

# 128

THE MAGAZINE OF THE RAF CLUB WINTER 2018  
CENTENARY EDITION

## CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

*Her Majesty The Queen  
visits the Club to mark  
its centenary year*

## NEW PORTRAIT

*Benjamin Sullivan  
on a Portrait fit  
for a Queen*

## STAINED GLASS WINDOW

*Commemorating  
women in the service  
of the Royal Air Force*

## THE KAMIKAZE HUNTERS

*The Club hosts two of  
the pilots who fought  
for the Pacific in 1945*



## *Club Portrait of Her Majesty The Queen Unveiled*



1918 2018

ROYAL AIR FORCE CLUB  
— CELEBRATING 100 YEARS —



ROYAL AIR FORCE CLUB  
— CELEBRATING 100 YEARS —

The Royal Air Force Club,  
128 Piccadilly, London, W1J 7PY

ISSUE NUMBER 90  
Published Winter 2018

#### EXECUTIVE TEAM

|                                                                                                 |                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Mr Miles Pooley</b><br>Chief Executive &<br>Club Secretary                                   | <b>Mr Dave Holland</b><br>Security Manager               |
| <b>Mrs Kathryn Cooper</b><br>Club Manager                                                       | <b>Ms Dagmara Katlewski</b><br>Executive<br>Housekeeper  |
| <b>Mr Luc Coquillard</b><br>Operations Manager                                                  | <b>Mr Stephan Marais</b><br>Chief Engineer               |
| <b>Mr Michael Dutnall</b><br>Executive Chef                                                     | <b>Mrs Rachel Matthews</b><br>Human Resources<br>Manager |
| <b>Mrs Charlotte Gray</b><br>Head of Marketing<br>& Communications<br>Editor of 128<br>Magazine | <b>Mr Andy Watson</b><br>Director of Finance             |
| <b>Mr Roy Harris</b><br>Systems Manager                                                         |                                                          |

#### CONTACT

**General**  
020 7399 1000 / [admin@rafclub.org.uk](mailto:admin@rafclub.org.uk)

**Reservations**  
020 7399 1019 / [reservations@rafclub.org.uk](mailto:reservations@rafclub.org.uk)

**Conference & Banqueting**  
020 7399 1004/5 / [confbanq@rafclub.org.uk](mailto:confbanq@rafclub.org.uk)

**Membership**  
020 7399 1001/2 / [membership@rafclub.org.uk](mailto:membership@rafclub.org.uk)

**Club Social Events**  
020 7399 1042 / [events@rafclub.org.uk](mailto:events@rafclub.org.uk)

**Dining Room**  
020 7399 1020 / [dining@rafclub.org.uk](mailto:dining@rafclub.org.uk)

✉ [admin@rafclub.org.uk](mailto:admin@rafclub.org.uk)  
🌐 [www.rafclub.org.uk](http://www.rafclub.org.uk)  
🐦 @therafclub  
📘 facebook.com/TheRoyalAirForceClub  
📺 youtube.com/user/RoyalAirForceClub  
📌 logo.pinterest.com/therafclub/  
📍 google.com/+RoyalAirForceClubLondon

Design: [www.zedcreative.co.uk](http://www.zedcreative.co.uk)  
Published by the Board of Trustees of the  
Royal Air Force Club. Views expressed are  
not necessarily those of the Board. Registered  
Charity No: 1108295. Company Limited by  
Guarantee No: 5321353. Registered Office:  
The Royal Force Club, 128 Piccadilly, London,  
W1J 7PY. Registered Charity No: 252720



16



14

## THIS ISSUE

- 4 FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
Miles Pooley looks back at a memorable year
- 5 NEW CLUB PRESIDENT  
Air Marshal Sir David Walker succeeds Sir Peter Squire who sadly passed away in February
- 6 NEW PORTRAIT OF  
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN  
Artist Benjamin Sullivan reflects on his time painting the Club's Patron
- 8 CLUB ART  
Two new stained glass windows commemorate "women in the service of the Royal Air Force"
- 14 A CELEBRATION OF WOMEN  
IN AVIATION  
Club Dinner pays tribute to the role women have played in the history of the Royal Air Force



23



8

- 16 ROYAL VISIT  
The Royal Air Force Club was honoured to receive an official visit by our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen
- 18 CLUB NEWS  
Member offers, staff news and the new centenary extension
- 23 IN PICTURES  
Pictorial highlights from the year to date
- 26 CLUB EVENTS  
Looking ahead to the social events calendar 2019
- 30 CLUB MERCHANDISE  
The perfect selection of festive gifts for all ages.



# A Year to Remember

*As a whirlwind 2018 draws to a close, I'm sure many of us will be taking a moment to pause and draw breath. In this 100th year of the Club and the RAF itself, the phenomenal achievements of both organisations were celebrated in style.*

In July, the Royal Air Force triumphantly displayed across the forecourt of Buckingham Palace and Horse Guards Parade, watched by royalty and millions of excited supporters across London and all over the world. Old favourites, the Spitfire, Hurricane and Lancaster steeped in heritage and nostalgia flew alongside modern day heroes such as the Red Arrows (more of which on page 23) and the latest addition to the RAF fleet, the F35 to create an aerial spectacle unlikely to ever be seen again. It was not lost on those fortunate enough to be there, just how lucky they were.

After the crowds had dispersed, Officers, organisers, veterans and their families all streamed into the Club to enjoy welcome respite. The celebrations carried on well into the evening, with those involved proud to have witnessed this piece of RAF history.

The Club of course plays a central part in this aviation story, growing alongside the RAF, and welcoming many of its heroes and heroines over the years. It is fitting therefore, that 2018 at the Club saw not only 100 years of history, but in particular 'Women in the Service of the RAF' celebrated – with new stained glass windows and a wonderful Club Dinner to 'commemorate, celebrate and inspire'.

The Club also welcomed a new President into post with Air Marshal Sir David Walker accepting the invitation of the Board of Trustees to become the President of the Club and it was alongside Sir David and CEO Miles Pooley, that I was



*"The huge success of this royal visit and the centenary year to date was only possible through the hard work, dedication and drive of the Club's management and over 135 staff"*

privileged to welcome our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen to the Club on a rare private engagement to mark the centenary year.

The huge success of this royal visit and the centenary year to date was only possible through the hard work, dedication and drive of the Club's management and over 135 staff. For those members who would like to recognise all that has been achieved and delivered by the staff in 2018, the Trustees and I would like to encourage a contribution to the Club's annual staff fund. This fund enables all employees to be recognised for all that they do on behalf of the Club throughout the year. (see page 5)

Finally on behalf of Club members, I would like to pay tribute to a fellow Trustee, one whose tireless work also cannot go unacknowledged. Vice-Chairman, Air Commodore Rick

Peacock-Edwards stands down as Vice-Chair and a Trustee in December after 9 years on the Board. Rick's contribution to the Club has been enormous. Thank you Rick for all your endeavours on behalf of the Club, you too have served to make this Club the best in London.

*Sue Gray*

AIR VICE-MARSHAL SUE GRAY  
CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## NOTE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

# Looking Ahead to 2019

*Whilst the Club has been busy celebrating its Centenary this year, we have been working to complete our centenary extension project in time for the visit of our Club Patron, Her Majesty The Queen on 17th October 2018.*

The centenary project has been one which has caused many sleepless nights as the team has strived to ensure that the result would be one that everyone could be proud of and facilities would be provided to meet the needs of Club members. Our achievements have been most successful, with the accommodation and facilities being well received by those fortunate enough to enjoy them during their

recent visits to the Club. Her Majesty, during the visit opened the extension, dedicated our new stained glass window and unveiled a portrait which was commissioned to mark our centenary, as well as meeting some of our long serving team members,

*"We were also delighted to be able to rename The Ballroom, The Sovereigns' Room, where the portrait of Her Majesty now has pride of place."*



## CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT

CEO Miles Pooley, Club President AM Sir David Walker, Club Chairman AVM Sue Gray & Chairman of the Centenary Committee Gp Capt Mark Heffron awaiting the arrival of Her Majesty; Club kitchen brigade awaiting the arrival of the royal guest; House Committee Chairman John Fisher, AVM Gray, HM The Queen with CEO Miles Pooley at the unveiling of the centenary extension; Club Manager Kathryn Cooper being presented to HM The Queen in recognition of her 33 years' service.



Board of Trustees, Committee Members, and those involved with the various projects. We were also delighted to be able to rename The Ballroom, The Sovereigns' Room, where the portrait of Her Majesty now has pride of place.

Club events have been held throughout the year to celebrate our 100 years and special mention must be made of the 1920's themed centenary Summer Ball, our Birthday Party celebrations in late October, our two Royal Receptions at St James's Palace and many Club lunches and dinners.

Plans are already in place to continue our programme of improvements to the fabric of the building in 2019 including refurbishment of further bedrooms, completion of staff areas, which have been rebuilt as part of the project, remodelling of the kitchen, which serves Club functions and major works to our main lift.

As we strive to retain and develop our team, we have been very focused on enhancing the image of the Club as a positive employer of choice within the hospitality industry.

I wish to extend my appreciation to all the management and staff for their dedication and hard work during what has been a special but challenging year. The feedback from members has been second to none and I am extremely proud of the level of service and hospitality that is extended to everyone who enters 128 Piccadilly.

**Miles Pooley FIH MI**  
Chief Executive & Club Secretary

## CLUB NEWS

### New Club President

We are delighted to announce that over the summer, Air Marshal Sir David Walker accepted the invitation of the Board of Trustees to become the President of the Royal Air Force Club, succeeding Sir Peter Squire who sadly passed away in February.

Sir David was commissioned in 1974. His appointments included Equerry to The Queen, secondment to the Diplomatic Service in South Africa and command of RAF Halton. In 2003, he became Air Officer Commanding the Training Group, now 22 Group, responsible for flying and aeronautical engineering training for all 3 Armed Services, and for all other RAF training. In 2005 he was seconded back to Buckingham Palace as Master of the Royal Household.



**LEFT TO RIGHT**  
Vice-Chairman,  
Air Commodore  
Rick Peacock-  
Edwards; Group  
Captain Mark  
Heffron; Wg Cdr  
Michael Gilbert

### With Thanks

The end of the year marks the end of an era for three Trustees, who have served on the Board and Club Committees, dedicating considerable time, energy and expertise to the Club over the years. Vice-Chairman, Air Commodore Rick Peacock-Edwards, mentioned on page 3; Group Captain Mark Heffron, Trustee and Chairman of the Club's Centenary Committee, who moves on to an exciting new post as Air Attaché Berlin; and Wg Cdr Michael Gilbert, who after over 15 years serving on the Board, Arts Committee, Archive Committee and Membership Committee, deserves

some well-earned respite. It will not be entirely all relaxation for Michael however, as he now moves into the role of Honorary Archivist here at the Club. Congratulations Michael, and as co-author of the Club's superb history, 'The Story of 128', there is no better placed member available to undertake the role.

The Chairman and Trustees would like to record their sincere thanks to Rick, Mark and Michael for their efforts and wish them all the best for the future. Both Rick and Michael will remain on the Arts Committee. New Trustees will be announced in 2019.

## CLUB STAFF FUND

2018 has been an outstanding centenary year for the Club and we are incredibly proud of the service our staff have delivered to members. However, the Club staff deliver excellent service every year and whilst we are conscious that the Club rules state that "Members are not expected to give gratuities to the Club's employees" we would instead encourage you to contribute to the Staff Fund. This fund allows us to reward our team for their loyalty and support and is distributed amongst all employees. If you feel able to make a contribution, then please either send a cheque made payable to the Royal Air Force Club to **Miles Pooley, RAF Club, 128 Piccadilly, LONDON W1J 7PY** or make a payment direct to our bank account with a reference of Staff Fund, name and membership number. It is preferable, from an audit point of view, that cash transactions are not made.

**The RAF Club**  
**Coutts & Co**  
**18-00-02**  
**05134331**



## CENTENARY ART

# A Royal Seal of Approval

*In early 2017, talented artist and BP Portrait Prize winner Benjamin Sullivan was invited to the Club to meet with the Arts Committee. The meeting was to discuss a new commission to celebrate the Club's forthcoming centenary in 2018 and its incredible sixty-six year association with its Patron, Her Majesty The Queen. Ben was lucky enough to win this prestigious commission and here reflects on the experience of not only meeting with Her Majesty, but spending time capturing a likeness that would not only earn a royal seal of approval, but Club members' too.*

In February 2018, Ben found himself face to face with Her Majesty in the White Drawing Room at Windsor Castle for a sitting for a new Club portrait. After a preliminary visit, some 5 weeks prior, the enormity of the task in hand was apparent, with the usual eight sittings cut to one sole opportunity to capture Her Majesty's likeness. On the big day of the sitting, after the initial nervousness had worn off, Ben was then left to his artistic devices, to sensitively and realistically portray The Queen in a portrait fit to take pride of place in the Club's elegant Ballroom.

During the hour spent sketching and drawing Her Majesty, conversation

ranged from the good old British weather (the day of the sitting was so cold, additional heaters had to be brought in) to the beautiful Windsor Castle Rose Garden, and the hot topic of 2018, the Royal Weddings.

The sitting itself may have been fleeting, but in the months that followed, Ben spent many hours alone in his Suffolk studio, working in watercolour and oils, whilst the memories were still fresh. Photographs taken on the day were also used to ensure the more intricate details such as the elegant Damask gilded chair on which Her Majesty is seated, were true to life. The work was finally completed in August 2018 and an image then sent to the Club and the Palace prior to the big 'reveal'.

Fast forward to October 2018 and Ben was presented once again to Her Majesty at the official royal unveiling of the work. The ceremony went without a hitch, with Club President Sir David Walker unveiling over six months of hard work to the hundred or so assembled guests.

*"The round of enthusiastic applause that followed and an understated "well done" from the royal guest was exactly the response Ben had hoped for."*

"The round of enthusiastic applause that followed and an understated "well done" from the royal guest was exactly the response Ben had hoped for."

In the days following the unveiling, the portrait of course captured the media's attention, with The Queen's trusty black patent Launer handbag, garnering much press of its own.

"The idea was to capture something of the role of the monarch, but one tries to get behind that to the person. I really like the idea her handbag was placed in front of the gilt chair. It was almost happenstance that it was placed there, but it gives some idea there's actually a person as well as a figurehead. It's where she put it, and I thought I could take it



out, but then I thought – actually, it's quite a nice thing, a personal thing."

After a commission of this prestige and having now immortalised possibly the most famous person in the world, what challenge can possibly lie ahead for Ben? Well for this artist at least, the same pleasure is derived in capturing any individual with a unique character and a story to tell, be it a stranger glimpsed in passing, a neighbour down the road or indeed the Monarch. Following the success of this latest work, it's unlikely Ben will have much time available for the former.

The latest addition to the Club's art collection can be viewed in the newly renamed Sovereigns' Room, formerly the Club's Ballroom on the first floor of the Club.

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT**  
Progression of the portrait; the finished portrait; Ben with his daughter Edith in the studio; Ben at the unveiling alongside HM The Queen and Club President AM Sir David Walker.

## KEY DETAILS

- The Queen is shown seated in Windsor Castle's White Drawing Room.
- The Queen has been painted by over 130 artists throughout her reign, but the latest portrait features one unusual item – the monarch's handbag.
- The portrait also includes a number of RAF elements: in the background is a Spitfire – 'S' for 'Strike' – from 253 Squadron from which the artist's grandfather, F/Lt JM Sullivan, flew over Albania during WW2.
- The image on the right is a portion of 'Hurricanes in Flight' (1944), by Eric Ravilous, painted as part of his work for the War Artists' Advisory Committee. Ravilous lived and worked near Benjamin Sullivan, and in the 1930s, as a member of the Great Bardfield Artists, whose body of work is now housed at the Fry Art Gallery in Saffron Walden.

## ABOUT BEN SULLIVAN

- Benjamin Sullivan was born in Grimsby in 1977. He studied painting and drawing at Edinburgh College of Art, graduating in 2000. Since then, he has established a growing reputation as a figurative painter.
- His work has been widely exhibited, including at the Royal Academy and National Portrait Gallery. Among other distinctions, he has received a Carrol Foundation Award, the Kinross Scholarship, and a grant from the Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation. In 2007 he won the Lynn Painter-Stainers Prize.
- He was elected a member of the New English Art Club and the Royal Society of Portrait Painters in 2001 and 2003 respectively, becoming the youngest person to be elected to those institutions. In 2009, he was made a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers.
- His work is to be found in numerous public and private collections, including the National Portrait Gallery, the Royal Scottish Academy, Parliament House, Edinburgh, and several Oxford and Cambridge Colleges.

- In 2009 he became artist in residence at All Souls College where he undertook a large commission depicting the College staff. The resulting work, The All Souls Triptych, was displayed at the Ashmolean Museum in 2012 and now sits in one of Hawksmoor's twin towers at All Souls College. In 2014 Sullivan was appointed Artist in Residence at the Reform Club. Ben lives and works in Suffolk.

[www.benjaminsullivan.co.uk](http://www.benjaminsullivan.co.uk)  
With thanks to Benjamin Sullivan



CENTENARY ART

# CELEBRATING WOMEN IN THE RAF

The genesis of these windows dates back a decade or so when two Trustees, Arts Committee Chairman Wg Cdr Michael Gilbert and Gp Capt Tony Banks proposed the idea of creating two stained glass windows to commemorate “women in the service of the Royal Air Force”. The artist selected to undertake the commission was Helen Whittaker, the creative force behind the Club’s original stained glass window, which takes pride of place on the rear staircase. This spectacular stained glass window has now transformed a previously underused space into one of the centenary’s most visual highlights.

When the Club moved into its permanent home in 1922, ladies had been admitted – but were confined to the area that is now the Presidents’ Room, the Victoria Bar and their cloakroom, linked by a room that was simply a passageway with two large frosted glass windows facing onto blank walls. The history of this area was the inspiration behind the project.

Visually and artistically the Club had no reference to women, yet since 1918 they had played a vital role in service to the Royal Air Force.

Michael and Tony’s vision was to have this story told in glass and in so doing turn this nondescript space into a striking visual representation. When this idea was put to Helen Whittaker she responded with enthusiasm. After over two years of design and skilful assembly, the new windows, described by Helen as “joyful, engaging and uplifting”, were formally unveiled by Her Majesty The Queen in October 2018.

Measuring 4.1 m x 1.8m, this new work of art although using the same traditional techniques as the Club’s original window, has an abstract and modern style. Artist, Helen Whittaker guides us through the creative vision and its key features and themes.

“My design is inspired by the iconic image of the American factory worker, Rosy the Riveter. The idea of the female worker holding the air forces together through the fixing of rivets becomes a metaphor for women in the service of the RAF and the development of their role, from a separate ‘female’ service to their present fully integrated position; from factory workers to pilots.

Lines of rivets at eye level provide lenses through which images of women serving the RAF can be viewed. The design is also intended to capture the graphic nature of World War II posters, with their block colours and bold lines.”

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP**

The finished windows in situ; the Barley Studio team hard at work; Helen sketching out the initial design prior to the glasswork stage.





1. WRAF Fitter on DH9A
2. Factory workers cutting and sewing fabric for aircraft.
3. Motorcyclist member of the WRAF in 1918.
4. Member of the WAAF working as a Radar Operator in 1945.
5. A WAAF working on Balloon in WWII.
6. Cooks preparing evening meal on operational RAF station in WWII.
7. WAAF Corporal Daphne Pearson, rescues a pilot from a burning aircraft and was awarded the Empire Gallantry Medal (later replaced by the GC). King George VI invested her with the GC on 31 January 1941; she was the first woman to receive the award.
8. Avro 504, 1918.
9. WRAF marching in Maresquel, France in April 1919.
10. Members of the WAAF from 6 different countries during WWII.
11. Winston Churchill visiting Castle Bromwich factory watching a female riveter working on a Spitfire.
12. Joan Hughes, member of the ATA and ferry pilot standing alongside Stirling aircraft undercarriage.
13. Three members of the WAAF awarded the MM for their courage during raids by the Luftwaffe in August 1940 while serving at RAF Biggin Hill.
14. Members of the WAAF repairing Wellington aircraft.

#### WINDOW ONE IN FOCUS World Wars I & II, 1918 – 1945

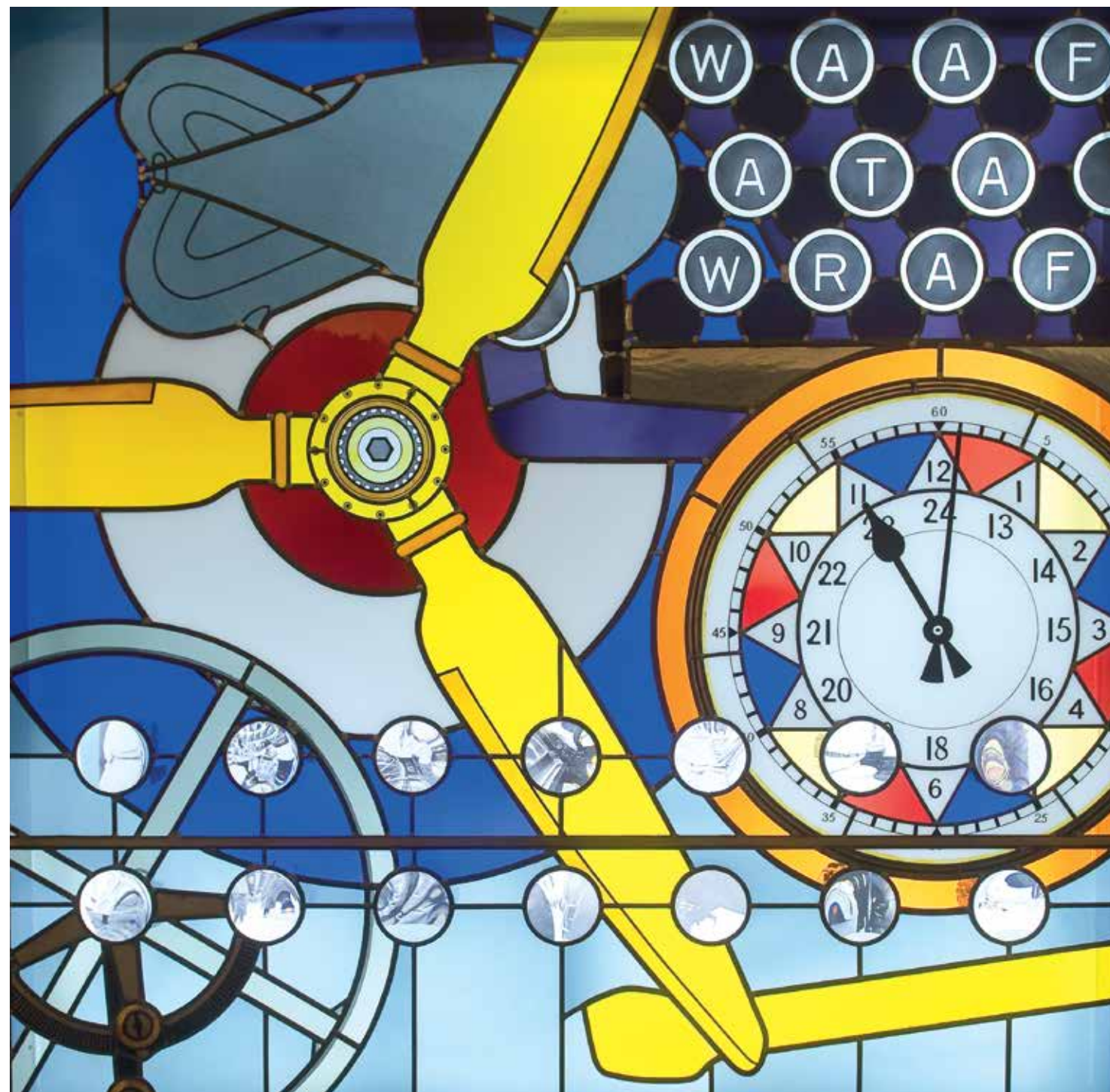
The window to the left celebrates the variety of vital supporting roles that women have provided to the Royal Air Force, both while serving in uniform and as civilians.

At the lower left, the steering wheel of a WWI Crossley tender symbolises the way war opened up a range of opportunities previously the province of men, such as driving and servicing lorries, motorcycles and cars. To the right, the Operations Room clock references the ever-expanding role of women in Photo Intelligence Interpretation, radar installations, operations rooms and flying control. The hands of the clock are set at 11.01 am, for it was at this time on 15th September 1940, with Churchill present at AVM Park's 11 Group, the Luftwaffe launched what it believed would be the knockout blow. In the

event, after a hard day's fighting, it was the Germans who were repulsed on what is now commemorated as Battle of Britain Day.

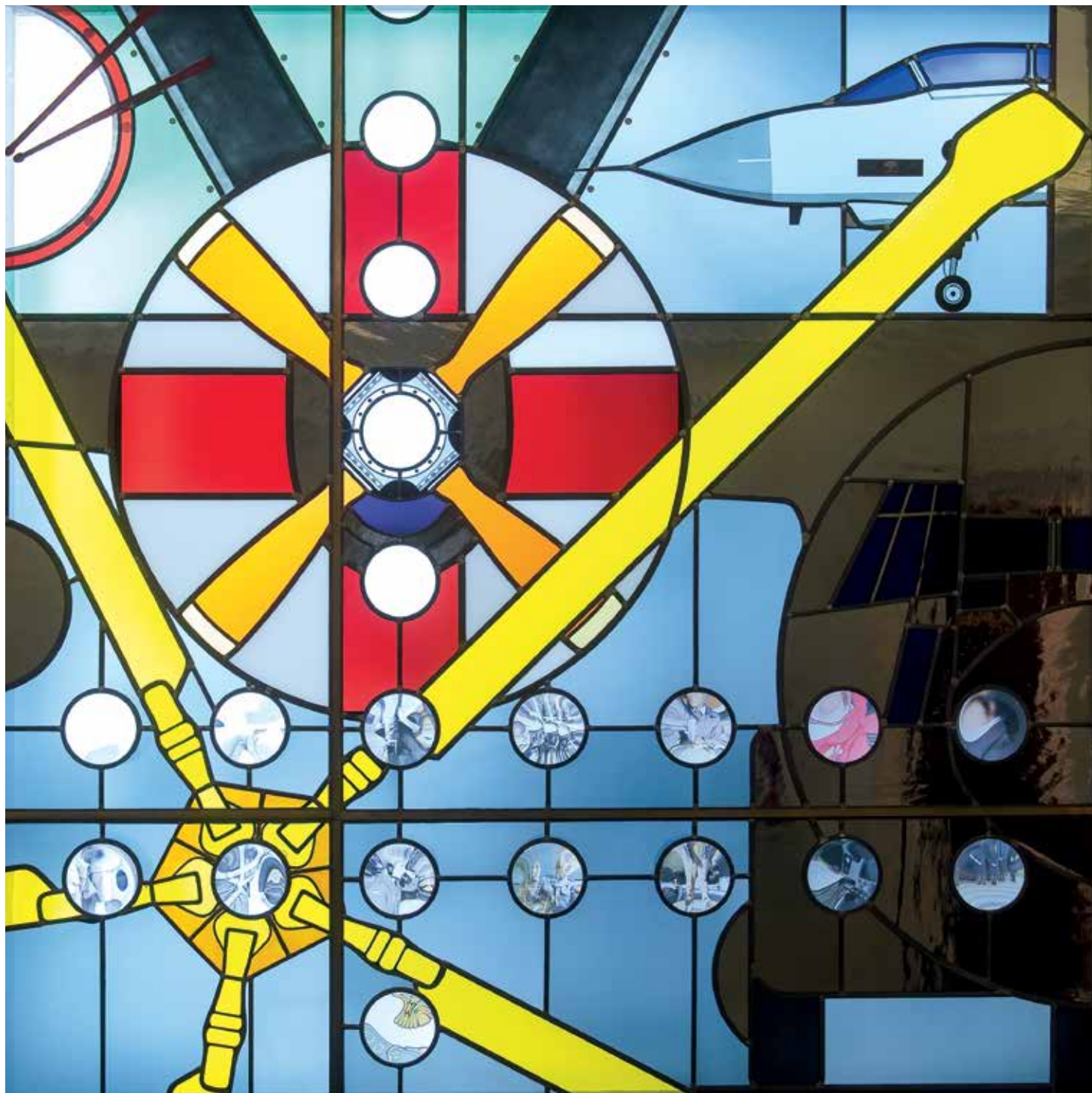
The Spitfire propeller stands for the essential part played by women in manufacturing and maintaining aircraft, and also references related roles from parachute packing to the delivery of aircraft to squadrons by the civilian pilots of the ATA. The propeller is centred on the red, white and blue roundel of the Royal Air Force. To the top left is a barrage balloon, not only manufactured by women but also operated by them on barrage balloon sites. To the top right, the typewriter signifies the vital administration and support roles taken by women. The keys show the initials of the women's services, the WRAF in WWI, the WAAF in WWII, and finally the vital airborne 'delivery service', the civilian ATA.

*“The Spitfire propeller stands for the essential part played by women in manufacturing and maintaining aircraft”*



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP**  
Window one in close-up; Stained Glass window team from L-R Trustee Gp Capt Tony Banks, Keith Barley & Helen Whittaker artist at Barley Studios, Chairman of Arts Committee, Wg Cdr Michael Gilbert; One of the twenty-eight rivets being slotted into position.





## WINDOW TWO IN FOCUS Post-War to the Present Day

The second window celebrates the fact that women are no longer seen simply as a resource called on in times of war, but are now fully integrated into the Royal Air Force.

The rotor of the Merlin helicopter forms a link across the two windows; the Merlin was flown by the first female to be awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) during Operation TELIC in

Iraq in June 2007. To the right is a Hercules, the aircraft flown by the RAF's first female pilot in an operational role from June 1991, marking the culmination of a process pioneered by the female pilots of the ATA.

Above left, and overlaid with the Hercules propeller, the Red Cross represents the female medical role. Commencing with nursing, when the Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service was inaugurated in

June 1918, and uniquely remaining in being between the wars, the role has since expanded to include casualty evacuation and front-line medical provision, with female doctors and nurses working equally alongside their male counterparts.

At the top of the window is an airfield with two runways, with a drum to their left. Resting on the wing of the Hercules, the drum underlines the importance of music to the *esprit de corps* of the armed



15.



16.



17.



18.



19.



20.



21.



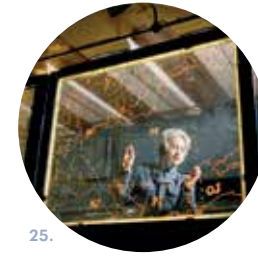
22.



23.



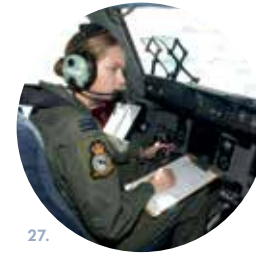
24.



25.



26.



27.



28.

forces. The Central Band of the Women's Royal Air Force was established in 1949 but sadly fell victim to defence cuts in 1972. However, in 1990 the RAF became the first Service to recruit women to form mixed bands, and today they form a growing proportion of RAF musicians.

To the right, a 617 Squadron Tornado celebrates the RAF's first female fast jet pilot Hon. Gp Capt Jo Salter, who joined 617 Squadron in 1994, and also the first fast jet RAF squadron (12 Squadron) to be commanded by a woman in January 2015. Read more about Jo on page 14.

## Through the Lenses

Behind each of the twenty-eight lenses (rivets) in the two main horizontal rows, an image is visible, creating a panorama of photographs and posters illustrating women's roles from the RAF's formation to the present day. The rivets are a unique element of the window and the images were sourced with thanks from the Air Historical Branch and The Directorate of Public Relations, RAF, the RAF Museum, the Imperial War Museum, and from Flt Lt Kirsty Moore.

The images behind the left window

show the evolution of female roles from simple typewriter to skilled air mechanic, radar operator, and ATA pilot; while those behind the right window chart the transformation in the status of women in the RAF, now fully integrated and filling all roles in the service.

## The George Cross

Between the windows is a depiction of the George Cross, a tribute to the extraordinary bravery of Daphne Pearson and Noor Khan (in the latter case resulting in her murder in Dachau after her capture and torture at the hands of the Gestapo). The ribbon, being between the typewriter and the Merlin rotor, serves to remind us that women's progression from their strictly limited role of a century ago to the fully operational role today has also exposed them to the hazards of war, in addition to the two George Crosses, as underlined by awards of the Military Medal in the last war, and of the DFC in 2007.

**With thanks to Helen Whittaker MA FMGP, Wg Cdr Michael Gilbert and Gp Capt Tony Banks and all those members who generously donated to the project**

15. Noor Khan, of Indian & American descent, joined the WAAF in 1940 & trained as a Wireless Operator. She later became an SOE Agent and was posthumously awarded the George Cross for her heroism.

16. WAAF training on Medivac duties with Hoverfly helicopter post WWII.

17. Jean Lennox-Bird, the 1st female pilot to be awarded RAF Wings, 1952.

18. WRAF Band performing at the Record & Pay Office.

19. Painter & Finisher working on fabric interior of Hercules aircraft, 1977.

20. Flt Lt Kirsty Moore, the first female Red Arrows pilot.

21. RAF Corporal in combat clothing & No. 1 uniform.

22. Members of the WAAF at RAF Wythall being demobilised, 1946.

23. WRAF Medical staff undergoing parachute training, 1944.

24. Air Traffic Controller at RAF Coltishall, 1967.

25. WRAF Plotter, 1960s.

26. Four crew members of a Merlin RAF combat helicopter deployed to Afghanistan in 2012. Captain, Flt Lt Michelle Goodman, was the first woman to be awarded the DFC in 2007 while serving in Iraq.

27. Flt Lt Nicky Baker, captain C17.

28. Visitors to the National Memorial Arboretum.



## CLUB CENTENARY

# A Celebration of Women In Aviation

*On 22nd October, the RAF Club held a very special dinner. Themed to align with the RAF and the Club's Centenary in 2018, the event commemorated the role women have played throughout the history of the Royal Air Force, celebrated their achievements, and served to inspire young women who might consider the RAF as a future career choice.*

Held in the year that also fittingly commemorates the centenary of votes for women, the event marked the formal unveiling of the Club's new centenary stained glass window by Her Majesty the Queen just five days earlier, and paid tribute to the RAF being awarded 'Women of Achievement' at the Women of the Year Awards earlier in the month. The Women of the Year Awards was established thirty-six years ago to celebrate women's

achievements across the UK and, in accepting the award, the RAF issued the following statement: "In our Centenary year, the Royal Air Force is extremely proud and delighted that the service of its women, now and during its history, has been recognised. We are proud of our inclusive culture in which everyone can fulfil their talent and potential. Last year the RAF Regiment was opened to women for the first time, making the RAF the first of the UK Armed Forces to be fully open to women; a fact of which we are very proud. There are incredible women at all ranks and in all specialisations of the RAF and this recognition for their continued efforts is appreciated by them all."

The Club Dinner, hosted by the Club's first female Chairman, Air Vice-Marshal Sue Gray, was punctuated by a series of vignettes delivered by serving and

former serving RAF female officers. Air Commodore Cynthia Fowler set the scene by telling guests of inspirational RAF ladies including Air Commodore Joy Tamblin who had worked at Bletchley Park, Noor Inayat Khan GC, who was seconded to the Special Operations Executive in the Second World War, and Dame Felicity Peake who had persuaded the Duchess of Gloucester to ask King George VI to ensure that women were fully integrated into the RAF. Air Cdre Fowler was also serving as Deputy Director WRAF in 1991 when the decision was taken to open flying roles to women; we were very fortunate to have two of these women, Group Captain Anne-Marie Houghton and Group Captain Jo Salter as fellow speakers at the Dinner. Jo Salter spoke about how the Royal Air Force has led an 'explosion' of opportunity for women over the past 100 years, whether it be as female mechanics during the first world war, the 'Attagirls', such as Mary Ellis, flying Spitfires in the Second World War or her own experience of flying training and the support she received from the



*"There are incredible women at all ranks and in all specialisations of the RAF and this recognition for their continued efforts is appreciated by them all"*

chain of command in realising her ambition to be the RAF's first female fast jet pilot.

Gp Capt Anne-Marie Houghton, the RAF's first female Navigator, spoke about the raft of career opportunities available to women in today's Royal Air Force, with more than 50 branches and trades to choose from, together with her immense pride in leading the RAF100 Parade as Parade Commander on the Buckingham Palace forecourt on 10th July. Having been Officer Commanding the WRAF Flight for RAF Lyneham parades in the early 1990s, the drill had not changed but, from the days where the WRAF had a separate flight and were unarmed, her main challenge was learning to march around an armed flight while carrying a sword! Most Club members will have seen the Parade either live or replayed on TV and will no doubt agree that Anne-Marie did the Service proud on

**ABOVE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT** Trustee, Air Commodore Wendy Rothery; Guest viewing the window; Trustee, Air Commodore Barbara Cooper & Air Cdre Dawn McCafferty; Hon Gp Capt Jo Salter; Chairman and Host AVM Sue Gray.

that day, demonstrating to the world that the RAF is a Service at the forefront of pushing new boundaries to be as inclusive and innovative as possible.

Air Commodore Maria Byford recounted her time as Commander Medical Forces on operations in Afghanistan in 2014 where she was responsible for commanding the 300 strong UK Medical Group and for the drawdown and closure of the legendary Role 3 trauma Field Hospital in Camp Bastion, ensuring the provision of medical support right up to the point of lift-off from Bastion airfield at the end of October 2014.

Air Cdre Dawn McCafferty spoke about her role as Commandant Air Cadets, recounting stories of the inspirational cadets she has the privilege of commanding, a talent pool of unlimited potential and excellent advocates for the Royal Air Force. Through the outstanding support of more than 15,000 adult volunteers and a small permanent staff, air cadets are able to experience flying, gliding and to undertake simulated flight, with over 150 cadets every year achieving solo status in a light aircraft, often

before they are old enough to drive. A key part of the RAF 100 legacy is to inspire the next generation and the Air Cadets have a central role in this.

In summing up, event host, Air Vice-Marshal Sue Gray, said "In the year that marks the Centenary of the Royal Air Force, the Royal Air Force Club, and voting rights for women, it is especially fitting that we celebrate the contribution of women to the Royal Air Force throughout the history of the Service by holding a formal dinner in their honour. I was extremely proud to hear the remarkable stories of a number of serving and former serving female officers and am delighted that the Club has paid tribute to their achievements".

With females now serving at Air Force Board level, there has never been a better time to celebrate the achievements of women in the Royal Air Force and the opportunities available to them; the RAF Club delivered this in fine style on 22nd October.

**With thanks to Air Commodore Wendy Rothery, Chairman of the Events Committee**



Introduction to Chairman of Centenary Ctee  
Gp Capt Mark Heffron, also pictured L-R Club President  
Sir David Walker, Club Chairman AVM Sue Gray



ACM Sir Stephen & Lady Hillier



Her Majesty surveying the Chefs on display



Former Stalag Luft III prisoner of war, Air Commodore  
Charles Clarke shaking hands with Her Majesty



Admiring the original stained glass  
window by artist Helen Whittaker



101 year old member Jack 'Tiger' Lyon, Stalag  
Luft III prisoner & no 79 of the 'Great Escapers'

## Royal visit by Her Majesty The Queen

The Royal Air Force Club was honoured to receive an official visit by our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen on 17th October. The visit was over a year in the planning, with management and Trustees working under a cloak of secrecy to ensure all the arrangements were exemplary and timed to perfection. Her Majesty toured and officially opened the Club's centenary extension comprising of the Marshall of Cambridge Business Suite, RAFBF sponsored Fitness Centre and seventeen stylish new bedrooms.



Hon Gp Capt Jo Salter presenting the window.  
Also pictured member Mrs Christine Ryan,  
Chairman Arts C'tee Wg Cdr Michael Gilbert



Her Majesty signing the Club's visitors' book as her  
grandfather King George V did 96 years earlier

#### MEMBER OFFER

## SPITFIRE – A VERY BRITISH LOVE STORY

Member John Nichol's new book "Spitfire – A Very British Love Story" is a passionate portrait of this iconic aircraft, telling the story through the personal accounts of the men and women who designed, built, flew and serviced the redoubtable fighter. Over the course of the two years spent researching and writing the book, John spoke to around forty veterans. Sadly only three survived to see the book published. "Spitfire" paints a passionate portrait not only of the magnificent fighter



aircraft with its many innovations and updates, but also the people who flew and loved them.

Sqn Ldr Clive Rowley, a former Officer Commanding the RAF Battle Of Britain Memorial Flight, described the book as, "superb and compelling; brilliantly written with incredible and astonishing stories; it is gripping, moving, emotional and humorous – just perfect".

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

Members can buy a copy of *Spitfire* by John Nichol (RRP £20.00) at the discounted price of £16.00 (with free post and packing). To do so, please call Reader Offers on 01872 562327 and quote SPITFIRE. Alternatively visit [www.efcbookshop.com](http://www.efcbookshop.com)

## STAFF RETENTION & SERVICE CHARGE

The UK hospitality industry is finding it increasingly challenging to recruit high calibre staff and retain current staff and with uncertain times ahead it does not seem clear how this will improve. Demand for excellent service from staff means that competition for recruitment is high and the Board of Trustees has been considering ways in which the Club can improve the offer it makes to staff by making remuneration

more competitive. The Trustees have therefore taken the decision to add an optional 10% service charge to all Dining Room lunch and dinner bills and for all conference and banqueting functions from 1st January 2019 (mandatory for non-member Trading Company functions). This additional charge will allow us to raise additional revenue without having to increase prices across the Club, above any standard price rises.

### SERVING OFFICERS ACCOMMODATION AT THE CLUB

In a recent change, MOD has now provided a budget code for Service personnel to allow them to self-book Military Clubs and claim back up to the cap rate on JPA rather than having to book via HRG.

This positive change makes it much easier for serving Officers to book their own accommodation here at the Club and reclaim. 'Automated Exemption Code' HMRS/JPA: **CL62014**

## RAF CENTENARY SWORD PRESENTATION

Robert Pooley MBE, owner of Pooley Sword Ltd, generously presented a beautiful Royal Air Force Centenary Sword to the RAF Club this October. The sword, inscribed to mark the Centenary of the formation of the Royal Air Force, was accepted on behalf of the Club by Vice-Chairman Air Cdre Rick-Peacock Edwards (pictured).

This unique sword is available to purchase from Pooley Sword Ltd, and will include a bespoke etching of the purchaser's name and dates of their time in the Royal Air Force, together with a cloth and sword bag. The sword is available for purchase until 31st March 2019, with all RAF Club members receiving a 10% discount by quoting RAF100.

Pooley Sword is a family owned and operated business and has an outstanding reputation for craftsmanship. They are a leading supplier to the British Armed Forces, as well as many Commonwealth and Overseas Defence Forces, and the Club is incredibly grateful for the generous donation.

For further information on Pooley Sword Ltd, please visit [www.pooleysword.com](http://www.pooleysword.com) or email [enquiries@pooleysword.com](mailto:enquiries@pooleysword.com). **01273 467277**



LEFT AND BELOW  
Gymnasium, Business Suite  
and new Bedrooms



#### CENTENARY YEAR 1918-2018

## INTRODUCING THE NEW CENTENARY EXTENSION

*Following the formal opening by Her Majesty in October, the Club is delighted to invite members to use and enjoy our new facilities. The Club's House Committee has worked hard to ensure we have covered all bases from work (Business Suite), play (Fitness Centre) to a good night's sleep in one of our seventeen new bedrooms. We hope all members will use and benefit from these new spaces.*

#### Fitness Centre

The Club's new Fitness Centre, located on the ground floor of the centenary extension offers a selection of state of the art Techno Gym cardio and weight machines, along with mats for stretching.

Open from 0600hrs to 2200hrs daily, anyone who wishes to use the fitness suite must get their membership card or bedroom key card activated by Reception. The facility also includes changing rooms, showers and lockers.

The inspiring artwork lining the walls is courtesy of the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, who also very generously donated funds to ensure the Fitness Centre was equipped with the wide range of machines and weights for the benefit of members and guests.

#### Marshall of Cambridge Business Suite

The Club's spacious new Business Suite, located on the 1st floor of the centenary extension offers two bookable meeting rooms for up to 4 people and space for members and guests to work privately. This stunning space was furnished and equipped following a generous donation by Sir Michael Marshall and Marshall of Cambridge and is a truly fantastic space to work and study.

The following facilities and services are available:

- WIFI
- Complimentary coffee and tea
- Magnetic whiteboard in each meeting room
- Stationery box (including pencils, pens, highlighters, ruler, stapler)
- Monitor in each room
- USB port
- Printing facilities

The two meeting rooms are available between 0700hrs – 1800hrs Monday to Friday. Meeting rooms can be booked on the day and a daily booking sheet is displayed outside the room for last minute availability. Payment details will be taken during the booking process to guarantee the booking. Hourly charge up to a maximum of 2 hours per member per day:  
55min: £25.00 / 1h55: £50.00

#### DETAILS

To book please contact the Conference & Banqueting team [confbanq@rafclub.org.uk](mailto:confbanq@rafclub.org.uk) or call extension 105/194.



With thanks to both the RAFBF and Marshall of Cambridge for their generous support of the Club in our centenary year. The Club would also like to recognise and offer special thanks to member Ivan Heath for his substantial donation to the project.



LEFT TO RIGHT  
Chef Michael alongside Michel Roux Jr,  
Quentin Plateaux & Tom Scade

#### CELEBRATING SUCCESS

### TAITTINGER PRIX CULINAIRE AWARD

On September 29<sup>th</sup>, RAF Club's Executive Chef Michael Dutnall achieved an amazing 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Taittinger Prix Culinaire UK final, hosted by Michel Roux Jr at Parliament Square. Competition was strong, with Michael up against Tom Scade of the Ritz London and Quentin Plateaux of the Langham Hotel, each preparing

three Paul Bocuse-inspired dishes to be judged by nine industry legends.

Members who regularly eat in the Dining Room can also testify to Michael's considerable culinary talent! It was an incredible achievement and a huge well done to Michael, our everyday 'Master Chef' from all of us at the Club.



### NEW FRONT OF HOUSE FACES

Working alongside Concierge Ashley Roberts, three new members of the Concierge team joined the Club in recent months. Zygi Gruzdy (left) joined us in the summer, after most recently working as a Porter at the Hyde Park Residence and the Lansdowne Club in Mayfair. Adam Nemeth (centre) and Danny Burchi (right) joined the Club at the end of September, with Adam previously working alongside Zygi at the Hyde

Park Residence. Eagle-eyed members may recognise Danny, who previously worked as a Hall Porter at the Club from 2013-2015. We are delighted to welcome Zygi, Adam and Danny to the Concierge team. Finally, please join us in welcoming our new Membership Manager Lucia Houston (above) to the Club. With eight years' membership experience at the Royal Thames Yacht Club in Knightsbridge, Lucia is a great addition to the team.

### JANUARY SPA PACKAGE

After a busy festive period, what better way to start the year than with the Club's new Spa Package. Recuperate and relax with a stay at the best Club in London combined with an hour's Signature massage and facial treatment at the neighbouring five star InterContinental Hotel.

Price for a Double Room for two people sharing starts from £313.00 (members' rate) and £347.00 (non-members' rate) and includes:

- One night in a Standard Double Room
- Full English Breakfast
- Club Afternoon Tea for two (Available daily between 3.00-5.30pm and must be pre booked at the time of purchase)
- Two x 30 minute SPA treatments at the InterContinental SPA (30 min facial and 30 min massage) for two people (must be pre booked at the time of purchase)

Offer applicable Monday to Saturday from Tuesday 1st January until Saturday 30th January 2018.

**To book please email [reservations@rafclub.org.uk](mailto:reservations@rafclub.org.uk) or call 020 7399 1010 stating your preferred slots for Afternoon Tea and your Treatments. Please note treatments will be booked into a one hour time slot. [www.parklane.intercontinental.com/en/spa-hotel-london](http://www.parklane.intercontinental.com/en/spa-hotel-london)**



## In pictures

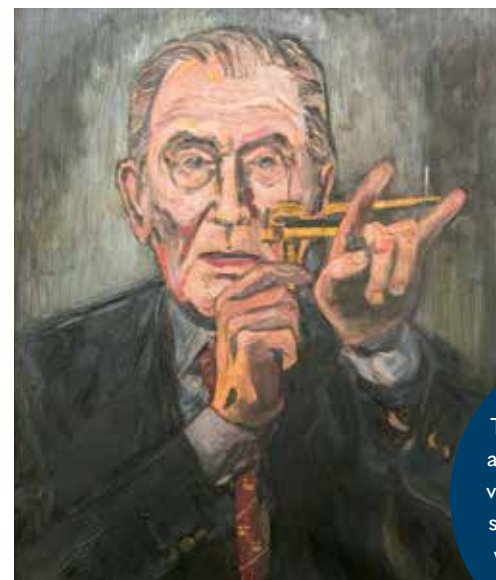
For photo galleries featuring the following events and more visit [rafclub.org.uk/news](http://rafclub.org.uk/news)



21ST MAY

### Dambusters Dinner with Sqn Ldr George 'Johnny' Johnson MBE DFC

The Club had the huge privilege of welcoming Honorary member, Sqn Ldr George 'Johnny' Johnson MBE DFC, the last surviving British member of the Dam Busters, as guest of honour at the Dam Busters 75th Anniversary Club Dinner in May. An inspirational man, it is always an honour to welcome him to The RAF Club.



To hear Johnny speak about his experiences, view the new Club film shot on the evening at [www.rafclub.org.uk/centenary](http://www.rafclub.org.uk/centenary)





28TH JULY

## Centenary Summer Ball

One of the highlights of the Club's centenary year was the Summer Ball held on Saturday 28th July. We celebrated with members and guests as the Club transformed into the 1920s inspired summer buffet. There was fabulous entertainment throughout the evening, including a magician, a photo-booth, casino tables with 'fun money' and prizes, a variety of cocktails and wines, and a delicious 1920's inspired summer buffet created by Executive Chef Michael Dutnall & team. The evening also included incredible performances from the Satin Dollz and amazing live music from the Mississippi Swamp Dogs, who had the whole crowd on their feet until the very end of the night.



3RD SEPTEMBER

## Club Dinner with the Red Arrows

In September, the Club had the honour of welcoming the world's premier aerobatic team, the Red Arrows to a Club Dinner. The evening consisted of incredible anecdotes and an inspiring talk from Sqn Ldr Martin Pert (aka Red 1) about life as Team Leader in the RAF100 year. With a member of the talented Red Arrows team hosting each table, members and guests were able to learn more first hand over dinner.



15TH OCTOBER

## St James's Palace Royal Reception

The Club proudly celebrated its official Centenary on 30th October and to help mark the occasion, the first of two Royal Receptions was held on 15th October in the prestigious and historic St James's Palace with Their Royal Highnesses The Earl of Wessex KG GCVO and The Countess of Wessex GCVO in attendance.





30TH OCTOBER

## Club's Birthday Celebrations

The Club's official 100th Birthday was a day of huge celebration, with balloons, banners and bunting throughout, live music greeting members as they arrived and even a centenary ice sculpture. The Club held both a Birthday Afternoon Tea and an Evening Reception in our newly renamed Sovereigns' Room, which included live vintage entertainment, and of course lots of bubbles!



Visit  
[www.rafclub.org.uk/centenary](http://www.rafclub.org.uk/centenary) and view the Centenary Birthday Celebration film.



### CLUB EVENTS

## The Kamikaze Hunters: Fighting for the Pacific 1945

*Club member Colin Bell, 97 and Keith Quilter, 96, will be talking about their respective aircraft and experiences at a Club Dinner in April with journalist and historian Will Iredale, author of Sunday Times bestseller The Kamikaze Hunters. Here is a taste of their recollections of war service.*

In the gloom of the cockpit the white light on the instrument panel flicked on brightly once again. For 24-year-old Colin Bell, piloting his Mosquito through the night sky, this seemingly innocuous little dot spelt big trouble.

It was March 1945. The Allied advance across Europe was in full swing while Bomber Command continued to pound targets.

Bell and his navigator Doug Redmond were returning from their 12th raid over Berlin to their 608 squadron base at Downham Market, in Norfolk.

As part of the RAF's "Light Night Striking Force" their roles ranged from 'Pathfinder' duties dropping marker flares on targets, to diverting German fighters with 'spoof' raids, or executing low level ground bombing attacks.

The Mosquito was an ideal aircraft for this kind of work. It had a wooden airframe powered by a brace of 1620 horsepower Rolls-Royce Merlin engines — the equivalent punch of two Spitfires — giving it altitude of over 30,000ft and a top speed of more than 400mph.

The Mosquito was equipped with counter-airborne radar detection equipment. The white light on Bell's instrument panel meant an enemy fighter was closing in using its own on-board radar equipment to establish visual identification before it could attack.

Bell immediately tipped the Mosquito on its wing and into a power dive, plummeting more than 10,000ft to try and shake the fighter off.

Over the next few minutes the white

light disappeared momentarily but seconds later it flicked on again.

In a last desperate throw of the dice, Bell took his Mosquito down to the deck, flying at speeds of 400mph just a few feet about the trees.

Sure enough, the white light soon vanished for good. Bell's gamble had worked. "We were over an hour late getting back to base and suffered a nervous twitch all the way home," he said later.

In that spring of 1945 the Mosquito wasn't the only high-speed aircraft being used by British aviators with impressive results.

Six thousands miles away in the Pacific, the Royal Navy's largest airborne strike force ever assembled was under attack from Japanese suicide bombers.

Between March and May 1945, every carrier of the British Pacific Fleet was hit by Kamikaze aircraft, although none were sunk thanks to their steel carrier decks.

Many more potential Kamikazes were shot down because of the skill of the Royal Navy pilots and the quality of their aircraft, led by the Corsair — the first naval fighter to exceed 400mph in level flight and an aircraft which made the single biggest impact on naval aviation in WWII.

The American-made fighter destroyed 2,410 enemy aircraft for a loss of just 189 — a ratio of 11:1 and one of the most successful all-round fighters of WWII.

However it also excelled at ground attack, as Lt Keith Quilter knew more than most. The London-born Fleet Air Arm pilot had attacked the German battleship Tirpitz in August 1944 and almost a year



later the 23 year-old 1842 squadron member was tasked with carrying out low level, daylight strafing raids over Japan, hitting targets such as airfields and army barracks to 'soften up' the defiant empire ahead of a planned invasion by the Allies in the Autumn of 1945.

Armed with six 0.5inch Colt- Browning machine guns and a 500lb bomb under each wing, the Quilter knew the Corsair — nicknamed the 'whistling death' because of the whining sound it made when diving — was suited perfectly for this job.

But on July 28th 1945, Quilter's luck ran out when he was shot down by anti-aircraft fire during a low-level strafing attack on the Japanese harbour town of Owase, on the south east coast of Honshu. He managed to glide his crippled fighter down onto the water, coming to a rest 500 feet from the shore in the harbour mouth.

Quilter leapt off the sinking plane, inflated the dingy stowed on board and desperately began to paddle towards the open ocean.

After half an hour, Quilter noticed a "black sinister looking thing" appear on the horizon. "I assumed it was a Japanese sub coming back into port... and thought 'Oh God now I'm for it.'

But as the black shape got closer he noticed figures. "I could see they were yanks and I just thought 'Thank God for that. It's an American Submarine'" The men hauled Quilter up on board. "We've got ourselves a Goddamn Limey", was their first reaction, to grins all around. Quilter was safe.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

Join Colin and Keith in conversation with Will Iredale, who is currently writing a book about The Pathfinder Force in Bomber Command during WWII. Visit [www.rafclub.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.rafclub.org.uk/whats-on) to book online.

## CLUB EVENTS

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON

### Club Dinner with Historian James Holland

**Friday 15th February 2019, 1830 for 1900hrs**

**Dress Code: Black Tie**

**£60.00 members / £65.00 guests**

James Holland, historian, writer, and broadcaster, is the author of *RAF 100: The Official Story*, which celebrates and commemorates the 100-year anniversary of the Royal Air Force using photographs and documents to tell the story of the people, aircraft and missions as never before. James has also penned the best-selling *Fortress Malta*, *Battle of Britain*, and *Dam Busters*. In addition to these, he has written nine works of historical fiction, five of which feature the heroic Jack Tanner, a soldier of the Second World War. He is currently writing a three-volume new history of the Second World War in the West and a book on the Defence of the Admin Box in Burma.

James regularly appears on television and radio, and has written and presented the BAFTA-shortlisted documentaries *Battle of Britain* and *Dam Busters* for the BBC, as well as the *Battle for Malta*, *Cold War*, *Hot Jets*, and *Normandy 44*. Co-founder and Programme Director of the hugely successful Chalke Valley History Festival, he has his own collection at the Imperial War Museum, and is Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. The evening includes a Champagne reception, and a three course meal with wine.

To book for any Club Social event, please visit [www.rafclub.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.rafclub.org.uk/whats-on), call 020 7399 1042 or email [events@rafclub.org.uk](mailto:events@rafclub.org.uk).



### Club Dinner with Sqn Ldr John Peters – ‘Tornado Down’

**Wednesday 13th March 2019, 1830hrs for 1900hrs**

**£60.00 members / £65.00 guests**

**Dress Code: Black Tie with miniatures**

Sqn Ldr John Peters, a current Trustee of the Club, previously served as an RAF Pilot during the first Gulf War. Sqn Ldr Peters will talk about his first mission during Operation Desert Storm, an ultra-low level daylight sortie on Ar Rumaylah airfield. While acting as number two to Squadron Leader Paul “Pablo” Mason, his

Panavia Tornado ZD 791 of XV Squadron was hit at fifty feet by a shoulder-launched SAM SA-14, and he was captured by the military of Iraq. Following capture he was displayed bruised and apparently beaten on television across the UK. The evening will include a welcome drinks reception, and a three course meal with wine.

### Club Dinner & Private Evening Tour & Ceremony of the Keys at the Traitors’ Gate

**Wednesday 27th March 2019, 1700 for 1730hrs**

**£65.00 members / £75.00 guests**

**Dress Code: Smart Attire: Collared shirt, tie, suit or jacket/blazer (RAF/Sqn ties encouraged). No denim, no trainers. Ladies equivalent. Flat shoes are also advised.**

Join fellow members on this exclusive hour-long private tour of the Tower of London. The tour includes the impressive Traitors' Gate and the Execution Site by a Yeoman Warder, along with the famous Ceremony of the Keys.

The Ceremony of the Keys, in which the Tower of London's main gates are secured for the evening, has been performed every night without fail for

more than 700 years. Standing amid the Tower's mighty battlements, you will witness an ancient ritual that has remained more or less unchanged since the days of Edward III. The evening includes a glass of bubbly on arrival, a two course dinner at the Club, private tour & Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London, and all coach transportation to and from the Tower.



## FULL EVENTS LISTING: 2019

*Details for every event taking place at the Club next year.*

*Keep up-to-date via [www.rafclub.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.rafclub.org.uk/whats-on)*

### JANUARY

Burns Night Supper with the Adastral Burns Society  
Friday 25th January, 1830hrs  
£70.00/£80.00

### FEBRUARY

Club Dinner & Les Misérables  
Wednesday 6th February 1700hrs, £95.00/£100.00

Literary Dinner with Graham Cooke ‘Capt Gilbert Mapplebeck, one of the first Royal Flying Corps pilots’  
Tuesday 12th February, 1830hrs  
£50.00/£55.00

Club Dinner with Historian & Broadcaster James Holland  
Friday 15th February, 1830hrs  
£60.00/£65.00

New Members’ Reception & Club Dinner  
Wednesday 20th February, 1830hrs  
£50.00/£55.00

### MARCH

Jazz Night with the Adrian Macintosh Sextet  
Wednesday 6th March, 1830hrs  
£90.00/£95.00

Club Dinner with Sqn Ldr John Peters ‘Tornado Down’  
Wednesday 13th March, 1830hrs  
£60.00/£65.00

Private Tour & Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London with Club Dinner  
Wednesday 27th March, 1700hrs  
£65.00/£75.00

### APRIL

Annual Mothers, Sons & Daughters Dinner  
Monday 1st April, 1830hrs  
£65.00/£65.00

RAF Museum Hendon, Private Tour & Dinner  
Wednesday 3rd April, 0900hrs  
£75.00/£80.00

Club Dinner with Journalist, Will Iredale, Flt Lt Colin Bell & Lt Keith Quilter - ‘The Kamikaze Hunters, Fighting for the Pacific’  
Friday 12th April, 1830hrs  
£60.00/£65.00

Literary Dinner with Dr Richard Duckett- ‘Operation in Burma’  
Thursday 25th April, 1830hrs  
£50.00/£55.00

Spring Gourmet Dinner  
Tuesday 30th April, 1830hrs  
£90.00/£100.00

### MAY

Club Lunch with Dr Hilary Jones ‘Story of a Practitioner under the Spotlight’  
Thursday 2nd May, 1830hrs  
£45.00/£50.00

Club Dinner with Assistant Chief of Air Staff, AVM Mayhew CBE ‘Planning & Delivering the RAF100 Flypast’  
Tuesday 21st May, 1830hrs  
£60.00/£65.00

**MORE ➤**

‘The Kamikaze Hunters’ - Club Dinner with Will Iredale, Flt Lt Colin Bell & Lt Keith Quilter

Friday 12th April 2019, 1830 hrs for 1900 hrs

£60.00 members / £65.00 guests

Dress Code: Black Tie with miniatures

We rightly admire those who fought in the Battle of Britain but what of the other fighter pilots who fought in World War II? Colin Bell was part of the RAF's Light Night Striking Force and flew 50 missions over Germany in a Mosquito fighter/bomber – including 13 over Berlin.

Keith Quilter was a Fleet Air Arm naval carrier pilot flying the Corsair, who dive-bombed the German battleship Tirpitz and specialised in low level day

light attacks on mainland Japan. For both, the danger was immense and required extraordinary skill and unbelievable courage. They will be telling their incredible stories in conversation with Will Iredale, author of *Sunday Times* bestseller ‘The Kamikaze Hunters’. The evening will include a champagne reception, three course meal with wine and a memorable talk from the former WWII fighter pilots.



Club Dinner with BBC Broadcaster Peter Snow CBE

Tuesday 29th October 2019, 1830hrs for 1900hrs

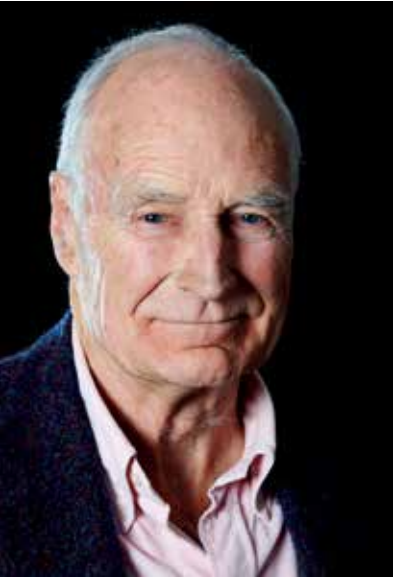
£65.00 members / £75.00 guests

Dress Code: Black Tie

We are delighted to welcome veteran broadcaster Peter Snow as a guest speaker in October 2019. Peter Snow CBE is a British radio and television presenter and historian, best known as an analyst of election results.

Along with his son, Dan, Snow presented a TV series *Battlefield Britain*, covering battles on British soil from Boudicca's struggle with the Romans to the Battle of Britain. They reunited to host *20th Century Battlefields* for BBC 2

and the Military Channel in 2006. They covered battles all around the world from the Battle of Amiens in the First World War in 1918 to the Gulf War of 1990-1. In 2013 Peter presented ‘D Day as it happens’ for Channel Five. At the Royal Television Society in 1998 he won the Judges’ Award for services to broadcasting. The evening includes a keynote speech from Peter Snow, a Champagne reception, and a three course dinner with wine.



CONTINUED >

JUNE

Borough Market

‘Secret Food Tour’

Wednesday 5th June,

0900hrs

£75.00/£80.00

Summer Gourmet Dinner

Tuesday 11th June, 1830hrs

£90.00/£100.00

Fathers & Daughters Dinner I

Friday 14th June 1830hrs

£65.00/£65.00

Fathers & Daughters Dinner II

Monday 17th June, 1830hrs

£65.00/£65.00

JULY

RAF Club Summer Ball

Saturday 20th July,

1900hrs

£100.00/£120.00

AUGUST

Clarence House Tour

& Club Lunch

Wednesday 28th August,

1200hrs

£85.00/£90.00

SEPTEMBER

XXV Year Lunch

Tuesday 3rd September,

1200hrs

£40.00/£45.00

Private Tour of the Royal

Opera House & Club Lunch

Saturday 7th September,

0900hrs

£85.00/£90.00

Club Dinner with Club

Chairman AVM Sue Gray

CB OBE FREng

Tuesday 10th September,

1830hrs

£60.00/£65.00

Gourmet Grouse Dinner

in the Library

Thursday 12th September,

1830hrs

£70.00/£80.00

Battle of Britain Dinner

Monday 16th September

1830hrs,

£50.00/£55.00

Literary Lunch with

Author Jacky Hyams

‘Spitfire Stories’

Friday 20th September,

1830hrs

£50.00/£55.00

New Members’ Reception  
& Club Dinner

Thursday 26th September,

1830hrs

£50.00/£55.00

OCTOBER

Club Dinner with

Flt Lt Michaela Harrison

‘A Year in the Life of

the RAF Falcons’

Thursday 3rd October,

1830hrs

£50.00/£55.00

Murder Mystery Dinner

Friday 11th October, 1830hrs

£90.00/£95.00

Churchill War Rooms

Private Tour & Club Dinner

Wednesday 16th October,

1400hrs

£90.00/£95.00

Club Dinner with Veteran

Broadcaster Peter Snow

Tuesday 29th October,

1830hrs

£65.00/£75.00



NOVEMBER

Winter Gourmet Dinner

Wednesday 6th November,

1830hrs

£90.00/£100.00

Stow Maries Great War

Aerodrome, Lunch &

Club Dinner

Thursday 14th November,

0730hrs

£95.00/£100.00

DECEMBER

RAFBF Carol Service

& Club Lunch

Sunday 8th December,

1200hrs

£45.00/£45.00

Christmas Family Day

Sunday 15th December,

1200hrs

£45.00/£50.00

£45.00 Children

Christmas Lunch I

Monday 16th December,

1200hrs

£40.00/£45.00

Christmas Lunch II

Tuesday 17th December,

1200hrs

£40.00/£45.00

Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome & Club Dinner

Thursday 14th November, 0730hrs

£95.00 members/ £100.00 guests

Dress Code: Smart Casual

Join fellow members for a full day trip to Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome, including a breakfast at the Club beforehand. Originally opened in 1916 as home to B Flight of No 37(HD) Squadron, Royal Flying Corps, the aerodrome saw the birth of the Air Defence of Great Britain in response to the first raids by Zeppelins and Gotha bombers on London and the South East.

Upon arrival at the Aerodrome, members will receive tea/coffee

followed by an introduction & two short films. Members will then receive a private guided tour of the site, including the history of the Aerodrome, the aircraft in their hangars, and exciting ongoing work of its restoration. Lunch is included in the trip, along with free time to wander the site and explore the shop before leaving. Finally, members will return to the Club for a two course dinner with wine.



To book for any Club Social event, please visit [www.rafclub.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.rafclub.org.uk/whats-on), call 020 7399 1042 or email [events@rafclub.org.uk](mailto:events@rafclub.org.uk).

## CLUB SHOP

# CHRISTMAS GIFTING

Our Club Shop is fully stocked and ready for the festive season, and we have the perfect selection of gifts for all ages.



### Spitfire & Red Arrows Die Cast Planes

These die-cast models are officially licensed by the Royal Air Force and are perfect for any aviation lover. The beautifully detailed Red Arrow and Spitfire models also include a display stand, and cost **£9.50 each**.



### Wooden Aircraft

These constructible planes are fantastic entertainment for any age and show stunning representations of each of the planes. We have two designs available to purchase: the **Lancaster (£7.50)** and the **Spitfire (£4.50)**, both wonderful Christmas present ideas.

All Club Shop items are available to purchase from the Club's Front Desk or from the online Club Shop at [shop.rafclub.org.uk/collections/all](http://shop.rafclub.org.uk/collections/all)

### Ladies' Centenary Scarf

These commemorative scarves are made from 100% silk and feature the Royal Air Force Club's beautiful monogrammed motif. The scarves have been in very high demand throughout the centenary year, **£49.50 each**. Made in the UK.

### Award Winning Club Gin

These limited edition bottles of numbered Dry London Gin have been created especially for the Club in our centenary year. We are delighted to announce that the Gin has now won two coveted prizes at the International Wine & Spirit Competition 2018. A Silver award in the 'Gin & Tonic' category and a Bronze award in the overall 'Gin' category. Bottles are limited, so purchase now to not miss out! The gin is priced at **£60.00 per bottle** and is available for collection only from the Club.

### Commemorative Tankard

This Classic tankard is made of heavy gauge pewter with a curved handle placed towards the top of the tankard to keep the balance steady when full. The tankard features a beautiful engraving of the Club's Crest, and is perfect for any beer lover. **£69.00 each**.

**AND DON'T FORGET  
THE CLUB'S CENTENARY  
CHINA MUGS ARE STILL AVAILABLE  
THE PERFECT STOCKING-FILLER  
AT £15.00 EACH!**



## ANNUAL CLUB CHRISTMAS CARDS

This year's annual Christmas card duo is designed by incredibly talented aviation artist and friend of the Club, Mandy Shepherd. These are **£5.00 per pack**, with each pack featuring the two designs.

Mandy Shepherd recently hosted a Club Lunch to discuss her life as an artist with a portfolio of striking contrasts, from delicate wildlife watercolours to aircraft, ships old and new and the working life of military personnel. Mandy also discussed the inspiration and challenges in following in her father, David Shepherd's, footsteps. It was a wonderful lunch and a truly fascinating talk.



## RAF 2019 DIARY NOW ON SALE

This year's Air Power Diary is a special-interest pocket diary themed around Royal Air Force and military aviation history. The diary has been evolved from the incredibly successful 'RAF100' 2018 diary, and is a Ministry of Defence 'Officially Licenced Product.'

The diary also includes 'mini calendars', weights and measures, a personal details page, a notes and contacts page, and public holidays/notable days.

## THE SPIRIT OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE: ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

An Anthology in Words & Works of Art

This celebratory new anthology is a partnership between the Club and BAE Systems bringing together the art collections of both, in the RAF and the Club's centenary year. Telling the story of the RAF with a particular emphasis on its people and their professionalism, dedication, bravery, heroism, and spirit, the book illustrates how Trenchard's founding aspirations have been fulfilled in the past and points to how relevant they will be in the future, as the RAF moves into its second century.

The book features 102 full colour plates by iconic aviation artists such as Frank Wootton, Michael Rondot, Mark Bromley and David Shepherd, along with 20 specially commissioned pencil vignettes by Mandy Shepherd. A contribution from every book sold will be donated to the RAF Club. **Price £35.00 plus P&P**

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Christmas cards and diaries are available to purchase from the Club's Front Desk or from the online Club Shop at [shop.rafclub.org.uk/collections/all](http://shop.rafclub.org.uk/collections/all)



# CHRISTMAS DINING AND OPENING TIMES

The Club will be open during the Christmas period, although the Running Horse is closed on Christmas Day. Some restrictions will apply in the Dining Room and Cowdray Lounge. Normal service is resumed across the Club on Thursday 3rd January 2019. Bedrooms are still available for the Christmas period.

## CHRISTMAS EVE LUNCH

Brunch only including daily roast, £23.00 pp

## CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER

Four-course set menu including a glass of Champagne £35.00 members, £40.00 guests. No a la carte or Club menu

## CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH **FULLY BOOKED**

## CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

1830-2115hrs Buffet only £30.00 members, £35.00 guests. No a la carte or Club menu

## WEDNESDAY 26TH DECEMBER - WEDNESDAY 2ND JANUARY INCLUSIVE

Lunch, Club menu only (inc daily roast), £25.00 no a la carte

## NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER **FULLY BOOKED**

## DINING ROOM

### BREAKFAST

Monday-Friday 0700 - 1000hrs  
Saturday 0730 - 1030hrs  
Sunday 0730 - 1030hrs  
**LUNCH** 1200 - 1415hrs last order  
**DINNER** 1830 - 2115hrs  
**BRUNCH** 1200 - 1430hrs  
Brunch: Saturday & Sunday Only  
(A la carte and Club menus not available)

To book a table for brunch, lunch or dinner, visit [www.rafclub.org.uk/book-a-table](http://www.rafclub.org.uk/book-a-table)  
Email [dining@rafclub.org.uk](mailto:dining@rafclub.org.uk) or call 020 7399 1020

## COWDRAY LOUNGE

Christmas Afternoon Tea daily including a festive cocktail £22.00 pp (not available on Christmas Day)  
Monday-Thursday 1000 - 2300hrs  
(Tuesday 1st January open from 11am)  
Friday-Saturday 1000 - 0000hrs  
Sunday 1000 - 2230hrs

## AFTERNOON TEA

(No afternoon tea on Christmas Day)

Daily 1500 - 1730hrs

To book email [cowdray@rafclub.org.uk](mailto:cowdray@rafclub.org.uk) or call 020 7399 1073

## RUNNING HORSE

(Closed on Christmas Day)

From Monday 26<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> closed at 23.00  
Monday-Saturday 1200 - 0000hrs  
Sunday 1200 - 2300hrs  
Running Horse food served until 2115 daily



ROYAL AIR FORCE CLUB  
— CELEBRATING 100 YEARS —



# Celebrating 100 Years

2018 has been the most wonderful of years for both the Club and the Royal Air Force. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members for their support and loyalty as the centenary draws to a close.

The management, staff and Trustees would also like to wish all members and their families a healthy, happy and prosperous Christmas and New Year. We look forward to welcoming you back to the Club in 2019.

**To keep up-to-date with all that's happening at the Club in 2019, visit [www.rafclub.org.uk](http://www.rafclub.org.uk)**



The Royal Air Force Club, 128 Piccadilly, London, W1J 7PY  
[www.rafclub.org.uk](http://www.rafclub.org.uk)