



The Association of  
No 43 (Fighter) Squadron,  
Royal Air Force



## Newsletter – February 2019

### INTRODUCTION FROM OUR PRESIDENT

After a fantastic reunion in 2018, work is now in hand to prepare for our annual reunion in 2019. Katherine Campbell has agreed to speak – she is currently completing a biography of her father, MRAF The Lord Douglas of Kirtleside, who was the first OC of 43 Squadron in 1916. Katherine and her husband Peter have been staunch supporters of the Association for many years. This year Wg Cdr Andy Moir hands over the Chairmanship of the Association to Gp Capt Derek Johnston. This handover has been planned for a couple of years; the formalities will be completed at our forthcoming AGM. Derek is an established member of the Association Committee and is already deeply involved in all aspects of our business. He is pivotal to our continuing relationships in Scotland, representing us regularly at annual events, maintaining links with Stirling, and the RAF, through Air Officer Scotland's office. The 2019 reunion will give us an opportunity to welcome Derek into his new role and to say a huge thank you to Andy Moir for his time as Chairman. Andy is our longest serving Chairman and committee member, who has steered the Association through many key events. His knowledge of our squadron history is unparalleled. Under his organisation, the millennial and our centenary celebrations in Stirling were hugely successful. He established and maintained great relationships with the City of Stirling after the Squadron was granted the Freedom of the City. More recently, Andy has done a huge amount of work to catalogue and establish the locations of Squadron and Association memorabilia. Lost and missing items have been recovered to suitable storage. He has also made loan arrangements to keep key items of our history on show so that the squadron remains in the wider RAF and public memories. Throughout his time as Chairman, Andy's dedication, wisdom and good humour have been obvious to all. He has been true to the Klagenfurt Protocol, creating and maintaining great relationships across our membership. I will miss his advice, knowledge and humour. We wish Andy all the very best for a long and happy retirement and will give him a good send off at our reunion on 18<sup>th</sup> May. I hope to see you all there!

### ANNUAL REUNION 2019

Venue: RAF Club, 128 Piccadilly, London

Date: Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Dinner: 1800 for 1930

Dress: Lounge Suit, Squadron Tie

Ladies most welcome

Menu:

**Beetroot Cured Scottish Salmon, Radish Salad & Dill Crème Fraiche**

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**Roast Sirloin of Beef with Yorkshire Pudding  
Traditional Roast Potatoes & Selection of Vegetables**

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**Grand Marnier Crème Brulee, Lemon Sable**

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**Coffee and Petits Fours**

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The cost is **£47.50** per person. Please make cheques payable to 'No 43(F) Squadron Association' and send to Mr W R Preece, 17 The Steadings, Ford, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 6BH. Alternatively, please email [bill.preece43@gmail.com](mailto:bill.preece43@gmail.com) for the bank details to make a BACS transfer. The closing date for booking with the Secretary is 5<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

For VEGETARIANS and/or if the menu is not to your liking, please contact the RAF Club

Conference and Banqueting team to make your own arrangements. Telephone: **020 7399 1000**.

For those planning to stay at the Club, I suggest making the earliest booking to secure your rooms!

## REUNION 2018

Seventy-three Association members joined us for last year's annual reunion at the RAF Club. We looked across the centenary of the RAF. Our guests of honour were Angela Findlater, the daughter of Capt John Lightfoot Trollope, of 6 kills in one day fame in 1918, and Air Cdre David Bradshaw, the Tornado and Lightning Force Commander. Air Cdre David spoke about the future of the RAF and the new Lightning fighter aircraft. The Beedle Trophy was presented to Gill Howie in recognition of all her support to 43 Sqn and Association over many years.



Pictured: Berry Vissers (Gill Howie's husband), Air Cdre David Bradshaw, Angela Findlater, Gill Howie, Sir Simon Bryant (Association President).

## BANNIAL MEMORIAL REDEDICATION

RAF Fylingdales contacted us early last year to seek our support for the rededication of the Bannial Memorial in June 2018. This memorial commemorates the shooting down of the first Luftwaffe aircraft over England in World War 2, by Flt Lt Peter Townsend and Sgt Hallowes on 3 February 1940, flying 43 Sqn Hurricanes. The original site of the memorial, next to a main road near Whitby, was becoming increasingly dangerous to visit, so Whitby Town Council moved the memorial to a safer location. Jim Campbell represented the Association, laying a wreath on our behalf.



## CENTENARY COMMEMORATIONS IN FRANCE

La Gorgue was one of 43 Squadron's bases in WWI for a short period in early 1918. We have worked with a local archaeologist and historian, Serge Comini, to help support the centenary commemorations on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The site of La Gorgue lies in the grounds of Beaupré Abbey and his work has unearthed a huge number of artifacts of the small airfield, many of which are now on display in La Gorgue Museum. The Mayor, town councillors and town band held a commemoration at the Cemetery and Katherine Campbell placed a wreath at the memorial on our behalf. The event was attended by descendants of airmen who had flown from Merville and La Gorgue. Serge has provided a great deal of detail to Katherine for her background research into the biography she is writing about her father, MRAF The Lord Douglas of Kirtleside, our first OC. Serge also used the centenary event to launch his own book on the history of the area in WWI – "Abbaye Notre-Dame de Beaupré-sur-la-Lys, des Hommes sur la Terres.....et les Chemins des Dames". Copies of the book may be obtained directly from him at [scomini@nordnet.fr](mailto:scomini@nordnet.fr).

The following week Katherine attended the commemorations at St Omer for the RAF. Katherine reports that "once again, the ceremonies were magnificent, and the Mayor of St Omer, the Armed Forces Minister, and all sorts of other French dignitaries were at the Cathedral, the Cemetery at Longuenesse and at the aerodrome with the British Air Forces Memorial. There was much wreath-laying, including by French school children, each of whom had 'adopted' an airman at the Cemetery and laid a tiny little posy on each grave. It was very moving, and the French people involved could not have been more kind. We had a flypast of four Rafale aircraft too - they didn't have to do it, but they did, for our Air Force! Am attaching a photo of Peter and me with Alain Chevalier, the Mayor of Théroutanne, a small town to the south of St Omer, who hosted us impeccably for the day and was charming."



## OTHER CENTENARY ISSUES

The RAF100 and the associated events prompted over 30 requests for information on former members of the squadron. Typically these requests were from family members or aviation historians seeking access to deceased personnel records. We were able help using contacts in the RAF Disclosures and Records Office, the National Archive at Kew and the Air Historical Branch (the RAF's formal archivists). Our own archives have proved useful time and again. We supported a German TV company filming their version of 'Who Do You Think You Are?' One of the trails for information led to a Hurricane pilot on 43 Squadron who went missing in 1940.

Most importantly, Arthur Howell celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in August. Arthur was on 43 Squadron in 1944-45. Bob Iles, our former Association Secretary continues to visit Arthur regularly.

## GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR)

The GDPR is a legally binding set of regulations on data privacy that applies to all organisations that came into force in 2018. The Association handles your personal data in the following ways:

### Information Collected

We only collect basic personal data. This information includes your name, home address, email address, social media account addresses, and telephone numbers. This data is only ever sourced from the data you provide personally.

### Use of Personal Information

We use your Personal Information to:

- administer and manage your membership
- communicate with you through email, letter or any other electronic methods about your membership
- communicate Association news and information (by mail, e-mail, telephone, SMS, via the internet, social media, or using other electronic means) principally via an electronic newsletter
- allow you to give feedback and to permit us to respond
- conduct testing (to ensure security and when we update our systems), data processing, website administration and information technology system support and development.

### **Security of Information**

Only the President, Chairman and Secretary will be able to access your full details. Other committee members may hold limited details applicable to their roles, with the consent of the individual members concerned, eg when distributing hard copies of the annual newsletter.

We use organisational, administrative, technical and physical security measures to safeguard your Personal Information and to help ensure that your information is processed promptly and accurately. Specifically:

- Association committee members use personal IT devices to maintain and store information applicable to their roles. Access to these devices is password protected and adequate anti-virus software is installed;
- When using electronic communications with a membership-wide distribution, appropriate measures will be taken to withhold member's email addresses by use of a mailshot application or the "Bcc" facility. To facilitate Association business, committee members are deemed to have agreed to their email addresses being visible on emails requiring group discussion.

### **Information Sharing**

We will share your Personal Information **only with your consent**, such as with:

- Other members via the Association membership list.
- Aviation historians researching specific historical events.
- Families of recently deceased Association members who seek support in organising funerals or memorial services.
- No personal information will be provided on deceased members unless we gain permission from families.
- We will share information on events from squadron histories and archives only where these are in the public domain, such as Jimmy Beedle's biography, 'The Fighting Cocks'.

### **Retention of Information**

We will keep your Personal Information only for as long as we need to support your membership, unless we are required to keep it for longer periods. Specifically:

- your Personal Information that forms part of the Association's financial records may be stored by us for 7 years after you end your membership, due to Inland Revenue requirements;
- if we lose contact, after 2 years your information will be transferred to the Dormant List where your last given contact details will be maintained until you decide otherwise;
- if you terminate your membership and your Personal Information is no longer necessary for legal or regulatory needs, we will take reasonable steps to destroy such information securely.

### **Access to Your Information**

The Association encourages you to check regularly that all Personal Information held by us is accurate and up to date. If you believe that any information we hold about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to correct or remove this information from our records. The best way to do this is via a contact change request on the Association website,

[www.43squadronassociation.com](http://www.43squadronassociation.com), or directly to the Secretary via email, telephone, text or letter.

Any corrections or new information will be updated promptly.

### **Your Rights**

You have the right to access, update, erase, change or correct your Personal Information.

Specifically, you have the right to:

- withdraw your consent for our use of your Personal Information at any time, where our processing is based on your consent
- restrict and/or object to the use of your Personal Information
- request a copy of your Personal Information we have about you

If you have questions about this privacy statement or how your information is handled or wish to make a complaint or exercise your rights, please contact the Honorary Secretary in the first instance.

### **Data Protection Roles**

Under the GDPR, a Data Protection Officer (DPO) must be appointed if:

- you are a public authority (except for courts acting in their judicial capacity);

- your core activities require large scale, regular and systematic monitoring of individuals (for example, online behaviour tracking); or
- your core activities consist of large scale processing of special categories of data or data relating to criminal convictions and offences.

The Association does not conduct such activities, nor does it collect or use Sensitive Information. A DPO has not therefore been appointed. For enquiries relating to information management within the Association, please contact the Secretary.

## **PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL SITES**

The Association is liaising with Air Marshal Cliff Spink regarding the possible loan of Association paintings and memorabilia to the RAF Bentley Priory Museum.

Although the Association has no direct links with, or means to support, individual members may be interested in supporting 2 advocacy groups:

The Biggin Hill Chapel Action Group seeks to protect the Chapel of Remembrance from partial demolition. Details: <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/protect-biggin-hill-st-george-s-raf-chapel-of-remembrance>, and <https://www.rafhornchurch.com/protect-biggin-hill/>.

Goodwin Sands SOS has been campaigning for over 2 years to prevent the Dover Harbour Board from dredging the Sands for aggregates. The iconic Sands are the graveyard of innumerable mariners, over 2000 ships and are also the final resting place of over 60 planes and 80 aircrew from the Battle of Britain alone. Details: [www.goodwinsandssos.org](http://www.goodwinsandssos.org).

## **OBITUARIES**

It is with much regret that I report the following deaths:

Willie Ronald, electrician on Tornado F3s. Scant details reported on Facebook.

Alistair Inverarity, F4 navigator and simulator instructor on F4s and F3s at RAF Leuchars. Passed away on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Perhaps more widely known as the navigator in the F4 that shot down a Jaguar in RAF Germany after a live armed Battle Flight scramble on TACEVAL.

Dave 'Wildpig' Wildridge, F4 pilot 1976-79. Passed away 16th July 2018. Wildpig had continued to fly Tiger Moths for many years and Andy Moir reported a wonderful flypast at his funeral:



## **INFORMAL REUNIONS**

The annual Tornado F3 aircrew reunion will take place on Friday 17th May at the Knights Templar in Chancery Lane, London.

The annual Phantom aircrew reunion will take place on Friday 8th November at the Lord Moon on the Mall, Whitehall, London.

The annual Tornado F3 groundcrew reunion will take place on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November in Dundee, venue TBC. Details via <https://www.facebook.com/groups/412746082171326/>.

Best regards to all

Bill Preece

Secretary and Treasurer

43(Fighter) Squadron Fighting Cocks Association

Address: 17 The Steadings, Ford, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 6BH

Email: [Bill.Preece43@gmail.com](mailto:Bill.Preece43@gmail.com)

Mobile: 07730 485515