

A NEW HOME FOR
'BOMBER HARRIS'

*A Portrait
Restored*

INSPIRING THE
NEXT GENERATION

*The RAF's
Trenchard Group*

THE MAGAZINE OF THE RAF CLUB WINTER 2019

CHALLENGING
STEREOTYPES

*Women in
Aviation*

FESTIVE SEASON
AT THE CLUB

*Dining, Gifts and
Opening Hours*

A Club Transformed

Sir Freddie Sowrey & The Colonels' Revolt



ROYAL AIR FORCE CLUB
— FOUNDED 1918 —



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— FOUNDED 1918 —

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

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ROYAL AIR FORCE CLUB
— FOUNDED 1918 —

Inspiring the Next Generation

2019 has been a busy year for both the Club and the Royal Air Force, as following the success of the centenary celebrations, thoughts naturally turn to the next one hundred years and plans for the future. For both organisations to thrive and grow, finding ways to appeal and stay relevant for a new generation of members is key.

We were therefore, particularly delighted to host the RAF's Trenchard Strategy Group in late September, considering this very challenge for the benefit of future serving personnel. Engaging and exciting educational campaigns around STEM, covering topics such as robotics, cyber and space can only serve to inspire and motivate youngsters considering a career in the service. Learn more about the aims of this crucial programme on page 18.

We also hosted our second 'Women in Aviation' Club Dinner in early September, and I, along with others, was delighted to share my RAF journey with the audience. It was heartening to see so many talented and enthusiastic women all clearly achieving and delivering in today's progressive Air Force. See page 14 for the highlights of the evening.

In order to continue to attract new members and remain relevant, the Board of Trustees is considering the RAF Club's own post-centenary strategy. At the annual Board Away Day in July, the Trustees drew inspiration from the Club's longstanding charitable status and mission:

'To provide high quality and affordable facilities and services in central London for Club Members, in order to preserve, promote and foster the traditions of the Royal Air Force.'



"To provide high quality and affordable facilities and services in central London for Club Members, in order to preserve, promote and foster the traditions of the Royal Air Force."

AIR MARSHAL SUE GRAY
CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Full members - Serving and Former Serving Officers, have traditionally been at the heart of the Club's strategy, as this was the original intention of our founder, Lord Cowdray in 1918 when he bequeathed the initial £350,000 to enable the Club's formation. Today, this RAF ethos is interwoven through the fabric of the Club, and it is this mission and guiding purpose that enables the Club to operate as a charitable enterprise.

The Club always strives to ensure we offer value for membership with a whole raft of benefits and use of the wonderful building at 128 Piccadilly for each and every member. The Club itself continues to deliver exceptional service and facilities in an unsurpassed location in central London.

This year a small proportion of membership subscriptions, outside of Serving and Former Serving categories, will be increasing modestly to reflect the significant improvements and increased overheads the Club faces in order for us to remain affordable across food and beverage, overnight accommodation and events.

We hope you will agree that levels of service, hospitality and facilities at the Club have never been higher at any point in the Club's history, and will continue to support a busy, successful, friendly Club, relevant to all generations of Serving Officers and their families for many more years to come.

NOTE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

People and Performance

As the final quarter draws to a close, I reflect on achievements, the progress and the improvements we have made over the last twelve months.

Success is never final and it is only when a shared vision and passion combine with a hardworking, talented team to deliver exceptional service and a wonderful product for members and guests, that this converts into the bustling Club we see today.

This year has seen unprecedented levels of member usage in some months, and the benefits of the new extension are there for all to see. My colleagues and I continue to focus on generating more income in the quieter months as part of our strategy to modernise back of house areas such as the kitchens and conference and banqueting preparation areas to help service demand. A modernised reception area and refurbishment of bedroom accommodation is currently planned for 2020.

The seventeen new bedrooms are proving extremely popular, the Dining Room has never been busier and the

Club's culinary offering has never been better. Member functions go from strength to strength and new initiatives such as the Cowdray Lounge continental breakfast and Running Horse gourmet nights have been met with positive member feedback.

Echoing this organisational success are the personal accolades achieved by the Club's team in recent months, from recognition in Food and Beverage and back of house, to acceptance on prestigious hospitality industry programmes. Read more on how the

"Success is never final and it is only when a shared vision and passion combine with a hardworking, talented team to deliver exceptional service and a wonderful product for members and guests that this converts into the bustling Club we see today."



LEFT TO RIGHT
Chef de Partie Claudio Rais pictured with CEO Miles Pooley following his 'Spin the Wheel' nomination; Surprise 'Welcome to Work' in October featuring fresh crêpes and smoothies on arrival.



Club has encouraged our staff to develop within their chosen careers on page 6.

Through the determination of the senior management team and me, we recognise and reward great performance each and every day, which ensures that the Club staff remain motivated, enthused and dedicated. Our 'Welcome to Work' and 'Spin the Wheel' gestures go down a real treat!

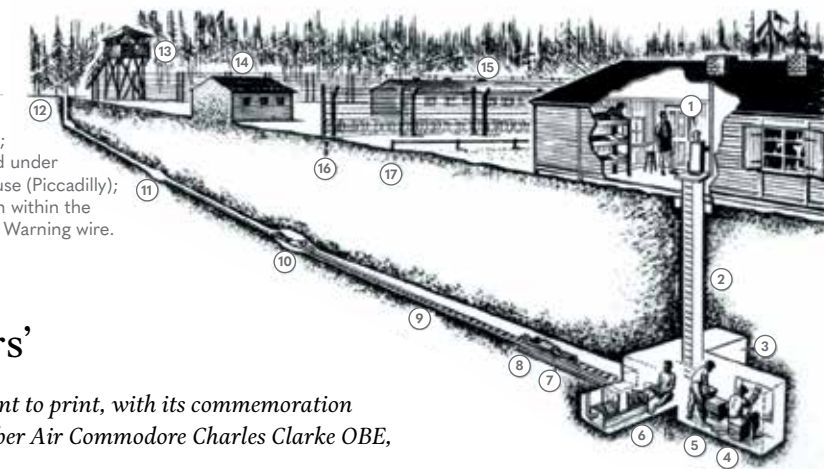
Our staff turnover is now at an all-time low, despite political uncertainty and instability for many of our team, who hail from all over Europe. In particular, we have been delighted to note that the optional service charge, introduced earlier this year, has enabled staff to receive additional remuneration for their day to day duties, going some way to ensuring we remain competitive and attract and retain the best talent. For those members who wish to support the staff in other ways, our Staff Fund is very much appreciated by all the team and allows us to offer some exceptional raffles prizes at the staff Christmas party and to provide "treats" throughout the year.

In closing, I would like to take the opportunity to thank our members and staff for their contribution to a hugely successful year. I would also like to thank the Club Chairman and the Board of Trustees for their continued support and encouragement.

We look forward to welcoming you all back to the Club in 2020 and wish you all a very Happy Christmas and peaceful and healthy New Year.

Miles Pooley FIH MI
Chief Executive & Club Secretary

1 Heating stove on trapdoor; 2 Entrance shaft; 3 Sand dispersal chamber; 4 Workshop; 5 Sandboxes from trollies; 6 Air pump; 7 Air pipeline buried under tunnel floor; 8 Tunneller towed on trolley; 9 Railway lines; 10 Halfway house (Piccadilly); 11 Halfway House (Leicester Square); 12 Exit shaft; 13 Guard box; 14 Prison within the compound; 15 Hospital block; 16 Sunken anti-tunnelling microphones; 17 Warning wire.



CLUB NEWS

A Tribute to the 'Great Escapers'

It is with great sadness that since the last Club magazine went to print, with its commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Great Escape in March, member Air Commodore Charles Clarke OBE, who was featured, has passed away aged ninety-seven.

Air Cdre Charles Clarke OBE

Charles was a frequent visitor to the Club, attending social events, including our centenary celebrations at St James's Palace last November in the presence of HRH Princess Eugenie of York, enjoying curry night in the Running Horse and entertaining all those who were lucky enough to spend time with him. Although an inmate of Stalag Luft III, the site of the 'Great Escape' and showing unbelievable stoicism in enduring the Long March, it is as a quiet, unassuming member of the Club that we will best remember him.



Tribute to Sqn Ldr Richard 'Dick' Churchill

It is with regret that we also advise that former member, Dick Churchill passed away earlier this year, aged ninety-nine. The last surviving member of the courageous real-life Great Escape team, one of seventy-six airmen whose escape through the secret tunnel from the Nazi-run camp was immortalised in the iconic film starring Steve McQueen. Club CEO Miles Pooley and Club Manager Kathryn Cooper were honoured to represent the Club on the 19th September at the Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance at St Clement Danes. Family and guests then returned to the Club for refreshments. We have been privileged to call both gentlemen members of the RAF Club.



A New Home for 'Bomber Harris'

Earlier on in the year, Trustee Ian Melia was contacted by Alice Harrison, Club member and resident of Goring-on-Thames, about a work of art that could potentially fill a gap in the Club's collection. Intrigued to know more, Ian followed up and learnt that a portrait of WWII legend and Officer in charge of Bomber Command, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Arthur Travers Harris GCB, OBE, AFC or simply 'Bomber Harris' was hidden away in a storage cupboard in Goring Village Hall and was potentially seeking a new permanent home.

The connection with the village dates back to the 1950s, as Sir Arthur and his family lived in Goring-on-Thames from June 1954 when he purchased Ferry House. Sir Arthur is buried in Burntwood Cemetery on the brow of the hill overlooking the village. The portrait commemorating the decorated, yet often controversial figure of Harris by artist David Rolt, hung in the Bellême Room of Goring Village Hall for many years. When the hall came to be refurbished it was noticed that it was showing signs of age and deterioration, so after consultation with Goring-on-Thames Parish Council, it was decided to



offer the portrait, on permanent loan, to the Club.

The Club was delighted to accept the generous offer and the painting has been cleaned and restored to its former glory and now has pride of place in the Lancaster Room. On 10th October, the Club was delighted to welcome the Goring Village Hall committee and Alice to see the newly restored work.

About the Artist

The Yorkshire-born artist, David Rolt 1915 - 1985, was one of the most sought-after English portrait and landscape painters of the 1940s and '50s. Rolt's subjects included many celebrated figures in British pre and post-war society.

CLUB PEOPLE

Leaders of the Future

Master Innholders Aspiring Leaders Programme

The Club consistently strives to encourage personal development and growth in our team members. We were therefore incredibly proud that several members of the team have recently been selected for a number of industry-leading courses to gain qualifications within hospitality and leadership.

Executive Housekeeper Dagmara Katlewska and Events Manager Charlene Jinguenaud were both accepted for the highly sought-after Aspiring Leaders Master Innholders Diploma (MIALD), which was developed in 2012 for junior level supervisors and managers. Endorsed by the Institute of Hospitality, the Princess Royal Training Award-winning programme offers aspiring hotel managers a 12-month development experience involving eight two-day sessions in some of the country's most prestigious hotels and clubs.



PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT
Charlene Jinguenaud, Sophie MacLeod and Dagmara Katlewska

Cranfield School of Management's Talent Development Programme

Club Front Office Manager Sophie MacLeod is currently participating in the Cranfield School of Management's Talent Development Programme, designed to develop management perspective and provide candidates with a broader business expertise. The course takes place over twelve months, with two five-day residential trips as well as virtual

learning throughout. As a result of the programme, Sophie will be placed in the prestigious St Julian Scholars, the alumni of hotel professionals who have graduated from the Innholders Scholarships.

Well done to Dagmara, Charlene and Sophie for your career achievements to date, we know there will be many more ahead.



FROM LEFT
Concierge Adam,
Reservationist
Robert and
Housekeeper
Iracema were
amongst staff to
be recognised
over the past
few months.

Reward & Recognition on the Go!

As a way of recognising the Club team for going above and beyond in their role either to help a colleague or provide an exceptional service to members or guests, we introduced a light-hearted 'Spin to Win' reward and development wheel over the summer. So often those every day moments to recognise good performance are missed, but with our portable wheel, rewards are taken to the team member, wherever they may be in the Club. Nominations are made by colleagues and prizes on the wheel include Amazon vouchers, brunch or afternoon tea for two, skills development and much more. The staff response to the wheel has been brilliant, with plenty of nominations already received and happy team members enjoying unexpected surprises.

CLUB SHOP

Club Gin back in stock

Raise a glass to the Royal Air Force Club with our very own recipe London Dry Gin, created exclusively by Marylebone Gin. Originally produced for the Club's centenary in 2018, this unique blend has proved so popular with members, it can now be purchased all year round by the bottle and by the measure in the Club's bars.

Priced at £45.00 per bottle and available from the Club Shop or online at shop.rafclub.org.uk



KITCHEN NEWS

Chefs of Tomorrow

As part of his ongoing mentoring and development of the Club's kitchen brigade and outreach on behalf of the hospitality industry, Executive Chef Michael Dutnall MCA can often be found visiting schools, colleges, and bringing apprentices into the Club for work experience.

Earlier on in the year Chef Michael, along with Sous Chef Jonathon Alexander (pictured), visited Uxbridge High School to extol the virtues of a career in the kitchen and demonstrate the cooking

and preparation of a variety of fish dishes, aligning with the Year 10/11 student's exam curriculum. Mackerel ceviche, plaice goujons and sea bass fillets were all prepared, cooked and swiftly eaten in an educational, but delicious afternoon class at the school.

Careers in hospitality are often overlooked, so this valuable ambassadorial work on behalf of the industry is invaluable in potentially enthusing a whole new generation of budding chefs.



Behind the Scenes Success: Kitchen Porter of the Year

The Caterer's Kitchen Porter of the Year competition is underway and we are pleased to announce that RAF Club Chief Steward Sam Idubor has been named amongst the top 10 Kitchen Porters in the UK! It is the only competition in the industry to recognise and celebrate the incredible impact that these behind the scenes stars make every day. Nominated by

Executive Chef Michael Dutnall (pictured with Sam) for his essential role in helping the busy kitchens run smoothly and efficiently, Sam has been with the Club for two years and has become a popular member of the back of house team. Now in its 7th year, the winner of the competition will be revealed later this month and we wish Sam the best of luck.

CLUB ECO INITIATIVES

The RAF Club is doing its very best to be greener in the notoriously wasteful hospitality environment. This year has seen a number of eco initiatives introduced to reduce the Club's carbon footprint, from swapping plastic for paper bags in the Club Shop, to reusable dry-cleaning covers and a huge reduction in our use of bin bags and bin collections.

By asking what more we can do, without compromising on the member experience at the Club, we've come up with some great ideas to continue to reduce our impact on the environment. In the coming months, we will be eliminating use of plastic toiletry bottles in bedrooms in exchange for larger, refillable containers. We will be replacing plastic water bottles in all bedrooms with glass bottles, and swapping laundry bags from plastic to cotton and plastic wrapped sugar sachets to

paper. The Club Shop will also be introducing reusable branded water bottles and coffee cups so that members can also feel the benefits of going green outside of the Club. We will continue to strive to reduce our carbon footprint, and we are always open to member suggestions on how we as a Club can do more.

Should you have any further eco-friendly ideas, please email Club Manager Kathryn Cooper kathryn@rafclub.org.uk.

MEMBER OFFER

Royal International Air Tattoo 2020

The Royal Air Force Charitable Trust Enterprises, organisers of the Royal International Air Tattoo, would once again like to offer members of the RAF Club tickets to the VIP Aviation Club Enclosure at a specially discounted rate of only £125.00 (usual price £155.00) on Friday 17th July 2020.

An established favourite for many guests, the Aviation Club offers a very special day out in a relaxed, informal environment.

Just a ten minute stroll from the Guest Car Park visitors will be welcomed, on arriving at the Aviation Club (located just back from the crowd line), by the volunteer hosting team. You will be shown to your allocated seat(s) at a shared lunch table, which is yours for the day. The private garden and grandstand are an ideal location to watch the flying display. Inside the marquee, the cash bar serves everything from soft drinks to champagne.

The Aviation Club ticket includes:

- Private marquee and toilets
- Private grandstand and garden (unreserved seating)
- Morning tea, coffee and infusions
- Two-course lunch
- Afternoon tea
- Guest car parking
- Complimentary Souvenir Programme
- Full access to the showground

Find out more and purchase tickets www.airtattoo.com/airshow/visiting/airshow-tickets/aviation-club

Please use promotional code **ACF2020** at the checkout. Bookings can be made via the website or by calling the ticket line on **01285 713 456** (9.00am-5.00pm, Monday - Friday).

THE ROYAL INTERNATIONAL
AIR TATTOO



RECIPROCITY

New Reciprocal Clubs: Canada & USA

Two new reciprocal clubs have recently been added to our already extensive list of clubs around the world for members to benefit from. The Crow's Nest Officers' Club in Newfoundland, Canada is a living museum that commemorates the contribution of the Royal Canadian Navy, the Royal Canadian Navy Reserve, and the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve during World War II. The Green Boundary Club in Aiken, South Carolina (pictured) is a Members' club offering fine dining, special events, competitive sports activities and social occasions.



For more information on either club, or to view our full list of reciprocal clubs, login to the website and visit www.rafclub.org.uk/reciprocal

MEMBER OFFERS

Winter Promotions



Brilliant Bordeaux

Food and Beverage Director Serge Pradier is delighted to introduce a selection of Bordeaux "en primeur" to the Dining Room for autumn/winter.

Purchased by the Club over recent years, these special wines are intended for members to enjoy at exceptional value. Comparable quality and vintage at such relatively affordable prices, particularly for the Club's Mayfair location, is an incentive to visit the Dining Room in itself.

Look out for these wonderful additions to the wine list and discover wines from

some of the best estates and vineyards in the region in the 'red Bordeaux' section. We have also introduced a fantastic new Muscadet sur Lie, a Sancerre from the Dezat Family, a great value Pinot Noir from the renowned Jaffelin Burgundy Proprietor and an excellent Chardonnay from Western Australia.

We hope you enjoy the new additions. To book visit www.rafclub.co.uk/book-a-table, call 020 7399 1020 or email dining@rafclub.org.uk.

£99.00 Serving Officer Accommodation Offer

Seeking an affordable city break in January after the excesses of the festive season, then look no further?

This January the Club invites Serving Officers to take advantage of an amazing £99.00 per night offer, staying in a double room for up to two people sharing. With our enviable central London location, perfect for the January Sales, the Club is ideal for a weekday or weekend break in the capital and now boasts a fully-equipped Fitness Centre to help maintain those New Year's resolutions! Single rooms also available priced at £87.00. Please note this rate excludes breakfast and is applicable for new bookings only.

To book a room for a relaxed winter getaway, call 020 7399 1021 or email reservations@rafclub.org.uk quoting 'Serving Officer Jan 2020'.



COMING SOON

For future member packages and promotions, including Easter and summer offers, visit www.rafclub.org.uk/special-offers



COVER STORY

The Colonels' Revolt: A Club Transformed

The Royal Air Force Club today is a thriving hub of activity, boasting almost 25,000 members worldwide. From new Cranwell graduates and Serving Officers at the beginning of their careers, to Former Serving Officers, some with over 50 year's membership and more, membership of the Club is diverse, but still retains that unique RAF ethos. However, the situation has not always been so rosy, half a century ago closure seemed almost inevitable with membership numbers hovering under 2,000. It is down to the tenacity, foresight and determination of a very special group of Club members back in the mid-60s that the Club continues to be enjoyed by so many today.

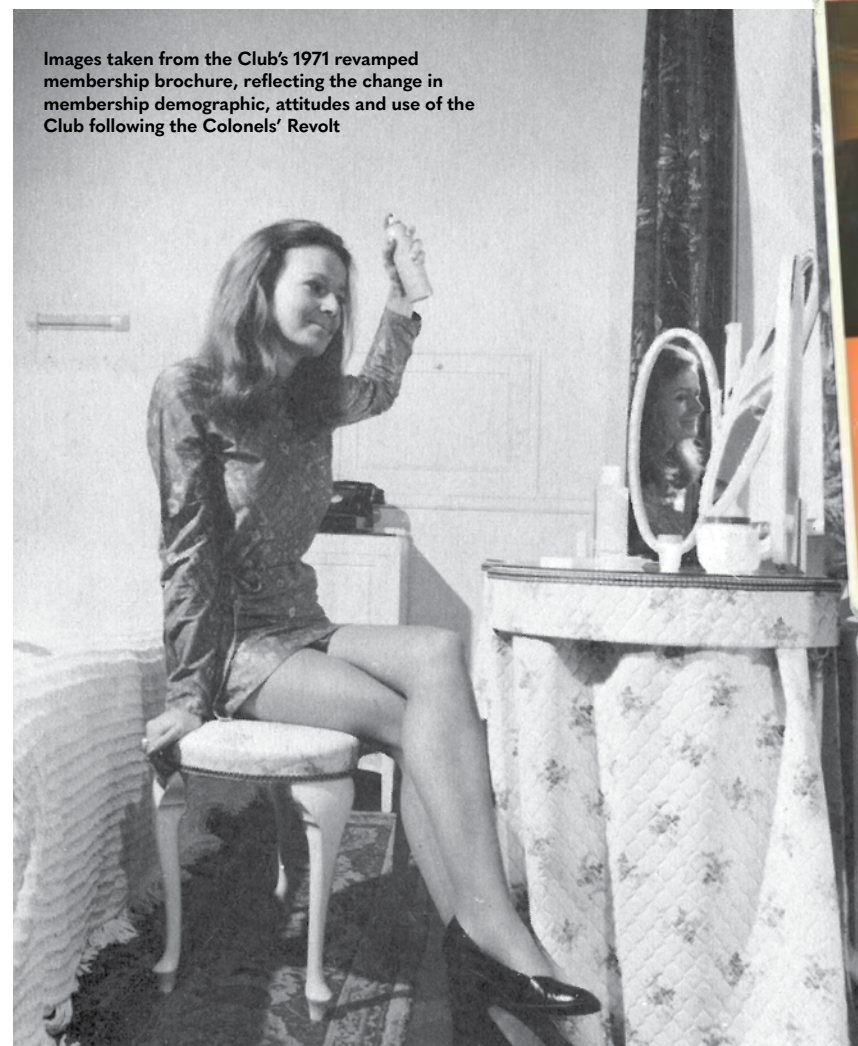
By 1964 the Club was not yet fifty years old, but it had seen a slow steady decline in membership as the offering, the atmosphere and those at the helm had crucially not moved with the times. By 1964, only 8.5% of Officers were actually members, as the Club was failing to attract and retain a new generation seeking a more progressive, less formal alternative to the traditional 'Gentleman's Club'. The offering at 128 Piccadilly was

considered to be out of step with trends in wider society, the coffers were empty and drastic measures were called for.

Longstanding Club member and former Chairman, Air Marshal Sir Frederick (Freddie) Sowrey, who sadly died on July 24th this year, was the last survivor of the three key players who turned the ailing Club's fortunes around some fifty-five years ago. He played an instrumental role in what became known as the 'Colonels' Revolt' led by (then) Air

Vice-Marshal Bob Hodges and Group Captain Neil Cameron. Freddie was then Station Commander of RAF Abingdon, and this literally enabled the rescue process to get off the ground.

An Extraordinary General Meeting was called to address these issues, and just before Christmas 1964, one of the most critical gatherings in the Club's history took place. A Working Party, known as 'The Way Ahead Group', was proposed and a 'survival fund' was



Images taken from the Club's 1971 revamped membership brochure, reflecting the change in membership demographic, attitudes and use of the Club following the Colonels' Revolt



RIGHT
1960s membership brochure pre Colonels' Revolt extolling the benefits of the Club to a dwindling membership

initiated, highlighting the gravity of the Club's financial situation. This tumultuous period for the Club marked a turning point in strategic direction, one which went on to set the blueprint for today's buoyant RAF Club.

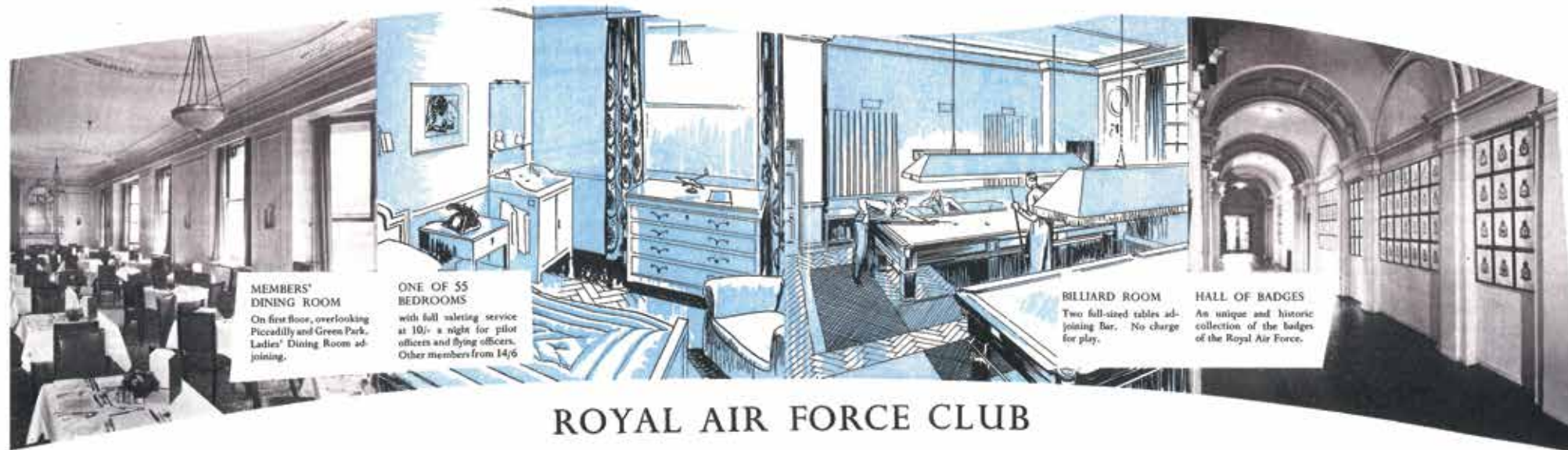
"The Working Party have been impressed by the large number of Officers, who have spoken of the need for a RAF social centre in London.... 128 Piccadilly would be ideal for such a purpose – The RAF Club in its present image does not fit the bill."

WORKING PARTY MINUTES, 1964

It was crucial to the rescue venture that the Club leadership could communicate directly with each of the RAF's 20,000 member Officer corps, spread throughout the world. At that time Abingdon was a hub of the world-wide Transport Command network, and Freddie happily recalled memories of his aircraft leaving for all parts of the globe with their official loads supplemented by bags of letters from the Hodges Committee drumming up support on behalf of the Club. Transport Command effectively became the Colonels' postal service!



The Club with all the amenities — in the Heart of LONDON



ROYAL AIR FORCE CLUB



His subsequent posting to the Imperial Defence College in 1965 was equally fortuitous, for situated in Belgrave Square Freddie was ideally placed to become a key member of the Working Group which tasked with considering the measures necessary to create a re-born and reinvigorated RAF Club.

With Freddie then appointed as Chairman of 'The Way Ahead Group', in under three months a report was produced that instigated the transformation of the Club through an overhaul of both its governance and infrastructure. Running to eleven foolscap pages, the report is a model of careful research, comprehensive analysis, and clear, jargon free expression – no "low hanging fruit" here.

"One of the ideas we had... (was to) provide them with music and a pocket handkerchief-sized dance floor, where they can stand next to a girl and prop themselves up. This is called dancing."

A complete review of member facilities was also proposed in order to appeal to families and couples and enable the Club to reposition itself as a place for socialising and entertaining. The spirit with which Freddie approached this task is neatly portrayed in his response to a query as to plans to attract younger Officers:

"One of the ideas we had... (was to) provide them with music and a pocket handkerchief-sized dance floor, where they can stand next to a girl and prop themselves up. This is called dancing."

It was not only a basement dancefloor

that was to be installed. A professional team were appointed to key management positions, a Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Catering Manager amongst others, which served to raise standards immeasurably. A bright new reception area was unveiled, and the quaint but unused 'Oyster Bar' provided much needed additional seating in the Dining Room. Previously 'no go' areas were opened up to ladies and the Ladies Bar renamed the Victoria Bar, with the Gentlemen's Bar and adjacent Smoking Room becoming the only male preserve. The biggest change



however was the opening of a new Club Lounge, the Cowdray as we know it today overlooking Green Park, with its contemporary sleek furnishings and décor, becoming a sociable focal point for the transformed Club.

Ten extra bedrooms were created with en-suite bathrooms, a novelty in those days and so by 1970 the substantial works to create a "family and younger Officer friendly" Club had been completed.

Freddie's posting to Aden in 1966 took him out of the action, but some eighteen months later Air Vice-Marshal Cameron signalled to ask would he stand for election as Chairman. Freddie's response that he would be delighted but it depended on his next posting and boss, received the reply "you will be working for me at the MOD"! So having done so much to plan for the resurgence of the Club he had the pleasure of overseeing the completion of its transformation during his chairmanship from 1967 to 1970.

It is a pleasure to record that for over fifty years Freddie was able to enjoy the facilities of the Club that he had done so much to secure and it is thanks to him and those around him, that we all enjoy the Club in its current and popular guise.

Air Marshal Sir Frederick (Freddie) Sowrey KCB, CBE, AFC September 14th 1922, died July 24th 2019.

*With thanks to Honorary Archivist,
Wing Commander Michael Gilbert*

CLUB DINNER

A Welcome Return for Women in Aviation

Following the resounding success of last year's inaugural "Women in Aviation" Club Dinner, the second event was held on Tuesday 10th September in the magnificent surroundings of the Sovereigns' Room. Bettering 2018's dinner was always going to be tough, but luckily we had just the keynote speaker needed to match members' high expectations!



'Women in Aviation' with CEO Miles Pooley, host Air Cdre Barbara Cooper CBE (far left), member Candida Adkins (far right) and Club Chairman, Air Marshal Sue Gray (centre)



This year's theme was "per Ardua ad Astra – Challenging Stereotypes". A full house of guests included RAF female personnel of most ranks – from Air Marshal to Corporal. The evening was hosted by Club Trustee Air Commodore Barbara Cooper CBE, with Club President Air Marshal Sir David Walker and Club CEO Miles Pooley in attendance.

The RAF Women's Rugby Team was well represented with the help of generous support from team sponsor SecureCloud+ (pictured far right with SecureCloud+ CEO Peter Williamson). Following a Champagne reception aptly held under the striking 'Women in the Service of the RAF' stained glass window, the dinner started with a short talk by new Club member Candy Adkins, whose mother, Jackie Moggridge, was one of the original female trailblazers in aviation.

Candy described her mother's passion for flying as an Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) pilot during the Second World War and spoke of her indomitable spirit and determination to succeed as a pilot, despite many challenges along the way. Jackie flew an incredible eighty-three different aircraft types while in the ATA, often as we went on to learn, with little or no instruction.

The dinner was interspersed by a series of vignettes, given by Flight Lieutenants Kayleigh Warrenner (pictured second from right main image), Chloe Barraclough (pictured second from left) and Karen Macmillan (pictured seated bottom right), and Flight Sergeant Adele Good (pictured seated bottom left). The ladies gave personal insights into their RAF journeys to date; all were inspirational, funny and often moving. Having four young children (including triplets) as a single mother/fast jet pilot took some beating!

The highlight of the evening was our keynote speaker, Air Marshal Sue Gray. Not only our Club Chairman, but also the British Armed Forces' first female 3*. We heard her own personal account of life as an Engineering Officer in the RAF, including operational tours in both Gulf Wars. The evening rounded off with questions and answers, and discussions continued informally in the Cowdray Lounge. Feedback has been excellent and we hope to continue this important event as an annual feature in the Club's social calendar.

With thanks to Air Commodore Barbara Cooper CBE

Candy Adkins will also be joining us for a Literary Dinner next year entitled 'My Life in the Sky: Spitfire Girl', telling Jackie's awe-inspiring story. See page 26 for details and to book.



THE ORIGINAL SPITFIRE GIRL: JACKIE MOGGRIDGE

ATA and RAFVR Flying Officer and later Airline Captain Jackie Moggridge spent her working life breaking down the barriers to Women in Aviation. Born 1st March 1922 and christened Dolores Theresa Sorour, she promptly changed her name to Jackie (a boy's name at that time). After her two brothers relentlessly teased her about being a 'sissy', she decided she would 'show them' and at an early age announced she was going to become a pilot. She learned to fly and gained her 'A' flying licence aged just fifteen. In addition to this feat, with the intention of showing her siblings she really did mean business, she also became the first woman to attempt and complete a successful parachute jump in South Africa aged seventeen. Brothers being brothers, they were unimpressed, however at the Johannesburg aerodrome that day, Jackie fatefully met a wonderful lady named Doreen Hooper, her heroine and the first woman to get her Commercial Pilots Licence. Jackie's mind was made up and a career plan began to formulate.



In 1937, at the age of seventeen, Jackie came to the UK to study at Whitney Aeronautical College, where she became the sole female pilot alongside one other lady studying to be an Engineer. As her daughter Candy recalls, “My mother always admired the Engineers more than anyone, they were the really clever ones, our life was in their hands.” In years to come, Jackie went on to honour them through poetry.

*I miss the beauty of that world
above the earth and I behold
a vision there of silver wings
and listen to my heart it sings*

*It is not I that feels that thrill
though yet the memory lingers still*

*It is a younger one today
who's flying now, oer my skyway.
Go girls*

A year into college and war broke out. “Come home” implored her mother, sick with worry back in South Africa. Jackie instead replied excitedly “I’ve written to the RAF to become a fighter pilot”. Not quite the reassuring response her mother had been hoping for! When the reply “we don’t take women” arrived, Jackie was devastated. With no other avenue open to her other than to become a WAAF, she joined and was duly sent to be a cook. Sadly, the powers that be had not felt it necessary to ascertain if she had any talents in this area (she had none) and so it was not before long that she was moved on. At Chain Home in Rye, Jackie took a top secret and vital role as a Radar Operator, where she watched the Battle of Britain as a series of moving dots on a screen.

Luckily for Jackie, the ATA had now relented and had begun using women pilots. Although not yet old enough to become one of the first eight pilots, she did however become Pilot 15 of No.15 Ferry Pool Hamble under ATA founder Pauline Gower, having successfully passed the flying test.

The ATA were ahead of their time, and prompted and cajoled by the indomitable Pauline Gower, became the first organisation to give ladies equal pay to their male counterparts. Not everything was equal however. The women were not allowed in the Mess and instead were given their meals on a



tray in the corridor. There were also no W.C. facilities in any of the aerodromes so the girls had to powder their noses in the men’s lavatories, with it often being preferable ‘to go’ behind a hangar!

Despite these practical setbacks, this was no barrier to flying talent and Jackie flew seventy-nine different planes; sometimes up to five different planes a day. As you may imagine, flight training on a single seater was a challenge, with the full extent of this ‘training’ comprising of the ATA’s ‘Ferry Pilots Notes’ Handbook hurriedly read whilst on the airstrip!

The ATA would regularly give lifts when required and one day in terrible weather Jackie was ferrying a senior male Officer back to the aerodrome. She landed with difficulty as they had no radios or contact with the ground and

ABOVE
In 1953 Jackie campaigned to become the first women to break the sound barrier. Sadly the ‘powers that be’ would not lend her the Sabre Jet she needed in order for Britain to achieve this feat.



JACKIE MOGGRRIDGE: SPITFIRE GIRL

Gained pilots licence aged fifteen

Flew over eighty-three different types of aircraft

Flew first Spitfire 13th October 1941

Made 1,438 ATA aircraft deliveries

1st January 1946 Gained King’s Commendation for Valuable Services in the Air

One of only five women to gain full RAF wings in WRAFVR

1951 Received Queen’s Coronation Medal

1959 Became first women airline captain to fly passengers on scheduled flights

when fog descended it quickly became very treacherous. The Commandant strolled over and inquired as to how the flight had been.

“Not only did you send a school girl to pick me up, but in all that bad weather she was reading a novel.” “Oh no it wasn’t a novel,” Jackie replied, “It was my pilots notes, I have never flown that plane before!”

On 13th October 1941, Jackie flew her first Spitfire from Cowley to Ternhill, a thrill that she repeated many times as she went on to fly around 500 spitfires in her lifetime. The ATA made 309,011 deliveries in all, and Jackie was to make an incredible 1,438 of them.

At the end of the war, the women were unceremoniously “kicked out” as Jackie recalled, understandably upset the heroic contributions made by women in the name of the ATA seemed all but forgotten. Post war, she went on to marry Captain Reg Moggridge of the Royal Engineers in January 1945 and on the 1st January 1946, Jackie received the King’s Commendation for Valuable Services in the Air, although she could not help but note her disappointment at it being signed by Atlee and not Churchill.

In 1949 Jackie joined the WRAFVR, and whilst there she was one of only five women to win their full RAF wings, Jean Lennox being the first. (See Jean pictured in the Women in the Service of the RAF’ window on the first floor of the Club.) The other four being Joan Hughes, Freydis Leaf, Benedetta Willis and of course Jackie.

It was in the RAFVR that she gained experience on Meteors and Vampires and campaigned to be the first woman to fly through the sound barrier, but the powers that be would not allow it. Soon after the RAFVR was disbanded.

In 1951, Jackie received the Queen’s Coronation Medal and took the job with three men to fly thirty Israeli spitfires to Burma over 6,000 miles with nine

“In 1951, Jackie received the Queen’s Coronation Medal and took the job with three men to fly thirty Israeli spitfires to Burma over 6,000 miles with nine stops.”

stops. She completed six extremely dangerous trips as she had to fly along the border with Iran and Iraq over miles of dessert. In Rangoon they heard her voice over the radio and asked the Squadron Leader “You got a woman up there?” He replied, “Yes”, only to gain the response “What’s she doing, sitting on your lap?” On landing in Burma, the authorities spent two hours searching the planes for the fourth pilot, not believing it could have been a woman!

Despite all these achievements, but as was typical at the time, Jackie found it hard to find work in the 1950s. She resorted to omitting her gender on application forms. At one interview for Channel Airways, without the luxury of a babysitter, she left her elder daughter outside the door as she walked in. On realising that she had such vast experience and as a woman was ‘cheap’, as of course there was no feisty Pauline Gower to champion equal pay, she got the job and duly became the first woman airline captain to fly passengers on scheduled flights. A role for which she was the first to be awarded the ‘Jean Lennox Bird Trophy’ in 1959, for furthering the cause of women in aviation.

Jackie was passionate about flying, and kept her licence going until she was seventy-five years old. Her final historic flight was in display pilot Caroline Grace’s Spitfire ML407, which Jackie was the first to fly on 29th April 1944, delivering it to Squadron Leader John ‘Johnnie’ Houlton. (Johnnie then went on to become the first pilot to shoot an enemy plane down on D-Day.) Caroline and Jackie re-enacted the flight fifty years to the day in 1994 and she flew faster and lower than Carolyn would ever have dared!

Jackie Moggridge, a true pioneer for women in aviation, died on 7th January 2004, with her ashes scattered by Carolyn Grace from Spitfire ML407 over Dunkeswell Aerodrome Taunton.

LOOKING FORWARD

Building on the ‘Inspire’ Journey: A Sustainable Legacy for the RAF

Building on the success of the RAF100 youth engagement programme, which reached a phenomenal two million young people throughout the UK, Air Officer Commanding Number 22 Group, Air Vice-Marshal ‘Bunny’ Warren hosted an industry engagement event at the Club on 30th September 2019, and offered an insight into the ‘Inspire’ journey that the Royal Air Force is now embarking upon.

RAF Inspire will develop and deliver a sustainable legacy for the Next Generation Air Force. At its heart is the RAF Trenchard Group that will harness youth engagement, encourage ideas and innovation and deliver world-class educational pathways that directly support the RAF and wider aviation, space and cyber industries.

The RAF aims to reach and engage with one million young people each year for the next ten years through STEM and inspirational aerospace opportunities. Alongside the traditional Flying Scholarships, future scholarships in space and cyber will build the Next Generation Air Force and support wider

UK aviation and defence industries. At the forefront of youth engagement are the RAF Air Cadets, providing unique reach and opportunity for over 40,000 young people across the UK.

The ideas and innovation space is critical to the Royal Air Force’s enduring operational success and depends on generating and developing innovative ideas and thinking at every level. The RAF Centre for Air and Space Power Studies will drive this pillar of The Trenchard Group through academic nurturing, Fellowships and placements and in collaboration with The Tedder Academy of Leadership, Director of Defence Studies and links to with the Freeman Air and Space Institute.

“Future scholarships in space and cyber will build the Next Generation Air Force and support wider UK aviation and defence industries.”

Educational Pathways will transform training to provide state of the art learning, in modern environments, enabling the delivery of trained personnel to the front-line quicker. The Robson Academy of Resilience and the Tedder Academy of Leadership are already focussing on the mental, physical, spiritual and social wellbeing and the command, leadership and



management aptitude necessary to successfully deliver on operations.

Further afield, the RAF is engaged with the Aviation Skills Partnership and working with industry and educational bodies, are developing new academies and work-ready training pathways across the UK that will offer young people a route to skilled jobs in engineering and aerospace.

In what is likely to be the first of many such events, key industry, academic and charitable partners were presented with the suite of world-class products available to the Next Generation and given a range of ideas where they may wish to connect with the RAF on this exciting journey.

For more information on The RAF Trenchard Group please email 22Gp-TrenchardGp@mod.gov.uk



SSAFA UPDATE

Working together for the Armed Forces family

SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity provides lifelong support to serving Armed Forces personnel (both regulars and reserves), veterans, and their families. Learn more about their invaluable work, which to date has supported thousands in need.

SSAFA began its work in 1885 and in 2018 our teams of volunteers and employees helped more than 82,000 people – from Second World War veterans to those involved in more recent conflicts, and their families.

As a charity, we recognise the person behind the uniform – and sometimes that person, or their family, is in need of help. And we are here for that person – any time they need us, in any way they need us, for as long as they need us.

In recognition of their service to the nation, we work to ensure that the needs of the families of the Royal Air Force, Royal Navy and Army are met in an appropriate and timely way, relieving worry, suffering and distress.

We also understand the unique demands of service life, whether it’s on UK soil or overseas. Support is available for people at any stage in their military career; from the youngest recruit to the oldest veteran – no one’s service is ever forgotten.

We have more than 5,600 trained SSAFA volunteers who provide personalised, face-to-face support to those in their local area. Our trained welfare advisors and volunteers work with each person to find out exactly what they need.

Once we’ve assessed what is required, we’ll help the individual or family access the support they require. This may just be someone to listen to them, but, more often than not, we secure financial assistance from statutory and military benevolent funds or foundations that we work with. In addition, we signpost to our other charity partners who can give much needed assistance to help people get their lives back on track.

Whatever they’re facing – from debt or addiction to mental health problems – our Forces and their families can rely on SSAFA and our personalised support to help them through it.

When anyone in our Forces family finds themselves in need of help, SSAFA is the charity they can turn to. Whether it’s financial, practical or emotional, we provide the right kind of support, ensuring independence and dignity is protected at all times.

ssafa | the Armed Forces charity

For further information, including how to volunteer for SSAFA, please visit www.ssafa.org.uk. If you, or anyone you know, needs help or support, please contact the Forcesline service on 0800 731 4880, available 0900 – 1700hrs, Monday to Friday. To support SSAFA, please email philanthropy@ssafa.org.uk.

CLUB SHOP

CHRISTMAS GIFTING

New for Christmas 2019, original Club artwork beautifully presented as prints, cards and accessories. Visit shop.rafclub.org.uk for full details and to purchase.

Final UK online order date for Christmas is Friday 13th December 2019.



'Women in Service of RAF'
100% Silk, boxed ladies scarf,
34" square design.
Hand rolled silk. Made in the UK.
Priced at £55.00 per scarf



'Aircraft' Greeting Card by artist
Mandy Shepherd, original
watercolour design
Single card priced at £2.50

Packs of 8 Notelets featuring either
the RAF 100 Flypast & York Minster
or RAF Cranwell & Lincoln Cathedral
by artist Tim O'Brien GAvA.
Priced at £8.50 per pack



RAF 100 Flypast Print 'A Day to
Remember' 40x50cm mounted
print by artist Tim O'Brien GAvA.
Priced at £14.50 per print



'Women in Service of RAF'
Stained glass window design
by artist Helen Whittaker.
Single card priced at £2.50

CHRISTMAS DINING AND OPENING TIMES

The Club will be open during the Christmas period, although some restrictions will apply. Normal service will be resumed across the Club on Monday 6th January 2020. Bedrooms reservations are still available for the Christmas period.

CHRISTMAS EVE LUNCH

Club menu only including Daily Roast, £28.00pp

CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER

Four-course menu including a glass of Champagne
£40.00 members, £45.00 guests
No a la carte or Club menu

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH **FULLY BOOKED**

CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

1830 - 2115hrs Buffet only £35.00 members,
£40.00 guests. No a la carte or Club menu

THURSDAY 26TH DECEMBER - SUNDAY 5TH JANUARY INCLUSIVE

Lunch, Club menu only (inc. Daily Roast),
£28.00 No a la carte menu

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

DINING ROOM

BREAKFAST

Monday-Friday 0730 - 1000hrs (23rd Dec to 5th Jan 2020)

Saturday 0730 - 1030hrs

Sunday 0730 - 1030hrs

LUNCH 1200 - 1415hrs last order

DINNER 1830 - 2115hrs

WEEKEND BRUNCH 1200 - 1430hrs

Brunch only - a la carte and Club menu not available
Please note on Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th January -
Club Menu and Daily Roast only

To book a table for brunch, lunch or dinner,
visit www.rafclub.org.uk/book-a-table email
dining@rafclub.org.uk or call 020 7399 1020

COWDRAY LOUNGE

Christmas Afternoon Tea daily £25.00pp
(not available on Christmas Day)

Monday-Thursday 1000 - 2300hrs

Friday-Saturday 1000 - 0000hrs

Sunday 1000 - 2230hrs

No continental breakfast served in the Cowdray Lounge
from 23rd December until the 6th January 2020.

On New Year's Day, Wednesday 1st Jan - the
Cowdray Lounge will be open from 0830- 1100hrs
with a Full English breakfast available only.

AFTERNOON TEA

(No Afternoon Tea served on Christmas Day)

Daily 1500 - 1730hrs (Pre-booking is advised)

To book a table for Afternoon Tea visit
www.rafclub.org.uk/book-a-table, email
cowdray@rafclub.org.uk or call 020 7399 1073.

RUNNING HORSE

Closed on Christmas Day

From Thursday 26th - Sunday 29th Dec
closing will be at 2300hrs

Monday-Saturday 1200 - 0000hrs

Sunday 1200 - 2300hrs

Running Horse food served until 2115 daily

In pictures

For photo galleries featuring the following
events and more visit rafclub.org.uk/news



21ST MAY

Club Dinner with Deputy Commander Operations, Air Marshal Mayhew CBE

Despite recent promotion and change of role, Air Marshal
Gerry Mayhew kindly found time in his new diary to enlighten
members on the planning and execution of the magnificent RAF
100 flypast over London. Whilst the pilots in the room were
familiar with formation flying, few had been exposed to the
complexities of mounting such a flypast. Air Marshal Mayhew
detailed the intricate training, planning and negotiation
required to secure the necessary airspace, reminding us that it

is not possible to conduct a lengthy flypast over central London
without impacting London's airports and air traffic in one of the
busiest airspaces in the world.

From the technical challenges to ensuring the whole of the
UK and some rather important Royal observers watching
from the balcony at Buckingham Palace were entertained,
Air Marshal Mayhew enthralled us all with one of the
centenary's most amazing spectacles.

6TH & 18TH AUGUST

Fifty Year Member Receptions

This year's Fifty Year Membership
Receptions at the Club were extremely
well attended and well received by
over 170 members and their guests
celebrating over fifty years of Club
membership. The annual events are
held to thank our loyal fifty year
members for their outstanding
support and are hosted by the
Club's Membership Committee.
Members enjoyed welcome drinks
and canapés, with of course a toast
to everybody in attendance!





20TH JULY

Masquerade Summer Ball

Saturday 20th July saw the Club's Masquerade Summer Ball come to 128 Piccadilly, one of the highlights of our summer social events calendar. With fabulous entertainment from the talented Satin Dollz, a casino, fun photo booth and dancefloor-storming live music courtesy of the Mississippi Swamp Dogs, it was a night to remember. We hope all those in attendance had as much fun as we did!



27TH AUGUST

St Paul's Cathedral Visit

On a wonderfully warm and sunny August afternoon, members enjoyed a private behind the scenes tour of St Paul's Cathedral. From the crypt to the stunning dome and even a peep at intricate clerical and ceremonial robes in restoration, along with hidden artefacts, members experienced a privileged insight into one of the capital's most treasured historic buildings.



16TH SEPTEMBER

Battle of Britain Dinner

This September, the Club once again celebrated the anniversary of the Battle of Britain with an address by Air Chief Marshal Sir John Allison KCB CBE. Sir John is one of a small band of pilots who have flown the Spitfire, Hurricane and Me109, so able to share his view of the differing qualities of the main aerial protagonists rather than concentrating on the conduct of the Battle itself. With sufficient technical detail to keep the dining

pilots happy, he offered a broader glimpse of the handling qualities of those aircraft and what it feels like to fly them, leaving diners in no doubt that his preferred aircraft would undoubtedly have been the Spitfire. Sir John then reminded us of the main purpose of the evening, with a sombre roll-call of the circumstances and timing of the casualties suffered in 1940, before concluding with a toast to 'The Few'.

CLUB EVENTS

COMING UP FOR 2020

Cirque du Soleil 'Luzia' at the Royal Albert Hall & Club Dinner

Tuesday 4th February 2020, 1630 for 1700hrs

Dress Code: Smart Casual

£100.00 members / £110.00 guests

Cirque du Soleil returns to London's iconic Royal Albert Hall with the European Premiere of Luzia, a show inspired by the richness of Mexican culture. Luzia cleverly brings to the stage multiple places, faces

and sounds of Mexico taken from both tradition and modernity. The delightfully imaginative and visually stunning extravaganza will see brand new acts and breath-taking production, never before used by Cirque du Soleil at the Royal Albert Hall, including incorporating 'rain' into acrobatic and artistic scenes.

The evening includes a Champagne reception, two-course dinner with wine, tickets to the show and all coach transportation to and from the Club.

Club Dinner with Captain Richard De Crespigny – 'Fly! Life Lessons from the Cockpit of QF32'

Monday 10th February 2020, 1830 for 1900hrs

Dress Code: Black Tie

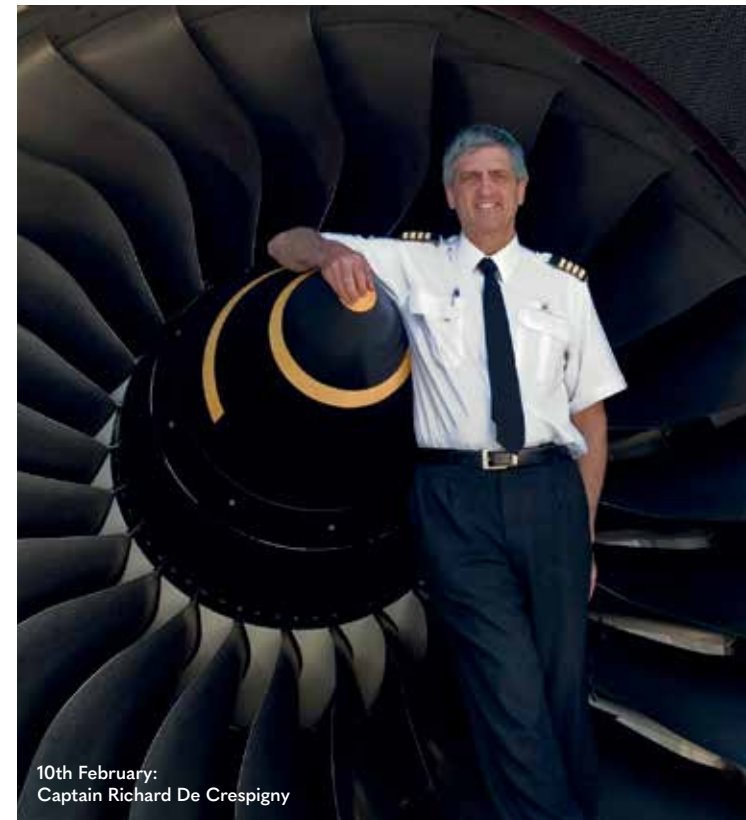
£65.00 members / £70.00 guests

Join us this February for an exciting evening in the company of Qantas pilot Capt Richard De Crespigny who will talk about his best-selling book 'Fly! Life Lessons from the Cockpit of QF32'. Capt 'Champion' De Crespigny was the pilot of the Qantas Flight 32 on the 4th November 2010 on a scheduled passenger service from London to Sydney via Singapore, which suffered an uncontained failure in one of its four Trent 900 engines. The failure occurred over Batam Island, Indonesia, four minutes after takeoff from Singapore Changi Airport. After holding for almost two hours to assess the situation, the aircraft made a successful emergency landing at Changi.

This fascinating talk will follow a Champagne reception and a three-course dinner with wine.



4th February: Cirque du Soleil



10th February: Captain Richard De Crespigny



20th February: ACM Sir Dick Johns GCB, KCVO, CBE

Club Dinner with ACM Sir Dick Johns GCB, KCVO, CBE "The Peace Dividend"

Thursday 20th February 2020, 1830 for 1900hrs

Dress Code: Black Tie with miniatures

£65.00 members / £70.00 guests

The Club is delighted to welcome Air Chief Marshal Sir Dick Johns GCB, KCVO, CBE to the Club as a keynote speaker. ACM Sir Richard Johns is a retired senior Royal Air Force

commander. As Chief of the Air Staff he advised the British Government on the air force aspects of the Strategic Defence Review and on NATO's air campaign in Kosovo.

Sir Richard will share his views and involvement on "The Peace Dividend", a political slogan popularised by US President George W Bush and UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in the early 1990s, purporting to describe the economic benefit of a decrease in

defence spending. The term was frequently used at the end of the Cold War, when many Western nations significantly cut military spending. The evening includes a Champagne reception, three-course dinner with wine and keynote speech.

To book for any Club Social event, please visit www.rafclub.org.uk/whats-on, call 020 7399 1042 or email events@rafclub.org.uk.



24th April: Tour of Aspley House



24th January: Burns Night



18th February: New Members' Reception

FULL EVENTS LISTING: 2020

Details for every event taking place at the Club next year. Keep up-to-date via www.rafclub.org.uk/whats-on

JANUARY

Burns Night Supper with the Adastral Burns Society
Friday 24th January, 1830hrs
£75.00/£80.00

FEBRUARY

Club Dinner & Cirque du Soleil 'Luzia' at the Royal Albert Hall
Tuesday 4th February, 1630hrs
£100.00/£110.00

Club Dinner with Capt Richard De Crespigny 'FLY'
Monday 10th February, 1830hrs
£65.00/£70.00

New Members' Reception & Club Dinner
Tuesday 18th February, 1800hrs
£50.00/£55.00

Club Dinner with Air Chief Marshal Sir Dick Johns, GCB, KCVO, CBE
Thursday 20th February, 1830hrs
£65.00/£70.00

MARCH

Jazz Night with the Adrian Macintosh Sextet
Thursday 5th March, 1830hrs
£90.00/£95.00

Club Dinner with 617 Squadron
Thursday 19th March, 1830hrs
£65.00/£70.00

Annual Mothers, Sons & Daughters Dinner
Friday 20th March, 1830hrs
£65.00/£65.00



APRIL

Club Lunch and Guided Tour of Wellington Arch & Aspley House
Friday 24th April, 1200hrs
£65.00/£70.00

WW1 Gallipoli Campaign Club Lunch with Historian Mr Stephen Chambers – '105th Anniversary of the Gallipoli Campaign'
Monday 27th April, 1200hrs
£45.00/£50.00

Spring Gourmet Dinner
Thursday 30th April, 1830hrs
£95.00/£105.00

MAY

Club Dinner with Anthony Inglis, Musical Director of the London Concert Orchestra
Monday 4th May, 1830hrs
£60.00/£65.00

75th VE Day Anniversary Celebration at the Royal Albert Hall with Club Buffet
Friday 8th May, 1600hrs
£135.00/£140.00

[MORE >](#)

Club Dinner with 617 Squadron: The History of the Squadron, its Evolution and Becoming the UK's First F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Squadron

**Thursday 19th March 2020,
1830 for 1900hrs**

£65.00 members / £70.00 guests
Dress Code: Mess Dress / Black Tie with miniatures

Join us for this exclusive Club Dinner with 617 Squadron, originally known as 'The Dambuster Squadron' and now the UK's first F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) squadron.

Originally based at RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire and currently based at RAF Marham in Norfolk, 617 Squadron was key to the successes during Operation



19th March: 617 Squadron

Chastise against the German Ruhr dams during WWII. In the early 21st century it operated the Tornado GR4 in a ground attack and reconnaissance role until being disbanded in early 2014. The squadron reformed on 18 April 2018, and was equipped at RAF Marham in June 2018 with the F-35B Lightning, becoming the

UK's first F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) squadron of this advanced V/STOL type.

Sqn Ldr Goff and other members of the team will join us on the evening to share the history of this iconic squadron and its evolution; an evening not to be missed. The event includes a Champagne reception and three-course dinner with wine.

CONTINUED >

75th VE Day Anniversary Afternoon Tea & Music with the D-Day Darlings
Sunday 10th May, 1500hrs
£60.00/£70.00

Club Dinner with Col Richard Graham – 'Flying the SR-71 Blackbird: In the Cockpit on a Secret Operational Mission'
Monday 11th May, 1830hrs
£65.00/£70.00



11th May: Club Dinner



11th June: Gourmet Dinner

JUNE

Summer Gourmet Dinner
Thursday 11th June, 1830hrs
£95.00/£105.00

Denbies' Wine Estate Private Tour, Wine Tasting & Club Dinner
Tuesday 16th June, 1100hrs
£120.00/£130.00

Annual Fathers & Daughters Club Dinner I
Friday 19th June, 1830hrs
£65.00/£65.00

Annual Fathers & Daughters Club Dinner II
Monday 22nd June, 1830hrs
£65.00/£65.00

Club Lunch with Wg Cdr Bill Ramsey 'Re-building a Mosquito'
Wednesday 24th June, 1200hrs
£45.00/£50.00

Musical Dinner with Suave Jazz
Friday 26th June, 1830hrs
£70.00/£75.00

AUGUST

Visit to Clarence House and Club Lunch
Monday 3rd August, 1300hrs
£95.00/£105.00



16th June: Wine Tasting



24th June: Club Lunch

SEPTEMBER

XXV Year Lunch
Wednesday 2nd September, 1200hrs
£45.00/£50.00

Grouse Dinner in the Library
Monday 14th September, 1830hrs
£75.00/£80.00

80th Anniversary Battle of Britain Dinner
Tuesday 15th September, 1830hrs
£55.00/£60.00

Women in Aviation Club Dinner
Tuesday 22nd September, 1830hrs
£60.00/£65.00

New Members' Reception & Club Dinner
Thursday 24th September, 1800hrs
£50.00/£55.00

Literary Dinner with Candida Adkins 'The Original RAF Trailblazer – ATA Pilot Jackie Moggridge'
Wednesday 30th September, 1830hrs
£50.00/£55.00

NOVEMBER

Winter Gourmet Dinner
Wednesday 4th November, 1830hrs
£95.00/£105.00

DECEMBER

Christmas Lunches I and II
Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th December, 1200hrs
£45.00/£50.00

VE Day 75th Anniversary Celebrations at the Club

"My dear friends, this is your hour." SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

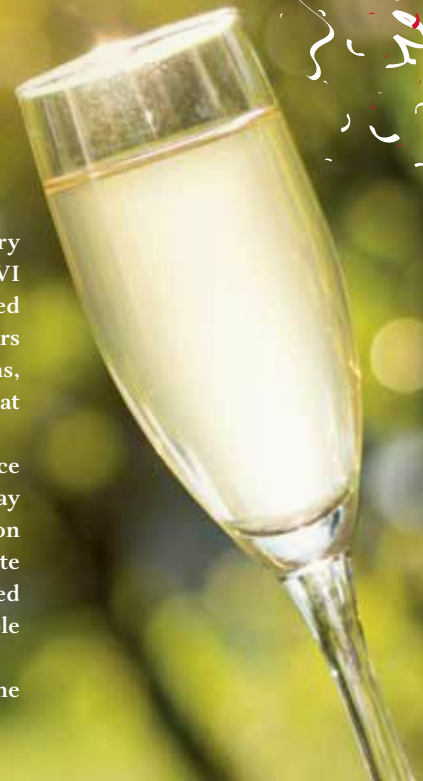
On 8th May 2020, it will be seventy-five years since fighting stopped at the end of the war in Europe following the formal surrender by Germany on 7th May 1945. Across the UK, after almost six years of terrible fighting, sadness and loss on an incomprehensible scale, millions of people excitedly gathered in the streets to celebrate the arrival of peace, whilst remembering those that did not make it home and those still caught up in the fighting in the Far East.

Victory in Europe or VE Day was marked in Britain by Churchill declaring 8th May a public holiday. Across the country, people held boisterous street parties. In London enormous crowds gathered at major landmarks. In

Whitehall, Churchill addressed the country and at Buckingham Palace, King George VI and the Royal Family appeared to excited onlookers from the balcony. Londoners danced in the streets, jumped in fountains, celebrated in Trafalgar Square and partied at Piccadilly Circus, minutes from the Club.

UK-wide commemorations will take place from Friday 8th May to Sunday 10th May 2020, including a special Bank Holiday on 8th May. The Club is proud to participate and is offering a host of events, themed menus and promotions in the Club to enable members to mark the occasion with us.

VJ Day will also be marked later in the year in August 2020.



75th Anniversary VE Day Celebrations at the Royal Albert Hall

Friday 8th May 2020, 1600 for 1630hrs
£135.00 members / £140.00 guests
Dress Code: Smart Casual

The Club is delighted to announce that we have secured tickets for members to celebrate this special occasion and attend the VE Day anniversary event at the Royal Albert Hall punctuated by readings, live music and special guests.

The evening includes an early evening Club buffet, tickets to the VE Day event at the Royal Albert Hall and all coach transportation.

75th VE Day Anniversary Afternoon Tea with The D-Day Darlings

Sunday 10th May 2020, 1500 for 1530hrs
£60.00 members / £70.00 guests
Dress Code: Jacket & Tie or dress for the occasion with 1940s Street Party style!

What better way to celebrate VE Day than with a special Champagne Afternoon Tea event in the Sovereigns' Room, accompanied by music and song from a trio from the wonderful D-Day Darlings. Expect a street-party atmosphere, plenty of music, dancing, bubbles and of course our delicious VE Day Afternoon Tea.



VE DAY Bank Holiday package

A VE75 Overnight Package is available over the VE Day Bank Holiday weekend, including a one night Sunday stay inclusive of breakfast and tickets to the Club's VE Day Afternoon Tea celebration on Sunday 10th May 2020. Prices start from £150.00 for a single room or £264.00 for a double. To book call 020 7399 1042 or email events@rafclub.org.uk.

Special Menus will also be available in the Dining Room and Running Horse with a VE Day Afternoon Tea served in the Cowdray Lounge over the Bank Holiday weekend.



ROYAL AIR FORCE CLUB

— FOUNDED 1918 —



Celebrate those Special Occasions at the Club

The RAF Club offers a wide range of versatile function rooms suitable for every occasion. From large meetings and conferences to gourmet dinners in the Library, relaxed lunches and black-tie cocktail receptions, we've got the space for everything.

Members also benefit from complimentary room hire for private lunches and dinners, perfect for reunions or special occasions. The dining is always exceptional and the Club's usual excellent service can be expected each and every time.

Visit www.rafclub.org.uk/private-dining and take a look at what we have to offer.

Full details on rates, menus and availability can be obtained from the Conference & Banqueting Team on 020 7399 1004/5 or email confbanq@rafclub.org.uk.

