

Royal Air Forces Association Hartlepool Branch

The Charity that supports
the RAF Family



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

September 2025

As our current Honorary Welfare Officer is relinquishing his duties at the end of this year, we need a volunteer to consider taking over this post. Training will be provided for this important role.

We also require someone to take over as Wings Appeal Officer, to coordinate fund raising efforts and maintain a good liaison with local supporters.

CAN YOU HELP US CONTINUE OUR WORK — PLEASE

ARMED FORCES DAY

Hartlepool Armed Forces was on Saturday 28th June at Hartlepool Marina. Unfortunately for all concerned the weather was not there to support us. High winds with dangerous gusts arrived early morning and the Town Council had to take a health and safety decision. The event was cancelled at the last minute, as the risk to participants and the public was too great. It is regretful that no one was able to benefit from the day's events. Work is already underway to organise next year's Armed Forces Day and we hope that everyone will turn out to support it.

BRANCH ANNIVERSARY

Hartlepool Branch of the RAF Association was registered at CHQ on 29 October 1946. On this date in 2026 the Branch will mark its 80th Anniversary. We would like to make this anniversary a very special one, celebrating many years of support to RAF veterans in and around Hartlepool.

We would like to know how many of our members, with a guest, would be interested, and what format of event the members would like. Please contact publicity@hartlepoolrafa.com with your ideas.



The Royal Air Forces Association (RAFA) is a membership organisation of serving and former members of the RAF, their families and dependents and all those supporting the aims of the Association. The Branch would welcome more ex RAF personnel and people who would be interested in supporting the Association in attending social events or assisting with collections in various locations. The Branch now covers an area from Seaham in the North to Whitby in the south excluding Stockton on Tees.

RAFA NATIONAL CONFERENCE & AGM

This year's national conference and annual general meeting takes place at Wyboston Lakes, Bedfordshire, across 18 –19 October. Branch Vice Chairman, Paul Rodway, has volunteered to represent the Branch this year.

All members should note that this year the voting will be different from previous years. Instead of the Branch delegate voting on behalf on the Branch, every member has an individual vote. If you have an email address registered with the association, you will probably have already received a couple of emails about the voting. If you do not have email, then the information will come by post. Please take time to read all of the information and make your choice for each resolution. Please then ensure that your vote is submitted by the due date. Your Branch delegate can **not** vote on your behalf.

If you are struggling to understand the resolutions or to cast your vote, please contact the Branch for help, but do not delay. Thank you.

MARVELLOUS MEMBERS

One of our lady members has been awarded a certificate for outstanding contributions to the Branch and the members. Lucy Hodgson has made very tasty scones for the Monthly meetings, organised a coffee morning at her home to mark V E Day, and made personal donations to the Branch Welfare Fund. Lucy's contributions so far total £754.



We also extend our grateful thanks to our late centenarian member, Myra Mayes, who passed away earlier this year. Myra has left a significant amount to Branch funds for use by the members. Myra had previously donated significantly to the welfare funds and took part in Branch events until age and illness prevented her. This is a wonderful gesture by Myra who very much appreciated the support, comradeship and friendship she received from Branch members during the latter years of her long life.

BAND CONCERT

Branch members Paul & Jenny Rodway show off their polo shirts with musical director, Fg Off Tim Hind, and members of the Band of the RAF College, Cranwell, Kelly Harrison (French horn) and Natalie Barnes (clarinet) during the interval of the recent concert at Yarm. Photo taken by Sgt Ed Bolton-King, who wrote one of the pieces played that evening.





Steve and Hazel Davis (pictured) along with Paul Rodway took over the Wings stall at Asda, Peterlee on Saturday 30 August from Ian Straughan and Ian Fraser. The efforts of all are appreciated and thanks to everyone who contributed. The day raised £592.55p including £117.48 by card. This brings the Wings total for this year to £2619.66p with more collections planned.



GARDEN PARTY 2025

This year's Garden Party was held on Saturday 23 August in the garden of Chairman Steve Davis and his wife Hazel. This year's theme was 'The Italian Job'. The food, drink and décor all had an Italian theme and nobody tried to 'blow the doors off'. A good time was enjoyed by the group which attended and enjoyed pizza, pasta and Birra Moretti.



In Memoriam

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

We have not been informed of any members passing away during this quarter.

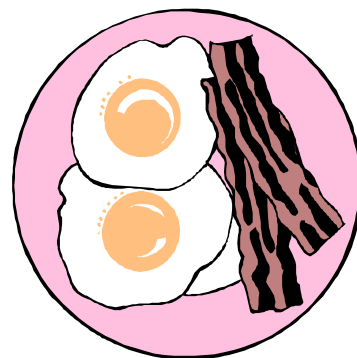


LOOKING FORWARD

BREAKFAST CLUB

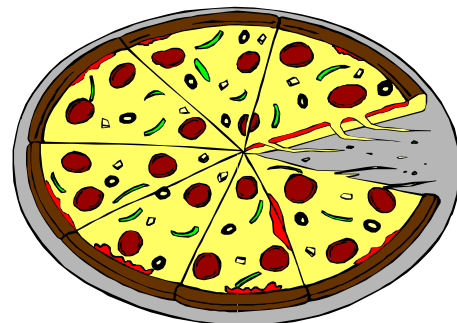
First Saturday of each month at Brewers Fayre, Hartlepool Marina. Continental or Full English. Pay on the day. Join us from 09:30 for breakfast and chat.

4th October, 1 November & 6 December.



4 SEASONS LUNCH

Our quarterly lunch pasta / pizza party at Sambuca, Church Street, Hartlepool from 1:30 pm. 15th November. Booking required. Names to Hazel Davis on 07578 980052, please.



WINGS APPEAL COLLECTIONS

Volunteers needed for the Wings collection at Morrisons, Hartlepool on Saturday 22nd November.

BRANCH MEETINGS

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the October Branch Meeting will take place on Tuesday 14th at 7 pm. Committee meets at 6:30 pm. Please note that with effect from September we will be meeting in a different room. More information about future meetings will be given at this meeting. Please bring snacks to share and some general knowledge for a quiz.

RAFA NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND AGM

The conference takes place over the weekend of 18—19 October and all RAFA Members are entitled to attend. As stated on page 2, the voting arrangements have changed and everyone should make sure that their membership and contact information is up to date, so that votes are not lost.



Branch Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month from 7:00 pm

We meet at
Ye Olde Durham's Social Club
St. Aidans Street
Hartlepool TS25 1SN
Free street parking at rear

Contact Details
Phone: 07907 874654
or website
www.hartlepoolrafa.com