

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date	Period end date
01 January 2024	31 December 2024

Section A: Reference and administration details

Branch Name	York (No 0437)
Other names / number Branch is known by	
Registered charity number (if any)	500974
Branch's principal address	RAFA House, 3-5 Aldwark, York. Postcode YO1 7BX

Names of the Branch charity trustees who manage the charity (generally known as the Branch Committee) (Please include all trustees for the Branch including custodian trustees in relation to branch property) (Note: Details required are for the period 1 Jan – 31 Dec 24 only)

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Andrew Bryne.	Chair	
2	Stephen Pearson.	Secretary	
3	Christopher Thorpe.	Treasurer	
4	Richard Gray.	President	
5	Ronald Ford.	Branch Welfare Officer	
6	Ian Smith	Wings Appeal Officer	
7			
8			
9			
10			

Section B: Structure, governance and management

Description of the branch's trusts

Type of governing document (e.g. trust deed, constitution)	Royal Charter, Rules, Byelaws, Area and Branch Regulations of the Royal Air Forces Association.
How the Branch charity is constituted (e.g. trust, association, company)	Unincorporated association.
Trustee selection methods (e.g. appointed by, elected by)	Elected by the branch membership.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

<p>You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <p>Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;</p> <p>The branch's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works.</p> <p>Relationship with any related parties (including branch club).</p> <p>Trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.</p>	<h4>The Charity's Organisational Structure</h4> <p>The charity is a branch of the Royal Air Forces Association which is a Royal Charter body and registered as a charity in England and Wales under number 226686 and in Scotland under SC037673 ("the Association"). The Association has many branches all of which share the same charitable object as the Association and are subject to the same constitution.</p>
	<h4>Trustee Induction & Training <i>(Please insert any induction training or training courses completed by Trustees)</i></h4> <p>The Welfare Officer completed a refresher course in Jul/Aug 2024. The Secretary and the Branch Welfare Officer attended an online development session on "Supporting Wellbeing" on 14 Nov 24. The Secretary attended a course on Managing Dementia run by RAFA at the York Branch on 29 May 24. The Chairman and Secretary attended a "Finding it Tough" course run by RAFA at the York Branch on 19 Jun 24.</p>
	<h4>Related Party Relationships <i>(e.g. Club if operated)</i></h4> <p>York Branch Club.</p>
	<h4>Risk Management <i>(include details of any Risk Management documents held)</i></h4> <p>The Branch Welfare Officer receives specific risk management advice from attending the relevant courses provided by RAFA HQ. The Branch Club premises complies with current fire evacuation regulations and undertakes regular asbestos, electrical installation inspections and fire safety inspections in</p>

accordance with RAFA directives. The Branch President has undertaken comprehensive fire risk assessment training and all safety signage has been updated. A full PAT was also carried out by a professional electrician. The Branch Club has an operational, fully serviced stair-lift (with instructions) for members who require it. All potential trip and strike hazards are highlighted with suitable hazard warnings. Security and hygiene notices are displayed in the appropriate locations.

Section C: Objectives and Activities

Summary of the objects of the branch set out in its governing document	To promote, through the comradeship engendered by its members, the welfare by charitable means of all serving and former members of His Majesty's Air Forces, their spouses and dependents, together with the widows and widowers and dependents of those who died whilst serving or subsequently.
--	--

Section D: Achievements and performance in 2024

Summary of the main achievements of the branch during the year

Chair Report

In many ways, 2024 has been a successful year for our Branch; not least the collection of over £20,000 for the Wings Appeal and the provision of wellbeing events at our Club. An invitation to visit the Sherburn Aero Club in July was enthusiastically received and we also attended several ceremonial events, including November Remembrance ceremonies.

However, 2024 also saw the passing of several of our most supportive members whilst some others have no longer been able to attend events due to illness or frailty. We lost 3 stalwart members during November alone: including our President Emeritus, Bill Gambold. This loss has been tempered somewhat by a few new members who have come forward and assisted the Branch in a variety of ways. We have been supported by the Yorkshire Universities Air Squadron and we have strengthened our ties with our 2 local Air Cadet Squadrons, No 110 (City of York) Squadron in particular.

Our Branch and Club website, "RAFA York org" had been running in conjunction with two other charity-based websites for several years now. As these were closed in January, we have also closed our website. One of our objectives for 2025 is to replace it with either another website, or an equivalent social media site as soon as possible. We plan to raise as much for the Wings Appeal as possible in 2025 and continue to plan for much-needed improvements to our Branch Club premises.

Treasurer Report

The Treasurer's Financial Report includes both the Branch General and Welfare accounts at the bank, the equivalent deposit accounts at RAFA and any other assets. Our RAFA Branch in York continues to be a 'Going Concern'. The headline figure of a profit of £3,973 records the position on 31 December 2024. This includes the Club's contribution of £1,987 to the 2023 insurance costs which was not received until March 24. Therefore, our actual position for 2024 is an operating profit of £1,986 which is the first profit since 2020.

Our total assets have reduced from £62,673 to £55,526, primarily due to a transfer of £10,000 of Branch Welfare funds to Central Welfare.

We made a donation of £1,000 to Rothbury House and plan to continue doing so in the future. We retain £9,278 of Branch Welfare funds for spending as the Branch sees fit.

After the significant increase in insurance costs in 2023 we have successfully negotiated a much better price for the cover we require in 2024. Utility charges are very similar to 2023 and we reduced our expenditure on maintenance and repairs by 40%. Our stronger financial position has allowed us to reduce the Club rent from £350 to £300 per month.

We will continue to monitor our income and outgoings carefully to ensure that we are able to look after our building and support our fundraising activities without making profits we are unable to justify as a charity. I believe it is prudent that we retain the

	current level of financial assets that we hold due to the age and nature of our Branch building.
Summary of the main achievements of the branch during the year (cont)	<p>Branch Welfare Officer Report</p> <p>Despite a period of illness and an ongoing course of treatment, I was nevertheless able to fully resume my duties as the Branch Welfare Officer at the beginning of 2024. Over the year of this report I have been active in contacting local branch members who were ill, had suffered accidents or were convalescing. I have also continued to act as the Branch's main POC in delivering our annual donations to Rothbury House for the benefit of ex-service members residing there. I have also successfully resolved 4 welfare cases allocated to me from Welfare Region North (WRN Preston). Additionally, in support of the local York branch members, I have conducted numerous home visits, to provide comfort and support. Very sadly, 19 of our members have died during the course of the year, and where required, we have assisted with the attendance of our Standard Bearer at funeral and cremation services. Isolation and loneliness continued to be an issue and the branch, with the help of RAFA HQ, has reached out to Branch members in order to offer moral support during their time of need. I would like to thank those of you who have kept me informed of illnesses, accidents and hospital admissions of our members thus enabling me to provide support to them via telephone contact and home and hospital visits. Please continue to keep me in the loop! It has been a privilege to serve and support our members who are in need.</p> <p>Fundraising Report <i>(please insert details of the Branch Fundraising activities i.e. Wings Appeal events)</i></p> <p>The Branch has an extensive fundraising programme supported by an enthusiastic and willing team of collectors and led by a highly motivated and inspirational Wings Appeal Officer (WAO). The WAO has cultivated contacts throughout York and, as a result, over the year, we have conducted 7 collections at supermarkets, 3 City Centre Collections, a Collection at York Railway Station and a Collection at the Ebor Festival, York Racecourse. Additionally the appeal has attracted a large number of donations from Branch members, members of the public and one larger corporate donation. As a result of this activity the total raised for the Wings Appeal this year was £20142.70.</p> <p>Membership Engagement Report <i>(please insert details of the Branch Membership Engagement (newsletters, social media etc.)</i></p> <p>The Membership Secretary contacts all new members, explaining the benefits of actively participating in the activities of the Branch and urging them to visit the Branch. Unfortunately the take up has been very poor. However, he continues to engage with those members living in the York area in the hope that we can increase the number of active members. More generally communication with our membership has been facilitated by the Branch Facebook Page, the quarterly newsletter, the "Aldwark Chronicle" and our Annual Reports. By these means we are able to advertise and report on activities and events we are involved in. We have also produced letters of thanks to the public at large, for their generosity in donating during our street collections. These have been published in the letters page of the</p>

	<p>York Press. We have used these opportunities to advertise the existence of the Branch and Branch Club in the hope of attracting new members. On occasion we have used emails to ensure important messages are circulated widely and promptly to our members.</p>
Summary of the main achievements of the branch during the year (cont)	<p>Wellbeing / Social Report <i>(please insert details of the Branch Wellbeing and Social events/activities)</i></p> <p>The Branch and Branch Club run a busy programme of wellbeing and social activities. The Club is open every Wednesday and Saturday lunchtime providing a warm, friendly and lively meeting place for our members. Occasionally, every 4 to 6 weeks, food is available at the Club at very modest cost. The Club is also the venue for our monthly film shows. Additionally, the ladies organise a monthly ladies lunch at a local hostelry, usually held on a Friday. We have also organised a visit to Sherburn-in-Elmet airfield, where beneficiaries enjoyed an excellent lunch and a tour of the Aero Club. Earlier in the year we were also able to piggy back on a visit to RAF Leeming by the RAFA Medical Branch. With the help of RAFA HQ, we have also hosted two courses for members. The first, Navigating Dementia, was aimed at those beneficiaries with family members suffering from dementia. The second course, "Finding it Tough", dealt with strategies for managing mental health issues.</p> <p>Commemoration Report <i>(please insert details of the Branch Commemoration events/activities (Remembrance, Standard Bearers Attendance at Funerals etc.))</i></p> <p>The Branch was involved in the following commemoration activities: Attendance at the Turning of the Page Ceremony in York Minster which occurs 4 times a year and is in remembrance of all those Airmen from all nations who gave their lives whilst flying from bases in Yorkshire, Northumberland and Durham. Annual involvement in Escape Lines Memorial Society service at Eden Camp. Annual involvement in RCAF Eastmoor Memorial service at Sutton-on-the-Forest. Annual RAFA/RBL Church Service at the Church of All Saints Pavement in York. Annual involvement in Allied Air Forces Memorial Day at Elvington. Annual involvement in All Services Parade and Service at Eden Camp. Annual involvement in City of York Armed Forces Week event. Annual involvement in York Festival of Remembrance. Involvement in the Rededication of the Dunnington Lodge Farmhouse memorial at York Maze. The Standard was also paraded at 5 funerals over the course of the year.</p> <p>Community Engagement Report <i>(please insert details of the Branch Community Engagement activities (other groups you connect with, joint events such as Veterans Breakfasts))</i></p>

	<p>In addition to the interaction implicit in all the commemoration activities listed above, we also engage with the York Branch of the Royal British Legion and the Fellowship of the Services by providing our facilities for their regular meetings. The York Branch of the Parachute Regiment Association also use our building as a base for their street collections. Students of the Yorkshire University Air Squadron, based at RAF Leeming regularly assist us during Wings Appeal Collections and also attend the Turning of the Page Ceremonies at the Minster. The Air Cadets of 110 (City of York) Squadron also assist on these occasions. Members of the RAFA York Branch are present at the Awards Ceremonies held by 110 Sqn and 2487 (Easingwold) Sqn where we present RAFA Trophies. We host the Escape Lines Memorial Society at the Branch Club on an annual basis prior to our attendance at their Service of Commemoration at Eden Camp. We also interact with the Sutton-on-the-Forrest Parish Council during the planning of the RCAF Eastmoor Memorial Service.</p>
--	---



Section E: Financial Review

Statement on Branch Expenditure *(How has branch expenditure supported the key objectives of the branch)*

Primary Branch expenditure has been on the Branch building: rates, insurance, utilities, maintenance and repair. This allows the Branch to rent the space to York RAFA Club, a key provider of comradeship. It also allows the Branch to host civic dignitaries, and other Branch supporters after formal Branch activities in the City and surrounding area; this raises the profile of the Branch and RAFA, highlighting the welfare support and comradeship provided. Other expenditure includes the production and distribution of the Branch Newsletter and delegate expenses for RAFA conferences.

Statement on Branch's Reserve Policy *(Branch Regulations stipulate that any Branch with total assets amounting to more than £5,000 should have a reserves policy and any Branch with assets over £10,000 should consider transferring excess funds across to the Branch Deposit Fund held at Association HQ. A template reserves policy can be found on the Branch Portal)*

The Branch holds a restricted fund (the Welfare Account) which at 31st December 2024 held £9,278. This money is entirely earmarked for Welfare purposes, including well-being, for the benefit of qualifying members of the RAF Family. The history of demands on the fund have been modest over recent years and £10,000 was transferred to CHQ in 2024. Furthermore, the Branch will review annually whether to request any Wings Rebate and whether to transfer any funds to CHQ.

The balance held on unrestricted funds (the General Account) at 31st December 2024 was £39,163. The major income to these funds is from the Branch Club rent. The income meets the running costs of the property, which also provides a meeting and administrative venue, and a social hub in support of RAFA objectives. Additional, smaller, income streams are from RAFA membership subscription rebates, donations and various fund-raising activities. The Trustees believe that these reserves are sufficient to meet the demands of maintaining an old building in the city centre where any external renovations and repairs need to be in keeping with the historical surroundings.

Statement on Branch's Investment Policy *(Please include a statement on Branch investments and holdings and how these are managed (if applicable))*

The Branch held £6,976 in its two bank accounts and has £41,465 on deposit at CHQ. The Trustees believe that this is the most practical place to hold its reserves.

Section F: Declaration

We confirm that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

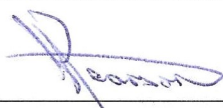
Signed on behalf of the branch's trustees

We confirm that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the relevant Charity Regulator on public benefit.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the branch's trustees

Signature



Full Name

STEPHEN PEARSON

Position (eg. Chair, Secretary)

Hon. Secretary

Date

18 March 2025

AGM FINANCIAL REPORT**2024****YORK BRANCH****BALANCE SHEET**

BRANCH FUND AS AT 1 JANUARY	2023	£ 58,423	2024	£ 57,005
PROFIT/LOSS ACCOUNT BALANCE		-£ 1,418		£ 3,973
BRANCH FUND AS AT 31 DECEMBER	2023	£ 57,005	2024	£ 60,979
MADE UP OF	2023		2024	
Fixed Assets				
Freehold Property at cost as at 1st January	£ -		£ -	
Any Additions during the year				
Other Fixed Assets less depreciation	£ 4,927		£ 4,811	
Current Assets		£ 4,927		£ 4,811
Stocks	£ -		£ -	
Debtors	£ -		£ -	
Deposits at CHQ	£ 33,705		£ 34,043	
Branch General Accounts				
Cash at Bank and in Hand	£ 3,502		£ 5,120	
Welfare Account	£ 17,706		£ 9,278	
		£ 54,912		£ 48,441
Less: Current Liabilities				
Creditors	-£ 2,834	-£ 2,834	-£ 2,274	-£ 2,274
Loan from CHQ				
Subscriptions in Advance				
TOTAL ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES	2023	£ 62,673	2024	£ 55,526
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE	2023		2024	
INCOME				
Wings Appeal Gross Proceeds	£ 19,868		£ 20,064	
Welfare Rebate from CHQ	£ 3,233	£ 23,102	£ 4,120	£ 24,184
Member Subscriptions rebate from CHQ	£ 1,366		£ 1,441	
Ordinary & Full Subscriptions Collected at Branch	£ -		£ -	
Branch Associate Subscriptions	£ -	£ 1,366	£ -	£ 1,441
Income from Social Activities	£ -		£ -	
Club Rent / Hire	£ 4,475		£ 4,189	
Interest on Deposits	£ 657		£ 452	
Donations received	£ 977	£ 6,108	£ 243	£ 4,884
TOTAL INCOME		£ 30,576		£ 30,509
Less: EXPENDITURE				
Insurances	£ 3,973		-£ 1,253	
Repairs, Renewals & Maintenance	£ 2,697		£ 1,091	
Rates	£ 233		£ 227	
Utilities	£ 1,891		£ 1,918	
Printing, Stationary, Advertising & Postage	£ 394		£ 340	
Accountancy & Audit Fees	£ 50		£ 60	
IT Web site	£ 91		£ 79	
Donations Made	£ 2,000		£ 2,220	
Welfare Expenditure	£ 4		£ -	
Wings to CHQ	£ 19,868		£ 19,984	
Wings Appeal Expenses	£ -		£ -	
Social Activities Expenses	£ -		£ 19	
Branch Committee Expenses	£ 102		£ 452	
Delegates expenses RAFA Meetings/Conferences	£ 259		£ 698	
Bank Charges	£ -		£ -	
Sundry Expenses	£ 326		£ 490	
Depreciation on Fixed Assets & Property	£ 104	£ 31,994	£ 116	£ 26,441
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	2023	-£ 1,418	2024	£ 4,068

ROYAL AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
YORK BRANCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

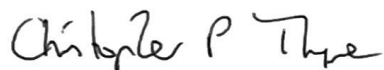
FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31 DECEMBER 2024

THE ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION – YORK BRANCH

CERTIFICATE BY BRANCH OFFICERS

We certify that to the best of our knowledge and belief all the financial transactions of the Branch have been recorded in the books and that the accounts and schedules are a complete and accurate record of the assets and liabilities and income and expenditure of the Branch.



C Thorpe

Treasurer



A Bryne

Chairman



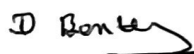
S Pearson

Secretary

THE ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION – YORK BRANCH

YORK BRANCH

I hereby certify that the accounts on pages 3-5 are in accordance with the books of account maintained by the Royal Air Forces Association – York Branch as shown in their records.

Signed: 

David Bentley

Independent Examiner

Date: 7 March 2025

Branch Income and Expenditure Account
RAF Association York Branch
For Year ending 31 Dec 2024

2023

£	£
19,868	
3,233	23,102
1,366	
	1,366
-	
4,475	
657	
977	6,108
	<u>30,576</u>
3,973	
2,697	
233	
1,891	
394	
50	
91	
2,000	
4	
19,868	
-	
-	
102	
259	
-	
326	
104	<u>31,994</u>
-	<u>1,418</u>

INCOME

Wings Appeal Gross Proceeds
Welfare Rebate from CHQ
Member Subscriptions rebate from CHQ
Ordinary & Full Subscriptions Collected at Branch
Branch Associate Subscriptions
Income from Social Activities
Club Rent / Hire
Interest on Deposits
Donations received

Less: EXPENDITURE

Insurances
Repairs, Renewals & Maintenance
Rates
Utilities
Printing, Stationary, Advertising & Postage
Stock Variance Commemorative goods
Accountancy & Audit Fees
IT Web site
Donations Made
Welfare Expenditure
Wings to CHQ
Wings Appeal Expenses
Social Activities Expenses
Branch Committee Expenses
Delegates expenses RAFA Meetings/Conferences
Bank Charges
Sundry Expenses
Depreciation on Fixed Assets & Property

Surplus/(Deficit) for year

2024

£	£
20,064	
4,120	24,184
1,441	
	1,441
-	
4,189	
452	
243	4,884
	<u>30,509</u>
-	1,253
	1,091
	227
	1,918
	340
	60
	79
	12,220
	-
	19,984
	-
	19
	452
	698
	-
	585
	211
	<u>36,631</u>
-	<u>6,121</u>

**Branch Welfare Account
RAF Association York Branch
For Year ending 31 Dec 2024**

2023	£	£	INCOME	2024	£	£
			RAF BENEVOLENT FUND:			
-			Brought forward as at 1st January	-		
-			Received from the fund	-		
-		-	Less: Grants made during the year	-		-
3,233			Wings Appeal rebate	4,120		
-		3,233	Bank & Building Society Interest	-		4,120
		<u>3,233</u>	Carried forward as at 31st December			<u>4,120</u>
			BRANCH LOANS			
16,370			Brought forward as at 1st January	17,706		
-		16,370	Loans made during the year	-		17,706
			Less:			
-			Repayments during year	-		
-		-	Loans written off as Grants	-		-
		<u>16,370</u>	Carried Forward as at 31st December			<u>17,706</u>
			EXPENDITURE			
102			Welfare Officers expenses	452		
-			RAFBF Grants	-		
2,000			Donations	12,220		
-			Gifts to Sick Members and Tributes	-		
-			Contributions to Welfare breaks	-		
4		2,106	Other Expenditure	-		12,672
			Less:			
209			Deposit Account Interest	114		
-		209	Donations Received	10		124
		<u>17,706</u>	Balance transferred to I & E Account as at 31st December			<u>9,278</u>

**Wings Appeal Income and Expenditure
For Year ending 31 Dec 2024**

2023	£	£	INCOME	2024	£	£
			Balance brought Forward	2,834		
-		19,868	Collections	-		20,064
			EXPENDITURE			
19,868			Payment to Wings	19,984		
-		19,868	Balance carried over	2,914		22,898
		<u>-</u>				<u>2,834</u>

Branch Balance Sheet
RAF Association York Branch
For Year ending 31 Dec 2024

2023	£	£		2024	£	£
	-		Fixed Assets			
	-		Freehold Property at cost as at 1st January	-		
	-		Any Additions during the year	-		
	4,927	4,927	Other Fixed Assets less depreciation	4,716	4,716	
			Current Assets			
	-		Stocks	-		
	33,705		Debtors	-		
	-		Deposits at CHQ	34,043		
	3,502		Branch General Accounts	-		
	-		Cash at Bank and in Hand	5,120		
	17,706		Savings Accounts	-		
	-		Welfare Account	9,278		
	-	54,912	Wings Appeal Account	-		
	-	59,839	Any other	-		48,441
						53,157
			Less: Current Liabilities			
	2,834		Creditors	2,274		
	-		Loan from CHQ	-		
	-		Loan from Bank	-		
	-		Loan from Branch Club	-		
	-	2,834	Subscriptions in Advance	-		2,274
		57,005	Total Assets less Current Liabilities(Creditors & Accrued Expenses)			50,884
			Accumulated Fund			
	58,424		Balance as at 1st January	57,005		
-	1,418		Add: Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	-	6,121	
		57,005	Capital Employed			50,884