, he moved to the NATO appointment of Staff Officer Security at HQ AIRNORTHWEST at RAF High Wycombe. In this appointment, he was responsible for inspections of the operational force protection standards of NATO units throughout Europe and Canada. This was followed by an operational tour in Saudi Arabia supporting air operations in Iraq. On return, he had a short appointment as OC RAF Police Flight at RAF Cosford before promotion in 2000 and assuming the appointment of Provost Marshal (Cyprus) and Officer Commanding of the Cyprus Joint Police Unit (CJPU) in 2001. He commanded the CJPU whilst Cyprus operated as a Coalition base during the invasion of Iraq in 2003. In 2004, he completed an operational tour with the UK Air Component HQ in the Middle East as the Staff Officer Security and Component Provost Marshal.

He returned to the UK in July 2004 and took command of the RAF Police Counter-Intelligence Squadron within HQ Provost and Security Services, which became No 1 RAF Police Wing on 1 April 2005. On promotion in April 2006, he became the Security Co-ordinator for the Royal International Air Tattoo before returning to command the No 1 RAF Police Wing on 6 November 2006. In 2008, he was the Security Commander for the presentation of the Queen’s Colour to the RAF by HM Queen and the Project Officer for the Royal Review of the RAF Police. He was also responsible for co-ordinating the successful inspection of the RAF Special Investigations Branch by Her Majesty’s Inspector of Constabularies in 2009.

In August 2009 he assumed the post of Chief CJ5 Afghan National Police with the Combined Security Transition Command Afghanistan in Kabul. On his return in 2010 he held an appointment within the Development, Concept and Doctrine Centre where he was responsible for writing and maintaining the UK doctrine on understanding, intelligence and culture, including producing JDP 04 Understanding and JDP 2-00 Understanding and Intelligence Support to Joint Operations. During 2011, he undertook advanced staff training on the Strategic Command Course at Bramshill Police College. Promoted in 2012, he returned to Kabul as the Director P5 with the NATO Training Mission–Afghanistan responsible for Afghan National Police strategic planning for the Deputy Commander Police. In February 2013, he assumed the appointment of Director of the Joint Narcotics Analysis Centre responsible for providing intelligence assessments on Afghan drugs trade and associated threat finance to US and UK strategic decision-makers. He was appointed PM(raf) and Commander RAF Police on 25 November 2013.

Group Captain Bailey is the Director of the RAF Police Museum. His interests include history, motor sports, equitation, English rugby and gardening. He is married to Elma and they have 2 teenage sons.
Taff Phillips writes ref letter submitted by Clifford Sweet (page 5, Jan issue)

Medals are obtainable from three sources.
1. Fisher Patton and the Red Baron, Tel No. 01745 591805 or email at alan@fisherpattonwanadoo.co.uk or www.fisherpattonandtheredbaron.co.uk
2. Award Productions Ltd., PO Box 300 Shrewsbury, SY5 6WP or www.fisherpattonandredbaron.co.uk
3. Service Commemoratives, PO Box 4, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 3ZT, Tel No. 01455 239262, www.servicecomm.co.uk and email info@servicecomm.co.uk.

I hope any member who wishes to wear and keep medals, contact these firms, as I have had very good service from them.

Margaret Tucker sent in this picture of her dad on his wedding day. Derek says it looks like the uniform of the Royal Flying Corps, which he thought was the original name of the RAF. She also sent a postcard of RAF Halton c1925 where her Dad served.

A date for your diaries... Armed Forces Day - June 29, 2014, it is significant for several reasons, the 70th anniversary of D-Day, the 350th anniversary of the Royal Marines, the centenary of of the outbreak of WW1 and not without merit the 30th anniversary of the RAFPA.

Is your Branch organising or arranging a special event to celebrate? Is any individual planning anything special to celebrate any of the anniversaries? If so please let the Editor know.
more letters to the editor

On Tuesday 10th December 2013 the South Downs Branch held their usual Christmas Lunch at the Blind Veterans UK Restaurant. It was a great success with a very good meal, plenty of repartee and a well supported raffle. Two presentations were made, to Ted Hellewell for all his work as the National Chairman and a light-hearted, but well earned, promotion to ‘acting sergeant’ for Tony Harbour. A small present was laid at each lady’s place and each gentleman had a blank F252. Each member was encouraged to make out a charge, the funniest would be awarded a small prize (a bottle of Sherry).

With ‘no names no pack drill’, here are a few samples, with much hilarity when they were read out. One or two members admitted to not having filled one out before. “At Ovingdean failing to be drunk and disorderly at the RAFPA Christmas lunch”. “Peeing up against the CO’s car after Airmen’s Dinner Dance” (This was possibly an historical one). “Being in possession of ginger hair”. “Fooling the general public with a stuffed dog”, “Being a Yorkshire RMP and failing to open his wallet”. Another historical one, “Being propositioned while on patrol in the ‘Gut’ – 1949! Joining in the first place. 1954”. “Failing to apprehend a missing NAAFI piano”. “Being in possession of an offensive looking wife in a public place”, “Caught licking his plate after an excellent Xmas lunch”. “Flatulation and blaming the dog”. “Improperly dressed on patrol, ie. Wearing a pink dress, pink bonnet, stockings and suspenders, pink shoes with A/D Sweetie (a pink poodle)”. “Allowing hair to be trampled on by Station Police due to excessive length”. “Permitting his police dog to defecate on the CO’s lawn during the hours of darkness”, possibly another historical one? The winner by general vote “For repeatedly playing pocket billiards in uniform at National events”. We wended our ways in the late afternoon after a thoroughly enjoyable time together.

Submitted by: Dave Hilton

Members of SWAB, enjoying their Festive Lunch held at The Hunting Lodge, near Plymouth.
Chairman John Walton, is pictured 2nd left. Five of their members also took part in the march at the Cenotaph, they were John Walton, Derek Shapland, Alan Cook, George Poad and Alan Weeks.
Submitted by: Margaret Shapland-Tucker
Steve Lamacraft writes in respect of the debate regarding LAC to Cpl. My own take was that I served as an LAC until passing the SAC’s exam, and only then was I promoted to SAC/ACpl/U. I only managed to get my tapes up just before the presentation of the awards for the 69 NEAF Dog Trials. This has always been the reason for Jim Henry’s crack about an LAC handler winning the 69 Trials, as I was still rated as an LAC both during the prelims and the finals. I have always wondered who’s nose I put out of joint at Big A as my home posting was changed and I never served on dogs again until I transferred to RMP and took over the Dog Section of 2nd Regiment RMP as part of ADU(NI).

Michael Onley-Smith was interested in the letter regarding the passing out of RAF Police without chevrons. At RAF Manby in 1956, John Bates was posted in as an LAC policeman. He was later promoted to SAC.

He suffered terrible humiliation at the hands of airmen and NCO’s and strangely, members of the WRAF were the worst. There were instances of prisoners refusing to obey his commands and he was supposed to enforce discipline in general. What a ridiculous situation dreamed up by some naive senior officer. It became such that I as a Substansive Provost Cpl and others had to work in tandem with him to avoid both embarrassment and the loss of respect to him and the RAF police.

He completed his 2 years and hurriedly left whereupon he joined the Met and had a successful career. So much for bright ideas. The reason for giving RAF policemen Cpls tapes is self evident.

Some time ago, at one of the South Downs Branch meetings, a new Associate member, Jim Spiers, arrived. Apparently, his first reaction on seeing me, was ‘Not him again’. The story that he subsequently told me is as follows. He was stationed at RAF Thorney Island in the early 60s on the Beverley Servicing Flight. On a certain night the NAAFI was occupied by members of the Beverley and Hastings Flights. Each evening a RAF Policeman from the Guardroom would check the NAAFI at closing time and ensure that all rooms were vacated, this included some upstairs rooms. A dare was made by one flight against another that during the time it took for the ‘copper’ to go upstairs that they could remove the NAAFI piano. The dare was taken and the piano disappeared. Nothing came to light that night, but needless to say, when the manager came in the following morning, he happened to notice that he was minus one piano. This would have been reported to the Guardroom and an investigation begun. According to Jim a dog handler, Cpl Len Stone and I entered Jim’s billet, inviting him to an interview and escorted him across the barrack square, in front of all his pals, to the Guardroom. Well that is Jim’s story.

I was certainly at Thorney Island during the period that Jim was there. I have no recollection of this event and the disappearance of a NAAFI piano would not be easily forgotten. I have checked with two other RAFPA members who were at Thorney Island at the same time, neither of whom have any memory of this event. I am sure that Jim is not making the story up, but I think he is mistaken about my involvement. Is there anyone who has any ideas?

Submitted by: Dave Hilton
Clifford Sweet dug this old permit out. As a number of Dog-handlers remember in the 1950’s we had to travel with the dog in the guards-van. After the Royal Tournament I travelled the length of Britain collecting Alsation dogs from civilians, for potential recruitment as RAF Police dogs.

Alan Dart writes to say that he has sampled police life in three different ways! For three years (1955-58) as an RAF Policeman mostly at RAF Hawkinge. Dissatisfied with ‘civilian’ life he joined the Army in the Royal Military Police as a Redcap, after basic and trade training he completed four separate tours of Malaya. On return to the UK he served at the RMP Detachment near Folkestone before posting to BAOR brought his Army service to an end in the mid sixties. Not finished with police work, Alan joined the Brighton Borough Police Force, who were recognisable in their white blancoed summer helmets. Eventually the County force absorbed the smaller unit, but Alan stayed on until retirement in 2000.

Eric Harrison - National & SDB Secretary RAFPA writes, attached is an interesting photo of a horse drawn buggy with RAF Police markings on it. It was apparently purchased in Boston, Lincolnshire. The owner is keen to get some information on it. Any and all ideas to Eric.
Pete Caswell writes that his memory is better for events long ago but not so good for what happened yesterday!! The photograph on page 5 of January edition of The Griff submitted by Brian King. Pete says he can supply some of the names: Front row L/R Geoff Moffat, ? ? Taff Tait, WO Murray, ? Ray Lane, Ellis, Chico Robertson. Back row, L/R ? ? ? ? Darryl Plumridge ? ? Pete Caswell, Geordie Austen, ? ? ? ? Bob Doran. All of these chaps were a mix of Station Police and Dog Handlers. All the liquid refreshments were kept in a bath and covered in loads of ice. Pete is an ex Dog Handler and a member of Sgt Paddy Lyons FEAF Police Dog Demonstration Team. Ah, some good times and some not so good.

Founder Members

August this year sees the 30th Anniversary of the formation of the Association. To assist John Walton I am trying to identify the Founder members who are still with us (as members). Our early records are not that complete but with assistance of some of our older members I have been able to identify 15 thus far, they being:

Charlie Crossan, Brian ‘Dick’ Barton, Brian Burrows, Alec Beange, Barrie Clarke, Alan Millership, Brian Whitaker, Ray Orgill, Alex Flavell, Dave Eldridge, John Curtis, Rowley Coultaas, Jack Kemp, Dave Wise and Steve Cattell.

If you regard yourself as a Founder member and are not on the above list please let me know. If you think that there are other omissions from the list please also let me know. By ‘Founder Member’ we mean that the member concerned was either at the Meeting of August 1984 or sent their apologies.

Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Submitted by: Neil Rusling

Elizabeth Hornsby, daughter of David Brookman has written the following;

Thank you for your kind suggestion to provide a Guard of Honour for my father at his funeral in July 2013.

I apologise for the delay in writing, but have been left quite heartbroken since his demise.

I realise it is important for me to express my warm appreciation in bestowing the honour and recognising his many loyal years in the RAF Police.

Once again I offer my heartfelt thanks and wish all of you the very best.

Yours thankfully,
Elizabeth Hornsby

The ‘Saga’ rumbles on...

Alan Cross writes, having picked up a random copy of ‘The Griff’ from my collection of past copies I found, on page 7 of the September 2011 issue, an item about what was considered to be the smallest Guardroom, which was a Nissen hut at RAF Beaulieu in 1948.

Since I read every single word of every copy of ‘The Griff’ which I receive regularly I cannot think why I did not respond at the time, but, does anyone remember the MGR at RAF Stanbridge, an outstation of RAF CSA Bletchley? I was there in 1950 in the MGR which was a 12’ x 8’ wooden garden shed. Was there ever a Nissen hut smaller than that?
At the Defence Police College at Southwick Park recently, the first Church Parade especially for the RAFPA was held with four Standards on view. Representatives from H&D, Wiltshire, South Downs and London Home Counties Branches along with recruits from Netheravon Flight, permanent staff and Gp Capt Kevin Bailey, Provost Marshal, a respectful congregation listened intently to the Rev Ken Appleford, a member of H&D Branch. On completion, members gathered for a photograph outside the Church, before attending the Sgts Mess for 'Brunch'. At the Provost Marshals suggestion, several Association members visited some of the 82 RAF Police personnel, taken from all over the UK, who were assisting the Civilian Authorities with the 'flood relief' measure, especially in the village of Hambledon.

Obviously another photographic opportunity, another chance to promote the advantages of belonging to the RAFPA. See Front Cover Ed.
Once again RAFPA London Home Counties Branch joined members of the Royal Military Police Association for their annual parade at the Tower of London. Sadly the numbers from both associations who were marching were well down on previous years, with 1 National and 5 Branch Standards from the RMPA and 1 National and 1 Branch Standard from the RAFPA being paraded. In column the RMPA had 8 members marching but their numbers were boosted by Serving members and u/t Officer recruits. We in LHC had 5 marching in column, 2 Standard Bearers and a decidedly under employed Bill Veazey as our Parade Marshal. The parade was lead by the Green Hackle Pipe Band who were probably at the best that I have heard them this year. Whereas the low numbers did not hinder the parade too much the high winds did require that the Standards were paraded and shouldered, this ensured that they were still with us by the time we reached the Church.

This parade contains several real high points for the participants. To March behind a live Pipe Band, to Parade and represent the RAFPA inside one of London’s Greatest historical landmarks and to participate in a service in a Chapel Royal, the Chapel Royal of Saint Peter Ad Vincula, Tower of London. This Service is always well attended and it is greatly enhanced by the singing of one of the greatest chapel choirs I have ever heard.

Submitted by: Roy Laver
10th Anniversary of the Association National Standard

At RAF Halton, on Saturday 9 August 2014, the RAF Police Association will celebrate and commemorate, several important anniversaries. The first is the 30th Anniversary of the Association, which was established at a Meeting at RAF Newton on 11 August 1984. The second is the 10th Anniversary of the Dedication Service in St Georges Church at RAF Halton, of our National Standard in October 2004. Thirdly, and in conjunction with our Serving colleagues, we will commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the RAF Police role on D’ Day (6 June 1944) and subsequent operations throughout Europe. Fourthly, together we will commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War on 4 August 1914. “The Great War” and “The War to end Wars”.

Outline Programme:

08.30 - 09.30 - Gather in the Sgts Mess for coffee, tea and biscuits.
09.45 - All seated in St Georges Church, which is about 200 yards from the Sgts Mess.
10.00 - 10.30 - Church Service.
10.30 - View joint window in church and photographs outside front of church.
11.00 - March past VIPs. 2 contingents, Association and Serving RAF Police.
11.15 - RAF Police Dog Demonstration.
11.45 - RAF Police static capability display/demonstration.
12.45 - Finger buffet lunch in Sgts Mess.
15.00 - Flying display by Spitfire and Hurricane of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight from RAF Coningsby, Dispersal.

The finger buffet will cost £12.00 per head, which includes the arrival refreshments, finger buffet with tea and coffee and adequate staff gratuities. Some single room accommodation in Sgts Mess will be available for Friday and Saturday nights. 2 Single rooms sharing bathroom for £3.89 each per night. En suite single rooms for £9.00 per night. Food costs separate. RAF Halton accommodation cell: 01296 656163.

Meanwhile, please see page 22 for accommodation details.

On Saturday 9 August, we may drive straight to the Sgts Mess where RAF Police will register our cars. If we go to RAF Halton at any other time we MUST go to the Main Guardroom, register our car, and display the appropriate sticker. All members attending are requested to complete the enclosed A5 slip giving details of vehicles and those travelling. As usual, friends and families are welcome, although it is not the sort of event suitable for very young children.

This will be a formal occasion and members are requested to wear Association "uniform", with white beret, blazer, white shirts Association tie, grey trousers and black shoes. The latter may be highly polished, or even bulled (if you can remember how!!). But any reasonable dress is fine, including medals.

The church service will be conducted by an RAF chaplain, assisted by members Rev Ken Appleford (HD & IOW) and Rev Jeremy (Jez) Safford (MAB). This is a very special occasion when we will be able to see the RAF Police in action including marching with us, and for them to see us in action.

Any queries to John Walton 01395 446234 or clarewalt@talktalk.net
Charity starts at...

Charity can take many forms, from large organisations employing hundreds of people to the smaller unit, consisting of family members and friends created for an individual or ideal. The one thing common to all Charities, is the unstinting time and effort of volunteers to devote their time and energies into raising funds for their chosen Charity. The RAFPA are no different, Branches and individual members devote time and effort into raising funds for their selected charity and we hope the following examples demonstrate how their expertise in continually raising money and awareness benefits the general community and specific targeted goals.

Professor David Walker, a guest speaker at a EMB Branch Meeting explained how a large number of children suffer because of poor diagnosis. He explained that survivors of childhood brain tumours were more likely to suffer debilitating illnesses, including blindness and sometimes premature death. Resulting discussions decided that as this was a local charity we could support, The Brain Tumour Research Centre, although no member had lost or knew anybody who had lost a relative or friend to this disability. Fund raising efforts includes an annual jumble sale, auctions and raffles and over the last six years more than £7000 has been handed over to this most worthwhile charity.

John Watch, a member of the Hants & Dorset Branch illustrates exactly how Association members can and do get involved with a Charity. Ignoring my training, I volunteered to be the Poole area RAFA Branch Welfare Officer and over the last seven years have made hundreds of visits to ex-RAF veterans or their close relatives. After my initial training course at Birmingham University there was a steep learning curve. I was soon in the field dealing with cases for Respite Care requests at the excellent Houses provided for this purpose to financial advice and routine social visits. I feel at times that I work harder and longer hours than in some of my RAF Police postings, nevertheless I enjoy the work and intend to carry on as long as I can. Recruits are always needed for this type of work, could you join the ranks of Honorary Welfare Officers?
The London Home Counties Branch have for several years supported many charities, including Blazing Saddles, Bedford Day Care Centre, Guide Dogs for the Blind, RMPA, ABF, Vulcan to the Sky Trust and Scotty's Little Soldiers, started by Nikki Scott several years ago when she lost her husband in military combat, leaving her two sons fatherless. The Charity is for children who have lost a parent in combat.

In the photograph Nikki is being presented with the Sun Military Award by Jamie Oliver.
It’s likely that other Branches and members actively support their favourite charities in a variety of ways. Let the Editor know!

Shoreham Air Show - South Downs Branch

Blind Veterans UK - South Downs Branch

East Midlands Branch get stuck in!

East Midlands Branch - at it again!
The RAF Police Association AGM Minutes

Venue: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Crawley on 12 April 2014  Members attending 44, Apologies 117

The Chairman opened the Meeting at 2pm and asked the Vice Chairman to read the exhortation. All present stood silently as the Membership Secretary read out the names of those members who had passed away during the last 12 months. He then welcomed Air Commodore A J Hall, MBE, MA, RAF AO RAF Police and Group Captain K R Bailey BA (Hons) RAF PM (RAF) to the Meeting.

Minutes of Last AGM
The Minutes of the last AGM were taken as read and there were no matters arising.

Chairman’s Report
The Chairman reiterated that we need to concentrate on recruitment, as the attrition rate is high, due to the increasing age of most of the membership.

Membership Secretary’s Report
Although we have recruited 22 new members since the last AGM we have lost 37 members up to the end of March 2014, giving a total of 1295 members as at 1 April 2014. If you have elected to receive ‘The Griff’ by post, please advise Membership Secretary if your address changes, as it is frustrating and expensive to have the post returned marked “Gone Away”.

Treasurer’s Report
The Treasurer informed the Meeting that as of the 9th April 2014 the cash assets of the Association stood at £22,970.49. The Memorial Fund which is maintained by the Association but with its own entity stands at £14,463.99. He stated that although operating with a healthy bank balance, we do need to cut costs by minimising the postal bill and using email wherever possible. He added that members were still not paying the correct membership fee and currently we had 179 lapsed members, due, in the main, to this problem. Finally he asked that the Meeting approve the new Auditors, Pearson May Accountants. The use of Pearson May was seconded by John Evans NWB and was agreed by those present. It was also agreed by all present that the Bankers Nat West and Santander should continue to be our bankers.
Election of Officers

National Chairman: Brian Flinn (Co-opted by those present due to fact no National Chairman was nominated).

National Vice Chairman: Tony Lake (Co-opted by those present due to fact no National Vice Chairman was nominated).

National Secretary: Alan Weeks (Voted in).

National Treasurer: Mike Thornton (Un-opposed).

National Membership Secretary: David Wardell (Un-opposed).

National Trustee: Brian Flinn (Voted in to replace Steve Davies).

The Meeting was also informed that: Steve Cattell (Trustee) will not be seeking re-election in 2015. Further, Mrs Gill Hellewell (Minute Taker) is standing down as is Mr John Curtis (RAFPA Archivist). These are two non-elected but vital positions and volunteers are required to fill these roles.

Pre-Notified Business

1. The ‘three year rule’ introduced at the 2009 AGM be abolished. Vote Carried.

2. That all members of the RAF Police be offered free membership of the RAF Police Association while they remain in the Service. Vote Carried.

3. That Special General Meeting be deleted and replaced with Special Executive Council Meeting. After some discussion the Proposal was withdrawn by the Proposer.

4. That Proxy Voting in its current form is amended. All members will vote by the proposed procedures. It should attract more voters, empower Branches in the development of the Association and remove debates and voting by show of hands at AGMs. This proposal was voted on unanimously by the Executive Council Members at the October 2013 ECM. Following a heated debate from the floor and a proposal that the proposition be withdrawn the Proposal was withdrawn by the Proposer.

Air Commodore AJ Hall and Group Captain K Bailey addressed the Meeting giving an update on the future of the RAF Police following the withdrawal from Afghanistan. Gp Capt Bailey, a full member of the Association also briefed those present on his vision and aspirations as to the way ahead for the serving RAF Police and the Association. He emphasised that our relationship should not be ‘them and us’ but ‘us and us’.

The date of the next AGM was set for Saturday 18 April 2015, however the location is yet to be determined.

The Meeting closed at 17.55hrs.
AGM Evening Report

A 'cheerful' Corporal Dog Handler Mike, fully kitted out, along with AD Storm were on hand to welcome members and guests to the latest AGM event. It was noted at 0900hrs the following morning that the cherished white hat had gone astray, quite possibly 'nicked', plus there was clear evidence that his equipment had been tampered with!!! Some thought he looked happier! but at the moment this cannot be proven. AD Storm did not appear interested and staff swore they saw or heard nothing. The case is ongoing and any information should be passed along to CI, SNCO Sherlock Hellewell.

Meanwhile some 70 plus members and guests, with Hon. guests, PM Gp Capt Kevin Bailey and his wife Elma enjoyed a first class menu, followed by a singing duo, the WRAF girls, the 'Swingtime Sisters'.

There were three chances to win something in three differing raffles, Name the Rocking Horse, an auction of three items and the main raffle, raising in total £618.00. The monies collected will go to the Blind Veterans UK.

Article written from information supplied by Archie Heath
Greetings from Goulburn NSW down under. Hope that everything is OK up there in your part of the world. I thought you might be interested in these photos by our local newspaper, the Goulburn Post. ANZAC Day is commemorated here on 25th April. We have a dawn service at 5:30 am then during the day there are marches in cities, towns and villages across the country. The group of people I'm with on the march through Goulburn are representing WW2 ex servicemen/women and relatives of such. Thoroughly enjoying retirement at the moment. Our son Peter is currently on a working holiday in London. He's had a visit to Hendon Air Force Museum. He told me there is a Vulcan on display. I told him that I had stood under it in 73-74 (my first posting) when it was at Scampton with 617 Sqn.

Submitted by: Alex Oliver (Ollie)

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ANZAC Day

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Anniversary Parade on Monday 23 June 2014.

1. If you are attending can you let Bernard know.
2. If your Standard is being paraded can you let Bernard know.
3. If you require a buffet meal at the RBL can you send your money payable to East Midlands Branch price £5 pp.

Programme

1030: Coffee.
1130: Parade.
1300: Buffet at the RBL Alrewas.

There will be a further update nearer to the event.

Submitted by: Bernard Lamb
A Tale of Six Legs!

My first, and only refresher, was with the Lancashire Const. HQ, Dog Training School at Leyland, near Preston. Here I saw more of the situations that a police dog was expected to deal with. One of the training areas was Preston Docks. By this time it resembled the aftermath of a WW2 air raid, with huge buildings, in total ruin and stripped of machinery, in some cases.

Search and location exercises were a challenge. The one exercise I remember most took place on a landed estate in the Lake District. This was where we, the trainee team, were on one side of a large lake looking towards, on the opposite bank, a boat house which was under part of a house, from the house comes matey who lets fly with a shotgun.

Exercise: Send dog across lake. Matey keeps dog interested by firing off occasional rounds.

Have you ever seen a dog paddling along in bright sunshine? It sees the splashes from it’s paws sparkling in front of its eyes and starts to attempt to catch them. Result: Dog starts going around in circles, getting tired and in a near vertical posture, frightened.

Result: Drowned dog. Imagine the state of the handler watching his dog and despite all his shouting and encouragement, can do nothing. The Instructor has seen this all before of course. By the bank is a small dingy with one of the team rowing and the dog’s handler in the stern ready to grab dog and tow it to shore. We only had two out of our team who did this. Property location and scent exercises and later, sending dog after armed person, who has fired at you with a pistol and disappeared behind a factory building. What are you going to find when you follow-up? A dead dog and matey waiting for you perhaps. The dog is not gun shy and enjoys the chase with a tug of war on an arm as always. He’s not to know he’s a sacrifice. However, there’s always something to learn.

Enoch the kennel-man and Lakeland shepherd offers tips on stopping dogs from chasing sheep or any other animal.

It all came to an end when, in 1982, after collapsing at work with bouts of acute colic and jaundice and, after three operations and weighing 10 ½ stone, I was told by the Consultant that I was 9 to 5 days, no shifts, if I wanted to go back to work. I didn’t get the chance to say goodbye to King as I was in bed, under sedation, when he was taken and transferred to another unit up country, for another handler. I only hope he was treated with the respect he deserved. I was privileged to have worked and known those dogs. Thy good and faithful servants. The Home Office and the RAF look on them as tools and part of your equipment. They are not yours, no matter how close you get attached. Back at work, under my medical restrictions, I re-trained and became an instructor (Occupational Therapy). So, in 1991, I ended my 36 years in the Civil Service, as a Senior Officer, equivalent to Sgt Instructor

Submitted by: Roy Tiley.

Sadly Roy passed away in December 2013 and didn’t get to read the end of his story in print.
RIP Roy.

Ed.
Unfortunately the official annual 'Snowdrop Parade' at Alrewas NMA was cancelled but John Evans, Vice Chairman, North West Branch and Standard Bearer felt that any member who wished should attend a fairly impromptu parade, after all, it is an opportunity to pay our respects to fallen comrades. Also there has been a great deal of effort and expense in planting thousands of snowdrops at the RAJP/RAFPA Memorial.

Under orders from the Association Parade Marshal, Bill Veazey, four Standard Bearers and four members marched to the Memorial and with two Standard Bearers on either side the citation was read by John Evans, afterwards a 2 minutes silence was observed. The epitaph was read and with a slight change in tradition one of our ladies, Maureen Clarke, wife of Barrie Clarke of the East Midlands Branch, placed a small container of snowdrops on the Memorial, in memory of all ‘Snowdrops’ past and present.

From our Memorial the party moved to the Army Dog Unit (NI) Memorial and a small bouquet of poppies was placed to honour the handlers and their dogs. This Unit, at their Remembrance Service, always lay a wreath on the RAF Police Memorial.

Submitted by: John Evans
Last Post

A chance to pause for a minute in quiet contemplation for our friends and colleagues who have ‘passed away’.

Mr. Stuart MacKay - Gwent
Mr. Roy Tiley – H & D
Mr. David Conway – EMB
Mr. Alan Cocksworth – YS
Mr. Alan Hawksworth – MAB

Mr. Philip Beynon – EMB
Mr. Bill Hanton – LHC
Mr. Gordon Barnes – NOR
Mr. Colin Clarke – LHC
Mr. Alan Langley - NOR

Always & Forever

See Page 12 - 10th Anniversary of the Association National Standard

Hotels available within 10 miles of RAF Halton

Red Lion - 01296 622266 approx 1 mile from camp
Holiday Inn - 0871 942 9002 - approx 2 miles from camp
Aylesbury Travelodge - 0871 559 1854 - approx 5 miles from camp
Premier Inn - 0871 527 8036 - approx 5 miles from camp
De Vere, Uplands Hotel - 0844 980 2320 - approx 9 miles from camp
West Lodge Hotel - 01296 630362 - approx 1.25 miles from camp
The Five Bells - 01296 613131 - approx 2 miles from camp
Chartridge Lodge - 01494 837484 - approx 3.5 miles from camp
Premier Inn - 0871 527 9104 - approx 1.25 miles from camp

Bed & Breakfast available within 10 miles of RAF Halton

The Hamlet - 01296 612660 - 2 miles from camp
The Leys - 01296 6411055 - approx 7.5 miles from camp
The Town House - 01296 395295 - approx 2 miles from camp
Ardenwood - 01296 484482 - approx 2 miles from camp
Little Venice - 01296 339242 - approx 2 miles from camp
Rickyard Cottage - 01494 488388 - approx 7 miles from camp
The Dog House - 01296 485228 - approx 5 miles from camp

Calling all RAF Police Doghandlers...

...who trained at the Defence Animal Centre, Melton Mowbray. A Mr Tim Savage is writing a history of the centre and would appreciate a call from QPDs who trained there. His details are: Tim Savage, Project Officer, Melton Carnegie Museum, Thorpe End, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, LE13 1RB. Tel: 0116 305 2566 email: timothy.Savage@leics.gov.uk Submitted by: John Walton
Ancients Reunited?

During a visit to the RAF Museum at Cosford on 16th April I found this static display of a BSA motorcycle, Reg. No. 35AX22. The number looked very familiar to one of the bikes I rode on Support Squadron at RAF Northolt in 1975, however, all the numbers look familiar so it is more likely that the memory is at fault!! The RAF Police replaced the BSA’s with the Norton 850cc Commando which was a very different beast to ride compared to the lightweight BSA!

Submitted by: Brian Flinn

Wiltshire to West Midlands

On Wednesday 16th April several members and friends of the Wiltshire Branch took a day trip to the RAF Museum at Cosford, Shropshire. We were blessed with a bright sunny day, albeit with a chill wind on arrival, although it warmed up during the day and made for a very pleasant visit to the outdoor exhibits. For many of us it was our first visit to this museum and we were all suitably impressed by what was on display. The Cold War exhibition was relevant to many of us who had served in Germany during that era. There is an astonishing amount of things to see and it is well worth the travel to get there, it is quite difficult to take it all in on a one day visit. Car parking is only £3.50 for the day, the restaurant facilities are very good and serve good quality meals. This museum is highly recommended to anyone who has not had the opportunity to visit before. RAFPA members shown in the photograph are Gareth Warren, Frank Hunt, Tony Lake, Peter Todd, Kim Hassall, Cliff Bassett, Brian Flinn, Phil Horton (Associate) and Sheila Sutherland (NY Associate).

Submitted by: Brian Flinn

Alex Flavel has been elected President of the North East Branch of the Royal Air Force Police Association.

Alex is not only one of the founder members of the Association but is also a highly respected and a popular member of the Association both at Branch and National level.

Submitted by: Tom Pagett
The Griff

30th Anniversary Commemorative Issue 2

Some brief moments in the history of the RAF Police

During 1937, the Police School left Halton and set up its new home at Uxbridge with the newly established RAF Police HQ. In December of 1937, RAF Hinaldi closed and the Mounted RAF Service Police rode for 2 days across the desert to reach a new unit at RAF Habbaniya, over 80 miles away. The 1939 with threat of war approaching the establishment of the RAF Service Police increased and the RAF Police trade was officially approved. At the outbreak of war, a specially equipped RAF Police Unit, commanded by Sqn Ldr Richdale, joined the BEF and were deployed to France.

RAF Dep Asst Provost Marshals (DAPM) were established at all Group and Command HQ’s. 13 RAF Police Districts within the the UK were formed. District RAFP responsible to PM, Station RAFP responsible to Station Commander.

*All information is taken from: Fiat Justitia - A History of the RAF Police, author Stephen Davies*

Welcome to New members

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>H &amp; D</th>
<th>EMB</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Brian Hollis - Chichester</td>
<td>Mr. David Benton – Derbyshire</td>
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<tr>
<td>No Branch!</td>
<td>Mr. Peter Turton – Lincs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Colin Bennett – Mountain Ash</td>
<td>NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOR</td>
<td>Mr. Philip Laver – Cheshire</td>
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<td>Mr. Sidney Cole – Lowestoft</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWAB</td>
<td>Mr. David Yeomans – East Sussex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Kevin Prowse – Cornwall</td>
<td>Membership at 30th April 2014 - 1133</td>
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Urgent... please read!

The Treasurer is currently trying to balance the Association books following receipt of the 2014 subscription payments. Sadly, two years after the membership subscription was increased to £12.50, payments in the sum of £5, £6.50 and £10 are received. Where valid contact details are held emails or written statements are sent to the individuals concerned... but still the unchanged payments are received. You are urged to check your bank statements to ensure that the appropriate subscription was paid to the Association in January this year; if it wasn’t the membership status of those concerned will be LAPSED!

This is especially relevant for those 16 members with the surname of SMITH; Two are life members, five are fully subscribed but the remaining nine have either not paid a subscription or paid an amount less than the £12.50 required and one of the £10 payments just bears the reference SMITH and to date it has not been possible to identify who made this payment. If you need to send a payment or a top-up payment to the Treasurer please make it payable to the ‘RAF Police Association’ and send to it to him at his home address.
Subscriptions 2014

Members Renewal £ 12.50

New Members Joining 2014
1st January to 30th June
Joining fee £ 8.50
Subscription £ 12.50
1st July to 31st December
Joining fee £ 8.50
Subscription £ 6.50

Serving Members Scheme
Membership for entire service
One off payment £ 22.00
(Does not include Provost Parade or Members Directory)

NOTE: Joint membership may apply to eligible spouses of existing members and to those joining as Serving Members.
One normal joining fee plus £ 1.00

STOP PRESS

Subscriptions: Treasurer, Mike Thornton, wishes to remind all members that subscriptions were due on the 1st January 2014. Please ensure your payments are made promptly and the correct information is with the Banks if paying by direct debit, etc.. Thank you in advance.

Any item from RAFPA Sales will be actioned by:
Tony Lake on Tel: 01179 392755

Guide Deadline for the Sept 2014 Edition of “The Griff” will be July 31st 2014!. ED. (It can change!)

RAFPA SALES

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<td>B1</td>
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<td>B4</td>
<td>RAFPA Lapel Badge</td>
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<tr>
<td>B5</td>
<td>Beret Badge (RAFPA Crest)</td>
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<td>RAFPA Blazer Badge</td>
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<td>C1</td>
<td>RAFPA Cufflinks</td>
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<tr>
<td>T4</td>
<td>RAF Police Bow Tie</td>
<td>£ 8.50</td>
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<td>Black &amp; Red Diagonal Stripes</td>
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<td>T5</td>
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<td>T6</td>
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Please Note The plain Blue Tie with a single RAFPA Crest is no longer available

P1   | RAFPA Wall Shields, screen printed, light coloured wood base, 150 x 175 mm (5" X 7") | £31.00  |

All items inc. postage and packing and are available from:
Mr. AK Lake, (Tony)
24 Trendlewood Park
Stapleton Bristol BS16 1TE

Please make cheques payable to: RAFPA (to accompany your order) and write your name & address on the reverse of your order.

Depending on stock availability orders will be dispatched with 5 working days of receipt of order.

For those wishing to purchase items from Provost Parade shop a list of merchandise can be found on the main RAFPA Site at, http://www.rafpa.com/ppms.htm

A note for those purchasing berets, it is best not to shrink them, because they are not made with the same amount of material as the Service Blue issue beret. It is best to lightly spray with water, fit and shape to head and then let dry on an upturned basin, or similar.
Walk Down memory lane

RAF Police Flight at RAF Habbaniya taken in 1954. Does anyone recognise themselves and would like to get in touch, that would be fine by me. I have managed to locate 15 members of the Flight, still working at it but as you know, after 60 years lots could have happened.

Submitted by: Ray Foster
A good friend of mine has a very nice ex RAF L/R which was last used at Lossiemouth. Used by 617 Sqn, but he has paperwork to suggest it was also used by the RAFP section there. Anyone at Lossiemouth all those years ago who can shed any light on this vehicle. A photo in RAFP colours would be fantastic. It’s service reg was 57 KK 25.

Submitted by: Brian Burgess
The RAF Police Association AGM

I always hold mine like this!

Air Cdre A J Hall MBE MA RAF meets the Band Master.

Ready for Inspection.

Nautical Training Corps Band.

Chairman ready to march off.

Acknowledgements

The Editor sincerely thanks All contributors for their photographic and article inputs, especially Mike Lester, Jim Speirs, John Walton, The Portsmouth News, Nick O’Neill, John Curtis. Again many thanks and please keep those contributions coming in.

The Griff

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