



# 'Tornado Talk'

## RAF Association Melton Mowbray



Branch and Club Newsletter

CHARITY NUMBER - 231562



Issue 31 - December 2024

*Non Nobis Sed Vobis - Not For Ourselves Alone*

**ROYAL  
AIR FORCES  
Association**  
The charity that supports the RAF family



### Newsletter Format

Welcome to the new format Newsletter. Similar to the digital version of AirMail the newsletter is in a flip-page ebook format. Now it will be possible to have more interactive content in its pages. Also it should be easier to navigate through the pages to quickly find what you want. For example it is possible to 'click' on a page number on the Contents page and jump straight to that page. 'Clicking' on the 'Back' icon below the Newsletter will take you back to the first page.

### Viewing The Newsletter

Once the Newsletter has been opened there will be an arrow symbol on the right of the newsletter, that when 'clicked' will turn to the next page. Similarly there is an arrow symbol on the left side of the newsletter that when 'clicked' will turn to the previous page.

Below the newsletter there are a number of icons for going to the beginning and end of the newsletter, viewing full screen, sharing and printing the newsletter.

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## **TORNADO CLUB NEWS**

### **Committees**

**CURRENT  
MEMBERSHIP**

**255**

**NEW MEMBERS  
IN 2024**

**LAPSED  
MEMBERSHIP 2024**

# COMMITTEES

## BRANCH

### President

Phil Taylor

### Chairman

Toby Burton

### Treasurer

Kathryn Glover

### Secretary

Brenda Cox

07505 704936

[brenda.cox.87@gmail.com](mailto:brenda.cox.87@gmail.com)

### Honorary Welfare Officer

Currently vacant

### Membership Secretary

Brodie Halliwell

### Wings Appeal Organiser

Phil Taylor

### Newsletter/Website Editor

Barrie James

07519 791313

[barriejames@icloud.com](mailto:barriejames@icloud.com)

### Standard Bearer

Brian Fare

### Annual Conference Delegate

Toby Burton

## TORNADO CLUB

### Chairman

Daniel Bailey

### Treasurer

Doug Mumford

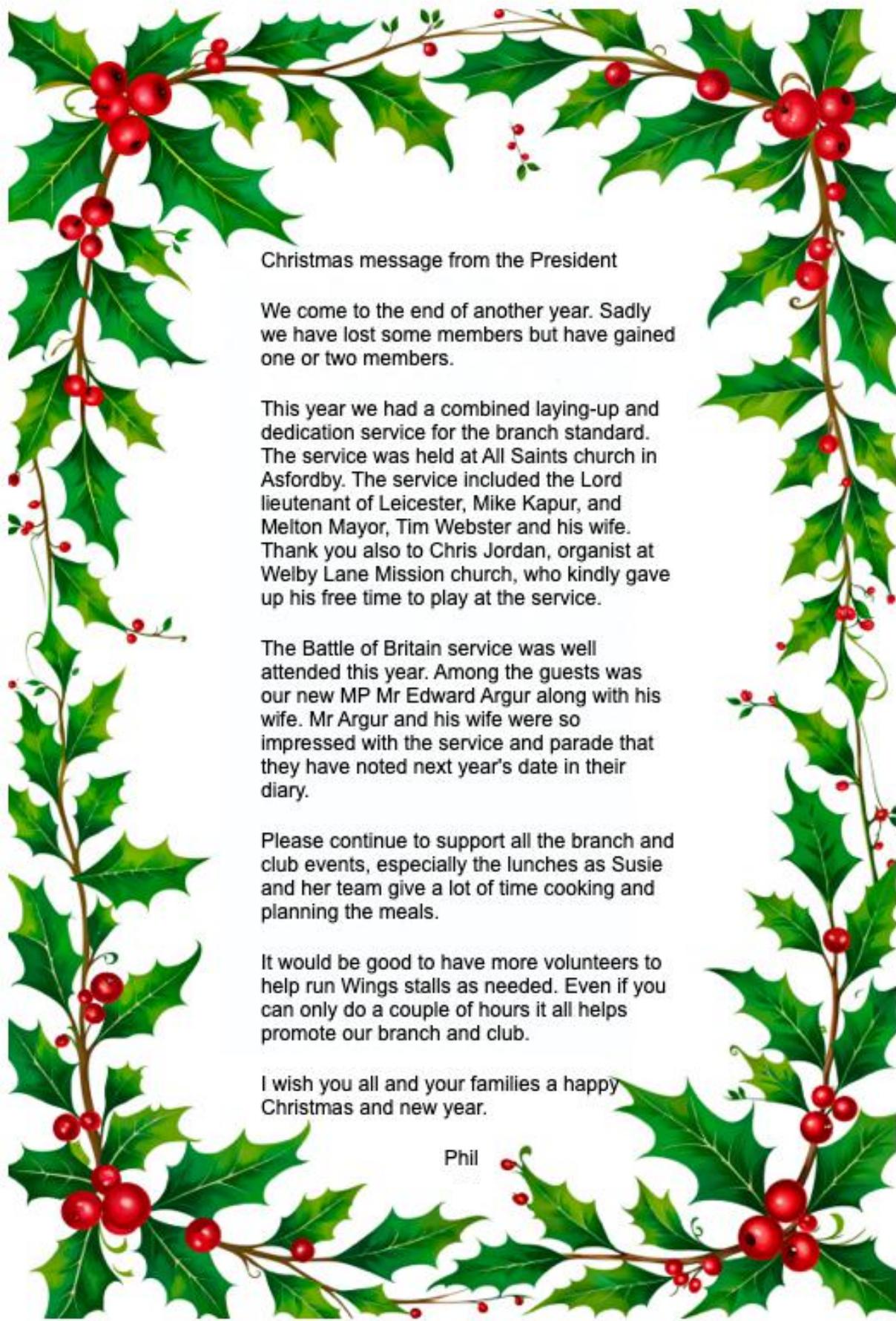
### Secretary

Susie Gray

### Entertainment Organiser

Susie Gray





### Christmas message from the President

We come to the end of another year. Sadly we have lost some members but have gained one or two members.

This year we had a combined laying-up and dedication service for the branch standard. The service was held at All Saints church in Asfordby. The service included the Lord lieutenant of Leicester, Mike Kapur, and Melton Mayor, Tim Webster and his wife. Thank you also to Chris Jordan, organist at Welby Lane Mission church, who kindly gave up his free time to play at the service.

The Battle of Britain service was well attended this year. Among the guests was our new MP Mr Edward Argur along with his wife. Mr Argur and his wife were so impressed with the service and parade that they have noted next year's date in their diary.

Please continue to support all the branch and club events, especially the lunches as Susie and her team give a lot of time cooking and planning the meals.

It would be good to have more volunteers to help run Wings stalls as needed. Even if you can only do a couple of hours it all helps promote our branch and club.

I wish you all and your families a happy Christmas and new year.

Phil



## BRANCH SECRETARY UPDATE

# Melton Mowbray Branch of the Royal Air Forces Association.



24, Asfordby Road, Melton Mowbray, LE13 0HR.

Landline 01664 490750 week days evenings 8-11pm. Sat 12.30-7pm.  
Sun 3-7pm. Please note new phone number!

Hello again,

Thank you to those who took part in the Battle of Britain parade this year. Unfortunately there were only a few members marching which was sad as the parade is very important to the Association. Next year is the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary so lets see if we can get record numbers on parade!



Standard Bearer Brian Fare  
escorted by his wife Amanda  
and Gary Vickers.

Thanks each. Also to Arthur  
Marshal for carrying the wreath.



The Battle of Britain lunch was well attended. Thanks to our residents chefs Susie and Frankie for their excellent culinary efforts, it is always appreciated as much prep goes into these meals and your services are given freely.

Remembrance Parade this time. Thank you to all who participated. Note that we were all in step!

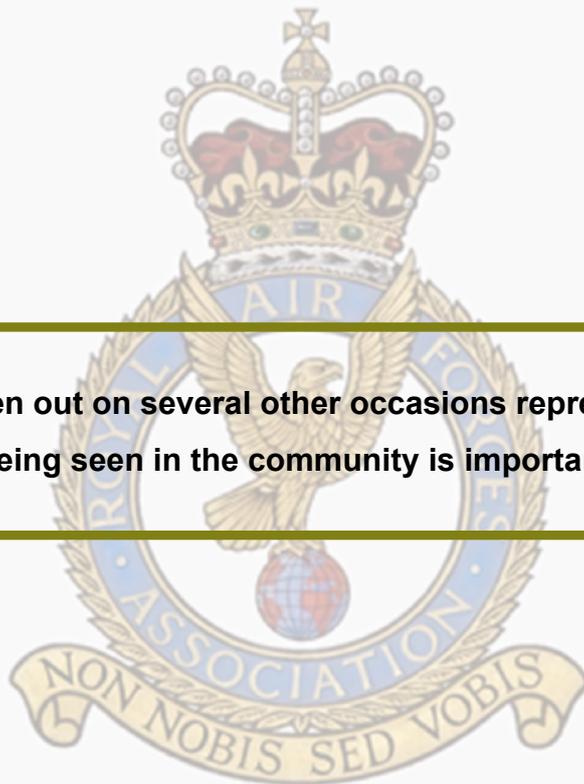
It was very hop, skip and jump along the route this year!



Lunch was served afterwards.



**Brian has also been out on several other occasions representing the RAFA.  
Being seen in the community is important.**

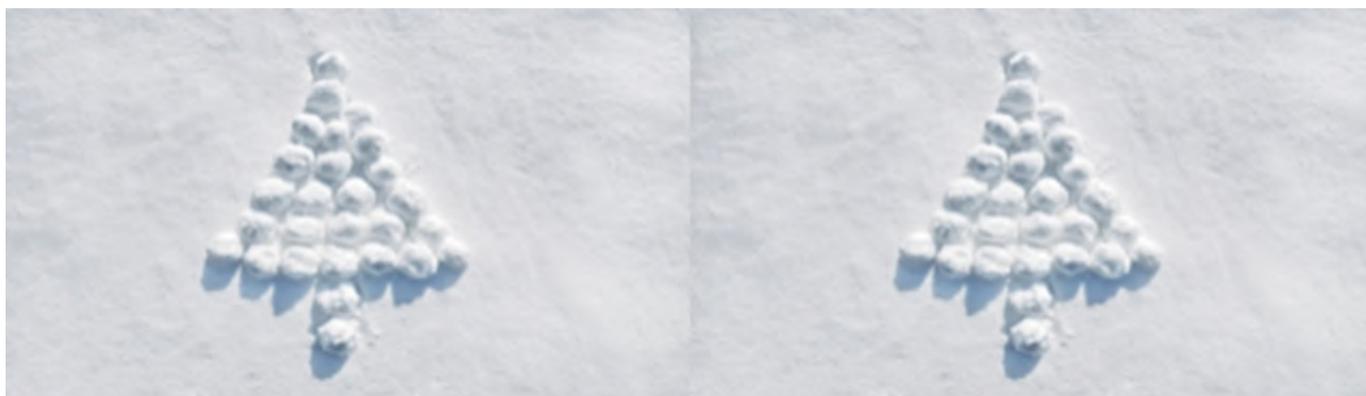




The last of Colin Cragg's ashes were scattered in the Memorial Garden after the parade on Sunday.

Picture shows our President Phil Taylor and Ex-Chairman Bob Moore doing the honours.

As are into the Festive Season, we have one more event lined up.  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> is Draw night. Squares on sale in the club. 25p each.



And to round the year off there will be a "R" party on New Year's Eve!



Remember to join us on the First Thursday of the month for coffee and a chat. This offers an opportunity to come into a warm space for a couple of hours. It's no frills coffee or tea at 50p a mug. It starts at 10am and finishes at 11.45. Some fascinating conversations have been had so please do join us if you can. All proceeds go into the Wings Appeal.

The latest community fundraising event is BINGO on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month.  
Eyes Down at 3pm. - Next session will be in January.



The monthly quiz remains as popular as ever, Teams of 4 welcome, £1 a head to play, no prize for winning, just knowing that you were the best team that night. Starts at 8pm. Teams take it in turn to set the questions.

May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
As always look after yourself.

*Bren* Branch Secretary.

Email [brenda.cox87@gmail.com](mailto:brenda.cox87@gmail.com) Text 07505704936



# New Year's Eve

# R Party!

Tuesday 31st December 2024

From 7pm till late.

Come dressed as something beginning with the letter R! be as creative as you like.

Buffet available for £5 per person

Come down and greet the New Year with a

**ROAR!**



## Christmas Opening Hours:

Mon 23rd Dec, Closed

Tues 24th Dec, 12.30pm till 7pm

Weds 25th Dec, Closed for festivities!

Thurs 26th Dec, Closed for recovery!

Fri 27th Dec, 7pm till 11.30pm

Sat 28th Dec, 12.30 till 7pm

Sun 29th Dec, 2.45pm till 7pm

Mon 30th Dec, Closed

Tuesday 31st Dec, 7pm till 1am

Weds 1st Jan, 7pm till 11.30pm

**NOTE!**

**Now open Christmas Day 1pm - 3pm**

## Tid-Bits from RAF News

*UK SURVEILLANCE specialists have taken part in Nato's first anti-ballistic missile drill. Intelligence experts on board a 51 Sqn Rivet Joint joined more than 130 Allied aircraft in a major US-led Nato exercise from Greece, codenamed Exercise Ramstein Flag.*

*DEFENCE CHIEFS are stepping up training to counter enemy drone threats and integrate the latest uncrewed aerial systems into British battlefield kit.*

*MILITARY INSTRUCTORS have returned from Africa where they delivered the first information operations course to the Nigerian Air Force.*

*WITTERING THREW open the gates to the local community for the station's annual formal reception. The event gave personnel a chance to showcase Air Force capability and thank the local community for supporting the Cambridgeshire base. Wg Cdr Nikki Duncan said: "It is always a great honour to meet and thank so many members of the local community, civic and charitable organisations that support us in the work that we do."*

*Falkland Islands  
A £20 million programme to replace Mount Pleasant's Foxtrot taxiway has been given the green light by MoD chiefs.*

*DAMBUSTERS JETS have joined HMS Prince of Wales for a month of training before an eight-month global mission next year. The RAF unit will support F-35B Lightning stealth fighters from 809 Naval Air Sqn as they prepare to take off from the flight deck of an aircraft carrier for the first time in nearly 15 years.*

## Newsletter Information

Hi All, My name is Barrie and I have recently volunteered to edit the branch newsletter and website.

Both the newsletter and the website can only be as good as the content that they carry. Therefore my appeal is for content for both outlets.

These can be current events, your own RAF story and tales from your service time. Anything that you as a member of the branch feels would be relevant and interesting to other members would be very welcome.

I plan to have issues out for Spring, Summer, Autumn and Christmas through the year.

I am sure that we all have a tale or two about our time in the RAF - lets share them!

I have kicked the ball off with a little humorous tale of my own during my time in Cyprus in 1964 on page

Send your content, info and photographs to me at:

[barrie529@icloud.com](mailto:barrie529@icloud.com)

### RAFA SUBSCRIPTION NEWS

As of October 2024, the annual subscription fees for the Royal Air Forces Association (RAFA) are:

- Associate member: £18.50
- Ordinary member: £26.50

## Chicken Run

By **Barrie James**

Let's set the scene. It was sometime in 1964 in Limassol, Cyprus. I was 24. It was during the period when there had been some shenanigans between the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots. Servicemen who had less than 6 months left on their tour were told their dependents were being returned to UK in case there had to be a larger evacuation later. I was about two days inside that time. Therefore, about two months before my tale, my wife and two young sons were given about one hour's notice to get on the bus to Nicosia airport (we had been living out of suitcases for a couple of weeks anyway).

If my memory serves me correctly, there was a curfew for servicemen living on camp, of which I was one then after having to move out of my rented house in Limassol and going on to the base.

However, there was a promise of a party in town at a friend's house - and who was going to turn down a chance of a party in town! Anyway, I was given a lift into town and to the party.

As usual, I cannot remember a lot about the party (who could in those days?) but I did know that I had to get to the Bye-Pass to catch the shift bus (cooks & policemen?) that left about midnight, and this was way after the curfew started. The house where the party was at was about a mile from Limassol Bye-Pass so there I was staggering down this road oblivious to everything around me when I heard two shots of gunfire, quite close, and heard the whine as the bullets just missed my head, or so I thought. Being now quite sober, I flew down that road to the Bye-Pass like all the devils in hell were after me. I arrived at the Bye-Pass, where I knew the shift bus picked up, as a shaking jabbering idiot!

Anyway, of course, I caught the bus and got back to Akrotiri ok with no problem.

Later that day I asked one of the local lads who worked at the camp, and who I knew lived in that area if he knew what the gunfire was. He laughed and said, "Oh, that would have been old Andraous, he often gets drunk and shoots at stones in the gully at night". I had failed to notice that there was a deep, wide, dry flood gully running down the side of the road. That was a relief then!

It didn't cure me of parties though!





Merry Christmas!

*and*

*A Happy New Year*