

**ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION, CARRICKFERGUS BRANCH (481)
CHARITY NUMBER 108086
TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

The Trustees submit their annual report and the audited financial statements of the Branch for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Governing Document

The Charity (also known as the Carrickfergus Branch) is a branch of the Royal Air Forces Association (RAFA) which is a Royal Charter body registered as a Charity in England and Wales under number 226686.

The Carrickfergus Branch is a Charity registered with the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland (CCNI). RAFA has many branches, all of which share the same charitable object as the Association and are subject to the same constitution.

Charity Purpose

The object for which RAFA is established is to promote, through the comradeship engendered by its members, the welfare by charitable means of all serving and former members of Our Air Forces, their spouses and dependants, together with the widows and widowers and dependants of those who died whilst serving or subsequently.

Public Benefit

The direct benefits flowing from our purpose are improved wellbeing, reduced social isolation, relief of individual needs and increased resilience of vulnerable beneficiaries.

Private Benefit

Private Benefit to Associate Members, who are not beneficiaries, may accrue in the form of comradeship and social events organised by the Branch. Whilst any private benefit is incidental, participation is essential to enable the charity to raise funds and thereby achieve its charitable purpose.

Beneficiaries

The Branch's beneficiaries are all serving and former members of Our Air Forces, their spouses and dependants, together with the widows and widowers and dependants of those who died whilst serving or subsequently. Members of the public who fall outside the aforementioned groups may be eligible to Associate Membership, however they will not be beneficiaries.

Access Policy

The Trustees are very clear that access to our charity cannot be restricted by the cost of our membership fee. Membership costs are set by our Governing Body and are deemed affordable to all.

Achievements in 2023

The Branch continued to provide welfare assistance to beneficiaries throughout our area. Our annual Wings Appeal Campaign was very successful, providing income for the Charity.

Engaged in successful educational and remembrance events.

Continued to promote friendship and wellbeing amongst members via successful social events including a Dining-In-Night and quiz.

The Branch also held its annual Battle of Britain Act of Remembrance during the month of September and laid wreaths at a number of locations, within our area, on Remembrance Day in November and actively participated in funeral services for ex-members.

Recruitment and Training of Trustees

Trustees of the charity are elected in accordance with the Royal Charter and Rules and Byelaws of the Association and are designed to be representative of all members of the charity. The Trustees are part of the wider Branch Committee and are elected on a two-year tenure by the Branch Membership at its Annual General Meeting which is normally held in February.

Training is provided for new Trustees by the RAFA HQ, Leicester. This outlines the roles and responsibilities of being a Trustee of the charity. The Association's accountant provides training in the financial structure and management reporting of all aspects of the charity's financial accountability.

The Trustees of the Charity are legally responsible for the overall management and control of the Association and meet on a quarterly basis.

Assets and Liabilities

The charity has no property or assets.

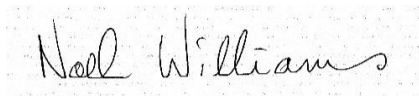
Risk Management

The Trustees of the charity are responsible for the management of risks faced by the charity. Through the risk management process the Trustees are satisfied that the major risks have been identified and have been adequately mitigated where necessary.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees Annual Report for the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees,



Wg Cdr R N Williams RAF(Retd)
Chairman
6th February 2024