

NEWCASTLE & GATESHEAD 0370 BRANCH

BENWELL HILL CRICKET CLUB

Denton Bank, West Road, NE15 7EU

RAFA Secretary 07954 598883

September 7th, 2026, Branch Meeting - 7pm

BATTLE OF BRITAIN – NEWCASTLE ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL – 6th SEPTEMBER AT 4PM

August 2026 Branch Meeting

Present.

C. James. D. Owens, B. Houston, K. Allen, M. Collins, A. Farley, K. Mongan,
D. Gilbert, M. Leonard RAFALO

Dedication – C. James

Apologies.

K. Bowers, M. James. R. Hill, B. Cuss

Chair – Welcomed all to meeting, few things to get through.

Funeral of Alan Proudlock, Preston Crem. 12th August – would like a good turnout for him, he will be sadly missed by all in Branch. David and Molli will march in the hearse. Looking for a piper and contact Backworth band for bugler.

Elvington – 8/9th Aug, Yorkshire Museum and Light Model Aircraft weekend. Branch invite to LMA and will take tent/goods for WINGS collecting. Coach for Veterans Welfare/Wellbeing outing being arranged (Mark Leonard offered to be driver for the day) so Bill will liaise re booking/pickup etc. – Bill contacting M. Blackman at Whitley bay for any members there who would like to join in outing. Debbie checked with Cricket Club - 4 cars can park all day.

Re Whitley Bay – Their Battle of Britain event is held after ours
And would like to see Newcastle members present, Dep. LD. Lt
Wg Cdr Harris will be attending

Cathedral Battle of Britain, Sunday 6th September for 4pm – most arrangements in place, few minor to be done. Standards with K. Bowers, SWO Boulmer has PME's done and speak with her re Guard of Honour. Invites going to RAF/RAFAC -Army/Navy, UAS, OTC. Cllrs, Lord Mayors. Lord Lieutenants x 2, JESA for St'ds 2 readers – TBC – Prayers arranged by Dean, given by TBC.

Secretary – Nothing from RAFA to date. 1 invite from 234 Longbenton Sqn to a formal dinner, cost £42.5pp, on 11th Sept to celebrate 70th anniversary and new standard – formal dress.

Treasurer – July Accounts. Opening balance of £7473.78, Income for Wings Appeal collected during Armed Forces week, shop collecting tin, a family donation and a RAFAC collection tin plus an ANON private donation came to £7135.41. Received 2025 Branch membership rebate of £1672.55, total income £8807.96 – Incurred branch expenditure was £80.46 and Branch made an interim Wings return payment of £10,000.00 as present total was more than £12,000. End of month figures, Branch account at £4140.18 and Wings at £2060.77 – making a total of £6200.95

Welfare – Welcome to **Andy Farley**, all signed off by HQ and now is Branch Welfare Officer, Being with a buddy for 1st case. Plans to visit Moorfield House which has resident Veterans, and other care homes. So, any Branch member or if you know of a non-RAF member who may have a Welfare issue, contact as follows.

E mail – welfare@rafanewcastle.org.uk

Welfare specific number 07434 183025 (only from 9am to 6pm)

Wings - Many thanks to all who attended events during AFD, amazing total Collected, Next Tesco 19th August, and Central station 11/12 Sept. Has anyone heard if permit for City centre for B of Britain given??

RAFLO – Station visits from AVM, Air Command recently, bit doom and gloom. But all still are very busy on all fronts – nothing else to report.

AOB - AF – Arrange floral tribute to Alan Proudlock.

KA – Anyone heard from Mark Barker, can collect him to meetings.