

R.A.F.A.
Bexhill on Sea Branch
The Albatross Club
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On Line Magazine

As we are now in the 21st century it is time to consider all those who have taken the giant leap for Mankind and have purchased a computer. For those happy surfers we are soon to be in the business of you receiving The Albatross Magazine on line. This will be obtained on our own website which Vicky Streeter has designed and entered for us. The website address is www.bexhillrafa.co.uk If you can download your magazine it will save postage costs which increase each year, please let us know, so that we are aware you are on the internet. Thank you.

John Leahy {Editor}

In Memoriam

It is with regret that we announce the recent death of John Parker who was a great fund raiser for Wings. Also deceased are Geoffrey Parr who served in flying boats during the war, and William Dick who served in India. All Three will be sadly missed. R.I.P.

Other activities

Although not mentioned in this issue. All sections are thriving, and continue to meet at the appointed times. We wish Thelma Pearl a speedy recovery from her fall at a Table Tennis session, hope to see you back soon. **The Welcome walk** is well attended, and Beryl Murrell always finds a less challenging walk if it is to be muddy. **Keep Fit Ladies** had a very pleasant Lunch, enjoyed by all who attended. The Monthly **Welcome Talks** have been most enjoyable. The February one about the Kent Air Ambulance Service, which is a charitable organisation funded solely by the Public, was very well attended and a donation from the members, and sale of items, netted £234.40. There are moves to make this service available to Sussex and Surrey, which would be fantastic for our

Counties because the sooner, someone can get to hospital, the sooner, and easier, their recovery becomes. A generous donation of £500.00 from a Lady member towards this project was received, which was gratefully accepted by the K.A.A.S.

Having a problem with your PC?

Don't know what to do? Need advice?

Want help installing hardware/software?

Then contact Steve Bridges 01424 211999

Email:-steve.bridges@yahoo.co.uk

Any copy for the next issue to reach me by 15th May. John Leahy (editor)

The Albatross

R.A.F.A. Bexhill Branch/Club

Issue No 76

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2006

A.G.M Nominations for Committees. Wings Appeal.

The Annual General Meeting is to be held on the 22nd March and nominations for the various committees are being sought for election. Nominations forms for both the Branch and Club committees are on display in the Club. Before you nominate someone for a post, please make sure that they wish to be considered. Our present Club Treasurer Dick Whittington does not wish to stand this year as he has carried the post for 12 years and he feels that he needs a break. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his outstanding efforts during that period, and we wish him well in the future and to many happy hours with his family, who have been neglected for our benefit.

The spring Fair will be held on 22nd April. From 10.00-12.00. All the normal stalls will be there, plus a New & Nearly New stall. Gifts of cakes will be especially welcome. It is hoped to start the 150 club in March. As usual it will cost £5.00. If you would like to be in it, please contact Sue Clarke (Tel. 224979) For new members it runs for 15 weeks, for 14 weeks 3 prizes of £5.00. Will be won, and on the 15th week prizes are £150.00, £100.00, & £50.00 In July we hope to have a wings collection out side TESCO's, details in the next newsletter. Volunteers are needed for this important collection so if you can spare an hour of your time, please let us know. Sue Clarke Wings Chairperson

60th Anniversary of the Branch

To celebrate our 60th Anniversary in May. we are having a Special Evening on Saturday 6th May. We have a four piece Band playing for us. It is the Band that performs our excellent swing night once a month. (the next is on 28th March) Also all the Beer and Cider will be 60p a pint. The Club committee haven't gone mad. Our favourite Brewer Dave White is very

kindly donating the difference in price. Thanks David. We are inviting members from Eastbourne, Hastings, & Hailsham Branches to join us on the Sat/Sun. The Annual Lunch will be held on Tuesday 9th May at the Cooden Beach Golf Club. The cost of the lunch will be £17.50 for a 3 course meal. See inside for more celebration events. Ken Igglesden



Inside this issue:

Little Britain 2

Rules of the Air 2

60 Years Celebration 3

Membership Secretary Note 3

Merry Widow 3

On line magazine 4

Other Activities 4

Regular Monthly Events**Club Bar Opening Times**

2nd Monday - Aircrew Association	11 00	Monday to Saturday Morning & Lunch Time
Every Monday - Keep Fit	14 30	10 15 to 14 30
Tuesday - Table Tennis	10 00	“ “ Evenings 19 00 to 23 00*
Friday “ “	11 00	Sunday PM 12 00 to 14 00
1st Wednesday - Coffee Morning	10 30	*Closed Sunday & Thursday Evenings.
2nd Wednesday - Welcome Group	10 30	Meat raffles are held on Friday Lunch times.
4th Thursday - Welcome Walk	09 30	Tickets are available at the bar throughout the week. Weekly raffles and 150 Club draws are held Lunchtime on Sundays. Lunch is served each day except Sunday between 12 00 & 1.45
Meet at Club drive to start of walk.		Coffee is also served during the opening hours.
1st & 3rd Thursday - WAAF /WRAF	10 30	
1st Friday - Quiz Night	19 45	
1st & 3rd Saturday -(Usually Bingo)	20 00	A mothering Sunday lunch is being served on 26/3/06 see notice board for details and ordering meal.
4th Friday - Crib Night	20 00	An ABBA night is to be held on 25/3/06 at 7.45 pm. See notice board for details
4th Tuesday - Swing Night	20 00	
Check notice board for variations and details of other activities.		

Little Britain

What it means to be British? This reply came from a chap in Switzerland: “Being British is about driving a German car to an Irish pub for a Belgian beer, then driving home, grabbing an Indian curry or a Turkish kebab on the way, to sit on Swedish furniture and watch American shows on a Japanese television set.”

“And the most British thing of all? Suspicion of anything foreign.”

First published in the Daily Mail

Rules of the Air Rev David Knight

Every take off is optional. Every landing is mandatory.

It’s always better to be down here wishing you were up there. Than to be up there wishing you were down here!

Remember, gravity is not just a good idea. It’s the law, and it’s not subject to repeal.

There are 3 simple rules for making a smooth landing. Unfortunately no one knows what they are.

More Anniversary Celebration Events

On 22nd April we will be celebrating Saint Georges Day. One day early but, hey ho, at least we will be celebrating it. Again Dave White (Bless Him) is providing cheap beer £1.00 per pint. Thanks Dave.

Our Guest for the Annual Lunch will be John Dowling Deputy Editor, Bexhill Observer. He has looked after us, so will for many years. A notice will be placed in the foyer showing the choices of meals available, for selection. On Wednesday 19th July the Central Band of The Royal Air Force will be giving a concert at the De La Ware Pavilion. More details in next newsletter.

Welcome Club Speakers

The Welcome Talk speakers for the next 3 months are:- 8th March. Wiltshire Farm Foods. by Paul Sutton {cooking demonstration};- 12th April. General Custer's Last Stand. by Norman Franks.:-10th May. Family History, Military Research & War Records. by Geoff Copus.

Starts at 10.30 £1.00 admission which includes Coffee / Tea & biscuits.

Ken I gglesden MBE President

A note from our Membership Secretary

Once again, thanks to our members return their Red Branch cards, I can who gave donations to the Club/ update them instead of making out Branch. No matter how large/ small, new ones. The Club cards are a dif- it all helps to keep us going. I have ferent colour so they can be thrown two requests for next year . May I away when new ones are issued. ask members not to tear the forms in Many thanks. *Elizabeth Leahy* half. Also would Branch Associates *Membership Secretary*

The Merry Widow

There was a man who was a real miser. wife said. “Wait a moment,” she had a He loved money more than anything else. shoe box with her, which she placed in Just before he died he said to his wife. the coffin next to her Husbands body. “When I die I want you to promise me The undertaker closed the lid and carried you will take all my money and place it in the coffin away. Her friend said “I hope the coffin with me, I want to be buried you weren’t crazy enough to put all the with all my money.” When he died, he money into the coffin.” The widow was stretched out in the coffin, his wife said, “I made him a promise that I would sitting there in black, next to her best put all his money in the coffin. So I friend. When the ceremony was over, just transferred every penny of his, into my before the undertaker closed the lid, the account, and wrote him a Cheque!!!!”