



**RAFA 1066 BEXHILL BRANCH & THE ALBATROSS CLUB  
NEWSLETTER AUTUMN/WINTER 2024**

<b>MON</b>	<b>CLOSED ALL DAY (EXCEPT BANK HOLIDAYS)</b>
<b>TUE</b>	<b>12-10.00 PM</b>
<b>WED</b>	<b>12-10.00 PM</b>
<b>THU</b>	<b>12-10.00 PM</b>
<b>FRI</b>	<b>12-11.00 PM</b>
<b>SAT</b>	<b>12-10.00 PM (11.00 PM IF FUNCTION ON)</b>
<b>SUN</b>	<b>12- 5.00 PM</b>

**REMEMBER TO KEEP UP TO DATE WITH NEWS AND EVENTS AT THE CLUB VIA;**

**Albatross RAFA Club Bexhill on Facebook**

**Website at: [www.bexhillrafa.co.uk](http://www.bexhillrafa.co.uk)**

Welcome to your latest newsletter which will be focusing on the work of The RAFA 1066 Bexhill Branch.

**SPOTLIGHT ON: Clive Hammond – RAFA Branch Vice Chairman & Welfare Officer**



One of the Branch Committee posts is that of Branch Welfare Officer, this role is one that is very much in the background and as a club member not given much thought to.

The purpose of the RAF Association is to support serving RAF members, Veterans and families of those in the RAF family. The support available is financial, physical and everything in between that you can think of.

I started my role as a Caseworker being trained by the RAF Association and having cases directly assigned from The Welfare Region East at RAFA HQ in Leicester. The cases I have been involved with so far have been requests for funding to buy Mobility Scooters, a replacement Stair Lift and to assist ex RAF Veterans who are Homeless all of which are in our local area.

The way the system works is someone with a need contacts the Welfare Team in Leicester, they will then pass on the details to a Volunteer Caseworker close by who will arrange to meet them and confirm their need, assess their financial position (as RAFA has very strict requirements on savings and personal circumstances) before any grants or funding is provided.

Once the case is completed and a report submitted by the Caseworker to the Welfare team a review is completed by RAFA HQ as to whether funding can be applied for from the RAF Benevolent Fund who, if this is successful will provide the funding to support the individuals need.

- In 2024 so far there has been **£1,200,005.85 pledged**. The average amount pledged per award so far in 2024 is £1,232.04

- The average number of days that a case, opened between 1st August 2023 and 31st August 2024, is open is **36**.
- In July, 35% of cases were from beneficiaries under 66 years old.
- Mobility continues to be the highest presenting need with Daily Living Costs, Bills and Mental Health all in the Top 5 for 2024 so far.

As you can see from the figure pledged above the financial needs continue to increase the money raised from the annual Wings Appeal continues to support this work which is vital in supporting our RAF family of which the Albatross Club is a crucial part.

If you have served in the RAF for a minimum of one day's salary then you would qualify for assistance.

### **THE WINGS APPEAL**

As Clive Hammond has previously discussed, raising funds through The 1066 Branch and The Albatross Club for The Wings Appeal, is a very important part of supporting our veterans. Throughout the summer Andy Skinner our Chairman and Wings Appeal Rep. has been attending local events with the help of various Branch and Club members to help raise funds. These include Bexhill carnival in the Polegrove, Bexhill day on the prom and at Tesco Ravenside in August.



Andy Skinner (L) and Clive Hammond  
at Bexhill Carnival

Andy Skinner (L) and Clive Goddard  
at Tesco Ravenside

### **BATTLE OF BRITAIN DAY**

On Sunday 15 September Battle of Britain Day was commemorated at the War Memorial in Bexhill under the command of Clive Hammond. The parade was attended by a number of VIP's including the Deputy Lieutenant for East Sussex, The Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Bexhill, District and County Councilors our local MP and Air Cadets from three Squadrons. Among the twelve Standards on parade were the RAF Association, Royal British Legion, Union Standard, Bexhill Town Standard and the Polish Community Standard representing 302 and 303 Polish Fighter Squadrons.

There was good coverage of the event in the press and many compliments received, specifically from the Mayor who stated that the parade was particularly well organised by the RAF Association

### **UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY**

**20<sup>th</sup> December** – Grand Christmas draw, raffle and Christmas carols.

**21st December** – 12.00 till 4pm Christmas Fayre in aid of Club and Branch funds will include Raffle, Tombola and assorted stalls. (If you are interested in running your own stall please contact Dorothy)

**31<sup>st</sup> December** – New Years Eve entertainment by Stevie Bart. Please bring your food item for the bring and share buffet

### **THE COMMITTEES**

Neither the RAFA 1066 Branch nor the Albatross Club would be here without the relevant committee members. All committee members carry out their roles completely voluntarily and with no financial recompense in order to ensure that you are able to attend a safe and enjoyable environment.

#### **RAFA 1066 Branch committee members**

President	Phil Snelgrove
Hon. Vice President	Pat O'Brien
Chairman and Wings appeal rep.	Andrew Skinner
Vice Chairman and Welfare officer	Clive Hammond
Branch Treasurer	Bob Bamblett
Branch Secretary	Simon Ward
Ordinary member	Elizabeth Leahy

#### **The Albatross Club committee members**

Chairman	Dorothy Ashwood
Vice Chairman	Ray Oliva
Club Treasurer	John Dyke
Club Secretary	Gaye Ward
Membership Sec	Judy Buckle
Ordinary members	Tony Rowlett, John Standen, Simon Ward, Sean Bannon, Mick Dudley.

**Please enjoy your club responsibly and with consideration for other members.**