

Visit to RAF Brize Norton



6 members visited RAF Brize Norton on 20 May 2015. Following coffee and a brief on the station by our escort Sgt Becky Hall in the Sergeants Mess we visited 99 Sqn with a guided tour of a C17-A Globemaster 111 by one of the pilots and Air Load Master. A visit to No 1 Parachute Training School followed then back to the Sergeants Mess for more coffee. The day was rounded off with lunch at Chequers.

Armed Forces Day 2015

32 members attended this years Armed Forces Day event at the Jet Age Museum. Following lunch at the Aviator we moved across to the Jet Age Museum to join a group of WW11 Typhoon pilots for the Parade of Standards and Act of Homage.



WW11 Typhoon pilots with our own Don Say taking centre stage

Gloucester's Part in the "Battle of Britain"

No. 501 (County of Gloucester) Squadron, which was based at RAF Filton near Bristol, flew defensive missions in World War II, and was the only squadron to fight from the "Battle of France" in May 1940 to the end of the "Battle of Britain", without being rested.

501 squadron operated as part initially of the Biggin Hill Wing from Gravesend, and then later in the battle they switched to Kenley which was the Croydon Wing. They fought from there right the way through the "Battle of Britain".

The squadron included several notable pilots of World War 11, including Sergeant Pilot Antoni (Toni) Glowaski VM, CV and 3 bars, DFC, DFM who shot down five German aircraft on 24 August 1940 to become the first of only two pilots to achieve "Ace-in-a-Day status during the "Battle of Britain". Among others who achieved fighter Ace status were Ken Mackenzie, "Ginger" Lacey, Stanishaw Skalski, Robert Daffron and Kenneth Lee. Lacey was one of the highest scoring pilots in the "Battle of Britain". Sqn Ldr Joseph Berry, DFC and 2 bars was the top scoring V-1 flying bomb ace of the squadron having shot down 61 flying bombs. In addition to these unmanned missiles he also shot down three enemy aircraft.

Other Gloucestershire connections to the Battle of Britain were the Hurricanes of 87 Squadron and the Spitfires of 92 Squadron, both of which used the airfield at RAF Bibury for periods during the battle.

Pre-War Prescott



Pre-War Garden Party and Climb Day, Saturday 18 July 2015.

This years Pre-War Prescott will be commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain. There will be plenty to see and do including a collection of historic vintage and pre-war cars in action on the hill and a lunchtime air display by a pre-war Tiger Moth. The event takes place at The Bugatti Owners Club, Prescott Hill, Gotherington, GL52 9RD. Day time tickets are ½ price (£7.50) per car and tickets for the evening event are £15 per person. Contact Ray for tickets.

RAFA Gloucester Welfare

During the year your branch Honorary Welfare Officer made 72 visits to members covering a distance of 1298 miles and made 208 contacts via email and telephone. 3 members enjoyed a Wings Break at Flowerdown.

In addition to the above 2 volunteer members carried out 16 Tea and Chat visits.

Sally Dixon has now joined me as an Assistant Honorary Welfare Officer and Steve Waygood has become the Honorary Welfare Officer for the Forest of Dean and Hereford working independently from the Gloucester Branch.

There is an ever increasing need for volunteers to carry out Tea and Chat visits. Right now there are 5 members overdue visits.

If the branch is to provide this service then more volunteers are required. A couple of hours of your time once a month can really make a difference.

181 (City of Gloucester) Air Training Squadron

Towards the end of 1940, the government realised the value of the cadet force and took control of the Air Defence Cadet Corps. It reorganised and renamed it, and on the 5th February 1941 the Air Training Corps was officially established with King George VI as the Air Commodore-in-Chief.

In 2016 the squadron will be celebrating its 75th anniversary and is hoping to involve past squadron members. If you were a past squadron members and would like to join in the celebrations please get in touch.

Ray Bunnage is a member of the squadron's civilian committee and has a liaison role between the squadron and the RAFA Gloucester branch. It is planned to have an ATC presence at this years Wings Appeal later this year.

On 23 March 2015 Ray made a presentation on RAFA Youth to the squadron. It is hoped that the cadets found the presentation interesting and will take advantage of the many benefits available, especially now that membership is free.

Further details about 181 (City of Gloucester) Air Training Squadron can be found at: <http://www.181sqn.co.uk/>.



Venture—Adventure



Your Committee

President: Eric Ede

Chairman: Bev Oakes

Treasurer: Chris Hill

Committee members:

Noel Phillips

Pam Blackhall

Ruth Aldridge

Social Events Coordinator:
Ray Bunnage

Honorary Welfare Officer (HWO):
Ray Bunnage
Ray can be contacted on 01452 415064
Mobile: 07717413813
Email: rafagloucester@gmail.com

Honorary Secretary:
Lorraine Wilson
Lorraine can be contacted on 01452
306005

Memorial Arboretum



Your branch is planning a trip to the National Memorial Arboretum this coming September.

If enough members are interested we will hire a 28 seat coach departing from Gloucester bus station at 10 am.

Contact Ray for further details.

Flowerdown House



Would you like a Wings Break at the beautiful Flowerdown House in Weston-Super-Mare?
Need Financial help then contact your HWO.

Charity Golf Day



Calling all Golfers.

Courtesy of the Cotswold Edge Golf Club, the Dursley & South Gloucester branch will be staging their annual Golf Day on Wednesday, 30 September 2015 in support of their Wings Appeal.

Do we have enough golfers in our ranks to enter a team?

Contact Ray if you wish to join the team

Cathedral Visit

Your branch is planning a visit to Gloucester Cathedral in August.

Contact Ray if you wish to attend.