

R.A.F.A

Bexhill on Sea Branch
The Albatross Club
15 Marina Arcade
Bexhill on Sea
East Sussex TN40 1JS

Branch Office 01424 220114
Club Bar 01424 212916
Charity No 262348

In Memorium

It is with deep regret we announce the death of Alan Field. Who died on 16th November in the Conquest Hospital. He was an active member of the club who did lots of little jobs, not noticeable, but essential, for the smooth running of the machine which keeps the club going. His highly decorative neckties, plus his ceaseless energy were always talking points, and his dry sense of humour will be missed. Our heart felt sympathy goes out to his family. May he Rest In Peace.

Christmas Carol Concert

Come and join in the singing at our Christmas Carol Concert in the Club on Friday 16th December at 7.45 pm. All are most welcome if you can't sing, hum the tunes. Then wet your whistles at the bar. The concert will be led by our Padre, Rev. David Knight.

Christmas Grand Draw

The Grand Draw will take place after the Carol Concert please come and claim your prizes, (if you have won) and celebrate your win (if you have won) or drown your sorrows (if you have lost) in any case we hope to see you at the bar. Cheers!

Branch Chairman's report

Over the last twelve months we have seen a remarkable recovery in the fortunes of the Club and Branch, both committees have worked together to have more events both in the day and night-time. You the members have responded in a marvellous way. Thank you all. Perhaps you have noticed Branch H.Q. has had some renewals, doors in the ops room, a new window by the bar, and other minor repairs. These have been paid for from Branch funds. The income of which come as the results of the monthly coffee mornings which is the only major source of income that we have. We sell top quality cakes, marmalade, and brick-a-brack. NO RUBBISH!!! The coffee mornings are an ideal opportunity to meet members of your committee, have a chat or a moan, but the main thing is you can meet other members. It would be nice if you could bring a small item to sell or include as a raffle prize. Finally may I on behalf of both committees, wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

David Stevens Branch Chairman.

Temporary membership

A new arrangement that will allow family, and friends, to have a short temporary membership is to be introduced. This will allow them to visit the Club for the duration of their holiday, without the necessity of the member being present. This will cost a couple £5.00 per week. An application form must be filled in by the member who will be expected to be responsible for their good behaviour. Temporary cards will be issued for the duration of their stay. These should be carried at all visits to the club and must be shown if so requested. This facility has been asked for by a number of members and the committees have agreed to this request.

Any copy for the March issue to be in by 17th Feb. Best wishes to you all John Leahy editor

The Albatross

Dec / Jan / Feb
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Issue No 75



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Christmas Message from The President

Thank you all for your support of the Branch & Club over the past year. The Wings fortnight during September raised £4,023 and helped us reach an excellent total of £10,408. We had a legacy of £1,486, in April and Donations of £540.00 from members in September. My thanks to the Wings Committee and especially to Geoff Brown who organised the Sainsbury's collection. I will give more details at our AGM in March. In May 2006 it will be the 60th Anniversary of the Branch and I am sure that we shall celebrate this in style. Our caterers Beverley and Paula, are doing a splendid job and members are now coming in to enjoy their culinary delights. I hope to see many of you during the coming months and take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Ken M Igglesden M.B.E. Branch President

Area Conference 2006

The Area Conference will be held at "Lakeside" Hayling Island between 7th – 9th April 2006. The cost is £114 per person. This includes full board and evening entertainment, all members are invited to attend. Transport is not provided for the travel to and from Hayling Island.

Inside this issue:

Winter break 2
Boxing day Lunch

Talk/Walk Keep fit Table Tennis 3

Christmas cake to disaster 3

Christmas carol concert 4

Christmas Grand Draw 4

Branch Chairman's report 4

Temporary membership 4

Regular Monthly Events

2nd Monday - Aircrew Association	11.00
Every Monday - Keep Fit	14.30
Tuesday - Table Tennis	10.00
Friday - " "	11.00
1st Wednesday - Coffee Morning	10.30
2nd Wednesday - Welcome Group	10.30
4th Thursday - Welcome Walk	09.30
1st & 3rd Thursday - WAAF/WRAF	10.30
1st Friday - Quiz Night	20.00
1st & 3rd Sat (usually Bingo)	20.00
4th Friday Crib night	20.00

Meet at Club, then drive to start of walk.
Check Notice Board for variations and details of other activities.

Winter breaks at Princess Marina House

There is an opportunity for short breaks to Princess Marina House, Sea Road, Rustington. Between 6th January & 6th March for people who would like a change of scene. The package is from Tuesday to Tuesday, you will be picked up from the Albatross Club and delivered to your accommodation, there are five twin bedded rooms and four single bed rooms. You get full board included in the package and evening entertainment, plus full use of the bar. Excursions will be arranged

Bar opening times

Monday to Saturday Morning & Lunch Time	10.15 to 14.30
" " Evenings	19.00 to 23.00*
Sunday	PM 12.00 to 14.00*

* Closed Sunday and Thursday Evenings.

Meat raffles are held on Friday lunch times, tickets are available at the bar. Proceeds go to the club to cover overheads.

The Free Swing night has been successful and there has been a good turn out. Please bring prizes for raffle.

There will be a Boxing Day Lunch served from 12.00. Further details are on notices about the Club or ask Paula or Beverly.

New Year Party see details on boards.

and you will pay only for the entrance fee and any refreshments that you have at the venue. The cost of the deal is £250.00 per head. Considering that this includes travel to and from Bexhill, seven days board and entertainment it is a very competitive price. The dates have to be arranged and there has to be at least an 80% take up to make it viable. There is a list on the notice board in the entrance hall for all interested parties to put their names, addresses and telephone numbers on.

Welcome Talk, Walk, Keep Fit & Table Tennis.

The Welcome Talk is still going strong. The second Wednesday of the month at 10.30.a.m. The ongoing programme is :- December 14th, "Dorothy in the Workhouse" by Judith Bourke M.A. January 11th, Major Claus-Herbert Schuntzel, "The Post War Luftwaffe" February 8th, "Kent and Sussex Air Ambulance Service". March 8th, "Wiltshire Farm Foods". Paul Sutton. Admission £1.00 includes Coffee and Biscuits. Come and support us. *Ken Jagglesden. Organiser*

The Welcome Walk still goes on apace with at least 16 happy wanderers gathering to enjoy the local countryside in it's different guises. I try not to make the walks too strenuous but also to keep them interesting.

We generally enjoy the repasts of the local "hostelries" after the walk is finished and have found most of them very acceptable come and join us you will be made most welcome. If you do not have your own transport we can usually fit you up with a lift.

Beryl Murrell, Walk Leader.

Keep fit finds over a dozen members who like a challenge on a Monday afternoons. Doing light exercise to music and generally having an enjoyable aerobic experience. Come and join us if you dare!!! *Maureen Greenough.*

The Table Tennis group is still very active and will be having it's annual dinner on 7th December *Geoff Brown & Myrtle Bennett*

Christmas cake recipe for disaster

Ingredients:-

1 cup butter
1 cup sugar
4 large eggs
1 cup dried fruit
1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp salt
Lemon juice
1 cup brown sugar
Nuts
1 or 2 quarts of Whisky

Method

Before you start, sample whisky to check for quality. Good, isn't it? Now go ahead. Select a large mixing bowl and measuring cup etc. Check the whisky again as it must be just right. To be sure the whisky is right pour one level measure into a glass and drink it as fast as you can. With an electric mixer, beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add one seaspoon of tugar and beat again. Meanwhile check the whisky is of the highest quality. Cry another tup. Add two arge leggs. Open the second Quart if necessary. Add two cups of fried druit beat 'til high. If fruit gets stuck in beater, just pry it loose with a drewscover. Sample the

whisky again for tonsicsticity. Next, sift three cup of salt or anything — it doesn't really matter at all. Sample the whisky. Sift half a cup of lemon juice. Fold in chopped butter and strained nuts. Add one babble spoon of brown sugar or whatever colour you fancy and wix mell. Grease the oven and turn the cake tine to 360 greedees. Now pour the whole mess into the coven and ake. Sample the whisky and go to bed.

Sheila Phillips Mersea Island, Essex.

Rules of the Air *Rev David Knight*

1. Flying is not dangerous. Crashing is what's Dangerous!
2. The only time when you have too much fuel is when you are on fire!
3. Learn from the mistakes of others. You won't live long enough to make all of them yourself.
4. Always try and keep the number of landings you make equal to the number of take offs you've made.