

## R.A.F.A. Bexhill on Sea Branch & Club

Bexhill on Sea Branch  
The Albatross Club  
15 Marina Arcade  
Bexhill on Sea East Sussex TN40  
Branch Office 01424 220114  
Cub Bar 01424 212916

Charity no 262348

### PC Going Too Sloooow?

**Don't know what to do?  
Need Advice? Need help  
installing Hard / Soft ware?**

**Call Steve on 211999 or  
email ;**

**steve.bridges@yahoo.co.uk**

## Our regular events

**Welcome Walk** The last walk we did in May was from Crowhurst, through the old Fore woods where the bluebells were in full bloom. A beautiful sight. A slight shower of rain did not spoil the enjoyment and after sheltering for a while we proceeded to the Plough public house for a well deserved drink and lunch, if you wish to join us you will be most welcome.

**Table Tennis** The two sessions of TT are enjoyed by all the members who come along and play and we are still looking for new people to join us. It only costs 50p a time and this money goes to the Club.

**Keep Fit** The Ladies who work out on a Monday afternoon at the keep fit must be our most energetic members. You could join them and help raise money for the Club.

**Stewards Table** This was a great idea, and thanks to all of you who bring things that you no longer use. It is amazing to see such a variety of goods on display and for sale. So far in 15 weeks the income has been in excess of £1,200 this goes to increase the Club funds. You may have seen the new window Logos and the new blinds, some of this money went on these improvements.

## Can't Do It Yourself ?

Then ring Graham Beale on:- 01424 219824 or Mobile: 07896361087 Painting & Decoration plus. No job too small. Free Estimates.

## Plumbing & Heating

Plumbing and Central heating, & general building if you have any problems ring Paul Baker on 01424 437756 or mobile 07877263689

**We are on the Web visit us at  
[www.bexhillrafa.co.uk](http://www.bexhillrafa.co.uk)**

Copy for the next issue to reach me by 16th August 2007

John Leahy (editor)

# The Albatross

Issue No 81

R.A.F.A. Bexhill on Sea Branch & Club

Jun / July / Aug  
2007

### SE&E Area Conference

This was held at a Warner's Holiday camp at Corton near to Great Yarmouth, on 30th March. John Leahy attended as Branch delegate and Standard Bearer. It was the first time the conference had been held in the East area. The venue was well appointed and the food of a very high standard. Guest speaker Group Captain P Burt MA Bsc. from RAF Honington said that the state of equipment in service is getting older and takes a long time to replace. The already overstretched personnel are due to be reduced to 41,000. Servicing of aircraft will be undertaken by civilians, and airfield defence by the Army. The RAF Regiments role will be mainly intelligence gathering and monitoring. What a state of affairs to be in. One wonders what would happen if someone declared war on us?

Ken Igglesden was presented with a certificate for Bexhill Branch collecting over Ten Thousand pounds for the Wings appeal 2006.

33 Standards were paraded at the Church parade service on Sunday a very good turnout.

### Annual Lunch

Town Mayor Eric Armstrong was guest of honour at the Bexhill branch annual lunch at Cooden Beach Golf Club on 8th May. In proposing the toast for the branch, the Mayor congratulated supporters on the remarkable fund-raising record over the last 61 years. Both Eric and his wife had done a stint with the collection boxes for the wings appeal last September and also asked other councillors to participate, we were pleased with the response that we received. More than 61 members and guests sat down to a first class meal with excellent service provided by the golf club. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all who made this event such a success: to Steve Bridges for saving us money by creating the menus Dick Whittington for the place setting name cards. Geoff Brown Eileen Slinn, Elizabeth Leahy, Peter and Jessica Fagg who unfortunately could not attend at the last moment. Sarah Wood for the inside help. These events would not be possible without the people who give up their own time to make it work. Thanks to all the backroom folk.



### Special points of interest:

- Annual Conference
- Annual Lunch
- New catering
- Disruption of loos
- Strawberry Tea
- Welfare what is it?
- Tesco collection
- Sainsbury collection
- Welcome group

## Regular Events

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

**Check Notice Board for Variations & details of other Activities.**

## New Catering Contract Disruption of Loos

The New Caterer Linda Nye has already impressed the members who use the lunchtime facility. With her home cooked pies, roast meats and lovely fresh vegetables, not to mention her home made puddings and quiches. She has no fixed menu at the moment as she is in the process of finding out what her customers would like. So far we have liked everything. Some visitors from Eastbourne had heard about the change of caterers and were very impressed with the food. They wondered how she could do it so cheaply. Keep up the good work Linda.

## Club Opening Times

Monday to Saturday Morning and Lunch Times. 11 00 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. Buy tickets at the bar throughout the week. Weekly Raffles and 150 Club draw are held Lunchtime between 12 00 - 13 30 on Sunday. Coffee is served during opening hours. Lunch is available every day except Sunday. Fresh Fish & Chips available on Fridays. Please place your orders early to avoid disappointment. First come first served

We have a problem with the toilets at the time of going to press. A sewage pipe that runs through the building has given us a problem. We have had an estimate for the re-routing of all the pipes that are inside, to be diverted to run on the outside of the building. This is not cheap as it is a major project. If anyone feels they could help with this financial burden, all contributions would be gratefully received. It is hoped that the work can be done without too much disruption, but the club may have to close for a day to complete the connections.

## Welcome Club Speaker.

Wednesday Morning at 10.30 a.m.  
June 17th "The Multiple Sclerosis Society" by Gladys M Stewart  
Chair Hastings & Rother Branch

July & August Summer Break no speakers until September.

## Strawberry Tea

The Annual Strawberry Tea will be held in the Club on 14th June from 13.30 hrs until 17.00 hrs. Volunteers are needed to push guests in their wheelchairs and socialize with them to make them welcome. The guests enjoy this event and we always make them welcome

## Tesco & Sainsbury's Wings Collectors

Saturday 9th June. Volunteers are needed for the collection outside **Tesco**. Can you give an hour between 8a.m. & 6 p.m.? Please contact Geoff Brown Tel 212563 or Ken Igglesden 215612

**Sainsbury's** Wings Collection Thursday Friday & Saturday, Sep-

tember 6th,7th,8th. Same contact nos.

**Street Collection** Saturday 15th September. Collectors are required for both of these collections, if you can give some time for these events it would be very much appreciated.

## Welfare— What is it?

It's a fair question and there are lots of different answers. In this context "Welfare" is firstly, putting ex RAF personnel (Ladies & Gents) and their dependants in touch with RAF charitable funds and services. Secondly, it is ensuring that members who contact the team are getting, or have applied for, all the statutory benefits they are entitled to. The scope of both charitable and statutory sources are extensive and include; personal maintenance grants and allowances, grants

and loans for one off needs e.g. removal expenses. Replacement white goods and furniture, loans for house maintenance & repairs, respite care breaks, provision of scooters and other services. This list is not exhaustive. If something is bothering you and you can't see the way ahead do contact the team and we will do our best to help you. You can leave messages for the team behind the bar in the club or you can ring me on 843008.

Pat O'Brien HWO