

60th Anniversary Celebrations issue.

RAFA Bexhill on Sea
The Albatross Club
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Charity no 262348

We are sad to report the death of Vic Smith who died in March he was a regular supporter of the Club and will be greatly missed. R.I.P

The R A F Association now has a Personal Legal Help-line. If you or one of your family has been involved in an accident and wishes to make a claim, you can get advice from the help-line. They may even take up the case for you, and do not charge for this service. The panel can advise on road traffic accidents, medical accidents, sports injuries, accidents abroad, industrial illness and disease, and claims for military personnel. Plus criminal injuries. There is a time limit for claims, this is generally three years from the date of the incident, during which legal proceedings must have been started. For further information telephone 0800 915 4651

Other Activities

The sections which were not mentioned in the last issue of Albatross, are still running as usual. **Keep Fit, Table Tennis, Welcome Walks, and Welcome Talks,** are still held in their appointed slots in the Calendar. A meeting of a group of ex- RAF National Servicemen has been allowed to meet in the Jubilee Room. They are trying to raise interest from those who served during the period of National Service 1945 = 1962. We hope to recruit new members from this group if possible.

Having trouble with your PC.

Don't Know what to do? Need advice?

Want help installing hard/software?

Call Steve Bridges on 211999

e-mail steve.bridges@yahoo.co.uk

You can download your copy of The Albatross from our website @

www.bexhillrafa.co.uk

Copy for next issue to reach me by

12/08/06 John Leahy {editor}

The Albatross

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

60th Anniversary Celebrations

The Sixtieth Anniversary Celebrations of the formation of the Branch & Club were resounding successes. Saturday night saw a full house with 60 guests from the Eastbourne Branch, along with our Members enjoying the cheap drinks, (courtesy of good old Dave White), and the music of the Swing Band. A BIG THANK YOU to all who provided the food and snacks which helped make the evening such a memorable event. Also a BIG THANK YOU to those who donated raffle prizes which paid for the Band. Sunday also went well when Hastings Branch were also invited to share our celebrations.

The Annual Lunch at The Cooden Beach Golf Club was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The food was of the normal high standard. The Guest speaker, John Dowling gave a potted history of the Branch since its inauguration in May 1946 at the Devonshire Hotel, and included the different venues that the Branch occupied during its sixty years. He also noted that during the same period, the Branch had collected in excess of £555,000 for Wings Appeal & The Benevolent Fund. The reduction of membership in 1963 nearly was the death knell for the Branch, but like a phoenix the Branch rose from the ashes to where it is now. Our current President Ken Iglesden (whose MBE was presented in recognition of his services to RAFA.) was presented with a tray and lead crystal glasses, and his wife, Elsie, who has supported him over the years, was presented with a bouquet of Flowers. Also in attendance were Stuart Earl & Our Padre, Canon David Knight.

R.A.F. Central Band Concert

The Central Band of the Royal Air Force will perform a concert in the De La Warr Pavilion on 19th July. There are two prices for tickets £10 & £12 per head. These will be available from the box office from 5/6/06. Groups of 10 will get a discounted price of £1.00 per ticket. Arrange this with nine others to benefit from this offer.

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Regular Monthly Events

2nd Mon - Aircrew Association 11 00
 Every Mon - Keep fit 14 30
 Tuesday - Table Tennis 10 00
 Friday - " " 11 00
 1st Wed - Coffee Morning 10 30
 2nd Wed - Welcome Group 10 30
 4th Thur - Welcome Walk 09 30
 Meet at Club drive to start of walk lifts can be arranged.
 1st & 3rd Thur WAAF/WRAF 10 30
 1st Friday - Quiz Night 19 45
 1st & 3rd Sat - (Usually Bingo) 20 00
 4th Friday - Crib Night 20 00
 4th Tue - Swing Night 20 00
 Check notice board for variations & details of other Activities

Volunteers needed

There is an urgent need for drivers to assist the Welfare Team in taking members on welfare breaks to Princess Marina House at Rustington (Near Littlehampton). The return journey is about 100 miles and expenses for each trip will be paid for by the Branch, at a rate of 40p per mile. {subject to

Club Bar Opening Times

Monday to Saturday Morning and Lunch Time.
 10 15 to 14 30.
 " Evenings 19 00 to 23 00*
 Sunday PM 12 00 to 14 00

*Closed Thursday and Sunday Evenings.

Meat Raffles are held Friday Lunchtime, tickets are available at the bar throughout the week. Weekly Raffles and 150 Club draw are held Lunchtime between 12 00 - 13 45. on Sunday. Coffee is served during the opening hours. Lunch is available every day except Sunday. Two special lunches are available each Wednesday and a Curry dish on Tuesday. Friday is a Fish & Chips special. Lunches are served between 12.00 & 13 45.

revision in line with increases in fuel costs}. If you can see your way to helping out with this task please contact Pat O'Brien, Len and Evelyn Oliver, or David Starkey, through the club telephone (212916) for further details. One never knows when one may need this service one's self.



Strawberry Tea

We will be holding a Strawberry Tea for residents of Sussexdown / Mais House and residents of various Bexhill nursing homes and sheltered housing schemes, on the 15th June at 14 00. We would like volunteers to help to push wheelchairs, and possibly pick up and drop off, drivers. Please let us know if you can help. Cost of food and transport will be paid from welfare funds. Pat O'Brien

Mais House Fete

Mais House will be having a fete on 24th June at 14 00. We have a few residents there, so it would be a nice gesture to support them. Mais House is in Hastings Road the north side of King Offa Way.

Summer Fair

The Summer Fair will take place on 29th July, all the usual stalls will be on display and if you would like to contribute cakes, bric-a-brac, and any useful items you no longer want, it will all help to raise funds for the Wings Appeal. If you would like to help run a stall let a member of the Wings team know. This day also coincides with the Bexhill Carnival so you can kill 2 birds with 1 stone. starts at 10 00 am.

*Don't forget your ticket for the R.A.F. Band on 19th July
 Special discount for party of 10
 60th Anniversary Celebrations issue.*

Help Tesco's Collection 26/27/July

The Wings Appeal collection will take place on 26th & 27th July 06 We will need volunteers for this. Please contact Geoff Brown on

212563 if you can spare an hour for a good cause. You will not be alone, and you will meet some nice people. Also some who will not see you. But we do need help.