

Bexhill on Sea Branch  
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*A female Social Worker in a supermarket is following a grandfather and his 4 year old grandson. It's obvious to her that he has his hands full with the child screaming for sweets in the sweet aisle, biscuits in the biscuit aisle, and fruit in the fruit aisle. Meanwhile, granddad is working his way around, saying in a controlled voice " Easy William, we won't be long...easy boy." Another outburst, and she hears the granddad calmly say, " It's ok William just a couple of minutes and we will be out of here. Hang in there, boy". At the checkout the little terror is throwing items out of the trolley, and granddad says in a controlled voice, "Relax William relax mate don't be upset we will be home in a few minutes, stay cool William." Very impressed, the woman goes outside where the grand father is loading the groceries and the boy into the car. She said to the elderly gentleman, "It's none of my business but you were amazing in there. I don't know how you did it. That whole time you kept your composure, and no matter how loud or disrupted he got, you said things would be ok, William is lucky to have a granddad like you." "Thank you madam." said the grandfather, "but I'm William ... that little b——d's name is Jason."*

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**Copy for next issue to reach me by November 12th John Leahy (editor)**

# The Albatross

R.A.F.A Bexhill on Sea Branch & Club.  
Registered Charity No 263248

## Farewell to our President

Over 200 people attended the funeral of Ken Igglesden MBE held at St Augustine's Church on Monday 9th August. There were Standard Bearers from the Air Training Corps plus a guard of honour of cadets, The Royal Navy Association and our own RAFA Standard. A trumpeter from the RAF Regiment Band played the Last Post & Reveille. Tributes were given by Ken & Elsie's Daughter Carolyn and son in law Dave Robson. Ken was taken to Eastbourne crematorium for a family service. He was well liked and will be sadly missed.

### A Few Words From the Branch Chairman

September is significant for the RAF since the anniversary of the Battle of Britain occurs on the 15th of the month. RAFA Bexhill will mark this iconic battle in two ways: firstly, by laying a wreath at the War Memorial on the seafront; Secondly, by holding a memorial service at St Michael's Church. Our padre, Rev Daniel Smith, will officiate at both events. The wreath laying ceremony will be on Sunday 12th September starting at 12.15pm. Standards from six ex-service organizations will be on parade and a trumpeter will sound the Last Post & Reveille. The parade of standards will leave the club soon after 12 noon followed by members who would like to march with them. Those who feel that marching is too much for them are welcome to make their own way to the memorial. The Memorial service will be held on Sunday 26th September commencing at 12 noon at St Michael's Church Glassenbury Drive. The Mayor, Mr. J Carroll & other Council dignitaries will be in attendance. It is hoped to have nine standards on parade. We have chosen St Michael's this year as the parish is celebrating it's 80th anniversary of the building of the church, and are including B of B & WW11 memorabilia in the two days of events preceding the service. Do try your best to attend either the wreath laying, or the church service, or both, if you possibly can. A chance to show our pride in the RAF does not come very often so please make the effort.

Best wishes to you all, *Pat O'Brien*

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## Regular Monthly Activities Bar opening Times

2nd Monday Aircrew Association	11.00	Mon - Sat Morning & Lunch Time.
Every Monday Keep Fit	14.30	
Tuesday - Table Tennis	11.00	11.00 to 14.30
Friday - " "	11.00	" " Evenings 19.00 to 23.00*
4th Tuesday Creole Jazz Night	20.00	Sunday PM 12.00 to 14.00*
1st Wednesday Coffee Morning	10.30	* Closed Thursday & Sunday Evenings
2nd Wednesday Welcome Group	10.30	
4th Thursday Welcome Walk	09.30	
Meet at Club, then drive to start of walk		
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.

**Our Bar-B-Q in July was a great success & we hope to have another on-Sept 18th. Keep your eyes on the board for other activities!!!**

### Christmas Fair.

This years Wings Christmas Fair is on December 4th. We shall be running a **Bottle Tombola**. Any contributions of bottles, ketchup, brown sauce, salad cream, perfume, cola, orange squash,. Wine, Brandy, Whisky, Rum. Anything that is in a bottle. All will be gratefully received. We are also having a **Bran Tub** so any unwanted small items will be put to good use to raise a few pounds for the wings appeal. Please bring these items to the Club. We continually

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 place it in the appropriate boxes.

### Tesco/ Fair Total.

ask for donations of some kind, but the money we raise helps the unfortunate servicemen and their families when they need it most. The Tesco collection on July 3rd netted a total of £420.19. Summer fair £451.13. and the band concert raised £646.12. which is a good effort. We would like to thank all concerned both contributors and collectors, without your help and kind donations we would be unable to carry out the fund raising. We hope that the collections outside Sainsbury's over the August Bank Holiday weekend will have boosted our total.

## New Wings Appeal Organiser

As your new Wings Appeal Organiser, I would like to introduce myself to the many of you who I have not had the pleasure of meeting yet. I cannot fill Ken's shoes but hope to be able to continue the amazing work he did for RAFA, along side the very dedicated committee and supporters here in Bexhill who help to raise funds which go towards supporting ex-RAF personnel and their families whenever they are in need. I moved to Bexhill in 2002 and very soon became involved with RAFA having met Ken & Elsie on my first visit to the Albatross Club and being made very welcome. I served on the Branch Committee for 4 years.

My RAF career began in 1972 as an assistant Air Traffic Controller, in 1974 I was commissioned and trained as an Air Traffic Controller. Many postings followed around the UK, and overseas in Cyprus, and detachments in Malta and Gibraltar. I retired from the RAF in 1987 when I married, my last tour was at the Scottish Air Traffic Control Centre at Prestwick, where I was one of three Squadron Leaders under a Wing Commander, overseeing a team that worked alongside the Civil Air Traffic Controllers. A very demanding but rewarding job. My family are now grown up and I work full time for Southern Railway. Volunteers are needed for the Wings Street Collection on 18th Sept please contact Geoff Brown 212563. *Wendy Renshaw*

### Volunteers needed for Monthly Talks & walks! Any takers?

As Ken Igglesden used to arrange our Monthly welcome talks. We now need someone to carry on the good work. It is not too arduous a task, just a matter of phoning speakers who talk on different subjects and finding out when they are available, how much they charge for their services, and if they can do it on the second Wednesday of the month. We may be able to provide some names for a start.

Our monthly walks on the fourth Thursday have continued without a proper organiser for some time. We have been going to places which members of the group have suggested. But we however have no one who has a general knowledge of the walks around and about which are not too demanding, and have a good eatery at the end, so we can replace the calories which we may have burned off. Our walks are not in excess of 5 miles, and not too challenging.

### Inter-Club Quiz Night

We are hoping to hold an Inter-Club Quiz Night on 16th October. Invitations are being sent to The British Legion, Rowing Club, Waterfront, Sailing Club, Royal Naval Association. Teams will be limited to four players but the Clubs can send a number of teams. Depending on the response, the event may be on-going, with us visiting the other Clubs in turn. We are trying to create new schemes to generate some extra income to keep our heads above water, as there are some nights when the only people in the Club are the bar stewards. We cannot continue like this and it would be such a shame if we had to close the Club because it was not paying it's way. Any suggestions from our members for improving the situation would be a great help. We have said in the past "If you don't use it you may lose it!"