



## RAFA Caduceus Branch

Volume 2 of 2025

### Chairman's Report

Hello all...

Here is Issue 2 of the Branch newsletter already! Thanks to all our contributors, your input is very much appreciated and a reminder to all members that we welcome your contributions.

As you can see, the Branch has been remarkably busy with our members engaging with a variety of activities, evident from the reports there have been several firsts.

The Branch is proactive in supplying opportunities for event attendance so please keep your eye on Facebook and the Newsletters.

I was incredibly lucky to attend the Annual Act of Commemoration at Runnymede as Deputy Standard Bearer, please read Vivienne's words about it later on. This was an extremely moving event in a beautiful setting, certainly, ticked off my bucket list!

The Branch can boast that it has two Area Councillors, with Vivienne being on Central Council via her links with RAFA Leigh and I have taken a position on our own Southeast & Eastern Area Council. We take our roles seriously and hope that we can better represent you, our members, within RAFA moving forward. Area Council representation is open to any Branch member if you are interested. Any willing volunteers are always welcome for either the Branch Committee or at Area level can make enquiries via the Branch Secretary on our usual branch email address.

We have several events coming up, including an incredibly special event we will be announcing very soon. If you hear of an event our members might be interested in, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Above all, we are a Welfare Charity, and your membership and support enables us to help current and former members of the RAF Medical Services in times of need. For that, on behalf of the Branch Committee and all the beneficiaries your membership subscription helps, thank you for your continued support.

Nec Aspera Terrent

Paul M Newton

Chair RAFA Caduceus Branch

## Secretaries Report

This year's Area Conference was held at the RAFA Aylesbury and Halton Club on 17 May and was attended by the Branch Chair and Secretary.

It is still a contentious issue that Virtual Branch Representatives (formerly Delegates) cannot attend their local Area Conference, reducing travel time and expense.

The atmosphere at this year's conference was much more relaxed without A "Voice for All" lurking in the background. However, it is clear that whilst RAFAHQ have found a suitable voting system to be used nationally, it remains to be seen how members will be engaged in discussion and the role branches will play.

There were only two branch instigated resolutions, one from County Fermanagh Branch expressing disappointment that the final area office (northern) had closed and our own branches resolution seeking to align RMGs with branches to enable wider participation.

Further details of either of these can be obtained from the Branch Secretary. So the summary of Area Conference is wait and see. There are rumblings of changes ahead and branch engagement is at an all-time low at Area level.

If you would like any more information about being co-opted to an Area Council, please get in touch.

Vivienne Newton  
Branch Secretary

## Go Fund Me



As many of you will know, every year we send out Christmas boxes to our RAF Medical Services colleagues who are detached to forward operating areas over Christmas as well as our members aged over 75. But with increasing costs, we need your help. Do you know a business that would sponsor our Christmas boxes or donate items we could include? If you do, please get in touch. We are also asking members if they will share details of our Go Fund Me appeal via their social media so we can reach as many people as possible who might be able to donate. Thank you. <https://gofund.me/6f158d3a>

## EASYFUNDRAISING



Don't forget you can sign up to Easyfundraising and raise money for us whilst you shop - all at no cost to you. From holidays and travel to your supermarket shop, everything you buy donates a % to the Branch.

Sign up using the QR code displayed on page 7.

## Out and About



I had the great pleasure, alongside my Army veteran friend Tony, in visiting St. Michaels school in Minehead on VE Day. We visited 3 schools that day and the children and staff were brilliant. Probably the most nerve-wracking thing I've done in years.

Eddie Hill

If you have something to contribute to the newsletter we would like to hear from you. Eddie's school visits is an excellent example of branch members getting involved.

I could include a photograph of me sat in front of a computer knocking out this newsletter or updating the branch website but that would not be very inspiring.

Come on, let's hear from you.

### **VE Day 80: A "Celebration to Remember" concert**



The concert was attended King Charles III and Queen Camilla and featured veterans and wartime heroes reflecting on their experiences of VE Day and the Second World War, accompanied with "stories of love, resilience, and the joy of peace after years of conflict". There was music and performances from stars of stage and screen, with fantastic pyrotechnics.

The event started off with the wonderful sight of a Lancaster flying over Horse Guards Parade.

Highlights included King Charles reading from the late Queen Elizabeth's diary about her joining with the VE day celebrations and a brilliant Dad's army skit performed by many of the UK's best known actors.

I would like to thank the Caduceus branch for organising my ticket. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Maxime Owen and Mark Denton



Branch members at the 'Not Forgotten' garden party at Buckingham Palace on Fri 16 May 25, as guests of the RAFA Caduceus (Medical Services) Branch. The "Not Forgotten" transforms the lives of veterans and serving military personnel living with injury, illness or isolation by bringing people together, lifting spirits and restoring dignity and confidence. It was a truly memorable and enchanting experience to be part of

such a distinguished event in the magnificent surroundings of the Palace gardens.

We deeply appreciated the opportunity to meet so many wonderful guests and to enjoy the splendid hospitality extended by His Majesty's household. The occasion was an excellent celebration of tradition and elegance, and we feel honoured to have been included.

It was also fantastic to be amongst fellow branch members, some of whom Alison and I have not seen for years, and to pick up on the conversations we started all those years ago as though there had never been a gap, and to make some new acquaintances. We extend our sincerest gratitude to the branch for affording us the opportunity to be a part of this amazing day, and we look forward to any future occasions where we might again have the privilege of participating in a branch event. If you would like to attend this service in future years, please contact the Branch, attendance is by ticket and allocation is usually linked to the parading of the Branch standard.

### **Annual Act of Commemoration at Runnymede**



On Sunday 18th May 2025 at 11 am. Paul gathered alongside serving and veteran members of the RAF to honour 20,263 members of the Commonwealth Air Forces who lost their lives in the Second World War 1939/45 while operating from the United Kingdom and Northwest Europe and who have no known grave. The service was attended by Chief of the Air Staff, Sir Richard John Knighton, and conducted by Air Vice-Marshal Giles Leslie Legood, Chaplain-in-Chief of the RAF.

RAFA Caduceus was honoured to be one of three branches to have their Standard chosen to be paraded at this prestigious occasion. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Commonwealth Air Forces and Ex Service organisations, including the RAF Association.

The Branch decided not to lay a wreath on this occasion, but I was persuaded to do some moonlighting and laid a wreath on behalf of our fellow Virtual Branch, the Armourers.

This moving ceremony is open to all who wish to pay their respects to those named on the memorial, and the branch will be promoting the event again next year.

## Commemorative Events

Sunday 14th September at Westminster Abbey for the Annual Battle of Britain Thanksgiving Service.

Please remember that the Branch can apply for places to attend these events and we would encourage members to go, as they are very memorable services.

### Book now for Cenotaph 2025

We yet again have a contingent for Cenotaph 2025 and places are open to all our current veteran members. Uniformed personnel can apply to march with the RAF. However, we may need help for our veterans i.e. pushing wheelchairs. So please get in touch if you would like to help. Places fill up fast, so please contact us ASAP if you would like to attend.

## Air Cadets

### Caduceus Branch Air Cadet affiliated Squadrons

A quiet month but have reached out to the following:



**209 (West Bridgford) Sqn** – have emailed them to ask for dates to visit the Squadron and to do certificate presentations.



**2458 (Shipley and Baildon) Sqn** – as above I have emailed them to ask for dates to visit the Squadron and to do certificate presentations.



**308 (Colchester) Sqn** – Thanks to Ron, I have emailed and had correspondence from Flt Lt Jean Robinson. She has confirmed they wish to affiliate their Squadron with us but is busy at the moment. I have given her an outline of what we offer the cadets.



**511 (Ramsey) Sqn** – Thanks to Kelvin I have made contact with WO Nathan Eyre who is OIC of the Squadron. Confirmed they currently have no affiliation with any RAFA Branch and are happy to talk to us.



**2497 (Cosford) Sqn** - Have emailed Flt Lt Giles Vince, OC about an affiliation. 2497 Sqn are without an affiliated RAFA branch and are interested in having a chat.

Robbie Cormie  
ATC Liaison

## Social Media



Our public page can be found at <http://www.facebook.com/RAFACaduceusBranch>  
To join our private branch members only group search 'RAFA Caduceus Branch Group' request to join and answer the questions.



@rafacaduceus



@rafacaduceusbranch



You can always email us at [rafacaduceusbranch@gmail.com](mailto:rafacaduceusbranch@gmail.com)

## Branch Volunteers

Steve Kilbey – President

To be elected – Service Representative

Paul Newton – Chairman [rafacaduceusbranch@gmail.com](mailto:rafacaduceusbranch@gmail.com)

William Morris – Treasurer

Vivienne Newton – Secretary [rafacaduceusbranch@gmail.com](mailto:rafacaduceusbranch@gmail.com)

John Radnedge – Welfare Officer [john.radnedge@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:john.radnedge@hotmail.co.uk)

Ron O'Hare – Fundraising & Wings Appeal

Mark Denton—Membership <mailto:caduceusmembership@gmail.com>

Emma Wilkins—Branch RAFLO

Kelvin Kettlety – Standard Bearer

Ray Bunnage – Communications Officer [rafagloucester@gmail.com](mailto:rafagloucester@gmail.com)

## Website

Have you visited our branch website? <https://www.rafamedicalbranch.co.uk/>

RAFA Caduceus (Medical Services)  
Branch



### **Let's finish with some humour**

Two doctors attending a medical conference Strick up a conversation. They agree to have dinner together. During the meal one of the doctors kept leaving the table to wash her hands.

After the meal they retired to the bedroom and made passionate love. The next morning over breakfast he asks whether she was a surgeon. Yes she replied, how did you guess. I noticed your compulsion with washing your hands.

Would I be right in thinking you are an anaesthetist she asked? I am he replied, how did you guess?

.....Last night I didn't feel a thing.