Royal Air Forces Association, Newcastle & Gateshead Branch 0370

Branch Meeting

2nd November 2026 7pm Benwell Cricket Club

Dedication molli James

Chairmans welcome

Chris welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present

Chris James, Debbie Owens, Kevin Monga, Mark Leonard, Karen Bowers, David Gilbert, Bob Cuss, Andy Farley, Molli James

Apologies

Bill Houston, Michael Collins, Roy Knox, Ray Reay, Ken Allen , Michael Blackman

Chairman's report

Query re taxis this cannot be every month but if we attend Whitley Bay our members can pick up and bring through.

On the 11th November there will be a gathering 10.30 for a short service with our Standard and the wreaths will be removed and place on another part of the cenotaph. This s due to the Christmas market taking place on the following day. There will be one part of the cenotaph area beside Starbucks which the wreaths will be placed. Chris is hoping for some kind of collections to take place on a Friday or Saturday over the Christmas as we do not have access to the Central Station. Chris would like to 18th and 19th December. He has been talking to NE1.

AGM

This is in 3 months time and we need it sorted by next month. Bill will be in Contact for reports.

ANZAC

Chris would like this sorted by the end of next month therefore by the next meeting.

The Chairman of North Northumberland has resigned and there is no one in place. . Chris has spoken to Paul Greenwood and was told for the branch to undertake this event.

Treasurer's Report

As Bill is unwell but the accounts are attached to the minutes, they were

proposed by Dave Gilbert and seconded by Molli James

We received an email for HQ thanking us for our WINGS collection.

Secretary's Report

Debbie explained that everything was in place for Remembrance Sunday at the West Road Crematorium. The company who she works for have printed the order of service free of charge along with 30 posters which have been put out across the West of Newcastle.

The Salvation Army is suppling the band and Major Liz is taking the service again free of charge. With this in mind , we would like to ask members to donate a gift for their Christmas appeal and bring it to our Christmas party on 7th December.

Debbie had received nothing from CHQ.

SNINE Report

Kevin had nothing to report but HQ is cancelling individual area meetings and instead of 5 make a combined 2. This is not popular with members So watch this space. Kevin said he had nominate Alan Proudlock for Area Presidents award.

Ceremonial Report

Karen had nothing to report

Wings Report

Ken is ill so nothing to report

RAFLO

Mark asked if we had received word about the Christmas dinner- no, so he would make enquiries. There is talk of the RAFLO at Spadeadam hosting an event in the spring.

Social Report

Beer call Friday 11th December at 2pm the bridge Hotel . Kevin s looking to organise a couple of visit next year possible to Carlisle's Air Museum to see the Beverly and to east Fortune Air Museum.

Welfare

Andy explained that had 2 cases and was hoping to meet up with Syd in a couple of weeks. He is going to be working with Lee from Veterans in Veterans in Care and going to the veterans hub in Kenton for a visit.

Members Notices

Karen said that her friend who works with the "lest we forget Asso" in Cornwall in Falmouth they have 2 guest house where military personnel and veterans can stay free of charge. There is also a farm where Veterans and service personnel from across the U.K. can go farming and enjoy the Cornish farming culture.

A.O.B

Next Meeting 7th December -Christmas social Raffle prizes needed

And if possible a donation of a gift for the Salvation Army toy appeal