

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

Phone:
Office: 01424 220114
Bar: 01424 212916
E-mail: bexhillrafa@yahoo.co.uk

You can download your magazine on line Visit our website at www.bexhillrafa.co.uk

A senior citizen drove his brand new BMW Z4 convertible out of the car salesroom. Taking to the motorway, he accelerated to 130 mph, enjoying the wind blowing through what little hair he had left. "Amazing" He thought as he flew along the M23, enjoying pushing the pedal to the floor even more.

Looking in his rear view mirror he saw a police car lights flashing and siren blaring. 'I can lose him no problem' he thought and increased his speed to 150 then 160. suddenly he thought "What on earth am I doing? I'm too old for this nonsense!" so he pulled over waiting for the police car. "Sir, my shift ends in 10 minutes, today is Friday & I'm off for the weekend. If you can give me 1 good reason why you were speeding, I've never heard before, you can go". "Years ago my wife ran off with a policeman. I thought you were bringing her back." "Have a good day Sir" said the policeman.

Can't Do It Yourself? Problems with your PC?

Painting & Decorating

Ring Graham Beale on
0424219824 Mobile:-
07895008546

No job too small. Free estimates.

Plumbing & Heating

Central Heating /
General Building. If you have any Problems ring Paul Selby

On **07877263689**

DIY- Hard ware-Plants

Gardening

Reynolds Hardware
54 Cooden Sea Road

Little Common
TN39 4SL

Tel:- **01424 844369**

Copy for next issue to reach me no later than February 12th 2010 john Leahy (editor)

PC Running too Slow?

Don't know what to do?

Need Advice?

Need help installing Hard / soft ware?

Ring Steve on:-
01424 211999

Or e-mail:-
steve.bridges@sbpcs.co.uk

The Albatross

Issue No 91
Dec 2009 Jan /
Feb 2010

R.A.F.A. Bexhill on Sea Branch & Club
Registered Charity No263248

A Merry Christmas to all our readers

The Committees of both the Branch and Club wish all our Members a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Wings Appeal. I am pleased to report that the Wings Appeal total for 2009 was £8,677. My grateful thanks to the hard working Wings committee who have worked very hard to achieve this result. I should also like to thank our Members and the General Public for their support. We commence 2010 the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain with our Annual Christmas Fair which will be held on Saturday 5th December from 10.30 am. to 12 noon. We shall have all the

Christmas Carol Concert

The Christmas Carol Concert will be held in the Albatross Club on 18th December at 7pm. We will have a keyboard player to accompany all the singing members and the event will be overseen by our Padre Fr Daniel Smith. This will be one of the last Branch occasions which he will officiate at before his departure to join the RAF in April 2010 please join us.

usual stalls, and raffles, including Fancy Goods, Cakes, Books, CD'S, DVD'S, Jewellery and Crafts. Raffles include the WAAF's Christmas Basket, a Name the Bear competition and of course Teas & Coffees. Admission will be 20p children accompanied by an adult will be free. Goods for all the Stalls would be most welcome.

Finally a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year to all our members and thank you for your continued support of the Branch and Club. *Ken Igglesden*
President & Wings Organiser

Boxing Day Breakfast

Our Chef Heather is again providing a Boxing Day Breakfast for all who are interested. There is a list for your names in the entrance hall. Please put your names on the list at your earliest convenience so that she has the number who will attend and can get the right amount of food in for the Day. The cost will be £5.99 per head. It will be served from 10.30am until 1.00pm.



Inside this issue:

Regular Events & 2

Opening Times

Welcome Talk 2

Table tennis 2

Walks

RAF Chaplaincy 3
By our Padre

Speeding Senior 4

Do It Yourself 4

PC Problems

Hardware, Plants 4

Regular monthly Events

2nd Monday Aircrew Association	11.00
Every Monday Keep Fit	14.30
Tuesday - Table Tennis	11.00
Friday - " "	11.00
4th Tuesday Creole Jazz Night	20.00
1st Wednesday Coffee Morning	10.30
2nd Wednesday Welcome Group	10.30
4th Thursday Welcome Walk	09.30
Meet at Club, then drive to start of walk	
1st & 3rd Thursday WAAF/WRAF	11.00
1st Friday Quiz Night	20.00
1st & 3rd Sat (Usually Bingo)	20.00
2nd & 3rd Friday Crib Night	19.45

Check notice board for variations and details of other activities.

Welcome Talks

The Welcome talks for Wednesdays start at 10.30 am.

9th December = Ed Walker, subject "The British Nuclear Deterrent".

13th January = Chris Cox, subject "Home Front Musical Memories"

10th February 2010 = Clive Hatcher "Arrive Alive" with slides and advice for Older Drivers.

Bar Opening Times

Mon - Sat Morning & Lunch Time.
11.00 to 14.30
" Evenings 19.00 to 23.00*
Sunday PM 12.00 to 14.00*

* Closed Thursday & Sunday Evenings

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

Our Chef Heather is providing delicious meals Mondays to Fridays. With a full roast dinner on Wednesdays. Please support her with your custom.. Both the **Lottery Bonus Ball Card** and the **Sunday Draw Sheet** are displayed on the notice board by the bar. Place your selection on them and put your money in an envelope and pop it in the appropriate boxes.

Table Tennis & Walks

Table tennis is still being enjoyed by the few participating members, if you would like to join in come along on Tuesdays & Fridays. The Monthly Walk is still in need of an organiser, but we have been out with trips to Rye Harbour, and Cuckmere Valley Nature Reserves, Alexandra Park, all of which have been very interesting. We do not intend to go on Winter walks which may be muddy, but will stay on paved paths. Followed by our Pub Lunch Come & Join us it's good fun.

Chaplaincy in The Royal Air Force

By now many will have heard that I have been accepted by the RAF to become a chaplain from next April. This has been something my family and I have been thinking & praying about ever since I was on placement at RAF Brize Norton in my final year of theological college. RAF chaplains have much in common with the parish priest in that they conduct worship services, officiate at weddings baptisms & funerals as well as offer counsel, meditation & advice. Both are alongside their people in times of sorrow & joy. However, the context is different & the personal sacrifice may be considerable as we can expect to move every two years or so and I will inevitably serve for months at a time in hot sandy places where the locals aren't as welcoming as those in Bexhill. The selection process has been lengthy & rigorous, beginning last June when approval was sought from Bishop Wallace and references from various sources obtained. In September, Zoe & I met a serving chaplain & his family & were filled in on the "truth" about it all!!! In February I went to Air Command HQ in High Wycombe where I underwent searching interviews with the Archdeacon for the RAF, the Director of Chaplaincy & the Director of Strategic Policy & Plans, all of whom were Group Captains. Chaplains are also Commissioned Officers so it was necessary to undergo the same selection procedures as any other officer candidate. Over four days in May, along with 26 candidates from a variety of backgrounds applying for a variety of branches, I was assessed at the Officer and Aircrew Selection Centre at RAF Cranwell. We were assessed by our performance in group & individual planning exercises, aptitude tests, a group discussion, leadership exercises (clambering over planks ropes and tyres), a fitness examination and finally an interview with two boarding officers. At the end of it all there were only 9 of us left. The next step will be the Specialist Entrant and Re-Entrant Course (SERE) possibly in May next year at RAF Cranwell. This is for 14 weeks and is for 'professional' entrants – doctors, lawyers, nurses, and clergy. It used to be called somewhat disparagingly as "Vicars & Tarts" course. Despite rumours, it is not about passing the port and use of the correct cutlery, but instead comprises of drill, physical conditioning, ground defence tactics, basic air warfare strategy, defence policy & organization and leadership training. There is also something rather worrying called 'character training'..... This has been an enormous adventure so far and will no doubt continue to be. Our children are excited at the prospect of some day meeting real penguins in the Falklands or swimming in sunny Cyprus. Zoe & I are grateful to the Branch & Club members for their generosity & support, we fully intend to make the most of the time left to us in Bexhill. *Fr Daniel*